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MAY 2022

Volunteers' Week 2022

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now



With the countdown now on to Volunteers' Week 2022, which runs from 1-7 June, Volunteer Now is calling on communities and businesses across Northern Ireland to get ready to honour local heroes by taking 'Time to Say Thanks' as part of a week-long programme of activity celebrating volunteering across the UK.

This year's theme encourages everyone to recognise the huge impact that people from all walks of life make on the lives of people and their communities when they volunteer. With around 282,000 formal volunteers carrying out work with designated organisations and 470,000 informal volunteers, volunteering plays a significant role across the region.

Volunteers have continued to give so much time, energy, commitment and skills to the communities and organisations that they have supported through another difficult year. It is fitting that Volunteers' Week 2022 will give everyone the opportunity to say 'Thank You' to everyone who has made a difference through their voluntary efforts.

For more information on events planned for Volunteers' Week in Northern Ireland, please [click here](#). For resources and more information on Volunteers' Week UK, please [click here](#).



Online Training

- VOLT Session: Launch of New Publications Section & liV Resource Guides
- The New Environment: Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers
- Diversity, Equity & Equality 4: Invest Together Yearly
- Volunteer Policy - Your Starting or Review Point

[View Training Calendar](#)



Volunteer Celebration Event

Thursday 26 May, 6-7pm
The Courtyard outside at Carrickfergus Civic Centre

If you have volunteered for a community or voluntary organisation in the last two years in Carrickfergus Castle or Knockagh DEAs, you are welcome to join us as we formally thank everyone who gave their time to help others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barbecue food will be served and local band, Flame 'n' Ukes will provide music and each volunteer will receive a goodie bag.

Please let us know of any dietary requirements. Click the button below to reply by **12noon on Friday 20 May 2022**.

[Email Reply](#)

Training Support Programme for the Voluntary & Community Sector

This programme, from the Office of Social Services, is intended to assist with the cost of improving the knowledge, skills and qualification profile of the social care workforce in smaller, voluntary and community sector organisations in Northern Ireland.

Priority for funding in 2022/23 will be given to whole or part qualification achievements linked to the QCF/RQF Framework. Such qualifications should contribute to improving the knowledge and skills of the social care workforce, in line with existing Department of Health standards/guidance/policy or strategy.

Any offer of funding from the Programme will be subject to budget availability. The Programme has access to a limited budget therefore the maximum amount that can be awarded to an eligible organisation is capped at £10,000 per year. Funding will only be considered for actual course fees.

Closing date for completed applications is **27 May 2022**. [Click here](#) to download the Guidance Notes.

[Application Form](#)

SPECIAL OFFER

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VOLUNTEER NOW

June Training Offer

As promised, we have ANOTHER training offer for all participants booking onto our Vision & Values Series of courses in June:

Book a place on all four Vision & Values courses in June and get a FREE place on any volunteer management course of your choice later in the year - saving up to £42!

We will have more offers throughout the year, so keep an eye on our website & social media!

[Find Out More](#)

Volunteer Now partnered with Be Collective, an innovative digital volunteer management platform. This helped us pivot, adapting to the challenges associated with the pandemic. To date, we have built an online ecosystem of nearly 2,000 partners: Causes, Charities, Not for Profits and Businesses who rely on volunteers to deliver community services and support.

Contact us to find out how you can reach more volunteers, promote volunteer opportunities and partner with other volunteer involving organisations to make an even bigger impact.

"Supportive and straight forward volunteering! Having come out of lockdown, many of us were in the predicament of having lost volunteers or volunteers not being able to commit as previously, so to have a platform that is so straight forward to use was refreshing." - Mencap



VOLUNTEER NOW think - act - do be collective®

Contact Us



Funding for Men's 50+ Groups in Belfast

There are a small number of grants available to support the expansion of existing groups engaging men aged 50+, as well as establishing new men's 50+ groups in Belfast.

A key outcome for this grant are activities focused on recruiting and retaining new members. To be eligible, groups applying for the grant must have or will have by receipt of grant, a constitution, committee, bank account & accounts if the group is over a year old.

Find Out More

#iwill Ambassador Applications Open!

#iwill is a fast growing movement of young people leading change through social action. We're looking for changemakers, trailblazers and community heroes from all over the UK to join the #iwill movement as an Ambassador!.

If you know a young person aged 10-25 in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales who is making a positive difference to their community in anyway, click below to find out more.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

#IWILL AMBASSADOR APPLICATIONS OPEN!



Find Out More



Applications Now Open for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Volunteering Award

Are you a national charity working to change the lives of young people aged 16-25? Do volunteers play a role in making this happen? If so, then you could be eligible for a special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Volunteering Award.

This is a one-off award to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee and the 20th Anniversary of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The aim is to recognise fantastic work by national charities to empower young people and provide them with skills and opportunities.

You can find out more information and download an application form by clicking below. The deadline for applications is **Friday 17 June**.

[More Information](#)



Nominations are now open for the Antrim & Newtownabbey Spirit of Volunteering Awards 2022, an initiative that recognises the hard work and dedication of the Borough's unsung hero's.

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council want to recognise those who have given much of their time to volunteering, and those who are relatively new to this invaluable service who have already started to make a difference. By willingly giving their time to volunteering, people are changing the lives of others as well as their own. The theme for the awards this year focuses on precious metals and the intrinsic qualities that they possess, which are similar to those of a volunteer.

Nominations close on Tuesday 31 May 2022 at 4pm. Winners will be announced at the Antrim & Newtownabbey Spirit of Volunteering Awards 2022 celebration event on Thursday 13 October 2022 at Theatre at the Mill.

[Make a Nomination](#)


Introducing: Deirdre Murphy

Project Officer

Hi, I'm Deirdre and I provide capacity building for seniors in Belfast, assist groups with good governance, funding applications, event planning, linking & networking. I also provide training, sign post to training, information on organisations & tutors to assist groups with activities.

I also provide opportunities for Mens 50+ groups in Belfast to engage with each other, provide volunteering opportunities & direct them to other mens groups & activities.

I plan & organise events across the city for all older people to enjoy & attend, as well as supporting & maintaining Senior Forums.

[Contact Deirdre](#)


Member Spotlight

Headway

Headway is the UK-wide charity that works to improve life after brain injury by providing vital support & information services. Action for Brain Injury Week 2022 is 16-22 May & focuses on what can be for many brain injury survivors, a hidden disability. The campaign will raise awareness of misunderstood symptoms & work to alleviate the challenges & frustrations survivors face.

[Headway](#)


Vacancies

Digital Media Assistant

We are seeking to recruit a Digital Media Assistant who will work with our Community Engagement team to promote and support volunteering across Northern Ireland.

The full-time post (35hrs per week) is ideal for a student/recent graduate seeking a hands-on opportunity to work in social media, graphic design & video editing in a charity setting.

[More Info](#)

Publication of the Month

Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard

Investing in Volunteers (iV) is the UK Quality Standard for good practice in volunteer management. iV is comprised of 6 quality areas and the standard is very useful for organisations who want to evaluate their volunteer programmes, and look at how they involve volunteers more generally.

Volunteer Now are in the process of creating a series of six resource guides, based on the six iV quality areas. These guides will aim to give organisations more information on each area and these will be ready very soon! Keep an eye on our website for updates.





New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: The Larder, [Salisbury Pride UK](#), [Fighting 4 Vulnerable Lives](#), [Butterfly Conservation](#), [Grow-NI](#), St Comgalls Youth Club, NHSCT Health & Wellbeing Team, [Belfast City of Sanctuary](#), [Parkanaur College](#), [NI Hyatt Ltd](#) & [Young Lives vs Cancer](#). This brings our organisational members total to 973!

[Become A Member](#)

ONLINE COURSES

All you need to know about volunteer management in 8 hours of learning



Flexible, accessible training

Did you know you can learn all you need to know about volunteer management in just 8 hours with our online courses? You can complete these anytime, anywhere & on any device! Click below to find out more.

[Find Out More](#)



Recognising & Celebrating Volunteers!

During 2021 a number of volunteer groups got to celebrate the biggest achievement of their lifetime. Some of the Awardees for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service from both 2020 and 2021 took an opportunity when COVID restrictions eased to organize an event and welcome the Lord Lieutenant for their County to present their Award. Volunteer Now is delighted to congratulate the following groups who feature in the video and looks forward to hearing of other celebrations in 2022.

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