



Wealden Volunteering data

1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025

1) Number of volunteers placed (youth and adults)

- Adult volunteers
264 adult volunteers placed
- Youth volunteers
40 youth volunteers placed
- 304 volunteers in total

2) Areas placed

- Uckfield
- Hailsham
- Heathfield
- Crowborough
- Polegate
- Forest Row

3) Number of organisations that received volunteers

- 56 organisations in total

4) Types of organisations needing volunteers

- **Animal care and rescue**
e.g. Kit Wilson Trust for Animal Welfare, East Sussex Wildlife Rescue & Ambulance Service (WRAS), Smiles for Miles Sensory Farm
- **Armed forces charities**
e.g. Royal British Legion, SSAFA
- **Carer support groups**
e.g. Care for the Carers, Association of Carers, Sussex Support Services
- **Care for children**
e.g. Children's Respite Trust, Demelza Hospice Care for Children, Chestnut Tree House
- **Care for the elderly**

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- e.g. Age UK, Hourglass, Age Concern Heathfield
 - **Community centres**
e.g. Ridgewood Village Hall, Luxford Centre, Horam Village Hall
 - **Community social groups**
e.g. Manor Park and Hampstead Park Fields Residents Association, Uckfield Housebound and Friendship Club
 - **Creative arts clubs**
e.g. Uckfield Theatre Guild, Artytime, Fletching Singers
 - **Environmental**
e.g. Uckfield Green Partnership, Brighter Uckfield, Sussex Wildlife Trust
 - **Event holders**
e.g. London Marathon, Heathfield Agricultural Show, Walk the Walk
 - **Heritage trusts**
e.g. Sheffield Park National Trust, Bluebell Railway, Uckfield Heritage
 - **Medical/health**
e.g. Sussex Community NHS Foundation, East Sussex Hearing, Headway Sussex
 - **Police/crime related**
e.g. Heathfield Community Speed Watch, Sussex Police Custody Centre, HMP Lewes
 - **Public advisory services**
e.g. Wealden Citizens Advice, East Sussex Library and Information Service
 - **Religious communities**
e.g. Kings Church Uckfield, Holy Cross Church
 - **Schools**
e.g. Harlands Community School, East Hoathly School, Uckfield College
 - **Sports clubs**
e.g. AFC Uckfield Town, Uckfield Rugby Club, Nutley FC
 - **Village shops**
e.g. Chiddingly Village Shop and Café, East Hoathly Village Stores
 - **Youth clubs/centres**
e.g. Family Hub East Sussex, Uckfield Youth Trust, Crowborough Youth Club

5) Age group of volunteers

- Youth volunteers
 - Aged 9 – 1 volunteer (2.5%)
 - Aged 12 – 1 volunteer (2.5%)
 - Aged 13 – 5 volunteers (12.5%)
 - Aged 14 – 10 volunteers (25%)
 - Aged 15 – 4 volunteers (10%)

Aged 16 – 11 volunteers (27.5%)

Aged 17 – 8 volunteers (20%)

- Adult volunteers
 - 18-25 – 15%
 - 26-45 – 21%
 - 45-65 – 38%
 - Over 65 – 26%

6) Number of members

- Total number of members = 92
- Charity members = 75
- Business members = 10
- Individual members = 7
- New members joined between 01/04/24 and 31/03/25 = 21

7) Number of current adverts

Total number of current volunteering adverts = 103

Types of current volunteering adverts:

- Caring (10)
- Driving (12)
- Events (7)
- Governance (6)
- Office including marketing & media (9)
- Outdoor (14)
- Quiet (8)
- Retail including backroom & warehouse (14)
- Youth (13)
- Other (28)

Areas of current volunteering adverts:

- Uckfield (27)
- Hailsham (4)
- Heathfield (12)
- Crowborough (9)

8) *Barriers to volunteering and what we're doing to help reduce barriers and promote volunteering*

Barriers to volunteering

Commonly listed factors affecting older volunteers:

- Poor health
- Time constraints
- Other caring responsibilities
- Perceived Lack of skills

Commonly listed factors affecting younger volunteers:

- Lack of institutional support
- Not socially encouraged into volunteering
- Negative perception towards volunteering
- Lack of time due to work and education
- Socio-economic status
- Education level

Commonly listed general factors:

- Disability – Wealden's older buildings can lead to charities being unable to accommodate Volunteers with disabilities without significant costs to implement the required Infrastructure.
- Poor transport – Wealden is made up of a large number of separate Rural towns and villages, which leads difficulties in traveling for non-drivers due to limited infrastructure.
- Ethnicity
- Relationship status
- Religious identity – Members of non-Christian religions can feel like outsiders when volunteering at organisations ran by Churches and religious communities.
- Work commitments

How we're helping reduce barriers and promote volunteering

1. Events

- Business Expo (Crowborough)
- Business Expo (Eastbourne)
- Heathfield Show
- Lions Fun Day
- Networking lunches
- Wealden Business Expo
- Weald on the Field

- Le Marche
- Career Fairs
- AGM
- Hailsham Jobs Fair
- Uckfield Jobs Fair
- Eastbourne Jobs Fair

2. Social Media

- Regular updates on our social media platforms to highlight volunteering opportunities, promote events, and boost engagement.
- We regularly share updates on:
 - Facebook (809 followers)
 - Instagram (405 followers)
 - LinkedIn (85 followers)
 - X (660 followers)

3. Adverts

- 101 Volunteer positions currently advertised on our website as of the 31st of March 2025
- 101 adverts recorded across 39 organisations ranging from 1 to 11 adverts per organisation.
- Adverts on Tribe app (ESCC)
- Regular promotion through social media

4. Networking

- Networking lunches
- Business Expo events

5. Education

- Promote Volunteering and its benefits to the public
- Working with schools to promote volunteering and help students through their Duke of Edinburgh awards
- Working with businesses to promote volunteering
- **Awards**
 - Ashdown Radio Community Awards

6. Volunteer fairs

- Uckfield volunteer fair (Uckfield Civic Centre)
- Horam volunteer fair (Horam Village Hall)

7. Pop ups

- Monthly Crowborough pop up (between 11am and 1pm on the first Tuesday of the month)
- Weekly Crowborough pop up (between 10am and midday on Tuesdays)
- Monthly Heathfield pop up (between 9:45am and 12:45pm on the last Thursday of the month)
- Weekly Heathfield pop up (between 9:45am and 12:45pm on Thursdays)

