

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

APPLICANT

Leuchie House
www.leuchiehouse.org.uk

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£14,362

£4,362
(30.4%)

£10,000

Tyne Esk LEADER Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Increase the voluntary support at Leuchie House by recruiting a Volunteer Development Co-ordinator.
- Increase number of volunteering opportunities for people of different ages, backgrounds and abilities.
- Develop the skills of the local workforce.
- Improve the training of volunteers so that activities and services, such as bus trips, are available more often.

PROJECT DETAIL

Leuchie House is a respite centre that provides unique short breaks for people with long term neurological conditions. Their services provide integration of health and social care and greatly enhance the lives of residents and their families. They provide 24 hour nursing care and variety of additional services including physiotherapy, activities, outings and entertainment.

Leuchie House has benefitted from a long history of volunteering and were recognised for this, being awarded The Queens Award for Voluntary Service in 2016. It was acknowledged that the volunteer numbers needed to increase and there was scope for better organisation and training to optimise the service. The project aimed to recruit a Volunteer Development Co-ordinator for two years to facilitate this.



RESULTS

The recruitment of the Volunteer Development Co-ordinator enabled Leuchie to enrol 26 new volunteers and develop a full induction programme. Volunteers were grouped into those able to deliver certain aspects such as running activities, driving, gardening and fundraising and training was delivered where required. This resulted in delivery of a host of new events allowing intergenerational engagement of younger volunteers with older residents and, among the volunteers, old and new communities of East Lothian to mix. A new programme of day trips was delivered, and access of residents around the grounds improved significantly with woodland walkway clearances. The project allowed the skills of the volunteers to be enhanced equipping them for employment, including at Leuchie.



"Since our Volunteer Co-ordinator started her role last January, we have recruited 26 new volunteers and are now supporting 70 in their role. Our in-house training programme has been developed, to enhance the skills of the volunteers, and thus, that of the local community. Many volunteers have eventually applied to work with Leuchie House after building their confidence, through a volunteering role."

LESSONS LEARNED

"The additional resource of a Volunteer Co-ordinator allowed us to increase our volunteer base and improve the training and support given, without the need for the large marketing spend and other costs that we thought we'd have to incur, so we underspent on our grant award from LEADER. Part of this was simply over budgeting, but in the future, we'd encourage our Volunteer Coordinator to use the full budget if possible for the benefit of the project."