

Making the most of Volunteer Centre Manchester Employer Supported Volunteer partnerships

Here at the Volunteer Centre Manchester we work with Manchester City Council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning to match their employees, who get 3 days volunteer leave each year, to organisations who need support. This might be those 'wish list' tasks that never seem to get done such as web development, social media support, information systems management, bid writing or anything that needs dedicated skills or time that voluntary and community organisations might not have at their fingertips.

Here is a guide to how to writing a challenge that suits employee volunteering schemes and that will target the skills and energy within businesses looking to share their time and skills with voluntary and community organisations.

Challenge Title:

Make it catchy and to the point

What is the Challenge?

What are you currently struggling with and how could a volunteer help?

Then bullet point your request and your commitment:

We would like from you...

We will make sure you...

What difference would it make/free up time to allow you to do?

Here is where you will get the fire in their belly – let them know how much getting this job done will mean to your organisation. Perhaps you will be a better equipped to apply for funding?

How long will it take?

Most organisations we work with have 1-3 days of employer supported volunteering leave they can take to support good causes. Bear that in mind when putting together your challenge – could they do it in three days, two half days, six half days, one full day? Think also, what's realistic for your organisation – is it better to split their time over months so that you can think and develop the type of support with them or could they do the task in a day and have it blitzed?

Where will the volunteering take place?

Can this be home based? Do they need to come in? Could there be a face to face or telephone consultation? It is always a nice idea to invite the volunteer to see the work they will be supporting and helpful for them to talk face to face about the needs of the organisation however this may not always be possible depending on the location of the volunteer so it's good to be flexible.

Want to talk more about how your organisation can benefit from the skills, time and knowledge of Manchester City Council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning? Get in touch with Shanna at the Volunteer Centre Manchester on 01618304770 or e-mail at esv@macc.org.uk