

Introductory podcast script for Taking Part in the Voluntary Sector

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Introductory podcast: Julie Charlesworth

Hello. My name is Julie Charlesworth and I am a member of the team that developed this course.

Welcome to Taking Part in the Voluntary Sector. By studying this course you are gaining an introduction to how voluntary organisations operate and some of the rewards and challenges faced by people working or volunteering in the sector. If you complete the short assessment at the end of each section you will be able to collect a section badge. These virtual badges provide a form of recognition for your learning and you can display them on your social media profiles, for example, on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Taking Part in the Voluntary sector is made up of four sections. The sections you will be studying are based on common themes and theories that offer insights into how voluntary organisations function.

- In Section 1 you will be exploring the nature and size of the voluntary sector, and what it does;
- Section 2 aims to introduce you to how voluntary organisations raise income and monitor expenditure;
- In Section 3 you will discover how volunteers contribute to voluntary organisations and how they are supported;
- In Section 4 you will consider the key role of trustees in voluntary organisations, how organisations make a difference and how to work with others.
- At the end of the 4 sections you will find information on **'Taking your learning further'**. This signposts you to relevant websites and resources relating to the continual development of your own learning.

You can study each of the four sections separately and in any order, and collect virtual badges as you go along. The course is flexible and there's no time limit for completion. This means you can study at your own pace and when it suits you best to do so. We recommend you try to engage with all of the sections, as this will enable you to receive a Statement of Participation that recognises the learning outcomes you have met. You can then show this to your employer as evidence of your study and learning on this course.

There are guided activities throughout the course that will help you to reflect upon your own practice, and a range of interactive quizzes at the end of the sections that give you the opportunity to earn your badge for these sections.

There may be many reasons why you have chosen to study this course. It might be to support your professional development by improving your basic skills, or simply for personal interest as well as to develop your confidence as a learner.

It is not essential that you are already employed or volunteering in the voluntary sector in order to study this course, although some of the activities ask you to apply your learning to a voluntary organisation that you know or are interested in. This course will be particularly relevant if you are considering moving into a career working in the sector. Whatever your reason, studying this course will give you an insight into the many ways that voluntary organisations aim to make a difference and the different skills and knowledge required to work in the sector.

I do hope you will enjoy the course and I wish you luck for your future career development.