

Things to discuss with the people you support

- Do they really want to volunteer?
- What do they want from volunteering?
- What do they want to do?
- Do they have realistic expectations about what they can offer?

Just bear in mind it can go wrong if:

- The placement is not well-planned
- There has not been co-operation between people
- If thought has not been given to whether or not volunteering is the right step for the person you are supporting at that time!

And then ...

- The placement will be unsuccessful
- The volunteering will have a negative experience of volunteering
- You, the referrer will be disappointed
- The organisation who had involved the volunteer will lose the volunteer and will have a negative experience
- Everyone's confidence will be affected

Volunteer Centre Swindon can help

- We can run workshops on what volunteering is and what types of things people can do

If you and the person you are supporting decide that volunteering is the right option you may wish to visit the Volunteer Centre to discuss options and a possible referral

Our office is at:
1 John Street
Swindon, SN1 1RT
01793 420557

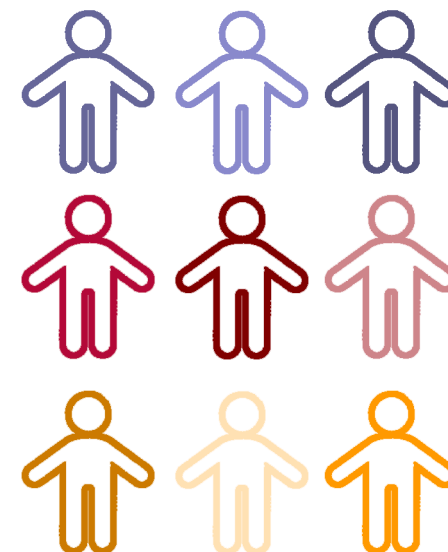
E-mail us at:
info@swindonvolunteers.org.uk
Visit our website
www.swindonvolunteers.org.uk

We are open from 11am—3 pm Monday to Friday or telephone us for appointments outside of these times.

You can also search and see what kind of volunteering opportunities are out there at
www.do-it.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1078012

Volunteering



Is it a good idea for my clients?

What is Volunteering?

“...giving your time and energy to benefit other people or the environment without being paid”



Voluntary work can offer:

- A structure to the day
- A change in a person's status
- A sense of identity
- Involvement in the community
- A sense of achievement
- A chance to build confidence
- A chance to gain new skills
- A break from the past

Voluntary work cannot offer:

- A job
- The promise of a job
- Clinical therapy
- Security
- Money, other than reimbursement of out of pocket expenses



Before you suggest volunteering ...



Carry out a careful assessment of your clients needs, especially any implications the persons conditions may have on their volunteering.

Questions to ask yourself and your organisation ...

- Why are you suggesting volunteering?
- What do you hope people might achieve?
- Do you think a person's needs might be met through volunteering?
- Are there other ways of meeting those needs?
- What support will people need?
- How much support will people need and at what stage?
- Are you/your organisation able to offer support?
- What other roles can you or your organisation play?

AND

Is your client volunteering-ready?



What does volunteering-ready mean?

- Is the person REALLY interested in volunteering? Volunteering is all about helping others so people have to want to do it and be in a place where they can think about the needs of others.
- The person needs to be reliable and be capable of turning up when they say they are going to or at least telephone in advance if they aren't able to attend. Do they keep their appointments with you or do they frequently turn up late or not turn up at all?
- Some volunteer roles don't require any skills but some will require at least a basic level of ability. Not all organisations can afford to provide training.
- When a person volunteers for an organisation, they become a representative of that organisation. So, it is expected that they can follow behaviour guidelines and present themselves appropriately.
- Many volunteering roles involve working with people from diverse backgrounds or with different abilities so the person needs to be non-judgemental, tolerant and patient.

