

Helpforce Cymru



SUMMER UPDATE 2020

This is a brief update to let you know what's been going on and what's coming up.

RESPONDING TO COVID 19

It will be no surprise to hear that activity since March has focussed on the Covid 19 pandemic, with much other work temporarily paused.

We have kept in touch with volunteering leads in NHS and in local authorities, contributed to guidance on volunteering for third sector, local authorities, social care and NHS and to policy discussions with both Welsh and UK Governments.

We hosted an online event on Community response and volunteering, as part of WCVA series of six events exploring #Differentfutures. A [report](#) and a [blog](#) are available. A network involving local authorities, Town and Community Councils and CVCs continues to meet and will consider how best to develop links with and provide support for the many local community volunteer initiatives which have developed during the crisis.

We were pleased to support the development and launch of Age Cymru [Friend in Need volunteer telephone befriending service](#). This initiative will also support friends or neighbours who provide Informal help to older people.

As we begin to look beyond the immediate crisis the focus is on two priorities:

Firstly, supporting the process of re-commencing volunteering and preparing to do things differently in the future .

We have recorded a [podcast](#) and developed [guidance](#) on volunteering as lockdown eases. The revised WCVA/Wales TUC [Charter on volunteering and workplace relationships](#) will be relevant as organisations take the opportunity to rethink and perhaps redesign volunteering services

Secondly, gathering evidence, reflecting and evaluating what we have learned through recent experience.

A [case study template](#) has been developed and you are invited to contribute your volunteering stories. These may be published on WCVA or other websites; they may contribute to reflective articles or blogs and will support academic research.

We have been invited to contribute a Wales perspective on volunteering and the Covid 19 pandemic, to a Helpforce UK webinar in July and to a [Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research e-conference](#) in September.

OTHER NEWS:

Helpforce pilot projects to develop [volunteering in end of life care](#) have been formally paused across the UK, due to Covid 19. Most Trusts and Health Boards are now re designing their projects, for example to enable virtual rather than face to face patient contact, or in some cases to increase emphasis on bereavement support. We continue to support Aneurin Bevan UHB, Hywel Dda UHB and Powys THB in the development of their local projects.

A [framework for the induction of volunteers in health and care](#) has been developed by Helpforce and is now freely available in Welsh and English. We are exploring how these indicators can become the basis of a new accredited Volunteering Certificate. A [national learning hub for volunteering](#) which includes the indicators, core curriculum material and links to training resources has been launched in England. We have identified relevant training material from Wales providers (notably NHS Wales and Social Care Wales) and are in discussion with the developers with a view to adding links to these and other Wales sources and making the site more relevant to users in Wales.

The [Helpforce Burdett](#) project aims to identify and support clinical leaders to develop innovative volunteering within their clinical field. The project is being reoriented to have greater emphasis on volunteering as a pathway to future careers. We are working with the [Bevan Commission](#) to see how this might work and how to take it forward in Wales.

Interviews to capture some reactions to the recently launched WCVA/Wales TUC Charter for Volunteering and workplace relationships have been release. Please share them on social media!

[Owen Wilce, Monmouthshire County Council](#)

[Angela Hughes, Cardiff and Vale UHB](#)

[Michelle Fowler, Cardiff and Vale UHB](#)

[Nia Williams, National Museum of Wales](#)

[Jo Parry, National Trust](#)

Helpforce is working with Third Sector Support Wales (WCVA and 19 CVCs), Welsh Government and other partners to develop the potential of volunteering to support health and social care services in Wales.

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