

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



Rushmoor Voluntary Services (RVS) has identified that there are at least **3554** volunteers giving their time in the borough contributing an estimated **£7.1m** to the local economy annually!



In a recent survey, 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 60 Rushmoor based organisations was: 3554. Using a nationally recognised formula and salary scales for our area, we calculated that the work of these 3554 volunteers contributes *£7.1 million to the Rushmoor economy annually! (ivo.org.uk and SE pay scales).

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	Other community activities	Governance, Management and Administration

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.

Greg Alexander, RVS Chief Executive said, 'We are delighted to report that volunteering in Rushmoor continues to be strong and diverse. Despite national trends that volunteering in some areas is decreasing our survey results show that hundreds of people, every day, are willing to give their time to support the community. Everyday, local volunteers are making a massive difference to people of all ages, abilities and cultures and to the wellbeing of the borough. We will continue 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'.

Paul Shackley, Chief Executive of Rushmoor Borough Council said, "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. The Council is committed to continuing to support the voluntary sector and community organisations, including Rushmoor Voluntary Services, in the future".

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, telephone and website enquiries. Using these methods, the centre placed at least 261 people into voluntary work during 2017/18.

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