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**17 April 2019**

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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](http://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/volunteering/event-volunteering](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/event-volunteering)

**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](#).

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***Chief Executive's Comments:***

**Be A Saint Celebrates 10th Birthday**

Be A Saint, Volunteer Now's action day for employer supported volunteering celebrated its 10th Birthday in March. This long running campaign, in partnership with Business in the Community, has involved over 3,500 volunteers to support over 150 voluntary organisations and worked with 250 businesses since it started in 2009. It allows employers to give something back to the local communities where they work. A number of the one off projects done as part of Be A Saint have blossomed into longer term partnerships between businesses and local volunteer involving organisations.

Recent research both at a local level and at a UK level has shown that most people do not have access to opportunities to volunteer through their employer. However it is also clear from research that the majority of volunteers are in paid work. Research also shows that there are benefits for both the individual and the employers from offering volunteering to their staff. This leads to the conclusion that if employers can support their staff to volunteer or even to find out about opportunities then there are big advantages for the individual, the employer and the volunteer involving organisation. Volunteering needs employers to play their part - we all need to redouble our efforts for the next decade of Be A Saint!

**Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

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## Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd

We have just launched our new training calendar and to celebrate this, we have two offers available for all participants booking onto three of our volunteer management courses in May & June:

- If you book a place on all three of these volunteer management courses - Attracting & Selecting Volunteers, Managing & Motivating Volunteers and Train the Trainers - **Accreditation is FREE! Saving £250!**
- If you prefer to attend all three of the above courses and do the Non-Accredited courses - you will get a **10% discount! Saving £52!\***

For our full Training Calendar, go to [bit.ly/CoursesScheduled](http://bit.ly/CoursesScheduled). We also have a new system for booking and payments. To read more about this, please click here [bit.ly/NewBookingSystems](http://bit.ly/NewBookingSystems).

*These are limited offers and expire on 30 April 2019. These offers only apply to Attracting & Selecting Volunteers, Managing & Motivating Volunteers and Train the Trainers courses taking place during May & June 2019. The same participant must attend all three courses. \*£52 will be refunded back to you 4 working days before the first day of the third course.*

### Volunteer Management:

Keeping it Legal: Volunteers & the Law - **L'Derry** ([bit.ly/2EW9PcW](http://bit.ly/2EW9PcW))

Attracting & Selecting Volunteers - **Belfast** ([bit.ly/2TsA194](http://bit.ly/2TsA194))

The 3 R's: Recruit, Retain, Reward - **Enniskillen** ([bit.ly/2UxjlrW](http://bit.ly/2UxjlrW)) OR **L'Derry** ([bit.ly/2lft003](http://bit.ly/2lft003)) OR **Coleraine** ([bit.ly/2P9P16n](http://bit.ly/2P9P16n)) OR **Lisburn** ([bit.ly/2livtw2](http://bit.ly/2livtw2))

Managing & Motivating Volunteers - **Belfast** ([bit.ly/2O0sVTq](http://bit.ly/2O0sVTq))

Train the Trainers - **Belfast** ([bit.ly/2J7YbRm](http://bit.ly/2J7YbRm))

Developing a Volunteer Programme - **Belfast** ([bit.ly/2F2Mnvz](http://bit.ly/2F2Mnvz))

### Safeguarding:

Integrated Keeping Children and Adults Safe: An Introduction - **Antrim** ([bit.ly/2KBj1cF](http://bit.ly/2KBj1cF))

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Training - **Omagh** ([bit.ly/2X8zCqB](http://bit.ly/2X8zCqB)) OR **Ballymena** ([bit.ly/2lwijL2](http://bit.ly/2lwijL2)) OR **Antrim** ([bit.ly/2VGQqDP](http://bit.ly/2VGQqDP)) OR **L'Derry** ([bit.ly/2UW2IAD](http://bit.ly/2UW2IAD))

Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers - **Larne** ([bit.ly/2ut4Zz7](http://bit.ly/2ut4Zz7))

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](mailto:enterprise@volunteernow.co.uk), call 028 9023 2020 or tweet us [@VNEnterprise](https://twitter.com/VNEnterprise).

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### On the Run for Volunteers Week!

A team of five trustees and staff from Volunteer Now have formed a relay team to participate in Belfast City Marathon to help raise funds for Volunteers' Week 2019, which takes place on 1-7 June each year.

Volunteer Now is the Northern Ireland partner of this UK wide campaign which exists to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who really do make a difference to charities and community groups. We would like to purchase merchandise which can be distributed to these local volunteer involving groups to help them celebrate the week.

If you would like to make a donation, please visit our [JustGiving Page](#). Thank you

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## **'Miracle Man' has Good Reason to Celebrate Volunteers' Week!**

Volunteers' Week UK 1 – 7 June recognises the contribution volunteers make to our communities every day. In Northern Ireland, Volunteer Now takes the lead in promoting and encouraging volunteer involving organisations to celebrate their volunteers for all the hard work and commitment they offer.

The theme for this year is 'Time to Celebrate' and one person who has good reason to celebrate is 'Miracle Man' Anthony Bennet from London, who is helping Volunteer Now launch the campaign in Northern Ireland. After returning from a school trip to Disneyland Paris in 2006 Anthony fell extremely ill and was rushed to his local hospital. After his x-rays came through, Anthony's family were told his only chance of survival was to be placed on an ECMO life support machine. During his seven- week stay in Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital he suffered 3 viral infections, was resuscitated 12 times and was given a 10% chance of survival. He needed to re-learn the very basic functions, using his hand-eye coordination, breathing without the aid of machines, using his voice and learning to walk again. Amazingly Anthony made a full recovery. He then went on to help Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity secure a £7.5m charity partnership, with the funds going towards a brand new wing at the children's hospital. Now a global inspirational speaker, Anthony continues to inspire audiences around the world and recently addressed more than 300 young Millennium Volunteers at Belfast City Hall.

Denise Hayward, Chief Executive, Volunteer Now, said, " We are delighted that Anthony is helping us to launch this hugely popular campaign celebrating those wonderful individuals who offer their time. It is indeed very apt since he was voted one of the happiest people in the UK by the Independent on Sunday in their 'Happy List' for the work he carries out to help enrich the lives of others.

There are currently over a quarter of a million volunteers in Northern Ireland who all play a vital role; from volunteer drivers to sports coaches, from hospital volunteers to those working in charity shops. Volunteers' Week offers the opportunity to shine the spotlight on these local people and give them the recognition and thanks they deserve.

Volunteer Now has a range of Volunteer's Week on-line resources and ideas available to groups to help them celebrate the week. For more information visit [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk).

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## **Change to Charity Registration Application Process**

Applicants for charity registration will have 30 days in which to submit their online application, under new rules from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The policy change, which will impact on organisations wanting to register as charities from June 2019 onwards, is aimed at streamlining the Commission's registration process.

Under the new rules, the Commission will continue managing registration applications in tranches, with organisations in each tranche advised by the Commission one or two months in advance of when they are likely to be called forward to apply. This will allow them to prepare in advance, including gathering information and attending a free registration workshop where they will be guided through the application process. Attending a workshop is voluntary, but is highly recommended.

The applicant will then be 'called forward' by the Commission to apply for registration. They will be issued with a password and advised they have a maximum of 30 days to complete the online form. If an application is not submitted by this deadline, the organisation will be treated as having failed to apply for charity registration - a

breach of the law.

Given the high numbers of charities in Northern Ireland, charity registration is being progressed as a managed process, with organisations called forward by the Commission to apply in tranches as resources allow.

The Commission has produced various pieces of guidance to support organisations in applying for charity registration - a legal assessment that the applicant is a charity as defined by the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008. This guidance is available online [here](#). A series of FAQs relating to the changed timescale are also available on the Commission's website [www.charitycommissionni.org.uk](http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk).

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## 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](mailto:sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk). If you would like a review but don't fit the criteria for a free check, please contact a member of the Enterprise team on 028 9023 2020 or [enterprise@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:enterprise@volunteernow.co.uk). For more information on Investing in Volunteers, please go to [bit.ly/1USu0JA](https://bit.ly/1USu0JA).

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## 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/members](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/members).

## Submit your Article

If you have volunteering related news, events, publications etc. to share, email [training@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:training@volunteernow.co.uk)

## Privacy Policy

Volunteer Now/Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd collects your personal information, holds it securely and only uses it for the purposes for which it is intended. For more information about how we use your data, please see our Privacy Policy at [www.volunteernow.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/privacy-policy).

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Supported by the Northern Ireland Executive through the Department for 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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Volunteer Now  
34 Shaftesbury SQ  
Belfast, England BT2 7DB  
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