

Getting started...

- If you are thinking about volunteering but not sure where to start try the Volunteering England website at: <http://www.volunteering.org.uk/iwanttovolunteer>
Or you can look for volunteering opportunities near you at CSV: <http://www.csv.org.uk/find-us-near-you>
... or call Volunteering England on: 020 7713 6161 or CSV on: 020 7278 6601
- Contact local community organisations, for example, CAB, Volunteering bureau or Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) for information; they may also be able to offer support with getting your ideas off the ground. Click here to find your nearest centre.
<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/iwanttovolunteer>
- If you are on benefits and want more information about volunteering see Volunteering – while getting benefits at: <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/dwp1023.pdf>
This leaflet tells you what to do if you want to volunteer whilst claiming benefits.
- If you just want to get together with your neighbours then [streetparty.org.uk](http://www.streetparty.org.uk) gives good advice and has resources to support street parties and meets. It also has a list of links to other interesting websites you might want to take a look at: <http://www.streetparty.org.uk/links.aspx>
... or call Streets Alive Ltd. on: 0117 922 5708

Running a group...

- There is also information about setting up a community group at: <http://www.communityhelpers.co.uk/setting-up-community-group.html>
- The My Community Starter website provides an interactive guide and will create a personalised starter pack for you to download:
<http://www.mycommunitystarter.co.uk/>
- There are some interesting stories about setting up community groups at:
<http://www.communitygroup.co.uk/>
- If you want to find out more about managing the finance of a group you can contact Community Matters at:
<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/content/469/Fi//nance-and-Funding>
... or call their dedicated phone line with advisers and information about setting up and running a group on: 0845 847 4253 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 1pm.
- For help with managing a budget see the Community Development Foundation's useful one page guide:
<http://communities.cdf.org.uk/how-to/getting-funding/>

Busting Red Tape...

- You don't always need insurance for an event, see this advice at:
<http://www.streetparty.org.uk/insurance-street-parties.aspx>
or call Streets Alive Ltd. on 0117 922 5708. It applies to Street Parties but is relevant to other low key neighbourhood events.
- Insurance can be useful in certain cases, Community Matters has its own insurers at:
<http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/content/351/Insurance>
They also have a dedicated phone line with advisers and information about setting up and running a group... call 0845 847 4253 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30am to 1pm.
- The Health & Safety executive have a 'myth busting' section to their website where you can check out any stories you've heard about Health & Safety:
<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm>
- A good starting point for managing risk is the Volunteering England 'Risk Toolkit':
<http://www.ivr.org.uk/component/ivr/risk-toolkit-how-to-take-care-of-risk-in-volunteering-a-guide-for-organisations>
- The interactive guide 'My Community Starter' also has some good information about health and safety:
<http://www.mycommunitystarter.co.uk/healthandsafety.htm>

Involving Children and Young People...

- For information about working with children ask your local Children's Centre or go online at:
www.pre-school.org.uk/parents/baby-and-toddler-groups
... or call the Pre-school Learning Alliance on: 020 7697 2500
- UK Youth is a good starting point if you want to find a local youth association or get some general information about working with young people:
<http://www.ukyouth.org/about-us/our-work-with-young-people.html#.Uh9nerwezBF>
... or call: 02031 373810
- For more information and guidance about DBS checks go online:
<https://www.gov.uk/disclosure-barring-service-check/overview>
Or call 0870 909 0811, they are always happy to talk through individual cases.
- There's also a really useful check list at Volunteering England
<http://www.volunteering.org.uk/component/gpb/protectionandsafeguarding>
There are two flow-charts on this page, one about children and one about adults, which help you to decide whether to get DBS checks.