

DERWENT LONDON CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME

Introduction

As part of its on-going sustainability programme, Derwent London's board agreed a staff-wide volunteering policy which was launched in early summer 2013. Each member of staff is entitled to one paid day per year to volunteer for a charity or community initiative. As well as the existing charities and initiatives which the company already supports, staff are encouraged to support the community projects funded through the Derwent London Community Fund in Fitzrovia.

Derwent London's vision is to build stronger links between its staff and the individuals and communities in which it operates, and facilitate constructive involvement and meaningful collaborations for wider benefit.

Staff input

We envisage a number of different ways in which staff can contribute, for example:

- **Hands-on:** Spending their allotted time to assist with hands-on activities, such as tree-planting, street parties, school activities*, reading with children*, helping with events or running errands for elderly or disadvantaged people*;
- **Advice:** Contributing to a range of projects in an advisory capacity, such as management advice for small community start-up initiatives and from the range of skills amongst its staff members – property management, environmental management, surveying, project management, architecture, human resources, business leadership and mentoring.

* In situations where members of staff are required or are likely to have substantial contact with young people or vulnerable adults it is likely that a current or enhanced DBS check will be required. It is the responsibility of the volunteering organisation to have this completed for staff (with staff cooperation) prior to their starting.

Evaluation

In follow-up to staff contributions, we ask staff to complete a short report on their experience – what was gained on both sides and how contributions might continue. Where particular projects show merit, we would like to understand how this can be continued and developed for the benefit of the individuals and organisations as well as for our staff. Evaluations are an important part of the process in understanding the added value of all contributions.

Make a recommendation

If there are any particular volunteering opportunities you or your group are considering please contact Susannah Woodgate by email at fitzrovia@derwentlondon.com or phone 020 7659 3000 to see whether these can be considered as part of the Derwent London Corporate Volunteering Programme.