



valuing volunteering

The Dublin City North Volunteer Centre is a part of the family of services of Volunteering Ireland, the National Volunteer Development Agency and formerly known as the 'Placement Service' of Volunteering Ireland.

Having historically covered the greater Dublin area, the volunteer centre now covers the Dublin City Council North and Central areas, north of the River Liffey and serves a population of approximately 294,529 people.

Our catchment area presents a varied socio and economic demographic with high levels of ethnic diversity and economic disadvantage, providing an interesting and challenging environment in which to work.

Since 1997 the Volunteer Centre has been successfully working at a local level to match the needs of available volunteers to those of volunteer involving organizations, while also working to support organizations in their involvement of volunteers.

On average, the centre weekly registers approximately 50 potential volunteers interested in the Dublin City North area. There are consistently between 400 and 500 active volunteering opportunities covering the broad range of voluntary engagement, from Adult Education, Arts, Culture and Media, to Office based work and Time Limited Commitments.

Through both Centre-based and outreach services we serve any person interested in engaging in volunteering and any organisation / group requiring support around linking with volunteers. To expand on this, we also work with relevant stakeholder such as local area Partnerships, local media, Reception Centres, local area networks, businesses, schools and third level education institutions.

Our main work areas and commitments include:

- The Placement Service - is a core function of the Volunteer Centre which serves to link volunteers with organizations.
- The Outreach Service – decentralises the work of the Volunteer Centre enabling a broader reach across our geographic area.

- Promotion and Information Service – targets the local Volunteer involving organisations operating a database of volunteering opportunities through which groups can advertise their vacancies, while also supporting the groups to operate excellent volunteer programmes with appropriate management structures and best practice in place
- Social Inclusion Service – mainstreamed throughout our work in the Placement, Outreach and Promotion & Information Services, is a strong and clear focus on ensuring accessibility and equality of volunteering for any individual or group who may identify with any of the grounds of the equal status act.
- Vetting Service – operating as a central consortium point for local organisations requiring vetting for their volunteers, which are not able to link in with another appropriate and central authorised signatory
- Events and Communications service – this area of work focuses on raising the profile of volunteering among various stakeholders, the general public and organisations in the locality.

Aims:

1. to support organisations in promoting their opportunities to potential volunteers, and to advocate best practice in their engagement of volunteers
2. to facilitate and make volunteering accessible to all people
3. to proactively promote and raise the profile of volunteering among the media, public and private sector organisations, the community and voluntary sector and the general public in our local area
4. to operate a quality volunteer centre in line with national, European and international standards.

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