



Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)

What is ESV?

According to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Employer Supported Volunteering is where organisations provide opportunities for employees to volunteer in work time, for example by giving volunteering leave.

ESV opportunities can range from helping at a one-off event like a conservation activity or acting as a steward at a local marathon, to a longer-term role such as becoming a charity trustee or a befriender or driver for a local neighbourhood care group. Volunteers might also wish to share specific professional skills with a local voluntary group, or organisations might have resources that they would like to offer to share, such as a meeting space.

Organisations may also set up more regular arrangements or partnerships with businesses to work on a particular project together on a time-limited basis or develop opportunities for employees to volunteer in an ongoing way.

What does ESV offer?

ESV can offer many benefits:

Employees:

- Use existing skills to help their local community
- Develop new skills and new experiences
- Meet new people and get to know colleagues better
- Have a sense of purpose of fulfilment and a stronger connection with their local community

Employers:

- Staff are more motivated and engaged
- Relationships between staff and teams can be developed
- Volunteering can be a key part of a Corporate Social Responsibility strategy
- Build new relationships with stakeholders and the wider community and raise their profile

Community:

- Skills and resources of employees can help with projects and services
- Increases the pool of volunteers available and brings new and different perspectives
- Builds links with employers

Developing an ESV programme

If you are thinking about developing your ESV programme within your organisation, the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development (CIPD) have produced a factsheet:

<https://www.cipd.co.uk/knowledge/strategy/volunteering/employer-supported-factsheet#gref>

And a guide with 10 practical steps for implementation.

https://www.cipd.co.uk/Images/employer-supported-volunteering-guide_tcm18-27612.pdf

The NCVO have also published a very detailed report on ESV which might be of interest:

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/time-well-spent-employer-supported-volunteering/#/>

How can the Volunteering Service at Richmond CVS help?

If you are looking to do a **one-off ESV activity**, we will talk through what you would like to achieve and connect you with local charities that run projects which can really benefit from your support. We would ask that you think about the following:

- How big is your group?
- What sort of activities do you want to do? What sort of causes do you want to support?
- When would you like the volunteering to take place? Are you flexible or is there a specific day that is best?
- Are you able to volunteer anywhere in the borough?
- Do you have a budget for this volunteering activity? Most charities will incur costs in terms of materials or time managing an event and it is best practice that these are covered.

Get in touch

If you are interested in either a **one-off ESV activity** or a more **longer-term** way of helping your local community by sharing skills or resources or volunteering or fundraising, we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch by emailing volunteer@richmondcv.org.uk