

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Organisations may only receive one sponsorship per financial year.

SECTION 1: ORGANISATION AND APPLICANT DETAILS		
1.	Name of Organisation/Individual.	Volunteering Matters
2.	Name and address of contact for this application.	Volunteering Matters c/o Catalyst, 27 Yarn Road, Stockton-on-Tees TS18 3NJ
3.	Telephone number/s of contact for this application.	
4.	Email address of contact for this application.	
5.	Status of organisation (if registered charity, please include number).	Registered Charity no 291222
6.	How long has the organisation been established?	Since 1 st April 1962
7.	Brief description of purpose of organisation.	<p>Volunteering Matters is a national charity that for over 60 years has been leading social action and volunteering programmes to help build stronger and more inclusive communities across the UK. Working at a grass roots level we work with disadvantaged people in some of the most deprived communities to enable them to have a positive stake in society. Providing support and training to volunteers we are able to deliver a local community focused approach to addressing health and social issues.</p> <p>We are focused on achieving outcomes across four impact areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling social isolation and loneliness • Improving mental and physical health • Developing skills, confidence and opportunity • Supporting the next generation <p>Last year over 8,600 volunteers engaged in our community projects including: volunteer driving schemes, befriending, mentoring, play schemes, social activities, and youth social action workshops. Our projects benefited over 13,000 people across the UK. Since 2016 we have been running projects in Stockton including Sporting Chance which is aimed at men over 50 experiencing loneliness and isolation and since March 2024, our Volunteer Drivers Service.</p>
8.	Are you part of/affiliated to a larger organisation?	No but the Stockton Volunteer Drivers Service is one of a number of projects that Volunteering Matters runs

9.	How many members do you have that reside in Billingham?	Currently 31 beneficiaries live in Billingham
10.	Is there an annual subscription/membership fee?	No there is no subscription cost and journeys are free for all users
11.	Please provide contact details for another senior member of your organisation.	
12.	Please provide contact details for an independent referee.	Haleem Ghafoor Strategic Lead FSOT & Community Engmt Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

SECTION 2: FUNDING

13.	Total cost of funding?	£35,000
14.	Amount of sponsorship requested?	£4,000
15.	How much has already been raised towards the project?	0
16.	How will the balance be funded? (if applicable).	Through further funding applications which have been submitted or are in the course of being submitted as detailed below
17.	Has any further funding been sought for this project? If so, please specify details.	£17,500- Better Care Fund £12,000 – Tees Foundation £750 – Billingham Legacy Foundation £750 – Thirteen Community Fund
18.	Have you sought more than one quote for the project? (Please enclose copies).	N/A
19.	Does the organisation have its own bank account with a minimum of two signatories?	Yes

Please include with your application:

- Accounts for the last two year (draft accounts will be accepted if not yet audited);

Start up groups without two years of accounts should enclose a signed bank statement and business plan with their application.

SECTION 3: PROJECT DETAILS

20.	<p>Please briefly describe the project, including:</p> <p>Where it will take place?</p> <p>How the community of Billingham will benefit?</p> <p>How the project supports the community?</p> <p>How you have identified the need for this project?</p> <p>How you will assess the success of the project?</p> <p><i>(If necessary, please supply further details on a separate sheet of paper).</i></p>	<p>The Stockton Volunteer Drivers Scheme is a service whereby primarily older people on low income living in the Stockton area and/or disabled are able to request a driver to complete journeys to attend local health appointments, participate in group activities, or access other vital support. The intended beneficiaries are all people who could not afford taxis, do not live near a convenient public transport route and are likely to have mobility restrictions. All journeys are free to users and the volunteer drivers are fully trained in safeguarding, safe handling etc. and DBS checked. The volunteers are recruited, trained and supported by a co-ordinator, employed for 25 hours per week.</p> <p>Since March 2024, the service has been run as a pilot in partnership with Catalyst Stockton and funded by the local authority, local foundations and Volunteering Matters own resources. We are now seeking support from a range of funders, including Billingham Town Council, to continue the service which has been very effective in supporting the health and wellbeing of a range of beneficiaries including a growing number from Billingham and Port Clarence area (currently 31 but increasing).</p> <p>The need for the volunteering drivers service was identified by Catalyst Stockton's own research and we have addressed it in the following ways:</p> <p>Individuals who cannot afford public transport, which has been further exacerbated with the Cost of Living situation</p> <p>All our journeys for passengers referred by a recognised agency e.g. the Social Services Department, the Social Prescribing Service, GPs and Age UK etc. will be free.</p> <p>Individuals who are uneasy about leaving their home.</p> <p>All our volunteer drivers go through the DBS process and require two references. They also undergo our bespoke training covering e.g. safeguarding, health and safety, driving and vehicles policy and dash cam policy.</p> <p>Individuals who need to travel on routes that are not covered by public transport.</p> <p>The journeys covered by the service are able to cover routes not covered by public transport</p> <p>Individuals that struggle to access public transport due to a disability or mobility issue.</p> <p>All our drivers are trained in supporting individuals with additional mobility needs.</p> <p>Since it started in 2024, the take up of the service has been enthusiastic (we have included testimonials with this application). Over the next 12 months we expect the service outputs to grow in the following ways:</p> <p>Volunteer drivers – From 16 currently to 25</p> <p>Beneficiaries – From 114 currently (including 31 in Billingham) to 250</p> <p>Completed journeys – From 648 currently to 1200</p>
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21.	How many people in Billingham do you expect to benefit directly from the project?	Currently 31 with a further 35 expected to benefit over the next 12 months
22.	Please advise the timescale for the project.	We are looking to extend the project from March 2025 until February 2026
23.	Will the project require ongoing financial support? If so, how will this be funded?	<p>We are seeking funding for the next 12 months to enable the service to build a sufficiently robust pool of volunteer drivers and to become well-established in the local area with a known profile. Operating for a further 12 months will also enable the service to build on the database of case studies, testimonials and video interviews with beneficiaries which highlight the undoubted impact that the service is having as well as to highlight the contribution towards reducing costs to the NHS e.g. through reduced admissions and support for older people staying in their homes. Our approach to the exit strategy will be to continue to build on the local links already made with statutory and VCS organisations and to try to establish further links with the corporate sector as additional sources of potential funding</p>