



HEROES PLUS



HEROES+

Assistant Youth Worker Application Pack



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for expressing your interest in a position within the HEROES+ Project at Volunteer Now. We appreciate your enthusiasm and are excited about the potential to welcome you to our dynamic team.

At HEROES+, we strongly believe in the power of collaboration and its transformative impact on young people with diverse abilities. Funded through the Special EU Programmes Body, the project is led by Mencap NI, with delivery partners across Northern Ireland, including Access Employment Limited (AEL), Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM), Compass Advocacy Network (CAN), incredABLE, and Volunteer Now. HEROES+ is not just offering a job; it is presenting an opportunity for you to embark on a transformative adventure of personal and professional development. As you explore the possibilities within our project, you will realize that every detail is a canvas of growth and potential. We are actively seeking candidates ready to embrace challenges and make a meaningful impact.

At Volunteer Now, we are extremely proud of the service we provide. We have developed considerable experience in empowering the young people we work with to think, act, change, create and grow so that they can reach their full potential and achieve their aspirations. Within this project we are supporting young people who have been excluded from school or who require additional support.

Once again, thank you for your interest in the HEROES+ Project. We eagerly anticipate the possibility of working together to create a world where abilities shine brighter than labels.

**Jane Gribbin,
Community Engagement Manager**

About Volunteer Now

Our **VISION** is for a vibrant, fair and safe society where volunteering and volunteers flourish.

Our **MISSION** is To be a power catalyst for volunteering to enrich lives and energise communities.

OUR VALUES

The following values, underpin our work and culture:

- Inclusion
- Integrity
- Excellence
- Collaboration
- Sustainability

About Volunteer Now

Volunteer Now promotes, develops and supports volunteering across Northern Ireland. Our work enhances recognition for volunteers, provides access to opportunities and encourages people to volunteer. We provide information and support to volunteer involving organisations on volunteer management, governance and on all areas of safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk.

Our Community Engagement Team provides support to all things volunteering. We work with individuals and organisations to promote and encourage volunteering. We support organisations to make sure that they are able to involve volunteers effectively.

<http://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering>.

Our Community Projects Team oversees a range of volunteer involving projects including befriending, driving and capacity building for older people's groups.

<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/about/community-projects/>

We have an Events team that recruits and manages the volunteers for major events in Northern Ireland. We are presently recruiting volunteers for The Open in Portrush.

<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteering/event-volunteering/>

The Volunteer Now Safeguarding Team provides support for organisations with both child and adult safeguarding and has worked across Ireland and the UK.

<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/organisations/safeguarding/>

Volunteer Now Enterprises Ltd (VNE) is a social enterprise company which supports the work and activities of the charity, Volunteer Now.

<https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/volunteer-now-enterprises-ltd/>

ABOUT HEROES+

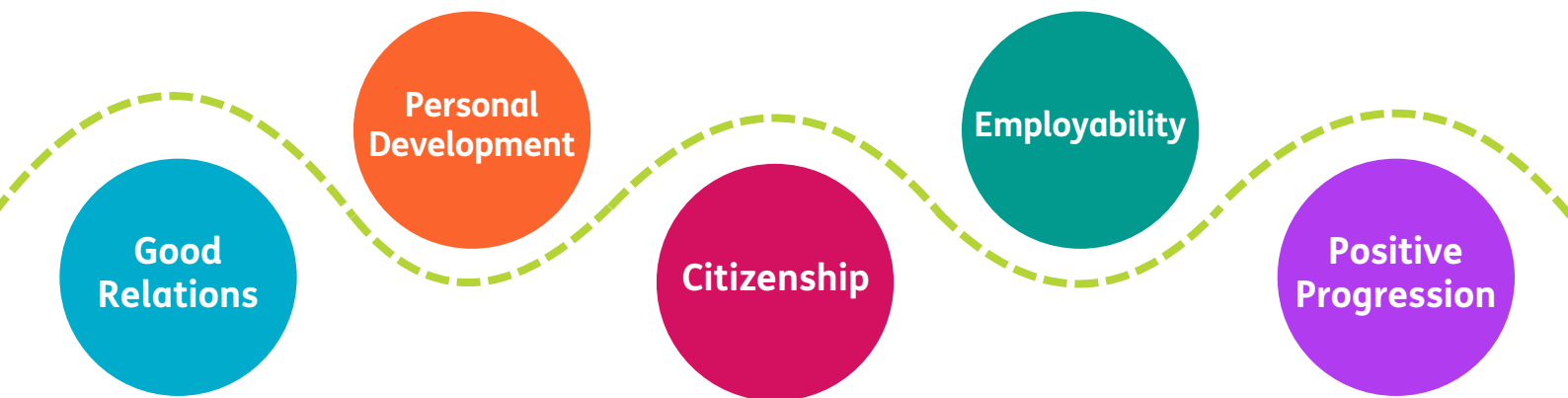
HEROES PLUS



HEROES+ is an exciting new project for young people aged 14-24 with a learning disability/additional needs and/or who are excluded from school, providing innovative, transformative programmes that inspire them develop their potential, contribute to building an inclusive society and be future community peace builders.

Funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body, the HEROES+ project partnership of Mencap NI, Access Employment Limited (AEL), Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM), Compass Advocacy Network (CAN), incredABLE, and Volunteer Now strongly believe in the power of collaboration and its transformative impact on young people with diverse abilities.

PROGRAMME OUTCOME AREAS



Through our delivery, HEROES+ will offer opportunities for:

Groupwork

Educational Visits

Residentials

Qualifications & Short Courses

Social & Outdoor Activities

Mentoring

Arts & Creativity

Volunteering

Social Action Projects

ABOUT

THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT YOUTH WORKER

The Assistant Youth Worker will :

- Assist in the delivery of HEROES+ in line with the project outcomes and targets
- Assist in the recruitment of young people to participate in the HEROES+ project
- Support young people through their engagement on HEROES+, empowering them to reach their full potential and achieve their individual aspirations
- Promote a range of local activities for young people in support of their personal progression



MAIN PURPOSE:

- To facilitate programmes and activities for young people who have been excluded from school and/or additional needs which will enhance their skills and knowledge and provide exciting opportunities for them to access the core themes of Good Relations, Personal Development, Employability, Citizenship and Positive Progression
- To work in partnership with HEROES+ youth work team and delivery partners
- Contribute to the successful delivery of HEROES+

HOW TO APPLY

HEROES+ operates as a collaborative effort involving Mencap NI, Access Employment Limited (AEL), Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM), Compass Advocacy Network (CAN), incredABLE, and Volunteer Now. We may exchange information about potential candidates with other organisations within the partnership throughout the recruitment process.

TO APPLY:

Kindly submit your application form ensuring that you complete all sections.

**Application forms can be received from
Leah.McCann@volunteernow.co.uk**

Please note that this post covers NI and programmes will be delivered in partnership with EOTAS centres or in services that support young people with additional support needs.

The main office base will be Belfast.

FURTHER INFORMATION

We are committed to safeguarding children and young people and to ensuring equal opportunity for all applicants.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Now is an Equal Opportunities Employer and all applications for employment are considered strictly on the basis of merit

DISABILITY

In accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act a person is disabled if they have, or have had, “a physical or mental impairment which has, or has had, a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities”.

If you consider yourself to have a disability relevant to the position for which you are applying, please contact Leah, (leah.mccann@volunteernow.co.uk), so that we can process your application fairly, make any specific arrangements for your interview, and make any necessary reasonable adjustments or adaptations, or provide any aids to assist you in completing the duties of the post if appointed.

ACCESS NI (CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS CHECK)

All successful applicants will be required to complete an Enhanced Disclosure through Access NI.

For more information please contact:
Jane Gribbin, Community Engagement Manager
jane.gribbin@volunteernow.co.uk

Volunteer Now
The Skainos Centre
239 Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 1AF



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VOLUNTEER NOW
Volunteers change lives

HEROES
PLUS



PEACEPLUS
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government

The HEROES+ Project is a project supported by PEACEPLUS, a programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).

JOB DESCRIPTION

Responsible to: Volunteering Participation Officer
Salary: £23,934 pa pro rata for 25 hours pw

Summary of Main Responsibilities

To assist the youth workers in the delivery of Volunteer Now's youth programmes, namely Heroes +. They will support the youth worker in developing, organising and delivering tailored programmes to meet the individual needs and goals of young people in a project delivery area, and will work co-operatively with the youth work team to achieve project targets and deliver the best outcomes for participants.

Main Areas of Responsibility

- Assist with the recruitment of project participants within agreed localities (focus on those young people excluded from mainstream education)
- Provide direct support to young people both individually and in a group environment, engaging and communicating with them in an open, friendly and business-like way.
- Following individual risk assessment and adopting a shared risk approach to working with young people with a diverse set of needs.
- Support young people to express their personal goals and aspirations in the development of an individual and group development plan.
- Have the competence to act as a positive role model to the young people they support.
- Assist with the delivery of youth work programmes and interventions under the guidance of the youth workers.
- Assist with gathering information to assist with the assessment of young people's strengths, life skills and experience and attitudes towards good relations and diversity.
- Working as part of a project team to reflect on practice issues, identify and agree actions and to inform project development and evaluation.
- Working closely with the youth work team and finance team ensure the team and young people have access to resources.
- Undertake activities that ensure Volunteer Now makes a significant contribution to the increase of youth volunteering and youth social action activity in NI.
- Promote and support youth volunteering and youth social action in particular delivery of a #iwill movement, and other youth work /recognition programmes.
- Deliver youth work programmes (including residential) that support young people to deliver youth social action/youth volunteering programmes that meet youth work policy and practice standards.
- Support increased recognition and value for youth social action and volunteering.
- Contribute to the effective use and development of Be Collective, Volunteer Now databases, website and other media forms.
- To contribute to health and safety of staff and programme participants.

Operational Contribution

- **Contribute to organisational planning, particularly in relation to relevant areas of work.**
- **Contribute to effective teamwork within the Engagement Directorate and across the organisation.**
- **Gather and feedback information to assist with monitoring of young people's individual progress and learning outcomes and evaluation of project activity.**
- **Complete information report against project targets and outcomes using agreed processes and timeframes.**

Business Development

- **Proactively identify, seek out and build appropriate partnerships.**
- **Identify opportunities for improvement across the business unit.**

Any other duties

- **Contribute to effective communication across the organisation.**
- **Work within and contribute to the aims and objectives of the organisation.**
- **Undertake such other reasonable duties as may from time to time be required.**

Applicants must demonstrate evidence of the following qualifications, core competencies and additional requirements:

Contract of Employment:

Fixed Term for two years (with possible extension subject to funding)

Holidays:

22 days per annum pro rata (incremental depending on length of service). In addition, statutory/public holidays in accordance with Volunteer Now policy will also be granted.

Pension:

A flexible retirement pension scheme is provided with Volunteer Now contributing 4.5% of gross salary per annum. You are eligible to join the scheme once probationary period is completed satisfactorily.

Hours of Employment:

25 hours per week. Reasonable hours outside this (the nature of the work means that evening and weekend work will be required during events therefore the working hours will be across Monday-Sunday, as applicable) are required to fulfil the obligations associated with the post.

Travel & Subsistence:

Current rates are available from the Corporate Services Manager.

Location:

NI wide programme with primary office base in Belfast. Other bases are in Enniskillen and Newry. A hybrid working policy is in place to facilitate home working as part of this post.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Applicants must have demonstrable evidence of the following qualifications, core competencies and additional requirements:

Qualifications

A relevant qualification minimum of OCN level 2 in youth work or two years' experience in supporting young people within the last 5 years.

Additional requirements

- **2 years' experience of working with young people in a youth setting.**
- **Ability to encourage young people to try new activities and to mix with their peers.**
- **Ability to work with young people to organise an appropriate programme of activities that delivers the project outcomes.**
- **Experience of volunteering, promoting volunteering, social action and delivering support services**
- **Ability to demonstrate commitment to our organisational values.**
- **Hold a full driving licence and/or access to a form of transport which will enable the post holder to carry out the duties of the post effectively.**
- **Ability to use basic IT packages.**

Desirable:

- **A youth work qualification**
- **Understanding of barriers facing young people with social, communication or learning difficulties and how these can be overcome.**
- **Awareness of activities offered as part of youth work programmes.**
- **Awareness and enthusiasm for inclusive practices**
- **Experience of supporting the delivery of youth social action programmes**
- **Experience of planning and organising activities or events**
- **Experience of record keeping and evaluation**