



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 9th July 2018

Subject: Students gain recognition for volunteering

Since September 2017 Community First's Volunteer Service has been working in partnership with Peter Symonds College Winchester to encourage more students into volunteering. During term time the Volunteer Service has been at the college one day a week to provide a brokerage service to match students' skills and needs with volunteering opportunities.

As a result, 44 students have been found placements ranging from care homes and primary schools, to Hampshire Constabulary's Community Court and film archiving. Students also took part in a social action day at The Wickham Centre (organised by Community First) where they helped to create a community garden from scratch.

In addition to 44 students finding placements via Community First another 50 students were already volunteering and on 2nd July a number of students received awards certificates from the Principal, Stephen Carville, in recognition of their volunteering.

Anyone who is thinking of volunteering can find more information on Community First's dedicated volunteering website www.volunteerwessex.org, or contact julie.eden@cfirst.org.uk.

- End -

Photo:

Pictured left to right with Principal, Stephen Carville, are:

Anu Siby – British Heart Foundation

Sophia Aslam – Eastleigh Young Carers

Mojo Akinyemi – Praise Embassy Church, Basingstoke

April Ironside – 1st Broad Oak Brownies

Sophie Heddon – Hart Wildlife

Melanie France – Old Alresford Cottage Care Home and Cheriton Primary School

Community First is the trading name of Communities First Wessex

Registered Charity no 1147527 Company Registered in England and Wales 8071971 at
Langstone Technology Park Langstone Road Havant Hampshire PO9 1SA



Notes for Editors

1. Communities First Wessex (known as Community First) provides support and advice to local voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises in order to build their capacity and ensure a thriving and successful voluntary sector across East Hampshire, Fareham, Havant and Winchester. We also provide a one stop shop for all aspects of volunteering; helping recruit and place volunteers throughout our local communities and providing specialist training for voluntary organisations.
2. Communities First Wessex also delivers critical community services including:
 - a. Community Transport and Dial a Ride in East Hampshire, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Winchester and Basingstoke
 - b. Shopmobility in Fareham, Havant and Chichester, and Winchester
 - c. Health and wellbeing services including surgery signposting with GP surgeries in Bordon, Fareham and Waterlooville, a Silver Linings programme for older people at

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Hewitt's in Emsworth, Walking 4 Health in Fareham, and a Home Help and a Gardening Service for vulnerable people in Fareham.

- d. Support for Community Buildings and managing agents for Leigh Park Community Centre in Havant
 - e. Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling services
 - f. Specialist youth work including support for young people's mental health
 - g. Work and skills based training and support for unemployed people
 - h. Supported volunteering for people with a range of needs including mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and those with a physical or mild learning disability.
3. Communities First Wessex employs 116 staff, has more than 80 regular volunteers and has a turnover of £2.6m. Its main sources of income are local authority and government grants and contracts, Big Lottery Fund and a range of charitable trusts.
4. For further information contact:
Tim Houghton, Chief Executive, Communities First Wessex
07467 941018 or email tim.houghton@cfirst.org.uk

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