

SUMMARY OF THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE (VC) MEETING 19th June 2024

The Volunteer Committee meeting took place via Teams on **19th June 2024**. The following provides an update for VC Regional Reps to share with their Regions and Areas.

Workshop session: Member Insight and Local Offer

The committee shared best practice and ideas which will form an 'advice note' for Area Associations during the 2025 bid funding cycle. The following best practice was shared:

- walking events "with a theme" are proving popular - linked to local attractions/venues
- it can help to set up "super users" who can put events on Nutickets to free up other Volunteers to do the organisation
- some Regions run "activity organiser networks" who meet to share ideas for events, and support new Volunteers
- some Regions have "floating Volunteers" who are supported by VTL's to run events in a more flexible way
- Wales consistently communicates "what's in it for you" messaging to attract new Volunteers

The key pointers for bid funding "advice note":

- use of social media channels to gain member insight on events to include in the bids - including "new events"
- gathering more Regional and Area insight on such things as how far people would be willing to travel, what level of demand there would be for events, what timing would be most attractive, ask open questions about what people want
- undertake a gap analysis of events and activities against the member insights to determine where there are opportunities to engage with new/more members
- plan "taster events" to encourage new members in, which can be repeated if successful
- continue during the year to utilise local member insight and feedback opportunities (reminder of the tools available)
- ask the newer Volunteers for their ideas

The 'advice note' will be shared with VC and Regional Reps in July.

Update on Area Sport Sections - Bid Funding

Andy Burdett updated that there are 60 sports sections. To improve the delivery of local sport, Alastair Smart has held a virtual call where 20 attended out of the 60. The aim of the call was to introduce them to Head Office sport team, explain the bid funding process, roles and responsibilities and to encourage them to get more members participating in local sport.

All bid funding communications will be sent out w/c 2nd July.

Volunteer Delivery: Trialling New Approaches

Phil Hawkins (Eastern VC Rep) explained that they trialled an 'area rationalisation project' where they reduced 12 areas down to 7 which was successful.

About a year ago, there were problems with one area, where they did not have enough officers to operate legally, so the 'area association' ceased to exist and all the finances are handled by Head Office, the benefits were that the Area still had access to their funds, but the Area Volunteers bore none of the previous "roles and responsibilities" burdens which had made Volunteering feel like a

"job". So, in that Area, Volunteers were freed up simply to organise events and have fun - hence the approach had been very popular and other Areas were considering adopting the same arrangements.

Andy Burdett explained that we have got new 'local volunteers' who work directly with the VTL, and that they come into the role with fresh ideas.

There will be consultation with the VC on what the future Operating Model might look like.

Hot topics and Best practice

A range of topics were raised by Regional representatives. These included:

- There are some website issues where events do not show up which means they cannot be booked and the 'volunteer news' section is out of date.
- An issue was raised about the HO 'ooo' replies to emails because it does not give any information as to when a full reply might be received.

Head Office representatives in the meeting will take the topics away to resolve.

Regional Conference Topics 2024

Wendy Eley suggested some topics for discussion at regional conferences:

- Sport, Workplace Associations, grant funding and communications

Wendy asked for VC reps to speak with their volunteers and come back with some suggestions by end of July. A couple of additional suggestions were mentioned in the meeting:

- Using external speakers
- Explanation of the new board/new board members and the governance changes

The VC reviewed their ways of working, and how their role and positive outcomes could be made more visible to all Volunteers.