Case study: One-off volunteering – Fife Council and FMP Technic

Context

One-off employer-supported volunteering (ESV) can bring short-term practical support to local organisations while giving employees an opportunity to contribute to their communities. **Fife Council**'s **Baldridgeburn Community Centre** in Dunfermline benefitted from a one-off ESV activity completed by FMP Technic staff. The employees and host organisation were connected through **Fife Voluntary Action**'s brokerage services.

Volunteering activity

Two volunteers from FMP Technic joined Fife Council staff for a one-off volunteering session. The volunteers were initially asked to build shelves in the pantry storeroom, and once they finished this role they asked to help out with whatever else was required, so they helped with organising all the pantry stock. Fife Council said, "This was a great help to us since the pantry is gaining more stock and it is difficult for us to keep on top of."

To support the volunteers on the day, council staff provided a task briefing, asked if volunteers thought the task was achievable and checked that their skills matched the task. They also provided ongoing support, including checking in throughout the day, offering refreshments and giving them a tour of the area.

Impact

The activity offered employees a tangible way to contribute to the local community and a sense of pride in completing visible, useful tasks. In turn, the community centre pantry benefitted from improved storage and organisation, helping staff manage increasing stock more efficiently.

Key learning

- **Prepare multiple tasks in advance:** Volunteers may complete tasks more quickly than expected, so having an idea of additional tasks that they could do provides you with a backup plan.
- **Match skills to tasks:** Speak to volunteers at the start to ensure that their skills fit the activity.
- **Provide on-site support:** Regular check-ins help volunteers feel confident and supported.

Knowledge Gateway

The Knowledge Gateway is created and led by **Volunteer Scotland**

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This is a regularly reviewed resource. If you have any suggested updates, please email Volunteer Scotland at **hello@volunteerscotland.org.uk**