PRESS RELEASE – PRE-EVENT

Photograph from last year’s walk available as a separate document.

People living and working in Rotherham may not realise that approximately 49,000 volunteers (including 12,300 committee or board members) contribute approximately 85,300 hours of their time per week (with an estimated economic contribution of £88 mil) to services and activities that we have come to take for granted. Whether it be putting on football training for our children, organising a litter pick in the local church yard or acting as a befrienders to our loved ones, volunteers help to make these services happen and without them we’d be pretty stuck.

In recognition of this valued contribution, the team at Voluntary Action Rotherham and their partners, have been gearing up for Count Me In 3; when the whole month of June is given over to activities and events to celebrate our volunteers and raise the profile of volunteering in Rotherham. Count Me In 3 is Rotherham’s contribution to ‘The Big Celebration’ or National Volunteers’ Week; an annual event which this year has been extended from 1-12 June to recognise the fantastic celebration millions of volunteers make across the UK.

Here in Rotherham we kick off Count Me In 3 with The Big Walk on the afternoon of Tuesday 7th June from Clifton Park down through the town centre and on to Rotherham Minster with volunteers and supporters from across the borough. This walk also marks the start of a programme of activities planned by the Rotherham Together Partnership, who have supported this event. It is great to be part of their initiative ‘Let’s Get Rotherham Talking’ and promote community spirit. We are excited to work in partnership for this special event.

The aim of The Big Walk is to highlight all the thousands of amazing people in Rotherham who give up their time as volunteers, free of charge, each month to help others and make Rotherham a better place to live, work and play. This is the second year we have held the walk and we are grateful to local businesses including Irwin Mitchell and the Mears group for their support to make this year bigger and better.

If you give your time as a local volunteer or your organization or group engages volunteers and you’d like to join us, please get in touch with Alison Thorp on 01709 834462 or Email alison.thorp@varotherham.org.uk. It would be great to hear from you! Deadline for bookings is 24th May.

If you’re not yet involved in volunteering and you’d like to find out more about what’s on offer locally why not join us at the Minster between 3pm and 4:30pm where you can browse different volunteer roles, chat to the volunteer managers who support these roles and meet volunteers who are already involved.

The walk will commence from Clifton Park at 1:45pm and arrive at the Minster at approx. 2:30pm. If you’re visiting the park or you’re out and about in the town centre, help us to say thank you by giving us a wave and a cheer.

26.4.16