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AUGUST 2024

Feedback Session

Denise Hayward, CEO, Volunteer Now



Over the past few months Roger Courtney has been linking in with members and stakeholders of Volunteer Now to help us to shape our new Strategic plan. He has also undertaken a substantial review of the research on volunteering and the local policy context. We now have a draft plan and we would really like to hear from you about whether you feel it meets your needs for the coming few years. We are planning an online session on **24 September 2024 at 1.00pm**.

Please join just to give feedback on the draft plan. To reserve a space, please email Victoria.Price@volunteernow.co.uk. To see a copy of the draft plan, please [click here](#).

ONLINE TRAINING

Click the button below to find out more!

VOLUNTEER NOW
Volunteering for Everyone

Volunteer Management | Safeguarding | Volunteering | Governance

Online Training

- Change Management
- Recruit, Retain, Reward Volunteers
- Keeping Children Safe: Designated Officer Refresher Training
- Inclusion in Volunteering Workshop
- VOLT Session: Fundraising

[View Training Calendar](#)

Development Practice

2024 - 2025



The Diploma in Community Development Practice is a one-year (part time) accredited course which has been designed to enable Community Activists (volunteers and paid staff in the Community and Voluntary Sector) to develop the knowledge, understanding and essential practical skills and experience required to provide leadership within this field.

Course delivery location: Newtownards
Participants particularly welcome from the Newtownards area.

For more information, eligibility criteria and to apply contact:
kelly@ruralcommunitynetwork.org
Tel: (028) 86766670

Closing date for applications
Friday 23rd August 2024

Funded by:



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want to make a positive change
where you live? This is for you!



INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY ACTION COURSE

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
THIS FRIDAY!**

Starts September 18, with sessions every Wednesday for 5 weeks. Sessions take place online.

Places are fully funded but in high demand.

Introduction to Community Action Course

Jam packed with workshops, inspirational talks, networking opportunities and lots of fun, the online Introduction to Community Action course is for anyone interested in making a difference in their community.

Part of our Community Camp programme, this short online course explores how to make positive change where you live, from the comfort of your own home.

Applications close on Friday 23 August at 4pm. Places are fully funded and in high-demand so don't delay.

The next course will start on **Wednesday 18 September.**

[Find Out More & Apply Now](#)



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](#).
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CO3 Leadership Summit 2024

CO3 are excited to invite you to the [CO3 Leadership Summit 2024: Empowering Change](#), the biggest networking and learning event for leaders of the Voluntary and Community Sector in Northern Ireland.

Join over 250 senior leaders on the 26 September at the La Mon Hotel for a day filled with inspiration and empowerment. This conference is a unique opportunity to discuss shared challenges, explore new opportunities, and make meaningful connections.

World leading social entrepreneur and campaigner Josh Littlejohn will be making his return to CO3 after 5 years and will examine how things have changed in that time and delegates will learn if John has continued to 'Pay it Forward'.

In May 2019, Josh started a worldwide campaign called "The World's Biggest Sleepout" that was joined by celebrities such as Will Smith and Dame Helen Mirren. Over 60,000 slept outside in over 52 cities across the world, showing their support for homeless and displaced individuals, as well as raising millions to help address the problem.

Josh's talk will inspire and equip the audience with practical lessons on leadership, social entrepreneurship and fundraising.

Other speakers will include:

- Roisin Wood, CEO Community Foundation NI
- Lye Ogunsanya, CEO Didean
- Colin Catney, Chief Operating Officer, National Museums NI
- Kate Beggs, NI Director, The National Lottery Community Fund
- Jane Trenaman, Founder, The Fundraising Leadership Assembly
- Aine Myler, CEO, Charities Institute Ireland

The Future of Funding panel will feature representatives from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Halifax Foundation, Fermanagh House and the National Lottery.

This is an opportunity CEOs, senior leaders and trustees can't afford to miss.

Places are limited. Make sure you secure your place by clicking the button below.

CO3 Leadership Summit 2024

Providers

Parkinson's UK are providing grants of up to £3,000 to support physical activity projects for people with Parkinson's all over the UK. Before applying, make sure you carefully read the essential guide for applicants and they recommend using the complete checklist for applicants to help you complete your application. They also encourage completing the Parkinson's UK physical activity and exercise awareness course ahead of submitting your application.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GRANTS

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

[Find Out More](#)



Volunteer Now Impact Awards

Does your organisation involve young people aged 10-25 years old in volunteering? If so, then why not recognise their efforts through the Volunteer Now Impact Awards?

We believe that every hour spent volunteering counts, and that's why we offer certification from as little as 10 hours. By recognising the commitment of your young volunteers, not only are you rewarding the valuable work they do but you are also supporting their future employment and education prospects.

To find out more about the Volunteer Now Impact Awards, contact us on youth@volunteernow.co.uk



VOLUNTEER NOW
connect · build · change



Positive Ageing Month
October

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!

Lisburn & Castlereagh | Tues 17 Sept, 12.30-2.30pm | Laganview Enterprise Centre, Lisburn
Book your place with David.Moore@volunteernow.co.uk

Fermanagh | Tues 17 Sept, 12-1.30pm | Fermanagh House
Book your place with Lynn.Johnston@volunteernow.co.uk

Armagh & Dungannon | Wed 18 Sept, 12-2pm | Palace Chamber, Armagh
Book your place with Jamie.Greer@volunteernow.co.uk

Belfast | Thur 19 Sept, 12-2pm | Skainos Centre, Belfast
Book your place with David.Moore@volunteernow.co.uk

Bangor | Fri 20 Sept, 12.30-2.30pm | The Hub, Bangor
Book your place with Alice.OBoyle@volunteernow.co.uk

Find Out More

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest civil award given to group of volunteers to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. In November 2023 it was announced that nine volunteer groups in Northern Ireland had been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service. All nine groups have now been presented with their award by their local Lord Lieutenant. Congratulations to the following:



- [Cullybackey Community Partnership](#)
- [Chinese Welfare Association, Northern Ireland \(CWA\)](#)
- [Fivemiletown Royal British Legion](#)
- [Greyabbey & District Community Association](#)
- [Ledley Hall Boys & Girls Club](#)
- [Mayfield Village Community Association](#)
- [Muckamore Parish Development Association](#)
- [PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland Charity](#)
- [Society of St Vincent de Paul](#)

More information on the recipients and the Award can be found [here](#). The 2024 awardees will be announced on 14 November 2024.

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. Nominations for the 2025 awards will open on the 1 September 2024 – full details on how to nominate are available [here](#).



unpaid, based in Ireland and Northern Ireland. If you are eager to enhance your leadership skills, seek opportunities for professional development, and deepen your understanding of volunteer management, this programme is tailor-made for you. The programme is managed by Volunteer Ireland & Volunteer Now, and funded by the Community Foundation.

Join us for a transformative journey where leaders of volunteers come together to share experiences, knowledge, and build a powerful network of leaders of volunteers across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Over the coming months we have planned four interactive and engaging sessions to help us build this all-island Institute of Volunteer Leadership for Leaders of Volunteers. Two of our sessions will be in-person visits in Belfast and Dublin to projects that excel in volunteer engagement practice.

For the online sessions we are delighted to be joined by Dr. Chris Millora, Assistant Professor, Goldsmiths University of London and Matthew Hick, Head of Volunteering, Science Museum Group (UK).

[Find Out More](#)



Youth Worker (Heroes+ Project)

We are looking to recruit a Youth Worker for our Heroes+ Project. Applicants will have a youth work qualification and experience of delivering youth work programmes. The post is full time (35hrs per week) and reasonable hours outside of this are required to fulfil the obligations associated with the post. The post has a primary office base in Belfast but a hybrid working policy is in place to facilitate home working as part of this post.

[Find Out More](#)

Youth Worker

Hi my name is Maria. I am a qualified Youth Worker with over 15 years experience. Throughout the years, I have worked with a range of young people from various backgrounds aged from 5 to 25 years. Working directly with young people that were involved in risk taking behaviour, misuse of drugs and alcohol leading to mental health issues, high levels of suicide and low educational attainment. Using methods such as groupwork, peer education, capacity building, community relations and advocacy skills I support young people to feel empowered, to engage, positively impact their own lives and ultimately meet their full potential.



I am the Youth Worker on Heroes+ Programme. The Heroes+ Programme is funded by PEACE PLUS Special EU Programmes Body and is a partnership between Volunteer Now, Mencap as the lead partner and Access employment Limited (AEL), Bardic Educational Arts and Media (BEAM) and incredABLE to build a transformative impact on young people with diverse abilities. The youth work team will work with young people aged 14 to 17 years who are outside of formal education to provide innovative, transformative programmes that inspire them to develop their potential, contribute to building an inclusive society and become future community peace builders.

Contact Maria



Member Spotlight Oh Yeah Music Centre

The Oh Yeah Music Centre, where local music is celebrated and supported, is Belfast's dedicated music hub since 2007. They offer a variety of services and resources including affordable rehearsal and recording spaces, youth and older people projects, mentoring and talent development for aspiring musicians, music tours, live gigs and more. Their goal is to create a vibrant and inclusive community where local musicians and music lovers can connect, collaborate and grow.

Oh Yeah Music Centre

Trends in Volunteer Participation and Wellbeing

This interesting policy briefing (published a couple of months ago) examines trends in volunteering across Northern Ireland following the Covid-19 pandemic. There are some clear findings on the recovery rates of volunteering across different demographics, along with a series of recommendations for Volunteer Now to consider moving forward.

Trends in Volunteer Participation and Wellbeing



Exploring Post-Pandemic Trends in Volunteer Participation and Wellbeing



New Members

Welcome to our newest organisational members: [Windsor Women's Centre](#), [Zero8teen](#), [Orchardville](#), [Praxis Care Newtownards](#), [University of the 3rd Age](#), [Benburb Priory](#), [Bolster](#), [Bright Umbrella](#). This brings our organisational members total to 1135!

[Become A Member](#)

ON DEMAND COURSES

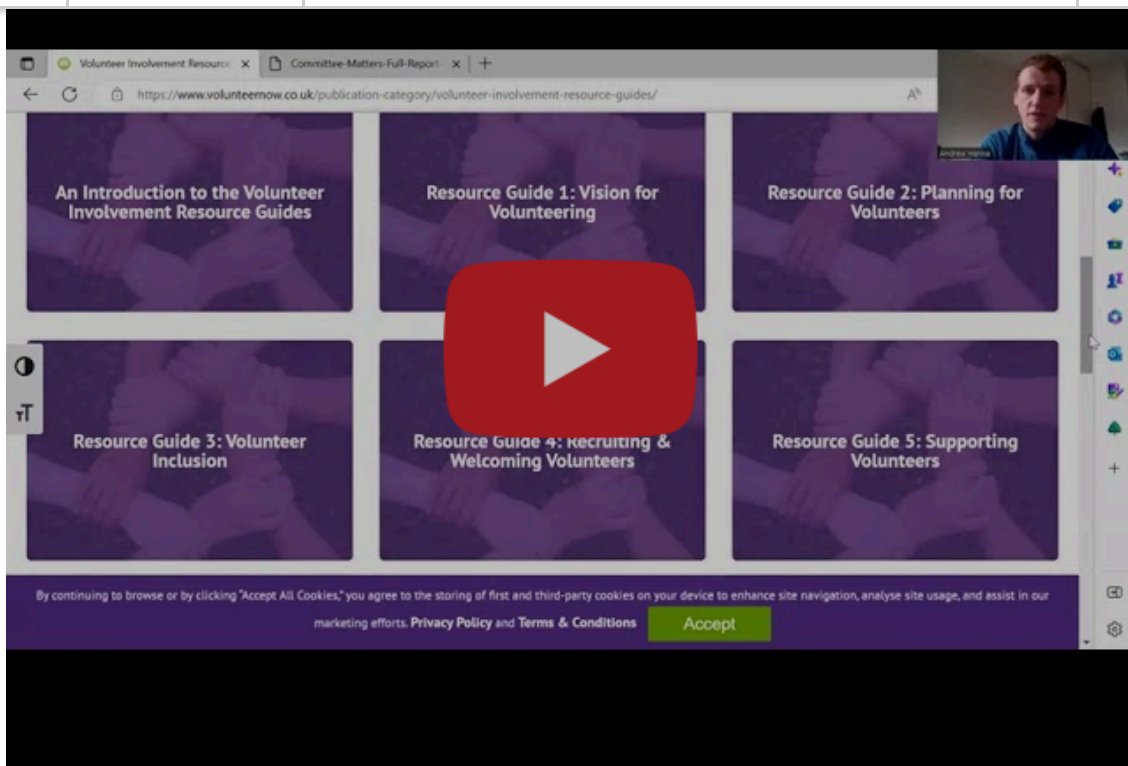
All you need to know about volunteer management in 8 hours of learning!



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 these anytime, anywhere & on any device! Click below to find out more.

[Find Out More](#)



Publication Section

Our Research & Information Officer, Andrew Hanna has produced this short video clip highlighting our Publication Section, designed to make our publications more easy-to-access and user-friendly.

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