

Under embargo until: 4 June 2018 00:01hrs

## In Wales over 5,000 step up as volunteers in last year

Wales has seen 5,256 volunteers placed with a huge variety of 'forces for good' the latest figures from [volunteering-wales.net](http://volunteering-wales.net) have shown.

Volunteers are the backbone of Welsh communities, many of which would not have access to the services they need without the support of volunteers.

In Wales 28% of people describe themselves as currently taking part in volunteering, with 61 million hours a year given to help improve Welsh society and meet people's needs and aspirations.

People volunteer their time across a vast range of activities from volunteer librarians, drivers, interpreters and animal fosterers, to fundraisers, mental and physical health support workers, and those that provide vital emergency services.

This week people across the UK celebrate Volunteer's Week. The annual celebration takes place 1-7 June and aims to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers.

To mark the occasion Third Sector Support Wales partners have today announced the 'go live' date for an exciting new digital volunteering platform to replace the current system on [volunteering-wales.net](http://volunteering-wales.net) from 8 June 2018.

The new platform is free for volunteers and for organisations looking to recruit. As before you can find opportunities by searching for keywords or according to distance from your location. However, volunteers can now also log the hours and skills they gain through volunteering and will receive digital badges for volunteering 50, 100, 200 hours or more.

Registration is straightforward, and the website will remind you of your forthcoming commitments as well as being a record of what you have achieved, particularly useful for updating your CV.

WCVA Chief Executive Ruth Marks said: 'There's great potential for volunteering to have an even bigger impact on people's wellbeing in Wales with more people volunteering for the causes they feel passionate about. This new platform will help make that possible and allow volunteers to get the most out of the contributions they make.'

For organisations, the system will help you to recruit and manage volunteers, log volunteer hours, plan rotas and events, record training and experience and produce reports.

Third Sector Support Wales are encouraging organisations to register for the new platform now by visiting the temporary website [volunteerwales.teamkinetic.co.uk](http://volunteerwales.teamkinetic.co.uk).

Organisations that register during Volunteers' Week will have their opportunities live on the site from 8 June 2018.

**For more information, please contact Fiona Liddell or Simon Dowling  
on 0800 2888 329.**

### Notes to editors

- 5,256 volunteers were placed in Wales through [volunteering-wales.net](http://volunteering-wales.net) April 2017 - March 2018
- 28% of people currently volunteered, either formally or informally according to the National Survey for Wales, 2016-17
- 61 million hours a year given to volunteering based on latest figures from WCVA's data hub - [www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/the-third-sector-data-hub](http://www.wcva.org.uk/what-we-do/the-third-sector-data-hub)
- Third Sector Support Wales is a network of support organisations for the third sector in Wales. Our shared goal is to enable the third sector and volunteers across Wales to contribute fully to individual and community well-being, now and for the future.
- WCVA is the national membership organisation for the third sector in Wales. Our vision is for the third sector and volunteering to thrive and improve well-being for all. We do this by *influencing, connecting and enabling*.

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