

21 July 2021

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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 - <https://bit.ly/3n4meB9>

### **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](#).

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

#### **Mobilising Voluntary Action - [www.mvain4.uk/the-project/](http://www.mvain4.uk/the-project/)**

Volunteer Now is working with partners in England, Scotland and Wales on the Mobilising Voluntary Action Research Project. The project is led by Professor Irene Hardill at Northumbria University and is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. Across the UK the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the landscape of 'voluntary action'. This project reviews, analyses and evaluates the state-and non-state supported volunteer responses to the crisis. There is an imperative to understand how voluntary action is responding to pre-existing need, and need that has emerged during the crisis. The findings will help guide the UK volunteer effort to support the national recovery and preparedness for future crises. This study will allow for a better understanding of what worked well and what was less successful, and whether the learning is transferable and under what conditions/circumstances. To date in Northern Ireland, we have undertaken a survey and are in the process of analysing the results. There has also been a series of literature reviews and a UK wide public policy analysis. This week's mid project briefing gives a good overview of the steps so far. You can access a recording of the session here - <https://youtu.be/MzrWGsvPEVI>.

In addition, the project website gives access to a range of materials which have been produced by the project. A podcast on

**Paused Volunteering** looking at the impact on different kinds of volunteering and how the impact evolved during the pandemic, as well as plans for the future. You can hear from Lurgan and Malone Rugby Clubs, Aberdeen Arts Centre, the National Trust and Bangor Boys Brigade. You can access the podcast at this link [www.mvain4.uk/resource-details/episode-1-volunteering-paused-podcast/](http://www.mvain4.uk/resource-details/episode-1-volunteering-paused-podcast/). The podcast is great and well worth a listen!

## Denise Hayward

Chief Executive

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## On Demand Courses

Volunteer Now & Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd have brought all our on demand courses together on one page. You can find out more information on each of our On Demand Courses and register for any of them. Once registered, you can complete them in your own time, on any device, anywhere!

We launched Attracting & Selecting Volunteers in January and our NEW Managing & Motivating Volunteers course has just launched today. We also have a range of short safeguarding courses on demand. Keeping Adults Safe: See Something, Say Something and Keeping Children Safe: Reporting Concerns are suitable for staff and volunteers, and the general public. Keeping Children and Adults Safe: An Introduction for Management Committee Members is suitable for management committee members in organisations which deliver services or activities to children, young people and/or adults, and Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion Meeting the Requirements is suitable for managers, supervisors and management committee members 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. All the courses provide an introduction to safeguarding and could be used as part of an induction package for staff and volunteers. Further training should be provided following completion of these courses, the level required will be dependent on the role. The courses will also provide you with a taster of Volunteer Now's Keeping Safe training.

View our On Demand Courses here - <https://bit.ly/3hRf4PL>.

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## Online Training

With our new Training Schedule just released last month, we have plenty of courses on our calendar! Below are just a few of the sessions available. Or you can view our Full Training Calendar here - <https://bit.ly/3hRGFAo>.

- **VOLT Session: Diversity Within Your Volunteer Team** - 29 July 2021 | 11am-12.30pm | <https://bit.ly/372Cuvr>
  - **VOLT Session: Relaunching of Investing in Volunteers** - 19 Aug 2021 | 11am-12.30pm | <https://bit.ly/3BmGWD2>
  - **Leadership & Why It Matters** - 7 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/36ONGLO>
  - **Keeping Adults Safe: M2 Refresher** - 8 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/2UVPH6g>
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## Recognise The Volunteers That Make Our Communities Better

*Do you involve volunteers? Are they making an exceptional impact on a local community? You could be awarded a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service next year!*

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. It is the MBE for volunteer groups and is awarded for life.

It is awarded to exceptional groups of volunteers whose level of initiative and impact are truly exceptional. 169 volunteer groups currently hold the Award in Northern Ireland. A successful group will normally have the following characteristics:

- **Volunteer-led:** The volunteers are in the driving seat, setting the direction for the group's work and spotting opportunities to develop it still further each year.
- **Exceptional compared with comparable groups:** This group is likely to be one of the best of its kind in the country.
- **Making a considerable difference locally:** The initiative of this group and the efforts of its volunteers have changed the situation dramatically for its beneficiaries.

- Well-run: There are high standards of governance, financial management and safeguarding.
- Outstanding reputation locally: The group has a high standing in the community and has an excellent reputation with beneficiaries, service providers and others.

QAVS are only awarded to the very best of hundreds of nominations each year. This is a badge of excellence and a real achievement for a group. It provides a big boost to the volunteers as well as great publicity for their work. Visit the website <https://qavs.dcms.gov.uk/> to read about the eligibility requirements and get more information about this exciting Award.

Anyone can nominate a group, as long as they are not one of its employees or volunteers. Nominations can be submitted between April-September each year via the Award's website <https://qavs.dcms.gov.uk/>. Nominations are particularly encouraged from beneficiaries of a group's work, or from those who are not involved with the group but have observed and admired the results of their work.

The QAVS Team at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport administers the Award, and they will happily help with any queries. You can contact them at [queensaward@dcms.gov.uk](mailto:queensaward@dcms.gov.uk) or 0207 271 6206. Locally, the Representative for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in Northern Ireland is Sandra Adair, and she can be contacted at [qavs-ni@adairi.plus.com](mailto:qavs-ni@adairi.plus.com).

### **Nominations for the 2022 awards close on 15 September 2021.**

- Twitter: @queensawardvs
- Facebook: @queensawardforvoluntaryservice
- #QAVS2021

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### **Summer School**

Volunteer Now and Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd are delighted to announce our partnership with Halifax Foundation NI.

Halifax Foundation NI have funded us to deliver FREE, live sessions, recorded webinars and publications to provide added value to grant holders in receipt of grants provided to organisations by Halifax Foundation NI, and to those organisations with an annual income of less than £250k. We are offering free training and support to help them put in place procedures for effective best practice in volunteer management, the involvement of volunteers and other topics including fundraising, inclusion, diversity and much more.

We are launching this partnership and programme of FREE training with our Summer School, which consists of The 3R's of Volunteer Management: Recruit, Retain and Reward Volunteers, and Be Collective our volunteer recruitment and management platform that can provide a digital response to support your organisations and volunteers needs.

Download our flier for more details – <https://bit.ly/3wRIPFA>.

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### **Need Volunteers?**

Volunteer Now is planning a volunteer recruitment campaign so if you need volunteers now or in the near future, please join us as we encourage the wonderful public, who have given so much over the last year or more, to keep giving. You can gain the support of one of our Volunteering Support Officers or have a look at our website for more information - <https://bit.ly/3xSXMau>.

We are also seeking opportunities for groups of volunteers. So if you have an opportunity that would suit a team of employees or a group of individuals that they could undertake at their own venue please get in touch.

Please email [Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk) for the support of a Volunteering Support Officer or to talk us about group volunteering.

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### **July Upcycle: Footwear**

Reuse it all with St. Vincent De Paul

Did you know around 300 million pairs of shoes end up in landfill each year? Why not give your old footwear a new lease of life

by repurposing them?

1. **Upcycle** an old pair of shoes.
  2. **Share** your upcycled craft and ideas using #Recrafted4Vincents
  3. **Donate** your craft to your local Vincent's!
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### **Recognise Your Young Volunteers**

We launched the Volunteer Now Impact Awards on 2 June 2021 and since then we have been busy working with organisations as they embrace the new programme. We appreciate that it is a major departure from the Millennium Volunteers programme which recognised over 47,000 young people in its 20 years, however we look forward to working with you to recognise all 'young volunteers inspiring change' throughout Northern Ireland.

For more information and support please contact Nicola: [Nicola.reid@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Nicola.reid@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **IVCO 2021 Call For Speakers**

Forum and Action Aid Hellas, the hosts of IVCO 2021, are inviting proposals to speak in plenary and break out sessions at this year's conference on Inclusive Volunteering for Global Equality. At this year's IVCO, practitioners and researchers will explore the relationship between volunteering, inclusion and equality, and to improve the quality and impact of our work. The conference will take place virtually from 16-20 October 2021.

To learn more about IVCO 2021, please visit the conference website here <https://ivco2021.org/>.

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### **Free Online Training...**

*...for Voluntary & Community Groups in the Fermanagh & Omagh District Council area.*

- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: An Introduction | Wed 22 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm
- Keeping Children Safe: Communicating Online | Wed 6 Oct 2021 | 10am-11.30am
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers | Thurs 14 Oct 2021 | 10am-3pm
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Management Committee Members | Tues 19 Oct 2021 | 10am-12pm

Maximum 3 places per organisation per course. To book, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons:

[nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Maintaining The Mental Health & Wellbeing Of Your Volunteers**

We would like to highlight the Wellness Action Plan (WAP) as a way for Volunteer Managers / Organisations to support the mental health of their volunteers.

- The WAP is inspired by Mary Ellen Copeland's Wellness Recovery Action Plan® (WRAP®): an evidence based system used worldwide by people to manage their mental health.
- WAPs are a personalised, practical tool we can all use – whether we have a mental health problem or not – to help us identify what keeps us well at work, what causes us to become unwell and the support we would like to receive from our manager to boost our wellbeing or support us through a recovery.

You can read more on our new page in the Involving Volunteer section on Maintaining The Mental Health & Wellbeing of Your Volunteers - <https://bit.ly/2Tm7mn9>. It has links to download WAP templates and links for further information on mental health in Northern Ireland.

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### **EA Registered Group: FREE Training Session**

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

*Wednesday 25 August 2021 | 2pm-3.30pm (Zoom)*

As we move through the road map out of restrictions, and head toward post pandemic, we understand volunteering has changed

for volunteers and volunteer involving organisations.

Join Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd for a short session to look at volunteering as we travel through the road map towards post pandemic. What does the future hold in terms of recruitment, retention and recognition?

To find out more information or to register for the Zoom session, please contact the Youth Team on [youth@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:youth@volunteernow.co.uk).

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## **Vaccine Volunteering**

### **Managing and supporting volunteers at the Vaccination Centres**

*Andrew Hanna, Volunteer Now*

The team at Volunteer Now, British Red Cross and Ulster GAA have worked tirelessly to recruit, train and deploy 394 volunteers across the COVID-19 vaccination centres in Northern Ireland. It has been impactful hearing the motivations of volunteers to get involved, and there are some very powerful stories. Our volunteer team have taken on ambassadorial meet and greeter roles in the past at mega events e.g. Belfast City Marathon, Giro d'Italia, the 148th Open, so the current project is a very different one for us all.

When onsite at the vaccination centre to support volunteers, it is incredible to see how efficient and well organised procedures are – “like a well-oiled machine”. The volunteers play a pivotal role in this efficiency, and the partnership between Health & Social Care staff and volunteers has been particularly strong, with a really cohesive and friendly environment being developed over time. Their impact should not be understated, contributing over 32,000 volunteering hours to the vaccination rollout. There have been so many memorable examples of our volunteers receiving amazing feedback from visitors at the centre e.g. “Thanks for everything you do!”, “You have made my day!” and much more. We have even welcomed new volunteers to the team who signed up as they were inspired on their visit to get their vaccination.

To read the full Blog Post on the Mobilising UK Voluntary Action website click here - [www.mvain4.uk/news-story/vaccine-volunteering/](http://www.mvain4.uk/news-story/vaccine-volunteering/), including Volunteer Stories from Matthew Allen and Laura Crawford and Experiencing the Vaccination Centre from Dr Jane Gould and Professor Irene Hardill.

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## **Charity Boards Recognised for Good Leadership, Governance & Commitment**

The Leadership and Good Governance Awards, organised by VSB Foundation in partnership with Volunteer Now and CO3, celebrate voluntary organisations which are working hard to improve their governance.

At the Awards Presentation in the Titanic Hotel Belfast, three worthy organisations were recognised for winning the Leadership and Good Governance Awards within their categories. The organisations were:

- Nexus (Large Organisation)
- Relate (Medium Organisation) with Headliners as runner up
- University of Atypical (Small Organisation) with Replay Productions as runner up

The judging panel commended organisations for a commitment to diversity, collaboration and flexibility in a very challenging year. A number of these organisations had shown a strong commitment to developing their governance and building the resilience of the organisation against the backdrop of the pandemic. They recognised that success in operational delivery is built on strong governance.

Denise Hayward, Chief Executive, Volunteer Now said:

“Congratulations to all three organisations on winning this year’s Leadership and Good Governance Awards within their categories. It is great to see organisations prioritising the need for Leadership and Good Governance in a rapidly changing environment. Good governance enables charities to be able to deliver for their beneficiaries – well done to all the nominees.”

Nora Smith, CEO, CO3 commented:

“The Governance and Leadership Awards have substantially grown in profile. It is the perfect platform to recognise and reward leadership and good governance at Board level. Covid-19 has provided the sector with many challenges, the importance of good governance, and showcasing how robust governance structures ensure that charities can lead through a pandemic was clearly evident this year. We all know that charity governance makes a huge difference and by sharing examples of truly inspirational boards through these Awards it is fantastic recognition of their leadership, commitment and hard work.”

To find out more on Good Governance, please go to the Governance Section on our website here <https://bit.ly/3BjLkF> or go to [www.diycommitteeguide.org](http://www.diycommitteeguide.org).

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## Publication of the Month

### Writing Volunteer Opportunities - <https://bit.ly/3wVq0js>

As volunteer roles continue to be reintroduced, focus may be turning to promotion of roles and recruitment of new volunteers. There are a number of ways that we can assist with promotion, including our database (Be Collective). This publication acts as a guide for organisations when adding opportunities to the Be Collective system. You can create an account or login to Be Collective [here](#).

Please remember, if you would like to look at any of our other publications, these can be accessed [here](#).

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## IAVE Photo Competition

Show Us How You Volunteer!

IAVE want to continue highlighting the incredible work volunteers are doing around the world. Share with them your photos of volunteers in action to be featured on IAVE's website! Selected images will be featured on various pages of IAVE's new website with a caption about the organisation and the impact they are making through volunteering.

You can either upload your photos to Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #WatchMeVolunteer or email [jessica@iave.org](mailto:jessica@iave.org) with 'Photo Content Submission' as the subject line.

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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 e-newsletter called VTraining that includes all Volunteer Now training courses and workshops. To subscribe, please email [training@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto: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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