



20 June 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

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

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:

Inspirational Volunteers

During the month of June, I have attended a number of volunteer celebration events connected to Volunteers' Week and it has been a delight to hear the stories of the real difference volunteers are making to people's lives in so many different settings in Northern Ireland.

- The Education Authority held a number of events to recognise their volunteers. One young man told of his journey from uncertain young person to confident outdoor education instructor and the key role volunteers played in supporting him and being a role model, he said, "I wanted to be like them."
- The volunteers at the Southern Area Hospice told of their experiences in supporting people at the end of their lives and the incredible difference it made to their own lives at the same time.
- Volunteers at North Coast Community Transport were recognised for going the extra mile for the many people who depend on their service.
- At the Northern Trust I heard about volunteers befriending children who had challenging circumstances and the feedback from one parent who said, "you have given me my daughter back." Others spoke of holding the hands of family members when their partners were having their cancer treatment, giving them space to stop being strong for just a moment.

In just a few weeks I have had the privilege of hearing these wonderful stories and meeting the people who were telling them. It is important to recognise this fantastic work which is going on and to celebrate it.

Thank you to all of the organisations who took time to recognise and thank their volunteers during Volunteers' Week, it is an important thing to do.

Denise Hayward

Chief Executive

A Snapshot of Volunteers' Week 2019

Volunteers' Week 1-7 June - the time to recognise and celebrate the fantastic contribution millions of volunteers make across the UK.

In Northern Ireland Volunteer Now takes the lead in this UK wide campaign, in partnerships with NCVO, Volunteer Scotland and Volunteering Wales, encouraging organisations to thank their volunteers for all their hard work and commitment.

The theme this year was '**Time To Celebrate**'

The campaign was launched with a promotional photo and press release offering organisations the opportunity to download a resource pack and to avail of free merchandise (Banners, Bunting and Balloons) to help highlight the Week. We encouraged VIO's to use this merchandise at their various celebrations and to highlight on social media using #VolunteersWeek.

Volunteer Now staff were involved in 24 Volunteers' Week events across Northern Ireland and included a BBC Radio Ulster live broadcast of the Hugo Duncan Show from Girdwood Community Hub 'Dancing and Tea with Hugo D'! This was a celebration of older people volunteering and was attended by almost 300 seniors.

Thanks to all the organisations who got involved in the campaign and took the 'Time To Celebrate' but ultimately a huge thank you to the huge number of volunteers in their various roles throughout Northern Ireland who really do make a difference with their commitment and time.

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd

Volunteer Management:

The 3 R's: Recruit, Retain, Reward - **Coleraine** (bit.ly/2P9P16n) OR **Lisburn** (bit.ly/2livtw2)

OR **Cookstown** (bit.ly/2ljAHl2)

Developing a Volunteer Programme - **Belfast** (bit.ly/2L3cNB6)

Developing a Volunteer Strategy - **Enniskillen** (bit.ly/2KsC4VE)

Safeguarding:

Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training - **Enniskillen** (bit.ly/2PXK4he)

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Training - **Omagh** (bit.ly/2X8zCqB)

OR **Antrim** (bit.ly/2VGQqDP) OR **L'Derry** (bit.ly/2UW2IAD)

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).

FREE Premises to Charitable Organisations

Savills are agents for many retail, office and industrial schemes throughout northern Ireland including Belfast, Lisburn, Bangor, Antrim, Banbridge, Derry. Sizes of space vary from 40,000sq/ft to 500sq/ft

They have opportunities within many of these schemes for the charity or voluntary sector to work in.

The available space could be used for a variety of purposes including

- Retail
- Office
- Training
- Community / meeting
- Exhibition
- Workshop
- Sports / activities
- Studio
- Storage

Examples of working successfully with the volunteer and charity community include

- The former UTV HQ Havelock House, Ormeau Road, Belfast We have successfully placed Flax Studios in this location and it now operates as studio and exhibition space for over 40 artists. <http://www.flaxartstudios.org/>
- Castlecourt shopping centre, Belfast. We have placed Golden Thread Gallery in the shopping centre. Golden Thread have grown their audience substantially with the introduction of extension to their gallery that features exhibitions and workshops. <http://www.goldenthreadgallery.co.uk/?v=d2cb7bbc0d23>
<https://www.facebook.com/GoldenThreadGallery/>
- Bloomfield Shopping centre, Bangor. We have worked with Seacourt Print Works on a pop up gallery. <http://www.seacourt-ni.org.uk/>
- Bow Street Mall, Lisburn. We are working with Shopmobility to create a motorised wheelchair training facility. We have already trialled this product successfully in Castlecourt and Bloomfield shopping centres.

In return for providing the space they ask the organisation to commit to the space for a minimum of 6 weeks. After the initial 6 week period they usually roll forward on a month to month basis. They also ask the organisation if they are staying beyond 6 weeks to pay for utilities.

For more information, please contact Brian Gaffney brian.gaffney@savills.ie

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service granted to 22 organisations across Northern Ireland

Buckingham Palace has announced that 22 Northern Ireland based organisations have been granted the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Award is the highest form of civic recognition that can be granted to an organisation in recognition of the outstanding work of volunteers.

In welcoming the QAVS Awards this year Department for Communities, Permanent Secretary, Tracy Meharg said,

“This is a wonderful achievement by the 22 recipient organisations across Northern Ireland and, in particular, their volunteers. My Department values the outstanding contribution made by the many thousands of people who invest in their community by volunteering their time, knowledge and skills to support others. It is a tribute to the standard of volunteering here that the Award has been granted to organisations whose volunteers are making such a contribution to local communities and to civic society.”

The Northern Ireland representative for the Award said, *“This is a wonderful achievement for Northern Ireland organisations as it recognises the dedication, commitment and skills of volunteers who every day of the week invest their time to help others.”*

Organisations will receive the Award from her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenants during Presentations Ceremonies which will be held over the coming weeks.

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 a member of the Enterprise team on 028 9023 2020 or enterprise@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/members.

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 enewsletter called VTraining that includes all Volunteer Now training courses and workshops. To subscribe, please email training@volunteernow.co.uk

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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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