

WILTSHIRE VOLUNTEERS

A Bid for PRG Funding - Summary

Bid Submitted by:

Janice Fortune, Chief Executive Officer, DEVELOP Enhancing Community Support, 3-4 New Road, Chippenham, Wilts SN15 1EJ

Amount requested: £55,694

Summary:

The new Wiltshire Infrastructure Support Service – ‘GROW’ *Enhancing Community Support* includes a countywide Volunteer Service for Wiltshire for the first time. This application, if approved, would both build on the basic service and develop an accredited volunteer centre for Wiltshire. At present the nearest accredited centre is in Swindon. The proposed service would offer the six core functions of a Volunteer Centre as prescribed by Volunteering England. The benefits to all community areas in Wiltshire will include better access to volunteering opportunities and support to individuals, Employer Volunteering scheme, specialised support, information and good practice services, access to draw down further funding via Volunteering England to support volunteering, and access to support and information as part of a national framework.

What the bid will fund:

- One part time Development Worker post to focus on achieving the six core functions of an accredited Volunteer Centre for Wiltshire, at the same time supporting the team to increase opportunities for volunteering and supporting organisations to attract volunteers.
- One half-time Development Worker post to develop an Employer Supported Volunteering scheme working with local employers to actively encourage and support staff to volunteer in their community. Promote opportunities and arrange local Community Challenge Events.
- Laptop computer with remote access; mobile phone; display boards; promotional materials; signage; accreditation fees

Outcomes to be delivered:

- Increased volunteering opportunities both formal and informal for potential volunteers
- Increased awareness of volunteering opportunities through promotion and marketing
- Knowledge of Employer Supported Volunteering scheme by local employers
- Successful Community Challenge Events

Beneficiaries:

- Voluntary Organisations who rely on volunteers to deliver their service
- Voluntary Organisations looking for Trustees
- Statutory organisations who use volunteers to enhance delivery of their service
- Community Areas undertaking community challenge and community projects
- Individuals who need help and support to access employment or return to work
- Young people seeking experience to get into employment
- Retired professional people wishing to ‘give something back’ to the community
- Mums returning to work and wishing to gain confidence
- Isolated and lonely people looking for social contact and a purpose in life
- Employers and staff

THE BOARD IS INVITED TO LEND ITS SUPPORT TO THIS BID AND RECOMMEND THAT THE PRG PANEL APPROVES THE WILTSHIRE VOLUNTEERS PROJECT