

**take
part**

in East Midlands Libraries

Volunteering in challenging times

**Tuesday 22nd March, 10.00am-3.00pm
at the Nottingham Playhouse**

The University of Lincoln, WEA and East Midlands Take Part Champions are holding an event for staff and volunteers working for libraries across the East Midlands.

The event will involve interesting and engaging discussions about:

- How paid staff and volunteers view the current situation
- The value and contribution of volunteers currently working for library services
- The use people make of libraries and what they value about their services
- The challenges facing libraries
- How volunteers can develop the knowledge, confidence and skills that they will need to overcome barriers and continue their work
- The support needs of volunteers in libraries

By attending the event, staff and volunteers will benefit from

- Meeting and talking with other staff and volunteers
- Learning about the Take Part approach and connect with others across the country
- Complementary lunch, refreshments, and travel expenses for the day
- Acknowledgement of their contribution in the report about the event which will be made available to all East Midlands libraries



Booking a place and further information

Booking is simple. We are asking that each Head of library and information services identify a person who can recruit 2 volunteers for the event. They can simply send this email to volunteers or they can show them the attached flier.

We would like to ensure that volunteers come from a range of different libraries across the East Midlands and have space for up to 20 volunteers and 10 paid staff. So, we only need 1 or 2 volunteers and 1 or 2 paid staff from each of the 9 local authority areas.

A booking form is attached. To book places please send the completed forms to Karen at Bright Ideas Nottingham or email karen@brightideasnottingham.co.uk. Alternatively you can call Karen on 0115 837 9474 and she can complete the information over the phone.



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What is Take Part?

Take Part is a distinctive approach to learning that enables people to make an active contribution to their communities and influence public policies and services.

The Take Part approach

Take Part is a distinctive approach to learning that enables people to make an active contribution to their communities and influence public policies and services by focusing on:

- community-based learning to build the skills, confidence and experience needed to tackle local political, social and technical challenges
- an informal, practical approach that gives people an understanding of how power works and how they can learn to influence decisions and policies
- open dialogue and reflection as key learning tools, recognising that change in a community emerges from individuals working together

Policy makers and institutions who seek to involve citizens in decision making and in the delivery of public services need to recognise that many citizens do not currently have the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to take advantage of these opportunities and overcome the barriers. In order to develop these skills a sustained approach, informed by the principles of community development, is needed.

The Take Part approach is a tried and tested method which galvanises people to take advantages of opportunities to influence the decisions which affect their localities and the services which they receive. Through increasing the skills and confidence among citizens, particularly those from more disadvantaged communities, Take Part aims to increase levels of participation in civil and civic activity; and to encourage the take up of community leadership roles.

For more information, visit www.takepart.org