

## DEFINITION OF VOLUNTARY WORK

Voluntary work is work for a not-for-profit organisation, or work for someone who is not a member of your family, where only reasonable expenses are paid.

## Volunteering can lead to NEW CAREERS !

- It's work experience
- It helps you gain new skills
- It looks good on your CV
- It shows greater initiative and commitment
- It could lead to employment
- It could be a first step back to employment

**JSAL7**—Voluntary work when you're unemployed and it needn't affect your benefits is available on the DWP website at <http://www.dwp.gov.uk>

RCVDA  
can put you in touch  
with a  
volunteering opportunity  
that will closely match  
your skills and interests  
from our database of over  
400 voluntary / community  
groups and organisations  
in Redcar & Cleveland

 <b>RCVDA</b>	<b>Redcar &amp; Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency</b>
Trish Waters 2nd Floor Craighton House Central Terrace Redcar TS10 1DJ	
Phone: 01642 440571 Fax: 01642 289177 Email: <a href="mailto:trish@rcvda.org.uk">trish@rcvda.org.uk</a>	

# volunteering and



# State Benefits

## Job Seekers Allowance

People on JSA can do as much voluntary work as they want as long as they remain available for and are actively seeking work. This will mean that they will have to show that they are looking for work and applying for jobs where appropriate.

## Income Support

Volunteering should not affect someone's Income Support as long as they are not receiving any money other than reimbursement of expenses

## Incapacity Benefit

If you are in receipt of Incapacity Benefit then you can volunteer for as long as you want. People often worry that starting to volunteer will automatically trigger an investigation into their need to claim Incapacity Benefit,. There is confusion about volunteering and permitted work (similar to the old therapeutic earnings). The permitted work rule applies only to paid work and should not affect volunteers. Claimants should be entitled to volunteer without having to have it recognised as permitted work.

## Disability Living Allowance

DLA is an allowance paid in acknowledgement of the fact that life for someone with a disability may be more expensive for instance, someone with mobility problems may be reliant on taxis.

Volunteering will not affect whether an individual receives this benefit or not.

## Expenses & Benefits

Apart from DLA the above benefits are open only to people who are not in paid employment. Any kind of paid work would jeopardise an individuals right to claim benefits. However, expenses do not constitute a payment so volunteers can receive reimbursement of reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (any expenses that they have incurred because they are volunteering) without their benefits being affected. It would be a good idea to keep an expenses record form to show that any money received is a reimbursement and not a payment.

## Informing Benefits Advisors

Individuals in receipt of benefits are asked to inform their advisers if they take up voluntary work.

### Expression of Interest

If you would like more information on volunteering opportunities in your area please complete this form and return to Trish Waters

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate what areas of volunteering you would be interested in:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Administration        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children & Young people      | <input type="checkbox"/> Information/Advocacy  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disability                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Caring                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence            | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drugs and Addictions         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music/Art             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elderly                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Practical & DIY       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Literacy       | <input type="checkbox"/> Driving               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Needs         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Trusteeship/committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Work            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Race, ethnicity and refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 Volunteering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospices/hospitals    |

Other.....  
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