

Skills-based Volunteering

An Intro for BCS Community Leaders

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Overview

What I'm going to talk about

- Introductions
- Motivation
- Tying into “Making IT Good for Society”
- Current players - Who is currently working in this area nationwide?
- BCS players - How can your member group get involved?
- Vision
- Next steps

Introduction

Introduction

Where am I coming from?

- Charity trustee (non-BCS)
- School governor
- Digital Divide VC and VCO
- Digital Poverty Alliance
- Bath Digital Divide Collective
- Pride Inclusion Officer
- Branch Chair

Motivation

Motivation

Why are we doing this?

- Volunteering can be ineffective
- CSR etc is not universally done well
- Charities etc can suffer from Digital Divide stuff

Motivation

Why are we doing this?

“... my own skills and experience don't equip me to get so directly involved or act as effectively [in every area, so] this is my thing: in an area where I have the skills and experience to act to address an issue that affects people more vulnerable than me, I can do that.”

Making IT Good for Society

Making IT Good for Society

This is BCS' main motivation, surely?

- Why would we not?

Vision

Vision

What do we want to see a year from now?

- IT professionals who want to volunteer their time and skills for free can easily find effective ways to do so, without admin hassles.
- Professionals in BCS are encouraged to volunteer in ways that both use and enhance their skills.
- Fellows and potential fellows are required to lead volunteering efforts in ways that Make IT Good for Society.

The VCO Role

VCO Role Description

Draft for the way BCS MGs work in this space

- The overall aim here is to support skills-based volunteering in our sectors. From a branch point of view, this will involve connecting the branch to local charities and other voluntary organizations, and in particular with charities supporting other charities (see BANES 3SG and Voscur for examples), and with other relevant bits of BCS, and potentially with other national bodies like Reach Volunteering and NCVO/SCVO/NICVA, although we would likely tend to focus on local stuff with branches.
- For SGs, it would involve bringing the group's specialism to bear on the charity support effort, possibly through liaising directly with branch Charity Engagement Officers, but also with each other and with BCS generally. This opens up a new wider team consisting of Charity Engagement Officers from branches and SGs to work with BCS and with other national bodies to motivate and activate our members to engage in a coordinated program of skills-based volunteering.

Current Players

Current Players

Who is already doing stuff in this space?

- Individual volunteers
- NCVO, SCVO and NICVA
- Reach Volunteering
- Other professional bodies
- BANES 3SG, Voscur

BCS Players

BCS Players

Which bits of BCS do what?

- Branches, sections, chapters
- Specialist Groups
- Equity Groups
- Community Support Committee
- Influence Board
- Council
- Trustee Board

Summary Position

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Where are we now, and who do we hope will get involved?

- Half a dozen bits of BCS to get organised
- 50+ different regions etc to get volunteers from
- Half a dozen different kinds of non-BCS organisation to work with
- Other professional bodies to learn from, or to teach
- 70,000 people to do the volunteering

Next Steps

Next steps

Who does what next?

- More VCOs
- Consider the vision and VCO role description
- Get BCS staff involved - CSC etc
- Publicise the vision & role description
- VCO Forum
- Work with non-BCS players

Questions?

References

- Influence Board <https://www.bcs.org/about-us/people-and-governance/our-boards-and-committees/bcs-influence-board/>
- Community Support Committee <https://www.bcs.org/about-us/people-and-governance/our-boards-and-committees/bcs-community-support-committee/>
- F-TAG <https://www.bcs.org/policy-and-influence/bcs-fellows-technical-advisory-group-f-tag/>
- Skills-based volunteering in ITNOW <https://www.bcs.org/articles-opinion-and-research/skills-based-volunteering/>