

## Volunteers in Rushmoor making a major economic contribution to the local community!



**Rushmoor Voluntary Services** (RVS) has identified that there are at least **3663** volunteers giving their time in the borough contributing an estimated **£7.16m** to the local economy annually!



In April 2017, Rushmoor Volunteer Centre asked its members how many volunteers were involved with their work. Over 60\* organisations responded, including large charities, community and voluntary organisations and small community based projects. (*\*this represents around 15% of RVS' membership*)

From our questionnaire the number of volunteers involved in the work of 62 Rushmoor based organisations was: 3663. Using a nationally recognised formula, we calculated that the work of these 3663 volunteers contributes \*£7.16 million to the Rushmoor economy annually! (ivo.org.uk).

What support and help do volunteers in Rushmoor provide?		
Older People & Social Groups	People with disabilities	People with health conditions
Helping people needing advice and information	Clubs, groups and societies	Run and help to organise sports groups
Provide education support	Run and help to organise uniform groups	Work with faith groups in the community
Projects that support our diverse community	Minibus driving	Governance, Management and Administration

Greg Alexander, RVS Chief Executive said, 'For the third year running we have seen an increase in the number of people volunteering in Rushmoor. Everyday, local volunteers are making a massive difference to people of all ages, abilities and cultures and to the wellbeing of the borough.

We are determined to work together with partners in the community to enable local people to participate in volunteering. We also want to give local organisations the help they need to recruit more people to help them to make a difference in the community'.

We must not forget the difference volunteering makes to the people that actually do it. Volunteering increases well-being and skills and is also giving younger people the opportunity to build C.V's and experience. We are very proud of the work and time that local people are giving to the other organisations in Rushmoor – they are all helping to maintain the strong, responsive and active community we all enjoy here in Rushmoor.

Paul Shackley, Rushmoor Borough Council Chief Executive added 'The Council recognise the invaluable contribution voluntary and charitable organisations make to improve the quality of life of our residents and the tremendous support they get from their volunteers. With the help of Rushmoor Voluntary Services we are developing closer partnership working with these groups to identify opportunities where we can provide additional advice and support to help them in delivering their services and become more sustainable.'

### **About Rushmoor Voluntary Services**

Rushmoor Voluntary Services provides support and information to local voluntary groups and volunteers. Rushmoor Volunteer Centre works with other organisations to place people into local volunteering. This is done through face-to-face meetings, enquiries received through a volunteering database and telephone and email enquiries. Using these methods, the centre placed at least 200 people into voluntary work during 2016/17.

The Economic Contribution figure shown is based on a small sample of local organisations. When you consider that there are probably over 500 voluntary organisations, community groups and charities operating in Rushmoor you begin to realise the massive contribution made by volunteers in our area.

If you would like to know more about volunteering in Rushmoor please visit our website: [www.rvs.org.uk](http://www.rvs.org.uk) or take a look at our volunteering website: <https://www.volunteernorthhants.org/>

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