

# VOLUNTEERING FUTURES PROJECT IN BIRMINGHAM

## Birmingham Community Healthcare Charity

Thanks to a grant from NHS Charities Together, BCHC Charity has been offering volunteering opportunities for young people (aged 14-18) through the Volunteering Futures project. We offer them training and experience which aims to provide them with the skills and confidence to pursue careers in the NHS. The volunteers are trained on the BCHC Health & Wellbeing App Library; a digital resource which is a collection of safe and verified healthcare apps. Our young volunteers explain the benefits of using this resource to older adults (aged 50+) to help them benefit from using safe healthcare apps, whilst warning them away from accessing unsafe and unverified information online.



In addition to this, we have been working with BCHC colleagues from the Resuscitation, Infection Control and Falls Awareness teams to provide additional healthcare training to the volunteers.

*Representatives for BCHC Charity at the Volunteer Expo in 2022*

“ The project has played a key role in health promotion and developing charity volunteering structures within the Trust, as well as building up a large bank of young volunteers and potential future BCHC employees. ”

Rashad Gregory - Volunteering Futures Project Manager

### Impact of the Volunteering Futures Project:

Data from the 2019 Indices of Deprivation (Birmingham City Council) highlight that Birmingham is the third most deprived core city in England with 51% of children (under 16s) living in the 10% most deprived areas and 26% of over 60s are income deprived. This project therefore exists to provide both younger people in Birmingham with experience and opportunities, and older adults in Birmingham with improved health outcomes:

- Trained 140 young volunteers
- Engaged 16 schools and colleges
- 14 areas of Birmingham covered
- Reached over 700 older adults