

Press Release

Volunteering opportunities for young people

20 September 2013

Local children and young people gained an insight into volunteering opportunities at a Youth Volunteer Fair held in Armagh on Wednesday 18 September.

The Fair was organised by the Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Armagh Locality Planning Group with Volunteer Now and Armagh Area Learning Community. Increasing the number of young people who volunteer is one of the key areas identified in the Southern Outcomes Group Action Plan.

Experienced volunteers were on hand to showcase the variety of opportunities available and encourage young people to get involved. And with many volunteering opportunities available across Northern Ireland and further afield, they showed how there are lots of ways to gain new experiences, meet new people and develop personal skills.

Nearly 350 young people attended the Volunteer Youth Fair from six local schools in the Armagh area, including youth involvement organisations- Include Youth and Youth Action.

The event was held in the Recreational Centre on Cathedral Road and showcased over 100 Youth Volunteering opportunities in the Armagh and surrounding areas. Approximately 300 expressions of interest were taken by up to 20 organisations.

For those who didn't find the opportunity they were looking for they were encouraged to contact Volunteer Now's youth team as there are hundreds more opportunities out there to suit all interests, talents and time commitments.

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Armagh, Councillor Gerard Paul White said:

"The Council are very supportive of the work carried out by our young volunteers who give up their time to provide such a vital service in their local community. This fair is an excellent and innovative way to showcase the variety of opportunities available for our young people and encourages them to get involved. I must congratulate the Children and Young Peoples' Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) Armagh Locality Planning Group with Volunteer Now and Armagh Area Learning Community for hosting this event."

CYPSP Locality Development Officer, Julie Bolton said: “Volunteering has lots of benefits for young people. Not only is it a great way to give something back to your community while learning new skills and meeting new people, it also helps your CV, UCAS form or job application stand out. But most of all it’s fun.”

If you would like to hear more about Locality Planning Groups or get involved, contact Julie Bolton on 028 3741 4456 or visit www.cypsp.org

If you want to find out more about Volunteering please contact Volunteer Now on **028 9023 2020**.

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Photo caption:

Students from Armagh City High School attend a Youth Volunteer Fair in Armagh to encourage young people to get involved in volunteering. Pictured are (L-R) Julie Bolton, CYPSP Locality Development Officer, David Cunningham, Principal Armagh City High School; Deputy Lord Mayor of Armagh, Councillor Gerard Paul White and Aidan McCabe from Volunteer Now.

Note to editors:

The Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) is a multi-agency partnership, led by the Health and Social Care Board that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.

Further Information:

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