



*The Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland
Dr Sarah Furness PhD*

January 7th 2019

Youth Volunteering – Make a difference to your community

Happy New Year! It was lovely to meet many of you recently. I spoke about the importance of volunteering for a healthy, happy and cohesive community at the Parish meeting in December. I am pleased to say that the Lieutenancy is promoting youth volunteering at a Parish level. I would like parishes to put themselves forward to pilot a scheme to promote youth volunteering across the county to the benefit of all. Please will you do so?

Young people are the future and giving them the chance to reach their full potential is not only of benefit to them but can also help our local communities. Volunteering gives them an opportunity to achieve both these aims. From a young person's perspective dedicated volunteering enables young people to feel part of their community and to understand other people's lives. It aids personal development, is a testament to character, helps to raise young people's aspirations, promotes personal resilience, gives a sense of purpose and makes young people feel good. Ultimately it helps enhance their skills and career prospects by showing an interest outside education and enhances CVs.

As we know within Rutland communities there are many vulnerable people needing help to live independently particularly in rural areas and volunteers can make a difference by understanding the problems and helping out – by gardening, dog walking, providing company or whatever is needed.

For all the above reasons the Lieutenancy is promoting youth volunteering at a Parish level. Although the details are not finalised we will ensure all the necessary training and protocols are in place to enable a straightforward launch. During research, several Parish Councils expressed an interest. Please would you now register your interest in being part of piloting this scheme. My Deputy Lieutenant, Jane Clayton-Jones, is leading on the project and if you would like to discuss this further or put your Parish forward as a pilot area then please contact her on: janeclaytonjones@gmail.com

Many thanks and all best wishes for 2019.

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