

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

Step forward taken in becoming England's greenest region

The North East of England Climate Coalition (NEECCo) has taken a significant step forward with the launch of its website.

In a recent blog post, VONNE CEO Carol Botten, who's been directly involved in the project, explains more about NEECCo's intention for the North East to become 'England's Greenest Region'.



[Read Carol's blog post](#)



Kickstart: A VCSE sector response is needed

In this guest post, Steve Roberts, Director of Youth, Employment and Skills at Groundwork North East and Cumbria, tells us more about the Kickstart initiative to help create jobs for 16 to 24-year-olds.

[Read Steve's blog post](#)

National news

National VCSE sector conference focused on Covid-19 recovery announced

The Voluntary Sector Response and Recovery Conference will be the first national meeting of sector leaders, coming together to assess practical solutions to help charities survive following Covid-19.

Taking place online across two mornings (November 10th and 11th), plus a follow-up implementation workshop on November 23rd, attend to hear the latest advice on employment law, the furlough scheme and supporting staff wellbeing, with leading figures from the NCVO, Macmillan, Mind, and Barnado's.

[Register online](#)

Free supplies for charities and their beneficiaries

Giving World helps charities access brand new life essentials for free.

A wide range of products is available including clothing for adults and children, toiletries, baby products, toys, bedding, kitchen equipment and household items, books, crafts and ambient foods. Goods are for the beneficiaries of organisations and cannot be sold or used for fundraising.

Charities can also register to request items for free, as well as viewing the items available, and delivery costs can be as low as £10.

[More on the scheme](#)

NCVO calls for stories of positive impact

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is asking for stories from small voluntary and community groups that "have demonstrated impressive resilience and adaptability during the Covid-19 crisis", where "their work has made a positive difference to people."

Email Shehnaaz.Latif@ncvo.org.uk to get involved.

30-minute webinar to help you adapt your fundraising

Watch Blackbaud Europe's on-demand webinar and learn how to adapt your fundraising strategy with technology. The webinar covers the findings from *The Status of UK Fundraising 2020* report, and shows how you can adjust to the giving trends shaped by the pandemic.

Free peer support for charity leaders

The Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) is running free 90-minute Zoom sessions for up to 12 charity leaders at a time.

You'll hear how others are adapting to Covid-19, and have a safe space to offload any challenges you face. Dates are available to December 2020 and groups can choose to continue meeting on a six-weekly basis.

[Book a slot](#)

Regional news

The new coronavirus rules – a recap

As stronger measures are introduced across England to help curb the rising Covid-19 infection rate, including an increase in the use of face coverings and 10pm closing throughout the hospitality industry, here's a reminder of the more stringent steps that were taken across much of the North East from last week.

Currently, the following additional rules apply in Northumberland, North Tyneside, Newcastle upon Tyne, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham:

- residents must not socialise with people outside their household or support bubble in private homes or gardens
- residents should not socialise with people outside their household in public venues of any kind
- people should only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work, although people across the country should work from home if they can.

NHS chiefs in the region welcomed the measures and in a press release added:

"Adults and children should only get tested for coronavirus if they have any of the following three specific symptoms. This will help ensure tests are available for those that need them:

- a high temperature – you do not necessarily need to measure your temperature
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or

three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

"If you or your child has had a coronavirus test, you **MUST** stay at home until you get your result. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble **MUST** also stay at home until you get the result. To access a test you **MUST** use the national NHS Test and Trace system at nhs.uk or by calling 119."

Check the website for your Local Authority for more detailed guidance in your area and keep an eye out for government updates at gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions.

Webinar to understand how to access emergency support

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Emergencies Partnership, for which VONNE acts as regional liaison lead, provides a simple way for local organisations to request additional support to meet the needs of their community.

Local community support is best in an emergency, as we've witnessed throughout the pandemic, but capacity can be an issue and the Emergencies Partnership aims to fill that gap.

Next Monday (September 28th), an introductory webinar is to be held for interested parties to find out about the partnership, and the best way to work within it across the north of England. The session will cover the background and the structure of the partnership and how it can help your organisation, so we can work together to improve the support that those in need receive in times of crisis.

[Sign up to attend](#)

Introductory sessions on people, power and parliament available for community and youth groups

UK Parliament's local outreach officers have taken their community and youth group workshops online. The sessions are designed to show groups in the North East how the House of Commons and House of Lords work, as well as offering first-hand expertise on how to influence decisions made in parliament, get their voices heard and campaign for change.

Workshops, which take place throughout the year, are hosted by the outreach officer for the North East and can be tailored to suit the individual needs of each group.

[Book a session](#)

Fund launched to support local growth in the VCSE sector

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has funding available to support voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations recover from the Covid-19 emergency.

The VCSE Capital Grant programme is open to organisations with operations in the North East LEP area to help deliver short term projects (by March 31st, 2022). Grant awards of between £50,000 and £150,000, for either a standalone project or a phase of work that forms part of a wider or longer term capital investment scheme, will support either:

- New or enhanced community facilities that support the health and economic wellbeing of young people, particularly those aged 16 to 24 and from disadvantaged backgrounds, that have been disproportionately and adversely impacted by the pandemic.
- Improve through green infrastructure projects our urban or rural environments, making connections to education, vocational learning, and employment opportunities, through paid or voluntary positions.

Projects that meet both priorities are particularly welcomed. Eight awards will be made with all projects required to start by the end of March 2021. Please apply by October 16th.

[Apply now](#)

Report states northern charities will be hardest hit by Covid-19

Charities located in deprived areas of the north are more likely to see a fall in income as a result of the coronavirus crisis, a report by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) North has found.

The report, *Third Sector Trends Survey 2020: Covid-19 and its potential impact on the third sector in the north*, draws upon the evidence from the Third Sector Trends Survey to examine how the sector has previously responded to severe economic and social crisis, namely the 2008 financial crash and the subsequent decade of austerity.

[Read the report](#)

Charity networking session next month

Chartered accountancy firm UNW is holding a virtual networking session for the charity sector in October to share experiences and ideas.

The 45-minute session is being held on Thursday, October 15th at 4pm on Zoom and will feature topics such as:

- staffing and restructuring
- funding and finance
- the challenges of reopening post-lockdown
- governance and board issues
- overall Covid experiences.

Spaces are limited and registration will close on October 8th.

[Take part](#)

Health and wellbeing news



#DoYourBit to help tackle flu

We all know how easily flu can spread, and how serious it can be. So amid the coronavirus pandemic this year, it's never been more important that people protect themselves and others.

Those most at risk from flu are also more vulnerable to Covid-19, so the NHS is asking you to #DoYourBit to protect individuals and communities. The annual flu vaccination, which works by boosting antibodies to help the body fight the virus, is available to more people than ever before, and with strict social distancing and

hygiene measures in place in the places offering it, is extremely safe. The jab is free to anyone at increased risk from the effects of flu, including:

- those aged 65 and over
- pregnant women
- those with certain medical conditions (aged six months to 64 years)
- those in long-stay residential care or another long-stay care facility
- those receiving a carer's allowance
- the main carers of elderly/disabled people whose welfare may be at risk if they fall ill
- those that live with people at high risk of Covid-19 (on the NHS shielded patient list), or that expect to be with them on most days over winter
- NHS and social care workers
- children aged two to three years
- all primary aged school children and Year 7 pupils.

Most people will receive their jab by booking a slot at their GP practice or pharmacy, or in some cases through maternity services, or while attending appointments at hospitals and clinics.

As with Covid-19, you can have no symptoms but still spread flu to others, so it's crucial to wash hands thoroughly and regularly, and to social distance. And if you do sneeze – catch it, bin it and kill it. Doing all of these things will help prevent the spread of both Covid-19 and flu. #DoYourBit to encourage more people to get the flu jab and help protect our communities this winter.

[#DoYourBit](#)

Apply for health and wellbeing funding by the end of October

Applications have opened for a share of a £3.3 million fund to support community projects in England aimed at tackling obesity, reducing smoking and improving learning among mothers and young babies.

This new round of the Health and Wellbeing Fund has been launched with the theme of 'starting well', to improve outcomes for mothers and babies in deprived areas or from BAME backgrounds, from pre-conception to up to two-and-a-half years of age.

Successful projects will be fully funded through the scheme throughout their three years. The deadline for applications is midday on Friday, October 30th.

[More about applying](#)

Initial findings from the Keeping People Connected report highlights early intervention

The Keeping People Connected project was developed in response to the coronavirus emergency and associated lockdown, which led to significant risks around loneliness,

uncertainty, risky behaviour (including personal management of coronavirus) and isolation.

An initial report from the project covers the 16 weeks from April 14th to 4th August 2020 and recommendations for strategic decision makers, commissioners and local service planners focus on early intervention and prevention.

[Read the report](#)

Diabetes and moving more

The north of England Diabetes UK team presents a free webinar for people living with diabetes or those at risk of diabetes, taking an informal and relaxed look at the basics of becoming more active.

The event takes place on Tuesday, September 29th.

[Sign up to take part](#)

NHS Volunteer Responders programme extended

NHS Volunteer Responders programme is part of the response to the pandemic and has been extended until at least the end of March 2021.

The programme was designed as a safety net to complement and support local provision, and the existing six volunteer roles will remain available during this time. These are:

- Community Response Volunteer: collecting and delivering shopping, medication or other essential supplies for patients
- Community Response Plus Volunteer: collecting and delivering shopping, medication or other essential supplies for patients with cognitive impairments and/or significant vulnerabilities
- Patient Transport Volunteer: providing transport to patients who are medically fit to attend routine medical appointments
- NHS Transport Volunteer: transporting equipment, supplies and/or medication between NHS services and sites. This may also involve assisting pharmacies with medication delivery, and Local Resilience Networks with transportation and delivery of items such as food parcels.
- Check In and Chat Volunteer: providing telephone support for anyone at risk of loneliness.
- Check In and Chat Plus Volunteer: providing a listening ear to volunteers that are also shielding or experiencing challenges as a result of Covid-19.

Additional volunteers are also being considered.

[Make a referral](#)

Equity, diversity and inclusion

#PolicySoWhite?

In a recent blog post by guest Kristiana Wrixon, Charity So White details the impact of homogeneity on policy setting in the VCSE sector.

[Read the post](#)

What progress has been made in NCVO's plans to embed diversity?

In a recent blog post, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations detailed the journey so far for its equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) working group, which has been running for about a year.

[Read the blog post](#)

Virtual buddy scheme matches volunteers with disabled people

The Sense Buddying service, which matches a disabled person with a volunteer, is now available online, with buddies socialising over the phone, videocall or by letter.

Volunteers are matched with people based on their communication style, hobbies and interests, with a focus on growing friendships.

[Complete the referral form](#)

VONNE round up

Over the past few weeks VONNE has:

- Represented the sector at the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Strategic Coordination Group, which coordinates multi-agency activity in relation to rising Covid-19 cases and the new restrictions that came into force on September 18th.
- Facilitated NEECCo's first Public Engagement Preparatory Planning Group, with representatives from Ashden/North of Tyne Combined Authority, Northern Powergrid, North East Culture Partnership, the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, the TUC, Unison and DoGooders Studio.
- Presented the North East and North Cumbria VCSE Partnership Forum as a model of good practice at a NHSE VCSE Leadership Programme workshop on [#NHSReset](#).
- Hosted the first meeting of the [Ann Cleaves Reading Project](#) Steering Group for a pilot project in which community reading coaches will support local people to access books and reading, to improve their health and wellbeing in five local authority areas.
- Attended the Darlington and Cleveland Covid-19 Recovery Coordination Group to ensure the VCSE sector is included in recovery planning.
- Worked with Not Equal at Open Lab to devise a series of [VCSE Digital Inclusion Strategy Workshops](#) (more info below) to add to the evidence base on digital inclusion and create a good practice guide when developing projects.

Digital and innovation

Sign up to our digital inclusion workshops

Researchers at Newcastle University's Open Lab, with the support of VONNE and the Not-Equal Network, have developed a series of online workshops to bring together those in the region working on digital inclusion.

The 90-minute sessions, which will be facilitated by Adam Parnaby from Open Lab, will provide an opportunity to discuss what's working and what needs are unmet by current approaches, so tools can be developed to support future work in this area.

The workshops will inform a report, for use by the sector, summarising all relevant findings on the current state of digital inclusion in the North East, as well as promising opportunities for future work, and enable peer learning and the sharing of experience and inclusion strategies between organisations.

Participants will be offered the chance to collaborate with Open Lab to run workshops for their beneficiaries, insights from which can be used to inform service design.

There are two strands – Material Access and Digital Skills – each with two workshops, and you can register for one or both strands. Events begin on October 12th and there is a choice of dates available.

[Sign up](#)

#BeMoreDigital takes place next month

Charity Digital's #BeMoreDigital Fundraising Day, which takes place online on October 15th, has been designed to educate charities on how to use digital fundraising to thrive.

[Register now](#)

New award scheme rewards digital best practice

Nominations for the #CharityVirtualAwards close on Sunday (September 27th).

Submissions are welcome from charities of all sizes, and each category winner will receive a €1,000 donation and an annual membership to the Fundraising Everywhere platform. The categories are:

Best Innovation in Virtual Events
Best Virtual Fundraising Event
Best Virtual Pivot
Best Stewardship
People's Choice.

[Nominate now](#)

Safer Culture North East



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



COMMUNITY
FUND

Event programme ongoing

Safer Culture North East is hosting a series of training sessions this autumn:

- An introduction to safeguarding on [October 1st](#) or [October 22nd](#).
- Keeping your organisation safe online on [October 6th](#).
- Understanding safeguarding for voluntary and community organisations on [October 21st](#).
- Safeguarding – the responsibilities of trustees on [November 5th](#), and the responsibilities of Designated Persons on [November 10th](#).
- Safer recruitment of staff and volunteers on [November 12th](#).
- Training for Designated Persons for safeguarding on [November 21st](#).

[Download our safeguarding factsheets](#)

Bearing safeguarding in mind in reopening community spaces

Catalyst and Tees Valley Rural Action are holding two Community Spaces Information Sessions around the reopening of village halls, community halls, church halls and other community spaces following the initial Covid-19 lockdown.

Taking place on [October 8th](#) and [9th](#) in Safeguarding Village Halls Week 2020, this event will look at how these community venues can ensure they are still meeting safeguarding requirements.

If you are interested in joining this online meeting, get in touch with Heather Campbell at heather.campbell@catalyststockton.org.

Events

Crowdfund North of Tyne launch event

Thursday, October 1st - 12noon
Online

The North of Tyne Combined Authority is launching [Crowdfund North of Tyne](#), a new community crowdfunding site in conjunction with the digital fundraising specialists Spacehive.

Climate emergency: making practical organisational changes

Thursday, October 8th - 1pm-2.30pm
Online

This session from [Connected Voice](#) will be especially useful for organisations that don't currently have an environmental policy or procedures, or are looking to update existing ones.

Engaging service users while working remotely

Thursday, October 8th - 1pm-2pm
Online

This free session from [Charity Digital](#) will help you understand what you can do to make those essential connections with service users while unable to be centre-based.

Hidden Sentence training

Wednesday, October 14th - 9.30am
Online

This training from [Nepacs](#), for professionals from health, local authorities, education, criminal justice and the voluntary sector, raises awareness of the needs of prisoners' families and how agencies can support them.

[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...

Mentor – Community Justice

£21,420

The Wise Group is looking to recruit a dynamic individual who can provide life changing support to offenders using a bespoke mentoring approach.

One Point Advice Worker

£21,544 pro rata

[Citizens Advice County Durham](#) is looking for someone to provide advice to clients and their families who are referred to the One Point service

Health Improvement Practitioner - Physical Activity

£18,616 - £19,174

[Healthworks](#) is looking for a dynamic and enthusiastic individual with a passion for health improvement to make a difference

Lifestyle Administration Assistant

£15,870 pro rata

The ideal candidate for this role at [Age UK Sunderland](#) will have excellent IT skills, experience of data input and

for clients who require enhanced support and information with their health needs.

databases, with good attention to detail and a flexible, positive approach.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



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Here for Everyone

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

The Hospital of God works with vulnerable people living in the North East of England. Established in 1273 by Bishop Robert de Stichell to help poor and elderly people, throughout the centuries it has developed into a modern organisation meeting a range of 21st century needs.

[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](#)

