

# CUMBRIA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

'THE WAY FORWARD'



## COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND INFORMATION



**Helping to build safer Communities**

# CUMBRIA FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

## Recruitment & Information Events

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service is currently recruiting for Community Volunteers to assist at various locations across the county with varied Community Safety Initiatives.

## General Information

Fire & Rescue Service Community Volunteers are people from the community assisting with fire & rescue community safety initiatives. Community Volunteers work alongside Fire & Rescue Service personnel under the supervision of, and supported by, fire officers. Their function is to assist the community safety departments within each locality, meeting the safety needs of the many diverse areas of Cumbria.

Community Volunteers' principal role consists of local, safety reduction initiatives, targeted at specific local urban or rural risk areas. Community Volunteers can also expect to be involved in events and in providing other support to the fire & rescue service on the basis of an individual Community Volunteers skill or local knowledge. They are expected to provide an appropriate, efficient quality service at all times and are a manifest sign of partnership between the fire and rescue service and the local community.

Fire & Rescue Service Community Volunteers are men and women from all walks of life, varied ethnic backgrounds and all sections of the community – teachers, sales persons, civil servants, farmers, shop assistants, electricians, you name it, whether in full or part-time employment, unemployed or at home bringing up a family – ordinary people who want to actively help in improving the quality of life for their communities.

Being a Community Volunteer is about supporting the Fire & Rescue Service and the community.

Although the position of Community Volunteer is unpaid, out of pocket expenses such as travelling expenses are reimbursed.

The responsibilities of being a Community Volunteer demands a high level of integrity and commitment; therefore, we do ensure the selection criteria is adhered to.

People join us as Community Volunteers for many reasons; some are looking towards joining the Fire & Rescue Service as a career, whilst others simply wish to do what they can to help their communities.

# WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

**Duties can include being part of our fire safety teams: - activities include e.g.:**

- ▶ Generating home safety visits
- ▶ Assisting with home safety visits
- ▶ Arson prevention
- ▶ Leaflet drops
- ▶ Road Awareness Training
- ▶ Working with young people
- ▶ Community safety campaigns e.g. Streetsafe events with Local Policing Teams
- ▶ Attend local events & county shows – raise awareness of safety issues

# IS IT FOR YOU?

- ▶ Do you want to make the most of your spare time?
- ▶ Are you looking for a refreshing addition to your job or family responsibilities?
- ▶ Would you like to make a difference to life in Cumbria?
- ▶ Would you like to have the kind of professional training that will benefit all aspects of your life?
- ▶ Would you like to play a part in ensuring Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service reflect the community it serves?
- ▶ If the answer is yes, it is people like you – who want to get involved and are prepared to make a commitment – who can help make Cumbria a safer community for everybody.

# APPLICATION

**Before considering your application please read some of the guidelines below:**

An application pack can be forwarded to you: please telephone 01900 820 247 or via e-mail on:  
[volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk)

## Who can apply?

To be considered for appointment to Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service Community Volunteers, you must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

- ▶ Age: You can apply to join from 16 years of age.
- ▶ Nationality: You must be a British Citizen or have the right to remain in the country.
- ▶ Character: We expect you to have a high standard of personal behaviour and social conduct and to abide by our code of conduct.
- ▶ Health Assessment: Part of the recruitment process is completion of a medical form. As a duty of care to all of our volunteers, our Occupational Health department will ensure each Volunteer is fit for the particular roles they may undertake.
- ▶ Community Involvement and Awareness: You need to demonstrate a genuine desire to serve the community, perhaps through previous voluntary activities or your occupation. Remember however, it is enthusiasm and not experience that counts!

**If you are in any doubt when considering an application, please contact our Volunteers Department on 01900 820 247**

# VOLUNTEER CASE STUDIES

## BRIAN ROLLITT - Volunteer

Brian dedicates so much of his personal time to his local community via Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service it is truly commendable. His enthusiastic personality encourages not only himself but others to go that extra mile all of the time.

He has played an active part of the decision making that has brought about the “New Beginnings” that Kendal locality have found in their small but very active and successful team of volunteers! In between working full time for Cumbria County Council and assisting his local area in many different ways, he is one of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service’s most committed volunteers who has taken part in many different activities not only in Kendal but in many parts of the Lake District where he lives himself. It is a real two-way mutually beneficial partnership between Brian and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.



He is a committed volunteer but he looks for opportunities to expand the initiatives he has been involved in and is always keen to be involved in other opportunities that arise such as

- ▶ delivering meals to vulnerable people during bad weather in isolated areas
- ▶ in assisting with multi-agency Streetsafe events
- ▶ in delivering home fire safety visits in his small rural town
- ▶ assisting with the first Young Firefighters programme delivered at Kendal Fire Station
- ▶ attending large community events raising awareness of our fire safety messages and promoting community volunteers for Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service
- ▶ delivery of Heartstart training to local community groups which also enabled him to gain lots of referrals for Home Fire Safety Visits

Brian’s outgoing personality enables him to get on with people easily and so found himself in great demand not long after joining Kendal volunteers team and is kept very busy with suggestions from the Watch Manager for various projects he can assist with and also he has accompanied local retained community firefighters and supports the Advocates in delivering their services to the community.

Brian’s local knowledge of his area has been most useful when Home Fire Safety Visits have been required in his village which he is always willing to assist with and can be regularly seen out and about chatting to his neighbours and checking they have got all the information they need in connection with community safety and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service.

## LYNETTE FRANCIS

To promote and raise awareness of the appalling number of young driver deaths across Cumbria, bereaved parent Lynette Francis teamed up with and now volunteers for Safer Roads for Cumbria and Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service delivering Road Awareness Training to Young Drivers. Lynette’s son Mark was killed whilst travelling as a passenger in his own car whilst it was being driven by his best friend. Lynette speaks of the devastation it caused herself and her family. Lynette says: ” I am willing to talk about my experience to help others avoid what my family and I have been through, I hope that by teaching Young People the consequences of speeding, drink and drug driving and not belting up, I can make a difference to Road Safety in Cumbria.”



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS???

## Q. What uniform do Community Volunteers wear?

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service Community Volunteers wear a similar uniform to Fire & Rescue Service personnel – the following items will be issued at no cost to the volunteer:

- ▶ Navy Waterproof Jacket and fleece
- ▶ Red Polo Shirt
- ▶ Navy Trousers
- ▶ Safety Shoes

## Q. What are the benefits?

Community Volunteers find fire & rescue service activities a welcome change from their usual everyday routine. Whatever duties you are involved in, you will learn a lot about people in general and you will learn skills such as how to be resourceful, self-reliant and confident, and encouraged to develop initiative and team building skills to assist with the initiatives you will be involved in.

In addition, Community Volunteers who are ambitious, able and dedicated can progress in developing management and leadership skills, which may be invaluable in your everyday occupation. The training and experience gained is something that you will have with you forever.

## Q. Where do you perform your volunteer duties?

For convenience of travelling, Community Volunteers normally carry out their duties from the nearest fire station to where they live; however, exceptions can be made in certain circumstances. How much time is expected of you? As a Community Volunteer, you don't have to work fixed hours or shifts; although you will be expected to commit to a regular undertaking of hours – the more you put in to the fire & rescue service, the more you will get out of it!

You can contribute at any time you can – whether it be a couple of evenings a week, a few hours over the weekend, or weekday mornings or afternoons: whatever fits in best with your other commitments. However, we do encourage Community Volunteers to perform a minimum of 200 hours per year including training which equates to approximately four hours per week. But this does not involve volunteering every week it can be made up any which way suits your personal commitments.

## Q. How does it fit in with everyday life?

Your commitment to Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service has to fit in with your everyday lives; everyone has other commitments, including their families, and these must take priority. Basically your duties as a Community Volunteer are carried out in your spare time – whenever that may be. Some volunteers may work Monday to Friday 9a.m. – 5p.m., whilst others may work various shift patterns, and that, together with their family commitments, dictates when they are able to commit to volunteering.

There has in recent years been an increase in employers providing paid leave to members of their staff who volunteer – these are called Employee Volunteering Schemes (EVS). Some companies provide between five and twelve days additional paid leave per year, as they see the training and development the employee is being provided with as advantageous to their everyday work positions and beneficial to their businesses.

## Q. Will I get to meet different people?

Yes, you will meet lots of different people – both during your volunteering activities and also with other volunteers and paid members of Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service who will all make you very welcome.



# FEEDBACK

We want your views and your ideas too. We want to be the best at volunteering and for all our volunteers to have a 'can do' attitude. We want to make as many people as possible aware of the dangers of fire and road traffic collisions and how you can protect yourself and your family or friends.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the following:

**Valerie Ayre  
Project Officer – Volunteers  
Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service  
Station Road  
Cockermouth  
Cumbria  
CA13 9PR**

**Tel: 01900 820 247  
E-mail: [volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@cumbriafire.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.cumbriafire.gov.uk](http://www.cumbriafire.gov.uk)**

**VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE Fire and Rescue Service  
Active Citizens.....It Could Be you!!**

