



# Valuing & Inspiring Volunteering in Oxfordshire

**Alison Baxter**  
**Lindsay Watts**



# Volunteering: the facts

- What is volunteering?
- What are the opportunities?
- Why do people volunteer?
- Place survey: 28.6% of Oxfordshire residents volunteer once a month
- Local Area Agreement target NI6 to increase levels to 30.4% by 2011

# Who is volunteering?

- **Age:**

35% over 65	23% 50-64
29% 25-49	14% 16-24
- **Employment:** 28% unemployed
- **Ethnic diversity:** 15% ethnic minority
- **Disability:** 6% disabled
- 150% increase in enquiries 2007-2009

# Value of volunteering

- Economic value £2.4 billion a year
- Other value:
  - Health & Wellbeing
  - Diversifying organisations
  - Capacity building of organisations
  - Partnership working
  - Building stronger communities

# What is a Volunteer Centre?

- National brand with 3 centres in Oxfordshire



- Matchmaker between volunteers and organisations
- Local centre for good practice and support
- Promoter of volunteering

# Case study: Jess

Young, criminal record, mental health difficulties, addiction, supported housing



# Case study: Sam

- Recently moved to country, trained accountant. Not confident to find paid work.



# Case study: Amanda

- Mid 30's, works full time in IT & Project Management. Built website for a small local community centre.



# Case study: DHL/ArCH



- Bringing together the business and voluntary sectors to share skills, knowledge and resources for the benefit of Oxfordshire residents.

# Experiences of volunteering

- ‘Volunteering is the best thing I’ve ever done. Although I enjoy my paid employment it can’t give me the rush volunteering does.’
- ‘I’m pleased that I have been able to find a role to suit my particular skills, experience and interest area’
- ‘For someone in my circumstances, volunteering has been useful in giving me a social network & structure to my week’

# Volunteering: the future

- Volunteers are unpaid but not free!
- Only 5% of people aware that the role of trustee exists
- Volunteers add value but cannot replace professional staff
- **The challenge:** to create a culture where it is understood and natural to volunteer

# What the Partnership can do

- Meet standards of the Code of practice volunteering (Compact)
- Support campaigns to promote volunteering (e.g. trusteeship)
- Promote volunteering as added value to your organisation
- Lead by example and champion volunteering

# Contact us

Lindsay Watts

Volunteer Centre Manager, Oxfordshire

Tel: 01865 251946

Email: [Lindsay.Watts@ocva.org.uk](mailto:Lindsay.Watts@ocva.org.uk)

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