

25 March 2020

Interested in hearing more about volunteering in Northern Ireland?

Please take a moment to subscribe to our social media sites:



Chief Executive's Comments:

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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](#).



Chief Executive's Comments:

Challenging Times - Let's #HelpEachOther

In such uncertain and changing times, Volunteer Now is mindful of the amazing support volunteers are bringing to those 'most at risk' in our communities and more and more people are stepping up in terms of getting involved and offering help. We have launched a new campaign **#HelpEachOther** to encourage organisations to register their specific virus related, safe opportunities which will then be promoted to individuals who would like to help. If you are a volunteer involving organisation who would like to involve more volunteers as a result of Covid-19, please register your interest via our website [here](#).

In line with UK guidance, everyone has been asked to stay at home and therefore they may be worried, afraid or lonely. It has never been more important that these people know there are connections which can be made. We are getting more and more calls from the public with offers of help. We have therefore set up a registration for interested people to create a pool of people who are able to provide contingency support as the situation unfolds. Registration is available via our [website](#). We know that community spirit is alive and well and this campaign will harness our desire to do good and to make sure people don't feel that they are on their own.

If you are a volunteer involving organisation and your activities are currently suspended but you would be prepared to share contingency opportunities with your volunteers, then please contact antje.otto@volunteernow.co.uk to register your details.

We have also developed a range of guidance for informal groups of volunteers and also for volunteer involving organisations to help them stay safe in the current situation. To view these documents, [click here](#).

We will update our website and social media account regularly on how people can #HelpEachOther. For more information go to www.volunteernow.co.uk and click on HelpEachOther or email: helpeachother@volunteernow.co.uk and let's make a difference now!

Take care and stay safe.

Denise Hayward

Chief Executive

Volunteers Needed to Support Older Vulnerable People

Volunteer Now is looking to recruit a bank of volunteers who would be willing to provide support to older vulnerable people in the community during this COVID-19 outbreak. The role could involve a range of the following activities depending on the emerging need:

- Doing a small food shop for essential items and delivering to an older person.
- Collection of essential prescription and developing to an older person.
- Telephone befriending or providing a check-in service for an older person living in the community.
- Dog walking for an older person who must self-isolate.

If you have time and would be willing to be part of a bank of volunteers that can be called upon when needed, then please sign up. This does not commit you to volunteering but simply allows Volunteer Now to see who would be interested and available to help out. Click on the pop up box that appears on our [homepage](#) for more information or email helpeachother@volunteernow.co.uk.

Full Guidance on Staying at Home

Get full guidance on staying at home and away from others from the Government's website here <https://bit.ly/2QH6g0D>. The single most important action we can all take in fighting coronavirus, is to stay at home in order to protect the NHS and save lives.

Funding

- **Neighbourly**
New fund to support community organisations across the UK helping those most at risk during the Coronavirus crisis. <https://www.neighbourly.com/blog/charities-causes>
 - **Community Foundation NI Coronavirus Community Fund**
Funding for community organisations to help them deliver support around emerging issues relating to the Coronavirus. <https://communityfoundationni.org/>
-

FREE Online Safeguarding Courses

Volunteer Now have a range of free online safeguarding training, supported by the Health & Social Care Trust and the Department of Health. These courses act as an introduction only and does not replace face to face training, which should be attended following completion of any of these sessions below.

Keeping Adults Safe: See Something, Say Something - This session is suitable for staff and volunteers who may have some interface with adults at risk of harm but who do not work closely with them, to introduce them to adult safeguarding issues.

Adult Safeguarding Champion: Meeting the Requirements - This taster session is suitable for managers, supervisors and

management committee members in organisations which deliver services and/or activities for adults, to find out about the role of the Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC) and provide guidance on how this role should be implemented within their organisation.

Keeping Children & Adults Safe: An Introduction for Management Committee Members - This session is suitable for management committee members in organisations which deliver services or activities to children, young people and/or adults and provides a brief overview of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

[Click here](#) to register for any of the above online courses.

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd

Volunteer Management:

All courses scheduled for March & April have been postponed.

We are planning to host a **webinar** next week (date to be confirmed) on **The 3 R's: Recruit, Retain, Reward**. It will be approx 40 minutes, with Q&A at the end. More information will be sent out next week.

Safeguarding:

All courses scheduled for March & April have been postponed. May & June courses are still going ahead at the moment but this may change, given the situation.

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Refresher Training - [Belfast](#)

Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion and Appointed Person Training - [Cookstown](#) OR [Enniskillen](#)

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 Publications

Volunteer Now have a range of publications on our website, and they are all free! We have everything from safeguarding, volunteer management, governance, research to the newly published information sheets on involving volunteers, volunteering and informal volunteering in response to Covid-19.

To view all our publications, [click here](#).

Libraries NI

Although all libraries in Northern Ireland are currently closed, you have free access to eBooks, audiobooks, eMagazines and podcasts. To access these, [click here](#).

State of Caring Survey

There are an estimated 272,500 people in Northern Ireland caring unpaid for a loved one who is older, disabled, or seriously ill. Their situations vary. Some people care round the clock, others for a few hours a week. Some look after a relative in their own home, while others travel miles to care for a friend.

For lots of people, caring can feel like the right thing to do when a loved one needs support, but often it has an enormous personal impact that is underestimated by others. We know that 72% of carers have suffered mental ill health as a result of caring, and 61% have suffered physical ill health. 8 in 10 carers say they have felt lonely or socially isolated. Every single day, 600 people give up work to care.

It's thanks to carers telling us about their experiences that we are able to explain to politicians and policy makers the serious

challenges they face, and fight for lasting change.

By filling in Carers UK's 2020 State of Caring survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C8VT99Z carers in Northern Ireland can help inform the UK's most comprehensive study into experiences of looking after a loved one.

With plans for social care reform currently being discussed, it has never been more important for unpaid carers to share their experiences. Please feel free to share this survey round your networks. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete and will close on 17 May 2020.

GR Monitoring Survey

The Droichead Project (Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin) has been supported by the Community Relations Council to undertake a small piece of work to explore the indicators and information gathering they are all asked to use by funders. They want to ask about what works well and what especially helps us; to ask whether indicators are appropriate and effective; and want to explore ideas and improvements that could be made.

The survey will inform a report they will produce as part of a conference in the spring. [Click here](#) to complete the short, confidential survey. Please answer honestly telling them about the positives or negatives and sharing ideas you may have about the future.

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 e-newsletter 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, Antrim, Enniskillen and Newry.

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