

## Partnership Agreement between Volunteering England (VE) and Workers in Student Community Volunteering (WiSCV)

### Definition

Workers in Student Community Volunteering (WiSCV) is a UK-wide peer support network. Membership of WiSCV is open to staff leading volunteering projects in a front line and operational manner, employed within Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) Institutions.

Volunteering England is the integrated national volunteering development organisation for England. We work across the private, public and third sectors to develop volunteering as a powerful force for change. In particular, we work to improve the capacity of the volunteering infrastructure through the delivery information, stakeholder engagement, sharing good practice, lobbying, profile-raising and campaigns, research and publication, training and consultancy, and promotions. We are the accountable body for the Modernising Volunteering National Support Services and accredit and brand the network of local Volunteer Centres. We work with the Institute for Volunteering Research, which is an initiative of Volunteering England and the University of East London. We are a Strategic Partner of the Cabinet Office (Office of the Third Sector) and a National Agent for the Department of Health Opportunities for Volunteering Scheme. We have a commitment to student volunteering across Further and Higher Education.

### Background

A Partnership Agreement between WiSCV and Student Volunteering England (SVE) was first established in 2005. Following SVE's merger with VE in 2007, VE agreed to adopt the Partnership Agreement with WiSCV. This Partnership Agreement reflects more closely how WiSCV and VE work and how we aim to take our partnership forward.

### Purpose

WiSCV and VE recognise significant commonality and purpose in our strategic objectives, particularly where they relate to the development of student volunteering and supporting infrastructure in England.

VE recognise that WiSCV is a UK-wide organisation that aims to provide equal support to members across both FE and HE in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. WiSCV also seek to work together with national development agencies in Scotland, N.I. and Wales.

### Contribution and Alignment

The table below provides an overview, rather than an exhaustive list, of VE and WiSCV's activities:

Activity	WiSCV	VE
<i>Advice and information sharing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the WiSCV mailbase, a free resource for any student volunteering worker within FE/HE to access peer support, information and advice.</li> <li>• Provide a New Members Pack – including information on the support members are able to access from WiSCV and VE.</li> <li>• Facilitate regional WiSCV groups, enabling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a free information service for people who are working with or managing volunteers across the private, public and voluntary sector (via phone, email, fax and post).</li> <li>• The Student Volunteering Team specialise in providing strategic development support to the student volunteering sector, specialist information</li> </ul>

	<p>the sharing of information and advice relevant to geographical regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute an update on WiSCV committee activities to the monthly Student Volunteering Team eBulletin.</li> </ul>	<p>and advice, updates to the WiSCV mailbase with relevant information and advice, provision of a monthly SVT eBulletin of information (including the opportunity for WiSCV to provide content), provision of information in the WiSCV New Members Pack and introductory email to New Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where appropriate, the Student Volunteering Team signpost student volunteering practitioners to the WiSCV network and Resource Library.</li> </ul>
<i>Engaging key student volunteering stakeholders</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work to raise the profile of student volunteering within Further and Higher Education, and support the diversity of student volunteering delivery by engaging with stakeholders such as Aim Higher, Association of Colleges, Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS), National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE), National Union for Students (NUS), Student Volunteering Network (SVN), etc.</li> <li>Work with VE to raise the awareness of student volunteering and the WiSCV network across the broader voluntary sector.</li> <li>WiSCV Committee will also represent the network on relevant groups and networks including Student Volunteering Advisory Group (SVAG) and the England Volunteering Development Council (EVDC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with key stakeholders across the private, public and voluntary sector to support, enable and celebrate student volunteering in all its diversity.</li> <li>Volunteering England specifically engages student volunteering stakeholders, including the WiSCV Committee and student volunteers in the Student Volunteering Advisory Group (SVAG), and the Student Volunteering Network.</li> <li>VE attends WiSCV Committee meetings when invited.</li> </ul>
<i>Good practice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV provide a Resource Library of good practice across Further and Higher Education student volunteering, with information submitted by WiSCV members. VE host the WiSCV Resource Library on their website and it is maintained by the WiSCV Committee Training &amp; Conference officers.</li> <li>WiSCV will also signpost members to VE's Good Practice Bank.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VE Good Practice Bank showcases good practice in volunteer management across the private, public and voluntary sectors;</li> <li>VE hosts WiSCV's Resource Library and signpost to it accordingly.</li> </ul>
<i>Lobbying</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV Committee lobby relevant bodies to further the interests of members.</li> <li>WiSCV Chair and, where appropriate, WiSCV Committee speak on behalf of the network.</li> <li>WiSCV work with VE and our membership to identify possible topics for VE to explore in relation to policy work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep volunteering high on the policy agenda, working with government to promote opportunities for, and remove institutional barriers to, volunteering.</li> <li>Engage stakeholders, including policy makers and opinion formers with the aim of supporting, enabling and celebrating student volunteering in all its diversity.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where appropriate, WiSCV Committee provide information to VE to facilitate policy and lobbying work in relation to student volunteering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Student Volunteering Team dedicate time to policy and lobbying work in relation to student volunteering.</li> </ul>
<i>Profile-raising and campaigns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV work to raise the profile of Student Volunteer Practitioner as a profession, including an understanding with the Association of Volunteer Managers (AVM)</li> <li>WiSCV provide VE with information about student volunteering activities, which enable VE to promote our work and raise the profile of student volunteering on a national level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise the profile of student volunteering by engaging with key stakeholders, including the media.</li> <li>Convene national events and practitioner networks to raise the profile of volunteering and facilitate debate.</li> <li>Mount awareness campaigns and national celebrations, such as Student Volunteering Week and Volunteers' Week.</li> </ul>
<i>Research and publications</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV support and encourage a co-ordinated approach to research on the impacts of student volunteering activities.</li> <li>Enable members to use research as a tool to draw down additional resources and direct activity in order to enhance project impact.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spearheaded by the Institute for Volunteering Research, provide authoritative, up-to-date research on volunteering issues.</li> <li>Disseminate research and publications relating to volunteering.</li> <li>Conduct, engage with and facilitate student volunteering research and publications.</li> </ul>
<i>Training and consultancy</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV determine and deliver appropriate training provision for members, working with WiSCV regions and VE where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VE provide access to training events and conferences.</li> <li>Provide access to consultancy, education and training on a diverse range of volunteer-focused issues.</li> </ul>
<i>Promotion</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WiSCV promote the work of VE and this our partnership, both internally (via mailbase and regions) and externally (key stakeholders, relevant national bodies etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VE promote WiSCV and this partnership, both internally (members, staff etc) and externally</li> </ul>

### **Agreed commitments for 2009/10**

- WiSCV members based in England are entitled to free membership of VE until 1 April 2010;
- Funds permitting, VE to provide a budget of at least £500 per year to support WiSCV Committee travel expenses and help facilitate regular meetings;
- VE work with the WiSCV Committee primarily via the Student Volunteering Team. Student Volunteering Team staff acknowledge WiSCV as a key stakeholder.

### **Inform and Review**

- All members of WiSCV will have a copy of the Partnership Agreement sent to them by the WiSCV Committee;
- The Partnership Agreement is a public document and will be located on the VE website;
- VE and WiSCV Committee will both independently and jointly review the Partnership Agreement at least annually. This Partnership Agreement will be reviewed no later than March 2010;
- WiSCV committee will feedback to the WISCV network Partnership Agreement review progress at the Annual General Meeting.

**Signed:**

Sarah Jones



Chair 2008 – 2009

Workers in Student Community Volunteering

Date 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Andrea Grace Rannard



Senior Student Volunteering Manager

Volunteering England

Date 20<sup>th</sup> March 2009