

BENEFICIARY VOLUNTEERING

Factsheet 4



What is Beneficiary Volunteering?

Beneficiary volunteering takes place when a service user who has been using the organisation's services, then becomes a volunteer with the organisation to share their experiences and support other service users within the organisation.

Why do Services Users of an Organisation become Beneficiary Volunteers?

- To give something back
- To build their self-confidence and self-esteem
- To have a sense of purpose
- To have a routine and something else to focus on
- To remain in a safe environment with other service user of the organisation who have similar experiences
- As part of the organisation's policy to develop users of their services to become volunteers as an aid to their recovery/wellbeing
- To share invaluable life experiences
- To gain support to re-build their lives
- To remove the pressure of being in a paid employed role
- To receive training and support to identify a career/personal goals they wish to achieve
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Benefits of involving Beneficiary Volunteers

- Brings invaluable life experience to support other service users
- Supports day to day operations
- Provides the next step in service users' development

Things to consider when involving Beneficiary Volunteers

- How to decide when a service user is ready to commence a volunteering role
- How to establish boundaries and clear distinctions between old and new roles
- Additional support needed for service users who develop into volunteers
- Responsibilities to other service users when ensuring that a beneficiary volunteer is suitable and ready
- Potential setbacks in recovery if a Beneficiary Volunteer is not ready for this role and has to go back to being a service user with the organisation

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<http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/community/consultancy-packages/>



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