



# Volunteers' Week

1-7 June

Spotlight on

volunteer

Katy Lang,

Hamilton



SCRA's Volunteering Policy has supported my voluntary work with an educational establishment since 2018. As a member of their Safeguarding Commission, I use my professional knowledge and experience at SCRA as one of a group of professionals responsible for looking at all aspects of safeguarding and policy, which strengthens the work of the educational establishment.

Since the beginning of 2021, I have also taken up the role of Safeguarding Governor for the same institution. This further builds my own experience in areas of management and governance, recruitment, financial decision-making, risk management, investment profiling and partnership working. This work is giving me experience I wouldn't necessarily get within SCRA and is a great learning and development opportunity, as well as providing me with personal satisfaction.

Not all of the volunteering hours I undertake are covered by the leave made available under SCRA's Volunteering Policy, but it very much helps as the policy enables me to attend commitments which are during my usual working hours that I would otherwise have to use flexi leave for or take as annual (or unpaid) leave and I am very grateful for this support.

As a result of my volunteering, I have helped an organisation outside of SCRA benefit from my niche of professional knowledge, whilst gaining exposure and experience in many different areas of management. It is a win-win arrangement.

Whilst volunteering is, for me, a large part about giving back to my community, there is a definite opportunity to develop yourself too. I would strongly recommend anyone considering their career path and/or their own personal development plans to explore avenues outside of SCRA which might help the charity sector and accelerate their own learning progression as that isn't just about what you do in your work life.

It is really important, in my view, that we add as many strands of knowledge, skills and experience to our bow's and I love that in doing so we can make a difference.

**#VolunteersWeek**

