

Joint Museums Committee

10 June 2015

8. MUSEUM VOLUNTEERING

Recommendation

1. **The Museums General Manager recommends that the progress made in recruiting and supporting volunteers across Museums Worcestershire and partner organisations be noted.**

Background Information

2. Museums Worcestershire is committed to develop volunteering opportunities across all sites as part of its strategic objective "to improve health, volunteering and learning opportunities in local communities", approved as part of its current strategic plan by this Joint Committee in November 2014.
3. The service has developed a volunteer policy to help guide this area of work and a consistency of approach and this is attached to this report as an Appendix. This is supported by a volunteer handbook to provide an introduction to the organisation and the key information necessary to support each volunteer during their time with Museums Worcestershire.
4. Volunteering has been a core part of museum activities for many years and over 60 volunteers provided regular support to Museums Worcestershire in 2014. The service works closely with its partners to identify, provide and manage opportunities for volunteering and the recruitment of 30 new volunteers is a target in the current financial year.
5. Greater coordination of recruitment among museums and heritage organisations has now been made possible through work coordinated by the Museum Development Programme and funded by the Arts Council.

Worcestershire Volunteer Portal

6. During 2014, county-wide ACE Strategic Funding allowed for the creation of a volunteer recruitment portal which Museums Worcestershire will host for itself and other cultural organisations in the county for 3 years. This is not to replace other volunteer recruitment methods, but to support it by providing an easy access route online.
7. Since the official launch in January 2015, 5 Museums Worcestershire roles have been advertised and 6 volunteers have been formally recruited. These roles have covered

	<p>events, education, car parking and catering.</p> <p>8. Currently there are 9 organisations represented on the website and 16 volunteer roles. This includes Museums Worcestershire, WWW100, Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust, Tudor House, Elgar Birthplace, Wythall Transport Museum, Museum of Carpet, Avoncroft Museum and Malvern Museum.</p>
Supporting Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix - Museums Worcestershire Volunteer Policy • Link to Worcestershire Volunteering website - www.worcsvolunteering.org
Contact Points	<p>Specific Contact Point for this report:</p> <p>Iain Rutherford, Museums General Manager (01905) 361827/361821 Email: IRutherford@worcestershire.gov.uk</p>
Background Papers	<p>In the opinion of the Museums General Manager there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.</p>