



Report To:	Overview Committee
Date:	15 th October 2024
Subject:	Trusted Volunteer Scheme Update
Purpose:	To update Members of the Committee on the Trusted Volunteer Scheme and work to date.
Key Decision:	N/A
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Sarah Devereux, Portfolio Holder for Partnership
Report Of:	Emily Spicer, Wellbeing and Community Leadership Assistant Director
Report Author:	Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager
Ward(s) Affected:	ALL
Exempt Report:	No

Summary

As East Lindsey District Council and as the 'South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership' we recognise the important role that volunteers play within our community.

What makes South and East Lincolnshire great, is its people and communities. Our communities play a significant part in respect to providing active volunteering roles in their localities. This may be for community or personal advantage, with volunteering showing positive physical and mental health benefits to participatory individuals.

This report provides an overview of the activity that has taken place in the first three months of the Trusted Volunteer Scheme funded through UK Shared Prosperity funding, which forms part of the Partnerships strategic approach to working with Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) within the Sub-Region.

Recommendations

1. That members note the current progress made on the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Trusted Volunteer Scheme.
2. That Overview Committee provide feedback on the Trusted Volunteer Scheme.

Reasons for Recommendations

To ensure Overview Committee can help shape and support the wider Trusted Volunteer Scheme.

Other Options Considered

Do nothing – this option will not support additional benefits that working with volunteers brings to the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

1. Background

- 1.1 As part of the wider Pride Programme within the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP) there was a commitment to develop more volunteer opportunities within the Partnership.
- 1.2 Communities themselves have a lot to offer in respect to playing an active volunteering role in their localities. This may be for the community or personal advantage, with volunteer showing positive physical and mental health benefits to participatory individuals.
- 1.3 Through UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) £53K was secured for the development of a Trusted Volunteer Scheme across the S&ELCP. The aim of the Trusted Volunteer Scheme is to increase the feeling of 'pride' within our local communities for the benefit of places where people live, work and visit.

2. SELCP Trusted Volunteer Scheme

- 2.1 Becoming a volunteer can be very rewarding for those participating alongside their communities. People can gain valuable skills and experience that could help in work and home life. Equally, volunteers make a huge difference to organisations and local communities, providing the opportunity to reach and help more people whilst strengthening the organisation's ties to its community.
- 2.2 Through the UKSPF funding the S&ELCP has been successful in funding a 1-year fixed term Volunteer Coordinator that supports volunteer programme within the

organisation. The role commenced on 10th June 2024, working across the SELCP area.

- 2.3 Work initially focussed on the development of the scheme, working with our partners Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Services (LCVS) and the partnership insurance bodies to ensure all policies and procedures are in place appropriately.
- 2.4 Individuals who wish to sign up to the scheme will receive a welcome pack, which includes The Volunteer Charter (appendix A). The Volunteer Charter sets out the key principles that support the foundation for a good volunteer experience.
- 2.5 Volunteers will then undertake basic training, this includes: -
 - Health and Safety
 - Equality and Diversity
 - GDPR
 - Safeguarding
- 2.6 Further opportunities for training will be open to individuals who have signed up should they wish to undertake them.
- 2.7 During the first 16 weeks in post the Volunteer Co-Ordinator has worked with the following Council Departments and staff to develop and coordinate existing volunteering opportunities and to create new ones within the Partnership: -
 - Community Safety Team and CCTV: The Volunteer Co-Ordinator has now taken over responsibility for the CCTV Spotter Volunteer Programme from Lincolnshire Police. This involves all aspects of recruitment, vetting and retention. The programme currently has four volunteers in the Boston CCTV suite, which covers the East Lindsey District, and two have subsequently applied for paid positions. To date over 20 enquiries have been received and six applications are being processed at present.
 - Climate Change & Environment Team: An undergraduate volunteer is currently assisting with data collection, input and social media as part of the Climate Action Network. The aim is to recruit more volunteers, especially students, into these roles. These roles cover the whole of the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership
 - Age Friendly Communities (East Lindsey district Council): Supporting the recruitment and coordination of the Age Friendly Ambassadors across East Lindsey and undertaking Digital Champion training to further support this role.
 - Neighbourhood Services (East Lindsey District Council): Developing and coordinating new and existing volunteer opportunities in East Lindsey. First Trusted Volunteer recruited to help maintain Skegness Boating Lake.

- Museum, Events & Venues (Boston Borough Council): A graduate volunteer has been assisting with archives and exhibition research at Boston Guildhall. This is another key area which can be promoted more widely to encourage more volunteers to become involved with the heritage sector across the Partnership.
- Community Development South Holland District Council): Recruitment of Event Marshalls for upcoming events such as the Pumpkin Festival and Christmas.
- Ayscoughfee Hall and Gardens (South Holland District Council): Recruiting volunteers to support existing staff with maintaining gardens and grounds. This will be developed further to create volunteer roles within the museum itself.
- Environment and Enviro-Crime Monitoring (Boston Borough Council): Taken responsibility of existing Litter Champions with the aim to continue developing and coordinating current and new volunteers and look to expand this across the Partnership.

2.8 In addition, the Volunteer Co-Ordinator has been working with the following groups, organisation and individuals: -

- County Care Skegness: Clients with learning disabilities to volunteer for regular beach cleans and litter picks within East Lindsey District.
- Trusthorpe Village Hall: Discussions have taken place on how Council can support their work within the local community moving forward.
- Mablethorpe Carnival: Jointly advertised for Carnival marshals, with a view to create database of Event Marshals for future Council events in East Lindsey.
- Beachcare: Discussed how the Council can support Sutton-on-Sea/Sandilands beach cleans/litter picks.
- Environmental Project Co-ordinators for Green Volunteers in Boston: Liaising with the Green Volunteers to work collaboratively in improving green spaces in Boston.
- Boston Wombles: Connections made to discuss working collaboratively to maintain and improve green spaces and share resources.
- TaylorITEX and Councillor Dale Broughton (Boston): In the process of launching a new Central Park Green Team of designated volunteers to help maintain Central Park and improve community engagement with the park in future events.
- Home Nursery, Boston: Meetings to discuss supporting their regular litter picks with the children.

- Boston College: Attending various events during the academic year to promote volunteering and encourage young people to get involved and to raise awareness of the different roles and opportunities within the Council as part of Boston Brilliance.
- Lincolnshire Community Voluntary Services: Working closely with LCVS - a key source of advice, guidance and best practice, and utilising their webpage to advertise and recruit volunteers.
- Opportunities for corporate volunteering are being explored with McDonalds in Boston and Efficiency East Midlands Limited.

2.9 All current opportunities are advertised on a dedicated Lincolnshire Volunteer webpage.

<https://lincolnshirevolunteers.teamkinetic.co.uk/volunteers/provider-profile/SouthEastLincolnshireCouncilsPartnership/278939>

3. Conclusion

3.1. This report sets out the work to date on the Trusted Volunteer Scheme and highlights the benefits volunteering can have to residents and the S&ELCP.

Implications

South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

Collaboratively working as part of the Trusted Volunteer scheme ensures resources are aligned for efficiencies across the partnership, that local knowledge identifies local opportunities within the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and that promotion of volunteering projects are maximised.

Corporate Priorities

The following Sub-Regional Priorities are supported through the Trusted Volunteer Scheme

- 1) Growth and Prosperity
- 2) Healthy Lives
- 3) Safe and Resilient Communities
- 4) Environment

The corporate priority of Efficiency and Effectiveness is also supported along with local priorities across the three councils that make up South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

Staffing

The Trusted Volunteer Scheme has been successfully funded by UKSPF.

Workforce Capacity Implications

None

Constitutional and Legal Implications

All collaboration with VCS and Volunteers is undertaken following the appropriate constitution and legal processes.

Data Protection

There are no data protection issues related to this report.

Financial

As detailed within the main body of this report £53k has been awarded to SELCP from UKSPF to undertake a Trusted Volunteers Scheme.

Risk Management

All risks associated with volunteering and collaborating with VCS will be appropriately managed.

Stakeholder / Consultation / Timescales

The activities within this report have been developed alongside the Portfolio Holders, Lead Officers and key Partners.

Reputation

Working with volunteers and VCS can enhance the opportunities for communities and provide positive experiences, enhancing reputation.

Contracts

None

Crime and Disorder

Building resilience, inclusive and active communities through volunteering can provide the community the opportunities to prevent, reduce and detect crime.

Equality and Diversity / Human Rights / Safeguarding

An equality impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the work of the Trusted Volunteer Scheme.

Health and Wellbeing

Volunteering provides opportunities for individuals to be involved in several activities within their community. Supporting both physical and positive mental health.

Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Volunteering activities provide opportunities to support local environments and improve pride of places.

Acronyms

S&ELCP – South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership

UKSPF – UK Shared Prosperity Fund

ELDC – East Lindsey District Council

VCS – Voluntary and Community Sector

Appendices

Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report.

Appendix A – S&ELCP Volunteer Charter

Background Papers

No background papers as defined in Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the production of this report.

Chronological History of this Report

A report on this item has not been previously considered by a Council body.

Report Approval

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