

Welcome to this edition of vinvolved Bristol News! We'll try to keep you abreast of news and information specific to organisations who involve young volunteers.

Coming up:

Get your opportunities noticed

Spotlight on: Student volunteering

Celebrate your volunteers (aged between 16-25)

Full time volunteering

A brief reminder – Good Practice Guide and our evaluation

Training

vinvolved Bristol is on the move

Get your opportunities noticed.

At the time of writing, vinvolved Bristol has 1187 voluntary opportunities listed on our database. How can you make sure yours gets noticed when people are searching for opportunities?

1. **Give the role a catchy (but descriptive) title.** Calling a role 'volunteer' doesn't give anyone a sense of what the role might involve. You want to grab people's attention.
2. **Sell the opportunity in the description.** Give enough information but don't bore people with too much detail. Keep sentences and paragraphs short – and check your spelling.
3. **Tell us what sort of work your organisation does and what sort of activities the role will involve.** This really helps when we are looking for opportunities on behalf of young people. You can tick more than one box to describe the work of your organisation; for example, you could tick children, disability and sports if you run sports activities for disabled children.
4. **Tell us where you are based.** Young people often want to find opportunities near where they live. We can search by location, so please tell us which neighbourhood the opportunity is in.

We have a training session ready-to-go which we can deliver to your team in-house (for free!) – call Ros to find out more.

Spotlight on...Student volunteering

Student volunteering week is happening between 22 and 28th of February. Do you currently involve students as volunteers? Would you like to? Perhaps you could use this week to promote your organisation and voluntary opportunities to students. Volunteering England has masses of information and resources about the week as well as information and advice about involving students as volunteers. Read all about it here

(<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/WhatWeDo/Student+Volunteering/Student+Volunteering+Week+2010>). You can also download the '[Make it Happen Guide to involving student volunteers](#)'.

Locally, students are making a massive difference to organisations across Bristol.

Natalie, a UWE student volunteered with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and Sue Ryder Care, helping both organisations with their publicity and PR work. Here's what she says:

I have been writing press releases, updating websites and media contact lists as well as writing to people to participate in fund-raisers and speaking to people about the causes I am promoting. I will also get the chance to appear on a Bristol radio show promoting a fundraising event which is not only very exciting but also a brilliant experience that looks amazing on my CV!

And here's how another organisation - NACOA - has benefitted from student volunteers

NACOA relies heavily on the contributions made by its volunteers; without them it would undoubtedly be difficult to maintain the level of support that we provide for children of alcohol-dependent parents through our telephone and helpline service. Recruiting student volunteers enable us to increase the number of voluntary hours available and offers students the opportunity to learn listening and helping skills as well. The diverse personalities and academic fields of student volunteers means that NACOA has the ability to offer appropriate support to people of all ages and backgrounds. We hope to continue to attract students to volunteering as they are an invaluable form of support to the charity and furthermore help to raise awareness of the damaging effects of alcoholism amongst the younger generations.

Celebrate your volunteers (aged between 16 and 25)

We have up to £200 for 3-4 organisations (each) to celebrate the contribution that young volunteers (aged 16-25) make to their work. If you would like to celebrate and thank your young volunteers, contact Georgina Seymour (gs@youngbristol.com) and tell her:

- a) How many young people aged 16-25 you would like to thank
- b) How you would like to thank them
- c) How much it will cost

Full time volunteering

Could a young person to volunteer full-time in your organisation? Having a full-time volunteer is a perfect way for charities to increase their capacity, and benefit from all the energy, enthusiasm and new ideas that young people bring. Young people are also being hit the hardest by the current recession. For them,

volunteering full time is a perfect way to gain valuable skills and experience for their future. If you would like help in thinking through how you might involve young volunteers full-time then get in touch with Ros: rp@youngbristol.com or 0117 907 1010.

A brief reminder - Good Practice Guide and our evaluation

In the last newsletter we told you to expect your copy of a Good Practice Guide to Involving Young People as Volunteers in the post - they should have been delivered in November. If you want more copies, or didn't get one in the first place, email action@youngbristol.com.

We also mentioned that our project was being evaluated as we have reached the half way stage. Please let us know how we are doing by following this link; www.surveymonkey.com/s/97VM9RX. Responses are being collated by our evaluator, Philip Parry Associates, so be as honest as you wish!

Upcoming training

- **Recruiting Volunteers**, Friday 12 February, 9.30-3.30. Run by Voscur and Volunteering Bristol. £15. Go to voscur.org for more information.
- **Awards for Young People training**, Various dates, 5.15 - 9pm. Run by Young Bristol. Free and we are laying on a hot dinner, yum!) Contact Laura Brain; lb@youngbristol.com for further information
 - Monday 15 February, Docklands centre, St Pauls
 - Monday 22 February, The Park Education Centre, Knowle
 - Friday 26 February, Southmead Youth Centre, Southmead
- **Taking Inspiring Photographs**, Tuesday 23 February, 1-4pm. Run by vinvolved Bristol. Free and lunch is included.

vinvolved Bristol is on the move!

We are moving. Towards the end of February we are moving our office base to the Young Bristol HQ at 113 Parson Street, Bedminster, BS3 5QH. Do pop in and see us!