



17 October 2018

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Would you like to volunteer?

Check out our website to see thousands of volunteering opportunities. New opportunities added daily!

Looking for volunteers?

Register your organisation's volunteering opportunities FREE of charge – go to: www.volunteernow.co.uk

Volunteer Now Out & About

Find out where Volunteer Now staff will be visiting this month and discover events from across the sector here: www.volunteernow.co.uk/events

Stop, Start, Continue

Is there anything you would like us to stop doing, start doing or continue doing? Think about what you might want to hear more about in VConnect or anything you want to see on our Training Calendar and [let us know](#).

Chief Executive's Comments:

Fundraising Consultation

So many volunteers are involved in fundraising, in 2016 the NISRA volunteering survey showed that 43% of volunteers were involved in some kind of fundraising activity. The Fundraising Regulator is currently consulting on the Fundraising Code and this aims to provide a clear framework for organisations involved in fundraising. The Code contains a number of definitions relating to volunteers which I have set out below:

- **Connected Volunteer:** A volunteer who works with a charitable organisation to raise funds on its behalf and in its name.
- **Independent Volunteer:** A volunteer raising funds for a charitable organisation independently of the charitable organisation. In some cases, the charitable organisation will know about the activity prior to receiving funds raised while in other cases it may not. Where the activity is known to the charitable organisation in advance, the volunteer will sometimes use materials provided by the charitable organisation to such volunteers.
- **Volunteer:** A third party fundraiser who, without payment or other material benefit (excluding reimbursement of expenses), raises money or engages in a fundraising activity for a charitable organisation.

There is further information at this link: <https://www.fundraisingregulator.org.uk/code/consultations/consultation->

[fundraising-code](#)

We would like to engage with members on this subject, in order to feed in effectively to this consultation. You are invited to come to a short discussion session on the **7 November at 10am – 11am in 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast** to look in greater detail at this issue and to assist Volunteer Now to provide clear feedback to the consultation.

To book for the session, please email Nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk.

Denise Hayward

Chief Executive

Volunteer Now Enterprises Academy

From planning the strategic direction of your programme, skilling up your volunteers to equipping day to day supervisors of volunteers with vital management skills - our Academy has it all!

For our full Training Calendar, go to bit.ly/TrainingCalendarAll.

Volunteer Management:

Managing & Motivating Volunteers - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2HV4CWc)

Developing a Volunteer Strategy - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2E7rOzJ)

Building Blocks to Success: Volunteer Role Planning - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2E8tgIE)

Safeguarding:

Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training - **Dungannon** (bit.ly/2Pz1Rul) OR **Ballymena** (bit.ly/2pSE9hp)

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Training - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2RRHERP) OR **Belfast** (bit.ly/2PBf7P2)

Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction - **Dungannon** (bit.ly/2AaDXzU)

Youth:

Good Practice in the Support of Youth Social Action - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2xqLhov)

We have an expert team of staff who are committed to quality and effective customer relationships providing a service which is tailored just for you. We would love to hear from you about how we can help - you can email us on enterprise@volunteernow.co.uk, call 028 9023 2020 or tweet us [@VNEnterprise](https://twitter.com/VNEnterprise).

Vol-YOUTH-eering - Youth Volunteering in a Changing World

Volunteer Now invite you to a seminar exploring the attitudes of young people towards volunteering and the experiences they have from involvement.

Date: Tuesday 23 October 2018

Venue: Malone House, Barnett's Demesne, Belfast

Time: Registration and tea/coffee/scones at 9.45am

Start at 10am until 12noon

Volunteer Now are delighted to have worked with the Young Life and Times Survey in order to explore the

attitudes, views and experiences of young 16 year olds in relation to their volunteering experiences (or not). Their views enhance the picture of volunteering within Northern Ireland and this seminar will explore the research, bring it into context with other research and enable participants to formulate a strategy as to how we can encourage and embrace young people into the world of volunteering.

Register for this **FREE** event at Eventbrite - <https://bit.ly/2y9JAMA>.

Big Lottery Fund Funding Team Roadshows

If you have any funding ideas but aren't quite sure how to move ahead, develop those plans or get them funded - call in and chat to the Big Lottery Fund Funding Team face-to-face when they are in your local area.

- **Omagh Community House:** 19 Oct, 16 Nov, 21 Dec (10.30am-4.00pm). Email helen.hill@biglotteryfund.org.uk to make an appointment.
 - **Clotworthy House, Antrim:** 19 Oct (10am-4pm). Email mark.baine@biglotteryfund.org.uk to make an appointment.
 - **Mid Ulster Volunteer Centre, Magherafelt:** 6 Nov, 4 Dec (9.30am-4pm). Email colin.howells@biglotteryfund.org.uk to make an appointment.
 - **The Braid (Ballymena Town Hall):** 14 Nov (1pm-6pm). Email christopher.mcclure@biglotteryfund.org.uk to make an appointment.
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The Charity Commission for NI Current Consultations

The Commission is currently seeking feedback on two key areas of its work:

- The Commission's draft Strategic Plan 2019-2022
- Proposed compliance actions for charities whose annual monitoring return (AMR) fails basic compliance testing by the Commission.

The Commission's draft Strategic Plan 2019-2022

The Commission is developing a new strategic plan to guide its work from 2019-2022. The finalised plan will set organisational priorities to enable the Commission to deliver the statutory framework governing charity regulation in Northern Ireland. We are developing this new strategic plan in the context of ongoing reductions in public spending, which are likely to continue during the life of this plan and perhaps beyond. With the Commission's resources being cut in real terms over the next few years, our strategic plan must address how and to what extent the Commission can fulfil its objectives effectively and efficiently. As we develop this strategic agenda, we are using this comment phase to seek the views of the charity sector, stakeholders and the public.

Comments should be submitted as early as possible before the comment phase closes at **5pm on Monday 12 November 2018**.

Proposed compliance actions for charities whose annual monitoring return (AMR) fails basic compliance testing by the Commission.

From April 2017 to March 2018 the Commission conducted basic compliance checks on 53 per cent of the Annual Monitoring Returns (AMRs) it had received from registered charities. Unfortunately, one in three of the AMRs checked by the Commission failed the basic compliance checks. This level of compliance is not only unacceptable, it is also unfair to those charity trustees who ensure that the AMR for their charity complies with the Regulations and is submitted before the deadline date.

This consultation seeks your views on proposals for possible consequences for charities in relation to failed basic compliance checks. We propose to add to a charity's entry on the register to indicate that they have been subject to a basic compliance check and highlight where a charity has failed to comply with regulatory guidance issued in relation to these failed compliance checks.

The consultation will run for eight weeks, beginning on Wednesday 26 September 2018 and closing at **5pm on Wednesday 21 November 2018**.

How can you engage with the Commission during this comment phase?

- Complete an online questionnaire which is available at: www.charitycommissionni.org.uk for both Consultations.
- Complete the questions in the Strategic Plan and/or Appendix 3 of the Proposed Compliance Document and either:
 - Email it to consult@charitycommissionni.org.uk or
 - Post it to Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, 257 Lough Road, Lurgan, Northern Ireland, BT66 6NQ

Further information is available on the Current consultations page of our website at www.charitycommissionni.org.uk.

£16,000 Raised for Action on Hearing Loss

68 people signed up as Action on Hearing Loss volunteers this summer to help Action on Hearing Loss promote their hearing health campaign in Northern Ireland - #dontlosethemusic. Teams of volunteers attended 16 concerts in Belfast, encouraging thousands of music fans to protect their hearing by giving away earplugs. They also raised over £16,000 – a big thank you to those amazing volunteers!

The campaign, supported by the Public Health Agency, gave Action on Hearing Loss the unique opportunity to reach up to 270,000 people at Belfast's biggest live music events.

Volunteers played an essential role in handing out free earplugs and ponchos, collecting donations and encouraging music fans to get involved in the campaign on social media.

Jackie White, Director of Action on Hearing Loss Northern Ireland, said: "We are incredibly grateful to all of our amazing volunteers who have given up their time to help us promote the #dontlosethemusic campaign in Northern Ireland. Their enthusiasm and dedication has been essential to the success of this campaign, and many have gone above and beyond what was expected. Many volunteers stayed behind to help staff give out last minute ponchos and one of our volunteers even created a fantastic video for the campaign. It's been a brilliant opportunity to raise awareness with young people about the importance of protecting their ears when listening to loud music and we hope to continue the campaign at other events in Belfast this autumn. From all at Action on Hearing Loss Northern Ireland, we would like to say a huge thank you – you have all been brilliant!"

Action on Hearing Loss research shows that over 50% of 18-24 year olds in the UK have experienced tinnitus and over 4 million young people in the UK are at risk of hearing damage from over-amplified music. A live concert is often around 110 decibels, which is only safe to listen to for 2 minutes. Once noise exceeds 85 decibels, your hearing is at risk.

Jackie said: "Earplugs are the best way to protect yourself as they take off on average 15-20 decibels which makes for safer listening. We also recommend that you stand away from the speaker, take at least a 5 minute break every hour and stay hydrated to protect the cells in your inner ear."

To find out more about the #dontlosethemusic campaign, visit www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/dont-lose-the-music.

Current Awards Available

- **Eastside Awards:** An exciting initiative aimed at highlighting and celebrating all that is good about East Belfast, whilst showcasing the contributions being made to the economic, social and community development of the area. More info: www.eastsideawards.org/categories. Closing date: **5pm on Friday 19 October 2018**.
 - **Age-Friendly Belfast Older Volunteer Awards 2018:** If you want to recognise someone and the difference they make, aged 60 or over who volunteers, here's your chance. Belfast City Council want nominations and they have 5 different categories to choose from. More info: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/volunteering. Closing date: **4.30pm on Friday 26 October 2018**.
 - **Mayor's Community Awards 2019:** These Awards are designed to acknowledge the outstanding work and commitment of individuals, groups and organisations across communities in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. There are 7 categories to choose from. More info: www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/community-services/mayors-community-awards-2019. Closing date: **4.00pm on Friday 26 October 2018**.
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Volunteer Now Events Team

Volunteer Now Events Team are recruiting for a few events. Click on the relevant event to find out more about it.

- **[24 October 2018: Silver Screening Day \(Newry\)](#)**. This event is aimed at older people in the Newry and Mourne area, addressing and raising awareness of scams. The event will include information from various agencies relating to scams, e.g. PCSP, Consumer Council, Trading Standards, CCG Home Secure and Good Morning Good Neighbour Programmes, etc.
 - **[5 May 2019: Belfast City Marathon](#)**. For the first time ever, the 38th Deep RiverRock Belfast City Marathon will be held on a Sunday. The streets of Belfast will come alive as around 20,000 participants are expected to set off on their 26.2 mile journey.
 - **[14-21 July 2019: The Open](#)**. Golf in Northern Ireland and the North Coast are set for a massive year ahead. In 2019 The Open will come to Northern Ireland for only the second time in its 154 year history to pitch their tents at Royal Portrush.
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VOLT - Volunteer Organisations Linking Together

VOLT is an opportunity for volunteer involving organisations to network, learn and share. The following are the events we have planned for 2018-2019.

All events are **free** and held in Volunteer Now offices at 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB.

- Thursday 29 November 2018 - **Topic: Consent, Capacity and Safeguarding**
- Thursday 7 February 2019 - **Topic: Welcoming Newcomers into Volunteering**

If you would like to attend, please email nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk. Is there a topic you would really

like us to address through VOLT? Let us know what you are thinking about and we will try to get it on the schedule in 2019.

FREE Volunteer Management Review

- Would you like a FREE volunteer management review to see how you are managing your volunteers?
- Are you an organisation with an annual income of under £100,000?
- Are you based in Belfast, Fermanagh, Newry & Mourne, Armagh, Dungannon, Downpatrick, North Down, Ards, Lisburn, Castlereagh, Newtownabbey, Antrim, Carrickfergus, Ballymena or Larne?
- Would you like to get one step closer to achieving the Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard?

Volunteer Now are currently offering a limited number of free volunteer management reviews to organisations in relation to their volunteer management practice. By using the Investing in Volunteers framework, a member of staff from Volunteer Now will benchmark your organisation against the standard and provide you with a development plan clearly outlining any areas for improvement/gaps in practice and signposting to where you could get help to address them.

You can use your review to plan your development and improve your volunteer management practice. It also means that, if you wish, you are one step closer to achieving the Investing in Volunteers award. If you choose to address your development plan within six months of a review, we will offer to assess you for the Award at a reduced rate!

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Sandra Faulkner on 028 9023 2020 or sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk. If you would like a review but don't fit the criteria for a free check, please contact David Fitzsimons on 028 9081 8330 or david.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk. For more information on Investing in Volunteers, please go to bit.ly/1USu0JA.

Membership

Membership of Volunteer Now is open to all organisations and individuals with an interest in volunteering. There is no fee. By becoming a member you add your voice to support volunteering. Sign up for FREE membership at www.volunteernow.co.uk/membership

Submit your Article

If you have volunteering related news, events, publications etc. to share, email training@volunteernow.co.uk

VTraining

Volunteer Now also publish a free e-newsletter called VTraining that includes all Volunteer Now training courses and workshops. To subscribe, please email training@volunteernow.co.uk

To view VTraining as a pdf on our website go to bit.ly/1JhtjBd.

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Supported by the Northern Ireland Executive through the Department of Communities.

Volunteer Now delivers services across Northern Ireland. We have offices in Belfast, Broughshane, Enniskillen and Newry. Main Office: 34 Shaftesbury Square, Belfast, BT2 7DB. T: 028 9023 2020

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