



18 June 2020

Interested in hearing more about volunteering in Northern Ireland?

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



Please note that to try to help us manage staff leave, furlough, etc., Volunteer Now will be closed during the week commencing 13 July 2020.

Chief Executive's Comments:

Reflection

[Volunteers' Week 2020 - Time to Say Thank You!](#)

[QAVS Congratulations!](#)

[Loaf Catering](#)

[Good Practice Through COVID-19](#)

[Women's Aid Launch New Webchat Service](#)

[Upcoming Webinars](#)

[VOLT Online Sessions](#)

[FREE Online Safeguarding Courses](#)

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

Reflection

As we begin to move out of lockdown, I think we can start to reflect on what we have just lived through and how it will leave us, and volunteering changed.

Clearly, there has been a huge deluge of people who have volunteered, sometimes for the first time. There have also been people who have volunteered their whole lives who have not been able to help others in the normal way.

We have seen a huge upsurge in informal volunteering with thousands of acts of kindness among friends and neighbours, this is part of the new normal which it would be great to sustain. However, it has been traditionally more difficult to quantify informal volunteering as it is not easy to pick up in research, we need to change that and to understand it better.

We have seen innovation in new groups coming together, new ways of working and widespread use of remote and digital roles. We can also see that there are huge challenges in re-establishing some of the roles which were routine before, for example driving, charity shop volunteering, etc.

There are challenges for some of the older volunteers to continuing to volunteer and it is really heartening to hear the stories about how hard organisations are working to keep in touch with older volunteers and to think of creative ways to keep them involved.

We are pleased to have Rob Jackson joining us on the 2 July at 11am to reflect on the initial learning from the past few months.

This is an opportunity to take stock and to think about what we have learned and how we might take the best aspects forward in the future. To book a place please email Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk. You will be sent a link with joining instructions the day before the session.

Denise Hayward
Chief Executive

Volunteers' Week 2020 - Time to Say Thank You!

Volunteers Week this year was indeed 'different' to previous years with the challenges of COVID-19 and social distancing but no less impressive when we see how it has been promoted and highlighted through social media, general media, on-line presence and advertising. So many great stories were told and the message of thanks was extended to each and every volunteer throughout the UK.

In Northern Ireland many organisations took the opportunity to profile how volunteers make a huge difference to their organisations. Volunteer Now received many messages of thanks for volunteers which we shared on social media and included videos from the First and Deputy First Minister, the DFC Minister as well as MLA's and Councillors. These can be viewed on: <https://bit.ly/3fnMp0z>.

Our staff team created a 'Hats Off for Volunteers' video (<https://youtu.be/fbqgFoh7BUo>) and Thank You cards were sent to our volunteers as well as those who registered with the #HelpEachOther Campaign. Billboard advertising was visible in 15 locations around NI thanking volunteers for all they do - you can view some here <https://bit.ly/2BdaacU>. Each day volunteer stories and organisations were highlighted on our various social media channels and over 16 buildings were lit purple to recognise Volunteers Week throughout NI.

Queen's Award for Voluntary Service Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following recipients of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2020:

Aisling Centre

Ballymoney Branch, Royal British Legion

Camphill Community Clanabogan

Coaching 4 Christ

Eglinton Community Centre

Enniskillen Royal Boat Club

Fermanagh Talking Newspaper Association

Mae Murray Foundation

Maghera Cross Community Link

Portico Ards Ltd (PAL)

Royal British Legion Waterside Branch

Saint Eugene's Brass and Reed Band

Sollus School of Highland Dance

The Conservation Volunteers – Belfast

The Garvagh Clydesdale & Vintage Vehicle Club

U3A Foyle

Loaf Catering

The Team at Loaf Catering have been working away during the COVID-19 Pandemic, and they are delighted to announce that, The Loaf Café & Bakery on the Grosvenor Road, Belfast has reopened for takeaway and deliveries. For more info call 028 9031 3123 or visit www.loafcatering.com.

Good Practice Through COVID-19

Volunteer Now has risen to the challenge during lockdown to provide as much information as possible to help groups involve volunteers effectively in a range of COVID related roles. This has also included very important safeguarding information to make sure that volunteers keep themselves safe but also those that they are helping. You can see our full list of resources [here](#).

Note that we have been adding to our volunteer guidelines to include a range of things such as links to resources to help volunteers look after their emotional wellbeing (this includes links to training courses that can help especially if volunteers are dealing with very challenging issues on calls with people who are feeling very vulnerable). We have also developed information that can be given to those who are at the receiving end of offers of help as unfortunately we need to be mindful that not all offers of help are genuine and well-intended. An information sheet about spotting the signs of financial abuse is also now available so please make sure the information gets to the people who need it most.

Women's Aid Launch New Webchat Service

Women's Aid have launched a NEW web chat service for women suffering domestic abuse.

The web chat will allow women to access immediate support and referral to lifesaving, crisis accommodation and outreach services, without having to pick up the phone.

Initiated by Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid along with Foyle Women's Aid, the service comes in anticipation of an increase in service demand as the current lockdown restrictions are eased.

- **The web chat is accessible at www.belfastwomensaid.org.uk**
- **The web chat will be available live every Monday to Friday 10am to 12 noon. (Outside those hours, requests can still be submitted and will be responded to when possible.)**

Read more here <https://bit.ly/37BoGY5>.

Upcoming Webinars

Guidelines for Volunteers Webinar - Tuesday 30 June 2020, 11am-12pm

This FREE webinar will offer volunteers advice and guidance about their role, safety and the safety of others. It will be followed by a Question & Answer session.

To book a place on this webinar, please email julie-ann.ashe@volunteernow.co.uk with your details and the name of the webinar

The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers - Wednesday 1 July 2020, 10.00-11.30am

As we are living in the middle of a pandemic, volunteering has changed. Join Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd for a short session looking at volunteering during the pandemic and the future of volunteering post COVID-19.

To book a place on this webinar, please click here: bit.ly/TheNewEnvironmentWebinar Joining information will be sent out the day before the session.

Helping the Helpers - Running Effective Telephone Support Through the Involvement of Volunteers Webinar

*Volunteer Now along with Change Your Mind and Inspire have organised the above webinar for 24 June 2020 and it is **FULLY BOOKED**. But we are hoping to run it again and are currently organising another date. Please email julie-ann.ashe@volunteernow.co.uk with your details to be contacted once the date is finalised.*

The webinar is aimed at organisations that are supporting volunteers who are making or receiving calls with people who are vulnerable.

During COVID-19 many services have had to change their delivery methods or indeed new services have been developed. These have included helplines, telephone befriending or check in and chat calls. Volunteers have been instrumental in all of these services and organisations have had to deal with a variety of difficult issues arising from the calls. Having the right policies and procedures in place as well as good systems for ensuring the emotional wellbeing of the volunteers is essential.

Read more about this webinar here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/helping-the-helpers-free-webinar/>.

World Host 2020

A NEW World Host 2020 elearning module has been launched! Volunteer Now have licensed trainers to deliver it, in partnership with People1st. To make it accessible for all types of organisations, the programme is being offered at a reduced rate of £5 +VAT per participant.

If organisations or individuals are interested in completing this elearning training, email the name and email address of the participant(s) to Raquel.rodriques.keenan@volunteernow.co.uk.

VOLT Online Sessions

Join us on a Thursday morning for a chance to chat and think about volunteering and the issues and challenges in the post COVID scenarios. We have had sessions looking at Charity Shops, One-to-One & Group Support Roles, Youth Volunteering, Environmental & Heritage Groups and Fundraising. Some of these have been recorded and you can view them here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/involving-volunteers/volt/>.

On **Thursday 25 June 2020**, the session is **Rethinking Volunteer Driving in Light of COVID-19** - <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volt-session-6-rethinking-volunteer-driving-in-light-of-covid-19/>

The following week (**Thursday 2 July 2020**) we will be looking at **Rethinking Volunteering: Has COVID-19 Changed Volunteering?** with our special guest **Rob Jackson**. More information here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volt-session-7-rethinking-volunteering-has-covid-19-changed-volunteering/>.

To book on one or both of these VOLT Sessions, please email sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk. You will be sent a link with joining instructions the day before the session.

Find out more information on VOLT here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/involving-volunteers/volt/>.

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. ***This is a Key Course for volunteers taking part in our #HelpEachOther Campaign and it is also suitable for the general public who may have concerns about their family, friends or neighbours.**

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.

Keeping Children Safe: Reporting Concerns - This session is suitable for staff and volunteers who work with children and young people. It provides a brief introduction to safeguarding children and young people issues. It is also suitable for the general public.

To access any of the FREE Safeguarding Courses above, please [click here](#).

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

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.

Disclaimer

We are a distributor of content supplied by third parties and users of VConnect. We do not necessarily endorse nor are we responsible for the accuracy of any opinion, advice or statement supplied by third parties, and they do not necessarily reflect any views or policies of Volunteer Now. We accept information in good faith.

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.

Main Office: The Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF. T: 028 9023 2020

E: info@volunteernow.co.uk W: www.volunteernow.co.uk Charity Registration No. NIC101309. Company Limited by Guarantee No. NI602399. Registered in Northern Ireland.

[Click to view this email in a browser](#)

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please reply to this message with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or simply click on the following link: [Unsubscribe](#)

Volunteer Now
The Skainos Centre
239 Newtownards Road
Belfast, England BT4 1AF
UK

[Read](#) the VerticalResponse marketing policy.

