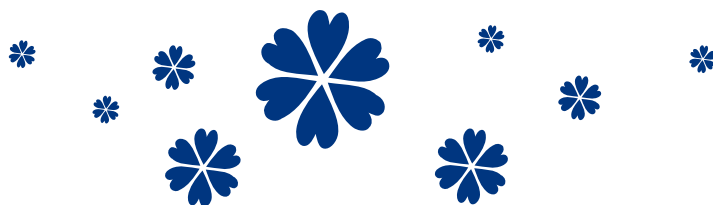


# The Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea



When you volunteer your time and effort you are supporting organisations that do important work in our communities. You are giving some of your time and energy to those who need it. What is sometimes less obvious is that as a volunteer you get the sense of satisfaction that comes with making a difference to someone's day. You have the opportunity to gain confidence and develop skills that enhance your CV. One of the key messages of the Kensington and Chelsea Volunteer Centre is that everyone involved in volunteering benefits.


The Kensington and Chelsea Volunteer Centre traces its roots to 1969 when Lady Goodman set up the Volunteer Bureau. Her aim was to bring together volunteers and organisations in need of volunteers. The Bureau became the Volunteer Centre in 2005 but its central purpose has not changed.

The key role of the Volunteer Centre is to act as a matchmaker between residents keen to volunteer and the organisations who need their help. They offer opportunities that vary from helping at one-off events to long-term roles that utilise a variety of your skills. The only requirements are enthusiasm and commitment.

The strength of the Volunteer Centre lies in its wide-ranging experience with and contacts across the voluntary sector. Knowledgeable staff will help you find the role that suits you best and provide support and advice while you work.

If you want to become a volunteer in Kensington and Chelsea your first step will be to contact the Volunteer Centre.

Contact the Volunteer Centre:

 020 8960 3722 / 020 8960 3750

 [enquiries@voluntarywork.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@voluntarywork.org.uk)

 [www.voluntarywork.org.uk](http://www.voluntarywork.org.uk)

Or visit their offices at:

Canalside House  
383 Ladbroke Grove  
London W10 5AA

You can call in from Monday to Friday between 10am and 5pm.

The Volunteer Centre also works with the Royal Borough's voluntary organisations to ensure that they are able to meet legal requirements, as well as providing more general guidance. If you are a member of a voluntary organisation the Volunteer Centre is ideally equipped to offer advice and help about your own volunteers.



## [case study]

"I work with a team of volunteers and have witnessed lots of people use the Centre to find voluntary work. And I must say, it's a really satisfying job. All kinds of people use our service; students come in looking for practical experience to help them get their first job; mothers, who have been out of work raising a family, find voluntary roles that fit in with their busy family lives, people with English as a second language find roles that help them improve their English. Sometimes people find the right placement right away and sometimes it takes a couple of attempts, but volunteers are happy when they find one that suits them.

Most of the team at the Volunteer Centre are also volunteers, they volunteer to update their IT and customer service skills. It's great to see how they progress once they get the hang of all the systems, they become more confident of their skills and they often find jobs as a result of their volunteering."

### **Eli Wislocka**

Volunteer Services Officer

Kensington and Chelsea Volunteer Centre