

Govan Community Project

Top Tips for Supporting Volunteers from diverse communities in the local area and asylum seekers and refugees all over Glasgow.

Govan Community Project is a community-based organisation working in south-west Glasgow.

Their purpose is to achieve social justice in the Greater Govan area by building a strong community based on equality, mutual respect, support, and integration.

TOP TIPS FOR SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERS

These Top Tips were produced by Govan Community Project

By reflecting on the following we would hope that these points would help you make your volunteering offer more inclusive:

1. Investing time in an initial meeting, creating friendly open atmosphere, no need for references or application form, just good old 1:1 conversation.
2. Making it completely clear that travel expenses are provided. This is important for young volunteers, asylum seekers and students alike. Making it easy for people to access and if possible, received in advance.
3. Use CLEAR and SIMPLE communication sharing information about services you provide and volunteering opportunities.
4. Ensure that information reaches all interested in volunteering Make the most of social media, online advertisements (Volunteer Glasgow in our case)
5. Work in partnership with other organisations including NHS bridging team, GP surgeries, Libraries. Mears (Housing provider for initial accommodation for asylum seekers) British Red Cross, Scottish Refugee Council – all specific organisations working with/for asylum seekers
6. Be specific with your volunteering services. If volunteers join where or what will they be doing. Which groups will they be joining? What is expected of them?
7. Use hard copy and digital fliers, distribute them in different places including hotels where asylum seekers are, mother and baby units, law firms, organisations, business, communities, libraries etc.
8. Excellent Communication. Maybe Following up on people who have expressed their interest.
9. Use Facebook platforms of other community groups and pages to reach out.
10. Online workshops where you can share information about volunteering. This can be done together with other organisations
11. Peer supporters or peer circles introduce a scheme where you have other refugees and/asylum seekers to support others. Provide Internet and device to volunteers.
12. Provide training opportunities for volunteers e.g. Confidence, personal skills, communication, health & safety, food hygiene, whatever is appropriate to your organisation
13. Refugees receive benefits, and will need to be reassured that **volunteering will not interfere with their benefit entitlements**

- **Govan Community Project**
- **Inclusive Volunteering page**