

VONNE is the regional support body for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector in the North East. Send potential content for future editions of VONNE News to [VONNE](#).



VONNE news and opinion

VONNE's conference: The digital debate: empowerment for all

Booking will soon open for VONNE's annual conference and AGM, which will focus on *The digital debate: empowerment for all*.

The event will take place on the morning of November 18th, featuring a discussion panel looking at the issue from different perspectives and the implications and provocations for the sector, to be followed by breakout discussions in groups to interrogate aspects of the debate in more detail.

Registration will open in September.

VONNE's Workspace Finder is changing

With VONNE's Workspace Finder, you can showcase available workspaces to thousands of members of our network each month, or find the ideal spot from which to work alone or with others. And since its launch six months ago, the new service has featured spaces from all over the region, with five free advertising credits given to [Membership+](#) supporters at all levels for a limited-time introductory period.

As the service is now established, from October, Silver and Gold Membership+ supporters will continue to receive one free Workspace Finder credit per year, and

Bronze level supporters will be asked to pay £30 per advert, with a discount available for bulk purchases. Non-members will pay £50 per advert. Anyone joining us with Direct Debit will also receive a credit that can be redeemed either against a Workspace Finder advert, or one for the recruitment of a trustee.

So if you haven't used your introductory period credits yet, there's still plenty of time to do so before the changes take effect.

[Use your credits by September 30th](#)

Regional opportunities for social innovation support

VONNE delivers the Social Innovation Cluster for *Innovation SuperNetwork*, which involves supporting innovation in the VCSE sector in the North East. Put simply, we're supporting the sector to look at how we can do things differently.

Laura Elliot, VONNE's Membership and Communications Support Officer has written a blog post about our work in this area on the [Innovation SuperNetwork website](#), which includes information on the support that could be available to your organisation.

National news

Joint project launched on the future of flexible working

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) and *The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO)* have launched a programme looking at flexible working in the VCSE sector.

Chaired by Becky Hewitt, former chief executive of the charity *Changing Faces*, a working group of up to 10 members will report its findings later in the year.

NCVO has also released its latest [Respond, Recover, Reset](#) report for August 2021.

[Learn more](#)

The role of charities and volunteers in levelling up

A new publication from NCVO looks at what members of the VCSE sector community can do to help ensure the government's levelling up agenda succeeds.

This will require all parts of government – central, devolved and local – to collaborate with the public, private and voluntary sectors, and more power to be placed in the hands of communities and local institutions.

[Read the report](#)

Census 2021 outputs consultation for the VCSE community

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is inviting VCSE organisations to a webinar to understand the data and analysis that will be published following the national census earlier this year.

Part of a 12-week public consultation period, the session on September 6th is particularly targeted at community groups and organisations that may not have engaged with government consultations before.

Governance app launched for charity trustees

The Governance app from the *Directory of Social Change* is a new, free and easy way for board members to review and improve their governance together.

[Download the app](#)

Leading in uncertainty: peer support for VCSE leaders

The Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) is offering 90-minute Zoom drop-ins for groups of 10 charity leaders every week.

Participants will have space to share challenges, time to pause and reflect, and the opportunity to hear each other's experiences. There will also be chances to influence funder practice through *IVAR's* open and trusting grant-making initiative.

[Book a September session](#)

Regional news

Only days left to enter the *North East Charity Awards*

The *North East Charity Awards* dinner will be held at Ramside Hall Hotel in Durham on October 20th.

Among the 11 categories this year is a new award – Outstanding Contribution to Social Change – and entries must be made by August 31st.

Community renewal funding opportunity coming soon

The Good Things Foundation is looking for potential partners in the North of Tyne Combined Authority area to deliver an initiative to help people change their lives through digital.

Its Community Digital Skills Pathway proposal has been recommended to government, and if successful, grant applications will open shortly.

The aim is to develop and evaluate a community digital skills and support pathway that engages people for whom Essential Digital Skills (EDS) is the primary barrier to social and economic inclusion, and therefore progression.

Register your interest in a grant at this stage by emailing hello@goodthingsfoundation.org, and include 'UK CRF' in the title of your email.

Final call for up to £15k for poverty and waste reduction projects

The deadline for the *North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA)*'s Crowdfund North of Tyne initiative – Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty – is on September 22nd.

This is a £200k fund to help the organisation, which combines the local authorities of Newcastle, Northumberland and North Tyneside, towards its aim for a net zero transition; projects should be local, community-led initiatives that improve or create green spaces for the benefit of local communities, or reduce food waste and provide easier access to fresh, local food.

The fund can pledge up to £15k or 70 to 80 per cent of total project costs, and a clinic is being held on September 1st to help organisations find out more.

[Attend the clinic on September 1st](#)

Join the Big Bus Conversation

Transport North East has launched the Big Bus Conversation – a regionwide campaign to gather feedback with the aim of persuading people to switch sustainably to travelling by bus.

[Take part by September 10th](#)

You can get more #VONNENews on [Twitter](#). Join the conversation using hashtags **#VONNENetwork** and **#VONNEMembers**. We also have a page on [LinkedIn](#).

Health and wellbeing news

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

Join *Learning Together* by September 17th

The *National Academy of Social Prescribing (NASP)* has launched a new programme to help VCSE and faith organisations discover the world of social prescribing.

Learning Together is a free, six-month, flexible programme of regional learning and development activities about social prescribing for groups and organisations supporting their communities' needs across the North East, North Cumbria and Yorkshire.

[All the details](#)

A reminder that Covid-19 remains a risk

All people aged 16 and 17 in England should now have been offered a first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine to give them protection before returning to education following the summer break.

More than 70 per cent of adults under 30 have now received a first dose, and everyone is encouraged to take [free, twice-weekly lateral flow tests](#) to help monitor infection rates as the virus remains a significant risk.

Carers are asked, #DoYourBit on flu

The NHS in the North East and North Cumbria is encouraging carers to come forward for their flu vaccination this year, and would like to hear from carers who may be interested in getting involved in its campaign to promote the vaccine.

Email elaine.barclay@northumbria.co.uk.

Call for evidence: putting sustainability into practice in healthcare

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) and Future Health Research are looking for input to help them better understand how sustainability can be enhanced within the NHS in the wake of Covid-19.

It would like to understand the practical actions the NHS can take to secure sustainability in the short-to-medium term.

[Respond by September 29th](#)

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Social investors promise changes to address barriers for minoritised ethnic communities

Three social investment organisations have promised to change their programmes after research highlighted the barriers faced by those applying from minoritised ethnic communities.

Access – The Foundation for Social Investment, Social Investment Business (SIB) and Power to Change commissioned a report and have announced the changes following its publication.

[Read the findings](#)

VONNE round up

Over the last fortnight, VONNE has:

- taken part in research for *Henley Business School* looking at the use of social media by VCSE sector organisations.

Digital and innovation



Digital Pathfinders: latest event was a huge hit

More than 40 local organisations are now benefiting from this fully-funded programme of specialised events and expert one-to-one support, equipping themselves with the skills and knowledge to drive productivity and performance over the long-term. The most recent workshop, on digital marketing, was sold out.

But you can still sign up to be part of the scheme, through which you can access future sessions on:

- cyber security for small charities
- developing peer networks
- organisational processes, and
- using good data, to name a few.

The programme is a partnership between VONNE, *Digital Catapult North East Tees Valley*, *Generator*, and *Steam Digital* – made possible by funding from the *North of Tyne Combined Authority* and *Digital Catapult*.

[Become a *Digital Pathfinder*](#)

Learn about data protection and hybrid working

VONNE is part-funded by ERDF as part of the Catalysing Innovation in North East Clusters 2021-2023 project, delivered by the Innovation SuperNetwork.

As part of this, two events next month are being offered. In *Hybrid working* on September 21st, *Accenture's* 'Tech4Good' team will cover preparing for and scheduling meetings, maximising productivity, and collaboration tools for hybrid meetings.

And on September 28th, *Data protection essentials* with Steph Kyne of TrimTab will help you better understand key issues around compliance for your organisation.

Free content guide to help you make your website pop

The Access Group has put together a [free guide](#) on how VCSE organisations can make the most of their website content.

Data poverty collaboration

Building on the work of the *Data Poverty Lab*, *The Good Things Foundation* is partnering with *Virgin Media O2* to support communities to stay connected.

It's *National Databank* project will soon distribute 7.5m gigabytes of mobile data – worth £12.5 million – to help more than 200k people get connected by the end of 2023.

It's also calling on others in the telecomms industry to come on board and work together to create long-term sustainable solutions to data poverty.

[Read the FAQs](#)

Free charity data scheme

Vodafone has launched an initiative allowing charities to apply for free data.

The aim is to help those supported by charities, and organisations themselves, to improve their digital capacity.

According to the 2021 *Charity Digital Skills* report, 45 per cent of VCSE sector organisations had to give their users devices, data or support to enable them to get online, and a fifth said they'd had to cancel services because they didn't have the skills or technology to deliver them.

[About charities.connected](#)

New prize celebrates digital transformation during Covid-19

Professional network group *Digital Leaders* has added three special categories to its annual award scheme, '[Digital Leaders 100](#)', all seeking to celebrate digital transformation.

The £5k Craig Macdonald Memorial Prize is open to grassroots organisations working in their local communities to help close the digital divide. Enter by September 10th.

Safer Culture North East



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



More options for training in safeguarding

Our next *Introduction to Safeguarding* session is taking place online on [September 23rd](#), with training for the *Designated Person for Safeguarding* on [October 7th](#), and a session on the *Role of the Advocate in Safeguarding* on [November 16th](#).

A series of downloadable [fact sheets and other training resources](#) around safeguarding are also available free of charge on our website.

Events

Community interpreting

Thursday, September 9th - 9.30am
Online

The Workers' Educational Association (WEA), a charity bringing high-quality, professional education into communities, is offering a [Zoom course on interpreting](#).

Why Kickstart is great for business

Tuesday, September 7th - 11am-12noon

Join this online session from [The Wise Group](#) to find out about the government's £2bn Kickstart scheme, and how it can support your application.

Housing matters training

Monday, September 6th - 1pm-4pm
Online

Through a combination of case studies, exercises, quizzes and insights from [Society Matters'](#) social welfare expert, you'll become familiar with all housing matters at this workshop.

Setting up your not-for-profit

Thursday, September 23rd - 1pm-2pm
Online

This one-hour workshop from [Northumberland CVA](#) will give an overview of the main legal structure options for your not-for-profit organisation.

[See more events](#)

New listings with VONNE Jobs

VONNE Job Finder advertises job and trustee vacancies from the VCSE sector across the North East, and there are plenty of new 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 bulletin](#), 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...

Treasurer

Voluntary

New Writing North is the literature development agency for the North of England, and an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. The successful candidate will join a diverse board from a wide range of backgrounds and add to its breadth of skills and experience.

Youth Project Worker

£18,545 pro rata

Nepacs provides opportunities for young people visiting family members in prison to relax, have fun, chat about their concerns with a trusted adult, and feel less isolated and stigmatised. The successful candidate should possess the ability to establish genuine and supportive relationships.

Fundraising and Partnerships Lead

£26,000 - £28000 pro rata

This role is integral to the success of Smart Works Newcastle and requires a self-starting and proactive approach, excellent organisational skills and knowledge of the fundraising streams available.

Therapist: Newcastle Parent Infant Partnership

£33,816 - £43,150 pro rata

If you're passionate about the importance of early relationships and have a qualification and experience of working with parents and babies, Children North East's Newcastle Parent Infant Partnership (NEWPIP) Therapist role could be for you.

[Visit VONNE Job Finder](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

Citizens Advice County Durham provides free, confidential, impartial and independent advice over the phone and webchat, that helps improve the lives of the people of County Durham.

Offices currently open are in Bishop Auckland, Stanley, Spennymoor and Seaham.



[Discover the benefits of Membership+](#)



Become a VONNE Member

Support from 1,600 strong VONNE members is more crucial than ever in informing and underpinning our work to strengthen the North East VCSE sector, and the region's people and communities.

[Join VONNE](#)

