



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 24 September 2018

Subject: We need your help!

Have you ever thought about volunteering – but don't know where to start, and who might best use your time and skills? The easy bit is deciding 'to do something', but working out what might take a little longer.

Community First can help you as Julie Eden, Volunteer Service Co-ordinator, explains: "From October we are starting up a new service in Havant where people can drop in and chat to us about volunteering. We will be in **Havant Library** between 10.00 and 12.00 every second Tuesday of the month and at the same time every second Thursday of the month in **Waterlooville Library**. During October we will be in Havant on 9th and Waterlooville on the 11th. Please come and see us as there is a lot on offer; we promote 70 organisations in the local area and 108 different opportunities to volunteer.

"We also have our own dedicated volunteer website www.volunteerwessex.org where you can search for opportunities. You can specify what sort of organisation you are interested in e.g. one that is concerned with wildlife or young people, and/or what sort of volunteering you would like to do such as providing advice or helping with conservation."

For further information please contact Julie Eden, julie.eden@cfirst.org.uk or tel. 01730 777514.

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Photo:



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 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.

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



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
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