

Mobilising Voluntary Action: Learning from today, prepared for tomorrow Mid-Project Publication

Introduction and background to the project

Volunteer Now have been working in partnership with the Mobilising Voluntary Action Research Group on a 4-nation comparative study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). This project had the objective of investigating the volunteering response to the pandemic and aims to provide results which will help guide national recovery and ensure future preparedness.

Research Methods

A mixed methods approach is being employed and teams are working in each UK nation to:

Identify any relevant policy documents on pandemic planning from their jurisdiction to allow policy context between nations to be assessed.

Building on evidence gathered by the UK Volunteering Forum, a UK-wide call for evidence was undertaken to portray the changing landscape of voluntary action. This evidence base was assessed.

The project team worked in partnership with volunteer involvement digital platform operators (Team Kinetic and Be Collective) to analyse volunteer deployment. This was designed to evaluate the nature and background of those who volunteered, as well as the type of roles being undertaken during the pandemic.

Project Outcomes (so far):

- **Existing Research (Dr Laura Crawford)**
[Working paper 2: What the existing research tells us](#)
- **Policy Context (Dr Ewen Speed)**
[Working Paper 3- Preliminary analysis of policy differences across the four UK jurisdictions](#)

Other Outcomes-

The project team have also produced a range of podcasts and blogs focusing on volunteering in the context of Covid-19:

Podcast 1- [Volunteering Paused](#)

Podcast 2- [The role of volunteering in national recovery](#)

Podcast 3- [Student Volunteering](#)

Blog Post- [Vaccine Volunteering](#)

Please continue to keep up to date via the project website: <https://www.mvain4.uk/>