

15 September 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](#).

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

#### **Learning from Today Prepared for Tomorrow**

Volunteer Now is hosting a major volunteering conference on the 2 December 2021. We know that volunteers have been at the forefront of the response to Covid. However, volunteer involving organisations have had to change what they do and how they involve volunteers to adapt to Covid restrictions. The pandemic has changed how many people think about volunteering and we need to learn lessons from the past so that we can prepare to involve volunteers in the future.

The conference will be the first opportunity to hear the findings from the UK-wide Mobilising Voluntary Action research on the impact of the pandemic on volunteering. Join us as we hear from leading experts from across the world. For the programme, please click here - <https://bit.ly/VNConferenceProgDec21>. To book your place, please click here - <https://bit.ly/VNConferenceDec21>.

**Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

**Online Training**

We have plenty of courses for the forthcoming year 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>.

- **Leadership & Working With Teams - 21 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3lmmCdl>**
- **Leadership & Dealing With Conflict - 23 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/2VAZrDB>**
- **Inclusion & Diversity = Equity & Equality Session 1: Decide & Involve - 28 Sept 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/3hurPix>**
- **Keeping Adults Safe: M2 Refresher - 30 Sept 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3lngi5A>**

View our On Demand Courses here - courses available any time, on any device, anywhere - <https://bit.ly/3hRf4PL>.

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## **AGM**

You are warmly invited to Volunteer Now's AGM:

Date: **Thursday 16 September 2021**

Time: **3.00pm**

Location: **Skainos Centre, Belfast or Zoom**

The papers can be downloaded here (<https://bit.ly/2XA7RvK>) and included are:

- Agenda of the meeting
- Minutes from the last meeting
- Notice of AGM
- Proxy voting form

Please RSVP to [nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk), indicating if you would prefer to attend in person or via Zoom.

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## **Inclusion & Diversity = Equity & Equality NEW Courses**

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd introduces another series of new courses! Working in partnership with [JoinHer](#), we bring you a series of four 2-hour sessions on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Equality. Attend all four sessions to gain new knowledge and experience.

- Is your organisation inclusive and managed in a way that encourages the involvement of and is welcoming to a wide range of people?
- Is there a proactive approach to increasing volunteer diversity, addressing under-representation, and including targeted groups as part of your organisation's overall inclusion, equity and diversity aims?
- Is your information about volunteering opportunities made as widely available as possible using a range of methods and is there active engagement with a diverse range of people?

Join us over the four sessions to explore and learn new and creative ways to increase INCLUSION in your Volunteer Projects or Volunteer Team.

### **Session 1: Decide & Involve**

*What decisions involve everyone in your organisation?*

Tuesday 28 September 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/3hurPix>

### **Session 2: Variety & Education**

*There is more than one solution for your organisation*

Tuesday 26 October 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/3Ak3u6g>

### **Session 3: Research & Strategy**

*Take time to investigate & plan for your organisation*

Tuesday 23 November 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/392FTex>

### **Session 4: Invest Together Yearly**

### Do You Know A Young Person Leading Change?

In partnership with UK Youth, Volunteering Matters, YouthLink Scotland and the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action, Volunteer Now is recruiting for our next cohort of ambassadors, ready to lead the movement of young people (10-25 years) driving change in their communities.

#iwill is a UK-wide movement helping more young people make a difference in their communities through social action. This includes activities like campaigning, fundraising, volunteering, befriending or mentoring. When young people take part in social action, everyone benefits. Young people benefit because they build their skills, confidence and wellbeing. Communities do too, because they are healthier, more cohesive and more integrated.

We're looking for young people who know how good it feels to make a difference and want to share that with others. What matters is that you're passionate about what you believe in and want to join with others to get your message out. Ben is one of our #iwill ambassadors and has raised thousands of pounds for local charities over the years and even got into the Guinness Book of World Records!! See his pics and videos here - <https://bit.ly/3EcVFSt>.

You can nominate a young person or, if you are a young person, you can apply yourself!! It's easy to do and for more information visit: <https://www.iwill.org.uk/were-recruiting-iwill-ambassadors>.

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### Review of Youth Volunteering in Northern Ireland

Volunteer Now are seeking an appropriately qualified and experienced individual or consortium of individuals to undertake a review of youth volunteering in Northern Ireland.

This work is required to shape programme development within Volunteer Now and to help inform policy development at a regional level. For more information, please download the Tender Application Pack - <https://bit.ly/3A74Otl>. Submission date is **2.00pm on 21 September 2021**.

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### Free Training Courses

*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. Find out more information here: <https://bit.ly/FreeFOSafeguardingTrg>. To book for any of the sessions, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons: [nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk).

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*Are you an organisation with an **income of less than £250k**? Then we can offer you a free place on the training below, in partnership with Halifax Foundation NI!*

- **The New Environment: Volunteers & the Law** | Wed 6 Oct OR Thurs 4 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm  
\* 10 Free places available on a first come, first served basis.
- **Fundraising for the Future** | Wed 13 Oct 2021 | 10am-12pm  
\* 25 Free places available on a first come, first served basis.
- **Working With Remote Volunteers** | Wed 27 Oct 2021 | 10am-12pm  
\* 25 Free places available on a first come, first served basis.

- **Valuing Volunteers: Review OR Create Your Volunteer Policy Workshop** | Tues 9 Nov 2021 OR Tues 15 Feb 2022  
| 10am-1pm  
\* 20 Free places available on a first come, first served basis.

Find out more information here <https://bit.ly/3za1gVT> or here <https://bit.ly/3hsr7IW>. To book a place for any of the sessions, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons: [nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk).

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Volunteer Now are delivering a range of FREE capacity building training courses to groups based in the **Belfast City Council** area.

- **Leading The Way - Governance** | Tue 5 Oct OR Mon 1 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm
- **Managing Change** | Mon 18 Oct OR Mon 8 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm
- **Risk Management** | Mon 25 Oct (10am-12pm) OR Wed 17 Nov 2021 (9.30-11.30am)
- **Programme & Project Planning** | Thur 28 Oct (10am-12pm) OR Thur 18 Nov (2-4pm) OR Tues 7 Dec 2021 (2-4pm)
- **Digital Inclusion** | Mon 13 Dec 2021 | 10am-12pm

Find out more information here: <https://bit.ly/3k6WK6o>. Sign up for any of the sessions by contacting Deborah Kyburz: [deborah.kyburz@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:deborah.kyburz@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Holding Onto Hope In A Changing World**

The five Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland have joined forces with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) to deliver a Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Campaign to encourage everyone to hold on to hope, to nurture our mental wellbeing and to raise awareness of the local and national services that are available to help when times are tough.

'Holding On To Hope in a Changing World' is a five-week social media campaign which links World Suicide Prevention Day on 10th September to World Mental Health Day on 10th October. The interactive campaign pack features a Hope Quiz to help you reflect on how hopeful you are today. Your score will direct you to tips, information and resources that can help, including:

- Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing
- Self-Care tips
- Helplines information
- Self-help resources
- Training on mental health
- Information on techniques such as gratitude, mindfulness and challenging negative thoughts.
- Downloadable poster and email strap

*Want to get involved?*

You can help to get these messages of hope out to your local community by:

- Sharing social media posts
- Downloading the pack and displaying the poster in your office/community
- Adding the email strap to your signature
- Sharing the pack with your friends, family and colleagues

The campaign and social media schedule will run from 6 September – 10 October. Campaign materials will be hosted on the [MindingYourHead.info](https://www.mindingyourhead.info) website and the PHA and Trusts' social media channels will feature key messages during the course of the campaign.

Campaign posts will predominately be scheduled on Mondays and Thursdays of each week using the hashtag #holdingontohope21. You can post, share and retweet from 6 September.

The campaign is being supported by the Mental Health Champion, Inspire, Department of Health and Health & Social Care

Board. We hope you'll take part in the campaign and share it across your social media channels and with contacts. Follow PHA channels: Facebook/publichealthagency | Twitter – @publichealthNI | Instagram – publichealthNI

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### **Volunteer Now Impact Awards**

As you are aware, we said goodbye to the Millennium Volunteer Programme in June when we launched the Volunteer Now Impact Awards with the support of our youth forum. The Volunteer Now Impact Awards gives you the opportunity to recognise all young volunteers from the age of 11 to 25 for their commitment. We still have the 50, 100 and 200 hour awards but have the ability to increase these depending on the demand and we have already seen young volunteers who achieved their 200 Hour Awards of Excellence seeking further recognition! Your opportunities need to be on our system and young people registered against them. Once registered, they can join the Volunteer Now Impact Awards group and simply watch their hours grow and their certificates arrive!

We have produced guidance for young volunteers detailing how to create their profile, register and join: <https://bit.ly/2Xn8Xv5>.

If you would like any support to create your group and support your volunteers, please contact: [youth@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:youth@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### **Got An Opportunity Suitable For An Employer?**

From time to time, Volunteer Now seeks requests from employers who wish to do a group volunteering opportunity. If you have an opportunity that you think would be ideal for a group, could be outdoors or something they could do from their place of work, please email [jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk).

One organisation's experience: "*Excellent day, staff were so helpful and we would be keen to do it again!*"

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### **Kenn Allen Global Award for Volunteer Leadership**

In honor of the lifetime contribution to the global volunteer sector, IAVE have instituted the Kenn Allen Global Award to recognize an individual whose volunteer leadership has had a transformative effect on their community, country or region.

The Award will provide a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to be used for professional development. The Award will be made annually on 1 November, Kenn Allen's birthday.

Nominations for this year's award must be made by 5.00pm ET on 30 September 2021. To learn more about the criteria and to nominate a colleague, please click here [www.iave.org/kenn-allen-award/](http://www.iave.org/kenn-allen-award/).

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### **VOLT Session: Recognising Volunteers- Campaigns & More**

Thursday 30 September 2021 | 11am-12.30pm

Whether it is a 'Thank You', chocolates or an invitation to a glitzy event, our volunteers are worthy of recognition.

Join us for this session as we place a focus on how we recognise the time, energy and commitment of our volunteers, whether it is during a campaign e.g. Volunteers' Week, Thank You Day, Student Volunteers Week or International Volunteers Day, or in your own way. We'll share unique and interesting methods to thank you volunteers.

Book your place here: <https://bit.ly/37xLU1U>.

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### **The Health & Disability Green Paper: Consultation Response**

Would you be interested in supporting us as we pull together our organisational response to: 'Shaping future support: the health and disability green paper'?

This paper explores how the benefit system can better meet the needs of disabled people and those with long-term health conditions. To read more information about the consultation, click here: <https://bit.ly/2XcKrMS>.

If you would like to share, discuss or assist us and inform our response, please email Andrew Hanna (Research and Information Officer): [Andrew.hanna@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:Andrew.hanna@volunteernow.co.uk).

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## Publication of the Month

### Learning From Today, Prepared For Tomorrow: Mid-Project Publication - <https://bit.ly/3C6QKjZ>

As you may know, we have been working in partnership on a research project investigating the UK-wide volunteering response to the pandemic. We have pulled together a mid-project publication which underlines some key outcomes from the research to date.

Keep your eyes peeled, as the final report will be published in the next few months.

Please remember, if you would like to look at any of our other publications, these can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/3m8zAhf>.

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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).

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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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