

# people and places:responsible volunteering

## SUPPORT PLAN FOR WORK OF VOLUNTEERS AT NEIGHBOURHOOD CARE POINTS, SWAZILAND 2018-2019

This plan describes ways in which volunteers can help this project to develop their aims and goals.

Comments are based on the work of volunteers in the period up to December 2017, and are derived from questionnaires completed by the projects and reports written by the volunteers. New aims and actions, if any, are shown in green and these have either been identified from requests made by the projects or have arisen from the work done by volunteers.

AIMS	ACTIONS AND COMMENTS
1. To help with the day-to-day running of the NCPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers will help to teach the NCP topic-based curriculum, including simple English, Maths, life skills, art and discovery of the world. All volunteers have been attached to one or two NCPs where they have assisted the teachers in delivering the curriculum.</li> <li>• Volunteers may teach small groups of children to enable large groups to be sub-divided into more manageable groups based on age or ability.</li> <li>• Volunteers may work with individual children who have different educational needs to the other children at the NCP.</li> <li>• Future volunteers could help to organise games and activities for the children, as previous volunteers have done.</li> <li>• Volunteers could help to feed the children at breakfast and lunch times.</li> <li>• Volunteers will prepare simple resources to aid learning, guided by the programme advisors at All Out Africa. One volunteer prepared charts on numbers, shapes, colours etc to decorate the walls in a brand new classroom.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some volunteers could work on the building programme, when projects are available, helping to improve and extend the facilities available at the NCPs and in the surrounding communities. One volunteer helped to complete a classroom by plastering walls and laying a concrete floor. Building work to construct a new NCP took place in 2016 and one volunteer assisted with this, helping to build the kitchen at the new NCP.</li> <li>• Future volunteers will continue to provide support to the people who manage and work at the NCPs, working alongside them and showing an interest in what they are doing.</li> </ul>
<p>2. To broaden the experiences of children, teachers and other workers at the NCPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During lessons, volunteers will give children the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways of learning, using strategies such as stories, games, songs, craft activities, flashcards etc. All volunteers have taken story books and contributed new ideas for songs, craft activities and games. One volunteer planted seeds with the children to teach them how plants grow. Another volunteer enlisted the help of a group of young volunteers to create and laminate a number of resources of her devising.</li> <li>• Volunteers with appropriate skills could help to nurture children's talents in art, drama, music and other creative activities, helping teachers learn the skills to broaden the way they teach the children to include these subjects. Suggestions for activities based on these subjects have been incorporated into the new curriculum but teachers would welcome support in delivering them.</li> <li>• Volunteers will take opportunities to open the minds of children and teachers to other cultures by telling them about life in their own countries. One volunteer did work with the children at homework club about life in the UK.</li> <li>• Volunteers will help the children to speak simple English, a language not widely spoken in Swazi homes.</li> </ul>
<p>3. To provide the expertise to help children to grow and develop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some volunteers could help to nurture children's sporting talent, working alongside the local sports team and contributing as required.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some volunteers used their expertise in art and music to nurture the children's creative talents.</li><li>• Volunteers with expertise in nutrition could help to develop the menus provided for the children, working with the cooking ladies and within the constraints of the food available to encourage healthy eating.</li><li>• Volunteers with experience in working with children with special needs, including areas such as ADHD, may work with individual children at the NCPs or visit disabled children in their homes to assess their needs and suggest ways of helping them. A previous volunteer has visited the homes of some children with physical or mental disabilities.</li><li>• Volunteers with medical knowledge or skills such as physiotherapy or speech and language therapy could work with identified children to help them to deal with their handicaps.</li><li>• Volunteers with teaching experience will help to ensure that children at the NCPs reach the standards required to enable them to start school with confidence at the age of six. They could also work with older children no longer at the NCPs but still supported by All Out Africa to help them reach their full potential at primary school, for example by helping at the weekly homework club, as all recent volunteers have done. Some volunteers shared ideas on how to develop the homework club programme and helped to plan further sessions.</li><li>• Volunteers with experience of working in the community could help to develop training workshops for parents and caregivers on aspects such as good nutrition, positive discipline and parenting skills.</li><li>• One volunteer contributed ideas on how to run a toy and book library which our local partners plan to implement.</li></ul>
4. To begin to transfer skills to the local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Volunteers with the appropriate expertise could help to develop the pre-school curriculum currently being developed by All Out Africa. One volunteer has helped to write this curriculum, providing guidance sheets for teachers with suggested activities covering all learning areas as</li></ul>

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well as workbooks for the children. A second volunteer put a lot of work into helping to review the content of this curriculum, following feedback from the NCP teachers, rewriting sections and creating resources as required.

- Some volunteers could conduct training sessions and workshops for the teachers at the NCPs in areas where the teachers feel they need help. One volunteer has conducted one-to-one sessions with each of the teachers on active teaching and learning methods, but there is scope for future volunteers to take this a lot further. Another volunteer provided training for a local staff member in how to lead training sessions, then together they ran sessions for the teachers on how to deliver the new curriculum and on skills such as controlling and handling children and using stories effectively as a teaching tool.
- Due to illness and bereavement, one NCP teacher had to take time off and this NCP was being run in her absence by a cooking lady. One volunteer was able to lead sessions here and show the cooking lady how to use the curriculum and resources effectively.
- Volunteers with experience of working with young people could help the team at All Out Africa to develop the volunteering work carried out as part of their programme for young volunteers. One volunteer ran a session to provide specific guidance on how they could best help the teachers at the NCPs where they were to work which focused their work and made them more useful to the teachers. Future volunteers' input to develop this further would be very valuable. One volunteer wrote guidelines for them on how to help the older students at homework club with reading, spelling and maths.
- Volunteers with the appropriate skills and expertise could help to develop the counselling skills of the teachers at the NCPs to help them deal appropriately with the many traumatic incidents in the children's lives.
- Volunteers with skills in building and craft work could help to develop the skills and techniques of the local community.

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- Volunteers with skills in physiotherapy and similar techniques could help to train local people in these skills.
- One volunteer has helped local staff with ideas for an online fundraising campaign.

Reviewed December 2017