



Community First
Yorkshire

Colburn Community Hub & Café and the POWER of volunteers

12 June 2025



Helping you thrive

Welcome and introduction

Community First Yorkshire: **Vicki Sharp, Development Officer and Claire Smith, Community Support Assistant**

Colburn Community Hub and Café: **Karen, Jess and Maria**

Today's agenda:

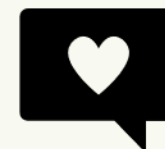
- 10:00 - Welcome & introductions
- 10:10 - Colburn Hub and Community Cafe
- 10:40 - Vision for Volunteering POWER
- 11:20 - Evaluations and next steps
- 11:30 - Close





Before we begin

Things to consider



Colburn Hub and Café CIC



We are a community-led Hub, grown organically to tackle isolation and loneliness.

Our mission is to support, listen, and empower people through creative learning and practical help, adapting to meet needs as they arise.

What we offer:

- **Foodshare:** Open 6 days a week, providing tinned, dried, and fresh food from local businesses.
- **Community Café:** Enjoy a homecooked two-course meal or breakfast with a cuppa for just £5.
- **Activities & Clubs:** Join us for sewing, knitting, and a range of community events—see our website or noticeboard for details.

The Vision for Volunteering: 2022 - 2032

The 10-year strategy is a collaborative initiative aimed at transforming the future of volunteering in the UK, focusing on inclusivity, accessibility, and community engagement.

5 themes:

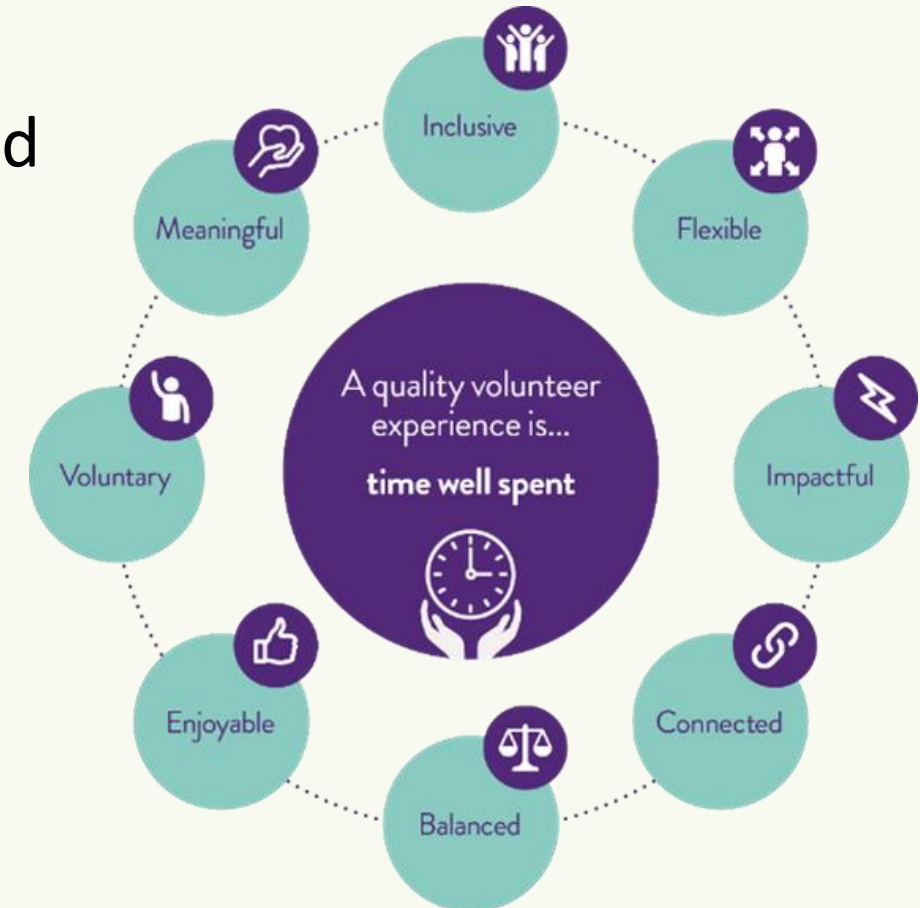
POWER

Collaboration

Equity and Inclusion

Experimentation

Awareness and Appreciation



Power – what do we mean by that?



"Volunteering is about giving people opportunities to feel included, to feel that they can learn something, to feel like they can develop new skills and develop themselves as an individual. It's up to us as an organisation to have a system to do this."

David, support worker at Emmaus North Staffs

A future where volunteers and the communities they serve lead on change that matters to them.

Emmaus helps people move away from homelessness by providing a home, training and work opportunities as part of a package of long-term support.

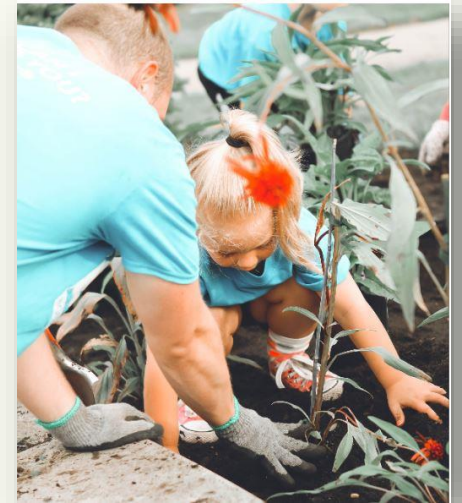
 **Vision for
Volunteering**

Why Power Matters

Power affects: Who gets **heard**. Who makes **decisions**. Who feels **valued**.

Power in action:

- volunteer-led community hubs
- young people co-designing services
- peer mentors leading training
- what examples have **you** seen?



Recognising Experience:

Volunteers bring:

- lived experience
- local knowledge
- skills from work and life

Why Power Matters

Shared Decision Making:

- Volunteer advisory groups
- Co-design workshops
- Surveys + feedback loops
- Make it meaningful—not just a tick-box

Barriers:

- “We’ve always done it this way”
- Fear of losing control. Time. Risk. Compliance.

Solutions:

- Listening. Starting small.
- Culture change, not just process change



Let's move from volunteers as helpers to volunteers as partners : **co-production**

Activity

In pairs: thinking of your organisation.

- Where do volunteers currently influence decisions?
- What's one area where you could share more control?
- What would help create a more empowering culture?

Why Power Matters

Empowerment starts with action—big or small.



Our next network meeting is on 9th September

Glusburn Institute Community and Arts Centre



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Our next network meeting will take place in Glusburn, where we'll be meeting the team at the Community and Arts Centre, along with Roy Attwood – a volunteer there for 30 years' experience.

Back in March 2024 Roy featured as our second guest blogger in the Volunteer Coordinators newsletter.

As well as a tour and chat with Roy, we'll be delving into the topic of micro-volunteering – and how offering these smaller, bite-sized (and sometimes remote) opportunities could benefit your organisation.



Helping you thrive

Our new network –

Volunteer Views & brews

The meetings are for volunteers who lead or support other volunteers.

There's no agenda – our co-host introduces their work then we run a poll to see what the attendees would like to talk about

Topics

- Volunteer Induction & Training
- Recognition & Appreciation
- Managing Expectations & Roles
- Communication & Engagement
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Technology & Volunteer Management Systems - CRMS
- Measuring Impact & Feedback

Co-hosts: Harrogate Mind, Yorkshire Housing, NYC Resilience and Emergencies Unit, Museum Development North, Ripon Museum Trust

Our next Volunteer Views and Brews network meeting is on 17th July



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Our co-host is **Alex Sutcliffe** who works at North Yorkshire Council and the **Resilience and Emergencies Team** as the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) Manager and Manager of the Ready For Anything volunteer group.

Alex has been in her current role for 10 years and prior to that was a volunteer in the 'MIRT' team for 8 years – giving her plenty of valuable experience and knowledge to help her lead this invaluable countywide resource.



09:30 – 10:30 on zoom

[Volunteer Views And Brews - Community Support North Yorkshire](#)

Helping you thrive

Managing Volunteers training

18th September - Northallerton

Our **Managing Volunteers training** provides the knowledge you need to fulfil your role with confidence. The session takes you through the volunteer journey –:

- Good Practice in Involving Volunteers
- Reaching and Recruiting Volunteers
- Supporting and Developing Volunteers
- Celebrating the Impact of Volunteers

[Book online for Training & Networks](#)



Extended Network Meeting - 10 October

We're thrilled to announce a full-day extended network event featuring inspiring guest speakers, hands-on workshops, a Q&A panel, and a vibrant marketplace. Our keynote speaker is a world-renowned expert in volunteer engagement.

Look out for updates on our website and in the Volunteer Coordinators Newsletter.

[Our Newsletters - Community First Yorkshire](#) [Book online for Training & Networks](#)

Contacts & resources

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Facebook: [@Comm1stYorks](https://www.facebook.com/Comm1stYorks)

Vision for Volunteering: <https://www.visionforvolunteering.org.uk/>

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