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**21 November 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:***

**Volunteers and Health and Wellbeing**

This month two pieces of research about volunteers and health and wellbeing have been published.

Volunteer Now has published a piece of research about the impact of volunteering in the Health & Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland. All of our Trusts involve volunteers and there are over 2,000 people volunteering in our local Trusts. Volunteer roles such as first responders, befrienders, mealtime companions, meet and greet are all making a big difference to patients and service users. One staff member said "The volunteers are invaluable to me and my colleague. They take the pressure off me with being able to support our service delivery, especially when I am clinically busy with patients. They support other patients by listening to them, having conversations with families and relatives and taking queries for the staff so when we have time we can deal with them. We couldn't do our job to full effect if it wasn't for the volunteers."

To read the full report, [click here](#).

The other report provides us an indepth view of the contribution volunteering is making to health and wellbeing in Scotland. It focuses on a number of areas:

- Health and wellbeing
- Sport and physical activity
- Health and social care
- Inclusion and engaged communities

For more information [click here](#).

It is clear from looking at these two pieces of research that volunteering is playing a key role in supporting people to enjoy better health and wellbeing. There are opportunities with a greater degree of focus to do even more.

## **Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

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

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

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.

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

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## **Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd**

### **Volunteer Management:**

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

Developing a Volunteer Strategy - [Belfast](#)

Keeping it Legal: Volunteers & the Law - [Coleraine](#)

### **Safeguarding:**

Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training - [L'Derry](#) OR [Cookstown](#)

Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers - [Cookstown](#)

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

Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers - [Banbridge](#)

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

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**

Does your organisation need ChristmasTIME volunteers?

Volunteer Now's ChristmasTIME campaign aims to encourage more people to get involved in a one-off or short volunteering opportunity as part of their festive celebrations and we are appealing to people throughout Northern Ireland to give an hour or more of their time to volunteer for a charity or cause this Christmas.

If you need volunteers and have an opportunity which you would like to promote as part of the campaign, email [opportunities@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:opportunities@volunteernow.co.uk).

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## **Stakeholder Engagement Workshops**

Public Health Agency (PHA) is holding a series of stakeholder events to engage with users, service providers, families and other stakeholders in relation to services commissioned by PHA which seek to build community capacity to help address health inequalities in Northern Ireland.

This builds on previous engagement carried out by PHA in 2018 to seek views on how Community Development approaches could support the transformation of our Health Service. This further engagement will help inform a consultation on how future services should be shaped to contribute to improved health outcomes.

This is a critical step on contributing to the development of a PHA commissioning plan for future community development infrastructure and is underpinned by a commitment to co-design and co-production.

Events are being held across Northern Ireland and you are welcome to attend any event which suits you best. Places are limited and booking is essential. To reserve a place, please email [cdconsultation@hscni.net](mailto:cdconsultation@hscni.net).

- 22 November, 10.30am-12.30pm in Signal Business Centre, Bangor
  - 26 November, 10.30am-12.30pm in Canal Court Hotel, Newry
  - 26 November, 7.00-9.00pm in The Junction, Dungannon
  - 28 November, 10.30am-12.30pm in Killyhevlin Hotel, Enniskillen
  - 28 November, 7.00-9.00pm in Everglades Hotel, L'Derry
  - 3 December, 10.30am-12.30pm in La Mon Hotel, Belfast
  - 3 December, 7.00-9.00pm in Seagoe Hotel, Portadown
  - 6 December, 10.30am-12.30pm in the Skainos Centre, Belfast
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## **Befriending Week 2019**

1 to 7 November each year is Befriending Week, a time to highlight, acknowledge and celebrate all the organisations offering befriending services to support people living in our society who may be feeling

lonely and/or isolated and in need of extra support.

On Monday 4 November, Volunteer Now in conjunction with the Befriending Network hosted a celebration event for organisations, volunteers and service users. Praxis Care, Guide Dogs, My Guide Service, B-Friend Hub Fermanagh, Omagh & Strabane and Caring Communities Safe & Well Project (SEHSCT) all spoke about their projects and the positive impact they have on the lives of the people they support and also on the lives of the volunteers who are instrumental in the delivery of these services. It was an uplifting event with many of the attendees commenting how it had inspired and motivated them to hear about the diversity of the services being offered to individuals.

The Befriending Network, coordinated by Volunteer Now, have also recently updated their Directory of Befriending Services and this is available to download [here](#). The Directory is a tool for health professionals, families and individuals to see the services available, relevant criteria and how to make a referral.

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### **We're Hiring!**

#### ***Training & Development Officer (Safeguarding)***

Volunteer Now is seeking a new team member responsible for the provision of training, information and support on safeguarding practice.

Please see full details of requirements and application form on our website [here](#). Closing date for applications is **Monday 25 November 2019 at 12.00 noon**.

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### **Exciting Changes Ahead!**

In 2020 Volunteer Now will be moving to a new volunteer management system, [Be Collective](#). We believe this change will enable our partners to easily manage their volunteering opportunities and ensure a positive experience for everyone involved in the volunteering process.

If your organisation is registered on our current database you will have received an email asking you to confirm your organisation's contact information. Please ensure you confirm your details so we can ensure you are kept updated with our changes and training available to organisations.

Invitations are starting to go out to organisations, inviting them to attend Be Collective training sessions. There are 12 planned sessions from 25 November until 6 December 2019. Please check your inbox and respond as soon as possible to whichever session suits you best.

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### **Leadership & Good Governance Awards 2020**

The Leadership & Good Governance Awards 2020 were launched last week. The Awards, organised by VSB Foundation in partnership with CO3 and Volunteer Now have grown in profile during the past four years and celebrate voluntary organisations which are working hard to improve their governance.

There are three award categories, determined by organisational turnover and organisations should apply before **Friday 17 January 2020**. For more information on the awards please click [here](#).

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## Dormant Accounts Consultation

The Community Fund is seeking ideas from the sector about how to deliver the funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund. Around £16m of Dormant Accounts funding for Northern Ireland has accrued over the last 10 years. It is anticipated that money will continue to be available on an annual basis. The Community Fund is seeking ideas about how this funding should be allocated.

Volunteer Now is planning to respond to the consultation and would invite you to join us on **11 December 2019 at 10.30am** in our Antrim Offices at **Riverside House, 12E Market Square, Antrim, BT41 4AW** to help us shape this response. The event will finish at noon.

A member of the team from the Community Fund will be facilitating our discussion.

To book a place, please contact [nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk). For more information on the consultation framework, please click [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 enewsletter 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: 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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