

Review of Youth Volunteering in Northern Ireland

Recommendations



Update NI Youth Volunteering Policy

Northern Ireland's volunteering policy is the oldest in the UK. Considering the dynamic of the youth sector, this policy should be reviewed and updated regularly.



Engage with young people to shape volunteering policy and strategy

Participants in the surveys and focus groups were very clear that they want to be involved in determining and shaping what volunteering activities they are involved in.



Re-establish awards and recognition schemes

There is strong evidence that awards and recognition schemes can encourage young people to take up volunteering opportunities. Awards schemes are a good mechanism to recognize the positive contribution that many young people make to their communities.



Improve communication channels about volunteering opportunities

There is evidence that some young people are still finding it difficult to find out about volunteering opportunities that are suitable for them. Multiple, flexible and young people-friendly communication channels should be explored and used.



Better promotion of benefits of youth volunteering

There is very strong evidence for the benefits to young people in relation to the skills and opportunities arising out of volunteering, but also for the benefits for volunteer-involving organisations, communities and society overall. This should be communicated better.



Collect and collate data on volunteering systematically

Data on youth volunteering should be collected regularly to monitor developments and trends. Ideally this should be done in a way that it is consistent and comparable with data collected in other parts of the UK and Ireland and with time series data in mind.



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Authors: Martina McKnight, Emily Mitchell-Bajic & Dirk Schubotz (all Queen's University Belfast) and Eddy Hogg (University of Kent)

