

[View this email in your browser](#)

JULY 2024

Member Sessions

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now

We have two Member Sessions coming up that I would encourage you to sign up to. The Department for Communities is consulting on the introduction of a £20,000 registration threshold below which charities would not be required to register with the Charity Commission NI. Volunteer Now is keen to hear from members about this planned threshold to support our response to the document so we are holding an online session on **1 August 2024 at 12.30pm** to look at the consultation and discuss the questions.

The other Member Session is on **24 September 2024 at 2.00pm** to talk to our members about our draft Strategic Plan and to give everyone an opportunity to shape it. Roger Courtney has been talking to members, funders and stakeholders over the past few months and supporting our board to draft our new plan. The session will look at the draft plan and take feedback.

If you would like to attend either session, or both, please contact Victoria.Price@volunteernow.co.uk.



Online Training

- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training
- Change Management
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers Refresher
- Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers

[View Training Calendar](#)

VCSE Barometer Survey

The VCSE Data and Insights Observatory's quarterly survey is open for responses.

Now in its seventh wave, the Barometer is becoming a firm fixture in the VCSE community and is growing in its profile and reach. Each quarter, it provides useful data and resources on sector health in a range of formats including a comprehensive report, online seminars, and an interactive, user-friendly dashboard available on the Barometer [website](#).

The Wave 7 survey has a topical focus on the changing nature of VCSE services and also features sections on the **Big Help Out** and **Volunteers' Week**.

[VCSE Barometer Survey](#)



Member Sessions

As Denise mentioned in her intro article above, we have two Member Sessions coming up - Charity Registration Consultation Online Session and Members Strategic Planning Session.

Charity Registration Consultation Online Session | 1 August | 12.30pm

The Department for Communities is consulting on the introduction of a £20,000 registration threshold below which charities would not be required to register with the Charity Commission.

Volunteer Now is keen to hear from members about this planned threshold to support our response to the document. Please join us at this online session to look at the consultation and discuss the questions.

Members Strategic Planning Session | 24 September | 2.00pm

Volunteer Now has been working on our new Strategic Plan and Roger Courtney has been talking to members, funders and stakeholders over the past few months and supporting our board to draft our new plan.

We would like to talk to our members about the draft to give everyone an opportunity to shape it. Please join us to look at the draft plan and to take feedback. We will be circulating a copy of the draft plan with our August edition of V Connect.

To register on either, or both sessions, please email victoria.price@volunteernow.co.uk.



Supported Employment Solutions

Supported Employment Solutions (SES) partnership is made up of seven disability organisations from across Northern Ireland who have come together to deliver the Workable (NI) Programme across the Region.

SES aims to offer a Supported Employment approach in the delivery of programmes to assist people with disabilities and health conditions to enter and stay in employment.

The Workable (NI) Programme is funded by the Department for Communities. Workable (NI) is also administered by the Department for Communities. It is a flexible programme which assists people with disabilities to return to work or remain in their current job of at least 10 hours/week or more.

SES partnership has also been awarded 1 of 3 contracts to deliver the Workable (NI) programme across Northern Ireland. Each of the SES partners provide their own tailored specialist support to best meet the needs of the individuals they assist in the workplace. Support may include:

- Specialist one to one support to the individual
- Provide on the job and/or outside of work training
- Provide specific training identified for the employee to assist them in their work above what the employer would normally offer
- Provide specific disability awareness training to employer and work colleagues.
- Offer advice and assistance with making reasonable adjustments in the workplace

workable (NI) programme can be completed by SES staff.

Supported Employment Solutions



State of Caring 2024 Survey

Carers NI are delighted to launch this years State of Caring survey. Every response helps to build a picture of unpaid caring experiences in Northern Ireland – highlighting the biggest challenges facing our carer population, including access to health and social care support, and providing the evidence needed to make a case for change.

The survey will close on 11 August 2024.

Complete the State of Caring 2024 Survey

Homeless Connect Board of Trustees Positions

As the representative body for the homelessness sector, Homeless Connect plays a pivotal role in supporting its members to prevent and reduce homelessness. As a Trustee you would join a dedicated team of people who care deeply about the difference Homeless Connect makes. This is an exciting time for the organisation as we are focused on developing our important services to meet the growing need.

HC Homeless Connect

New positions available on the Board of Trustees

If you feel you have the relevant skills, qualifications, experience, shared values and are motivated for this role we would very much welcome your application.

For further information on Homeless Connect and an application pack please contact: paula.maskey@homelessconnect.org.



The Institute of Volunteer Leadership 2024 Sessions

The Institute of Volunteer Leadership (IVL) is designed for leaders of volunteers, whether paid or unpaid, based in Ireland and Northern Ireland. If you are eager to enhance your leadership skills, seek opportunities for professional development, and deepen your understanding of volunteer management, this programme is tailor-made for you. The programme is managed by Volunteer Ireland & Volunteer Now, and funded by the Community Foundation.

Join us for a transformative journey where leaders of volunteers come together to share experiences, knowledge, and build a powerful network of leaders of volunteers across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

be in-person visits in Belfast and Dublin to projects that excel in volunteer engagement practice.

For the online sessions we are delighted to be joined by Dr. Chris Millora, Assistant Professor, Goldsmiths University of London and Matthew Hick, Head of Volunteering, Science Museum Group (UK).

[Find Out More](#)



Environment Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund

Climate Action Fund

The Climate Action Fund is open to applications from organisations in formal partnerships, with ideas inspired by people's everyday lives and interests, to help communities tackle climate change and be environmentally sustainable.

They want applications from those new to climate action, and are particularly interested in projects that involve people, places and communities experiencing poverty, discrimination and disadvantage.

The minimum amount awarded is £500,000 but they expect to fund most projects for between £1 million and £1.5 million over 3 to 5 years.

[Find Out More](#)

Sustainable Community Buildings

Sustainable Community Buildings helps organisations identify and make changes to their community building, to reduce their carbon footprint and save money on bills.

Groups will have the opportunity to complete free carbon literacy training and work with energy experts to develop environment plans, to identify how they can improve sustainability and save money. Grants of £50,000 are available to make improvements such as the installation of solar panels, energy efficient lighting or improve insulation.

When to apply

Applications will open from 11 September - 23 October 2024 for groups with community buildings in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council or Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

Applications will open from 8 January - 19 February 2025 for organisations with community buildings in Belfast City Council, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area.

[Find Out More](#)



our Heroes+ Project. Applicants will have a youth work qualification and experience of delivering youth work programmes. The post is full time (35hrs per week) and reasonable hours outside of this are required to fulfil the obligations associated with the post. The post has a primary office base in Belfast but a hybrid working policy is in place to facilitate home working as part of this post.

[Find Out More](#)

Introducing: Caoimhe Tumelty

Assistant Youth Worker

Hi, my name is Caoimhe and I am very excited to be the Assistant Youth Worker with Volunteer Now for the Heroes+ project! I have a background of volunteering with young people through creative work such as art groups, journalism and storytelling, participation workshops, to name a few! I am delighted to be given the opportunity to work with Volunteer Now through their exciting new project, Heroes+ that partners with organisations across Northern Ireland, such as Mencap, Beam, AEL and many more amazing organisations that are striving to help our young people, especially those who may be excluded from mainstream school or just need an additional helping hand on their journey.

Heroes+ is targeted towards 14-24 year olds and will promote and include good relations, work/voluntary experience, field trips, residential and creative and personal development workshops. I have had the warmest of welcomes from all the lovely team at Volunteer Now and cannot wait to work alongside my co-Youth Worker, Maria to meet all the amazing young people who are going to help shape our programme! Thank you to everyone at Volunteer Now who have supported me at the start of my journey here.



[Contact Caoimhe](#)



Member Spotlight

Windsor Women's Centre

Windsor Women's Centre, in the Village area of South Belfast, is a place for learning and growing. Through education and personal development, women are gaining skills, knowledge and confidence to make a better life for themselves and their families and to have a stronger voice in the wider Community.

We are committed to providing high quality training and education courses that will make a positive contribution to the lives of women and their families.

[Windsor Women's Centre](#)

Standard

Investing in Volunteers (IIV) is the UK Quality Standard for good practice in volunteer management. IIV 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 have also created a series of six resource guides, based on the six IIV quality areas. These guides aim to give organisations more information on each area. You can download these guides [here](#).



Investing in Volunteers Quality Standard



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [WheelWorks Arts](#), [First Steps Day Nursery](#), Civil Service Home Office, [Mind in Furness](#), [Hearth Historic Buildings Trust](#), [Connor Diocese, Church of Ireland](#), [Campmill Community Clanabogan](#).

This brings our organisational members total to 1127!



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.

[Become A Member](#)[Find Out More](#)

Antrim Coast Half Marathon

The Antrim Coast Half Marathon 2024 has been approved by World Athletics as an Elite Event. The World Athletics certified course takes in some of the most stunning scenery in Europe, combined with some famous landmarks along the route. Starting at the beginning of the iconic Antrim Coast Road, the course sweeps into Larne Harbour and through Larne town before moving onto the world famous Antrim Coast Road.

Volunteers are needed to help at the race, so if you're free on **Sunday 25 August 2024** we'd love you to join our Event Volunteer team! Find out more [here](#).



This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd · Skainos Ctr · 239 Newtownards Road · Belfast, County Antrim BT4 1AF · United Kingdom