

Online Volunteer Coordinators' Network meeting

4 Feb 2021 2 PM to 3.30 PM

Key points that have been gathered from the volunteer coordinators of the network meeting on 04/02/2021

1. The meeting started with round-robin introductions about the attendees' organisations and current activities.

Generally, all charity organisations have managed to switch their services from zero online to virtual activities and adapt to the new environment. This new situation has advantages in terms of cost saving and opened new opportunities. Here's a summary:

Virtual/Indoor Activities:

- Virtual Counselling, mentoring, information & Advice provision/ Middle Eastern Women's Society - Mankind Charity – Abdul Mageed Educational Trust
- Engaging with all sports and clubs to provide online first aid and safeguarding training/ Groundwork.
- Virtual physical activities/ Keep Active Westminster and Abbey Centre
- Online games, Yoga & Mindfulness classes/ Carers Network & Abbey Centre
- Providing support through organising virtual events on Zoom for their clients with LD/ PIP
- Online shopping services & telephone befriending for clients with digital exclusion/ One Westminster, Octavia Foundation, Age UK & Open Age
- Admin and sending newsletters/ Breathe Easy

Outdoor Activities:

- Emergency food parcel delivery to vulnerable Westminster residents/Open Age & Abbey Centre
- Volunteering champions and outreach volunteers to reach new carers or from BEM group or disabled carers/Open Age & Carers Network

Some organisations have adopted a regular online weekly programme. The Imperial War Museum, Natural History Museum and Blue Cross are trying to keep their volunteers engaged with organising online events and online quizzes once a week.

2. Guest speaker from Tempo

Presented the launch of the new online time credits platform from a volunteer's and coordinator's perspective by running a demo of the system showing all the features such as:

- Type of the activities available for them and where to use it
- Limitation of earned Time Credits (TC)
- How to exchange and gift any unused TC
- How to return unused TC by post

Available support for organisations:

- Slides will be shared about what is TC and how to benefit from it
- Series of Q&A answering practical questions
- Brochures on how the system works
- Next training session on 25 February
- Future possibility of remote delivery project management training sessions

3. Group discussion:

- How are you recruiting volunteers at the moment? What are the useful sources of recruitment in addition to One Westminster and Westminster Connects?
- What has been most effective method of recruiting during Covid 19?
- Where do you refer or signpost unsuccessful volunteers to?

Considering the above discussion points, suggestions were proposed as follows:

- The main source for finding volunteers at the moment is Westminster Connects/ many volunteers haven't a placement yet.
- Colleges, charity jobs, Do It.life and Team London and corporate partners
- Time to Spare App can be used not only to recruit but also monitor and report
- Next Door App, which is similar to Neighbourhood Watch, to target local volunteers

In conclusion, organisations use the recruitment method that works for them and they will signpost to other organisations if they have sufficient volunteers to fulfil the role or signpost unsuccessful volunteers to similar organisations that run similar programmes.

List of attendees: see next page:

First Name	Last Name	Current Employer	Email
Nigel	Barber	One Westminster	n.barber@onewestminster.org.uk
Grace	Nuttall	Age UK Westminster	grace.nuttall@ageukwestminster.org.uk
Time & Talents		One Westminster	timeandtalents@onewestminster.org.uk
Liz	Rickarby	Bishop Creighton House	erickarby@creightonhouse.org
Anna	Jones	Groundwork London	active@teamwestminster.org.uk
Hayley	Lynes	Blue Cross Animals' Hospital	hayley.lynes@bluecross.org.uk
Tessa	Jelen	Breathe Easy Westminster	t.jelen@btinternet.com
Naglaa Sadik	Ahmed Mustafa	Abdul Mageed Educational Trust	naglaa_sadik09@yahoo.co.uk
Ian	Corpuz	the Abbey centre	ian.corpuz@theabbeycentre.org.uk
Rod	Cooper	Imperial War Museums	rod101.cooper@gmail.com
Igor	Novokreshchenov	Carers Network	igor.novokreshchenov@carers-network.org.uk
Lucy	Rivers	Imperial War Museums	lrivers@iwm.org.uk
Zahraa	Fedhel	Octavia Foundation	zahraa.fedhel@octaviafoundation.org.uk
Holly	Henry	Grand Junction at St Mary Magdalene's	holly@grandjunction.org.uk
Sara	Ferreira	open Age	sferreira@openage.org.uk
Chantal	Renn	Humankind	chantal.renn@humankindcharity.org.uk
Loris	Konaizeh	Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation	loris.konaizeh@mewso.org
Claire	Godwin	Pursuing Independent Paths	claireg@piponline.org.uk
Natalie	Castro	One Westminster	n.castro@onewestminster.org.uk
Toni	McSherry	Home-Start Westminster	toni@hswestminster.co.uk
Maria	Agiomyrgian naki	Tempo Time Credits	mariaa@wearetempo.org
Harriet	Fink	Natural History Museum	h.fink@nhm.ac.uk

