

CORONAVIRUS AND VOLUNTEERING

SHAUN DELANEY

@SHAUNDELANEY

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CHAMPIONING
VOLUNTARY
ACTION

NCVO

CORONAVIRUS AND VOLUNTEERING

AGENDA

1. How can people get involved?
2. Is it safe to volunteer?
3. Are volunteers on lockdown?
4. Are volunteers classed as key workers?
5. Do volunteers need a DBS check?
6. Can furloughed staff volunteer?

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1. HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED

Look out for others:

- Not just about shielded or self-isolating people
- Can include running errands, shopping and having a chat
- Can be done individually or through mutual aid groups

Sign up to:

- Volunteer Centre, CVS or visit the Do-it website
- NHS Volunteer Responders
- British Red Cross emergency response volunteers
- Local hubs

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2. IS IT SAFE TO VOLUNTEER?

1. Only do so if you are well.
2. Keep washing your hands often for 20 seconds.
3. Stay at least two metres - about three steps - away from people.
4. If you're trying to help someone with very serious issues – don't be afraid to flag with appropriate statutory services.
5. Support family, friends and neighbours by phone or video call.
6. Offer to run errands but stay outside of people's homes.
7. Let family and friends know what you're doing.
8. Don't take on too much - it's often better not to offer at all than to let someone down.

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3. ARE VOLUNTEERS ON LOCKDOWN?

People may leave their home for two reasons:

- If they're providing help to vulnerable people
- If their volunteering cannot be done from home, whether related to the coronavirus response or not

- ✓ Volunteer from home
- ✓ At an organisation if cannot be done from home
- ✓ To support others in need



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4. ARE VOLUNTEERS KEY WORKERS?



- People in key worker roles are allowed to send their children to school.
- Some sections of the key worker guidance refer to volunteers specifically, including health and social care volunteers.
- However the key worker definition applies to people in all the roles listed, whether they are paid and unpaid roles.

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5. DO VOLUNTEERS NEED A DBS CHECK?

Regulated activity:

- DBS rules are only mandatory for regulated activity
- Some activity (like shopping and running errands) is regulated for certain vulnerable groups
- Self-isolating or shielding does not place someone in these groups – so basic support tasks are not likely to be regulated
- It is an offence to recruit a barred volunteer into a regulated role
- It is an offence to be barred and undertake a regulated role

Non-regulated activity:

- DBS checks are not mandatory
- Higher level checks (enhanced and standard checks) are only available for certain roles
- Many roles (such as telephone befrienders) will not be eligible for these checks
- You may be able to access basic DBS checks however need to balance this with:
 - Whether it's useful
 - Costs and admin time

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5. DO VOLUNTEERS NEED A DBS CHECK?



1. Focus on what the *actual* risks are first
2. Ask yourself if this role a regulated activity?
3. If yes, be clear that ‘barred’ people cannot volunteer in these roles
4. Look at information – don’t fall into the ‘I have a clean DBS’ trap
5. Be pragmatic – are there better ways to safeguard people

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CAN FURLOUGHED STAFF VOLUNTEER?

- **Go somewhere else:** volunteering must be with a different organisation, and cannot be making money or providing services for the furloughed employees organisation
- **Keep it voluntary:** As soon as someone is obliged to do something (such as training, or attending a particular scheme) this stops being voluntary and may jeopardise whether that person is considered furloughed.
- **Be creative:** Approach employers or other charities to see if they can publicise your roles