

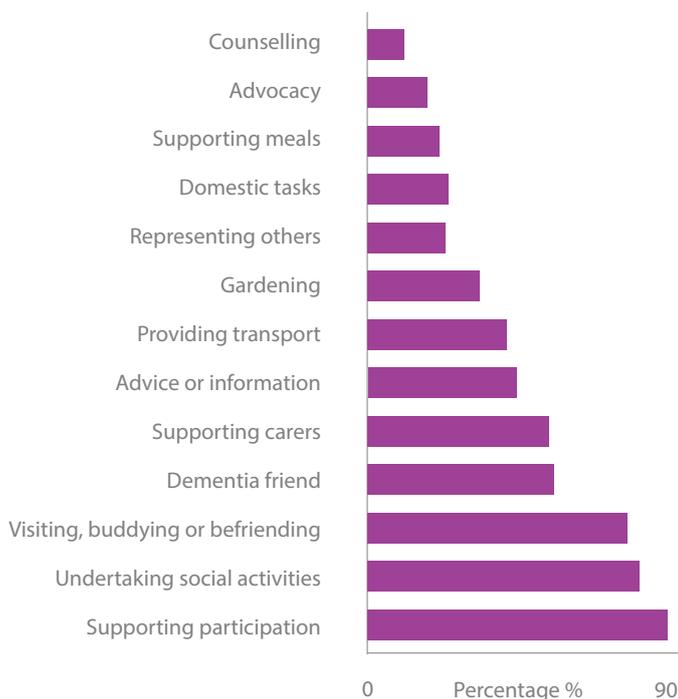
ASUME

Volunteering in Dementia



Impact

Based on the data collected from our survey with volunteer agencies, volunteers can be involved in a variety of activities. The figure below shows the prevalence of volunteer activities that are directly related to people living with dementia and/or their family and friends. It is clear that the common activities that are carried out by volunteers are supporting people with dementia to participate in social or leisure activities; undertaking social activities; visiting or befriending; being a dementia friend and supporting carers. By contrast, volunteers are less active in home care, such as gardening, domestic work and meal support, or professional services like counselling.



The figure on page 2 shows the specific activities that are undertaken by volunteers from these organisations that relate to volunteering and dementia care. We see that 76% of organisations have volunteers help with organising events or activities. Other common volunteer activities are raising money, administrative work, general helping out or help upon request. Activities that are relatively less common include volunteer management, committee work, campaigning, training or coaching, IT support and answering enquires.

In the survey we also asked what other roles volunteers did, which showed clearly the much wider role volunteers undertook, including roles that were simply described as 'emotional support', or 'odd jobs' to exercise classes and flower arranging. A list provided by one of the organisations in the survey included:

[its] important that you don't blurt out the whole thing wherever you go and that sort of thing and that people can trust your stories, particularly the carer's stories because they are the ones whose stories you believe. (CVF10, Cumbria)



- ▶ Volunteer Coordinator - recruits and inducts other volunteers
- ▶ Tea and Coffee Morning Volunteer
- ▶ Singing and Music Group Leader
- ▶ Reading Assistant
- ▶ New Resident Buddy
- ▶ Museum Gallery Companion
- ▶ Meal Time Assistant
- ▶ Marketing and PR Assistant
- ▶ House Shop Volunteer
- ▶ Digital Volunteer
- ▶ Campaign Events Assistant
- ▶ Community Networker - presents to local groups about our work
- ▶ Book Group Coordinator
- ▶ Board Games and Cards Companion
- ▶ Arts and Crafts Activity Assistant
- ▶ Animal Assistant - looks after house pets
- ▶ Activities Coordinator

Overall, it is clear that volunteering activities are situated on the social aspects around those living with dementia. However, a few organisations pointed out the other end of the spectrum, noting that their board members and trustees are also volunteers.



For more information
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