



<b>Report To:</b>	Overview Committee
<b>Date:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> March 2025
<b>Subject:</b>	South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Volunteer Scheme Update
<b>Purpose:</b>	To update Members of the Committee on the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Volunteer Scheme and work in the last six months
<b>Key Decision:</b>	N/A
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Sarah Devereux, Portfolio Holder for Partnership
<b>Report Of:</b>	Emily Spicer, Wellbeing and Community Leadership Assistant Director
<b>Report Author:</b>	Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager
<b>Ward(s) Affected:</b>	ALL
<b>Exempt Report:</b>	No

### **Summary**

This report provides an update on the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Volunteer Scheme. At 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.

An overview of the activity that has taken place in the last six months of the Volunteer Scheme funded through UK Shared Prosperity funding is provided through this report. This work forms part of the Partnerships strategic approach to working with the 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 Volunteer Scheme.
2. That Overview Committee provide feedback on the Volunteer Scheme.

## **Reasons for Recommendations**

To ensure Overview Committee can help shape and support the wider South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership 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 Partnership work supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) within the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (S&ELCP) in 2024/25 Annual Delivery Plan there was a commitment to develop more volunteer opportunities within the Partnership.
- 1.2 Through UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) £53K was secured for the development of a Volunteer Scheme across the S&ELCP. The aim of the Volunteer Scheme is to increase the feeling of 'pride' within our local communities for the benefit of places where people live, work and visit.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Taking into account feedback from Overview Committee in October 2024 the word 'Trusted' has now been removed and the scheme will be known as the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership Volunteer Scheme.

## **2. SELCP Volunteer Scheme Update**

- 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 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. This Charter was signed by respective Portfolio Holders in December 2024.
- 2.5 Volunteers will then undertake basic training, this includes: -
  - Health and Safety
  - Equality and Diversity
  - GDPR
  - Safeguarding
- 2.6 Further opportunities for training are open to individuals who have signed up should they wish to undertake them.
- 2.7 During the first 8 months 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 Council : -
  - Community Safety Team and CCTV: Recruitment for CCTV Spotter Volunteer Programme from Lincolnshire Police. This involves all aspects of recruitment, vetting and retention. The programme currently has 5 volunteers in the Boston CCTV suite, which covers the East Lindsey District. Two previous volunteers have now moved to paid employment. To date volunteers have covered over 265 volunteer hours.
  - 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. There are now 33 individuals supporting this programme.
  - Climate Change & Environment Team: An undergraduate volunteer has assisted with over 20 hours worth of 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

- Neighbourhood Services (East Lindsey District Council): Developing and coordinating new and existing volunteer opportunities in East Lindsey, such as maintaining Skegness Boating Lake and recruiting litter pickers. Work also continues in regard to sand clearance –developing a group of volunteers to help clear sand from Sutton-on-Sea and Sandilands promenade to improve public accessibility.
- Events – Development of a events volunteer programme to support events across East Lindsey.
- Environment and Enviro-Crime Monitoring -The Volunteer Coordinator has now taken responsibility of existing Litter Champions with the aim to continue developing and coordinating current and new volunteers across East Lindsey.

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

- County Care Skegness: Clients with learning disabilities are now volunteering for regular beach cleans and litter picks within East Lindsey District.
- Working with a number of community groups such as Trusthorpe Village Hall, Mablethorpe Carnival
- Beachcare: Development of process and procedures to support Sutton-on-Sea/Sandilands beach cleans/litter picks.

2.9 Summary of other Partnership activity to date :-

- Museum, Events & Venues (Boston Borough Council): A graduate volunteer has assisting with over 20 hours of 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.
- 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.
- Housing Options – Working with the Homeless Reduction and Housing (SHDC), to develop a group of Volunteer Outreach Support Workers to identify homeless people and signpost to support.

- Kirton Parish Council – creation of a volunteer group of ‘Green Space Volunteers’ based in Kirton to maintain green spaces such as the War Memorial.
- Working with Good Home Lincs to develop a volunteer programme of cleaners, gardeners and general handy persons to support vulnerable residents with maintaining their homes. This is a Partnership wide project.
- Litter picks: regular litter picks set up with a number of groups including Home Nursery, Boston, and the students of Woodlands School in Spilsby. Recruitment of a Duke of Edinburgh student from Boston Grammar to litter pick in Witham Country Park. Liaising with more schools running Duke of Edinburgh programmes to offer volunteer placements and meetings with Spalding Grammar School to discuss this further.
- Environmental Project Co-ordinators for Green Volunteers: Liaising with the Green Volunteers to work collaboratively in improving green spaces. This includes a project to renovate 5 ‘welcome to Boston Signs’ which took volunteers over 30 hours.
- Boston Wombles: Connections made to discuss working collaboratively to maintain and improve green spaces and share resources.
- Central Park Green Team of designated volunteers to help maintain Central Park and improve community engagement with the park in future events.
- Old Leake Community Hub to see how the Council can support their work within the local community

2.10 All current opportunities continue to be advertised on our own webpages and on a dedicated Lincolnshire Volunteer webpage.

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

2.11 The Volunteer Coordinator continues to have a presence at all markets across the Partnership to highlight the opportunities within the scheme.

### **3. Future Development of Scheme**

3.1 There is an opportunity through UKSPF funding to extend the project by a further year to the end of March 2026. This will give the team the opportunity to further develop the Council volunteering offer. The Community Leadership Manager will be progressing this with the Programme Lead for UKSPF in the coming weeks.

3.2 Although the development of the scheme has been successful with over 1300 volunteers hours generated since August 2024 across the Partnership, it is clear there is scope to develop further opportunities within a number of Council

Departments. The Volunteer Coordinator continues to explore these opportunities with individual departments and highlight the benefits that volunteers can bring to service areas.

- 3.3 There has been varied promotion of the opportunities within the scheme this includes attendance at community events, local markets and social media campaigns. Working with the Communication Team, there is scope to develop a planned programme of events and coverage to maximise the opportunities of the scheme.
- 3.4 Clear communication and well defined roles are a key element in attracting and keeping volunteers motivated, this along with exploring ways to celebrate volunteers contributions will improve retention and recruitment.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1. This report sets out the work to date on the S&ELCP 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 S&ELCP 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 S&ELCP 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 South and East Lincolnshire Councils Volunteer Scheme has been successfully funded by UKSPF.

##### **Workforce Capacity Implications**

Volunteering roles will add capacity to enable paid staff to better fulfil their roles.

## **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 S&ELCP 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 S&ELCP 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**

Report author:

Nichola Holderness, Community Leadership Manager –  
[nichola.holderness@boston.gov.uk](mailto:nichola.holderness@boston.gov.uk)

Signed off by:

Emily Spicer, Community Leadership and Wellbeing  
Assistant Director – [emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk](mailto:emily.spicer@sholland.gov.uk)