



Newsletter

for volunteer involving groups



October 2024

Hi and welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter for groups involving volunteers in Northern Ireland.

We hope you find the information below helpful and if you would like any further information/support please do not hesitate to contact us. Don't forget that you can get help at any time from ...

- The [Be Collective Guide for Groups](#) on our website
- Be Collective Help Centre - a full selection of topics and help videos (the link to the Help Centre is at the bottom left corner when signed in to your Be Collective account)
- Or contact Volunteer Now and one of our team can support you - just email info@volunteernow.co.uk for assistance

Does your group involve younger volunteers?

Be Collective have recently updated their terms, and now volunteers age 14+ can create their own account on Be Collective (previously they had to be age 16+ to have their own account). Individuals no longer need to include a date of birth unless the organisation asks for it. This means that it is only volunteers aged 13 and under who need to be part of a family group to register for opportunities.

Read more about age restrictions in these Be Collective help articles:

- [I'm a young volunteer \(under 13\) - how can I use Be Collective](#)
- [Do I need to provide a date of birth to join Be Collective?](#)

Don't forget that if you do involve younger volunteers in your work, you can recognise them with an Impact Award! Created and designed in



partnership with our youth forum, this Awards programme works in partnership with Be Collective, ensuring that all young volunteers have the ability to be recognised for their volunteering commitment.

For further information and support relating to youth volunteering and the Impact Awards, check out the [Youth section](#) of our website or contact youth@volunteernow.co.uk

Have your say!

Volunteer Now in partnership with network organisations from across the sector – NICVA, CO3, Development Trusts NI, and Rural Community Network – invite organisations in the voluntary and community sector to share their views on the draft Programme for Government. We will be jointly hosting three online engagement sessions for organisations, to provide an overview of the key priorities detailed within the draft plan and hear sector views and feedback.

For dates and to book your place, [click here](#).

Do you fundraise?



It was great to see so many groups come along to our Link Lunch & Learn sessions last month. Next up, we have a VOLT (Volunteer Organisations Linking Together) session focusing on fundraising and we will be joined by Celia Currie from the Fundraising Regulator. So if your group involves fundraising volunteers (or are thinking of doing so) then this online session on 17 October will be perfect for you! Book your place [here](#).

Our next campaigns - get involved!

We are in the middle of Positive Ageing Month, however we are already planning our next campaigns! Befriending Week and Trustee's Week overlap in early November and towards the end of the month comes #iwill Week (youth activism and social action). The three campaigns give volunteer involving organisations the opportunity to share the great impact that volunteers have within your organisation and the opportunity to encourage more people

to get involved. We would love you to share your stories throughout the weeks and to tag us on social media. We will reshare and promote your opportunities as well.

Volunteer Recruitment



Did you know that Volunteer Now can help publicise your volunteer stories to help with your volunteer recruitment? Hearing a volunteer's experience and enjoyment of their volunteering role is a great way to inspire someone else! Kate, our digital media assistant, is willing to take photographs, little pieces to camera and to create social media content. This offer is open to organisations without the internal resources to create their own. If you are keen, then [contact Kate](#) giving her some info about what you do.



Have you checked your information on Be Collective?

It's good practice to routinely check your details are all correct on the Be Collective platform.



- Are you approaching the closing date for your opportunity and need to extend it?
- Have you uploaded a logo and header image? *This will help with the algorithm on Be Collective and can make your opportunities more visible.*
- Is the contact person for your opportunities still correct?
- Have you given people enough time to apply for your opportunity? - *don't have your closing date too tight!*

And don't forget to share your opportunities with Volunteer Now - they will then show on the opportunity search on our website as well as on the Be Collective platform (all volunteer registrations will still come to you via Be Collective).

If you need any assistance updating your details, have a look at our [Step-by-Step guide](#) or feel free to give us a shout on info@volunteernow.co.uk and one of our team can help. **If needed, Volunteer Now can join your group as an additional Admin to give a hand.**

Health Checks and Training

Open to Be Collective users!! Would you like one of the team to offer you a good practice 'health check'? We talk through your policies and procedures checking them against the Investing in Volunteers standard.



Please email Jane: jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk letting her know what area you cover

Volunteer Friendly Support Officer to get in touch.



Volunteer

Volunteer Friendly Award is a quality standard and development tool that is user-friendly, to support, develop, recognise and reward groups/organisations who are good at involving volunteers.

Volunteer Friendly will be a key award and development tool in the quality pipeline. Volunteer Friendly is based on the national UK standard Investing in Volunteers (IiV), designed for small groups/organisations who may not be ready to undertake IiV.

[Visit our website](#) for more details and pricing structure ... if your group has an income of under £100,00 per year it's absolutely free!

Training

Check out our training calendar for a full selection of training Volunteer Now can offer - some of these are free and others from as little as £10 per person! <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/courses-scheduled/>



We can also provide tailored training specific to your organisation - <https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/training/tailored-training/> - just send us a message through the web contact form and we'll get back to you with more details.

Keep Informed!

Volunteer Now have other newsletters that you might find useful..

- **VConnect** - a roundup of general information useful to volunteer involving groups
- **VTraining** - details of training sessions offered by Volunteer Now

You can sign up for both newsletters either at the bottom of any page [on our website](#) or sign up as a [member](#) and you'll receive both too.

If you just want VTraining – email training@volunteernow.co.uk with your details and we'll add you to the mailing list.

Get social with us!

We love it when you interact with us on...

Facebook: [Volunteer.Now](#), [VolunteerNowYouth](#)

Twitter: [@VolunteerNow1](#) / [@VNEnterprise](#)

Instagram: [@volunteernow1](#)



www.volunteernow.co.uk

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