

## Nominees for VCS Representative positions at the Gloucestershire Volunteering Collaborative

Elections are taking place between Thursday 9 September and Sunday 26 September 2021. VCSE organisations in Gloucestershire are entitled to one vote per category, so please try to co-ordinate your organisation's response. In the event that we receive more than one vote from your organisation we will count the first one that was submitted.

To vote – go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BQ539GN>

To help you decide, here are short submissions from each of the nominees who have put themselves forward to be a VCSE Representative.

Nominee	
<b>Alex Corgier</b> Home-Start in Gloucestershire	<p>I have worked for Home-Start for over 18 years and have been the senior manager for over ten years. I have an extensive knowledge of the VCSE organisations in Gloucestershire and am passionate about raising the profile of the amazing work that is done by this sector. I have for many years sat on various county level boards and workstreams raising the flag for those VCSE organisations working in family support and early intervention and have close contacts within the county council and health commissioning through this.</p> <p>Home-Start has a great track record in training and supervising volunteers to support families in their own homes and through group work. I can bring a large amount of understanding around recruiting and supporting volunteers to this role.</p> <p>Part of my role has always been to prepare and write funding bids for the plethora of projects we provide for families with young children. I have over the past five years developed and written and launched two pilot projects in Gloucestershire: Mothers in Mind and Dad Matters Gloucestershire (<a href="http://www.homestartsd.org">www.homestartsd.org</a>)</p> <p>From late autumn, my role will be changing and I will be moving to Home-Start UK to lead on mental health nationally for the charity. However, I will be maintaining a role within our local Home-Start to advise on supervision and to provide funding and marketing services. I feel that the role I am nominating myself for would work well within this framework.</p> <p>I am a passionate believer in the theory that volunteers can bring help and support to people in ways that are distinctive from, but complementary to, professional support. Also that volunteers and the VCSE as a whole can initiate a different kind of relationship with people based on trust and equality. And that, from this, as a sector, we need to continue to push towards greater parity of esteem and recognition from local authority and health colleagues for what we bring to local services .. <u>and</u> how we should be fully included in the development of future services, funding opportunities and initiatives rather than a passing thought.</p>

<p><b>Leanne Clements</b> Footsteps Counselling &amp; Care</p>	<p>I would love to join the Collaborative as I believe in the power of networks – of people coming together to actively change the world for the better. The specific commitment to helping sustain the voluntary sector in our county, appeals on both a professional and personal level, aligning with my experience and values.</p> <p>My charity sector career spans over 20 years of playing my part within large national charities and smaller local organisations. I bring a strong track record in working with and supporting volunteers, operational management, communications, marketing, programming, fundraising, business planning and strategic development and leadership. Perhaps most importantly, my career has centred around building and nurturing positive and sustainable relationships, regardless of role title or organisation.</p> <p>I am a motivational ambassador, with extensive experience of managing and inspiring teams of staff and volunteers, of developing and growing exceptional experiences and developing strong and effective partnerships. I bring broad experience of internal and external influencing and networking at all levels.</p> <p>My experience is drawn from diverse charitable sector fields including nature conservation, museum and heritage, education, visitor experience, older people and mental health.</p> <p>RSPB – Visitor Centre Manager National Trust – Visitor &amp; Volunteer Experience Manager Berne Design Build – Owner/Partner Amberley Museum - Director Manhood Wildlife &amp; Heritage Group – Community Conservation Project Lead Abbeyfield – General Manager Footsteps Counselling &amp; Care – Volunteer Manager</p> <p>Training and Qualifications - Investors in People Assessor, Future Engage Deliver Leadership, Volunteer Management Masterclass, Influencing &amp; Negotiating, Coaching &amp; Mentoring, ILM L5 Management (in progress).</p>
<p><b>Angela Gilbert</b> GRCC</p>	<p>I have worked within the voluntary sector for the last 30 years, many of my roles in both large and smaller organisations have included being responsible for volunteer teams. As Community Development Team Manager at GRCC I have been able to support the development of the Volunteer Managers’ Network in Gloucestershire and advise and delivering training on all aspects of volunteer management.</p> <p>My career journey started by volunteering as a 15 year old who helped out with the local junior activity club where I was encouraged to develop my skills, eventually leading me to a career in youth and community work. I continue my personal volunteering journey today as a trustee in two organisations.</p>

	<p>I believe that I have strong skills and knowledge to offer to the Volunteering Collaborative. Through being an active member and facilitator of the Volunteer Managers' Network (and other VCS Networks, Know Your Patch Networks and partnerships across the county) I have a wide range of connections and knowledge about the sector in Gloucestershire. I also attend the National Volunteering Forum which gives me a national perspective of the current trends and issues facing volunteering. I have held VCS Representative positions in the past and currently represent the VCS on partnerships in Cheltenham.</p> <p>I have been an active member of the working group undertaking the 'discovery exercise' to look at volunteering in the county, and have a good knowledge of the issues and recommendations that have been identified through that report.</p> <p>I would be pleased to represent the Volunteer Managers' Network at the Volunteering Collaborative and work for improved support for volunteering in Gloucestershire. At a time where the value of volunteering has really been recognised, this is an ideal time to work collaboratively with our partners to ensure that volunteering gets the recognition and support it deserves, ultimately ensuring that the volunteering experience in Gloucestershire is a great one!</p>
<b>Linda Grice</b> The Cornerstone Centre	<p>Trained initially in Social Work, I have spent the first part of my career working primarily in the Voluntary Sector in various forms of drug and alcohol support work. After taking a break to raise a young family, I am now employed with St Michael's Cornerstone Trust at The Cornerstone Centre, Cheltenham.</p> <p>I job share the managers role at the centre, working 24 hours a week. We also have a paid part time worker overseeing the work of our volunteers. Prior to the pandemic we were operating with about 56 volunteers, many of whom are returning to join us now we are reopening more fully.</p> <p>I believe that I have a good understanding of how voluntary organisations operate, having worked in several myself. Moreover, having also worked in the statutory sector in both social services and for the NHS, I understand the differences in operations. I believe that this experience would be beneficial to these roles.</p> <p>I am used to presenting information in groups, representing others, and I am organised and able to manage my own workload. As I am a part time worker, I have availability to add to my workload. I would therefore like to be considered for these posts.</p>
<b>Richard Lodder</b> Gloucestershire Nightstop	<p>I have worked in the VCSE sector for 16 years, working for infrastructure organisations locally, regionally and nationally. I achieved the VCQA three times, once as part of a regional collaboration, as well as PQASSO, and IIV.</p> <p>I led and managed three successful volunteering projects; a Schools based mentoring project for young people at risk of exclusion, a Social prescribing project to promote physical activity and tackle isolation and loneliness, and a bespoke supported volunteering project.</p> <p>I chaired the West Midlands Volunteer Centre network alongside DCMS and NCVO for three years whilst managing a busy infrastructure organisation.</p>

Throughout my career I have been a member of numerous VCSE representative groups working in partnership with statutory and public sector bodies.

I have led CRM implementation groups and facilitated CRM change on multiple occasions in various organisations.

Currently I am writing a research paper on leadership structures and their influence on capacity and resilience within the VCSE sector as part of my MBA studies.

I now work for Gloucestershire Nightstop at the Volunteering Manager developing our volunteering offer with a view to increasing our capacity and playing a significant role in reducing youth homelessness across the county.