

TOGETHER WE CAN

A GUIDE TO FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING

EXAMPLE OF COSTS ORGANISATIONS MIGHT SET ASIDE FOR FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

Together We Can is a collection of resources for organisations developing a service where volunteers support families of a child with a life-limiting or life-threatening condition. The resources were developed and tested specifically for this purpose with volunteers working in the homes of a child with a life-limiting condition, but might be useful for any organisation developing volunteer services.

EXAMPLE OF COSTS ORGANISATIONS MIGHT SET ASIDE FOR FAMILY SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING SERVICES

Family Support Volunteering can have lots of benefits, but there are some costs involved too. Volunteers donate their time, but resources are still required to develop and run a robust volunteer support service.

This document gives a list of resources that might need to be considered when organisations are setting up a Family Volunteering Service. Each organisation is different and the resources needed depend on how many volunteers and families or service users are currently being supported, whether you already have some policies and training available, how much work is needed to recruit volunteers and families and whether you're starting from scratch or just wanting to grow an existing volunteer service. For this reason, it is not possible to provide cost estimates that will fit every situation, but the estimates below are based on starting a programme from scratch and having about 30 volunteers and families per year.

In programmes in several parts of the UK, voluntary and statutory organisations found that it cost between **£30,000** and **£70,000** per year to set up and run a volunteer support programme.

- Programmes that cost less had a part-time coordinator and fewer families and volunteers involved.
- The total costs equated to between about £1,000 and £5,000 during the set-up year for every family supported (**average £3,000 per family**).
- The total costs equated to between about £1,000 and £3,000 per year per volunteer trained and available to provide support (**average £1,600 per volunteer**).

Possible costs to consider	Broad estimate over one year period
Personnel costs	
Part or full-time person to coordinate Family Support Volunteering Service, including developing promotional materials, policies and role descriptions; recruiting volunteers; facilitating training; promoting the service to staff and service users; supervising volunteers; keeping records and monitoring impacts	£20,000-£35,000 depending on whether part or full-time and which on-costs are chargeable
Managerial support / line management	One day per month
Additional staff to be involved as trainers for Family Support Volunteers	About 12 days over course of year
Administrative time if not undertaken within coordination role	About one day per month
Resource costs	
Venue costs for training Family Support Volunteers, holding follow-up meetings	£500 if not in-house
Travel expenses for Family Support Volunteers to go to and from support visits and to and from any supervision visits	£15,000
Refreshments for volunteer training, supervision and refresher sessions	£300
Printing of flyers and posters	£500
Criminal record checks	£3,000
Travel for coordinator to meetings, home visits and promotional activities	£1,000