

29 July 2020

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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**

**Recognising Contribution**

So many people have contributed as volunteers over the past few months. Volunteer Now is looking at ways of recognising the people who have given so much to our local community. We have produced a template certificate which groups can download and use to recognise their volunteers. You can add your logo, etc and tailor it to suit your group. To access the template, [click here](#).

I would also mention the information session we are doing in partnership with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service on **5 August 2020 at 11am**. For more information, please [click here](#). We will be doing a number of other recognition activities in the coming weeks so please keep an eye on our website.

We also want to remind organisations that now is a good time to think about refreshing your volunteers. This is in terms of both giving volunteers an opportunity for a break to recharge their batteries but also in terms of recruiting new people to volunteer in the coming months. To register new opportunities on the Volunteer Now website, please contact [jamie.greer@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:jamie.greer@volunteernow.co.uk).

**Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

**Upcoming Webinars & Training**

## 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 **6 August 2020**. It is aimed at organisations that are supporting volunteers who are making or receiving calls with people who are vulnerable.

Read more about this webinar [here](#).

## The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers - Wednesday 12 August 2020, 10.00-11.30am

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](#).

## 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](mailto:Raquel.rodriques.keenan@volunteernow.co.uk).

## FREE Online Safeguarding Courses

- Keeping Adults Safe: See Something, Say Something
- Adult Safeguarding Champion: Meeting the Requirements
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: An Introduction for Management Committee Members
- Keeping Children Safe: Reporting Concerns

To find out more and to access any of the FREE Safeguarding Courses above, please [click here](#).

## FREE Safeguarding Policy Review & Training

Calling all groups funded by the Arts Council NI - Volunteer now can undertake a review of your safeguarding policy and provide training! For more information, [check out this video](#) by our Training & Development Officer: Roisin Timlin.

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## Recorded Webinars

We now have a dedicated page for all our Recorded Webinars! These webinars cover many topics in relation to volunteering and volunteer involving organisations i.e. involving volunteers in response to COVID-19, youth volunteering, fundraising, volunteer driving, guidelines for volunteers & more!

View the page [here](#).

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## Grants

- **Small Capital Grants Programme:** The Programme, which has a total fund of £800,000, is aimed at assisting voluntary & community organisations purchase items of equipment to enhance and sustain the activities and services they provide to the community. More info <https://www.cooperationireland.org/small-capital-grants-programme>. **Closing date:** 5pm, Friday 14 August 2020. Interested groups are encouraged to submit completed applications as soon as possible.
- **Rural Business Grants:** Funded by DAERA's Tackling Rural Poverty & Social Isolation Programme, grant aid of between £500-£4,999 is available for a range of capital items to help your business recover, become sustainable or to grow and diversify. More info <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/ruralbusinessgrants/>. **Opens:** 3 August 2020, closing date is 12noon on 11 September 2020.
- **New Needs Fund:** A total fund of £600,000 to support communities to address new needs appearing as a result of Coronavirus is now open. Up to £15,000 of funding available. More info <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/the-new-need-fund/> **Closing date:** 1pm, 28 August 2020.

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## 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](#).

We have now added a new Information Sheet which pulls together the learning from all our VOLT Sessions and trying to get all the key resources for moving forward, in one place. It is called '**Reintroducing Volunteers? Some Good Practice Considerations (COVID-19)**' and can be found [here](#).

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## Acts of Kindness

Volunteer Now was delighted to get an update from one of the companies involved in our Employer Supported Volunteering programme. Last October Calvert Office Equipment had responded to an ask from the Renal Unit of Belfast City Hospital, to create a garden area which could be used by patients, staff and visitors. Before Christmas they started by tidying up the area, which is an inner courtyard and provided planters and Christmas lights. Alan Roper from Calvert shared news of how the staff been able to make a difference for the nursing staff at the unit during the pandemic. Read their story [here](#).

If your organisation has an activity which could be undertaken by a team of employees contact [Lorraine.smyth@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Lorraine.smyth@volunteernow.co.uk). Find out more about Employer Supported Volunteering [here](#).

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## How Can We Recognise People Volunteering Their Time in NI?

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest civil Award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It is the MBE for volunteer groups. Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the Award. So many volunteer groups rose to the challenge during COVID-19, this is an amazing opportunity to recognise their efforts.

An online information session to promote the Award and explain the nomination process, is being organised by Volunteer Now for potential nominators and interested groups. It will be an opportunity to hear from those involved in promoting the Award and from others who have been through the process.

Date: **Wednesday 5 August 2020**

Time: **11am – 12.30pm**

Please register your interest with [sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk) and we will send you out joining information.

Closing date for nominations is 25 September 2020. Details can be found at <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>.

Please pass this onto anyone who might be interested in hearing more about how volunteers can get recognition. If you have a newsletter or email that goes out to your networks or other organisations please include this in it to help spread the word.

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## BHSCT Online Summer Carer Support Programme

If you are a Carer in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust area, take a look at their online Summer Carer Support Programme.

**Movement & Dance with Charmaine** - Fridays 31 July, 7, 14, 21 & 28 August, 2-3pm

**Care to Cook with Mark** - Wednesdays 5, 12, 19 & 26 August, 11am-1pm (4 week course, ingredients provided)

**Building Resilience with Eileen** - Thursdays 6, 13, 20 & 27 August, 7-9.30pm (4 week course)

**Mens Care to Cook with Mark** - Saturdays 8, 15, 22 & 29 August, 11am-1pm (4 week course, ingredients provided)

**Self Care Facial & Skin Routine with Jenny** - Tuesday 11 August, 7-8.30pm (packs will be provided)

**Gentle Yoga with Colette** - Mondays 17, 24 & 31 August and 7 September, 10.30-11.30am (4 week course)

**Introduction to the Joys of Journaling with Belinda** - Tuesday 18 August, 6-8pm

Carers can book a place on sessions by contacting the Carer Support Service on 028 9504 2126 or [CarerSuppSvc@belfasttrust.hscni.net](mailto:CarerSuppSvc@belfasttrust.hscni.net). Read more about the Carer Support Service [here](#).

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### **Upper Springfield Youth Team Get Involved in Social Action Tuesdays**

Young people from Turf Lodge have dedicated their free time over the past few weeks to the area, and took part in a community wide clean up. With the help of local political representatives, youth workers and residents, Upper Springfield Youth Team painted over graffiti, lifted rubbish on their streets and removed overgrown weeds on their footpaths.

Read more about it and watch their video [here](#).

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### **An Open Letter to Senior Managers & Boards of Volunteer Involving & Deploying Organisations**

Volunteer Now are delighted to have co-authored an open letter with colleagues across the third sector to leaders of Volunteer Involving Organisations. This letter encouraged leaders not to reduce investment in volunteers, to ensure communication and to embrace new approaches. You can read the open letter [here](#).

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### **Three NI Teenagers Receive a Diana Award**

Three young people from Northern Ireland have each won a prestigious award for their fundraising efforts and work in their local communities.

Congratulations to Ben Mooney from Bangor, one of our Youth Forum members and a Millennium Volunteer awardee! And congratulations to the other two awardees - Jamie Harkin from Omagh, who was an Event Volunteer with us last year at The Open and Hannah Kempston from Belfast. Well done to all! Read more [here](#).

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### **EBCDA News**

#### **East Belfast Race Relations Network**

East Belfast Race Relations Network is still operational and takes place every month. Contact EBCDA's Race Relations Coordinator Aleksandra Lojek at [aleks@ebcda.org](mailto:aleks@ebcda.org).

#### **East Belfast Youth Practitioners Forum**

Contact Inner East Youth Work Coordinator Amy Ashe at [amy@ebcda.org](mailto:amy@ebcda.org) for more information on the forum and other ways youth work is being supported in East Belfast.

#### **EBCDA YouTube Channel**

EBCDA now has its own [Youtube Channel](#) which features all the recent videos posted on our social media channels and curated playlists related to our core work.

#### **Dementia Friendly Walks on the Greenway**

This is an opportunity in partnership with EBCDA and CCG for those living with dementia along with their carer/friend to get outdoors & socially connect with others. These walks are suitable for all abilities and very low intensity. They take place fortnightly on Mondays from 11am to 12pm - meeting at CS Lewis Square. The next walk will take place on Monday 3 August. Due to social distancing there are limited places & booking is essential. Book a space [here](#) or call 075459 69619.

#### **Inner East Churches Network**

This is a network aimed at supporting churches in East Belfast to collaborate with each other and the wider community to address needs. Contact Jonny Currie, EBCDA Community Development Director at [jonny@ebcda.org](mailto:jonny@ebcda.org).

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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

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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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