



newsletter

Summer 2021

Hi and welcome to Volunteer Now's new newsletter for volunteer involving groups in Northern Ireland. You're receiving this email as you are one of our partners on the Be Collective volunteer management platform.



In this newsletter we hope to give you some top tips on using Be Collective, details on any updates, etc, but don't forget that you can get help at any time from ...

- The [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) on our website
- Be Collective Help Centre - a full selection of topics and help videos (the link to the Help Centre is at the bottom left corner when signed in to your Be Collective account)
- Or contact Volunteer Now and one of our team can support you - just email info@volunteernow.co.uk for assistance

Building Our Community

Since we launched in January 2020 nearly 6,000 individuals have registered with us (on Be Collective) to find their perfect volunteering opportunity and others have found their way to you through our staff team. Over 350 organisations have registered with us to promote their opportunities with over 900 opportunities. Thank you for working with us throughout a very unsettling and uncertain time. We have had many fantastic comments about the platform from organisations and volunteers alike, as well as some suggestions as to how it could be amended to meet your needs. These suggestions have been shared with the Be Collective team.

We've also been listening to members and hear the need for further volunteers to support your organisations. In light of this Volunteer Now are planning a recruitment campaign towards the end of the summer so we encourage you to work with us to ensure you have all your opportunities on and ready!

Get a wider audience!

When you upload your opportunity to the Be Collective platform, you can share your opportunity with Volunteer Now and then it will also show on the opportunity search on www.volunteernow.co.uk



View our [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) for details on how to share your opportunity.

We can also give an extra push on our social media for any opportunity that you have uploaded to Be Collective and shared with Volunteer Now - just email lynne.jardine@volunteernow.co.uk along with any photos you want us to use (optional).

You do have the option to restrict your opportunity only to **existing members of your own group** on Be Collective (eg if you had limited places and wanted to offer the opportunity only to your own members) you can select this on the last step of uploading your details - 'yes' is the standard default as most groups will want their opportunity to reach as many folk as possible.

Note, if you choose to restrict your opportunity then please don't share it with Volunteer Now as it will come through to the opportunity search on our website!

Can everyone on Be Collective apply for this opportunity?

No Yes

Processing volunteer registrations

One of the benefits for volunteers using the Be Collective platform is that they can see their volunteering hours accumulate and can keep a record of their volunteering activities through their [Social CV](#).

For this reason it is important when a volunteer registers for your opportunity that you then process it. When you receive a notification that you have a volunteer registration, you have several options that you can choose so you always know what stage the application is at...

- Pending
- Reviewing
- Background checks
- Interviewing
- Pre-approved

A screenshot of a volunteer's 'Social CV' profile. The profile is for Rhea Ryan, a volunteer from London, England. It shows a circular profile picture of a woman with curly hair. Below the name, it says 'VOLUNTEER SOCIAL RESUME'. There are fields for location ('London, England'), phone number ('+447777777777'), and email ('bosuted-r@gmail.com'). At the bottom, it displays '48 VOLUNTEER HOURS'. To the right, there is a 'VOLUNTEERING' table with columns for Date, Hours, and Opportunity. The table lists three entries: February 2021 (ongoing) with 4 hours for Social Media Volunteer, January 2021 (ongoing) with 30 hours for Local Sports Coach Volunteer, and January 2021 (ongoing) with 14 hours for River Clean-Up Volunteer. Below the table is an 'ABOUT ME' section with a short bio and a 'SKILLS / EXPERIENCE' section listing 'Experience: Interactive/Social Media/SEO' and 'Unverified: Advocacy, Dog walking'.

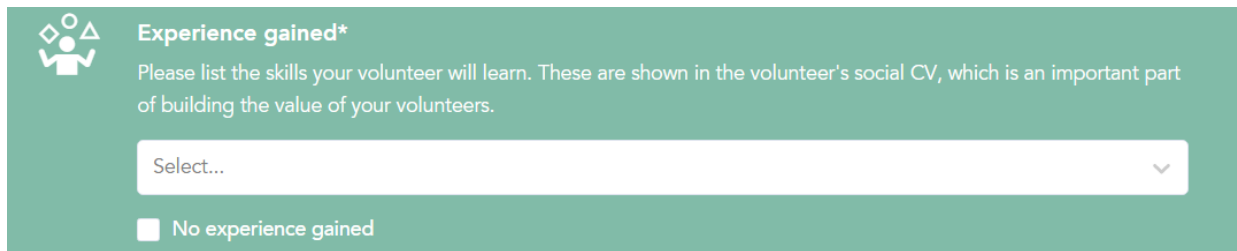
Then, once you have been through your recruitment process, you can either accept or decline the volunteer.

Please note, both these options will trigger an automated email from Be Collective so please make sure your applicant knows in advance of your decision.

Find out more at <https://help.becollective.com/en/article/how-do-i-review-volunteer-applications-9727369>

New skills categories on Be Collective

When adding a volunteering opportunity you are asked to select what experience/skills it relates to ...



The screenshot shows a green form section titled "Experience gained*" with a person icon. Below the title is a text box with the instruction: "Please list the skills your volunteer will learn. These are shown in the volunteer's social CV, which is an important part of building the value of your volunteers." Below this is a dropdown menu with "Select..." and a downward arrow. At the bottom of the section is a checkbox labeled "No experience gained".

These skills show up on the volunteer's Social CV record, but also relate to the search fields on Volunteer Now's [opportunity search](#), so you should only select those that are relevant to the actual opportunity. A few new skills have recently been added

- Advice & guidance
- Community development
- Driving
- Editing
- Event support
- Fundraising
- Gardening/grounds maintenance
- General administration
- General maintenance/DIY

We are aware there are a lot of skills to choose from! This is because Be Collective is a worldwide platform and is used by both volunteer involving groups and employers. For a full list, please see Appendix 1 of the [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) on our website where skills have been split into categories for easy reference.

New Causes categories on Be Collective

The following 'Causes' have also just been added to the Be Collective platform:

- Community
- Food insecurity
- Justice
- Older People

These can now be selected by groups when setting up or editing their groups, can be added to an opportunity, and selected as search criteria by volunteers.

Should I 'close' or 'end' an opportunity?

OK, so you have an opportunity listed on Be Collective and have either filled it or maybe the opportunity is no longer available, what do you do next?

Option 1 - your opportunity is still ongoing, existing volunteers are still doing the work and still accruing their volunteering hours, but you don't need any additional volunteers, or you want to review your volunteer applications before accepting any more...

Edit your opportunity, go to stage 3 "Application" then either 'Pause Application' (this can be resumed at any time) or change the application close date (once the system reaches your close date it will no longer display on the platform)

View the help item: [how to close/pause an opportunity](#)

Option 2 - the role has ceased to exist, volunteers will no longer be doing this work. In this case you don't want volunteers to still be accruing volunteering hours...

Edit your opportunity and select 'end opportunity'. View the help item: [how to end an opportunity](#)



Recognise your young volunteers through the Volunteer Now Impact Awards

On 2nd June 2021 Volunteer Now said goodbye to the Millennium Volunteers programme and launched the Volunteer Now Impact Awards. These Awards follow the hourly recognition of the MV programme but will be delivered through the Be Collective platform.



Young people volunteering with yourselves can ask to become a member of the Impact Awards group - as long as they have the settings changed so that they can share their hours we will be able to recognise them for their commitment with you. The certificates will pop into their personal profile and Social CV on Be Collective.

If you would like further information please contact Nicola.reid@volunteernow.co.uk

Information Sessions for Volunteer Organisers

We hold VOLT sessions usually every month or so, during the pandemic restrictions these have all been online. VOLT sessions address topics that those working with volunteers want to hear more about. All events are **free** although you need to register your interest.

Our next session covers the topic: **Diversity Within Your Volunteer**



Team and will be held on Thursday 29 July from 11am-12.30pm.

If you'd like to come along please book your place for the online session [here](#)

You can view some recordings of previous sessions on our website [here](#). And feel free to give us a shout if you have a topic you think would be useful to other volunteer organisers in a future session!

Email Sandra on sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk

Employer Supported Volunteering

Does your organisation have any opportunities that might be suitable for [Employer Supported Volunteering](#)? These are normally one-off group opportunities over a half or full day that employers can use as part of their corporate social responsibility, team building, etc.

In the past, groups have undertaken tasks such as painting and decorating a room, clearing and planting a community garden, litter picks, and much more!

If you would like to offer an ESV opportunity, please contact us at info@volunteernow.co.uk and we'll be in touch to get more details.



Keep Informed!

Volunteer Now have other newsletters that you might find useful..

- **VConnect** - a roundup of general information useful to volunteer involving groups
- **VTraining** - details of training sessions offered by Volunteer Now

You can sign up for both newsletters either at the bottom of any page [on our website](#) or sign up as a [member](#) and you'll receive both too.

If you just want VTraining – email training@volunteernow.co.uk with your details and we'll add you to the mailing list.

Get social with us!

We love it when you interact with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!



www.volunteernow.co.uk

[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.