# Volunteer Policies and Agreements

If your organisation uses volunteers then there are two key documents that you need to have in place:

* A Volunteer Policy
* A Standard Volunteer Agreement

## Volunteer Policy

This is a general policy document for the whole organisation:

“A volunteer policy is a framework for the volunteer programme. It summarises and signposts on to other policies and procedures. It can place your use of volunteers in context, by explaining their role within your organisation, and their distinctiveness from paid staff.” (Volunteering England)

## Volunteer Agreement

This is a template for an individual agreement between the organisation and each volunteer.

“Volunteer agreements set out what volunteers and the organisation can expect from each other. In a sense they are describing the volunteer's rights and responsibilities. The agreement is not and should not be a contract as they describe expectations rather than obligations.”

For guidance on drafting these key policies (and other documents you may wish to consider) click [here](https://knowhow.ncvo.org.uk/your-team/volunteers/keeping)