



# Newsletter

for volunteer involving groups



**January 2025**

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](mailto:info@volunteernow.co.uk) for assistance

## Do you advertise roles suitable for younger volunteers?

If so, you need to ensure you have **verified group status**. This is a requirement for engaging young people in volunteering through Be Collective. Without verification, young people (under the age of 18) using the platform will not be able to either see nor apply for your youth accessible opportunities!



Not verified? No problem. It's easy to submit a form and any group can do it (Standard, Plus and Pro). Find out more in these help articles:

- [Youth Accessible Opportunities](#)
- [How do I verify my group?](#)

## Volunteers' Week 2025

Launching on 3 February this year! We are hopefully giving organisations lots of time to plan for how you will recognise and celebrate your wonderful volunteers. Volunteers' Week will take place from 2-8 June 2025 and we would love to hear from you if you have any plans made. Further information will come from us as the launch date and week gets closer so keep an eye out for further news.



## Our next VOLT Sessions

Would you like to network, learn and share with other volunteer involving organisations? Come along to one of our free VOLT sessions!



- **Investing in Volunteers Information Session** (Tuesday 28 January 2025)
- **Involving Young People as Volunteers** (Thursday 13 February 2025)
- **Safeguarding Children & Young People – What, When & Who Can You Share Information With?** (Tuesday 25 February 2025)

For more information and details on how to register, [visit our website](#).

## Family Volunteering

Do you welcome families as part of your volunteer community? We often get requests for young people to volunteer and in many instances an adult family member is willing to attend with them or the whole family are willing to get involved. Family volunteering is a great way to get more people involved and to encourage commitment to your cause from an early age. We would love to hear from you if we can help:

- We are creating an opportunity sheet that contains opportunities that are suitable for families so if you have roles then we would love to hear from you.
- If you would like support to create/develop roles that would be suitable for families then please get in touch
- If you do it already and you would like to share your practice/learning with then we would love to document it.

For more information contact your local [Volunteering Support Officer](#).

## Volunteer Recruitment



## 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.

## Membership

Are you a member of Volunteer Now? If not then you can become a member as an individual or organisation for free! You will receive our membership and training newsletters but also invitations to events, networking opportunities and hear about everything else we are doing. Sign up [here](#).

## 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](mailto: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.

**Check**

Please email Jane: [jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk](mailto:jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk) letting her know what area you cover and we will ask your Volunteering Support Officer to get in touch.

## Volunteer Friendly



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 (liV), designed for small groups/organisations who may not be ready to undertake liV.

[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](mailto:training@volunteernow.co.uk) with your details and we'll add you to the mailing list.

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## Get social with us!

We love it when you interact with us...

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

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

Instagram: [@volunteernow1](#)

[www.volunteernow.co.uk](http://www.volunteernow.co.uk)



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