

# Volunteer Now: Our Manifesto

## What we do

Volunteer Now is the lead organisation for promoting and supporting volunteering across Northern Ireland.

- We build recognition for volunteering and celebrate the contribution volunteers make.
- We provide access to opportunities and encourage people to volunteer.
- We are a resource for volunteer involving organisations providing support on involving volunteers, governance and safeguarding.



Enabling people to offer their skills and time to build stronger, more active communities.

## Background: The current environment

The impact of the pandemic on formal volunteering in organisations is now well understood. A large number of research reports from across the UK, Ireland and the wider world have outlined the reduction in volunteers and in particular the withdrawal of older people from volunteering roles. This impact has been devastating for some organisations and indeed research from Australia shows that there has also been a negative impact on the wellbeing of those withdrawing from volunteering.



While there are still new volunteers coming forward and organisations are beginning to rebuild their volunteering, much more needs to be done to revitalise and reenergise volunteering and the voluntary and community sector.

## What are we asking?

- 1** Northern Ireland needs a new volunteering strategy to support the rebuilding of volunteering.
- 2** Volunteering needs significant investment to enable organisations to be able to give the focus needed to recruit and retain a new generation of volunteers.
- 3** Local government needs to prioritise support for volunteering to help communities rebuild.

## Contact

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**VOLUNTEER NOW**  
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