



Developing volunteer passporting across partners



[Volunteering for Health](#) is a national programme being delivered in partnership between NHS Charities Together, NHS England, and CW+ (the official charity of Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) to test and build volunteering infrastructure in health and care. The programme is funding 15 local partnerships to deliver volunteering infrastructure projects in their geographies over three years. Local partnerships include organisations across: Integrated Care Boards (ICBs); NHS trusts; NHS charities; and the voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, including local infrastructure organisations (LIOs) which support local VCSE organisations to foster partnerships, build capacity and develop volunteering opportunities.

This snapshot shares learning from local partnerships on developing volunteer passporting across partners. It provides a summary of a more detailed [learning into action guide](#) on this topic. This is one of five snapshots sharing learning from the [Volunteering for Health programme](#).

What is volunteer passporting?

Volunteer passporting in health and care aims to move away from siloed working by allowing volunteers to transfer between roles across multiple organisations, without having to repeat training or common administrative tasks such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

Volunteer passporting supports greater workforce integration between hospital and community-based health and care services. Implementing it will support key policy ambitions set out in the Department of Health and Social Care's [10 Year Health Plan](#), such as neighbourhood health.



What are local partnerships doing to support volunteer passporting?



Securing senior buy-in during the passport design stage

South East London partnership engaged senior leaders across health and care organisations to discuss and develop a passport model that is now in use across the system.



Mapping and identifying best practice processes

Hampshire and Isle of Wight partnership mapped volunteer recruitment processes across system partners to inform selection of a suitable shared digital passporting system.



Co-designing passporting approaches across organisations

Herts and West Essex partnership is co-designing a passport across system partners, aiming to introduce shared training standards for volunteers.

Actions for health and care system leaders to sustain good practices identified in the Volunteering for Health programme



Action 1: System partners should define the intended purpose of volunteer passporting and select the best model to use

Passporting can make it easier for volunteers to give their time across a health and care system. Organisations considering passporting should take time to **clearly define the expected benefits for volunteers and the health and care system through passporting**. This will **inform the appropriate passporting model** to use.



Action 2: System partners should engage volunteers and stakeholders across the system in passport development

Volunteer passports need to work for both volunteers and system partners for them to be widely used. **System partners should engage volunteers early** when considering volunteer passporting, to build support for the approach and to **co-design and pilot the appropriate passporting model**.



Action 3: ICBs should work with system partners to widely promote health and care volunteering opportunities

Health and care volunteering opportunities are available across a wide range of organisations, not just in the NHS. Whether or not a formal passporting approach is developed, ICBs should view the **volunteering workforce as a system-wide resource**. People interested in volunteering in health and care should have **easy access to the range of roles available to them**. Roles can be promoted using the national NHS volunteering platform, local brokerage platforms and through LIOs.

Passporting can enable health and care organisations to support volunteer development, promote roles outside of hospitals, ease the process of changing volunteer roles and accelerate onboarding and deployment of volunteers.



For more information about Volunteering for Health, visit <https://www.cwplus.org.uk/volunteering-for-health/>, contact volunteering@anhsc.org.uk, or connect with the [Volunteering for Health Programme group](#)