



23 October 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. Check out our guide - <https://bit.ly/2ZG7cXH>

### **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**

If you are adjusting to the new restrictions with some trepidation, I am sure you are not alone. Volunteer Now will continue to provide support to our members and volunteer involving organisations and volunteers in the coming months. We have revamped our Covid resources to take account of the new measures and you can find the updated resources [here](#).

Nationally, we have seen the launch of the Kruger Report, [Levelling up our Communities: Proposals for a new Social Covenant](#). The report has reviewed the community response to the pandemic in England and made some recommendations about the future of community life and volunteering. It makes some recommendations about volunteering such as the development of a volunteering passport, service opportunities for young people, the role of faith communities in society and celebration of community activity. Volunteer Now has developed a number of sessions during November to pick up on some of the key themes from the report. This will allow us to explore whether these issues have a resonance in Northern Ireland as well.

Finally we held the Volunteer Now AGM at the end of September, for the full Trustees' Annual Report, please [click here](#). For our summary infographic please [click here](#).

### **Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

### **Congratulations To Our Own Sandra Adair MBE!**

Sandra Adair, Director of Operations with Volunteer Now and Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. It is in recognition of her work in relation to volunteer development, management and training.

Sandra has worked in the volunteering sector for 32 years and has always been passionate about volunteering. From working in a volunteer centre recruiting and placing volunteers, to training organisations and developing opportunities for volunteers to be involved, Sandra has always worked to make sure that volunteers, no matter what they are doing, have a rewarding and safe experience. Sandra worked to raise standards in relation to volunteering, volunteer management and safeguarding, developing and implementing accredited opportunities for people who work with volunteers as well as organisational awards such as the national Investing in Volunteers award. She has provided information and support to countless Volunteer Now members over the years and worked on many projects where the profile of volunteers and volunteering has been heightened.

Sandra is delighted that this Award shines the light on volunteers and the importance of management and training in this field, particularly in a year where so many volunteers have stepped up and made such a difference as part of the COVID-19 response.

Denise Hayward, CEO Volunteer Now says:

“I am delighted that Sandra has been awarded an MBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours! Sandra has been involved in supporting volunteering in Northern Ireland for over 30 years and is one of the leading experts in the UK on volunteer management. Congratulations on a well-deserved award!”

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## Online Training

### Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Refresher Training

- [3 November](#), 10am-1pm, £30 +VAT

### The New Environment: Assessing Risk When Developing Volunteer Roles

- [4 November](#), 10.30am-12pm, £10 +VAT

### Creating Pathways to Wellbeing For Leaders of Volunteer Engagement

- [19 & 26 November 2020](#), 10am-1pm, £60 +VAT

Full Courses Scheduled calendar - <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>

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## VOLT Sessions

**Volunteering Through COVID - A Refresher** - [Tuesday 3 November 2020](#) at 11am-12pm

**Sharing Volunteers - Could Volunteer Passports Work?** - [Thursday 12 November 2020](#) at 11am-12pm

**Service Opportunities for Young People - Are They The Answer to Recovery & Renewal?** - [Wednesday 18 November 2020](#) at 11am-12pm

**Keeping Volunteers Safe Through a Pandemic** - [Wednesday 25 November 2020](#) at 11am-12pm

If you are interested in attending, please click on the relevant date.

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## Upcoming Deadlines for MV Ultimate

We are delighted to let you know that the MV Ultimate Award is going ahead this year. We are inviting your nominations for this Award to recognise your inspirational young volunteers (who have already achieved their 200 Hour Award). Please email [nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk) for more information or to request a nomination form. Event details will be sent closer to the time. **Closing date for nominations is 30 October 2020, 12pm.**

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## The Lucia Quinney Mee BEM Award for Campaigning

Earlier this year, a few months after her 4th liver transplant and just 4 days before her 21st birthday, Lucia Quinney Mee died. Even in this immeasurable loss to her family and friends, Lucia's light and energy continue to inspire and give strength.

Lucia was a committed campaigner setting up her own Campaign in 2015: Live Loudly Donate Proudly - <http://live-loudly-donate-proudly.org/> in order to raise awareness of the need for organ donation, to bring the importance of organ donation to the fore within political, education, community and business sectors and to encourage people to have that difficult conversation. In 2017, Lucia was one of two Pramerica 'Spirit of Community' All Ireland Youth Volunteers of the Year and her campaigning was recognised again when she received the British Empire Medal, the youngest person on the 2018 New Year's Honours list. Lucia participated in the UK Transplant Games since 2009, as a swimmer, and latterly also with the managers team for Birmingham Children's Hospital. She proudly represented the UK in biannual World Transplant Games. Lucia was one of NI's #iwill ambassadors and compered our Belfast Awards of Excellence Ceremony in 2019 sharing her story, passion and commitment for her Campaign.

In Lucia's memory we would like to recognise a young volunteer for their dedication, commitment and passion for a Campaign. We are seeking nominations from our MV partners in order to recognise their young MV Awardees who have either started their own campaign, like Lucia, or joined one and who have made a demonstratable difference through their involvement. Please email [nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.gorman@volunteernow.co.uk) for more information or to request a nomination form. **Closing date for nominations is 30 October 2020, 12pm.**

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### COVID Volunteer Response Captured in New Photography Series

Volunteer Now have launched a new 'Ordinary People - Extraordinary Times' Photographic Series celebrating Northern Ireland's COVID volunteer heroes. Supported by the Department for Communities, the Photographic Series chronicles the story of the COVID-19 volunteer response through a series of candid images capturing the herculean efforts of local communities during this unprecedented time.

From food bank packers to prescription delivery drivers, soup kitchen workers, telephone befrienders and even online children's storytellers and dance class instructors, the series aims to reflect the breadth and diversity of volunteer efforts right across Northern Ireland.

Read what Denise Hayward & Communities Minister Caral Ni Chuilin had to say about the series [here](#).

The full set of images from the Ordinary People - Extraordinary Times Photographic Series are available to download as an e-book [here](#).

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### Be Collective

Volunteer Now is thrilled to have officially launched our new volunteering opportunity search portal in conjunction with the Be Collective platform.

This new platform, a first in Europe, cohesively connects volunteering, organisations, outcomes and social value through innovative social infrastructure and for the first time quantifies volunteering contribution by giving individuals and businesses a social 'record'.

Have a look at our [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) which will show you how to register your group, advertise your volunteering opportunities and tell you more about other features of the Be Collective Platform.

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### Collaboration for Change

As one of many progressive movements around the world, Collaboration for Change (CfC) exists to enable people who are actively involved in making positive change in their communities and localities across the island of Ireland, to work together, share resources and ideas. By joining up our efforts in all our diversity, it allows us to offer each other mutual support, solidarity and respect, allows us to learn from each other, and allows us to be stronger and more effective together than we would be on our own.

CfC Actions focus on

- Pooling of knowledge and material resources to grow solidarity and create better outcomes for people and planet
- Encouraging a more engaged and participative democracy - civic conversations and civic assemblies at all levels, co-design, co-delivery, participatory budgeting etc
- Building capacity through shared learning and collective action - helping us all stretch our imaginations and creativity and our capability to reach beyond our current situation
- Telling our stories in compelling ways
- Helping to model new ideas and alternative approaches to the existing failing systems
- Taking care of ourselves and each other

Following on from a series of civic conversations which took place in Derry and Belfast, Northern Ireland between 2018 – 2020, on Tuesday 6th October, the Declaration for Common Good was launched. This is a co-designed declaration which expresses shared purpose and aspiration across the island of Ireland.

You can read the declaration and sign it here adding your name , project and ideas to the platform to bring this document to life <https://www.cfctogether.org/declaration>.

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### **Expression of Interest for Assessment Committee Member**

A unique opportunity to champion, assess and reward local voluntary work, by becoming an assessment committee member for the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for voluntary groups.

We are seeking expressions of interest from leaders in the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise/third sector in Northern Ireland to apply to join the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 'Main Assessment Committee', responsible for the judging and selection of shortlisted nominations for groups across the UK. Applicants should have significant recent and relevant experience in volunteering and/or the voluntary, community and social enterprise/third sector, and ideally have expertise in one or more voluntary fields.

**For further information on the criteria for the role and the application process, please contact us via [queensaward@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:queensaward@dcms.gov.uk).**

The deadline for applications is **midnight on Friday 13 November 2020**.

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### **G6 Survey**

The Greater Belfast Senior Citizens Forum (G6) exists to be the voice of older people in the City. The G6, who are all volunteers, is known as an effective consultative group and its views and opinions are sought regularly by policy makers from statutory agencies and a range of other government and voluntary bodies. The G6's Mental Health Sub Group are doing a piece of work around the impact Covid-19 has had on older people's mental health. They have created a short survey for people over the age of 50 and living in Greater Belfast, who wish to share their experiences of mental health during the pandemic.

Please note the survey is anonymous and what you share will be analysed to help the G6 to advocate for improvements to the mental health provision for older people in Belfast. You can access the survey online at <https://bit.ly/2FOXAmI>.

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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).

### 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, Antrim, Enniskillen and Newry.

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