

A Volunteering Strategy for Northern Ireland

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Development**

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Why develop a strategy?

- We don't have one!
- DSD committed to develop a Volunteering Strategy as a legacy from the Year of the Volunteer in 2005
- This is a Government strategy developed in partnership with the Voluntary & Community Sector
- It will provide the opportunity for synergy in volunteering policy
- To enable government, the volunteering infrastructure and volunteer involving organisations to better target their efforts and resources to ensure we get the most for volunteers and from volunteers



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Steps to develop the strategy

1. Establish a Steering Group and Terms of Reference
 2. Develop the research base
 3. Analyse the research and draft a consultation document
 4. Undertake a consultation exercise
 5. Publish the Volunteering Strategy document
- Website www.dsdni.gov.uk – look in the Voluntary and Community section



Volunteering Strategy Steering Group

Business in the Community

Churches Community Work Alliance

Local Councils

DCAL / DE / DSD

Disability Action

Help the Aged

NI Council for Ethnic Minorities

NI Council on Voluntary Action

NI Environment Link

NI Sports Forum

Princes Trust

Rural Community Network

South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Voluntary Arts Ireland

Volunteer Centres NI

Volunteer Development Agency

Western Health and Social Care Trust

Youth Council for NI

YouthNet



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The research base

- An Omnibus Survey of 1020 members of the public has been conducted
- 745 volunteer involving organisations completed a questionnaire
- Findings from both surveys published in **It's all about Time**
- A series of Workshops with volunteers and Volunteer Involving Organisations
- Workshops with interest groups and stakeholders



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Research findings

- Volunteer levels are at best static and may be in decline
- Limited time available to volunteer
- Aspects of volunteer management and good practice featured prominently
- Most aspects are closely interlinked
- Workshops confirm the findings in **It's all about time**



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Themes for workshops

Themes developed by the Steering Group

- Promoting the value and benefits of volunteering.
- Enhancing accessibility and diversity within volunteering.
- Improving the volunteering experience.
- Supporting and strengthening volunteer involving organisations and the volunteering infrastructure

These themes may form the basis of the Strategy with associated high level recommendations / outcomes



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Current position

- Volunteer Development Agency in partnership with Institute of Volunteering Research will draft the consultation and strategy documents
- Currently undertaking analysis of all research including the NI research and national and international
- Discuss their analysis with Steering Group members
- Produce a draft consultation document for Ministerial approval
- Public Consultation exercise



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