

Key terms and definitions

For the Volunteering Wales Grant scheme, the following definitions apply:

Volunteering: any non-compulsory activity which involves spending time, unpaid, doing something which is of benefit to others (excluding relatives), society or the environment

Formal volunteering: where a volunteer's effort is channelled through a volunteer involving organisation.

Volunteering opportunities: These are the specific roles for volunteers. They may have a title and role description. Each role may have more than one volunteer carrying it out.

Local community: The immediate area where the volunteering activities take place and/or the area where the people live, a group that the project identifies with or a group that the project would like to help – these will be the beneficiaries of your project.

The wider community is the people and/or areas that can be indirectly affected by the activities. E.g. when volunteering in a youth club the young service users are the immediate beneficiaries of the activities, but the wider community benefit could be that the area sees a reduction in anti-social behaviour as a result of more activities available to involve young people.

Beneficiaries: are the people within the community who will benefit from the project.

Participants: People who take part in activities run by volunteers. Participants are beneficiaries but are not volunteers.

Impact: any changes resulting from your project, both big and small. This could be changes to the people, the environment, the community or even your organisation. These changes could be straight away and only be for a short time or they could happen slowly and last for much longer.

Outputs: An output is a clearly measurable target of the project, such as the number of volunteers recruited or gaining qualifications or the number of hours a volunteer contributes to the project

Outcomes: An outcome is the difference that your project makes, such as, improving health, changing attitudes. These may be more difficult to measure but should be able to be clearly demonstrated.

Young person: Someone who is aged 14-25.

Youth led: An organisation, project or process in which young people decide on what gets done and how it gets done. Youth led does not necessarily mean that adults are not involved or have no role.