

# Volunteers' Week 2019

## Resource Pack



From running an event to using social media, here's how to get the most out of Volunteers' Week

For support with planning an activity please contact the team:  
[volunteering@actiontogether.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@actiontogether.org.uk) 0161 339 2345

## What is Volunteers' Week?

Volunteers' Week is a chance to celebrate and say thank you for the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK.

It takes place 1-7 June every year and is an opportunity to celebrate volunteering in all its diversity.

During the week, hundreds of events and celebrations take place across the country, saying thank you to volunteers and recognising their invaluable and diverse contribution to the lives of others.

The campaign was established in 1984 by Volunteering England, which merged with NCVO in 2013. NCVO now leads this UK-wide campaign.



## How do volunteers contribute to communities across Oldham, Tameside and Rochdale?

There are 1,231 voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises in Oldham, 1,167 in Tameside and 1,180 in Rochdale. The majority of these are small, volunteer led groups, with an estimated 37,000 volunteers in Oldham, 34,000 volunteers in Tameside and 34,300 in Rochdale, which includes committee/ board members.

Collectively they give 253,500 hours each week (90,300, 83,400, 79,800 respectively) and valued at £230.1 million across all three boroughs<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Oldham and Tameside State of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector 2017 and Rochdale State of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector 2017



## Time to Celebrate

This year, Volunteers' Week is about celebrating the huge range of people who give their time in so many ways.

When thanking your volunteers this year, take a moment to remember each and every one of them. From trustees and campaigners to carers and fundraisers, this is a great time to think about the fantastic contribution all your volunteers make.

It's also a chance to think about what volunteering means to you. How can you celebrate people from every walk of life who are getting involved in volunteering?



## Running an event

Events are a great way to thank your volunteers.

A Volunteers' Week event will bring people together to celebrate volunteers' contributions. Here's some ideas to get you started.

An award ceremony will show your volunteers how much you value their work. Use NCVO's [certificate template](#) to recognise their contributions and read [how to run an awesome awards ceremony for your volunteers](#) to help you plan.

Events can also help you recruit volunteers. Recruitment events can generate broad interest in volunteering and attract people who may not have considered it before.

## How to run an event

Events are the most popular way organisations celebrate Volunteers' Week, and running one doesn't have to be difficult. From small tea parties to large-scale occasions, what matters is that your volunteers feel appreciated.

NCVO's online [Studyzone course in event management](#) can help you learn the basics of planning and running a great event. This four-part video course is free to NCVO members and is invaluable whether or not you've run an event before.

You can also [check out our top tips on how to run a stress-free event](#), or find more helpful advice in this article on [fundraising events and challenges](#).

## Publicising your event

Once you've got your event planned, you need to spread the word. Read [how to promote your event](#) and use NCVO's free [press release template](#) to get in touch with local media.

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## Getting Inspired

To give you ideas for your celebrations, here's what other organisations did last year.

### Celebrate

- Certificate presentations, awards evenings - download the [certificate template](#)
- Parties, celebrations, festivals
- Thank you cards and small gifts e.g. sending all volunteers a tea bag to 'have a cup on us' - use the [thank you card template](#)
- Visual displays - shop windows, badges, posters
- Social media thank you messages - see the [guide to using social media](#)

### Raise Awareness

- Physical presence on market stalls, in public squares, libraries, supermarkets, high streets, county shows, hospitals
- Articles in the local newspaper
- Programmes on local radio
- Use the [press release template](#) to help you spread the word

### Develop

- Volunteering fairs, open days, recruitment events, conferences
- Training and induction events

## Share

- Breakfasts, coffee mornings, afternoon teas
- Lunches
- Picnics, BBQs
- Curry and quiz nights
- Pimms and pizza party

## Get Active

- Wellbeing walks, community clean-ups, boat trips, treasure hunts, pottery cafés, floristry sessions, a day at the farm

## Collaborate

- Work with other organisations, partner with the volunteer centre, contact local councils

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## Using Social Media

Social media is a great - and free - way to publicly celebrate and thank your volunteers.

**Not sure about social media?** Take a look at NCVO's [Improve your skills section](#)

### #VOLUNTEERSWEEK

This year, Volunteers' Week is taking to Twitter once more. Be sure to share these dates and links with your volunteers so they can be part of the celebrations across the UK

## Get involved locally

We want to hear all about the celebrations, events and activities that are taking place across Oldham and Tameside throughout Volunteers' Week 2019. We would love to see all your photos and videos on social media too.

Please use #PeopleofGreaterMCR and tag at @WeActTogether in all your Volunteers' Week 2019 social media updates.

## Get involved nationally

Follow [@NCVOvolunteers](#), the official Twitter account for Volunteers' Week.

- Use #VolunteersWeek to say 'thank you' to your volunteers and join thousands of other organisations in a nationwide show of thanks.
- Encourage your volunteers to tell their stories with [#VolunteersWeek](#).

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## Resources

NCVO's free resources and templates are available to download and will help you to have a Volunteers' Week to remember.

### Logo Pack

[Here are the logos](#) which will be core to all your Volunteers' Week promotion.

### Promoting your event

[Click here](#) to find the Volunteers' Week logos, a promotional poster, flyer and illustration pack to show off your planned events.

### Media and MPs

Help your celebrations reach more people. [Click here](#) for NCVO's press release template and MP invitation templates.

### Using Social Media

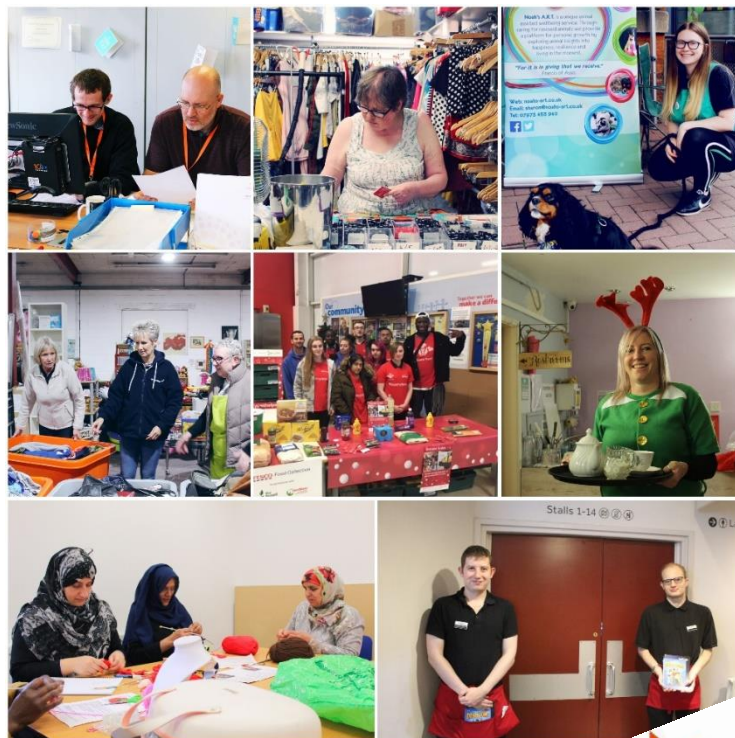
Get the word out on your social channels with a [Twitter banner](#), 'I volunteer' sign and selfie frame.

### Styling your events

[Decorate your event or celebration](#) with a Volunteers' Week posters, a banner or bunting.

### Saying thank you

Thank your volunteers for what they do with [NCVO's certificate template and thank you cards](#).



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