

VONNE is the regional support body for the voluntary community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector in the North East. Send any content you'd like us to share in future editions of VONNE News to VONNE.



VONNE news and opinion

Covid-19: The VCSE sector's key asks to aid recovery in the North East – a report

Following wide consultation with our members and stakeholders, our latest report highlights the current issues facing the VCSE sector due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and consolidates our collective key asks of government, funders and commissioners as we work to alleviate the immediate and long-term impact of the crisis on our people and communities.

[Read the full report](#)

Catalysing Innovation – we're all innovators now

For the past three years, VONNE has received funding to encourage and support innovation in small and medium enterprises among the VCSE community.

Recently, that funding was renewed, so with a new programme in development, VONNE's Membership and Communications Support Officer, and Innovation Coordinator Laura Elliot, has taken some time to reflect on what we've learned so far, to help us – and you – plan the next phase.

[Help shape the programme](#)



Tell the VONNE Climate Action Alliance about your organisation

Today is Earth Day, and the VONNE Climate Action Alliance (VCAA) wants to engage with a large number of 'mainstream' VCSE organisations as well as those focused on environmental factors and climate action, in order to develop its work.

Meeting the needs of these organisations through their input into the alliance will also help the VCAA make the case for funding to develop tools, resources and training to support the sector.

We'd love your support to get us 100 responses to two eight to 10-minute surveys about you, whichever type of organisation you represent.

[Help get us to 100](#)

Get ready for the final *Inspiring Impact* session

On May 20th, our last session in this three-part series will have a strategic focus, encouraging participants to look beyond their organisation. There'll be a panel discussion about what we can do to encourage ongoing connectivity, collaboration and support.

[Sign up](#)

Guest post: How can the VCSE community tackle digital poverty? More lessons from the North East

Last year, VONNE worked with Not Equal research centre and Newcastle University's Open Lab on a series of workshops for the region's VCSE community to explore digital inclusion and gain insight into what policy makers, funders, and technologists can do to support it.

Facilitated workshops were run by Adam Parnaby, PhD researcher at Open Lab, and in this guest blog post, he gives us his take on the issue.

[Read Adam's post](#)

National news

Covid-19 has accelerated effective collaboration, says research

The pandemic has boosted collaboration between charities and local authorities during the pandemic, according to think tank New Philanthropy Capital.

It tracked three local authority areas across a six-month period to learn how place-based coordination is changing.

[Understand more](#)

Share your Covid experience to help our community #RespondRecoverReset

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is conducting the biggest UK study exploring the impact of Covid-19 on the VCSE community. The latest round to the survey is open until April 26th.

The more organisations that complete this, the more impact it will have.

[Share now](#)

Mobilising voluntary action: learning from today to prepare for tomorrow

Volunteers have played a vital role in the response to Covid-19, but some have had to pause, stop or change the way they work as a result of the pandemic.

NCVO is working to understand this from the perspective of local authorities, infrastructure organisations and those that involve volunteers across all sectors.

[Have your say](#)

How donor behaviour has changed since Covid

Find out about the future of work

Research in *Charity Digital* has revealed UK charity donors are getting younger, and moving more online, the youngest having increased support by as much as 700 per cent since this time last year.

Discover the changes VCSE organisations are planning to implement over the next 12 months, including if flexible working is here to stay, in a new report, *The Future of Work 2021*.

Get free mentoring through community energy scheme

The Next Generation Community Energy Peer Mentoring programme is offering up to 40 community energy groups in England the chance to benefit from free expert support on a wide range of issues, from finance to public relations and from microgrids to renewable heat.

[Apply for support](#)

Take part in the State of Social Enterprise survey 2021

Social Enterprise UK is calling on organisations in the sector to take part in the State of Social Enterprise survey 2021.

The UK's biggest and most important survey of social enterprise, the findings provide a definitive guide to the state of the sector in the UK, with data on turnover, scale, who social enterprises employ, where they operate, who they trade with, pay ratios and more. Published every two years, the report is the place to go to for in-depth information, having led to more than £2 billion funding and investment for social enterprise.

[Take part](#)

Apply for the UK Acumen Fellowship

Applications are now open for the 2021 Acumen UK Fellowship, with a deadline of May 5th.

Each year, Acumen Academy selects around 20 bold and inspirational leaders from across sector, place and background, and equips them with the practices and community needed to deepen their impact.

[Learn more](#)



Bi-weekly rapid Covid tests now available to everyone in England

Until the next potential step on the government's roadmap out of lockdown on May 17th, anyone can access free, rapid lateral flow tests (LFDs) for themselves and their families, helping ensure infections are detected and measures put in place quickly to contain any coronavirus spread.

From April 12th, non-essential retail, including charity shops, libraries and community centres, have been able to re-open and event pilots have now begun, with many hospitality and leisure facilities starting to operate.

We're reminded that households should still not mix indoors, and outdoor mixing should be limited to six individuals or two households. We should also continue to travel as little as possible and stay two metres apart, using face coverings indoors.

[Access the tests](#)

Regional news

Our region represented in collective response to the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

Almost 60 grant-giving foundations and charitable trusts, including VONNE [Membership+](#) supporter The Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, have called upon the prime minister to publicly affirm his commitment to actively tackle racism in all its forms.

In an open letter in response to the recent report from the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities, which controversially suggested the UK is a model of racial equality, the foundation, through its membership of the Association of Charitable Foundations, said: "We are looking to you to make clear you do not agree with narratives that deny the harm caused by racism in our society."

[Read the letter](#)

Examining the links between our region's transport and social exclusion

Transport for the North is launching research to understand the links between transport and social exclusion in the North of England.

As part of this, charities that work with communities affected by poverty, deprivation, and social exclusion are being asked to complete a [20-minute online survey](#).

People Power will be hybrid for 2021

People Power 2021 will be delivered as a hybrid conference, taking place both online and live at Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The event, on June 30th, will feature keynotes, workshops, and examples of best practice to help VCSE leaders, managers and HR professionals brush up their skills in a Covid-safe environment, while a virtual ticket will mean no one misses out.

[See the agenda](#)

Health and wellbeing news

Join the [North East and North Cumbria \(NENC\) Health and Wellbeing Network mailing list](#) for the opportunity to receive information on health and care system developments relevant to our region and the VCSE sector working within it.

Vaccine support for people with severe mental illness

A series of short videos on the Covid-19 vaccine has been produced to support and encourage people with severe mental illness (SMI) to get the jab. They are:

- [Getting the vaccine: personal experience guide for people with SMI part one](#)
- [Getting the vaccine: personal experience guide for people with SMI part two](#), and
- [The Covid-19 vaccination: a guide for GPs and teams to support people with SMI.](#)

Trapped and tangled – a person-centred approach to tackling inequalities

The Child Health and Wellbeing Network for the North East and North Cumbria is hosting a seminar for those working across the system in the region with children, young people and families.

The inspirational two-hour session, from 10am on May 5th, will explore the work of Mark Smith, Director of Public Service Reform and his team from Gateshead Council as they seek to address the inequalities experienced by families in the borough.

To book a place, email england.northernchildnetwork@nhs.net.

Support local memory research

Researchers at Northumbria University are looking into the potential impact of Covid-19 on memory.

The 20-minute survey tests your ability to remember events from the past year and more generally, and whether you feel your ability has been affected by lockdown restrictions.

The team is especially hoping to hear from those involved in working with older adults and those tackling issues relating to ageing.

[Test your memory](#)

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Racial equity fund launched this week

Lloyds Bank Foundation England and Wales has opened its Racial Equity Fund for small and local charities led

Report reinforces message of structural inequality in funding

A new report on the inequity in funding by race and ethnicity, commissioned by *The Funders For Race Equality Alliance*,

by individuals from racially marginalised communities.

Two-year unrestricted grants of up to £50k are available, alongside development support.

[Apply](#)

follows a similar publication from the *Baobab Foundation*.

The review covered 34 emergency funds distributed in 2020 following the outbreak of Covid-19.

[Read the report](#)

Help put lived experience at the heart of media conversations

Sound Delivery, which brought the Social Media Exchange to Newcastle last year, has a new training programme to equip participants with the skills and confidence to share their experience of society's big issues.

Individuals interested have the chance to become part of a network of spokespeople and to have their expertise heard more widely, to ultimately drive change.

The deadline to apply to the nine-month programme is April 30th.

[More details](#)

Read the LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness Report 2021

More needs to be done to improve the support available to all LGBTQ+ young people, according to a research by charity akt. This includes the mandatory and uniform monitoring by government of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing and homelessness services.

Other recommendations in the report include that local authorities should refresh and review homelessness strategies to determine how effective they've been in supporting LGBTQ+ young people, and a call for the LGBTQ+ sector to ensure that LGBTQ+ youth homelessness is treated as a priority, with training for all staff where appropriate.

[See the report](#)

VONNE round up

Recently, VONNE has:

- begun work as the VCSE Emergencies Partnership's Digital Inclusion Liaison Lead for the North. This work will help us understand the landscape, highlight and recommend good practice, and build connections

- explored opportunities for VCSE organisations to benefit from the [Community Renewal Fund](#) against the short development and delivery timescales expected.

Digital and innovation

New charity management tool launched in the region

A new platform has been created by a County Durham start up to help food banks and charities manage their work, engage with their service users, and make reporting and auditing easier.

[The Joining Hands](#) offers stock, order and donation management, and task allocation, with a real-time at-a-glance dashboard to help VCSE leaders analyse performance.

Report into the global spread of digital maturity across non-profits

More than 860 charity professionals from around the globe were surveyed by Salesforce on how they've adapted to Covid-19 and the crucial role technology has played in helping them build resilience.

The findings reveal the countries best equipped to handle the pandemic, top priorities coming out of the crisis and more.

Benchmark your charity's digital maturity with the [Digital Maturity Index](#).

Could a digital apprentice help your organisation?

Accenture's apprentices are keen to be matched with VCSE organisations in the region that would value free digital support towards a finite project for the 2021/22 academic year.

This may be designing a social media strategy, data analysis or creating a website or CRM system. Contact [Colette Harrison](#) at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland for more details.

Enter or nominate in the Tees Tech Awards 2021

VCSE organisations based in the Tees Valley or on Teesside are being encouraged to enter their work in the *Tech for Good* category of the second Tees Tech Awards, set to take place on July 1st.

Those based across the south of the region, including Middlesbrough, Stockton on Tees, Hartlepool, Wynyard, Redcar and Cleveland, East Cleveland, Stokesley and Darlington, are eligible to enter, or be nominated, for their work to change the world for the better using digital technology.

Entry is free and there are 11 award categories in total. The deadline is April 29th. Find out more at teesbusiness.co.uk/tees-tech-awards.

Safer Culture North East



Upcoming safeguarding training

The next *Introduction to Safeguarding* sessions are taking place on [May 6th](#) and [July 8th](#), and training around the role of *Designated Person for Safeguarding* is taking place on [June 9th](#).

A session on *making recruitment of both staff and volunteers safer* is taking place on [June 7th](#).

Sign up for these and more events on our website, where there's also a series of downloadable [fact sheets and other training resources](#) around safeguarding.

[See events](#)

New campaign to help safeguard adults in the region

A six week radio campaign is currently running in the region, highlighting physical, emotional and financial abuse.

Say No to Abuse segments can be heard on Metro Radio, Greatest Hits Radio and TFM across Teesside, County Durham, Tyne and Wear and Northumberland until May 10th.

Events

What next for funders – the 2021-22 response to Covid-19

Tuesday, May 18th - 10am-11.30am
Online

In its latest webinar in the free grant-making trends series, [KEDA Consulting](#) will be sharing findings from the Association of Charitable Foundations' member survey into the post-Covid funding landscape, as well as insights from a range of guest speakers from different funding organisations.

Volunteer Expo Online

Friday and Saturday, May 7th-8th
9.30am - 5pm, online

The national event to connect volunteers, and organisations to harness the power of volunteering.

At this year's [event](#), NCVO's interim CEO Sarah Vibert will explain how volunteering has changed during the pandemic, what its legacy might be, and how we can be more inclusive.

Prepare your organisation for hybrid working

Thursday, May 6th - 1pm-2pm
Online

[This webinar](#) from Charity Digital and CoopSys will cover the challenges of a hybrid model, and how to build the proper infrastructure to make hybrid working a success.

The wider impact of Covid-19 in the North East and Yorkshire

Tuesday, May 11th - 1pm-1.45pm
Online

With a focus on recovery planning, this rescheduled [C-WorkKS session](#) provides an opportunity to hear about the latest intelligence on Covid's wider impacts on health and health inequalities.

[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 recent listings. 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](#), [Trustee Finder](#) and [salary benchmarking](#) services.

Last chance to apply...

Events and Communications Assistant

£20,000 pro rata

[Difference North East](#) campaigns for equality for disabled people across our region. It is run by and for disabled people it is looking for someone that can deliver engaging, impactful and accessible content to support all its activities.

The role involves supporting its campaigning, projects, training and events with online content and communications across a variety of platforms.

Community Link Worker – Social Prescribing

£21,892 - £24,157

[Cygnum Support](#) is seeking a highly motivated and passionate person to work with patients to empower them to take control of their health and wellbeing.

The successful candidate will take a holistic approach, connecting people to community groups and statutory services for practical, emotional, and social support. They'll need excellent communication skills and to be able to work independently to develop strong relationships.

Chief Executive Officer

£50,000

[Family Gateway](#)'s vision is to be at the forefront of improving life chances for children and families through the development of community-led solutions.

It's looking for someone with the breadth of expertise, capacity, vision and entrepreneurial spirit to drive the whole organisation forward.

Finance Officer

£24,000 pro rata

Four charities based at Bullion Hall in County Durham are looking for [finance support](#) and for someone to act as mentor to the organisations' respective chief executives.

Applicants should have at least three years' experience managing charitable accounts and payroll using software.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD
MEMBER
Thanks for your support!

Newcastle Hospitals Charity raises money to support initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of the city's patients, people and wider communities, through compassionate and innovative healthcare, education and research.

[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](#)

