

Volunteering with Us

This leaflet is intended to tell you what
you need to know about volunteering at
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital (LHCH)



About LHCH

Our vision is *'to be the best - leading and delivering outstanding heart and chest care and research'*

We provide specialist services in cardiothoracic surgery, cardiology, respiratory medicine including adult cystic fibrosis and diagnostic imaging, both in the hospital and out in the community.

We serve a catchment area of 2.8 million people, spanning Merseyside, Cheshire, North Wales, and the Isle of Man, and increasingly we receive referrals from outside these areas for highly specialised services such as aortics.

Our reputation for strong performance is important in delivering the best care for our patients and high-quality clinical services. This is underpinned by a culture of research and innovation, delivered in modern estate, and facilitated by technology. New and upgraded clinical areas are designed with patients and families fully involved to deliver their needs.

Through the Years at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

1940 Chest Unit established on the hospital site

1940s 1st thoracic operations carried out in the Chest Unit

1950 Dedicated Thoracic Surgical Unit formed at the hospital

1964 1st open heart surgery performed on the hospital site

1972 Liverpool's 1st coronary artery bypass surgery performed

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1981 Regional Adult Cardiothoracic Unit formed at the hospital site

1991 Name changed to Cardiothoracic Centre Liverpool NHS Trust

2008 1st TAVI procedure performed & TAVI service launched

2009 FT status received & renamed Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

2009 Emergency heart attack (PPCI) service launched

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2012 Named 'Hospital of the Year' in the HSJ Awards

2016 1st specialist trust to be rated 'Outstanding' by CQC


2018 UK's 1st robotic heart & lung surgery programme launched

2018 LHCH a leading partner in the launch of Liverpool Centre for Cardiovascular Science

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NHS
Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

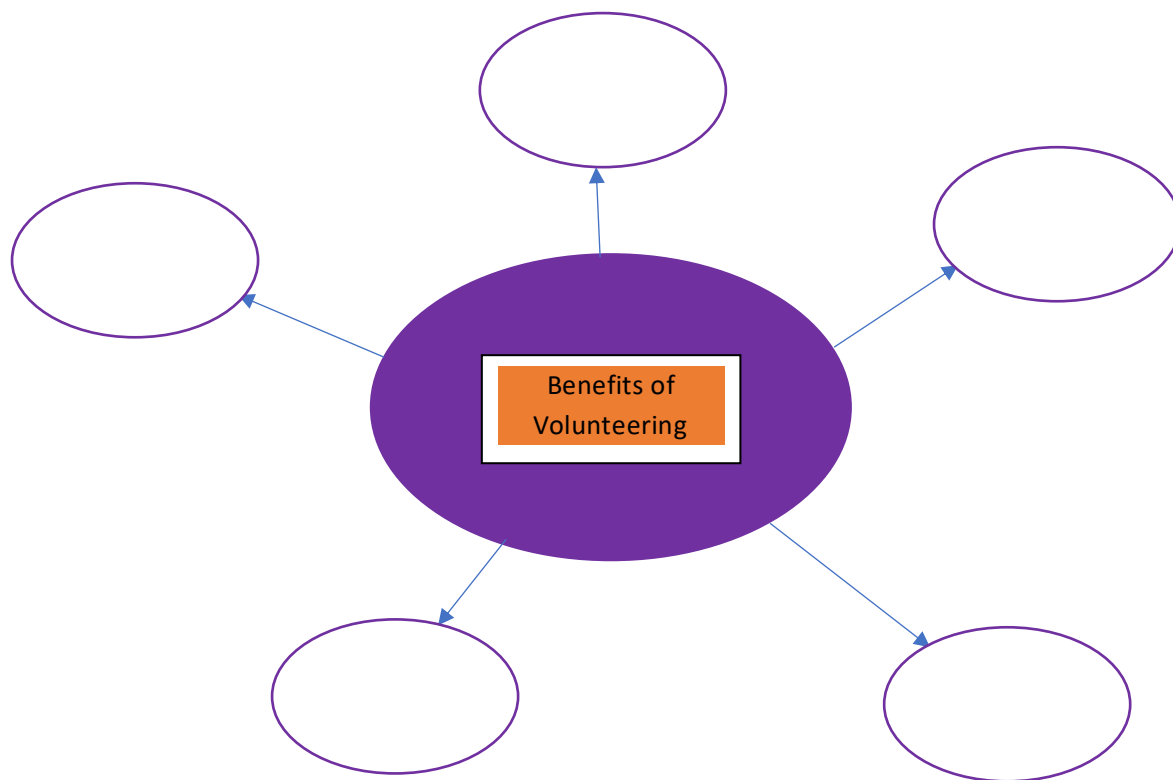
www.lhch.nhs.uk @lhchft



Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering at a hospital benefits the volunteer, the patients, the families, and the hospital staff. The volunteer often benefits from meeting new people, learning new skills, gaining experience, and improving self-worth. Meeting new people helps improve social skills and increases the individual's social network. The volunteer may become friends with fellow volunteers or patients. Friendships are important for individuals. They help individuals get through tough times and contribute to a greater sense of confidence. Learning new skills is also a valuable benefit for the volunteer. The skills may help the volunteer with everyday tasks, such as operating a computer, or with career-related tasks that will help the individual obtain a job.

Individuals wishing to go to medical school and work in hospitals will also gain relevant experience and boost their CVs.



***All volunteers are asked to commit to at least one 4-hour shift per week and attend on a regular weekly basis for a minimum of six months.**

Recruitment

Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital (LHCH) hold numerous volunteer recruitment days throughout the year, where those who have shown an interest in volunteering will be invited to attend. Candidates will participate in informal interviews, meet with occupational health, and submit their ID documents for DBS purposes. The roles and requirements for LHCH volunteers will be discussed at length and there may be an opportunity to meet existing volunteers. You will be given plenty of opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding volunteering at LHCH.

State benefits

If you are currently receiving any state benefits, it is **your own responsibility** to check with your local benefits office to make sure that any volunteering you do does not affect you continuing to receive benefits. Alternatively, you can check this by reading *A Guide to Volunteering While on Benefits* at www.volunteering.org.uk

Essential Checks Required and Application Process

Check to be completed	Required	How long does this take
References	2-Character References	Up to 3 months
Occupational Health	Satisfactory health/immunisation check	Up to 1 month
DBS	Clear DBS certificate	Up to 3 months

All volunteers are asked to go through several checks, in the same way as the staff employed at LHCH, as follows:

References

In support of your application to volunteer, you will be asked to provide the name and full address of two referees who have known you for **at least two years**. They can be either current/recent employers (must be within the last two years), a college tutor or someone of standing who knows you (e.g. a doctor or solicitor). If you are unable to provide any of the above, you can give the name of someone who can provide a character reference for you, however, they **must not** be related to you or involved in any financial arrangement.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Application

All candidates must undergo a disclosure and barring service check, known as a DBS check, before commencing a volunteer role within the hospital.

More information about DBS

For more information about Disclosure & Barring, visit the website on:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/disclosure-and-barring-service

Team Prevent (Occupation Health Clearance)

Your wellbeing is important to us. To ensure that you are fit and well for a volunteer role at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital, you will be asked to complete a medical questionnaire, and bring this with you to the volunteer recruitment day. You will have an opportunity to meet with Team Prevent on the day for the occupational health screening.

Commencement of role

Please be aware that due to all the above necessary checks, it can take up to three months to be able to start a volunteer role at LHCH. On occasion, it can take even longer for a volunteer to be ready to be placed following their initial enquiry as some checks may require further information.

Roles

Some of the volunteer roles that you could be undertaking are

- Ward Responder
- Snack Trolley
- Charity Shop
- Meet and Greet
- Critical Care Reception

Additional training required for certain roles will be provided.

How to apply to become a volunteer

Visit: www.jobs.nhs.uk and search for volunteer positions at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital. You can also scan the QR code below on any smart phone or tablet, which will take you straight to NHS jobs

If you require any further information or any questions at all, please email Volunteers@lhch.nhs.uk

