

The Richmond Fellowship Scotland
Volunteering with The Richmond Fellowship Scotland

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The Richmond Fellowship
Scotland



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What we do

The Richmond Fellowship Scotland is an independent Scottish charity. We have become the largest provider in Scotland of adult community care services. We support nearly 2000 people across the whole of the country. Our first services were for people with mental health difficulties. Nowadays we also support people with learning disabilities, people with autism, people with dementia and people with alcohol related difficulties. We support people in their teens and people in their nineties.

We provide many different kinds of services. Most of the people we support have their own tenancies. We design our support to meet the unique requirements of each individual. We help people to manage practical tasks around the home. We also help people to get involved in the life of their community and in the activities of their choice.

We also provide day services and counselling services and respite services and crisis services. In total, we have more than 140 different services. Every service is different but the same principles apply across them all.

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What we believe



We try to be **person-centred** in everything we do. This means we plan support **with** the individual not **for** the individual. We help people in the way that they want, in the places that they want and at the times that they want.

We believe that the people we support we support should be able to use exactly the same services and do exactly the same things as any other citizen. We want to challenge stigma. We want to try and break down the barriers that prevent people we support becoming active members of their community. We think that the people we support have a great deal to contribute.

All of our services work to offer inclusive opportunities to the people we support. They help people to take part in leisure activities or to go to college or to find work. That means there are chances to meet new people, to make new friendships and, over time, to become more confident and more independent.

What we think about volunteers

Volunteering is a powerful force in our society. It gives citizens of all ages and from all backgrounds the chance to get involved in the life of their community. It offers opportunities for growth and change both for the volunteer and for the people that they help.

We believe that volunteers can make an important contribution to our work. Volunteers commit time, share skills and bring fresh ideas. They can help us to achieve our aims. They can help to improve the quality of life of the people we support. Volunteers can create a bridge to all the options and opportunities that exist in the community. We will encourage, develop and support volunteer involvement.

We would like to hear from you if you share our values and think you may have something to contribute to our work. You don't need to have qualifications or previous experience - all you need is an open mind, a desire to help and a willingness to learn. You can get the process started by completing a simple Application Form. You can get the form from any of our services or from any of the Offices listed on this leaflet. We ask for two references and, since our work concerns vulnerable adults, we carry out disclosure checks on everyone who applies to be a volunteer.

There are hundreds of volunteering assignments with the Richmond Fellowship Scotland and each one is different. Some assignments will involve work with just one individual. Others could involve group work. Most of our volunteering assignments help people to become more involved in interests and activities in the community.

What we promise volunteers

We can make some promises to you if you come to work for us as a volunteer.

Firstly we will deal with your application as quickly and as efficiently as we can. Getting off on the right foot is important and we want to show right from the beginning that volunteers are valued in our organisation.

You will be matched to a particular assignment. We try to work out the task first then look for the volunteer not the other way around. You will know exactly what is expected of you.

We will prepare you properly for your assignment. You will be given information about the work of the organisation and the work of the service. A member of staff will be your designated 'supporter'. They will make sure that you are helped to understand everything you need to understand and that you know what to do if anything goes wrong.

Your supporter will guide you throughout your assignment and will review how things might change and develop. They will arrange for you to attend any training that is needed. They will check that your health and safety is properly protected at all times. They will make sure that you claim back all your expenses.



Volunteers are stakeholders in the work of the organisation. You will be invited to contribute to planning our work both at service level and at National level. We will try to recognise the contributions of volunteers in our publicity materials. We know that our volunteers make a huge contribution despite all the competing commitments in their lives. We will try to say “thank you” in a variety of ways.

We will review your assignment on request at any time and at least annually. We will help you to plan your future and to build up your own Learning and Development portfolio. Nearly half of our volunteers decide to move on to paid work in social care.

What we expect from volunteers

We expect you to stick to the assignment you have been given. The people we support will be disappointed if they are let down. We need volunteers who are reliable and will let us know if they are not able to carry out their assignment.

Personal information about the people we support will sometimes be shared with you to help in carrying out your assignment. We expect you to respect the confidentiality of this information.

We expect you to learn from our staff both through direct guidance and through observation. Volunteers have a special role to play but need to be sure that they work closely and co-operatively with our staff.

We expect you to share your concerns with us and to seek support when it is needed. Every volunteer is linked to a member of staff who can offer support.

Caption information here

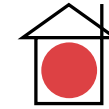




We hope that you will help the people we support to expand their network of friends. Our volunteering assignments will often focus on wider involvement in community-based activities.

The next step

We think that volunteering with the Richmond Fellowship Scotland offers opportunities for growth and change both for the volunteer and for the person they support. Take advantage of those opportunities and get in contact with us.



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Scotland

Head Office

26 Park Circus,
Glasgow G3 6AP
t: 0141 353 4050
f: 0141 353 4060
e: info@trfs.org.uk
www.trfs.org.uk

Glasgow Region Office

Suite 6,
Firhill Business Centre
76 Firhill Road,
Glasgow G20 7BA
t: 0141 946 5411
f: 0141 946 5041
e: glasgow@trfs.org.uk

East Region Office

10-12 Pentland Court,
The Saltire Centre
Glenrothes, Fife KY6 2DA
t: 01592 774 967
f: 01592 630 971
e: east@trfs.org.uk

West Region Office

17 Barns St, Ayr KA7 1XB
t: 01292 610 841
f: 01292 619 399
e: west@trfs.org.uk

North Region Office

1st Floor, Queensgate
Business Centre
1 Fraser Street,
Inverness IV1 1DW
t: 01463 239 933
f: 01463 243 859
e: north@trfs.org.uk

North East Region Office

353 Union Street,
Aberdeen AB11 6BT
t: 01224 584 515
f: 01224 596 580
e: northeast@trfs.org.uk

South West Region Office

17 Merry Street,
Motherwell ML1 1JJ
t: 01698 256 710
f: 01698 256 711
e: southwest@trfs.org.uk

East Central Region Office

57a Constitution Street
Edinburgh EH6 7NF
t: 0131 553 8880
f: 0131 553 8881
e: eastcentral@trfs.org.uk

West Central Region Office

Studios 20 & 21,
Sir James Clark Building
Abbey Mill Business Centre
Seedhill, Paisley PA1 1TJ
t: 0141 840 1020
f: 0141 887 3239
e: westcentral@trfs.org.uk

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