

Review: We're All In 2024



Inspiring people to give of their time

The “We’re All In” Programme was established to impact our strategic aim of “inspiring people to give or continue to give of their time.” We are consistently told by clubs and affiliates that they do not have enough volunteers to achieve their goals and that the current operation is in jeopardy due to the few volunteers who do the lion’s share of the work.

In creating the programme we ask our applicants to run a volunteer engagement event. Doing so helps applicants by getting them to think about and describe the specific roles needed, and by having a date, it doesn’t fall off the committee’s to-do list.

This review has asked the participant clubs if the programme worked, why or why not and how we can improve going forward.

The Clubs



County Antrim Yacht Club

We're all in Aim: Expanding volunteering to wider club rather than core committee volunteers.

Event date: 17th May



Donaghadee Sailing Club

We're all in Aim: Recruiting Volunteers Across the roles of the club.

Event Date: 12th April



East Down Yacht Club

We're all in Aim: More strategic approach to volunteering.

Event Date: 20th April



Strangford Lough Yacht Club

We're all in Aim: To recruit and train safety boat drivers

Event Date: 14th April

Highlights

CAYC Volunteer evening kicked off with a volunteering activity.



The four clubs agreed the event was positive, all said they would run it again, though they all had elements they would add, change or adapt.

The four events reached 100 club members.

Key Learnings

1



Applicants

4 of the 6 applicants were successful, with successful applications showing the club current efforts in developing volunteering.

2



Connection

Volunteer engagement events connected to another purpose were felt to be more successful.

3



Committee

The event does require buy-in from the club committee or key volunteers to talk about their own area of work to teach and attract new volunteers.

4



Plan

None of the clubs have a specific volunteer plan. But this process led a couple of clubs to clarifying information for new volunteers.

5



No time to recruit?

A couple of the clubs expressed that they could not focus on the outcomes of the day as they were too busy with the running of the club.

6



Removing Barriers

The funding was found to remove barriers at committee level to run an event such as this

7



Reach

95 people attended across the 4 events.

The Events

What the clubs did next:

Donaghadee Sailing Cub

Donaghadee have a small number of volunteers covering several roles and were looking to grow the number of volunteers across the roles. Through the clubs own research, they find that time and training are reasons that members don't give more time.

Their event was an evening affair with a focus on the delivery of the Bright Night Sailing programme, though they had stations in the club manned by key volunteers. The talk by the bar convenor was particularly successful and they got almost all their bar slots covered. They had a presentation rolling in the background, that covered key information and contacts. Attendees were treated to some drinks and nibbles.

Training grant use:

PB2, Safetyboat to grow Safetyboat team.

Highlights:

- 40 attendees
- They found difficulty in getting sign ups for 'technical' duties such as those needed for sailing, Safety boat or RO.
- They weren't sure anyone would attend and put the good attendance down to the slight focus on the running of Bright Night Sailing and the completion of Access NI checks as part of the event.



East Down Yacht Club

EDYC has some solid volunteer principals in place. All club members are given a duty, all new members are inducted by a 'welcomer'. The induction includes the ethos of the club and the kind of volunteer roles available.

The EDYC event was run as part of a new member social day ending in a quiz for all members in the evening.

The challenge they wanted to take on through this funding was encouraging new and existing members to become more involved. Particularly around Youth events.

Training grant use:

PB2, Safetyboat and First aid support. Also looking to get some volunteers through Mark Laying & Race Officer.

The volunteer engagement event was a relaxed affair, key club volunteers and committee members had name badges. At stations, new members could meet the key volunteer and learn about what was involved in the role. They also took a list of names of members wishing to learn powerboat skills to help out that way.

"It was a great feeling and worked well as an event, and was well supported by our exec... we could gauge volunteer skills and they could learn about the roles..." Keith Carr, EDYC Commodore.

Learning:

- 30 people attended, 15 new members and 15 committee/key volunteers
- EDYC would think about running in the summer as more members would be around.
- lifejacket clinic, planned element fell through due to third party.
- they want to work towards a more cohesive volunteering plan.
- they felt that the running of the day made the club look more professional to members.
- they uploaded the DHO duties to the website and added a new flag sequence for race officers to make it simpler for newbies.

"We were very impressed, it was great to be shown around the club boats and learn about some of the attributes of the kit, we feel a part of it." - EDYC New member.

County Antrim Yacht Club

Highlights:

- 20 attendees
- aim was about setting out ethos and build relationships, not to fill a roster on the day.
- kicked off with a community volunteer exercise, cleaning sea-front benches.
- attendees given a drink and snacks before presentation on the clubs plans.

Through the event they talked to attendees about what skills they had that could be useful to club activity. The club aimed to have many small working groups instead of individuals with large chunks of work.

Follow up meetings happened around specific club events (eg. laser Ulster Championships), where these new members came and signed up while family to help!

The committee are also asking that when a key volunteer does some volunteering, that they get a buddy to do the work with them so that learning and training can happen.

The club found this a very positive event with great feedback from the attendees on the day.

kicking off with the volunteering exercise, immediately identifies to the attendees the wellbeing and positive personal impact of volunteering. as club members where wearing high-vis and in a large group, the work would have been visible to and a great benefit to the Whitehead community, there-by grwing the positive community visiblility of the club.

Training grant use:

The club put the training grant towards powerboat training at the club.

Strangford Lough Yacht Club

Highlights:

- 25 attendees
- all members invited and “stalls” set up in the club with areas of work.

Club committee members hosted an area of work for attendees to come and chat about how they could get involved. The commodore kicked off the event with a short talk about the clubs plans for the season before attendees were invited to visit stalls with a drink and nibble.

Although the event was positive, the club felt they should have had more people in attendance. The club got a few sign ups for roles, and talked to attendees about discounted powerboat courses for people who would volunteer. Comms about the event were through the club newsletter and attendees and members are asked to fill out a

Training grant use:

The club planned to build up a rescue boat team by providing discounted powerboat courses.



Questions for future events

1 **Non - Members**

Can we use non-members in the delivery of club projects?

2 **Connection**

How can we connect the engagement event with the activities of the club in a meaningful way?

3 **Plan**

How can clubs get the volunteer plan started?

