



Kirklees Museums & Galleries: Is Heritage Volunteering Good for your Health?

Case Study

Kirklees Museums & Galleries offer a range of Volunteer roles including: gardening and conservation tasks at our historic house, collections based volunteer roles behind the scenes and public engagement roles supporting our events.

We had plenty of anecdotal evidence that volunteering with our organisation had a positive impact on people's lives – but no formal data that we could shout about.

As part of an Arts Council England funded project called 'Sustainable Collections', we had the opportunity to commission external evaluators to assess the health and wellbeing impacts of our Volunteer programme.

The Audience Agency developed an evaluation framework for us, which focused on the [5 Ways to Wellbeing](#) (Connect, Take Notice, Be Active, Keep Learning and Give). We invited our Volunteers to complete the survey, and this was then followed up with some one-to-one interviews.

The Year One results which can be found in the linked report, have provided us with some important data regarding the health and wellbeing benefits of volunteering. We were also able to share some powerful stories from our Volunteers and identify some unique attributes of volunteering in a heritage/cultural setting.

We invited key stakeholders to a workshop included our Public Health Intelligence Team and local health partners to share the results and discuss the implications. We now have a higher profile in the arena of early intervention and prevention and can now receive referrals from our Social Prescribing provider.

Alongside the report we also commissioned a short film which tells the story of 5 of our Volunteers; why they Volunteer and what they get out of it. The film has been very well received and has proven a great technique for conveying messages to our stakeholders.

In Year Two we will be reporting on a 'before' and 'after' survey of our newly recruited Volunteers using a national wellbeing measure. We will continue to embed Health and Wellbeing in all our programmes and we now actively promote the health and wellbeing benefits as part of our volunteer recruitment.

Contact Details

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Web Link

You can view the YR1 evaluation report here
www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/museums-galleries-history/pdf/evaluation-volunteer-programme.pdf

You can view our Volunteer Stories Film (2mins 50secs) here:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLBr1ItbW-s

You can find out more about Kirklees Museums & Galleries here:
www.kirklees.gov.uk/museums