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**16 October 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 organisations volunteering opportunities FREE of charge.

**Events**

Discover events from across the sector, from one-off events to longer term.

**Anything you want to add?**

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:***

**Volunteering and Positive Ageing**

Volunteering is something which can bring great value in all stages of life and thinking of how volunteers engage across their [life course](#) can be a useful way to frame recruitment messages and plan for support needs of volunteers. This is because volunteering doesn't happen in isolation but is affected by all aspects of our lives.

In particular volunteering is something which can really support people as they make a transition into retirement. As October is Positive Ageing Month, Volunteer Now is taking part in a number of events to raise awareness of the positive impact volunteering in later life can have on physical activity, mental health and widening circle of friends.

As part of Positive Ageing Month we are hosting a Men's Health Day in Girdwood Community Hub on 18 October 2019 - [click here](#) for more information.

We have also undertaken a number of talks and taster days for employers to support people in getting involved in volunteering as they move toward retirement. This is very important as the research shows that if people are volunteering before they retire then they are more likely to make a better transition into

retirement.

If you are interested in further information about supporting older people to volunteer, please contact Lindsay Armstrong on 028 9023 2020 or [lindsay.armstrong@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:lindsay.armstrong@volunteernow.co.uk).

## **Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

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### **Volunteering for a New Decade Conference**

Nothing stays the same! The environment for volunteering is changing - we need to be prepared and to think creatively about how to involve volunteers in the next decade.

Our Conference, being held on International Volunteers Day 5 December 2019, will give us an opportunity to consider future challenges and to imagine solutions. We will hear from inspirational speakers with an internationally recognised expertise and consider how their ideas will work in a local context.

Join us for a day of innovation, networking and learning to support you as you plan for volunteer involvement to 2030.

For full programme details and booking information, [click here](#).

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## **Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd**

### **Volunteer Management:**

Managing & Motivating Volunteers - [Belfast](#) *\*SPECIAL OFFER -FREE ACCREDITATION!*

The 3 R's: Recruit, Retain, Reward - [Omagh](#) OR [Downpatrick](#) OR [Belfast](#)

Train the Trainers - [Belfast](#) *\*SPECIAL OFFER -FREE ACCREDITATION!*

### **Safeguarding:**

Keeping Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management - [Cookstown](#) OR [Strabane](#) OR [Antrim](#)

Keeping Adults Safe: Implementing Standards for Good Practice - [Belfast](#) OR [Enniskillen](#)

Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction - [Dungannon](#)

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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## **ChristmasTIME**

We haven't even seen Halloween yet but Volunteer Now is looking ahead to our ChristmasTIME campaign. This campaign aims to encourage more people to get involved in a one-off or short volunteering activity as part of their festive celebrations. Now is the perfect time for volunteer involving organisations to think about their events and activities which have a Christmas theme and to get these

registered and promoted through Volunteer Now.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to highlight your causes and help your organisation at a very busy time of the year. Just register the opportunity on your Volunteer Now account tagging **ChristmasTIME** or contact [lynne.jardine@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:lynne.jardine@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Well Done Your Spirited Souls with Giant Hearts!**

Have a look at this [great video](#) by [Tourism NI](#) - Volunteer Now is so proud to have been part of this Open experience with the support of the wonderful volunteers...you did the place proud, you spirited souls with giant hearts, the performance of a lifetime, you did indeed earn your curtain call! Thank you!

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### **FREE Accreditation!**

We have a SPECIAL OFFER on 2 of our courses!

- [Managing & Motivating Volunteers](#) - Book by 18 October 2019 and get **FREE Accreditation!** Saving £85 +VAT
  - [Train the Trainers](#) - Book by 1 November 2019 and get **FREE Accreditation!** Saving £80 +VAT
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### **The Electoral Commission Toolkit**

To celebrate National Democracy Week, The Electoral Commission have developed a Toolkit to make it easier to promote voter registration all year round. It's packed with posters, social media graphics and helpful information about registering to vote. And none of it is election-specific, meaning you can use the resources year-round and when it's most relevant to your audiences.

[Click here](#) to download the Toolkit.

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### **Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Mayor's Community Awards 2020**

The Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Councillor Alan Givan, along with members of the Assessment Panel has launched the 2020 Mayor's Community Awards to acknowledge the outstanding contribution and commitment of volunteers across the council area.

We want you to nominate your worthy local individual or group. There are seven award categories up for grabs. Find out more information and download your nomination form [here](#).

Closing date is **Friday 1 November at 4.00pm**.

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### **FREE Members Session**

The next Volunteer Organisations Linking Together (VOLT) FREE Members Session is on the topic: **Safe and Fair Risk assessment of Conviction Information**.

This session will be delivered by [NIACRO](#) and will cover:

- A brief overview of how the criminal justice system in NI works including PSNI, PPS, Courts and PBNI.
- Criminal records - what is retained, where, for how long and who can access it.
- AccessNI levels of checks and appeals.
- Rehabilitation of Offenders (NI) Order 2978 and subsequent updates (spent/unspent/filtering).
- Risk assessment and defensible decision making.
- Disclosure statements and Disclosure Panels.
- Record keeping and GDPR.
- Setting fair and clear policies around recruitment of people with previous convictions.

Date: **6 November 2019**

Times: **10.00am-12.30pm**

Venue: **Volunteer Now, The Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF**

Please confirm your attendance with [Nicole.Gorman@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Nicole.Gorman@volunteernow.co.uk) by **30 October 2019**.

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### **Code of Good Governance Consultation**

The Code of Good Governance is a voluntary set of standards on good governance practice for the boards of voluntary and community organisations. It was first launched by the [Developing Governance Group](#) in 2008 and revised in 2016 following consultation with the voluntary and community sector, and has been widely accepted as the set of standards of governance for the sector.

The Developing Governance Group has been reviewing The Code and would welcome your comments on its draft revised Code. The Group are asking you to complete an online survey to gather responses to ensure that this revised Code of best practice is relevant and appropriate for the needs of voluntary and community organisations.

[Click here](#) to start the survey. The survey should take 10 minutes to complete and the deadline for completion is **Friday 29 November 2019**.

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### **Grants**

- **Department for Communities Small Grants for Volunteering** - Limited grants of £1,200 and limited use. Closing date for completed applications is Monday 28 October 2019 at 12noon. More information [here](#).
- **Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council: Arts & Heritage Grants** - Grants available from £250 up to £1,000 for individuals and constituted voluntary/community organisations living or working in the Borough Council area. More information [here](#).

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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).

## **Disclaimer**

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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: The Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF. T: 028 9023 2020 E: [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk) W: [www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk) Charity Registration No. NIC101309. Company Limited by Guarantee No. NI602399. Registered in Northern Ireland.

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[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

