

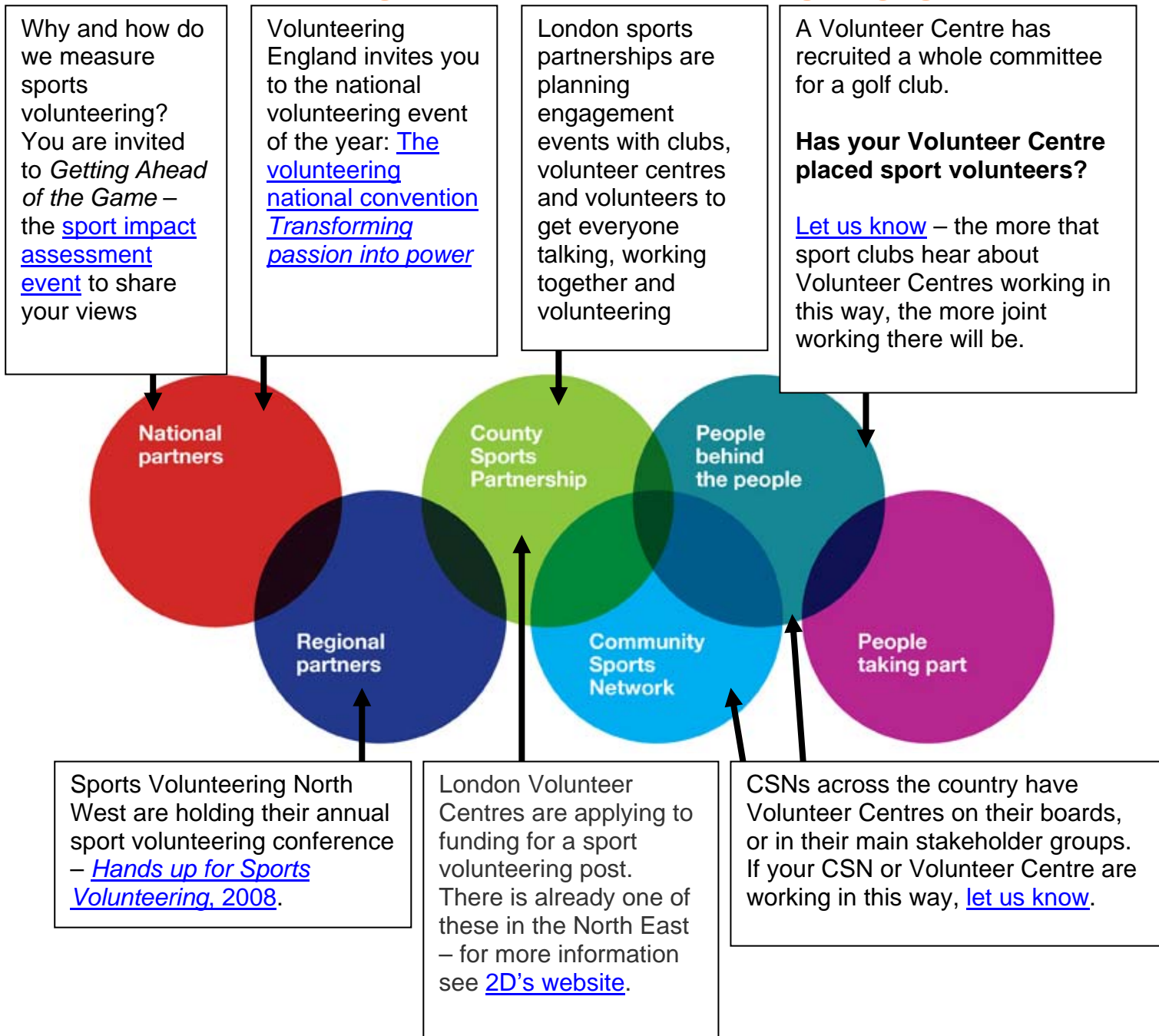
Wider volunteering – sport volunteering update

from



March 2008

What's happening: sport and volunteering engagement



[Let us know your news about how you are engaging with sport or volunteering](#)

This image gives a snapshot of the engagement of hundreds of organisations and individuals within organisations. The main focus of the national project at Volunteering England, funded by Sport England for this year (2007 - 2008) is:

1. Volunteer management in sport – what it is, why it is important, how it can improve the quality of sport volunteering.
2. Engagement between sport and volunteering infrastructure organisations (Q: what is infrastructure? – A: a jargon word for organisations, such as Volunteer Centres, who work to support other organisations' volunteer management)

For further information on this work, visit the [sport webpages](#) or contact [Laura Ferguson](#)

For previous versions of this update, visit the [sport news webpages](#).

Please read the following to be kept up to date on sport volunteering AND cascade this information through your networks

News items for both sport and volunteering

[“Getting ahead of the game: the impact of sport volunteering” – 12 March, 2008, 1.30 – 5.30pm, London.](#)

You are invited to come and discuss the measurement of sport volunteering – with the researcher who is working on the impact of sport volunteering research.

[Book your place](#) at this discussion event which is for sport organisations, Volunteer Centres, researchers, volunteer managers, policy makers and volunteers.

The discussion will get people talking about measuring volunteering (how, what and why) – with an obvious sport viewpoint!

- The actual research report from the impact assessment project will be disseminated *after the event* alongside brief notes from the event showing the thoughts of the event participants about “how, what and why should we measure sport volunteering?”
- This follow up pack will be of interest to those at the event, and also those taking forward impact assessment work, as well as policy makers and practitioners in sport and wider volunteering.

For sport organisations: We would welcome your specific input from a sport point of view – why would you want to measure your own volunteering and who could the work discussed today help you do that in the future?

For researchers: We would welcome your specific input from a research point of view - how, what and why do you think the sector needs to measure sport volunteering, and what can we then do with the results?

For Volunteer Centres: We would welcome your specific input from a local and sub-regional point of view – would you use, or recommend this way of measuring to local groups or strategic sport bodies in your area? What other feedback do you have on the impact of sport volunteering work?

News for sport organisations and local authorities

Have you booked your place at the national volunteering event of the year?

If you want to keep up with what’s new, hot and innovative in volunteering, book your place now. Volunteering England will be hosting their National Volunteering Convention in Newcastle. For volunteer managers, sport development officers who are leading on volunteering in sport, people leading a sport charity, those working with or who want to work with volunteer centres, and those of you who are interested in employer-supported volunteering and sport.

For [further information about the Convention, and to book visit the website.](#)

Volunteer management help:

Do you know how Volunteering England can help you improve your volunteering?

- You can find out about **good practice** directly from the [information team](#)
- For **research**, bring in the [Institute of Volunteering Research](#) or assess the impact of your organisation's volunteering with the [toolkit](#) yourself.
- Looking for **training** for your volunteer manager? [Excellence in Volunteer Management](#) consists of classroom-based and eLearning training modules, as well as an array of resources.
- Be the first to know... keep up to date with volunteer management news. [Join Volunteering England!](#) We have many NGBs who are members. Are you?

Give more volunteering help to your networks

- Let your networks know about Volunteer Centres.

News for Volunteer Centres

Have you ever recruited volunteers for [Cricketforce](#)?

Other Volunteer Centres want to hear about your work... [let us know](#) if you have any stories to tell, case studies of where it is going well.

Finding the language of sport is a barrier to getting your VC involved?

Partner with runningsports – become a network [member](#), or even a [tutor](#). If you become a member you will receive information packs about runningsports – useful sport specific information for volunteers.

runningsports working with Volunteering England: The volunteer management elements of runningsports have been checked with the Volunteering England information team for good practice. runningsports are also a licensed EVM trainer. runningsports is funded by Sport England to provide training and information to sport volunteers. The more Volunteer Centres working with runningsports on the ground, the better joined up service sport volunteers will receive.

If you are interested in becoming a tutor for runningsports, please contact the runningsports team on the number above for more details.

[Find out about your county sports partnership](#) – who they are, why you should work with them and who they can introduce you to.

Volunteering England is working with NAVCA on sport.

Volunteering England and NAVCA and working together with a sport message. Carrie McKenzie, NAVCA (National Association of Voluntary and Community Action) and Laura Ferguson, Volunteering England are keeping messages clear for sport about who's who in the wider third sector and volunteering.

Both posts are working to ensure infrastructure organisations are engaging with sport, whether they be Volunteer Centres, Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS) or others. NAVCA's Strategic Sport Advisor post and Volunteering England's Strategic Development Manager – sport posts are funded by Sport England. For further information, visit the [NAVCA website](#).

News for sport clubs

Want to be top of the league?... start by being top for volunteers

Other clubs and sport organisations are getting ideas and practical advice from Volunteer Centres to improve their clubs.

Find your [local Volunteer Centre](#) (your local CSP should already be aware of Volunteer Centres, and may be able to point you in the right direction too).

Other Volunteering England & volunteering news:

The future of sport volunteering – what the [Commission on the Future of Volunteering](#) recommends for you

Last month saw the [Manifesto for Change](#) published, the culmination of many months of input from across the country, including a sport “hearing” in Newcastle in March 2007.

With 20 recommendations, all relevant for sport and lots for sport organisations to take a lead on; the Manifesto could bring real change for volunteering.

How sport can keep being involved: Make sure your sport is represented at the England Volunteering Development Councils in the regions and nationally – either via Sport England's place at the table or directly by your sport organisation attending. EVDCs will be discussing the recommendations and the following [questions](#) and have been instrumental in getting the Commission work delivered. Essentially, Volunteering England says “[don't shy away from the Commission challenges](#)”

The recommendations and their relation to sport are:

- Raise the profile of volunteering – sport should be first up to tackle this challenge, for example 80% of coaches are volunteers – and their volunteering needs are probably not being met by the coaching framework alone (1.1)
- Sport organisations who involved volunteers should identify new and creative opportunities for volunteering (by undertaking a critical review) (3.2)
- All sport organisations should make sure they are linked into wider volunteering infrastructure – Volunteer Centres, volunteering champions, Volunteering England and the national volunteering database – www.do-it.org.uk (1.2)
- Sport should be a strong voice at the table of any future working party on obstacles to volunteering – sport organisations should proactively seek a place at this table (2.2)
- Sport organisations should work in partnership on employer supported volunteering schemes with businesses and public sector organisations (2.3)

- Strategic sport organisations – especially government and government funded should either verbally or financially support the modernisation of the volunteer centre infrastructure (3.1)
- Training for volunteers, volunteer managers, public sector staff (including Sport England) about volunteering and volunteer management should be encouraged in sport (5.1 – 5.6)
- Sport England and DCMS should engage with wider government targets on volunteering and vice versa – government should ensure that the volunteering in sport that already takes place is properly recognised across government volunteering targets and new initiatives (2.4)
- DCMS and Sport England should engage with any proposed Volunteering Minister, select committee, and should commit to the Compact and Volunteering Code of Practice and monitor their implementation (6.1 – 6.4)

From the recommendations there are some things that sport already does well:

- Sport is generally good at thinking of new ways to reward and recognise volunteers (4.1)
- Sport is generally good at recognising volunteering through registering hours and counting it toward career development (4.2)
 - Although the various “passports” that are available in sport do not all link up, and do not recognise fully the benefit of sport volunteering leading to a paid career ([SkillsActive's active passport](#) for example is focussed on paid employees).

How sport has already been involved in the Commission: Many individual sport volunteers, organisations and joint pieces of evidence were given to the Commission and the Chair spoke to an ISPAL event in October 2006 at which she challenged sport to get involved. Sport must continue to be involved and should look to lead the way in many of these areas through the partnership work between Sport England and Volunteering England; and sports partnerships and Volunteer Centres across the country.

To see a selection of comments who inputted to the Commission visit the [website](#).

Do you manage volunteers?

Thanks to everyone who has provided feedback on the revised standards for Managing Volunteers. The standards have now been approved by the Project Steering Group (subject to minor changes) and will go forward for accreditation next month.

To help us finalise the structures for the National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) we need some more information about what people who manage volunteers in different contexts actually do – ie which of the units of the revised standards apply to them.

[Please complete this questionnaire if you manage volunteers](#), and also ask other colleagues who manage volunteers to do so (if it asks for a password, just press cancel and it should come up). Please [let Joanna Barnes have your feedback](#) by **6 March 2008**.

Excellence in Volunteer Management (EVM)

All new registrations to join the EVM network that are received by 31 March 2008 will be entered into a free prize draw to win a publication or a one2one coaching session.

Be a part of this network - it enables you to keep abreast of the latest resources available within the Excellence in Volunteer Management Programme. If you are already a member of the network why not encourage a friend or colleague to sign up. Join EVM [here](#).

Got a question about volunteer management

(Legal questions, problems with volunteers or your volunteer programme, volunteer policies, CRB checks)?

You might find the answer on the [good practice bank](#).

Want regular volunteering updates?

Receive regular updates about volunteering and volunteer management –

Join Volunteering England as a member – visit [our website for more information](#)

Volunteering England is a national partner of, and funded by

