



# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER



## TOP NEWS STORIES

Bringing you the latest information and general updates for our volunteers;

**Pg 2** What's new? E-learning and Volunteers Week update

**Pg 3** Lancashire County Council service updates

**Pg 6** Keep it Tidy and Covid Vaccination Centres

and much more...

# DEAR VOLUNTEER,



## Dear Volunteer,

At long last, we have said goodbye to winter and full lockdown, and are now welcoming spring with open arms. I hope the changes in regulations, paired with the lovely weather have enabled you to catch up with your friends and family outdoors - who you may not have seen for some time. But please can we kindly remind you to remember to stick to the government guidance too.

We know that many of you have had your volunteering put on hold and are now eager to re-start. However, we ask for your patience for a little longer, as we are working in the background on recovery plans to be able to bring volunteers back when it is safe to do so. Your Volunteer Officer/Supervisor will be in touch with you once we know more.

On a similar note, we do appreciate that for some of you, your circumstances may have changed. If that is the case and you can no longer commit to volunteering, please could you either let us or the service you support know as soon as possible, so that we can archive your volunteer record. This will also help us with our recovery plan and enable us to start recruiting again when the time is right.

For those who have volunteered throughout the pandemic, we would like to say a massive thank you. Doing everything virtually has been strange for us all, and like many, we welcome the day when we can return to the office and see people face-to-face. Your support has been invaluable over this time, and we will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done.

## WHAT ELSE HAS HAPPENED AT LVP SINCE LOCKDOWN?

When the pandemic hit, our Community Support Befriending service was put on hold and we developed a new Telephone Befriending role.

We communicated what was required and we were soon delighted with how many people signed up. Since the start of lockdown last year, our volunteers have supported over 1,400 people, which is truly amazing! Many of those supported were really struggling, and receiving a regular telephone call made a real difference to their lives.

We are still recruiting for Telephone Befrienders, so if you know someone who may be interested in this role please refer them to the 'Opportunities section' of our website at <https://lancsvp.org.uk/opportunities/>.

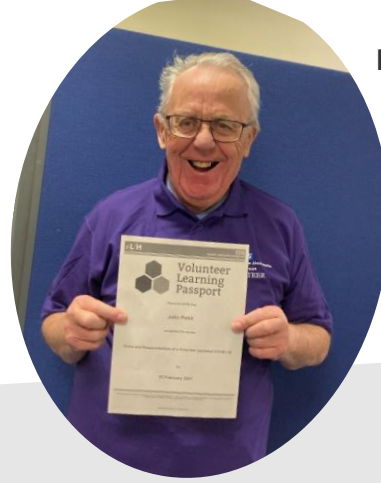
Back in November 2020, we were tasked by the NHS to support their Covid-19 mass and local vaccination programme across Lancashire and South Cumbria. We were overwhelmed by the number of people willing to help and are aware that many of you have supported this initiative. So far, we have processed 1,787 volunteer applications and supported over 30 local/mass vaccination centres across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

We are still accepting applications for Covid Vaccination Centre Marshals - you can apply on our website [here](#).





# WHAT'S NEW?



John from East Lancashire Hospital Trust receiving his Volunteer Learning Passport

## ARE YOU UP TO DATE WITH YOUR E-LEARNING?

Are you up to date with your e-learning? Services are now developing their recovery plans to bring volunteers back when it is safe to do so. Therefore, it is important that all your e-learning is completed and up to date, so remember to log in and check if you have any outstanding tasks by doing the following steps:

1

[Register / Log in >](#)

2

In order to become a Covid-19 mass Vaccination Centre Marshal, you need to complete three e-learning modules prior to volunteering.

Visit the Volunteer Learning Hub at <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/volunteer-learning/> and click 'Register / Log in >' in the top right hand corner.

- Data Security Awareness for Volunteers
- Moving and Assisting for Volunteers
- Health, Safety and Infection Prevention and Control for Volunteers [updated COVID-19]

# COME CELEBRATE WITH US!



## WHAT IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS' WEEK?

National Volunteers' Week takes place 1-7 June every year. It's a chance to celebrate and say thank you for the contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK. Lancashire Volunteer Partnership and Our Lancashire will be using this campaign to acknowledge the great work our volunteers and groups do across Lancashire.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We'll be releasing more details about what's happening in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on our social media platforms and website to keep you up to date. We'll be running activities throughout the whole week, including a range of exciting online events including:

- **Virtual Garden Party**
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing sessions**
- **Virtual Quiz**

...and much more!



# LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

## UPDATE ON LIBRARIES, MUSEUMS & ARCHIVES

As we follow the roadmap out of lockdown, Lancashire Libraries, Museums and Archives will start reopen to the public, and that means a gradual return of volunteer roles. We know that some of our volunteers are eager to get back to their roles, while others are much more cautious. Everyone is different and we want you to know that all your volunteering matters to us, and we want you to return when you feel ready.

### Lancashire Libraries

Lancashire Libraries increased their opening hours for browsing, borrowing and computer use from the 12th April. At LVP we are working with the Library Service on the best way for all the 'in-library' volunteering roles to restart and we'll let you know the plans as they are agreed. We don't expect 'in library' volunteering to restart until after 21st June 2021 at the very earliest.

### Museums

Museums are planning to open for indoor visits from the 17th May and volunteers are returning to their museum roles to support this. At LVP we are looking to recruit some additional volunteers at Lancaster Judges' Lodgings Museum and [Burnley's Queen Street Mill](#) to support the re-opening. If you're interested in this volunteer roles please visit our website.

### Home Library Service volunteers

Our Culture Hack volunteers have connected with and contributed to several digital, online volunteering activities throughout the pandemic. Home Library Service volunteers began to support book deliveries from September 2020 and this continues with libraries using a mix of volunteers and LCC delivery drivers to get books out to their customers.

### The Lancashire Archives

The Lancashire Archives Service opened, in a Covid-safe way, for pre-booked visitors from 13th April. Some volunteers have returned already with restricted numbers and on a rota basis.

For the latest updates please visit the webpages for [Archives](#), [Libraries](#) and [Museums](#) across the county.

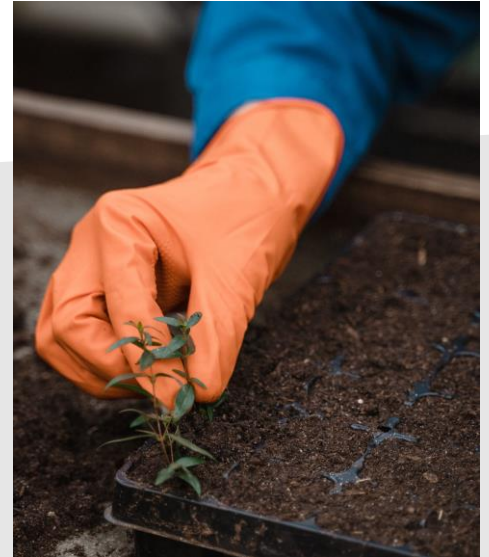


# WHAT'S NEW?

## ADULT DISABILITY DAY CENTRES

Leyland Day Centre reopened its doors on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, and the staff were delighted to welcome back up to twelve service users each day. Everyone was very happy to be back at the centre with their friends (there were a lot of smiling faces!), as many of them had not stepped outside their homes since March last year.

“In terms of our volunteers, we miss them very much, and they make a huge contribution to our service. One of our volunteers, Roy, helps in our garden. As he is outside and has no service user contact, he has been able to continue volunteering at the day centre, once restrictions eased last year. He has done a terrific job and it was great to see the gardens looking great when we returned.”



## EAST LANCASHIRE HOSPITAL TRUST

At East Lancashire Hospitals, they cannot thank their volunteers enough for the tremendous efforts that they have been given over the last twelve months.

As we move forward, they are looking forward to seeing more volunteers returning. Lynne, the Volunteer Co-ordinator is keeping in touch with everyone, and when it is safe to do so, will be welcoming others back.

## THE OFFICE OF LANCASHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Since March 2020, our Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs) have been unable to do physical visits to Lancashire Custody Suites, however, they were still monitoring through telephone reporting.

We're now delighted to confirm that they have returned to visits and the feedback from the ICVs themselves and the Custody Management Inspectors have been extremely positive. ICVs are the eyes and ears of the residents of Lancashire, and it is terrific that they have now returned and are able to undertake their role fully.



# LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY

## RESTORATIVE JUSTICE VOLUNTEERS

With the easing of restrictions over the summer months and the continued roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination, we are planning for Restorative Justice Volunteering to be resumed soon in its entirety.

Our Restorative Justice Co-ordinators have been engaging with our volunteers and have arranged refresher training over the coming months. There will be numerous refresher training events around the county, which will offer an opportunity for us to meet with our volunteers, refresh skills and outline our Covid safe measures, to ensure everyone has the confidence to return to their roles.

We also understand that not everyone will feel ready to return to their volunteering role. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact their local RJ Co-ordinator or the main office on 01772 412 545.



Restorative Justice Volunteer

## BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

We would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers that have supported volunteering during the Covid pandemic. All our volunteers have been invaluable in supporting the most vulnerable in our community.

Telephone Befriending volunteers have supported lots of vulnerable people throughout the last twelve months and we have heard lovely heart-warming stories of friendship. Click the images below to read stories.





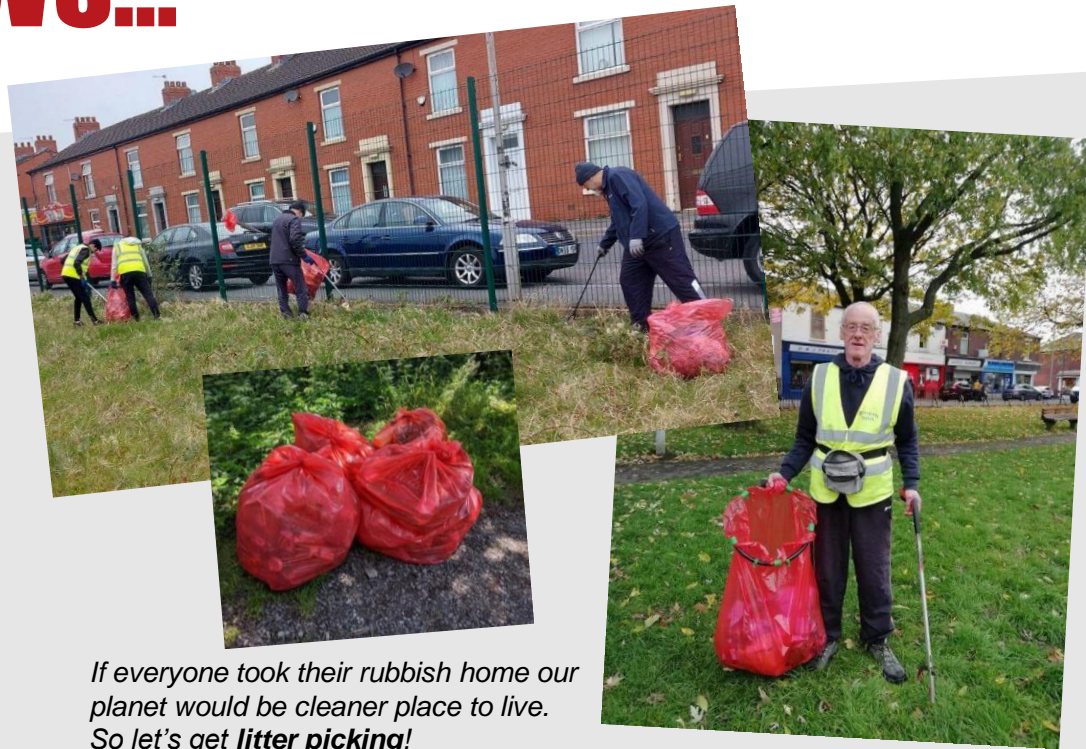
# MORE NEWS...

## KEEP IT TIDY

Volunteers have continued litter picking across Blackburn with Darwen keeping the streets clean, your support is amazing!

More in the story: **Residents are cleaning up Blackburn with Darwen one red bag at a time!**

#LitterHeroes



*If everyone took their rubbish home our planet would be cleaner place to live. So let's get **litter picking!***

## COVID VACCINATION CENTRES

Volunteers have stepped forward to marshal at the Covid Vaccination Centres throughout the pandemic, and the council and the NHS are extremely grateful for the dedication and support of the volunteers. Find out more about how an army of volunteers have been helping delivering Covid vaccinations in Blackburn with Darwen by clicking **here.**

We have also had volunteers supporting services such as the Home Library Delivery Service. Volunteer Managers across the council are now looking at ways to support volunteers back into services as the Government Roadmap helps lifts restrictions, so you will be contacted at the planned time for services you support. However, we will still be recruiting volunteers for new and existing services, so make sure to keep your eye on on the Blackburn with Darwen **opportunities** on our website!



## WE VALUE YOUR THOUGHTS

Our volunteers' feedback is very important to us and helps us to shape the service going forward. We would love to hear your feedback, whether you have a suggestion for the newsletter, a quote, or a suggestion telling us how we can do things differently or better for the future.

Please email your ideas, feedback and suggestions to **lvp@lancashire.gov.uk**

