

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



### An end of year message from our CEO

As 2020 draws to a close, our CEO Carol Botten wants to thank all VONNE members and supporters for all your help and engagement over the last 12 months. What a year it has been!

[Read Carol's full message](#)

## VONNE's festive opening hours

VONNE will be closed with the team taking a well-earned rest from Christmas Eve until January 4th.

We hope you'll have a safe, restful and happy holiday period however you're spending it. See you in 2021!

## Our sector's key asks for 2021: what was revealed at our AGM+

While our AGM+ looked different this year, it provided a moment to reflect. In this blog post, our Deputy CEO Anne Fry explains what was revealed in the event's discussions, which looked at challenges and opportunities for 2021.

[Read Anne's blog post](#)

## How charities can tackle digital inclusion during Covid-19

In the latest in Zoe Amar's series of interviews with charity leaders working with digital during Covid-19, Anne also talked about VONNE's role as a champion of The Charity Digital Code of Practice.

[Read the interview](#)

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## National news

### Update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Details on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund have been announced. It will focus on investment in:

- people and skills tailored to local needs
- communities and place, including cultural and sporting facilities, civic, green and rural infrastructure, community-owned assets, neighbourhood and housing improvements
- businesses.

Further detail will emerge in the spring and in the meantime, NCVO has commented that although this sounds promising, some significant questions remain.

[Find out more](#)

### New Charity Governance Code available to download

A refreshed version of the Charity Governance Code is available to download to help improve your charity's governance.

[Download the code](#)

### **Volunteer Management Conference next month**

The [Volunteer Management Conference](#) on January 19th and 20th will share the latest insights into the future of volunteer management following Covid-19, and the next steps in recruiting, managing and enhancing the impact of volunteers.

### **VCSE sector highlights of 2020**

As 2020 draws to a close, Kirsty Weakley considers whether charities have anything to celebrate in an article on [Civil Society](#).

While the year has been dominated by one huge story, there is not one universal experience of the pandemic. Some charities saw their funding sources collapse, others saw demand sky rocket, and some had no choice but to mothball. Almost all had to rethink what and how they operated, so what did we learn?

[Read on](#)

### **Steadfast Endurance: VCSE leaders wonder how to keep going**

With the experience of responding to two national lockdowns, a period of tentative and partial re-opening, and a tiered system of local lockdowns, VCSE leaders know what it takes to adapt their services and ways of working in line with the constant churn of public health guidance.

But, after nine months of continuous adaptation, the growing challenge is how to keep going emotionally in the face of the relentlessness and depth of need, and the sheer weight of working at fever pitch for months on end.

Read more about this and what funders can do to help in the Institute for Voluntary Action Research's (IVAR) 13th and final Covid-19 briefing of 2020. It's a 12 minute read.

IVAR also has new dates for [peer support sessions for VCSE leaders](#) via Zoom, and there'll soon be a chance to join Lawrie Simanowitz of Bates Wells and IVAR's Ben

Cairns for an [exploratory discussion](#) designed to help you consider your options if your organisational survival is at stake.

[Read the briefing](#)

### **How the UK leaving the EU will affect data protection**

At 11pm on New Year's Eve, the transition period for the UK leaving the EU will end. At this point the UK GDPR will replace EU GDPR. [NCVO's Knowhow pages](#) have been updated to reflect what the differences are and how this will impact VCSE organisations in the UK.

### **Apply for a Weston Charity Award**

Applications for the 2021 Weston Charity Awards are now open until 5pm on January 8th, 2021.

Charities must provide direct services in the fields of welfare, youth or community with at least one paid full-time member of staff in a leadership position, an income of less than £5 million per year.

[Read the criteria](#)

### **Recordings from Social Enterprise Futures available**

"There is no route to the future that does not have social enterprise at its centre. There is no route to levelling up that does not include social enterprise. No route to stronger communities. to socially responsible businesses, to better society as a whole without social enterprise."

These were the words of former PM Gordon Brown at Social Enterprise Futures which took place over two days last month to look back at what the sector achieved in the last year and what the future holds for the social enterprise movement.

[Access the recordings](#)

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## Regional news

### Congratulations to the winners of the North East Charity Awards

Congratulations to all winners of the North East Charity Awards held earlier this month.

At the online ceremony, VONNE [Membership+](#) supporters [Durham Wildlife Trust](#) took home the Uniquely North East Award, while the [Ouseburn Trust](#) was highly commended in the Outstanding Social Enterprise category, and [North Tyneside VODA](#) highly commended as one of the North East Charities of the Year.

[See the winners](#)

### Local volunteers needed to support vaccination rollout

North Tyneside VODA is seeking to recruit non-clinical volunteers to support the healthcare workers at North Tyneside's Covid-19 mass vaccination centres.

The volunteering roles include helping to steward people safely round the centres and take the role of door attendants to help manage the flow of people. They are looking for people who are calm, patient and reliable and are able to spare some time to help out.

[More details](#)

### Join the network helping make lives more fulfilling

The Fulfilling Lives Newcastle Gateshead Experts by Experience Network is made up of people with lived experience of the most challenging circumstances, including homelessness, mental ill health, substance misuse and offending.

It works with Fulfilling Lives Newcastle Gateshead (FLNG) to raise awareness of these issues and encourage local organisations to act on its ideas to improve how services are delivered.

Its next meeting will be held on January 11th. Contact Lou Thorpe on 07812 6727389 or at [ebenetwork@fulfillinglives-ng.org.uk](mailto:ebenetwork@fulfillinglives-ng.org.uk) to find out more.

### Consultation on community energy launches

The 'energise your community consultation' has been launched by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and local authorities in the North East.

They are keen to understand how they can better support the VCSE sector to tackle climate change and build more resilient communities, whether or not you have previous experience in community energy.

It should take no more than 15 minutes to share your views.

[Complete the survey](#)

## Help protect the vulnerable at home

The Gas Safe Charity is offering a free, online Zoom workshop aimed at frontline staff and volunteers who visit or work in the homes of vulnerable people across the region.

The workshop lasts about an hour and explains the sources, signs and symptoms of high and low level carbon monoxide risks in the home and includes relevant scenarios to explain what steps to take if carbon monoxide poisoning is suspected.

[Book a session](#)

## Support available from local students

Gateshead College's business, games and digital technology students are seeking placements within the region to bring fresh thinking and ideas to the VCSE sector.

These young people are looking to build on the skills and knowledge they're learning in college by gaining experience in the workplace, whether that's in an office or working remotely.

Students can work on:

- Website support
- Managing social media accounts
- Marketing campaigns
- Business administration
- 2D or 3D animation design
- 2D or 3D graphics
- Modelling
- Games engines
- Virtual Reality
- Concept art.

Ideally, you'll be able to offer 45 days (315 hours). The placement could be one day per week or all in one block. The college will work with you to come up with a solution that best suits your organisation.

Call Jane Lertas-Robinson on 07714 766 710 or email [jane.lertas-robinson@gateshead.ac.uk](mailto:jane.lertas-robinson@gateshead.ac.uk) for more information.

## New year, new North East Leadership Forum

In January, ella forums is launching a new North East Leadership Group which will be chaired by VONNE trustee and Tees Valley YMCA CEO David Robinson.

To find out more, a Q&A session is taking place tomorrow (December 18th). David will be there along with ella CEO Danny Kalman and Head of Operations Phil Thompson. You'll find out about how ella forums work and how leaders of charities and social enterprises who are members of some of the 10 groups elsewhere in the country are benefitting from monthly peer to peer and speaker session meetings as well as a monthly all group speaker session.

[About the group](#)

## Guest blog: Is a sustained recovery on the horizon?

Jeffrey Ball, investment manager for Brewin Dolphin Charities, which assists charities in the North East with their investment strategies, looks at what may lie ahead for the world economy.

[Read Jeffrey's blog post](#)

## Applications open for Challenge North East

To help make our communities more resilient, the North East Local Enterprise Partnership has launched Challenge North East – an open innovation programme to help solve some of our region's most pressing practical problems when faced with Covid-19.

The purpose of the programme is to identify areas of shared concern and invite solutions from the region's innovators that will benefit multiple organisations and communities across the region.

Do you have an innovative solution that would benefit from £5,000 development grant (a further £40,000 is available for the most scalable solutions) in answer to:

- How we might deliver safe and engaging in-person events in the arts, leisure, sports and visitor attraction sectors
- How we might adapt delivery of home-based services in health, social housing and utilities.

Expressions of interest must be made by 12 noon on January 8th.

[See more info](#)

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## Health and wellbeing news

### Don't forget to join our new Health and Wellbeing Network

Anyone with an interest can now join our new North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Health and Wellbeing Network mailing list, which will provide you with the opportunity to receive information on health and care system developments relevant to our region and the VCSE sector working within it.

Fill in a simple form on our website to join. The same form also gives you options to become part of the NENC VCSE Partnership Forum, which is of relevance to senior managers responsible for health and wellbeing policy and strategic work within their organisation.

[Join the network](#)

### £4m fund to tackle loneliness launching on January 5th

Book clubs, walking groups and other community projects will be able to apply for a £4 million fund designed to help reduce loneliness in the coming months.

The Local Connections Fund – made up of £2 million from the government and £2 million from The National Lottery Community Fund – will be used for hundreds of small grants worth between £300 and £2,500. These investments are designed to help local organisations bring people and communities together as the country recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

### 'Thank you and keep going' asks the region's NHS as Christmas approaches

The NHS across the North East and North Cumbria is asking the public to stay safe this Christmas as it releases a film to thank staff, partners and communities for their unwavering support this year.

North East music legend Mark Knopfler's *Brothers in Arms* track provides the soundtrack to the film, which brings together a series of images of NHS staff from across the region taken during the pandemic.

[Watch the film](#)

### Deadline extended for Thriving Communities Learning Together programme



*Thriving Communities* is a support programme for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise groups, supporting communities impacted by Covid-19 in England, working alongside social prescribing link workers.

If you are part of a local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise group or organisation in England providing support to communities impacted by the pandemic and health inequalities, *Thriving Communities* from the National Academy for Social Prescribing, for which VONNE is the regional lead, will help you to share your learning, gain new ideas, access funding and develop partnerships across sectors.

The programme recognises that never has it been more important to work together. So a free development initiative, *Learning Together*, brings VCFSE groups across the North East together to collaborate and learn. Apply by January 25th.

[Learn more](#)

## Mental Health First Aid for young people - training available

Registered members of the Child Health and Wellbeing Network are able to book a place to gain a new qualification to become a Youth Mental Health First Aider.

A range of dates is available for the two-day course, tailored for people who teach, work, live with and care for young people aged eight to 18, starting on January 14th.

The training is designed to teach people how to spot the signs and symptoms of mental ill health and provide help on a first aid basis.

Contact Emilia at [england.northernchildnetwork@nhs.net](mailto:england.northernchildnetwork@nhs.net) to find out more.



## Flu vaccine for people with long-term health conditions: #DoYourBit

The flu vaccine is offered free on the NHS to anyone with a serious long-term health condition, including:

- respiratory conditions, such as asthma (needing steroid inhaler or tablets), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema and bronchitis
- diabetes
- heart conditions, such as coronary heart disease or heart failure
- being very overweight – a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above
- chronic kidney disease
- liver disease, such as hepatitis
- neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy
- a learning disability
- problems with your spleen, for example, sickle cell disease, or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or taking medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy.

[#DoYourBit](#)

## Telephone service for over 55s with alcohol concerns

A new telephone support service has been launched for over 55s that have any concerns and/or just want to talk to somebody about anything around alcohol use.

From national charity, [Drink Wise, Age Well](#), call remote advisor Colleen Bilton on 07816 112 430 to find out more.

## Personalised Care: Peer Leadership Development Programme

Peer leaders are people who work collaboratively with the system to shape and influence how health and care is delivered. This innovative programme aims to build the knowledge, skills and confidence of people who experience long-term physical and mental health conditions and disabled people. There is no charge, it's flexible and it can be accessed from the comfort of people's homes. It covers: what personalised care is and the difference it can make, how to use what you've learnt to help others, and how to become a peer leader.

The programme is delivered in partnership with FutureLearn. For a course booklet email [england.pldp@nhs.net](mailto:england.pldp@nhs.net).

[Join the course](#)

## Sharing good practice to make a difference to young people

The Child Health and Wellbeing Network for the North East and North Cumbria and Streetgames are proud to present a seminar opportunity to those working across the system with children, young people and families.

Taking place on February 3rd, this is the first event in a series of work around participation models and the practicalities of working with the young people you need to connect with.

Places are limited so reserve your place early by emailing [england.northernchildnetwork@nhs.net](mailto:england.northernchildnetwork@nhs.net).

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## Equity, diversity and inclusion

### Following our event: Moving from non-racist to anti-racist

Following our [recent workshop](#) in partnership with [GLT Partners](#), *Moving from non-racist to anti-racist*, we wanted to share our learning (and unlearning) as well as some feedback from attendees and the event slides to help others on their journey to becoming actively anti-racist.

[More from the event](#)

### Build Back Fairer: The Covid-19 Marmot Review

'Build Back Better' has become the mantra of the Covid-19 pandemic, but we also need to Build Back Fairer. The levels of social, environmental and economic inequality in society are damaging health and wellbeing, a new report has confirmed.

The aim of the [Covid-19 Marmot Review](#) is three-fold:

- To examine inequalities in Covid-19 mortality, focusing on inequalities in mortality among members of communities of colour and among certain occupations, alongside continued attention to the socioeconomic gradient in health – the more deprived the area, the worse Covid-19 mortality tends to be
- To show the effects that the pandemic and the societal response to contain it have had on social and economic inequalities, mental and physical health, and their likely future effects
- To make recommendations on what needs to be done.

[Read the report](#)

## Opportunity for organisations that support people and communities of colour

Each region has been given funding for organisations that work with or are led by Black, Asian Minority Ethnic members of the community involved with the criminal justice system.

Up to £10,000 per successful applicant is intended to strengthen the capacity of those organisations to further develop their work. To access this funding, you will need to have a clear priority of around working with ethnic minority service users and be a specialist in this field.

These funds are available to spend before March 31st, 2021. For more details, contact the Regional Equality Manager for the North East, Dev Sohanpal at [Gurdev.Sohanpal1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:Gurdev.Sohanpal1@justice.gov.uk).

## UK workplace code launches to support members of the black community

The UK's first black hair code for workplaces has launched. It is a simple code from the Halo Collective that guarantees members of the black community the freedom and security to wear all Afro-hairstyles without restriction or judgment.

## North East digital accessibility workshops

A series of workshops is taking place from January 25th to help build knowledge and skills in the region's VCSE sector so that we can better support disabled people through our online work.

The sessions cover an introduction to the topic, then are tailored around online meetings and social media, website design and office documents and email.

## Complete short survey on welfare benefits knowledge

Social enterprise Society Matters CIC is looking into skills gaps that are challenging the community and voluntary sector, particularly with respect to understanding the complexities of welfare benefits such as Universal Credit and PIP, and is calling for as many people across the sector to complete a survey to understand the gaps that exist in knowledge across the sector.

[Take the survey](#)

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## VONNE round up

Over the past few weeks VONNE has:

- Facilitated a NE and Cumbria Funders' Network meeting sharing learning following different responses to Covid-19, and discussing key asks of funders, commissioners and government to inform future grant-making practices
- Attended a VCSE stakeholder meeting with North of Tyne Combined Authority to receive updates on its programme and plans
- Represented the VCSE sector nationally at an ESIF Growth Programme Board meeting to receive updates on the ERDF and ESF programmes
- Been part of Durham University's Impact Acceleration Board, approving projects that will allow research to have a practical impact
- Supported the North East England Climate Coalition's (NEECCo) planning for proposals to roll out retrofit of buildings across the region, change land use to respond to climate change, develop building planning guidelines, and ideas for the use of peri-urban space.

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## Digital and innovation

### New data hub launched for small but vital charities

Lloyds Bank Foundation has launched the Small Charities Data hub, a new resource pulling together quantitative data on small but vital charities.

Spanning five years, this data highlights the financial pressures faced by charities before the onset of the current health crisis.

[Visit the hub](#)

### Introducing the Virtual Fundraising Monitor 2020

The Virtual Fundraising Monitor 2020 from JustGiving and massive is packed with stats and stories from charities that have launched virtual events over the last nine months.

Key tips highlighted in the report include:

1. Keeping asks clear and simple. You'll recruit 40 per cent more participants.
2. Connect your event to your cause — it's what makes you special!
3. Virtual events have lower remittance rates, so take the time to steward properly.
4. Invest in marketing. Just because it's online doesn't mean it's low effort!
5. Match your event to trends. Habit-building relationships are popular as we aim to do positive things while restricted due to Covid-19.

[Download the report](#)

## Supercharge your digital in 2021

2020 has been a year of huge digital disruption, so get on the front foot for next year with a webinar from Zoe Amar, Chair of [The Charity Digital Code of Practice](#) on [January 14th](#).

The session will help you benchmark your charity against best practice and identify the key actions you need to take that will help shape your approach to digital in 2021.

[Book now](#)

## Charity Digital hubs launched

Charity Digital has created two online information and support hubs to help VCSE sector organisations stay up to date with [digital fundraising](#) and [cyber security](#).

## Digital tools to help you unwind over the festive period

Charity Digital has put together a list of some of the best digital tools that will help you digitally detox, free up time and space, and relax at the end of a difficult year.

[See the tools](#)

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Safer Culture North East



Department for  
Digital, Culture  
Media & Sport



## Safeguarding events for 2021

The programme of events from Safer Culture North East is taking shape on [our website](#) with the first sessions already available to book:

- Introduction to safeguarding on [February 25th](#) and [May 6th](#).

[Download our safeguarding factsheets](#)

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## Events

### Introduction to fundraising

Tuesday, January 19th - 10am-11.30am  
Online

Inspire South Tyneside has announced [the first in a series](#) of free fundraising workshops for 2021, delivered by GLT Partners and funded by the DCMS National Emergencies Trust Big Night In Fund at the Community Foundation.

### Chairing with confidence

Tuesday, January 19th - 12.30pm  
Online

This webinar from the [Association of Chairs](#) will provide you with an overview of the role of chair as well as practical guidance and tools to support you to be an effective chair.

[See more events](#)

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## 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 and salary benchmarking services](#).

## Last chance to apply...

### Key worker

£21,000

An [opportunity](#) has arisen for the right candidate to work with men aged 16-30 from across the Berwick area who are at risk of isolation, poor mental health or experiencing barriers to services and support.

This new post has been developed by The Violence Reduction Unit of Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioners Office in partnership with RISE and the Berwick Community Trust.

### Marketing and communications officer

£20,721 - £22,256

The perfect candidate will be highly motivated and have strong interpersonal, communication and organisational skills to manage a diverse workload for the [Pioneering Care Partnership](#).

You will be responsible for effective internal and external communications to raise awareness of projects, services and activities being delivered.

### Board member

Unpaid

There's never been a better time to join the board of [Tyne Housing](#). With the development of a new five year strategy underway and with a stable platform of financial control and a good asset base, it is seeking to strengthen in some specific areas of governance.

### Trustee

Unpaid

[Durham Deafened Support](#) is a community-based charity that has supported deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people in County Durham and Darlington for the past 22 years. It is looking for enthusiastic people who can volunteer their energy, time and skills.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



## SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

[The North East Enterprise Agency](#) is a community of enterprise experts and specialists that exists to help create an enterprising North East England.



It wants our region to be a great place to start and grow, and each one of its partners offers expert advice in their local area.

[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](#)

