

May 2021

An open letter to potential new volunteers regarding our policy on vaccination

Hello,

I'm Steve Scown, the Chief Executive of the Dimensions group (which includes Dimensions UK, Dimensions Cymru, Discovery and Outreach 3Way). I'm delighted that you're considering applying to volunteer with us – there has never been a better time to join us.

We're one of the leading not-for-profit providers of support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism in the country, and one of the UK's 'Best Workplaces' accredited by the Great Place to Work Institute. We are in great shape to grasp the exciting opportunities ahead of us – and we'll do this by remaining focused on our values and our overriding objective to provide great support. In whatever voluntary role you are interested in taking on, you can be sure that you would be making an important contribution to what we do – making a positive difference to people's lives every day.

We are able to talk about emerging from the pandemic now because of the success of the vaccine roll-out in the UK. Covid-19 is in retreat because of the vaccine, and there is growing evidence that not only does vaccination protect the person having the jab, but also those around them. We work with people who are vulnerable to the virus, and take very seriously our duty of care both to them, our colleagues and our volunteers. We have therefore decided that all new volunteers must now have been vaccinated against Covid-19, or be willing to be vaccinated against Covid-19 – unless you can help us understand your legitimate reason for not being vaccinated.

If our position on vaccines is putting you off applying to become a volunteer with us, I would ask you to look at the facts – vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective

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and they are undoubtedly helping keep people out of hospital and alive. I know we are not the only organisation insisting on new colleagues and volunteers being committed to receiving a vaccine – in fact, I believe it will eventually apply to all those working in social care.

Finally, I've worked for Dimensions since 1993 and I would like to assure you that, while we are not perfect, we are a friendly, dedicated and caring organisation – as our accreditation as a Great Place to Work would support. I hope you share our values and our vision for making better lives for more people – you will be very welcome as a volunteer and will be making an important contribution to something that every day makes a positive difference in so many people's lives.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Scown
Chief Executive
Dimensions Group