

VONNE is the regional support body for the voluntary community and social enterprise sector in the North East. If you have any content you'd like to share in future editions of VONNE News, please contact us at [VONNE](#).



VONNE news and opinion

In case you missed it - VONNE on Tyne Tees TV

Many thanks to board member Alison Dunn, who represented VONNE beautifully on Monday last week on the evening edition of ITV News Tyne Tees.

Alison spoke to health correspondent Helen Ford about the ongoing challenges facing the regional VCSE sector despite many charity shops reopening, highlighting the potential long-term implications of the effect of Covid-19 on people from all walks of life who rely upon such organisations for support.

[Watch the segment](#)

Inaugural Regional VCSE Partnership Forum held

VONNE has held the inaugural Regional VCSE Partnership Forum meeting to ensure our voice is heard in a range of existing, emerging and new structures related to health, care and our ongoing recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

The forum is part of NHS England's VCSE Leadership Programme, which enables the VCSE sector to have stronger representation within Integrated Care Systems – and the establishment of a North East VCS response network, led by VONNE.

The creation of the network is linked into the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCS EP) which is coordinating the *Get Help as an Organisation* service, to support local organisations to respond to emergencies where needed, by matching needs with resources locally, regionally and nationally.

VONNE part of new collaboration to tackle digital exclusion

A new campaign for digital inclusion has been launched in the North East to help close the digital divide.

Better ConNEcted imagines a North East in which digital inclusion is a right enjoyed by all. And VONNE is among 13 organisations that have come together to collaborate and help give people across the region the skills, technology and internet access needed to create a fairer and more equal North East.

To get involved, email betterconnectedne@gmail.com.

[Get Better ConNEcted](#)

National news

Latest IVAR reports look at using resources for public good and other issues

A new report from the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR), in partnership with Northumbria University and the Tudor Trust, shares practical suggestions for taking a 'human learning systems' approach to commissioning and funding relationships.

Trust, power and collaboration details research that aimed to capture the varying experiences of those adapting their practice, and identify both what is happening and

what needs to change to enable different ways of working – for both VCSE organisations and funders and commissioners.

Meanwhile, IVAR's eighth Covid-19 briefing shares three issues that remain front of mind for VCSE leaders: staff and personal wellbeing, safely reinstating face-to-face services and working practices, and increasing the visibility of the role and contribution of the sector. *Finding a way forward* is a 20-minute read that draws out questions and opportunities for funders looking to support the voluntary sector at this time.

The organisation is also currently recruiting for new trustees with life experience and a passion for the VCSE sector. It is hoping to build a board that reflects the diversity of the communities it seeks to serve. Find out more via allysondavies-consultant.com/job-board/trustees-ivar/.

Expansion to charity loan fund made

Charity Bank's Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund has been expanded and improved to make more loans to charities and social enterprises affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

It offers faster than standard loans of between £100k and £1.5m that are interest and fee-free for the first 12 months.

[Apply now](#)

Download the latest report into UK fundraising

The latest edition of the annual Status of UK Fundraising report has been published by Blackbaud Europe and the Institute of Fundraising. Using data collected from around 2,000 respondents, the 2020 report gives us insight into how different organisations have responded to the coronavirus pandemic.

[Download the report](#)

New compassionate bereavement support guide

Covid-19 has highlighted the urgent need for employers to provide a compassionate approach to bereavement support. Suffering the loss of a family member, partner or friend can be devastating, and it's important to realise each person will react differently to their experiences.

A flexible and sensitive response to bereavement is key and this new CIPD guide to compassionate bereavement support offers practical guidance for both employers and line managers on properly supporting grieving employees, developing supportive cultures and policies, and more.

[Use the guide](#)

New Covid recovery fund launched

Lloyds Bank Foundation has announced new funding for small and local charities helping people overcome complex social issues and recover beyond the immediate Covid-19 crisis.

Charities can apply for a two-year unrestricted grant of up to £50,000 from 10am on August 3rd, and a Q&A webinar will be held on August 11th between 2pm and 3.30pm.

[More about the fund](#)

Regional news

[Have your voice heard around Covid recovery for the north](#)

Do you think some things should change for good following the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown? Is there anything you think should change in your day-to-day life, local community and/or the region as a whole?

Have your say in this brief survey from The People's Powerhouse and take part in the debate about what comes next.

[Take the survey](#)

Youth organisation produces more than £2 million in social value

Some new research has shown that a Tees Valley-based youth organisation is able to generate £2 million in social value from £360,000 it has received through commissioning and grant funds in 2019.

A Bronze Membership+ supporter of VONNE, Hemlington Linx youth project, based in Middlesbrough, carried out the social-return-on-investment analysis, looking at outcomes for young people such as increased self-confidence, improved physical and mental health, reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, improved job prospects and better engagement in schooling.

Overall, it demonstrated that Linx produces £5.50 in social value for every £1 invested in the organisation.

[Read more](#)

Opportunity to provide online services for new platform in North Tyneside

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, these are hugely different and challenging times, so Wallsend Action for Youth (WafY) has secured Big Lottery funding to facilitate ongoing work and support of children, young people and families across Wallsend.

A new online platform, *Growing up in Wallsend*, will enhance face to face youth and play work already happening, and will support physical health, mental health and

wellbeing, youth work, children's counselling, online safety for young people, parenting and communication and marketing.

As this is a new way of working, WAFY is seeking expressions of interest by August 3rd to gain a more detailed understanding of the supplier market and range of options available.

[Complete the form](#)

Round two of a grant fund opened to VCSE organisations this week

Newcastle City Council launched a second round of its discretionary business grant fund this week and is encouraging early applications.

Eligibility criteria for the fund, which offers organisations based in Newcastle upon Tyne up to £5,000 based on their circumstances on March 11th this year, has been updated, so previous applicants will need to re-submit using a new form.

[See the changes](#)

National Citizen Service offers support to local projects

National Citizen Service has a team of graduates that are over 18 and young people under 18 who wish to make a difference in their local communities.

These willing volunteers are on hand to assist with projects such as food banks, combating loneliness, doing deliveries for those in need, supporting people with disabilities, offering friendship to older people, mentoring young people, and re-establishing indoor and outdoor community spaces that may have been closed or neglected during lockdown.

For more details, contact regional community engagement manager Kirsty Beeston at kirstybeeston@ncstrust.org.uk.

Endowment funding to create positive pathways for young people

In partnership with Youth Focus North East, Safer Communities has been awarded a £75,689 investment from the Youth Endowment fund to deliver *Positive Pathways*, a programme in which detached youth workers will provide a range of pop-up, sport, music, social action and health and wellbeing activities for young people in areas of Middlesbrough.

The project was one of 130 successful applicants across England and Wales from more than 1,000 applications intended to prevent children and young people being drawn into violent crime.

Health and wellbeing news

Learn about the psychology of loneliness

The Campaign to End Loneliness has published a new report into the psychology of loneliness, the first of its kind to look at how we can use approaches from psychology to address the problem.

The campaign comes as a result of the Building Connections Fund, a part of the government's loneliness strategy, and the report brings together research with the views and experiences of older people, policy makers and organisations that work with older people. It looks at how loneliness affects individuals, how people think and feel, and how to provide better support for people who feel lonely or are at risk of feeling lonely.

The report also includes a foreword from Baroness Barran MBE, Minister for Civil Society, in which she states she is pleased that some aspects of addressing loneliness have been brought to the fore.

[Read the report](#)

Renewed focus on babies' and children's health as review is launched

The Early Years Health Adviser Andrea Leadsom MP is to lead a new review into improving health outcomes of babies and young children.

The review will look at reducing inequalities in young children from birth to age two-and-a-half, aiming to "ensure every baby is given the best possible start in life".

[Learn more](#)

Take part in a wellbeing experiment

A new research project funded by the Natural Environment Research Council has launched to look at the impact upon wellbeing of connecting with nature.

'Nature up close and personal: A wellbeing experiment' by The British Science Association (BSA) and partners, will involve thousands of volunteers taking part in simple, fun, 10-minute nature-based activities, five times over the course of a week.

[Take part](#)

Listen to the *Mentally Sound: Life in Lockdown* podcast

The regular *Mentally Sound* radio show on all things mental health is now being broadcast as a podcast around life in lockdown.

The show will be broadcast by Spice FM on Mondays from 1-2pm with host Ricky Thamman teaming up with therapist Nicky Robinson for discussion and self care tips.

Listen again to to [episode one](#) and [episode two](#) via clyp.it.

New Red Cross emergency contact card

The Red Cross has designed a free-to-download contact form for vulnerable people that they can keep in their purse or wallet.

The PDF is simple to fill in and print off to ensure people can stay connected during the coronavirus crisis. Find out more at [redcross.org.uk/trace](https://www.redcross.org.uk/trace).

[Use the card](#)

VONNE round up

Over the past couple of weeks VONNE has:

- Facilitated a North East and Cumbria Funders Network meeting, which included a discussion on key considerations and emerging priorities and approaches in the renewal and recovery phase of Covid-19, and an update from the Association of Charitable Foundations on its Collaborative Hub.
- Chaired the NE Building Better Opportunities Network meeting with Sue Ormiston, Head of EU programmes at The National Lottery Community Fund, discussing key learnings and considerations for how delivery could be flexed to meet increased need for employability support.
- Represented the VCSE sector at a Cleveland and Darlington Covid-19 Recovery Coordination Group meeting.
- Delivered the first virtual *Design Hop* workshops to the sector.
- Attended a National Innovation Centre for Ageing-organised workshop with *On Hand*, a digital volunteering app which is launching in Newcastle, the first location outside London.

Digital and innovation

Ageing Better Middlesbrough - a case study

Over the last four months, Ageing Better Middlesbrough's digital inclusion project has ramped up its efforts to provide digital support to older people.

Experienced staff and a team of digital volunteers from The Hope Foundation provided 4G-enabled digital devices pre-programmed with various apps specific to the individual's needs, and ongoing help over the phone to support people to get online.

[Read more about the project](#)

How to optimise the digital momentum created during Covid-19

Recently, Charity Digital held a webinar looking at 'How to optimise digital momentum created during Covid-19'.

It involved speakers from charities that have adopted an internal digital mindset as a way to ensure their digital transformation was successful.

[Watch the playback](#)

Work better with MS Office 365 and sharing documents

A free session from Third Sector Lab will help you make the most of Office 365 and the sharing of documents.

Log in at 2pm on August 3rd for the 90-minute session with John Fitzgerald, Digital Evolution Manager at the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, who'll explain some of Microsoft Office 365's collaboration features within OneDrive and Sharepoint, and help you understand how to get your team working smarter.

[Book a place](#)

Safer Culture North East



Safeguarding workbooks available

The Learning and Development Committee for Adults has Safeguarding Level 1 Workbooks that multi-agency staff can access and complete to receive certificates.

There is no cost for organisations providing services to residents in Newcastle. Contact safeguardingadultstraining@newcastle.gov.uk for more details.

[Use NCVO's safeguarding resources](#)

Optimising safeguarding policies and practice

A free workshop from Third Sector Lab will help you find out more about safeguarding online.

This 75-minute workshop, at 11am on August 21st, is aimed at charities whose service user engagement has moved online. It will be particularly useful for those who provide services to children and young people, or vulnerable adults.

The session will cover the principles of a safe online space for staff and participants, reviewing and adapting existing organisational policies, and exploring practical ideas for ensuring safety and wellbeing through the planning and delivery of online activities.

[Book a place](#)

Events

Employee engagement in a remote working environment

Tomorrow! (July 30th) - 9:30am-10:30am
Online

In this [free webinar](#) hosted by Dynamo North East, you'll be guided through how to provide the best employee experience in a remote or hybrid working environment.

It will cover workforce wellbeing, creating confidence amongst managers and inclusion in a people-first organisation.

Managing staff as they return to work

Tomorrow! (July 30th) - 10am to 11.30am
Online

This [essential session](#), led by Peter Earley of Ethical HR, will consider many of the employment issues that you might face as you reopen your services. Brought to you by VODA, this session will cover staff returning to work after furlough, the need to change hours and working practices, working from home, redundancies and looking after health and wellbeing.

Social Rights Alliance North East gathering

Thursday, August 13th - 10am to 12noon
Online

The purpose of this gathering will be to re-evaluate the focus of the Social Rights Alliance North East in light of Covid-19 and decide how the organisation moves forward. Options will be explored from a rights-based perspective.

To attend, email anya.bonner@justfair.org.uk.

Moving to an online model of training delivery

Friday, August 7th - 11am to 12.30pm
Online

This free workshop from [Third Sector Lab](#) will be valuable for charities whose core services include delivery of training workshops/CPD, including accredited programmes. The session will cover establishing key needs of learners, embedding values online, tools and resources for online learner engagement, evaluation and reporting.

[See more events](#)

New listings with VONNE Jobs

VONNE Jobs advertises job and trustee vacancies from the VCSE sector across the North East, and there have been plenty of new listings since the weekend. Below are a few opportunities that are ending soon, but [check out the rest](#) on our website.

You can also get weekly alerts in your inbox by signing up for our [jobs ebulletin](#), follow us [@VONNEJobs](#) for daily updates, and save time and money with our [recruitment support and salary benchmarking services](#).

Last chance to apply...

Trustee

Unpaid

[Citizens Advice County Durham](#) provides free, independent and confidential advice to help clients overcome their problems. As member of the Board of Trustees, you'll carry the collective responsibility for ensuring that the organisation is governed correctly and maintains its sense of mission in line with its primary aims and objectives.

Finance Officer

£23,836 - £25,801 pro rata

Wearside Women in Need (WWiN) specialist domestic abuse service is looking to strengthen operations with an experienced Finance Officer to ensure accurate and timely financial information is maintained and is available to the Director and Board of Trustees. This is a critical role dealing with the day-to-day financial management of the organisation

Head of Marketing and Income Generation

£30,000 - £35,000 pro rata

The successful candidate will shape and implement The Key's marketing and income generation strategies so that its growth ambitions and operational objectives can be achieved.

Leadership Team Administrator

£22,750 pro rata

You will be an experienced personal assistant, highly organised and appreciative of the need to maintain confidentiality. As well as providing support directly to the Chief Executive of Edberts House, you'll support the Leadership Team.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

Together with the people of the city, Urban Green Newcastle keeps our green city thriving by protecting and growing our parks and allotments – helping you connect to nature, communities and making life that little bit sweeter.

[Discover more about VONNE Membership+](#)



Become a VONNE Member

Support from 1,200 strong VONNE members is more crucial than ever in informing and underpinning our work to strengthen the North East voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, and the people and communities of the North East.

[Join VONNE](#)