



FIFE MEN PROJECT
www.fifemen.co.uk

Thinking about being a volunteer with the Fife Men Project?

Our Values

- We value **Inclusiveness**. Everyone has the right to volunteer and should be free to do.
- We value **Diversity**. Everyone in society, regardless of race, sex, gender, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background, formal qualifications or perceived success, has some passion, skill or talent that can make a difference to someone else's life as well as his or her own.
- We value **Freewill and Choice**. Volunteering is an act of free choice. People choose to act in response to their own personal value and belief systems and there must be no form of compulsion or coercion. It follows that just as a person may decide to give time, he must also be able to refuse to do so.
- We value **Mutual Benefit**. Volunteering to help others is a two-way process. It is a shared experience in which helpers and those helped all benefit. People get more out than they put in. They offer their time, energy, skills and services without remuneration, but should benefit in other ways, such as the satisfaction of responding to needs, the acquisition of new skills and experience, making social contacts and personal enjoyment and fun.
- We value **Empowerment**. Volunteering empowers people to fulfil their potential and acquire new skills and knowledge, building their capacity and creativity to contribute to the health and vibrancy of their own communities.
- We value **Impact**. We believe that volunteering is a powerful driver of change – social, economic, cultural and environmental.

- We value **Enabling**. We are committed to motivating, inspiring and then enabling diverse groups of people to access volunteering opportunities.
- We value **Partnership**. We are committed to working in partnership with others in motivating people to volunteer.

Roles & Responsibilities

We appreciate that interests, skills and ambitions of our volunteers are very important. The Fife Men Project endeavours to respond to these in several ways. Volunteers are our front-line service providers and we value their contributions. The kind of work undertaken by volunteers is essential to the core values, aims and objectives of the Fife Men Project.

Being a Committee Member

You may wish to consider being a volunteer for the management committee. As such your role would be to ensure that the Fife Men Project is meeting the organisational obligations to our service users. This involves accountability to others, including members of the committee, employees and fund resources. There are also legal obligations that committee members accept in relation to finance, equity, health and safety and the policies and procedures adopted by the project.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) sets out the constitutional framework for the project, providing a democratically accountable organisation. Following nomination and acceptance at the AGM committee members are entitled to play a direct part in the strategic direction of the project. This is done by attending a monthly meeting, usually held on the first Saturday of the month at 13:00hrs in the Fife Men Project office. Minutes of meetings are kept as a note of decisions made and actions required. However, committee members are not involved in the day to day running of the project, but of course are welcome to be volunteers for additional roles within the Fife Men Project.

Volunteers

Volunteers come from within the lesbian gay bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities and outwith these groups but all share a common purpose which is to promote the aims and objectives of the Fife Men Project.

All volunteers are required to make formal application, attend for an information interview and agreed to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check regarding eligibility.

The Fife Men Project has many aspects to our work.

Volunteer as a buddy

One of the most demanding a rewarding role is to be a support for some infected or affected by HIV or other blood borne viruses. This role means “being there” for that person. Sometimes being an advocate on behalf of the person but often being that friendly listening ear. Confidentiality is essential in this role and support is also required which is provided by a trained counsellor not a member of the Fife Men Project.

Condom Distribution Volunteers

HIV and other sexually transmitted infections are preventable by the use of a barrier called a “condom”. Condoms are produced in difference shapes, sizes and styles, some with popular flavours for oral sex, but all have the same purpose, to prevent the spread of infection.

Condom distribution volunteers are required to attend a one day course provided by the Health Promotion Department within Fife NHS. This accredited training enables our volunteers to represent the Fife Men Project when involved in the distribution of condoms and the provision of advice, throughout Fife. Often volunteers work in demanding situations. Both the confidentiality of the work and inherent risks involved in distribution are fully explored and assessed prior to this work being undertaken.

Homophobic Hate Crime Helpline Volunteers

The reality of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our society has many causes but the effect can be traumatising and dramatic. Our volunteers help run a 24/7 telephone helpline which encourages and actively supports the reporting of such hate crimes to Fife Constabulary.

Helpline volunteers are required to attend a three day course, usually over three consecutive Saturdays and a short training session with Fife Constabulary related to form filling and the handling of information.

From time to time review training and supervision is undertaken.

Helpliners are guided by the principles adopted by the Helpline Association UK as the Fife Men Project is an associate member.

http://www.helplines.org.uk/tha_home_page.htm

Helpliners take the phone for periods of negotiated time, but must be in an environment when listening and the collating of information can be achieved.

Simply Being Me!

This support group is to encourage people with learning disadvantage who are members of the LGBT communities to meet together and become able in self-advocacy.

Working with colleagues in the Social Work Service this project also supports the learning needs of staff within day centres and residential accommodation who may have key-role responsibility for service users who are members of LGBT communities and who themselves are not aware of the cultural, creative and societal difference.

3G's - Gray Gay & Gorgeous

This is a group that is in the process of forming with support from Age Concern Scotland. Fife Men Project has recently been granted corporate membership of Age Concern Scotland.

The purpose of the "3G's" is to support older members of the LGBT communities in Fife, some of whom live in isolated rural settings and perhaps need assistance with mobility or social links.

<http://www.ageconcernscotland.org.uk/>

For more information about the Fife Men Project please call into the office – open Monday-Friday from 13:00-16:00 and Saturdays from 10:00-15:00 or visit the website www.fifemen.co.uk