



## About Voluntary Action's volunteering service.

This service is being launched to establish volunteering as a recognised, valued and effective activity that contributes to improving personal well-being, community life and the local economy in Waltham Forest. The service will also seek to ensure the provision of a range of good quality, well supported, local volunteering opportunities, and to enable local people to find and engage in volunteering activities offered by local organisations.

Voluntary Action is being funded until March 2010 by Waltham Forest Council to run this service, and by then we will:

- Work in cross-sector partnerships to ensure that the promotion and development of volunteering is included within local strategies or action plans
- Work with local partners to support and promote initiatives to give visibility and recognition to the contribution made by volunteers in Waltham Forest
- Provide brokerage, advice and help with recruitment and effective management of volunteers and promote this service to local organisations
- Increase good practice in working with volunteers by providing training and organisational development support to local groups
- Promote volunteering opportunities to communities across the borough and support people to find appropriate placements
- Support initiatives to target and increase participation in volunteering by people from local disadvantaged groups and communities.

This service will be open to all individuals and voluntary and community groups in Waltham Forest. We will work with the Volunteering Action Consortium to ensure representation in strategic decision making around volunteering, and ensuring that volunteering is promoted as an activity open to all sections of the community.

There will be a very strong local focus to the service and we will be targeting and working closely with neighbourhood based services and community groups – both to reach local community members and to provide them with volunteering activities within the local community. Engaging people from local communities with local projects and services will help to bring people together and enable them to develop a better understanding of each other's needs and experiences.