



9 December 2020

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### **Chief Executive's Comments**

[ChristmasTIME](#)

[Staying Connected at Christmas](#)

[Online Training](#)

[Campaign to End Loneliness](#)

[FREE Webinars for Community Groups](#)

[Celebrating Befriending Week](#)

[FREE Capacity Building Training Courses](#)

[Community Engagement & Farming Fund 2020](#)

[FREE Keeping Adults Safe Courses](#)

[Be Collective Webinar](#)

### **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***

To celebrate International Volunteers Day in 2019, Volunteer Now held a fantastic face to face conference, enabling people to build their skills in volunteer management. This year to celebrate the Day in 2020 we are bringing you a new online method of building your volunteer management skills.

Volunteer Now and Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd are excited to announce the release of our new online training course, Attracting and Selecting Volunteers. The big reveal and opportunity to book onto the course is scheduled for Monday 4 January 2021, so watch this space!!!

We have been working tirelessly in the last few months to improve our product offering and service, we believe that this course will help you enjoy your experience with online training even more.

So what is it all about? This unique training will support you and your organisation to follow, innovative, creative and good practice ideas when planning a recruitment campaign and selecting the right volunteers for your organisation, to meet your mission, vision, aims and objectives for your volunteer involvement, programme and projects.

With visuals, innovative features and practical exercises to enable in-depth learning, this course will offer personal development in a flexible way, whenever and on whatever device...

The course offers a comprehensive overview of good practice, tremendous value for money, £45 plus vat per person with a certificate on completion. It is not time-consuming - an average 3 hours of learning. It is user-friendly and is suitable for those organisations, volunteer managers, coordinators or anyone who manages and involves volunteers on a regular basis.

Organisations have been looking for flexibility and affordability when it comes to Volunteer Management training, and we are positive that we have produced just that.

Our thanks go to the Department for Communities for financially supporting our organisation in the development of this forward thinking, innovative and user-friendly training course.

In our own small way Volunteer Now and Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd want to play our part in connecting, building and changing volunteering now and into the future.

On behalf of everyone at Volunteer Now, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and actively engaged 2021!

### **Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

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### **ChristmasTIME - A Time To Give & Connect**

As the festive season approaches, Volunteer Now is launching their annual ChristmasTIME campaign and appealing to people throughout Northern Ireland to consider volunteering their time to help raise much needed funds or to donate gifts to a local charity.

With the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, it is incredibly difficult for many charities to undertake their usual Christmas activities however there are still opportunities available which will still make a huge difference.

In addition, Christmas can be a lonely time for some folk but there are many ways of keeping people connected; checking in with a neighbour, catching up by a phone call or sending a card to show you care.

Denise Hayward, Chief Executive, Volunteer Now explains,

‘Many of the charities and community organisations who usually need extra help around Christmas with their festive volunteering opportunities are now faced with canceling group activities such as Santa grottos which were in many cases a fundraising lifeline to the charity.

The ongoing pandemic has brought a number of challenges and impacted on us all. However, volunteers have shown that they can really make a difference to individuals and groups and are passionate about helping others through these difficult times. There are many organisations which have safely restarted their volunteer services and requests for help are likely to continue, some in the same ways or perhaps in new ways. We would like to encourage people to think about getting involved in a fundraising activity or offering time to volunteer, not just for Christmas but to make it part of their routine – even an hour can make a very positive impact.”

To have a look at volunteering opportunities available near you, use the ‘volunteer search’ on our homepage:

[www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk) or check out some ChristmasTime options here: [www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/inspire-me/christmas-volunteering/](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/inspire-me/christmas-volunteering/)

If you are a volunteer involving organisation and would like to promote your volunteering opportunities with us, please get in touch, and we will be happy to support you. Contact: [opportunities@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:opportunities@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Staying Connected at Christmas**

Volunteer Now has been working with BBC Northern Ireland and other local charities to develop a special Broadcast Appeal ‘Staying Connected at Christmas, overcoming loneliness – together’.

Loneliness is something that many people will have experienced at some point in their lives. It can be difficult to talk about – and sometimes hard to overcome.

The Appeal aims to raise awareness of the effects of loneliness and provide information, support and advice on how everybody can do something – big or small – to help someone in need.

In a Christmas like no other in recent memory, BBC Northern Ireland is encouraging everyone to find different ways of saying hello and staying in touch with neighbours, friends or their wider family circle.

And whilst Covid-19 restrictions mean that we have to keep our distance, it remains more important than ever to stay connected – whether by phone, email, letter, social media or the BBC itself!

The appeal, which will run from Monday 7 December – Friday 11 December, is a joint initiative with a group of local charities including: Volunteer Now, Age NI, Parenting NI, Marie Curie, Barnardo's NI, British Red Cross, Campaign To End Loneliness, Carers NI, Mencap NI and the Royal College of General Practitioners NI.

Find out more here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/staying-connected-at-christmas/>

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### **Online Training**

We have just released new dates for our online training until March 2021! Take a look at our full Training Calendar here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>

#### **The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers**

- [12 January 2021](#), 2.30pm-4pm, £10 +VAT

#### **Volunteer Induction: The New Environment, The New Way!**

- [18 January 2021](#), 11am-12pm, £10 +VAT

#### **Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Refresher Training**

- [22 January 2021](#), 10am-1pm, £30 +VAT

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### **Campaign to End Loneliness**

The Campaign to End Loneliness believes that people of all ages need connections that matter. There are nine million lonely people in the UK and four million of them are older people. Many older people find constant loneliness hardest to overcome. They lack the friendship and support we all need.

The Campaign to End Loneliness believes that nobody who wants company should be without it. They want to make this happen by ensuring that:

1. People most at risk of loneliness are reached and supported
2. Services and activities are more effective at addressing loneliness
3. A wider range of loneliness services and activities are developed

Find out more about the Campaign to End Loneliness, what they do and how you can help here [www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/](http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/).

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### **FREE Webinars for Community Groups**

Volunteer Now, in partnership with NICVA and the Communities in Transition Project, are delivering 2 **FREE** webinars for community groups and their staff who manage volunteers and are working in **The Mount** and **Ballymacarrett** areas of East Belfast.

The first session is **COVID Safe Events for Volunteer Managers on 12 January 2021, 10.30am-12.30pm**. The second

session is **Safeguarding: An Introduction to Keeping Adults & Children Safe on 14 January 2021, 10.30am-12.30pm.** Read more about both sessions here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/free-webinars-for-community-groups-in-the-mount-ballymacarrett-areas/>.

If you are a community group in The Mount and Ballymacarrett areas of East Belfast and would like further information on the Communities in Transition Project, please contact Susan Glass, Project Coordinator, NICVA [susan.glass@nicva.org](mailto:susan.glass@nicva.org).

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### **Celebrating Befriending Week**

RNID celebrated Befriending Week (1-7 November) by saying a big thank you to all their Deaf Befriending volunteers who help older Deaf sign language users feel less isolated. Their volunteers support older Deaf people living in care homes or in the community, by providing comfort and support through regular video calls in sign language.

Sign language users in care homes are particularly at risk of isolation, as they are often the only sign language user in the home, and staff and other residents are unable to communicate with them fully. At a time when contact with friends and family is limited due to the ongoing pandemic, their volunteers' support is needed more than ever.

They asked their volunteers what befriending means to them, and compiled a short video to say thank you: <https://youtu.be/huNI2VpsAcE>.

To find out more information about the project please email [Mariette.mulvenna@rnid.org.uk](mailto:Mariette.mulvenna@rnid.org.uk).

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### **FREE Capacity Building Training Courses**

Volunteer Now are delivering a range of capacity building training courses to groups based in Belfast in the New Year. Workshops will be online and cover good governance, leadership, fundraising and programme planning – find out more here <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/free-capacity-building-training-courses/>. Sign up now by emailing [Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Community Engagement & Farming Fund 2020**

Applications are now invited to the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership Community Engagement & Farming Fund (CEFF). The fund is designed to help fund and implement exciting new project ideas that will reconnect people with their landscape; celebrating its built, natural and cultural history and heritage.

Further information, including grant eligibility, can be found on the Lough Erne Landscape Partnership website here [www.lelp.org.uk/2020-CEFF/](http://www.lelp.org.uk/2020-CEFF/). Appointments to discuss your application with a member of the team can be made by contacting [heather.gott@rspb.org.uk](mailto:heather.gott@rspb.org.uk) or 07738 116 385. Closing date for the current round of funding is **5pm on Friday 15 January 2021**.

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### **FREE Keeping Adults Safe Courses**

We have now schedule FREE Keeping Adults Safe training for staff and volunteers working with adults. These are refresher courses of Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers. Please click here to find out more <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/free-keeping-adults-safe-training/>.

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### **Be Collective Webinar**

Be Collective have made some improvements to the scheduling and rostering of opportunities and to support users they hosted a webinar titled Scheduling & Rostering – How Does It Work? It gave a detailed overview of how to use Be Collective's new features to manage volunteers and schedules more efficiently.

Don't worry if you missed it, it was recorded and is available to watch here - [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_T2MWjMIYTECWQbEg22zo\\_w](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_T2MWjMIYTECWQbEg22zo_w).

*Where to find out more about the changes to scheduling and rostering:*

- Coming soon – some of the benefits of the changes: <https://help.becollective.com/en/article/coming-soon-to-be-collective-scheduling-and-rostering>
  - How will the changes affect existing opportunities: <https://help.becollective.com/en/article/how-will-the-new-scheduling-and-rostering-features-affect-my-existing-opportunities>
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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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