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JUNE 2025

Volunteers' Week 2025

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now



Thank you for all your support in recognising and thanking volunteers during Volunteers' Week 2025! Over 120 organisations sent in thank you videos for The Big NI Thank You, which were inventive and inspiring and really underpinned the important role volunteers play. Many more organisations held events and gave out certificates or just said a big thank you to their volunteers.

We are pulling together the data about the Week and as the planning starts for Volunteers' Week 2026, we want the campaign to reflect what matters most to you so there is a [short survey](#) to gather your thoughts and ideas. We'd love to hear any suggestions you have for the campaign, resources and more, to help make it bigger, better and more inclusive than ever.

ONLINE TRAINING

Click the button below to find out more!



Volunteer Management | Safeguarding | Volunteering | Governance

Online Training

- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Training
- Induction, Support & Supervision of Volunteers
- Keeping Children & Adults Safe: Training for Staff & Volunteers Refresher
- Succession Planning for Volunteering
- Volunteers & the Law



Succession Planning for Volunteering

29 July 2025 | 10.30am-12.30pm | Online

Leading & managing volunteers can be very fulfilling, but it also comes with some notable challenges. Even the best planned volunteering projects can struggle to attract and retain volunteers for the long term, leading to the need for repeated rounds of recruitment and the potential for burn-out in those volunteers who do remain.

This is where succession planning for volunteering teams comes to the rescue – by allowing to you to pre-plan and prepare for the movement of volunteers (especially those in key & leadership roles) in and out of your organisation in a smooth and managed way. In this session we will look at what succession planning is, why it is vital to running successful volunteer teams, and how best to go about creating and implementing a succession plan that works for your organisation.

Book Your Place



volunteer Friendly Standard

Volunteer Friendly Award

Volunteer Now, in partnership with North West Volunteer Centre and the volunteer centres across Northern Ireland, recognised Repair and Share, Foyle and Lincoln Courts Youth and Community Association as they received their Volunteer Friendly Awards during Volunteers Week!

The Volunteer Friendly Award is a quality standard and development tool that is user-friendly, to support, develop, recognise and reward small to medium sized groups who are good at involving volunteers. 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. It's never been more important for groups to be able to show how good they are at involving and managing their volunteers.

If you have an annual income of less than £200,000 and would like to receive accreditation for your good practice in volunteer management, please contact your local Volunteering Support Officer – you can find their contact details by clicking the button below.

[Find Out More](#)



Join our team!

Youth Worker Heroes+

Volunteer Now are seeking a Youth Worker to join our Heroes+ team as they make a real difference to the lives of young people who have been excluded from mainstream education and/or who have additional support needs.

This is an NI wide programme with primary office base in Belfast. Other bases are Enniskillen and Newry. A hybrid working policy is in place.

Communications Manager

We are seeking a dynamic and skilled Communications Manager to join our team. The ideal candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing communication and marketing strategies that enhance Volunteer Now's public image and ensure consistent messaging across all platforms. This role requires a creative individual with excellent writing, editing and project management skills, along with a sound knowledge of online media.

Offices are available in Belfast, Enniskillen and Newry. Staff will be required to support the work of the organisation across all of its areas. A hybrid working policy is in place.

Both posts are full time and the closing date for both is **Tuesday 8 July 2025 at 4pm.**

[Find Out More & Apply](#)

Congratulations to [Niacro](#), who have renewed their Investing in Volunteers award for an amazing **fourth time** during Volunteers' Week 2025!

Investing in Volunteers (IiV) is the UK Quality Standard that helps you assess and improve the quality of your volunteer management and involvement, prove and improve the effectiveness of your work with volunteers and enhance your organisation's reputation.



Achieving the standard shows your current, and potential, volunteers how much they are valued and gives them confidence in your ability to provide an outstanding volunteer experience. It also reassures funders of the quality of your practices.

[Find Out More](#)



Introducing: Pamela Higgins *Receptionist/Administration Officer*

Hi, my name is Pamela and I live in the South-East County Down Area. I am the Receptionist/Administration Officer for Volunteer Now. I work across two different teams - Corporate Services and Community Projects. Some of my reception duties includes answering calls from the public, post and stationery orders. My administration duties include making calls to older people daily, chatting to them and letting them know about events and taking registration for event for older men's volunteering, Greater Shankill Senior Citizens Forum and the West Belfast 50+ Forum. I also send out information and application forms to the Belfast Older Men's Groups.

[Contact Pamela](#)

Camphill Community Clanabogan began in 1984 and now over 75 people live there in a variety of shared households. In this therapeutic life sharing community, adults who have learning disabilities live and work together with co-workers and their children.

At Clanabogan, the aim is to provide a mutually supportive and purposeful community life for people with learning disabilities. In doing so, they aim to support them to participate fully and equally in society.



Camphill Community Clanabogan



Publication of the Month:

Family Volunteering Information Sheet

As schools begin to wrap up for the summer, it could be worth giving family volunteering roles consideration. While this isn't always possible (depending on your organisation), are there ways you can involve children with a responsible adult in volunteering roles for your organisation?

By getting people involved and offering a positive experience from a young age, you may provide opportunities and avenues for future involvement as they get older. You may also remove a potential barrier for parents when schools are closed.

Family Volunteering Information Sheet



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Carrickfergus Castle Triathlon](#), [Mindwise](#).



Flexible, accessible training

Did you know you can learn all you need to know about volunteer management in just 8 hours with

& Somerset watch, [Downpatrick Autism Family Support Group](#), [Aghaloo Blackwater Community Association](#). This brings our organisational members total to 1203!

below to find out more.

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


Volunteers in Focus: Episode 6 - Avril, Eco Rangers NI

Meet Avril, a passionate volunteer with Eco Rangers NI since 2021 🌍♻️

Frustrated by the litter in her local area, Avril reached out to the organisation and began doing solo litter picks—enjoying the fresh air and exercise. Her solo effort quickly grew into a vibrant, social activity as others joined in, and team picks were born.

From reservoirs and forests to country roads and motorways, the Eco Rangers tackle an endless list of litter—promoting civic pride and fostering a cleaner, greener community.

It's not just adults making an impact—local youth groups have joined the effort, building an inspiring intergenerational movement to care for the planet. This social side of volunteering makes Avril's role especially rewarding.

Volunteers in Focus celebrates how one person's passion can spark collective change. Stay tuned for more inspiring stories and discover how you can make a difference ❤️

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