



8 December 2021

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

[Online Training](#)

[Does Your Group Have Festive Volunteering Opportunities?](#)

[Are You Winter Ready?](#)

[Redevelopment of DIY Committee Guide Website](#)

[Free Wellbeing Workshops](#)

[Free Training Courses](#)

[Publication of the Month](#)

### **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***

Last week Volunteer Now hosted our conference, Learning from today, prepared for tomorrow. It was a fascinating event with brilliant speakers from across the UK and further afield. My reflections on the learning from the event are that we have been living through a period of seismic change for volunteering. New people have come in to volunteering, long-term volunteers have stepped back, new roles have been developed and other roles have ceased, we are navigating a digital world and that has impacted on volunteering too. However, despite all of this change, the event left me with a real hope for the future of volunteering and a few key take-away messages which I wanted to share with you. These are:

- We need to start with the volunteer and work backwards - focus on the person -their experience and needs, and create the systems to support them.
- They are not 'our' volunteers, we are their organisation.
- Organisations need to invest in the technology they will need in 10 years time.
- Finally, volunteering, which is positive, flexible and inclusive, will thrive!

You can watch some of the presentations from the event here (*available from Wednesday afternoon*) -

[www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/conference-2021/](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/conference-2021/).

I hope you will all enjoy the Christmas break and we look forward to working with all our members again in 2022!

## **Denise Hayward**

Chief Executive

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### **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: Module 2 Refresher - 14 Dec 2021 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3Et4t6k>
- Leadership & Why It Matters - 11 Jan 2022 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/31oFEud>
- Keeping Adults Safe: Module 2 Refresher - 18 Jan 2022 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/31BE9lx>
- Supporting The Wellbeing Of Your Volunteers - 18 Jan 2022 | 10-11am | <https://bit.ly/31DeSxC>

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

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### **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](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk) or 028 9023 2020 and one of our team will get back to you.

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### **Are You Winter Ready?**

At National Energy Action ([NEA NI](#)) we are concerned that higher energy prices, reduced incomes, and leaky, inefficient housing could put many households in Northern Ireland at increased risk of fuel poverty this coming winter. These increases come at a time when many household budgets are already stretched thin.

**However, at NEA we know that some simple changes to day-to-day activities could make big differences to household bills.** We have created a **10 Top Tips** leaflet, with energy-saving tips that everybody can implement. You can download it here - <https://bit.ly/3orZ6yR>.

To assist households, NEA are providing FREE Energy Efficiency workshops across Northern Ireland. We can deliver these sessions via webinar or face to face.

We are also running an Introduction to Domestic Energy Efficiency Webinar which is designed to provide a basic introduction to domestic energy efficiency for frontline staff, providing householders with energy efficiency advice.

For further information on the workshops or webinar, please contact Nichola MacDougall, NEA NI Training Officer: [Nichola.MacDougall@nea.org.uk](mailto:Nichola.MacDougall@nea.org.uk) or 028 9023 9909.

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### **Redevelopment of DIY Committee Guide Website**

Volunteer Now are seeking an appropriately qualified and experienced individual or consortium of individuals to undertake the

redevelopment of [www.diycommitteeguide.org](http://www.diycommitteeguide.org), the online governance resource, working closely with the Developing Governance Group and staff at Volunteer Now. Content for the site will be separately redeveloped.

This work is required to ensure that the website has been updated to match the content of the updated Code of Good Governance and to ensure that the site is secure, user-friendly and works on laptops, desktops and mobile devices.

For more information, you can download the Tender Application Pack here - <https://bit.ly/3xZYT97>. Submission date is **2.00pm on 22 December 2021**.

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### 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](mailto:Sandra.faulkner@volunteernow.co.uk) to find out more and register for the following courses.

**Supporting The Wellbeing Of Your Volunteers:** 18 January 2022 – 10-11 am

**Looking After Your Wellbeing As A Volunteer:** 25 January 2022 – 12-1pm.

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### Free Training Courses

*Volunteer Now are delivering a range of FREE capacity building training courses to groups based in the **Belfast City Council** area. The last one in the current series is:*

- **Digital Inclusion** | Mon 13 Dec 2021 | 10am-12pm

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

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*For Voluntary & Community Groups in the **Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council** area. The last one in the current series is:*

- **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 onto the session, please contact Nicole Fitzsimons: [nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:nicole.fitzsimons@volunteernow.co.uk).

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### Publication of the Month

**Ordinary People - Extraordinary Times** - <https://bit.ly/3rG3WL0>

This month we want to reflect on what has been an immensely challenging period of time for everyone, including the voluntary and community sector. With this being said, we have collectively shown the power of volunteering and what a real sense of community spirit can achieve.

During the summer of 2020, Volunteer Now embarked upon a photography project to capture volunteers in action at a time when ordinary people did extraordinary things!

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.

Main Office: The Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF. T: 028 9023 2020 E: [info@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk)

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Volunteer Now  
The Skainos Centre  
239 Newtownards Road  
Belfast, England BT4 1AF  
UK

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