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NOVEMBER 2023

# Safely Managing Volunteers' Data



*Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now*

When we surveyed members last year about what information sessions would be useful, we heard that you would value some more information about managing volunteers' data. This has been an ongoing challenge as members grapple with the kinds of data they hold and the consent they need to use it appropriately.

I am delighted that for International Volunteer's Day on 5 December at 10.30am, we will be joined online by staff from the Information Commissioners Office in Belfast to explore these issues. This will be a practical session where you will be able to ask questions. The session will consider some of the specific challenges in helping volunteers to comply with data protection and it will look at some of the specific issues thrown up by social media. This will be a valuable session and an opportunity to hear straight from the regulator.

I hope you can join us. To book, please [click here](#).



## Online Training

- Keeping Children Safe; Training for Staff & Volunteers
- Keeping Adults Safe: Implementing Standards for Good Practice
- VOLT Session: Data Protection
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Recruitment, Selection & Management of Staff & Volunteers

[View Training Calendar](#)



### Good Relations Awards 2024 - Open for Nominations!

The Good Relations Awards 2024 will spotlight the vital role that members of the community throughout Northern Ireland play in delivering peacebuilding and community cohesion.

The Good Relations Awards are run annually by the Community Relations Council in partnership with The Executive Office. They recognise exceptional commitment to Good Relations Work by those selfless individuals who go above and beyond, every single day, to make Northern Ireland a better place. The Awards celebrate those who unite and champion our local communities and they also showcase the wide range of projects connecting communities through peace, understanding and cultural respect.

There are five award categories:

- Community Relations Council Exceptional Achievement Award,
- Good Relations Volunteer of the Year Award,
- Good Relations Community Champion Award;
- Good Relations Youth Award (Under 25) and
- Good Relations Connecting Communities Project of the Year Award

If you know a local group, individual or organisation in Northern Ireland deserving of recognition for their work, then click the button below and nominate now for the 2024 Good Relations Awards. Closing date is **Tuesday 19 December 2023 at 12noon**.


**COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (PEACE BUILDING)**


**GOOD RELATIONS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**


**GOOD RELATIONS COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD**


**GOOD RELATIONS YOUTH AWARD (UNDER 25)**


**GOOD RELATIONS CONNECTING COMMUNITIES PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**NOMINATE NOW AT**  
[goodrelationsawards.com](http://goodrelationsawards.com)

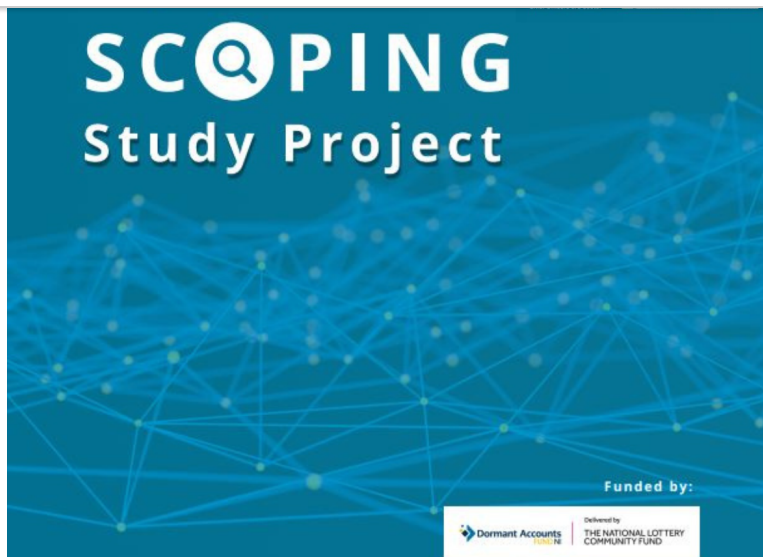








Nominate Now!



### Be Part of The Scoping Study Project

If your VCSE organisation is part of the Health & Social Care sector, then CO3 need your help!

CO3 has launched The Scoping Study Project, with the Long-Term Conditions Alliance Northern Ireland and funded by Dormant Accounts. The aim of this project is to look at how they can unite and utilise the collective expertise of VCSE Health & Social Care organisations, so that they can work more effectively in partnership with the DoH and improve health outcomes in Northern Ireland.

You just need to complete three simple steps:

1. Fill in the 5 min Baseline Questionnaire [here](#);
2. Book your attendance to the engagement session in your area [here](#);
3. Attend the session

To learn more about the project, download the flier [here](#) or visit the [CO3 website](#). Any questions, email [andreina@co3.org.uk](mailto:andreina@co3.org.uk).



### Congratulations to the Recipients of the First King's Award for Voluntary Service 2023!

Congratulations to the 9 volunteer groups in Northern Ireland who are among the recipients of the first King's Award for Voluntary Service 2023!

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest civil award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their communities. 262 Awardees from across the UK have been recognised, reminding us of all the ways in which fantastic volunteers work to make life better for those around them. We are very pleased that volunteers are getting recognition and we send our congratulations to:

- Greyabbey & District Community Association
- Chinese Welfare Association NI
- Fivemiletown Royal British Legion
- PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland Charity
- Muckamore Parish Development Association

- Mayfield Village Community Association
- Cullybackey Community Partnership

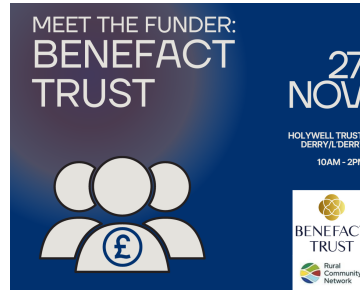
More information on the recipients, the Award and how to nominate are available by clicking the button below.

[Find Out More](#)

### Meet the Funder: Benefact Trust

The Rural Community Network has organised a public information and workshop event with the Benefact Trust, hosted in Holywell Trust on 27 November 2023, 10am-2pm.

This is a meet the funder event and is open to groups across the Western region who are doing great work in their communities and have the 'promotion of religion' as one of their key charitable objectives.



[Register Here](#)



### Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme

The Police Property Fund Small Grants Scheme opened a third call for funding applications on 1 November 2023.

The Fund, which comprises assets recovered by the PSNI as the result of criminal investigations, is administered by the Board in line with the Police (Property) Regulations NI 1997. The Board has agreed a Grant Funding Policy which will ensure available monies are used to benefit projects which deliver tangible benefits.

The Small Grants Scheme offers project funding in the range of £1,000-£10,000. Applications must demonstrate the following criteria to be eligible for consideration: Engagement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Contribute to community safety and/or building confidence in policing and Closely aligned towards a charitable purpose.

Applications close on 23 January 2023 at 12noon.

[Find Out More](#)

### Investing in Volunteers Congratulations!

Congratulations to [Northern Ireland Policing Board](#), who renewed their Investing in Volunteers quality standard in November!

Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for all organisations which involve volunteers in their work. By being assessed against the standard, your organisation can publicly demonstrate its commitment to good practice and receive a National Award for quality in volunteer management. Click below to find out more.



[Find Out More](#)





My name is Judith Ming and I am the Transport Officer for Ards & North Down Voluntary Transport Service which is funded by S E Trust. Our clients include children and young people who are in foster care and are referred to me by Social Services. This can be for school runs, to/from parental contact visits.

We also undertake transport for clients referred by Voluntary Organisations i.e. – Headway, Brain Injury Matters and NICHs, to and from support groups. We also undertake transport for private elderly clients to/from medical appointments. To enable this to happen I manage a team of 24 committed volunteer drivers who use their own cars to transport clients on a daily basis.

### Contact Judith

### Member Spotlight

#### **Carrickfergus Foodbank**

Carrickfergus Foodbank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred in crisis. They are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.



### Carrickfergus Foodbank



#### **Publication of the Month:**

#### ***The Cost of Giving Crisis, NCVO***

'With costs climbing, income failing and demand increasing, this is no longer a cost-of-living crisis - this is a cost-of-giving crisis.' New NCVO research reveals that 1 in 5 charities could disappear this Winter.

If you get a chance, please take a look through NCVO's portal of help and support for charities, where you can also find out some more about their latest research findings and key asks as we enter the Winter period.

### Cost of Giving Crisis



#### **New Members**

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Table Tennis Ulster](#), Repair Cafe Whitehead, [Look Good Feel Better](#), [Zip Gymnastics](#), [Sonas Co-Op](#), [Blue Cross Pet Loss Support](#), [Green Room Productions NI](#), [Sense NI](#). This brings our organisational members total to 1078!



#### **Flexible, accessible training**

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



Befriending Week was 1-7 November, and this is Volunteer Now's 11th year of celebrating Befriending Week.

As a way to spread awareness on loneliness and the struggles older people face in Northern Ireland, as well as the benefits to becoming a befriender, we have decided to share a story from both Madeline and Suzanne, who use our befriending service.

To find out more please click the button below.

[Find Out More](#)

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