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SEPTEMBER 2024

Building Skills to Involve Volunteers



Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now

4 in 10 organisations do not have enough volunteer to meet their primary objectives, while 3 in 10 have seen their volunteer recruitment increase in the past year. This is a finding from the [Nottingham Trent VCSE Barometer](#) in May 2024. This report has been followed in August 2024 with a further report showing that the demand for charity services across the UK has been outstripping supply and part of that challenge is the struggle to recruit enough volunteers. This most recent report reflects the need to build skills in the charity sector particularly following the challenges of Covid and the cost of living crisis.

So, at the start of September when our minds feel ready for new things, I would encourage you to think about volunteer management training to support staff and volunteers to develop the skills needed to recruit and involve volunteers.

Some resources to help you are coming up in the next few months:

September → [Recruitment, Selection and Management of Volunteers Working with Children & Adults at Risk](#): an entry level course to support recruitment and involvement of volunteers working with vulnerable groups.

October → [ILM 3 in Management of Volunteers](#): this accredited course will help you to further develop your skills in managing volunteers.

November → [Measuring the Impact of Volunteering](#): this course helps organisations tell the story of the difference volunteers are making.

At any time you can access our on demand training covering topics such as [Attracting & Selecting Volunteers and Managing & Motivating Volunteers](#).

If you need to organise a tailored training course specifically for a group of staff or volunteers, please get in touch at training@volunteernow.co.uk.

don't invest in developing the skills needed to do this well.



Online Training

- Keeping Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers
- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training
- Befriending Training Workshop
- VOLT Session: Fundraising
- Measuring the Impact of Volunteering

[View Training Calendar](#)



Good Relation Week

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

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

[Find Out More](#)

VOLUNTEER NOW
Volunteers change lives

LINK, LUNCH & LEARN

POSITIVE AGEING MONTH
VOLT Sessions

Recruit Retain Recognize

Fri 20 Sept	Wed 25 Sept	Wed 25 Sept
12.30 - 2.30pm	12.30 - 2pm	12.30 - 2pm
The Hub, Bangor	Fermanagh House, Enniskillen	Ballybot House, Newry

Please let us know of any dietary and/or access needs

VOLT Sessions: Link, Lunch and Learn - Positive Ageing Month

Meet, network and enjoy a free lunch with other volunteer involving organisations! This is a chance to share research, advice and information to attract older volunteers during Positive Ageing Month in October (and beyond!), while also celebrating the contributions of those we already work with. Check out our dates and venues below. Places are limited so book your place early!

Bangor | Fri 20 Sept, 12.30-2.30pm | The Hub, Bangor

Book your place with Alice.OBoyle@volunteernow.co.uk

Fermanagh | Wed 25 Sept, 12.30-2pm | Fermanagh House

Book your place with Lynn.Johnston@volunteernow.co.uk

Newry | Wed 25 Sept, 12.30-2pm | Ballybot House, Newry

Book your place with Clara.O'Callaghan@volunteernow.co.uk

[Find Out More](#)

The background image shows a spiral-bound calendar with a pencil resting on it. The word 'Elevate' is written in large, bold, blue letters. To the right of the word is a circular logo made of colorful dots in shades of blue, yellow, and pink. Below the word 'Elevate' is the tagline 'Working together to build healthier communities' in pink. To the right of the logo is the text 'Community Development Capacity Building Programme' in pink.

Elevate

Working together to build
healthier communities

Community
Development
Capacity Building
Programme

Elevate Training Dates

Elevate offers free, interactive full-day training programme focusing on community development as a way to reduce health inequalities. Participants must be available for both the morning and afternoon session of the training.

What will the sessions cover?

- What are health inequalities and what do they look like in your work or community?
- The social determinants of health
- Understanding community development values
- Understanding the role of community development in reducing health inequalities

Who is the training for?

Anyone with an interest in community development and health inequalities including staff and volunteers in voluntary organisations, community groups, councils, health and social care and government agencies. Elevate Training is designed to provide an opportunity for shared learning within a multidisciplinary group, with participants from across different sectors and backgrounds. **For this reason, we limit the number of participants to 3 people from same organisation per session.**

[Find Out More](#)

2024 #HowWeAge Photography Competition



2024 How We Age Photography Competition

The deadline has been extended for this year's **How We Age** photography competition, which is seeking images of older adults engaged in work, teaching, learning, or volunteering in their local communities. The deadline coincides with International Day of Older Persons in October. The competition is free to enter, open to residents of Ireland and Northern Ireland over the age of 18, and is now open for entries until **1 October 2024**.

The competition seeks to create a series of images that will better represent and more accurately portray what it means to age or get older in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Under the theme of '**Working, learning, and volunteering in later life**', the 2024 competition is seeking photographs that show how older people enrich our lives and communities through work, teaching, learning, or volunteering.

Entries are invited that reflect and include older adults engaged in:

- **Working** – all forms of work, part-time, full-time, paid and unpaid;
- **Learning** – engaged in lifelong learning, teaching or sharing skills, learning new skills;
- **Volunteering** - contributing at local or community level, both formally and informally.

Images should portray older people in an authentic and inclusive way - regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, politics, culture, ability, income, or post code.

Entrants can submit up to a maximum of three photos and all entries must be submitted via the online entry form on the IPH website, which can be accessed at www.publichealth.ie/photo.

Prizes include gift vouchers for photography equipment to the value of €/\$500 for first prize, €/\$300 for second prize, and €/\$100 for third prize, depending on where the winning entrants reside.



World Volunteer Conference

IAVE needs your help: The 27th IAVE World Volunteer Conference is coming up fast and the theme is People Power: Creating a sustainable future through volunteering and they would like you to promote your own work and the World Volunteer Conference. They have put together a simple media kit with three parts:

1. A press release – one that is [ready to send](#) and one that you can [personalise](#) to promote your organisation and volunteer action.
2. [A slide template](#) – they want to showcase your work at the conference. One way will be through a presentation showing how their members and conference participants are helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Go to the slide that matches the SDG your organisation is working on, add your organisation's name, a picture of your volunteering and the location the picture was taken and email the slide to lowell@iave.org - you can send up to three slides.
3. Social media posts – please follow them on Facebook or Instagram @iaveofficial and LinkedIn and X @iave. Please include a link to the conference website wvc2024busan.kr and please tag #worldvolunteerconference, IAVE and @vbusan. Click here to find a collection of images on [Canva](#). Here are some post you can share, copy or borrow from: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [YouTube](#).

Do you involve volunteers? Are they making an exceptional impact on a local community? You could be awarded a King's Award for Voluntary Service!

Every day, millions of people across the UK are making a difference by volunteering. Each year, outstanding examples of this work are celebrated through the King's Award for Voluntary Service. Equivalent to an MBE, the King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life.



**The King's Award
for Voluntary Service**

The MBE for volunteer groups

Find Out More & Nominate



Introducing: Raquel Rodrigues-Kennan

Volunteering Development Officer

Hi, I'm Raquel and I have been working with Volunteer Now for 14 years. My own journey into volunteering started 17 years ago when I first volunteered for the European Capital of Culture project in Luxembourg and there I met my husband who's from this part of the world.

My current role is as a Volunteering Development Officer and this means I have a strategic role in supporting and developing volunteering across the council areas of Newry, Mourne and Down, Armagh, Dungannon and Fermanagh.

I work with volunteer involving organisations, councils, statutory bodies and corporates to help them develop their volunteer programmes and grow their volunteer teams. I also support event organisers to recruit, manage, train and support their event volunteers.

I am a Volunteer Management and World Host qualified trainer so you may see me delivering some of our training on offer.

I love connecting people and empowering them to have a positive impact in their communities. I strongly believe we can all be the change we want to see in the world.

Contact Raquel

We support and promote work by d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists in NI and beyond and we are led by disabled people. Our Atypical Gallery delivers a year-round programme of exhibitions. Our annual Bounce Arts Festival showcases innovative and powerful work by d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent artists across multiple art forms. We run the Arts and Disability Access Awards, a support and accreditation scheme in accessibility best practice for arts organisations. You can get involved in our volunteer programmes, artist support programmes, training programmes, and employment opportunities.



University of Atypical



Publication of the Month:

Problem Solving Procedures

An issue all volunteer managers dread is dealing with conflict and challenging situations. This short publication outlines methods and things to consider when you receive a complaint or need to address poor performance. Often having a plan written down will give you confidence to handle these situations effectively and consistently.

Problem Solving Procedures



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Helping Hand Charity RBHSC](#), [Beyond the Battlefield](#), [Down District Accessible Transport](#),



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

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

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