

Volunteering Rep's Report December 07

Rep's name: Sarah Crowley

Organisation: Age Concern Bromyard and District

Increasing Volunteering in Herefordshire

I have continued to be involved in the Volunteering Infrastructure Group where the main work has been towards increasing volunteering within the sector to support the LPSA2 targets.

We must have been doing something right because 2007 saw a spectacular increase in the number of individuals and organisations using the services of the Volunteer Centre. Up by 26% on 2006 and 49% on 2005, the Centre dealt with nearly 900 enquiries from the public about volunteering. If you are interested in Volunteering or have a group that need volunteers, contact Angela Legg on 01432 343 932 or angela@herefordshireva.org

The results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey that the council carried out in November are yet to be published, but we hope this will also produce evidence of an increase in volunteering in the county.

Most of the LPSA money has now been allocated, but the Voluntary Action Design Service is still being funded. VADS is a free one to one service that helps voluntary and community groups to produce newsletters, posters and fliers to attract volunteers using MS Publisher or MS Word. For more information or for a booking form please contact Clare O'Grady on 01432 343 932 or outreach@herefordshireva.org

Other Volunteering News

Herefordshire Voluntary Action in partnership with Herefordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services has been successful in securing funding from V, the national volunteering charity. They are providing £240,000 over the next three years to help inspire and support young people aged 16-25 to volunteer in Herefordshire.

To find out more about volunteering in Herefordshire go to www.herefordshireva.org

Looking Forward

Recently the voluntary and community sector and the public sector bodies in Herefordshire have reached an agreement called the **Compact**. The Compact is intended as a framework that will guide the work the two sectors do together. The first code in the Compact to be worked on in detail is the Volunteering Code.

Also volunteering features as a cross-cutting strand in the **Local Area Agreement**. The LAA is a three year agreement made between Central Government and the Local Authority and its partners. It is designed to identify and address local issues that can really make a difference to the quality of life of the community. To find out more about the LAA go to www.herefordshirepartnership.com

I will keep you up to date with the work being done on both the Compact and the LAA as it relates to volunteering.

Contact

If you have any comments or questions on any of these items please contact me, Sarah Crowley, through the VSA: admin@thevsa.org.uk