

18 November 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

We are coming closer to International Volunteers Day on 5 December and to Volunteer Now's conference on 2 December. We are so pleased with the line up of speakers and are looking forward to hear how organisations across the world, locally and the rest of the UK have involved volunteers over the past months. We will also be hearing about the final report from the UK wide Mobilising Volunteering research, led by the University of Northumbria on the impact of the pandemic on volunteering.

I look forward to seeing you on 2 December. To book, 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>.

- Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Refresher Training - 22 Nov 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3wPDQWn>

- Inclusion & Diversity = Equity & Equality Session 3: Research & Strategy - 23 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/392FTex>
- Supporting The Wellbeing Of Your Volunteers - 24 Nov 2021 | 2-3pm | <https://bit.ly/3wOHZcU>
- The New Environment: Support & Supervision of Volunteers - 25 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/3wSDVbV>
- Looking After Your Wellbeing As A Volunteer - 30 Nov 2021 | 12.30-1.30pm | <https://bit.ly/3kGwuQ8>

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

Does Your Group Have Festive Volunteering Opportunities?

Does your group have volunteering opportunities with a festive vibe that you need volunteers to help with? Many folk are especially keen to volunteer in the run up to Christmas (and even want to help on Christmas Day itself!)

If you do have any opportunities you need additional 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 (<https://bit.ly/3x4lhwJ>) 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 028 9023 2020 and one of our team will get back to you.

Revised Code of Good Governance Launched

The 3rd edition of the Code of Good Governance has been launched by Nicole Lappin, Chief Charity Commissioner on 2 November 2021.

The Code of Good Governance (<https://bit.ly/3HttKiQ>) is a voluntary set of standards on good governance practice for the boards of voluntary and community organisations produced by the Developing Governance Group. The pocket-sized booklet of earlier editions of the Code has been widely distributed to all types of boards in the sector.

This latest edition of the Code, which was consulted on in late 2019, has been revised to make the principles clearer and includes more recommended practice within the principles to help Trustees see the expected standards more easily.

Thanks to funding from the Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland, the Developing Governance Group will republish the revised Code of Good Governance in booklet form (available from the end of November) and will redevelop the DIY Committee Guide website (www.diycommitteeguide.org) along with a revised healthcheck which should be launched next year.

Free Wellbeing Workshops

Volunteer Now would like to support volunteer managers and volunteers to learn how to manage their mental health and overall sense of wellbeing. We are offering free workshops to organisations and volunteers, where you can learn how to use practical tools, such as the Wellness Action Plan (WAP) to help you take ownership of your own mental health and support your volunteers to do the same.

These workshops will be delivered between November 2021 and January 2022 across the Belfast, Southern, Western and South Eastern Health Trust areas and are open to all volunteer-involving organisations and volunteers.

If you manage and support volunteers and would like to learn how to support their wellbeing whilst volunteering, or you are a volunteer who has found your role challenging over the last year, please get in touch! Contact us on 028 9023 2020 or Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk to find out more and register for the following courses.

Supporting The Wellbeing Of Your Volunteers: 24 November – 2-3pm OR 18 January 2022 – 10-11am

Looking After Your Wellbeing As A Volunteer: 30 November – 12.30-1.30pm OR 25 January 2022 – 12-1pm.

Harkin International Disability Summit

Belfast International Conference Centre, Belfast | 7-8 June 2022

Following the success of the Harkin International Disability Employment Summit in Iowa in 2021, The Harkin Institute can't wait to bring the Summit to Belfast, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive's Department for Communities.

Harkin Belfast 2022 will provide a platform for individuals and organisations to challenge for change, celebrate and share success, and positively reframe the narrative on how we approach, support and enable persons with disabilities to achieve their career goals and aspirations.

Call for Expressions of Interest

For the first time, leaders and activists at all levels globally, are invited to develop and submit expressions of interest for items they want to deliver as part of this exciting two-day summit. You bring the content, they'll provide the platform.

Under the headline theme of 'Disability: Shaping, Growing and Driving Economic Change', creative minds are invited to come forward with content applications in the form of Key Note Speakers, Presentations & Showcases, Panel Discussions and Workshops under a range of sub-themes:

- Nurturing the next generation of disabled innovators
- Say THE word!: Mainstreaming disability in the diversity and inclusion agenda
- How can government get it right?
- Innovating through a pandemic: New opportunities
- Still taboo: Disability in the media, communications and corporate imagery
- Data that drives change

Click here (<https://bit.ly/3Dpqv9z>) to express your interest. Please respond by 5pm on 19 November 2021.

Join Our Youth Conference Planning Group

Does your organisation offer volunteering opportunities or are you aged 14-25 and volunteering yourself? We want to hear from you!

We'd love you to be part of our Planning Group and maybe have a role to play in our Conference (see below) that is taking place via Zoom on Wednesday 8 December 2021 at 6-8pm.

We can meet once a week for two hours to plan the layout and roles. This is a great opportunity to showcase the great work that you do as an organization and for young people who volunteer to tell their story of their experiences and help us all shape volunteering to be more meaningful to all those who recognise its benefits and create the possibilities for others.

For more information or to register your interest, please contact Deirdre.Gallagher@volunteernow.co.uk or 07850 851812 before 5pm on Monday 22 November 2021.

Volunteer Now Youth Conference

Join us for our regional youth conference with the theme: The Opportunities & Challenges to Meaningful Youth Volunteering for 14-25 Year Olds.

This conference will be suitable for any youth, community groups and organisations in Northern Ireland who are registered with the Education Authority, and their young volunteers.

The conference takes place via Zoom on Wednesday 8 December 2021 from 6-8pm. Click here (<https://bit.ly/3FpTLOd>) to register your place before 1 December 2021. For more details, contact Deirdre.Gallagher@volunteernow.co.uk.

Together we can support meaningful youth volunteering now and in the future.

Joint Forum

Volunteer Now has an elected place on the Joint Forum and seeks to represent volunteering issues on the Forum. The Joint Forum is made up of representatives from the Government (known as the Public Sector Group) and the Voluntary and Community Sector (known as the Voluntary and Community Sector Panel). It was established in October 1998 with the purpose of promoting regular dialogue between the voluntary and community sector and government departments.

Please click here (<https://bit.ly/3CfCq8E>) for details of the latest meeting of the Forum. If you would like to raise any issues with the Forum, please do not hesitate to get in touch: Denise.Hayward@volunteernow.co.uk.

Youth Governance - Jump On Board!

Volunteer Now have organised a session to provide training to young people in youth governance, an overview of the role and responsibilities of boards/management committees and it will equip them with sufficient knowledge and understanding of how to play an active role in charity governance.

It is about supporting succession planning, giving you all you need to know to be the next and future generation of Management Committee Members, Trustees and Directors.

To register for the session on **9 December 2021 at 10am-12pm**, please click here <https://bit.ly/3wR8XAC>.

November VOLT Session

We have arranged another VOLT Session on 25 November 2021:

- Adult Safeguarding Developments in Northern Ireland - Thurs 25 Nov 2021 | 2-3pm | <https://bit.ly/3aSt1ZI>

Free Training Courses

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

- **Programme & Project Planning** | 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.

*For Voluntary & Community Groups in the **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council** area.*

- **Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers** | Fri 19 Nov 2021 | 10am-3pm
- **Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Management Committee Members** | Thurs 25 Nov 2021 | 10am-12pm
- **Keeping Children Safe: Communicating Online** | Tues 30 Nov 2021 | 10am-11.30am
- **Keeping Children & Adults Safe: An Introduction** | Tues 14 Dec 2021 | 10am-1pm

Maximum 3 places per organisation per course. Find out more information here: <https://bit.ly/3AVCXvH>. To book for any of the sessions, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons: nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk.

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

- **Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management of Staff & Volunteers** | Wed 8 Dec 2021 | 10am-12.30pm

Maximum 3 places per organisation per course. Find out more information here: <https://bit.ly/3nn5Wow>. To book for any of the sessions, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons: nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk.

Publication of the Month

Directory of Befriending Services - <https://bit.ly/3bGmscJ>

Earlier this month we celebrated Befriending Week – an opportunity to celebrate and raise awareness of the impact that befriending can have on individuals and communities. Befriending was an especially vital volunteer role throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to combat social isolation.

This publication has been produced by Volunteer Now, in collaboration with The Befriending Network NI. The Directory is a tool for health professionals, organisations, families and individuals when looking for support services for vulnerable people in their community or care.

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

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.

Submit your Article

If you have volunteering related news, events, publications etc. to share, email 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.

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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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