

Covid-19 Volunteers and the Law

Opted In

Ensure that the individual has freely opted-in to give their time.



Choice

Ensure the volunteer has the ability to choose when to volunteer and they have the ability to refuse tasks. Make sure your expectations are flexible and reasonable.

Expenses

Where possible offer out-of-pocket expenses.



Training

Training offered must be relevant to the role and not a 'perk'.

Mind your Language

Adjust language to reflect volunteer activity; use 'expectation' not 'obligation', 'role description' not 'job description.'



No Contract

If needed, draw up a volunteer agreement not a contract.

DBS

There is no requirement for you to carry out DBS checks on community volunteers who are collecting prescriptions, shopping, dog walking or offering check-in phone calls. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-factsheet-community-volunteers-during-covid-19-outbreak>



Who cannot Volunteer?

The only people who are legally prevented from volunteering with children and vulnerable adults are those who have been barred from doing so by DBS. Community Groups should ask their volunteers if they have been barred.



Under 18s

Under 18 year olds can volunteer, but you must be careful to protect them and carry out a risk assessment. <http://www.vanl.org.uk/images/downloads/volunteering/Guide-to-working-with-young-people-as-volunteers.pdf>

Further information to each top tip can be found on www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

