

Volunteering for young people



Volunteering is a great opportunity to make a difference while adding really great experience to your CV.

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of young people volunteering. One reason for this is that the employment market has been tough for young people, leading more people to use volunteering to gain skills and enhance their employability. You can apply to volunteer with Citizens Advice Flintshire if you are aged sixteen or over.

Almost half of our volunteers who leave do so because they have been offered a paid job and say it is because of the skills and experience they have gained through volunteering with us.

Volunteering is a great way for young people to:

- Gain experience and learn new skills
- Enhance a CV and improve job prospects
- Make new friends
- Build up confidence and self-esteem
- Be part of an enthusiastic team
- Make a difference to the community
- Gain a national Citizens Advice qualification.

Here's what some of our younger volunteers say...

"The experience I've gained with Citizens Advice Flintshire was the reason I got a paid job".

"Volunteering has given me confidence and a whole bunch of skills".

"Volunteering is great - you can really make a difference to people's lives".

Why volunteering matters?

Citizens Advice Flintshire is a charity and relies on volunteers to be able to help thousands of people every year to get the right information and advice they need for the problems they face. Volunteering can be hugely rewarding when you see how people can be helped. Why not reap the benefits of volunteering as well as benefiting the community?

What do volunteers at Citizens Advice Flintshire do?

Volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities. These include meeting and greeting clients at reception, carrying out interviews and researching problems to provide advice to clients. Volunteers are also involved in activities behind the scenes which are just as important to the smooth running of the charity – for example admin work and helping with fundraising, marketing and publicity. See our website for details of all our volunteer roles – www.flintshirecab.org.uk .

How much time do I need to commit?

The amount of time you need to commit varies depending on the role you're interested in. We usually ask for a minimum of one full day a week plus additional hours during the training period for the volunteer roles working with clients – receptionists, assessors and advisers.

For the role of gateway assessor we are particularly keen to hear from people who can volunteer for a minimum of six months. And for the role of adviser we are looking for people who are interested in making a long term commitment to volunteering of twelve months plus.

We can offer more flexibility of hours for the volunteer roles behind the scenes – helping with admin, fundraising and marketing.

What training will I receive?

Volunteers receive full training and support. Again the amount of training varies depending on the role. For all roles there is an opportunity to shadow other volunteers and learn from them before taking on the role yourself.

Expenses

Volunteers travel expenses are paid.

Will volunteering affect my benefits?

No, volunteering should not affect any entitlement to benefit.

What next?

If you would like an informal chat about volunteering and/or to request an application form please

- email training@flintshirecab.org.uk *or*
- telephone our Training Officer on 01244 846705 Tuesday to Thursday or 01352 706840 Monday and Friday.