DURHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

DID YOU KNOW?

Employer Supported Volunteering

Did you know that more and more businesses and organisations across County Durham are stepping up to support their communities through Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)?

Following the inspiring Employer Supported Volunteering Showcase Event hosted by Durham Community Action and Durham University, it is clear that ESV is becoming a powerful force for positive change in County Durham. The event brought together ESV providers and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to highlight the benefits of ESV and showcase the range of support available.

What is Employer Supported Volunteering?

ESV allows employees to volunteer during working hours with the backing and support of their employer. This could include skills-based volunteering with employees using their professional expertise to support a VCS organisation, or group/team volunteering with larger groups taking on one-off tasks that make a real difference in the community.

Why Does ESV Matter?

ESV provides benefits including:

- Stronger communities – volunteers bring energy, skills, and time to vital local causes.
- Employee wellbeing – giving back boosts morale, mental health, and team spirit.
- Business reputation – companies and organisations that support volunteering build trust and goodwill.

Facing the Challenges Together

Of course, ESV isn't without its hurdles. Balancing workloads, securing leadership buy-in, and matching employees with the right opportunities at the right time can be challenging. That is why Durham Community Action is working in partnership with Durham University and are developing the County Durham ESV Network – a growing partnership designed to tackle these challenges collaboratively.

The network helps to:

- Bridge communication between businesses and the voluntary sector
- Share best practices and learning
- Shape future projects that work for everyone

Want to Get Involved?

If you're an employer interested in how volunteering can become part of your workplace culture, or a voluntary organisation looking to connect with local businesses and organisations offering ESV programmes then DCA would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch: volunteering@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk