

2026 AVM CONFERENCE

21-22 OCTOBER (ONLINE)

WORKSHOP FACILITATOR
BRIEFING





About Us.

Introduction

The Association of Volunteer Managers (AVM) is an independent membership body that aims to support, represent and champion people in volunteer management in the UK regardless of field, discipline or sector. It has been set up by and for people who manage volunteers.

Our vision is...

Connecting leaders of volunteering to make change happen together.

Our mission is...

To inspire and empower leaders of volunteering.

To be a recognised community of leaders of volunteers, sharing expertise and support.

To build this through the provision of engagement, resources and advocacy.



About our Conference.

AVM's Annual Conference attracts a broad range of people from across the sector. Attendees include individuals representing some of the UK's smallest and largest volunteer-involving organisations, and sometimes further afield. We welcome everyone; from people with decades of experience, to those new to the world of volunteering, as well as those who are volunteers and those who are paid staff of their organisations. This breadth of audience means that we work hard to deliver a programme which is engaging for all and offers everyone something to take away with them.

The conference's purpose is to bring our community together, to gain insights from industry experts, and share best practice with a wide variety of people from across the volunteer management sector.



AGENDA

Below is the proposed agenda for the two days. Please note this may be subject to change. Please note the timings of the workshops as these differ slightly across the two days.

Wednesday 21 October:

9:30am-9:40am - Welcome and housekeeping

9:40am-10:40am - Keynote presentation

10:40am-10:50am - Sponsor presentation

10:50am - 11:05am - Break

11:05am-12:10pm - Workshop

12:10pm-12:55pm - Lunch

12:55pm-2:00pm - Workshop

2:00pm-2:15pm - Break

2:15pm-3:25pm - Panel discussion

3:25pm-3:30pm - Close

Thursday 22 October:

9:30am-9:40am - Welcome and housekeeping

9:40am-10:50am - Panel discussion

10:50am-11am - Sponsor presentation

11:00am - 11:15am - Break

11:15am-12:20pm - Workshop

12:20pm-1:05pm - Lunch

1:05pm-2:10pm - Workshop

2:10pm-2:25pm - Break

2:25pm-3:25pm - Keynote presentation

3:25pm-3:30pm - Close



What we are looking for

We're inviting skilled, passionate, and creative facilitators to deliver engaging 65-minute workshops at our 2026 conference.

This year's workshops will sit across four themes (see next page for more information) including inclusive volunteering, wellbeing and growth and building your volunteer infrastructure. We welcome sessions that are reflective, practical, innovative, and rooted in experience, whether sharing what is working well, the challenges you have overcome, or lessons learned when things didn't go to plan.

Our workshops are interactive and grounded in real practice, designed to spark conversation, build confidence and offer practical tools that delegates can apply directly to their work. Each workshop should include opportunities for discussion, shared learning, and collaborative problem-solving. Presentations should form no more than 25-30 minutes of the total session time to maximise interaction and peer learning.

Co-facilitation is warmly welcomed, you're invited to deliver your workshop alongside a colleague or volunteer from your own organisation, a partner organisation, or a professional network. We actively encourage proposals from facilitators with a wide diversity of backgrounds, identities, and experiences, both within volunteer management and from related or complementary sectors.

Facilitators will deliver their workshop twice: once on each day of the conference during either the morning or afternoon.

Our panel of reviewers is comprised of AVM conference planning group members and AVM Board members representing a wide range of professionals across the UK volunteering workforce. They will assess proposals for relevance, clarity, interactivity and alignment with the conference themes. Selected facilitators will receive guidance and support to help shape and deliver their session confidently, including a briefing session in the lead up to the event.

Workshop Themes

This year, we are looking for workshops based around any of the four below themes. These themes are non-exhaustive, and if you have an idea for a workshop that you don't think fits neatly into one of these themes, please do still get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: FROM RECRUITMENT TO RETENTION

This could cover any aspect of the volunteer experience, such as successful recruitment, training delivery, reward and recognition, problem solving, communications, retention, volunteer voice and influence. We are looking for a mixture of workshops that cater to people at different stages of their volunteer management career.

BUILDING YOUR VOLUNTEERING INFRASTRUCTURE: FROM FOUNDATIONS TO THE FUTURE

This covers topics such as volunteering strategy, demonstrating impact, technology, tools, data and AI, developing new models and roles, succession planning, embedding volunteering into organisational culture, and engaging wider staff in volunteering. You can choose to pitch your workshop to those new to the topic, or with prior experience, but make sure to highlight your target audience in your proposal.

INCLUSIVE VOLUNTEERING: ENGAGING DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

This could involve how you have adapted your volunteering to connect with underrepresented groups, your work within communities, or how you have built more inclusive volunteer experiences.

Have you championed and included the volunteer voice, redesigned programmes, used inclusive communication and language, or developed flexible volunteering models?

WELLBEING AND GROWTH IN VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

This theme covers topics that focus on enhancing the personal wellbeing and professional development of volunteer managers. This includes mental wellbeing, personal growth, skill development, career journeys, changing the perception and value of volunteer management as a profession as well as support and guidance, or mentoring or coaching skills. These sessions should give delegates the opportunity to explore a topic that can positively impact their work.

Audience

Workshop delegates come from a range of backgrounds across the voluntary sector, from those who are very new to volunteer management, to colleagues who have many years of experience. In 2025, the majority of delegates were leaders of volunteering at their organisation, or supported the operational delivery of volunteering.

We are looking for workshops that are suitable for a range of audiences, so it is worth considering who your content would be most suitable for. As part of your proposal we will ask you to specify from the below target audiences, to ensure that delegates get the most from their workshop choices.

Workshop sizes range between 20 and 50 participants.

OPERATIONAL

These delegates are focused on the day-to-day execution of the volunteer programme, managing the immediate needs of the volunteers.

Workshops at this level will focus on practical, hands-on skills such as volunteer coordination, communication, basic problem-solving, and day-to-day delivery. Delegates are expected to have direct involvement in supporting volunteers, even if they are new to their role, and should be looking to build confidence and capability in core operational tasks.

MANAGEMENT / STRATEGIC

These delegates oversee volunteer programme/s, manage staff (paid or unpaid), and have budgetary and strategic input into the programme's direction.

Workshops at this level will explore programme design, leading teams, data-informed decision-making, and developing wider volunteer engagement approaches. Delegates should have experience overseeing volunteer activities or managing others and come prepared to think strategically about improvement, planning, and medium-term development.

DIRECTOR / SENIOR LEADERSHIP

These delegates are responsible for setting the vision, strategy, and policy for volunteering across the entire organisation.

Workshops at this level will focus on organisational-wide strategy, culture change, governance, risk, and aligning volunteering with corporate priorities. Delegates are expected to influence or set strategy, lead across multiple functions, or shape policy, and should come ready to discuss high-level challenges, long-term vision, and system-level impact.



What we offer you as a speaker

- A complimentary ticket to both days of the 2026 conference for yourself or a colleague
- A complimentary ticket for the lead facilitator (the person submitting the proposal) to attend an AVM public event within 12 months of conference (this excludes tickets to master classes or future conferences)
- Technical support and a pre-event briefing to ensure that you have all you need to deliver an online workshop
- Promotion on the AVM website and social media accounts
- An opportunity to demonstrate your experience and that of your organisation at a conference of over 200 delegates from across the voluntary sector



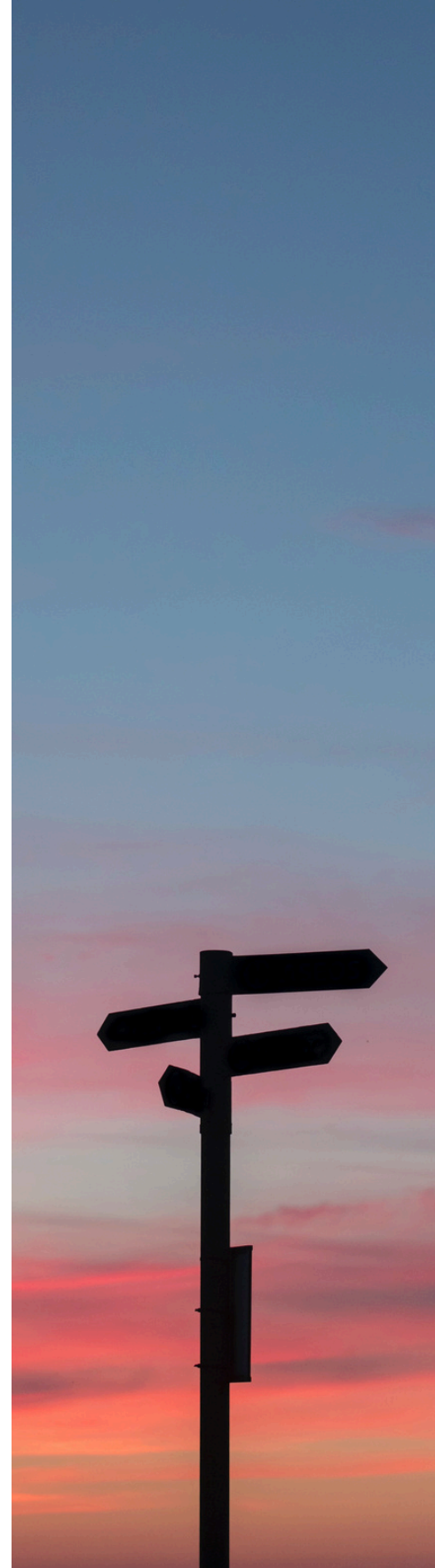
How to apply

If you would like to put yourself forward to be considered as a workshop facilitator, please submit our [facilitator proposal form](#), outlining the details of your workshop and the learning outcomes your session will cover.

The deadline to complete the form is **30 April 2026**. If you have any questions before you submit your proposal, please get in touch and we'd be happy to help.

Our Conference Planning Group will review proposals based on their relevance to our workshop themes, and needs of our audience. You will be informed if your proposal has been selected by **18 May 2026**. Once selected, you will receive support from AVM to help you deliver a successful and engaging session.

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