

Volunteer Coordinator's Forum – November 2018

Asks:

- **Advice on using IT To help manage large numbers of volunteers to cover a rota.**
 - I use [Timecounts](#) for organising volunteers in a role outside work so could recommend that from experience, I really like it and volunteers seem to be on board with it. You can set up bespoke shifts, create events/gatherings, assign tasks, track how many hours people have done and I think you can do availability but I've not used that function. I think it's dreamy to be honest. I just use the free option and we have over 100 volunteers registered with it. It also has quite a nice volunteer friendly customisable interface you can set up – for example [this is the page for the org I volunteer/coordinate volunteers for](#).
 - Laura Hamilton, a volunteering consultant also suggested a similar platform called [Calendly](#) and I think someone else said they use [Air Table](#). All these have free subscription options.
 - Someone at the VCF has recommended [3 Rings](#) which seems similar but with quick support, it's a paid for service but it seems really affordable and is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company so you'd be supporting that.
 - Chester Zoo use a similar piece of kit called [Better Impact](#) but pay a fair bit for it I think.

- **How do people tap into teams of people/staff doing a one off activity?**
 - We send round an ESV e-mail whenever we get an enquiry from a business or company looking to do some group volunteering, so look out for these. If you don't think you get them then you can get in touch with us. [Here's an example of a pervious mail out](#).
 - We're also going to make sure the location of the business is listed on the e-mail after a request at the VCF.
 - [Spirit of Manchester Business](#): aims to bring businesses and local causes together for the good of Manchester. The scheme is based around exchanging skills and knowledge you already have for the benefit of the community. Being involved in this initiative may help to build up a relationship with a company and tap into staff teams.
 - Volunteer Centre Manchester is working with [Manchester City council and Manchester Health and Care Commissioning](#) so we can always pitch group volunteering to our volunteering contact there.

- **How to reward volunteers without risking breaking employment law**

There is a lot of fear around the link rewarding volunteers and establishing some sort of relationship that could be misconstrued as a contract. These cases are rare and if organisations are be proportionate and exercising good practice then it would be very unlikely for happy volunteers to want to sue you. However, here is some articles that might help to reassure you:

- [Know How not for profit guidance on thanking volunteers](#)
- The 'What rewards are ok?' section of this [guidance by Voluntary Action Sheffield](#)
- Guidance from [Lodders solicitors on Volunteers and the Law](#)

Offers

- [Manchester Metropolitan University Student's Union](#)
 - [Volunteer brokerage system](#)
 - Volunteering fair during student volunteers week
- [Back on track](#)
 - Swan Kitchen Catering
- [The River Manchester](#)
 - Opportunities in outreach or volunteering with the move to safety project and painting for change project
- [Breakthrough UK](#)
 - Disability awareness training and social model of disability training for volunteers
- University of Manchester
 - [Volunteers Hub](#)
 - [Social media advertising of opportunities](#)
 - Social justice fair once a year in October
- Volunteer Centre Manchester:
 - [Support and advice around involving volunteers](#)
 - [Volunteer platform helping you recruit volunteers](#)
 - Promotion of volunteer opportunities
 - [Links with Council for employer supported volunteering](#)