

# NORTH OF TYNE VOLUNTEERING AREA OF EXCELLENCE

## GDPR, DATA PROTECTION AND VOLUNTEERS

Data protection is about protecting people's privacy. This is the purpose of data protection in any organisation, including voluntary and community organisations, and is at the heart of data protection law, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). It applies not only to employees but also to volunteers who may come into contact with and use confidential information.

### WHAT IS GDPR?

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a legal framework that sets strict guidelines for the collection and processing of personal information from individuals: Personal data is information about a person which is identifiable as being about them. This includes basic things like names and addresses, and also more complex or sensitive information such as ethnicity, criminal record, employment history, sexual orientation, and health information. Further details about GDPR, including how to develop a Data Protection Policy, can be found [here](#).

Your local voluntary sector support organisation can provide a template for a Confidentiality and Data Protection policy and advice on implementing the relevant procedures.

**No one should make assumptions about sharing confidential information with other volunteers, employees or organisations.** As a matter of good practice therefore, you may wish to adapt the GDPR and Data Protection Agreement template to use with your volunteers. **Please note:** the template assumes that you already have a Date Protection Policy and Volunteer Policy in place.

