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APRIL 2024

Volunteers' Week 2024

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now



Volunteers' Week gives us an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful volunteers who help organisations every day to deliver services and support people across Northern Ireland.

At the start of Volunteers' Week 2024 - the 40th Anniversary of the Week - we have planned a session to help us think about the changes in society which are leading to change in volunteering and how organisations can respond to them. This time out session will give you a chance to charge your batteries for the week ahead. Click below to join us.

Re-Imagining Volunteering for Broader Participation



Online Training

- VOLT Session: Big Help Out
- Keeping Adults Safe: Adult Safeguarding Champion & Appointed Person Training
- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training
- Keeping Children Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers

[View Training Calendar](#)



Join Volunteer Now as we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Volunteers Week this year! The Week will begin on 3 June and will end with the Big Help Out on 9 June! This year sees new branding and resources but the same wonderful message of saying 'thank you' to the amazing volunteers within our organisations.



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

40th Anniversary

Click the button below for all the resources that you need!

Volunteers' Week



VOLUNTEER NOW
connect · build · change

25 April 2024
10.30am-12pm

VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS
LINKING TOGETHER

FREE VOLT Session: The BIG HELP OUT 2024

The Big Help Out is a UK-wide campaign designed to raise awareness of volunteering, provide opportunities for people to volunteer and make a difference in their communities. In 2024 it will take place across the weekend of 7-9 June, at the end of Volunteers' Week.

Millions volunteered during the pandemic but we've seen a significant decline in numbers since. The Big Help Out combines a high-profile national media campaign with a simple, digital route for people to find great opportunities to get involved. In 2023, over 7m people were inspired to take part.

Join us for this free webinar: **25 April at 10.30am** which will focus on:

- sharing the latest campaign information, it's key objectives and how you can use it to support your own volunteer recruitment efforts;
- the focus on targeting communities currently under-represented in volunteering - and how this could support to your own objectives around increasing diversity in your volunteering programme;
- how to use the digital platform, piggyback on the national media campaign and make the most of the alignment between The Big Help Out and Volunteers' Week

[Book Your FREE Place](#)



IMPACT AWARDS

Volunteer Now invites you to attend a recognition event to celebrate **young people and organisations** who are passionate about volunteering, social action and activism.

Save the date!	4TH JUNE 2024
Starting at :	6.30PM - 9.00PM
Location at :	BELFAST CASTLE Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 5GR

Join us for evening of food, music, inspirational speakers and more.

To book your organisation and young people a place use the QR code below:

RSVP by 9th May 2024



[Book Your Place](#)



NBS Nottingham Business School
Nottingham Trent University

YOUR INPUT NEEDED!

PRO BONO ECONOMICS



Participate in the VCSE Barometer Survey

The VCSE Data and Insights Observatory warmly invites you to contribute to the VCSE Barometer Survey, running from 10 April to 1 May. **This quarter, they're honing in on volunteer recruitment and retention — revisiting the critical insights first explored in Spring 2023.**

Why Your Participation is Crucial:

- **Largest survey of its kinds in the UK**
We're dedicated to capturing the evolving challenges within the VCSE sector, having

Your valuable feedback contributes to comprehensive reports, interactive online seminars, and a dynamic, user-friendly dashboard available on the Barometer [website](#). These resources are designed to inform both the community of participating organisations and national policymakers.

- **Snapshot of sector health**

Through your input, the survey acts as a rapid and straightforward 'temperature check', offering immediate insights on aspects such as financial and workforce status.

It's a unique opportunity to add your voice to a collective effort aimed at fostering a resilient and thriving VCSE sector. Your insights are invaluable in guiding both our community and policymakers towards informed decisions and strategies.

Participate Now



VOLT Session

RE-IMAGINING VOLUNTEERING FOR BROADER PARTICIPATION

CHRIS WADE
Time for Impact

31 May 2024
12.30-2.30pm (starting with lunch)
Riddell Hall, Stranmillis Rd, Belfast
<https://bit.ly/ReImaginingVolunteering>

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK
40th Anniversary

VOLUNTEER NOW
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Re-imagining Volunteering for Broader Participation

As involvement in formal volunteering decreases and people seek more informal and flexible ways to contribute to their causes, charities need to adjust to this challenge.

This requires a little disruptive and creative thinking, to reimagine involvement in the charities in new ways that are attractive to differing audiences.

The FREE session will explore the drivers for change, the potential advantages of a more flexible and diverse approach to volunteering and participation. It will encourage charity leaders to imagine whole new ways for people to contribute to their missions. It will also explore micro-volunteering, coproduction and how to build communities of interest and boost lifetime value in participation.

Book Your FREE Place



Good Relations Week 2024 Launched

Carl Frampton MBE is urging local groups and organisations to seize the 'OpportUNITY' to work together to address societal challenges such as sectarianism, racism and other forms of identity hatred as part of this year's Good Relations Week.

The former two-weight world boxing champion delivered the important call to action at an event to launch Good Relations Week 2024 attended by First Minister Michelle O'Neill and Deputy First Minister Emma Little-Pengelly.

Good Relations Week 2024, from 16 to 22 September, embraces 'OpportUNITY' – a call to action to create a brighter, inclusive future for all.

'OpportUNITY' is a collective moment for us all to UNITE and be architects of change in helping build a region where every voice matters. By showcasing the dynamism, creativity and dedication of local groups, organisations and individuals we can spotlight the transformative power of working together to address challenges such as sectarianism, racism, inequality, health and well-being, poverty and education.

Get involved in Good Relations Week 2024 and help create a future where inclusivity and diversity are not just celebrated but lived.

Good Relations Week 2024



Spirit of NI Awards

It's time to shine a light on ordinary people who do extraordinary things. There's still time to enter the 2024 Spirit of Northern Ireland Awards!

Do you know someone under the age of 18 who should be recognised for their special achievements? If the answer is yes, click below! They are seeking some of Northern Ireland's most incredible people who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for this year's Spirit of

All nominations welcome! To nominate someone who you think deserves an award, email spiritofniawards@sundaylife.co.uk, telling us a little about the person you think deserves an award.

Nominate Now!




YOUR VIEWS WANTED



The online survey will be open from **8 April 2024** to **30 June 2024** and can be accessed by scanning the QR Code or by visiting consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/nipb-community-policing-2024

Policing Boards 2024 Community Policing Survey

The Northern Ireland Policing Board is seeking views from across the community on the delivery of the policing service and how the police work with the community in local areas.

With their responsibility to oversee the work of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, they want to find out about your experience of PSNI in your local area, whether that be as an individual or through your work with a community group or an organisation.

This information will be used to inform the Policing Plan and assist the Board in assessing and evaluating the impact of police partnership and engagement within local communities. The Board will publish the results in Autumn 2024.

The online survey closes on Sunday 30 June 2024.

Community Policing Survey

Parenting Focus (previously Parenting NI)

Launched at the start of April 2024, Parenting Focus is excited to share their refreshed look with you, as well as their brand new website.

Their range of services remain the same, including information and support, parenting programmes, training, research and advocacy, as well as their Support Line 0808 8010 722.



INTRODUCING...

PARENTING FOCUS

The new name for Parenting NI

0808 8010 722 parentingfocus.org

Parenting Focus



Would you like to be part of a new and exciting 5km & 1 Mile street race event in Belfast, taking place on 9 June 2024 – Big Help Out Day 2024?

This is a family & group friendly event so you can encourage family and friends to come along with you to volunteer too and add to the fun of the day!

All volunteers will receive role training, a high-viz jacket, and a free Race T-shirt & Certificate of appreciation to take home to commemorate the day.

Sign-up now to express your interest!

[Find Out More](#)

Investing in Volunteers Case Studies

Investing in Volunteers (IiV) is the UK quality standard for good practice in volunteer management.

If you want to assess the quality of your volunteer management and involvement, prove and improve the effectiveness of your work with volunteers, and enhance your organisation's reputation, IiV provides the ideal framework.



Achieving the standard shows your volunteers – and potential volunteers – how much they are valued and gives them confidence in your ability to provide an outstanding volunteer experience.

Investing in Volunteers has been helping organisations show their volunteers they care for almost twenty years and with over 2,000 achievers you don't just have to take our word for it! Look through some case studies of organisations that have been awarded Investing in Volunteers by clicking below.

[Case Studies](#)

100 Big Lunch Vouchers Available!



Sign Up For This Year's Big Lunch!

Residents, groups and schools across Northern Ireland are being encouraged to sign up for this year's Big Lunch annual celebration of neighbourhood and communities in June. It's a great way to recognise and celebrate your volunteers

Those who register for a free Big Lunch pack at TheBigLunch.com could also be in with a chance of winning one of 100 £20 shopping vouchers to help get their party started and you do not need to be a constituted group or organisation to take part.

Even if you chose to join in by bringing a few neighbours together for a cuppa, everyone is invited

Once you pop your event on the interactive map, whether your event is a huge gathering or just a few people, you could win one of 100 £20 food voucher.

Winners of the food vouchers will be picked at random from all those registered on the interactive Big Lunch map but hurry and register your details as the competition closes on **Friday 10 May**.

Sign Up for FREE!



Introducing: Jamie Greer
Volunteering Support Officer

Hi, My name is Jamie and I have just taken up post within Volunteer Now as a Volunteering Support Officer. I come with a background working in the voluntary and community sector including youth work, learning disability and mental health. Within my role I am responsible for supporting organisations that involve volunteers in the Lisburn, Castlereagh, Belfast, North Down and Ards areas to develop and promote volunteering opportunities. I also support good practice development, assist with relaunching volunteer roles and creating / developing new ones. I promote training opportunities and provide guidance on volunteer recruitment and retention.

[Contact Jamie](#)

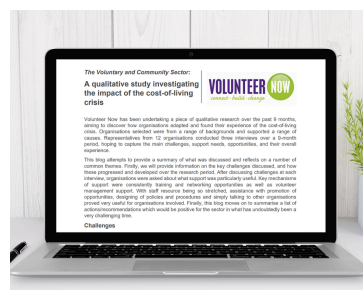
Member Spotlight

Newcastle Community Cinema (NCC)

NCC is both a cinema and a hub for community activities, arts & entertainment. They believe in a space for the whole community; their premises are centralised around the screening of film but also work equally as a regular hub & home for a hugely diverse selection of Newcastle's groups, clubs, teams & charities. NCC started life as a cinema and has since morphed into much more.



Newcastle Community Cinema



Publication of the Month:
Investigating the Cost-of-Living Crisis: A 9-Month Panel Survey (2023)

This paper was written in 2023, reflecting on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. In what was undoubtedly a challenging time for the voluntary & community sector, the paper highlights some of the biggest difficulties faced, as well as what support would be most useful. Take a look to see whether the same challenges are in play in 2024!

Investigating the Cost-of-Living Crisis



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational member: [GEM NI](#). This brings our organisational members total to 1101!

[Become A Member](#)



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.

[Find Out More](#)



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