



**volunteer centre**  
Ionad d'Cbair Dheonach Cortae Átha Cliath Theas  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY



south dublin county  
volunteer centre

[www.volunteersouthdublin.ie](http://www.volunteersouthdublin.ie)



# the volunteers

what are volunteers interested in (based on their applications)?

Addictions and Recovery	11
Animals	52
Arts, Culture and Media	72
Carers	11
Children	66
Community Development	72
Crime/Safety	6
Education/Literacy	72
Emergency services	9
Environment & Conservation	28
Families/Parenting	9
Health/Hospitals/Hospices	67
Heritage/Museums/Galleries	17
Homelessness/ Housing	39
Human & Civil Rights	20
Intellectual Disabilities	14
Law/Legal Support/Justice	12
LGBT	5
Mens Groups	0
Mental Health	33
Minority Groups	1
Older People/Active Retired	43
Overseas Aid/Development	7
Physical Disability	1
Politics	2
Prisoners/Ex-offenders	1
Refugees/Asylum Seekers	11
Religion/Faith based	2
Sensory Impairment	3
Social Inclusion	16
Sports/Outdoor activities	18
Unemployment	12
Volunteering	24
Women's Groups	16
Youth	31

## about us

### Mission Statement

Our mission is to offer equal opportunities to all sections of the community to participate in meaningful voluntary activity.

We aim to provide a free, high quality volunteer placement service in a friendly and professional manner where volunteering is the focus of our work.

We also offer professional support, advice and training to organisations around their volunteering needs so that they can achieve best practice principles in volunteer management

### Our understanding of volunteering is that:

- Volunteering is always a matter of choice and is done of the volunteers own free will and without coercion.
- Volunteering is a legitimate way in which citizens can participate in the activities of their community.
- Volunteering benefits both the community and the volunteer and gives people a sense of ownership of their local community.
- Voluntary work is unpaid.
- Volunteering is a vehicle for individuals or groups to address human, environmental and social needs.

### We believe that:

- Volunteers should be treated with respect and dignity.
- Everyone should have an equal opportunity to volunteer.
- Volunteering should respect the rights, dignity and culture of others.
- Everyone should have a positive experience of volunteering.
- Volunteering should be a "win - win"situation for both the volunteer and the organisation.

### Therefore, we are committed to:

- Promoting the value of volunteering to all sectors of the local community.
- Offering a service that will be inclusive, accessible and high quality.
- Serving as best we can every volunteer who accesses our service and ensuring that volunteers are the focus of our work.
- Resourcing and supporting volunteers to make informed choices about volunteering and maintaining relevant, up-to-date information on volunteering opportunities.
- Developing new opportunities and projects involving volunteers in their local community
- Referring volunteers to a wide range of community and voluntary projects across all sectors of the community.
- Working with organisations so that they can achieve best practice principles in volunteer management.
- Ensuring that volunteers do not replace paid workers nor constitute a threat to the job security of paid workers.
- Promoting the principles of equity and participation within the volunteer sector.
- Raising the profile of volunteering in organisations, government and the community in general.

# key volunteering statistics 2015

## VOLUNTEERS

**1065**  
volunteers



used our service  
in 2015

## HOURS

we estimate that in 2014  
our volunteers delivered

**33,855 HOURS**

of voluntary work



## VALUE OF THESE HOURS



**€728,890**

if volunteers were paid  
the average wage

## VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

**OVER  
450**

ORGANISATIONS

ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE CENTRE



## GARDA VETTING SERVICE



**2170**

VETTING FORMS  
processed for  
87 voluntary  
organisations

## TRAINING

**231**

VOLUNTEER MANAGERS

Attended our training events in 2014



**10,790**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**IN TOTAL ARE REGISTERED**

WITH SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Many of our volunteers return to engage with us year after year. However, we work hard to encourage new people to get involved in volunteering.

Our outreach activities include information stands at public events, ongoing library services, volunteering expos, digital marketing, engaging with local media and referrals from other agencies we partner with.

# volunteer involving organisations

In 2015, 37 new voluntary and community organisations registered with the Centre - well above our target of 15.

These organisations (plus previously registered organisations) added 211 new volunteering vacancies across a whole range of categories.

With many community and voluntary organisations still experiencing reductions in funding, organisations increasingly spent more time exploring how to involve volunteers in helping them achieve their objectives. While volunteers should never replace paid staff, organisations are always able to look at how to increase volunteer involvement sustainably, with some bringing in volunteers in new and exciting ways.

Our web site ([www.volunteersouthdublin.ie](http://www.volunteersouthdublin.ie)) continued to be a source of information on good practice for organisations on all aspects of volunteer management. There were 30,175 unique visitors to our site during the year with 73,095 page views!

During the year, a volunteer **Robert Sanders**, worked on Google analytics for our Volunteer Centre and we have seen an attend large increase in volunteers finding our Volunteer Centre on Google.

Organisations can register directly online as well as adding new vacancies to volunteer on an ongoing basis. This has proved to be very useful for organisations.

We continued to “tweet” and “facebook” upcoming and urgent volunteering opportunities and our social media pages are updated weekly with urgent and interesting upcoming vacancies.

We continue to operate a vast mailing list of “time limited/once off” volunteering vacancies that get posted to our website plus mailed on a monthly basis to over 4000 volunteers. Over 50 organisations

have availed of this service - mainly for fund-raising purposes.

South Dublin County Volunteer Centre continues to provide support and consultancy to volunteer involving organisations on all aspects of volunteer management.

During 2015, we again provided our modular volunteer management training to organisations in the South Dublin County area. This is a 4 module training course and covers planning for volunteer involvement, recruitment & selection, support & supervision and policy development. Training was carried out in Clondalkin and Tallaght to maximise participation across the county.

As well as this course, we also provided one to one support and consultancy to over 50 local organisations, advising them on such topics as volunteer expenses, volunteering and social welfare, dealing with problem volunteers, developing a volunteer policy, garda vetting and screening and volunteering and the law.

We participated in the following outreaches and talks.

## Outreaches

Tallaght Library x 9  
Tallaght I.T. Volunteer Fair  
Health Fair - Jobstown  
Lucan Library x 4

## Talks

Get Women Working (womens group) x 4  
An Cosan  
CDWG - Partnership  
Cheeverstown  
South Dublin PPN  
Bealtaine talk  
Tallaght Probation Project  
Mojo Mens Group

## volunteer management training feedback:

"I would also like to thank you for a very informative and enjoyable presentation, I certainly feel more confident in what I am doing after completing the course."

"Thank you for providing us with a very well constructed and well delivered Course."

## training course participants 2015:

St. Dominic's  
Community Response Project  
Palmerstown  
Community Council  
Novas Initiatives  
Barclays  
Tallaght Hospital FLAC  
OWLS  
IVOSTA  
Age Action Ireland  
Localise  
Brookview  
ChildcareCIC  
Ballyfermot  
Crosscare -Carelocal  
MQI  
St Michael's House  
Alternatives to Violence  
Project  
SDCVC  
NCBI Retail  
Tallaght Probation  
Project  
Serve the City

# key events during the year

## eircode

In February 2015, our volunteer centre applied to become **the lead partner in delivering an outreach program to community groups around Eircode** alongside the other volunteer centres in Dublin. We were successful in our bid and began delivering this program over the 2015 summer months.

A new worker was engaged for this project which happened for a period.

The work involved meeting with those groups who are most unlikely to engage with the new postcode system and giving workshops and information sessions on Eircode including the benefits to using your postcode.

Some stats from that project include:

local organisations informed about the programme  
**1037**

local organisations mobilised ('Actively Helping')  
**144**

Volunteers involved in assisting the programme

**357**  
'Key volunteers' involved in driving and assisting the programme  
**218**

Number of the target group reached during the period, including at events  
**18176**

Number of other people reached (i.e. other members of the public, not in the primary target group), including at events  
**2542**

Number of Events  
**62**

Total number of the target group in attendance at events  
**3101**



## volunteer managers forum

In 2015, we resurrected the local south dublin county volunteer managers forum. There was keen interest from groups to be involved in this and there were 2 meetings during the year with various volunteering topics discussed.

Volunteer managers were also invited to a dublin wide celebratory breakfast on **international volunteer managers day** (November 5th) with Guest speaker Sean Lonergan.

There was a great turn out from groups in the South Dublin County area.

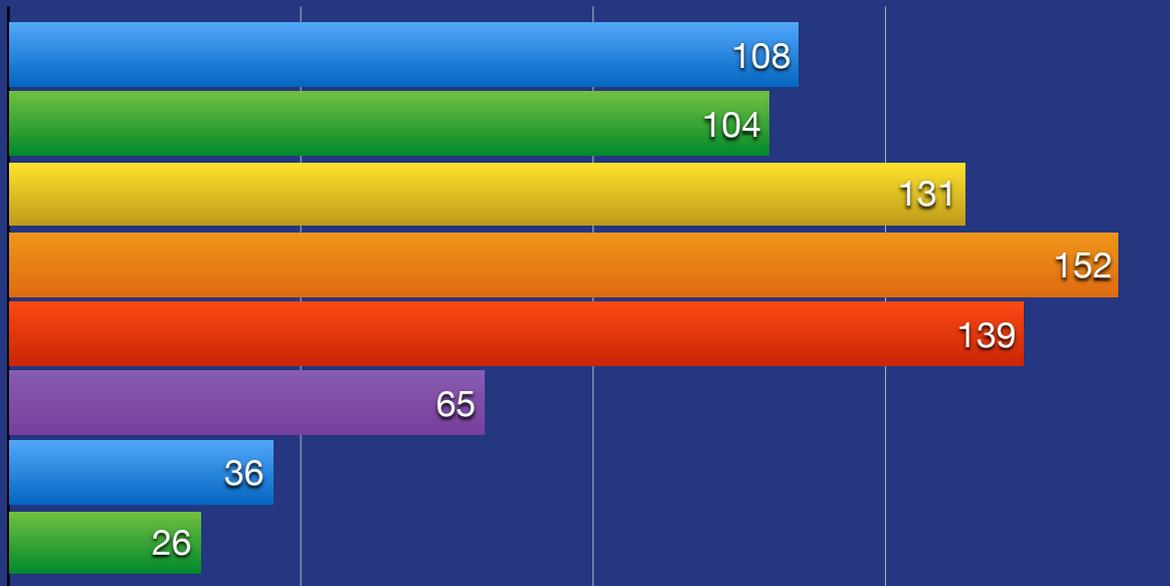
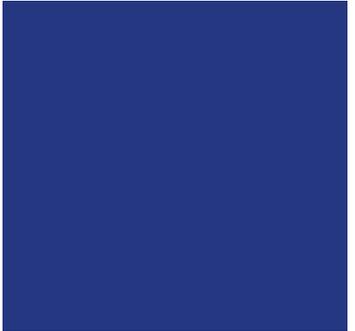


## Other workshops

We continued to give workshops on volunteer management issues on request from organisations and also at several national conferences where we spoke on the issues such as:

- volunteer recruitment
- garda vetting
- selling your role on i-VOL
- volunteer corps and event volunteering.





- I think it will be good for me
- I want to assist my career/employment prospects
- I want to develop my skills/education
- I want to do my bit to make the world a better place
- I want to make a difference in my community
- I want to meet people and expand my social or professional network
- I want to support or know more about a particular cause
- Volunteering is part of my religious beliefs/personal value system

# other services

## garda vetting

As well as our placement service and supports to community and voluntary organisations, the Volunteer Centre also provides several other services to local groups.

Most importantly, the volunteer centre acts as an “authorised signatory” for **Garda Vetting** for local groups that do not have access to garda vetting themselves.

Currently over 100 groups avail of the service from large national organisations such as Make a Wish and Junior Achievement Ireland to small local community groups in the South Dublin area.

Over 2000 vetting applications were processed in 2015.

As well as providing our Garda Vetting service, we offer advice, support and consultancy to local groups on the “ins and outs” of Garda Vetting and help them with implementing and effective and efficient Garda Vetting System in their organisation including support with policy formulation.

During 2015, we continued to be a member of the **national pilot group testing e-vetting** for the national vetting bureau. It is hope that this will be rolled out in 2016 with the implementation to the National Vetting Bureau Act.



## south dublin county volunteer corps

**The South Dublin County Volunteer Corps** is volunteer led movement of citizens of the county who make themselves available to volunteer at various events and/or emergencies in the county. The corps was set up as a pilot in 2011 as part of European year of volunteering.

The volunteer corps are available to be contacted and mobilised to respond to extreme weather events but mainly they serve as volunteers to help at events in the county.

The numbers in the corps continues to grow and grow (as does demand for the Corps). 2015 saw us getting new uniforms for the Corps including Teeshirts, ID Badges and Jackets for long serving members.

The Volunteer Corps participated in 12 events during the year including:

- PPN Plenary
- Education Fair
- Tallaght Health Fair
- Tallaght Festival
- Lucan Festival
- Clondalkin Festival
- SDCC Cross Country events
- Darkness into Light
- Opportunity to transform
- Cross Country Events.
- Laurels 10K Charity Run
- Halloween Fun Day

More information can be found on the volunteer corps website at [www.volunteercorps.ie](http://www.volunteercorps.ie)



# other services



## ppn support

In 2015, South Dublin County Volunteer Centre **won a competitive tendering process** to employ the Public Participation Network Co-ordinator. The new worker, Jamie Moore, began employment with the volunteer centre in October 2015.

As part of our support for the PPN, the Volunteer Centre also **built the database** (county register) for the PPN in South Dublin County. This database model was in turn pitched to the Department of Environment and we were awarded a funding contract to develop the database for all PPNs across the country in partnership with Enclude.

Staff of the volunteer centre also provide support and assistance to the PPN at various events organised by the PPN.

The manager of the Volunteer Centre is elected as a community rep of the PPN onto the Housing Strategic Policy Committee.



## comm-IT putting the IT in Community

There has been a growing awareness from us in the volunteer centre that many community groups have real support needs in terms of developing their IT capacity but also in terms of using solutions to manage their volunteers in a more impactful way.

In 2015, the Volunteer centre began providing a support service for not for profits on IT development, particularly assisting them with building solutions to manage their members in a more stream-lined way.

Using the Salesforce not for profit donation program, we worked with several organisations in 2015 to assist them with IT developments including:

- South Dublin County PPN
- South Dublin County Seniors Database
- South Dublin County Sports Partnership
- Gaisce (i-PAL) database
- National PPN database
- Dublin City PPN database
- Mountview Afterschools
- Southside Partnership

Our manager also continues to provide super-admin **support to and upkeep of the I-VOL, the national volunteering database.**



# company details



## management committee

Our Management Committee for 2015 consisted of: Niamh O Doherty (volunteer - chair), Marie Price Bolger (trustus), Cecil Johnston (SDC partnership), Paul McAlerney (south dublin county council), Frank Kelly (volunteer representative), Eamonn Donoghue (volunteer representative), Vikki Hughes (tallaght cic)

## staff

Brigid Dunne	IT Support Officer
Sharon Crowe	Placement Officer/ Garda Vetting
Colette Gallagher	Placement officer/Trainer (Clondalkin)
Pat Kavanagh	Placement officer (Tallaght)
Deirdre Mc Nicholas	Organisational Support Worker
Jamie Moore	PPN Co-ordinator
Tricia Nolan	Manager

## audited accounts summary

Income	2015
Dept. of ECLG	155,528
South Dublin County Council	12,000
Eircode	22,349,
PPN	22349
Training	1,769
Garda Vetting	16,228
Volunteer Corps	1,000
Program Management	2,764
Miscellaneous	1,095

**Total 276,887**

## Expenditure

Employment costs	202,978
Administration & Programme	56,378

**Total 259,356**

## funders & supporters

South Dublin County Volunteer Centre was funded in 2015 by the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government & South Dublin County Council and supported in its work by Volunteer Ireland.



Comhshaoil, Pobal agus Fíoras Aiféil  
Environment, Community and Local Government



Comhairle Ceirae  
Átha Cliath Theas  
South Dublin County Council



volunteer ireland  
cúair d'heanacht. Sheana



south dublin county volunteer centre  
county hall, block 3  
belgard square north  
tallaght  
dublin 24

w: [www.volunteersouthdublin.ie](http://www.volunteersouthdublin.ie)  
p: + 353 1 462 8558  
e: [info@volunteersouthdublin.ie](mailto:info@volunteersouthdublin.ie)



**volunteer centre**  
Ionad d'Chair Dheonach Coimre Átha Cliath Thiar  
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY

find us on Facebook:  
find us on twitter:

[www.facebook.com/volunteerdublin](http://www.facebook.com/volunteerdublin)  
[www.twitter.com/volunteerdublin](http://www.twitter.com/volunteerdublin)