



newsletter

Autumn 2021

Hi and welcome to Volunteer Now's quarterly 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

You can also access our previous newsletter which contains useful info on how to process volunteer registrations, skills categories updates and more at <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/involving-volunteers/>

Volunteer Now's Conference

Our major online volunteer conference takes place on **Thursday 2 December 2021**. Have you got your ticket yet?

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. We will hear from leading experts from across the world, including Scott Millar, CEO, Volunteering Victoria. The conference will also be the first opportunity to hear the findings from the UK-wide Mobilising Voluntary Action research on the impact of the pandemic on volunteering.



You can view the programme for the day and book your place at

Christmas Volunteering Opportunities

Does your group have volunteering opportunities with a festive vibe? Many volunteers are especially keen to help on the run up to Christmas (and we sometimes get enquiries from volunteers wanting to help on Christmas Day itself!) If you have any opportunities you need volunteers to help with, please upload them to your account on Be Collective and make sure you share them with Volunteer Now.



****Please use the words **Christmas** or **#ChristmasTIME** in your opportunity description somewhere as we will be encouraging volunteers to use those keywords when searching for opportunities****

Don't forget we have a [step-by-step guide](#) on our website on how to use your Be Collective account - if you need any assistance feel free to give us a shout on info@volunteernow.co.uk or phone 028 9023 2020 and one of our team can get back to you.

Top Tips for advertising your opportunities


Our number 1 top tip is to keep it simple but to make sure you've told the volunteer what their role is! Have a read of your opportunity and just imagine you'd never heard of your group and you'd never volunteered before. Would you know what you would actually be doing in this role? It's also a great idea to tell the volunteer what impact their volunteering will have.



The first few lines are the ones that potential volunteers will read first, so keep it catchy and grab their attention.

Remember to state any training and support information. For example, info on expenses, training opportunities, taster sessions etc. Also state if you have a minimum age and if an Access NI check is required.

Have you tagged your opportunity correctly? Volunteers have the option to use filters when they're searching, so make sure your opportunity is in the right category - you can choose more than one **if relevant**. See the full list on Appendix 1 of our [Step-by-Step guide](#) (*there are a lot to choose from as this is a world wide platform used by both volunteer involving groups and employers*)

 **Experience gained***
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.

Communication Skills x Elder Care x

No experience gained

Is your opportunity 'live'?

To see the status of any of your volunteering opportunities, go to your group management page on Be Collective and click the Opportunities tab. You can see at a glance which opportunities are open, paused or closed, along with your stated closing date.



If you need to amend any, click 'edit' under your opportunity title.

Please note: You don't receive a reminder alert when your closing date is approaching, so we recommend you set yourself a reminder to periodically check your opportunity status.

Volunteer Now Impact Awards

Involving young volunteers and would like to recognise them for their commitment?

All they need to do is to join the Volunteer Now Impact Awards group on Be Collective, share their hours and then we will process their Awards once they have reached the milestones. At the minute these are 50, 100 and 200 hours but we can increase these depending on demand. Their certificates come to them directly, appear in their social cv and they can download, print and save as they wish!

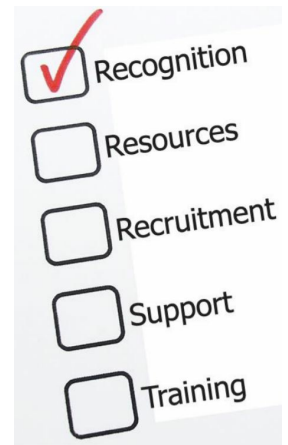


Find out more at www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/youth-volunteering/young-volunteers/

Health Check

Volunteer Now can provide your organisation with a FREE “Health Check” in relation to your volunteer management practice. By using the Investing in Volunteers framework, a trained assessor will benchmark your organisation against the standard and provide you with a development plan clearly outlining any areas for improvement/ gaps in practice and signposting to where you could get help to address them. All you have to do is answer a few questions, then sit back and await the diagnosis!

Health Checks are free for organisations with income under £100,000 based in Belfast, Fermanagh, Newry, Mourne and Down, Armagh, Dungannon, North Down & Ards, Lisburn & Castlereagh, Antrim & Newtownabbey, Mid & East Antrim.



Information Sessions for Volunteer Organisers at the

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 online sessions are...

- ▶ Fundraising for Volunteering - Thurs 18 Nov 2021, 11am-12.30pm
- ▶ Adult Safeguarding Developments in Northern Ireland - Thurs 25 Nov 2021, 2-3pm

For more info and to register click [here](#).

You can also view some recordings of previous sessions on our website [here](#). And if you have a topic you think would be useful to other volunteer organisers in a future session please email sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk

Spotlighting an Organisation

Volunteer Now would like to shine a spotlight on our organisations who are brilliant at involving volunteering, promoting opportunities and providing meaningful roles that make a difference in the community.

If you would like to be spotlighted then please email Jane: jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk and we will be in touch.



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 or complete the [contact form](#) on our website 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

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