



Volunteers' Week

1-7 June

**Spotlight on
Holly Kilday,
Edinburgh**



I have been employed with SCRA for 18 years and have volunteered throughout my time here and thoroughly enjoyed it. I think of my own interests and link it to an organisation, charity or voluntary opportunity that supports those interests – there are so many out there and they really appreciate the work of volunteers. I think it's really great that SCRA has a policy in place to really promote volunteering amongst its workforce, as there's so much good we can do.

Whilst I do my voluntary work in my own time, I have always felt supported by SCRA and have never felt it has conflicted with my work. Should I need to, I will use the Volunteering Policy but, so far, I've managed to conduct it out with my working hours. I'm very pleased that SCRA has a policy in place that offers us paid leave to really commit to giving something back to our communities and the issues that we are passionate about.

I have done so many different voluntary roles over the past 20 years – I was Director of the Scottish Parent Teacher Council for three years and I currently do four different voluntary roles!

I am a Community Councillor in East Lothian and Reader for Lady of Lorretto Church. I also volunteer my time for two charitable organisations: One Kind where I'm involved in research, campaigns and education to end animal cruelty; and Fostering Compassion which I have been involved with since its inception. Fostering Compassion is a ground breaking Humane Education Project which addresses the links between animal abuse, child abuse and interpersonal violence. When we started the charity in 2013 we had 10 children in our pilot programme and in 2019 we had over 700 who have benefited from our work throughout Scotland – and it's still growing!

The personal reward of volunteering is massive – I cannot tell you how much I have learned and gained from all of the volunteering I have done. I can't imagine not doing something worthwhile and I am really glad that SCRA recognises the importance for the organisation and its staff in volunteering.

If anyone is interested in volunteering and doesn't know where to start looking my advice is to list your interests and look at what organisations are out there that fit with those and contact them – they'll be very grateful for any help you can provide, no matter how short or long in duration.

#VolunteersWeek

