

19 January 2022

Interested in hearing more about volunteering in Northern Ireland?

Please take a moment to subscribe to our social media sites:



Chief Executive's Comments

[Online Training](#)

[liV Quality Assurance Panel Chair](#)

[Impact Research](#)

[Pride of Britain Award Congratulations!](#)

[Befrienders Cafe](#)

[February VOLT Session](#)

[Members Survey Results](#)

[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

Learning from Today: Prepared for Tomorrow

Volunteer Now has published the final Learning from Today: Prepared for Tomorrow research report, which has looked at the volunteering response to the COVID pandemic across the UK. The report focuses on the findings of the research for us here in Northern Ireland, but also includes some wider UK context.

What is clear from the report is the huge impact the pandemic has had on all forms of volunteering. We have seen innovation and new people stepping forward to volunteers, as well as substantial challenges and disruption for many organisations and volunteers.

Volunteer Now will be hosting several information sessions about the research over the next few months. These sessions will give you the opportunity to hear more details about what the research has found and to discuss the next steps for volunteer involvement. More details about this will be available in the coming weeks. If you would like to register your interest in one of these workshops, please email andrew.hanna@volunteernow.co.uk.

To download a copy of the final report, click here - bit.ly/3Ae5SMN. To download the executive summary, click here - bit.ly/3nDyHwW.

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>.

- Looking After Your Wellbeing As A Volunteer - 25 Jan 2022 | 12-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3rolrwq>
- Leadership & Working With Teams - 26 Jan 2022 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3FzjV0E>
- Leadership & Dealing With Conflict - 27 Jan 2022 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/3AkOczn>
- Keeping Children Safe: An Introduction - 3 Feb 2022 | 10am-1pm | <https://bit.ly/325aqbF>
- Befriending Training Workshop - 7 Feb 2022 | 10am-12pm | <https://bit.ly/3qAabyJ>

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

liV Quality Assurance Panel Chair

The Investing in Volunteers (liV) quality standard is jointly owned by the four members of the UKVF (NCVO, Volunteer Now, Volunteer Scotland and Wales Council for Voluntary Action) to promote the development of good practice in volunteer management.

UKVF partners are seeking to recruit a new independent Chair for the liV Quality Assurance Panel, whose purpose is to ensure that the quality is being maintained across the UK and report on this to the UKVF. The Chair is appointed for three years and this may be renewed for a further term of two years by mutual agreement.

Essential skills and experience include:

- Knowledge of liV, or equivalent quality assurance systems;
- An understanding of volunteering and a commitment to good practice in volunteer management;
- Ability to effectively chair meetings;
- Ability to be objective and fair in taking and/or leading the decision-making process;
- Good communication skills, both verbal and written.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Thursday 3 February 2022**. Please download an application pack here - <https://bit.ly/3rqaE5V>.

Impact Research

In conjunction with the Institute of Chartered Accountants Scotland (ICAS), we are seeking charity trustees and staff to respond to a short survey on how charities measure and report on their impact – the difference they are making towards their causes. This research project is designed to influence the development of impact practice in the sector and inform SORP (2024) currently being drafted.

Whether you measure and report impact in your charity's trustee annual report or not, please help by taking part in this research project through completing our online survey here - <https://bit.ly/3Klm5Vh>, which should take around 15-20 minutes. The survey is open until 5pm on Friday 11 February 2022.

There is more detail available about the project here - <https://bit.ly/3GG0ltF>.

Pride of Britain Award Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hassan Mamoon Al-khawam who was crowned Prince's Trust Young Achiever of the Year 2021 at the recent Pride of Britain Awards!

Hassan and his family fled their home in Syria due to the war and arrived in Northern Ireland in September 2017. Soon after, he enrolled on an ESOL course at the Southern Regional College (having little to no English). Hassan has since devoted his life to helping other vulnerable families and has gone on to co-found NI Hyatt, an organisation that helps other refugees integrate. His inspirational work has earned him the award, which he received at a glittering weekend celebration at London's Grosvenor

Befrienders Cafe

During the Pandemic, a Befrienders Café was set up to address the issues of those who were most vulnerable, isolated and lonely. The participants, who were identified through membership of Mid and East Antrim and Antrim and Newtownabbey Loneliness Networks, meet every week via Zoom and are able to interact online to chat over a cuppa and enjoy various activities such as cookery, craft and gardening classes.

To build on the interaction and relationships these participants have enjoyed, funding was successfully received through the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's Activity Programme to provide a Christmas Lunch to 50 individuals across both loneliness networks delivered to each of their homes. Everyone also received a Christmas 'goody bag' which included a hand-written Christmas card, Christmas decorations, a Christmas cracker, chocolates, biscuits, toiletries and socks.

Volunteer Now worked in partnership with Larne Community Development Project and the Community Access Support Worker from the Northern Health and Social Care Trust to manage this project, organising the packing and delivery of the 'goody bags' and arranging a local well-known catering company to provide the delicious Christmas lunches. Thank you to the members of the loneliness networks for their support and to Yvonne Carson from the Health and Social Care Trust Wellbeing Team for providing the funding.

February VOLT Session

Join us on **Thursday 10 February 2022** for a chance to meeting our Safeguarding team and ask questions. We will be welcoming our Safeguarding Manager (Ruth Mulholland) and Training Development Officers (Roisin Timlin & Helen Beggs) who can share their experiences and learning from the COVID-19 pandemic.

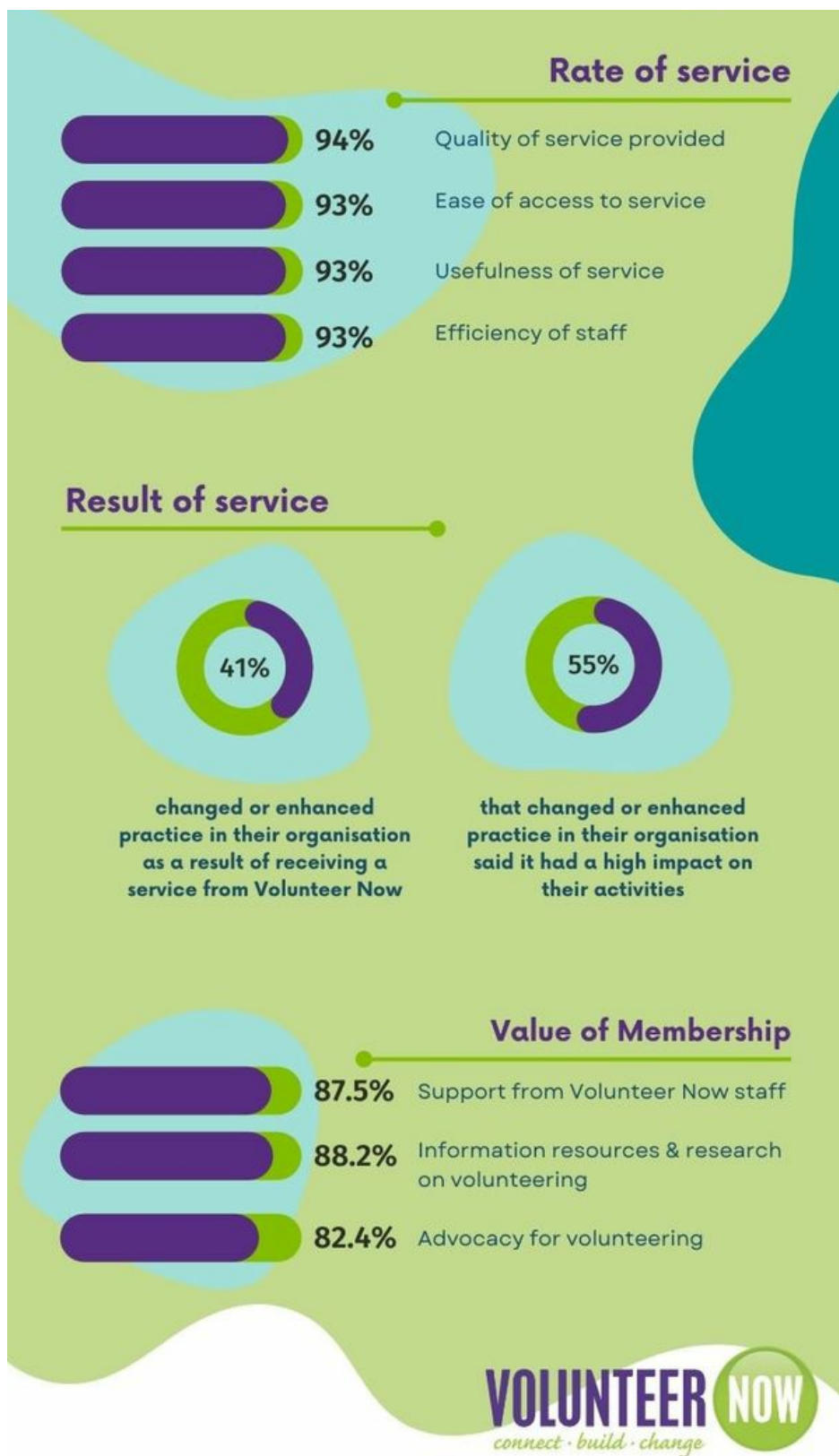
We feel that this session is particularly important as safeguarding should be collective in approach and there are immense opportunities to learn from each other.

Click here to book your place - <https://bit.ly/33DJyiw>.

Members Survey Results

Volunteer Now asked our members to complete a survey late last year, and below are the results. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.





Publication of the Month

Learning from Today: Prepared for Tomorrow

We are happy to launch the final Learning from Today: Prepared for Tomorrow research report which looks at the volunteering response to the COVID pandemic. This report focuses on the Northern Ireland perspective. If you have any queries about the report, please contact andrew.hanna@volunteernow.co.uk.

Please access the Full Report here - bit.ly/3Ae5SMN and the Executive Summary here - bit.ly/3nDyHwW.

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 enewsletter called VTraining that includes all Volunteer Now training courses and workshops. To subscribe, please email training@volunteernow.co.uk.

Privacy Policy

Volunteer Now/Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd collects your personal information, holds it securely and only uses it for the purposes for which it is intended. For more information about how we use your data, please see our Privacy Policy at www.volunteernow.co.uk/privacy-policy.

Disclaimer

We are a distributor of content supplied by third parties and users of VConnect. We do not necessarily endorse nor are we responsible for the accuracy of any opinion, advice or statement supplied by third parties, and they do not necessarily reflect any views or policies of Volunteer Now. We accept information in good faith.

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

W: www.volunteernow.co.uk Charity Registration No. NIC101309. Company Limited by Guarantee No. NI602399. Registered in Northern Ireland.

[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.

vertical DELIVERED BY
response
Try It Free Today!