

## MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed to 00.01 Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Association of Guernsey Charities seeks community input for the first Bailiwick Volunteer Strategy

Following a week of celebration of the wide-ranging and vital contributions of local volunteers to our community, the Association of Guernsey Charities is setting out to create the first Bailiwick Volunteer Strategy. The strategy strives to create a positive future for volunteering by supporting charities to remain responsive to evolving challenges.

The Bailiwick has a relatively high number of individuals who volunteer. A recent survey\* estimates that around 30% of the 16 and over population volunteer their time regularly, equating to over 18,000 islanders giving a combined time of 670 full-time roles. The survey also highlighted that sustaining volunteer involvement is under threat. 41% of charities reported increased difficulty in recruiting or retaining volunteers, with 32% referring to generic volunteering roles and 33% to lead volunteer roles, such as treasurer or Director.

This trend is not unique to Guernsey with many areas across the UK facing similar challenges, with the impact of the cost-of-living situation and the ageing population being just two contributing factors.

Extensive research into volunteering trends has been undertaken in the UK\*\*, providing a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities, which can inform necessary adjustments. While the local situation in the Bailiwick may resemble the broader trends, certain details may differ due to its small community nature, such as the recent introduction of legislation and increased governance requirements for charities.

The Association of Guernsey Charities has already engaged with volunteer managers through a Volunteer Strategy Workshop led by UK Volunteer Consultant Dan O'Driscoll and are now seeking wider feedback from the community. Those that presently volunteer, have stopped, or have not considered it before. The survey results will provide valuable insights into the local volunteering landscape, gather feedback from volunteers on various aspects of their volunteering experience and identify barriers to volunteering.

Members of the community are invited to participate in the survey. It can be accessed on the AGC homepage ([www.charity.org.gg](http://www.charity.org.gg)). The deadline for the survey is Wednesday, June 26th.

The Strategy is due to be launched in the autumn following a series of wider stakeholder consultations.

**Kristin Dowling, Development Officer** at the Association, said: "Volunteering is not just a nice-to-have; it is a vital resource that makes our community fairer, more resilient, and vibrant. In this context, it is important to think about volunteering strategically and find opportunities for charities to collectively navigate common challenges and share resources.

Volunteering is evolving, much like other aspects of modern life, and while the uptake of volunteering seems under threat, it is important to remember that the primary motivation for people to volunteer—to make a positive difference—remains constant. We are confident that a Bailiwick Volunteer Strategy will

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Website: [www.charity.org.gg](http://www.charity.org.gg)

Email: [mail@charity.org.gg](mailto:mail@charity.org.gg)

Guernsey Registered Charity: CH086



allow charities to adapt and respond to the changing needs of volunteers, ensuring a positive future for volunteering in our community.”

\*Charity & NPO Sector Survey 2024 [ABOUT | without us stories](#)

\*\*Time Well Spent Survey [Key findings from Time Well Spent 2023 | NCVO](#)

\*Charity and NPO Sector Survey 2024 <https://www.withoutus.gg/blank-1>

End of Release

Issued by: Wayne Bulpitt, Chair, Association of Guernsey Charities  
Tel: 07781 103708

For further  
Information  
and interview: Kristin Dowling, Development Officer  
Tel: 07781 433336

### **About the Association**

Formed in 1984, The Association of Guernsey Charities is a membership body representing charities and not for profit organisations in the Bailiwick of Guernsey and has 330 members. It aims to provide practical support to charities, act as their voice where appropriate and to support its members in a variety of ways. It also runs giving.gg, a low cost online donations platform and volunteer.gg matching volunteering opportunities in the Bailiwick.