

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2025



www.volunteerfingal.ie



Company Number: 434396



Registered Charity Number: 20066574

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Fingal Volunteer Centre Annual Report

Company Name:	Fingal Volunteer Centre CLG
Company Number:	434396
Registered Charity Number:	20066574
CHY Number:	17730
Registered Office:	QES House, 8 Birch House, Rosemount Business Park, Dublin 11, D11 A9FP
Board of Directors 2025:	Shane Clarke (Chairperson) Anna Clarke (Resigned 31 May 2025) Catherine Ryan Laura DeBenedetto (Resigned 31 March 2025) Pat Hayes Cara Murphy
Auditors:	Crowleys DFK Unlimited Company Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm 16/17 College Green Dublin 2 D02 V078
Bankers:	Allied Irish Bank St George's Square Balbriggan Dublin

Introduction

Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent charity which was formed in 2007 to support volunteering across Fingal. Our most known activity consists in connecting people who want to give their time with organisations that need their support. As part of a network of 29 Volunteer Centres and an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland, we work every day to make volunteering in Fingal more accessible, more visible, and more rewarding for individuals and organisations alike.

In 2025, we welcomed 955 new volunteers and 32 new organisations onto our services. Our new and existing volunteers gave 12,078 tracked hours back to their community.

Alongside our day to day work of connecting volunteers and organisations, we continued to deliver the Community Volunteer programme, work with new communities, recognise volunteers and their leaders, all while developing new ways to meet future volunteers where they are.

None of it would be possible without our small, dedicated staff team, our volunteer Board of Directors, our funders at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and Fingal County Council, and above all, the volunteers themselves.

This report sets out the work done in 2025: who we are, what we did, the people we supported, and where we're headed next.





About us

Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation, part of a volunteer network of 29 Volunteer Centres and an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland.

Our core values

Connectivity: Volunteering is a positive movement within society which enables people to connect with others and their communities.

Equality/Inclusion: We believe all people should be valued and respected equally. We are also committed to identifying and removing barriers that prevent inclusion of vulnerable groups.

Community Ownership: We believe that healthy communities can respond to their own social needs and issues and volunteering is one mechanism that assists these causes.

Sustainability: We champion durable solutions and commitment.

Purpose

The intent of this annual report is to provide public disclosure of our organisations operating and financial activities over the past year.

Our annual report is an opportunity to connect with the wider community and demonstrate the impact volunteering can have. It illustrates what we have accomplished over the past year and our plans for the year ahead. It allow us to show our stakeholders the impact their funding has had and will continue to have in the Fingal area.



Our Vision

"A vibrant Fingal; where every person feels connected to their community through active participation in voluntary activities."

Our Mission

"To promote the value of volunteering and increase the range and quality of volunteering in Fingal."





Governance Standards

The Volunteer Centre is a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and is governed by a Board of Directors. As it is a non-profit organisation there are no shareholders and any profits are reinvested in the company.

We are registered with the Charities Regulatory Authority (CRN 434396)

Although Fingal Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation, we are also part of the network of 29 Volunteer Centres and an affiliate of Volunteer Ireland.

We publish an Annual Activity Report and produce audited accounts each year.

Financial figures presented in this report and its appendixes are a summary of our financial activity. Our full audited financial statements are available on our website or via the Charities Regulator public register.

Chairperson's Statement

2025 was a successful year for the Fingal Volunteer Centre. Volunteer Expos were arranged in Balbriggan and Blanchardstown and number of Library based pop up were operated in all the Fingal Libraries. The Fingal Volunteer Centre operates a blended model that facilities office and remote working.

The year ended with high profile events including the Volunteer Appreciation Evening and the Fingal Managing Volunteers Award, held at the Malahide Grand hotel in December 2025. These event recognises the significant contributions of noteworthy Organisations and Volunteers within the Fingal area. It was attended by the Mayor of Fingal and over 120 participants.

In 2025, the Board met regularly, its intention being to meet at least once every two months. It considered the Budget for 2025, approved Statutory Accounts for 2024, reviewed ongoing operational performance, the delivery of core 2025 activity programmes, and sought assurance that policies were being applied and updated accordingly in line with the Charities code and best practice.

New Directors were recruited in the latter part of 2025, this was to enable the improvements in governance oversight and bringing both additional company secretariate and managment expertise to the Board.

2025 is the final year of the Fingal Volunteer Centre Strategic Plan 2021-2025. The Board's priority for 2026 is to develop a new strategic plan that will inform the strategic direction and ambition of Fingal Volunteer Centre for period beginning 2026.

Fingal Volunteer Centre CLG has and continues to enjoy the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development and Fingal County Council, we thank them for this. The Board recognises the dedication and support of the Staff and the Volunteers at the Fingal Volunteer Centre who gave generous commitment to the delivery of the programmes throughout 2025.

Shane Clarke



Our Team

Our Staff



Aurore Gregoire - Fingal Volunteer Centre Manager

Oversees the day-to-day operations of the Volunteer Centre, translating the strategy agreed with the Board into actions for the team.



Ruth Bannon - Programme Development Manager

Develops and runs programmes to support organisations across Fingal, delivers presentations across communities, facilitates connections between organisations and volunteers.



Nilofar Makhani - Placement Officer

Matches individuals to suitable volunteer opportunities, supports organisations to identify and articulate their volunteers' needs. Organise events to bring volunteers and organisations together.



Julie Kinsella - Administration & Garda Vetting Liaison Officer

Oversees general administration and the Garda Vetting activities. Maintains the website and coordinate the FMVA project.

Temporary staff in 2025



Megan McGrath- Volunteer Engagement and Outreach Officer

Sept 2024 - Sept 2025 - Provided extra support to the team to roll-out new initiatives within the NVS funding.



Abdoul Baki Seydou - IT Administrator

October to December 2025 - Supported upgrades to our IT and telephony systems and the revision of policies and procedures.



Mai Saqallah - Temporary Placement Officer

4 weeks part time in Spring 2025 - Temporary extra support to cover an extended leave.

Our Team

Our Volunteers

While most of the people who contact us to become volunteers are matched with organisations from all over Fingal and Ireland, some also join our team and volunteer directly with us.



The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors provides governance oversight of our organisation. They oversee the development and approval of our strategy and budget, guiding its direction to align with our long-term missions.



The IT Support Team

The IT Support Team plays a vital role in supporting individuals across the community to find suitable volunteer opportunities. Among other tasks, they process the majority of the new volunteers registrations and applications to roles. *See Appendix C.*



The Community Volunteers

Throughout the year, our Community Volunteers give their time to support a wide range of local events, providing hands-on support to organisations under the care of our team. *See Appendix A.*



The Crafters

Part of our Cards Making initiative, crafters spent countless hours hand-making cards for vulnerable people across our community that we delivered to nursing homes and local organisations. Crafters included individuals at home, community groups, corporates teams, children from various schools... *See page 24*

Objectives for the Year 2025

Ensure organisational development and sustainability through good governance and effective and efficient management.

Connect people with volunteering opportunities, increasing participation & diversity.

Build the capacity of Volunteer Involving Organisations to engage volunteers and enhance the quality of the volunteering experience.

Increase the understanding and awareness of volunteering through recognising, celebrating, and communicating its benefits, value, and impact.

Work with others to strengthen and advance volunteering locally, regionally, and nationally.



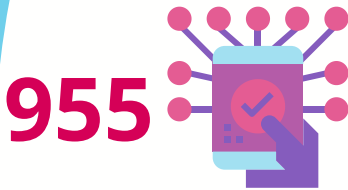
Activities in 2025

The following pages will guide you through the main activities that took place in 2025.

- Connecting Volunteers and Organisations - 2025 in Numbers
- Promoting Volunteering across Fingal
- Training & Organisations support
- Volunteering & Mental Health
- Recognition
- Continious Staff Development and networking
- Garda Vetting
- Programmes
- Christmas Cards Initiative 2025



Connecting Volunteers and Organisations



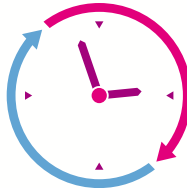
**New Volunteers
Registered**



32

**New Organisations
Registered**

12,078



**Tracked Hours
gifted by
volunteers**



Promoting Volunteering across Fingal

Meeting future volunteers where they are

- Regional Volunteer Expo Malahide
- Local Volunteer Expos in Balbriggan and Dublin 15
- Volunteer Centre Pop-Ups in Libraries
- "Welcome to Volunteering" sessions in IPAS centres
- Participation in Age Friendly Fingal events
- Several Radio Interviews on Phoenix FM
- Talks in events for
 - People with additional needs
 - Sheds members
 - Residents associations
 - Adult learners...



Keeping engaged with existing Volunteers

5108 Subscribers in our Volunteers distribution list

12 Monthly Newsletters to volunteers



Supporting Organisations' Leaders

Role Advertisement Support

Every day, we support organisations to articulate their volunteer roles requirements.

We then advertise the roles on I-VOL, the national database where future volunteers can discover them and show their interest.

Over 200 different roles were advertised by Fingal-based organisations (most roles are usually open to multiple volunteers).



Training to organisations' leaders

In addition to advertising training delivered for free by other local and national organisations, we provide dedicated sessions to Leaders in Fingal:

- Fundamentals of Volunteer Engagement
- Fingal Managing Volunteers Award information session



Keeping in Touch with local organisations

In addition to regularly seeing Organisations' Leaders at events across Fingal, we also keep in touch via "the Connect", our newsletters to Leaders of Volunteers.

Our 9 newsletters in 2025 were distributed to over 500 leaders, and contained information on training, funding, governance, surveys...



Volunteering & Mental Health

Mental Health Ireland



Mental Health Ireland

Fingal Volunteer Centre supported Mental Health Ireland fundraiser in Blanchardstown shopping centre in September. During those 2 days, our volunteers joined the MHI staff to collect funds and distribute information on Mental Health supports to the general public.



thrive (MHI) is an international movement that supports communities through engagement and activities that build and nurture mental health and wellbeing. It is shaped and led by communities and supported by Mental Health Ireland.

Fingal Volunteer Centre continued to support the development of the thrive initiative in Swords, attending multiple meeting with local groups.



We supported the “Hello, how are you campaign” - raising awareness about Mental Health Ireland in Swords Pavilions.



Recognition

Fingal Managing Volunteers Award

It's been a standout year for the Fingal Managing Volunteers Award. We saw a rise in the number of organisations putting themselves forward and receiving support from our team to advance their governance.

Six organisations achieved a new FMVA level:

- Castleknock Tidy Towns — achieved Level 3
- Dogs Trust — achieved Level 1
- Howth Sutton Autism Friendly Community — achieved Level 1
- Irish Girl Guides — achieved Level 1
- Rush Tidy Towns — achieved Level 1
- The Variety Show Group — achieved Level 1

The FMVA initiative is sponsored by Fingal County Council and aims to promote best practices in volunteer management among organisations across Fingal.

Congratulations to all involved — this year's results are a real reflection of the growing commitment to strong, sustainable volunteer management across Fingal.



**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gáll**
Fingal County
Council



Recognition

Volunteer Appreciation evening



In celebration of International Volunteer Day on December 5th, we hosted our annual Volunteer Appreciation evening to celebrate the generosity of some of the volunteers in Fingal. Over 200 certificates were proudly awarded to volunteers from right across the county, each one a small token of thanks for the countless hours of dedication, kindness, and community spirit given so freely throughout the year. The evening was a wonderful opportunity to pause, celebrate, and say a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers who quietly power so much of what makes Fingal such a strong and connected community.



Fingal Volunteer of the Year



Launched in 2025, the Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Brian McWeeney of Recovery is For Everyone (R.I.F.E) Fingal — a truly well-deserved recognition of the outstanding contribution Brian has made to his community. Brian's dedication, generosity of spirit, and tireless commitment to supporting others embody everything this award stands for. Through his work with R.I.F.E Fingal, he has helped create a space of hope, connection, and genuine support for people on their recovery journey, touching countless lives along the way. Congratulations, Brian — this recognition is richly deserved, and Fingal is fortunate to have volunteers like you at the heart of our community.

Continuous Staff Development and networking

Staff Continuous training

Every staff member attends regular training to consolidate core skills, develop new ones and keep up to date with an ever changing environment.

Training included

- Time management / prioritisation
- 8 weeks series on Leading not-for-profit organisations
- First Aid
- Being an active Bystander
- Navigating Conversations and Building Inclusive Narratives



National Networking events for the sector

We regularly attend events organised by other structures and partners, not only to extend our learning, but also to connect with new organisations, learn about their work and promote our activities.

Such events included:

- The Wheel Summit, attended by staff and board members,
- SICAP "In Our Words" showcase event of community led Social Inclusion projects,
- 3 National Volunteer Centre Network meeting where Volunteer Centre staff from all over the county are invited to share their day to day experiences and challenges.



Garda Vetting

We support small organisations accessing Garda Vetting services. We train Vetting Officers and ensure vetting requests are compliant with the requirements from the Garda Vetting Bureau.

120 **Affiliates**
(organisations
registered with us)

1212 **Garda Vetting**
requests processed

937 **Disclosure**
certificates sent



Following an update in the Garda Vetting compliance procedures, we updated our training material and provided 10+ online webinars to meet all our affiliates, ensuring every vetting officer using our services is up to date with the legislation



Programmes

Fingal Community Volunteers

Community Volunteer Programme

Started in 2021 and replacing the Event Volunteers in Fingal, the Community Volunteer programme is a national initiative that continued to grow with 237 volunteers fully trained across Fingal.

**For more details see Appendix A*



ThrIve - Involving Volunteers

ThrIve - Involving Volunteers - is a joint project of the four Dublin Volunteer Centres, working with volunteers and organisations across County Dublin.

ThrIve provides information, resources and training to help break down the barriers faced by new arrivals in Ireland who want to volunteer.

**For more details see Appendix B*



Programmes

Volunteer Centre Pop Up in Libraries

With 112 pop-up sessions across the 10 libraries, we engaged with 237 individuals, including 225 potential volunteers and the representatives from 12 organisations. These highly visible sessions increased awareness about volunteering opportunities throughout Fingal and enabled many people to take their first steps into community involvement.

**For more details see Appendix C*



IT Support Volunteers

The programme created opportunities for skilled volunteers to share their expertise and provide practical support within the community, while also exploring new approaches to skills-based volunteering and mentoring. The initiative demonstrates how volunteers with specialist knowledge can enhance and strengthen the services provided by the Volunteer Centre, bringing additional expertise and improving service delivery.

**For more details see Appendix C*

Christmas Cards Initiative

The Christmas and New Year Card-Making initiative once again demonstrated the remarkable generosity, creativity and community spirit of local volunteers.

Building on the initiative's aim to connect with individuals who may feel isolated over the festive period, volunteers crafted and donated nearly 900 handmade cards, more than double the original target of 400.

Cards, coming from all over Fingal and beyond, have been made by individuals, families, team project in companies, shed and local groups, and many local schools.

These heartfelt messages of kindness were distributed to a wide range of organisations, including Malahide Meals on Wheels, Talbot Lodge Nursing Home, Marymount Care Centre, Blanchardstown Centre for Independent Living and St. Joseph's in Clonsilla, among others.

Each card carried a personal message of goodwill, helping to bring warmth, joy and a sense of connection to recipients during the festive season.

This overwhelming response highlights the power of small acts of kindness and the positive impact of volunteering within the community.

Fingal Volunteer Centre extends its sincere thanks to all who contributed their time and creativity, helping to ensure that so many people felt remembered and valued at this special time of year.



Testimonials from our Cards Crafters

“

It was lovely to hear that the Christmas card making was such a great success. I really enjoyed being involved and will continue to make the cards for next year.

”

Helen

“

This has been an absolutely rewarding experience for me! I've always had a passion for helping those who are at a disadvantage compared to me, and this volunteering project gave me a way to be close to isolated people, especially in a period where they need love and care the most. So I got to work and filled my desk with cards, markers, and stickers. It brought me back to being a kid and a teenager when I studied Art in Italy. Next time I'll involve my husband in the project, 4 hands are better than 2! Knowing that those people smiled opening one of my cards and felt pampered satisfies me enormously and makes me feel that everyone, in their own small way, can really be the turning point for someone else. To be done and redone a thousand times!

”

Antonella Cimmino





Our Funders and Partners

None of the work completed this year would have been possible without the generosity, trust and support of our partners.

Our Funders - DRCDG and FCC

We are sincerely grateful to the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG) and Fingal County Council (FCC) for their continued financial support. These fundings are the backbone of our work, and it is thanks to their investment in Fingal Volunteer Centre that we are able to deliver our free services to volunteers and community groups across the county every years.

Beyond the financial aspect, we are also working more closely with some FCC teams, including the Community Officers, the LAIT and the Events teams.

Fingal Libraries and Our Balbriggan

A special thank you also goes to all Fingal Libraries network and Our Balbriggan, who so generously allow us to use of their spaces free of charge. Their openness and willingness to support our work in the community made it possible for us to meet our volunteers in locations easy for them and reach people who might not otherwise have heard about us.

Volunteer Ireland and the Volunteer Centres Network

We are thankful to be part of such a rich network, full of ideas and shared experiences. From the common work on I-VOL, the National Volunteering platform, to local initiatives with the other Dublin Volunteers Centres, there is strenghts in being part of such a powerfull network.

To all our funders, supporters and partners: thank you for standing with us. Your support, in whatever form it takes, makes a real difference, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the years ahead.

Volunteer Testimonial

“ —

My volunteer work with Fingal Volunteer Centre has proven to be an exceptionally rewarding journey, offering a multitude of opportunities for personal and professional growth. Through my involvement, I've not only acquired valuable skills in Salesforce, teamwork, and communication but also had the pleasure of connecting with a diverse and inspiring group of individuals who share a common passion for technology & volunteering.

The projects I've contributed to have provided practical experience and a deeper understanding of salesforce database support. This experience has broadened my perspective, enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively, and instilled in me a profound sense of fulfillment in contributing to a meaningful cause. I am truly grateful for the enriching experiences and the lasting connections I've made during my time volunteering with the Volunteer Centre team.

Inspired by a friend's community service, I began volunteering. Her passion for helping others sparked my desire to contribute. Her selfless actions and positive impact created a sense of purpose. Beyond altruism, I saw volunteering as an invaluable opportunity for personal and professional growth, allowing me to develop skills in diverse environments. This dual benefit of contributing and enhancing my capabilities solidified my decision to volunteer.

Driven by my aspiration to volunteer, I explored the Fingal Volunteer Centre website and discovered the Salesforce database support admin role, which aligned well with my skills and interests. Following a successful application, I had an interview with my lead, where the role's expectations were clearly outlined. My volunteer experience commenced with a couple of weeks of training, after which I began actively contributing. Volunteering with Fingal

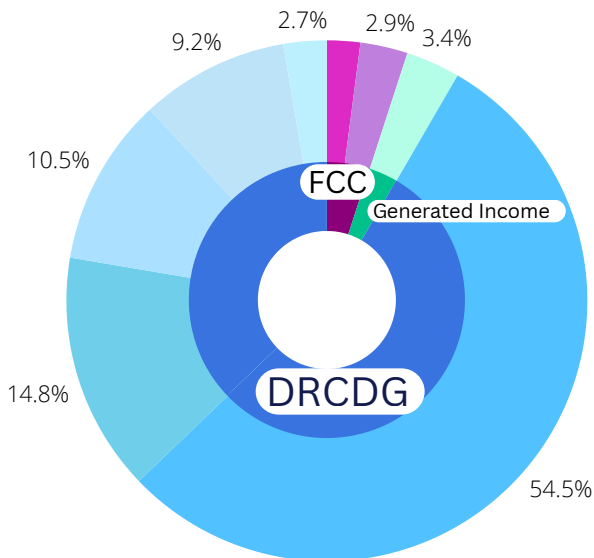
Volunteer Centre has been a truly enjoyable and enriching experience. I am eager to continue learning and support the community to the best of my capacity.

— ”

Swetha Miryala

Fingal Volunteer Centre Company Limited For the financial year ending 31 December 2025*

Where does our income come from?



●	DRCDG	●	DRCDG - core funding	147,991
●	DRCDG	●	New Communities	40,274
●	DRCDG	●	Community Volunteers	28,433
●	DRCDG	●	National Volunteer Strategy	25,000
●	DRCDG	●	Other activities	7,300
●	FCC	●	FMVA & small activities	5,600
●	FCC	●	Community Volunteers	8,000
●	Generated incomes	●	Garda Vetting fees	9,143

Financials

Fingal Volunteer Centre Company Limited

For the financial year ending 31 December 2025*

Income	€271,741
Expenditure	€272,442
Overspent for the financial year	(€701)

*Audit 2025 currently in progress



Appendix A

FINGAL COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

Delivered by Fingal Volunteer Centre and partly funded by DRCDG and Fingal County Council as part of a national pilot (2021–2024, extended into 2025–2026), this programme supports community events across Fingal with trained volunteer teams and can reinforce the civil emergency response capacity. Succeeding the 2013 Fingal Event Volunteer initiative, it lowers barriers to entry for underrepresented groups, offering a flexible stepping-stone into volunteering..

Appendix B

SUPPORT TO UKRAINIANS AND NEW COMMUNITIES

Funded by DRCDG and delivered in partnership with the LAIT Team, CIF members, and the Dublin Volunteer Centres' ThrIVE programme, this funding allowed Fingal Volunteer Centre to welcome and support the integration of Ukrainians, International Protection Applicants and new communities across Fingal. The year saw hundreds of new volunteers and residents engaged during events and outreach, alongside getting support through transitions like accommodation closures and job hunting.

Appendix C

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER STRATEGY (NVS)

DRCDG ring-fenced funds to support the local delivery of the National Volunteering Strategy (2021–2025), allowing us to launch initiatives such as our Volunteer Centre Pop-Ups in libraries and a volunteer-led IT support and mentoring programme, along with some smaller activities. These efforts tested new engagement approaches and laid groundwork for continued NVS-aligned work beyond 2025.



Fingal Volunteer Centre

Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Fhine Ghall



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta
Department of Rural and Community
Development and the Gaeltacht

**QES House, 8c, Birch House,
Rosemount Business Park,
Dublin 11,
D11 A9FP**

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