

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SUBJECT: | Volunteering Policy |
| MEETING: | CABINET |
| DATE: | 22nd November 2017 |
| DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: | All |

1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide a Volunteering Policy, which is applicable to all service/business areas including schools.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Volunteering Policy be accepted and circulated to all service/business areas and commended to governing bodies for adoption as soon as possible.

3. KEY ISSUES:

Monmouthshire County Council recognises the important and valuable contribution made by volunteers who give freely of their time to enhance the services provided by the paid workforce, with the ultimate aim of improving services for residents.

This policy describes the role of volunteers in service delivery and sets out the terms governing their engagement and ongoing relationship with the Council.

The Council acknowledges the significant role that volunteers play in supporting service delivery and promoting community wellbeing. It offers a wide variety of volunteering opportunities across numerous services for people with particular skills experience or interests.

This policy applies to all volunteers engaged in supporting the delivery of council services. This includes services delivered by agents of the Council, including contractors and schools.

This policy does not apply to volunteers who are active within communities and not managed by council services, work experience, apprenticeships and student placements or council employees volunteering for other groups and organisations.

4. REASONS:

Volunteering is an important expression of citizenship and an essential component of democracy. It is the commitment of time and energy for the benefit of society and the community and can take many forms. It is undertaken freely and by choice, without concern for financial gain.

At a very high level, we understand our governance and safeguarding arrangements for our volunteering workforce needs to be:

- Enabling of our direction of aspiration.
- Proportionate and balanced against the risk we face.
- Simple to administer.
- Enabling so we can keep our volunteers and our organisation safe whilst supporting those individuals who hold statutory accountabilities in this area (the safeguarding aspects).

Whilst much of the guidance and areas the policy covers are contained within the existing toolkit, a toolkit implies compliance is optional. We therefore propose to set out relevant information into a new volunteering policy position statement for the Council.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

None

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The Equality Impact Assessment is attached.

7. CONSULTEES:

Volunteer Network

Audit

All recognised trade unions.

Head-teachers

SLT

People Board

JAG

Strong Communities Select Committee

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS: Audit Review Volunteering June 2017

9. AUTHOR:

Sally Thomas HR Manager

Tel: 07900 651564 E-mail: sallythomas@monmouthshire.gov.uk