

# Young People's Views on Volunteering – a survey by **InterAct**

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# InterAct – Who are we?

- InterAct is a registered charity, based in Chelmsford
- InterAct supports disabled and disadvantaged adults, children, families, carers and young people, and works with the organisations, individuals and communities who support them
- Our overall aim is to inform, support & empower people to increase their independence, choice and control, to realise their hopes, dreams and aspirations, and to play a full part in society
- Volunteers (including young volunteers) play a key role in our programmes

# Circles of Support



- InterAct's longest running programme
- We match a group of volunteers with a young person with learning difficulties, to provide support as mentors
- Funded by Essex County Council and BBC Children in Need





# Volunteering Survey

- Tick box surveys completed by sixth-formers in local schools/colleges, during/following volunteer recruitment presentations by InterAct
- Responses on 514 surveys collated to date, from 6 schools in Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood Districts
- Data from other schools, including 2 in Billericay, still to be analysed
- Separate data analysis was carried out on the 90 surveys completed by those who expressed no interest in volunteering

# Volunteering Survey

## Young People's Participation in volunteering [all 514 respondents]

- 52% declared previous volunteer activity
- 22% currently engaged in volunteering
- 66% interested in volunteering in the future
- 18% not interested/involved

# Volunteering Survey

## Young People's Participation in volunteering – Interests and Motivation:

- Most interest in working with children, young people and animals (c.20% each), plus people with disabilities and fundraising (c15% each)
- NHS/Health, charities (c.20% each) and sports clubs/groups (11%) were the organisations of most interest to young people



# Volunteering Survey

Young People's potential motivation and expectations for volunteering experience (responses indicated on a 5 point scale)

- Responses received reflect a combination of altruism and enlightened self-interest
- To engage young people effectively, volunteer opportunities may need to be tailored to their preferences

# Volunteering Survey

Young People's potential motivation for volunteering (responses on a 1-5 scale) – responses scored 4 or 5

- Help other people 77%
- Make a difference 74%
- Have a worthwhile experience 61%
- Develop new skills 61%
- Have fun 61%
- Gain qualifications/awards (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh Award) 50%
- Be part of a volunteering programme (e.g. at school, college or NCS) 31%



# Volunteering Survey

Young People's preferences in volunteering (responses on a 1-5 scale) responses scored 4 or 5

- Useful experience to go on my CV 69%
- Local 67%
- Flexible time commitment 61%
- One-off or short-term opportunities 45%
- Something to do together with my friends 42%
- Regular hours 27%

# Volunteering Survey

## Finding out about volunteering opportunities

How I would find out about volunteering opportunities...	Unlikely	Possible	Likely
Approach an organisation directly	30%	41%	18%
Presentation by organisation	14%	47%	27%
Local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	48%	36%	6%
Advertising	20%	49%	21%
Specialist volunteering website	40%	36%	14%
Wider internet search (e.g. Google)	28%	37%	25%
Wait until I hear about something that interests me	10%	42%	36%

# Volunteering Survey

## Potential obstacles and barriers to volunteering

- Lack of time 67%
- Unable to give commitment needed 33%
- Not knowing what's out there 31%
- Costs/expenses 26%
- Lack of choice/nothing local interests me 18%
- Not having the skills 10%
- Not cool 4%



## To discuss further

Ways to increase young people's participation in volunteering:

- What do you think will best motivate young people to volunteer?
- What puts young people off volunteering, and what might change that?
- How should volunteering opportunities be promoted to young people?