



Colleges and universities: Contributing to EVDC

18 November 2009, National EVDC meeting

Introductions – Volunteering England

- **Introduce three student volunteering stakeholders**
- **Raise awareness of college and university volunteering infrastructure**
- **Contribution to EVDC**
- **Questions to you**
- **Questions to us**

Volunteering England

- **Student Volunteering Team with HE and FE expertise**
- **Support student volunteering infrastructure / organisational structures that enable SV**
- **Research / Policy / Advice / Publications / Good practice**
- **National campaigns (Student Volunteering Week / Volunteers' Week)**
- **Stakeholders (inc Department for Business, Innovation and Skills; Association of Graduate Recruiters; colleges and universities; volunteer centres)**

Workers in Student Community Volunteering

- Professional network for staff directly supporting student volunteers in Higher and Further Education.
- National committee elected from members
- Regional network
- Purpose: to share information and best practice within the student volunteering world and provide peer support.

National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement

- **Beacons for Public Engagement: embedding public engagement across higher education**
- **vinspired students project (funded by v until March 2011):**
 - **Inspire a shift in culture:** encourage universities to recognise the value of volunteering on students, communities and institutions)
 - **Increase capacity:** galvanise a step change in quality, quantity and diversity of student volunteering
 - **Deliver high quality engagement activity:** enriching universities, their communities, and the lives of students

Colleges and universities

- **500+ Further Education Colleges**
 - **170+ Higher Education Institutions**
 - **Nearly 5 million students**
 - **Centres of lifelong learning and research**
 - **Invaluable contribution to UK GDP and knowledge economy**
 - **Social inclusion**
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Volunteering infrastructure

- **42,000 student volunteers (2003 statistic)**
- **£42 million GDP**
- **Unknown number of employer-supported volunteers**
- **1000s public and voluntary organisations**
- **Partnerships with volunteer centres and VIOs**



Sound familiar?

1. **Brokerage**
 2. **Marketing volunteering**
 3. **Good practice development**
 4. **Developing volunteering opportunities**
 5. **Policy response and campaigning**
 6. **Strategic development of volunteering**
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Student Volunteering in HE – the challenge

- Lots of inspiring and innovative work across the sector
- Huge expansion since 2002 HE (through dedicated funding stream)
- Key challenges:
 - Strategic stakeholder awareness of key driver alignment
 - Main funding stream ended, leaving no clear funding model
 - Different institutional arrangements, often quite peripheral
 - Not clear how many students are volunteering, and what they are doing
 - Therefore, hard to capture full impact, and to align activity to strategic objectives

Student Volunteering in FE – the challenge

- Lots of diverse and innovative work across the sector, with HE good practice and contacts utilised
- No mainstream investment from funding council (L&SC)
- Pockets of investment (VE, v, etc);
- Key challenges:
 - Strategic stakeholder awareness of key driver alignment
 - Lack of investment to kick-start activity
 - Different institutional arrangements, often quite peripheral
 - Not clear how many students are volunteering, and what they are doing
 - Therefore, hard to capture full impact, and to align activity to strategic objectives

Contribution to EVDC

- **Further enrich the group and debate**
 - **Enhance existing expertise**
 - **Insight into an area of volunteer management**
 - **Access student and staff volunteers**
 - **Access wider college and university resources**
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Questions to you

- What benefits and challenges are there to working with universities and colleges?
- What do you think universities and colleges could do to work better with the wider volunteering infrastructure?

Questions to you

- How can National EVDC and its members effectively engage with colleges and universities?
 - What further information do you need about the role and value of colleges and universities as providers of volunteering infrastructure?
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Any questions?



John Braime
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