

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



VONNE news and opinion



Could you be our next chair?

VONNE is hugely proud of the achievements made in recent years, and the leading role we've played in supporting vital local organisations throughout the Covid-19 crisis.

In line with Charity Commission best practice, our current chair, Sir Paul Ennals, is standing down at our next AGM in November 2021 after serving two consecutive three-year terms, and we're looking for someone to take the organisation forward into 2022 and beyond.

Please feel free to share this opportunity, the deadline for which is March 25th.

[About the role](#)

Inspiring Impact: session one

Tomorrow ([February 25th](#)), the first in a three-

Inspiring Impact: session two

The second session in the series will look at how to

Inspiring Impact: session three

The final session on [May 20th](#) will have a strategic

part series by Inspiring Impact delivery partner SVUK takes place, in collaboration with VONNE and Social Enterprise Acumen CIC.

This session will focus on using data for decision-making.

[Sign up](#)

assess and gather the data you have access to, both qualitative and quantitative, and suggest some acceptable sources to ensure data compliance.

The online session takes place on [April 22nd](#).

[Book now](#)

focus and look beyond individual organisations and into the wider ecosystem regionally.

There'll be a panel and a more open discussion about what we can do to encourage connectivity, collaboration and support.

[Register](#)

Using the Charity Digital Code to adapt to remote working

VONNE is one of a number of national champions of the Charity Digital Code of Practice, and in this [case study](#), our Deputy CEO Anne Fry explains how we've sense checked our operations against the code's principles since moving into the first lockdown a year ago.

[Our experience](#)

What to consider as roadmap to exiting lockdown is set

This [blog post](#) provides an overview of the key points raised in our recent workshop to help VCSE organisations think through the many considerations of returning teams safely to an office environment, and continuing to deliver services during the transition.

[Read the post](#)

National news



A roadmap recap

As announced this week, from March 8th we may see lockdown restrictions begin to lift as part of a four-step plan being implemented across England.

All the indicative dates in the roadmap are subject to change, depending on the scientific data available at the time, with a minimum of five weeks between each step to include a week's notice to enable organisations to prepare once the government has confirmed its decision.

Priority has been given to children and students to allow them a safe return to face to face education, as well as childcare and supervised activities. At this point, if the evidence supports the progression out of lockdown, people will also be allowed to leave home for outdoor recreation and exercise with their household or support bubble, or with one person from outside their household. Care home residents will be allowed one regular visitor.

No earlier than March 29th, outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households will be allowed, including in private gardens, and outdoor sports will once again take

place. We must stay at home until at least March 29th, after which many restrictions will remain and people should continue to work from home and minimise journeys where possible.

Further details of support available to particular groups will be set out in the budget on March 3rd, and in the meantime, a series of [explainer videos](#) and [social media assets](#) have been created for organisations to use.

[Download the resources](#)

Minister says there are no further plans for emergency funding for VCSEs

Baroness Barran, the minister for civil society has confirmed the government has no plans for more dedicated emergency coronavirus funding despite VCSE leaders pushing for further support.

The minister said she was aware of “concerns in the sector” but felt the government’s roadmap plans allow organisations to think about public fundraising and reopening charity retail again.

She added: “It might need to look a little bit different, but charity is nothing if not agile and creative in that regard.”

[Read more](#)

Volunteering passport plans get underway following Kruger recommendation

Volunteering Matters and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) are asking for input from the VCSE sector to help shape practical recommendations to government about how a national volunteering passporting scheme could work.

The system would record things like volunteering skills, experience and criminal record checks, making it easier for volunteers to move between organisations.

[Offer your views](#)

Chasing against time - the ongoing challenges of responding to Covid-19

The latest briefing from the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) offers insight gained from peer support sessions across both 2020 and 2021, detailing how preoccupations have shifted during different stages of the pandemic.

Blog post examines the psychology of being a trustee

This post by Debra Allcock Tyler, Directory of Social Change CEO, looks at the human, psychological side of being a trustee, alongside technical aspects, such as understanding charity finance and complying with the Charity Governance Code.

Don't forget we also offer a [Trustee Finder](#) service to help strengthen your board with the right skills and experience.

[Read the post](#)

Small Charities Coalition mentoring programme launches

The programme recognises that smaller organisations may not always have certain resources or specialist knowledge, so it matches them with a person or organisation that can help with a specific problem or challenge.

[About the programme](#)

Regional news

The latest on climate and fairness in the south of our region

Last week, the Institute For Public Policy Research (IPPR) launched the findings of its first citizens jury on climate and nature in the Tees Valley and County Durham.

Part of the work of the cross-party Environmental Justice Commission, the report and recommendations, in the words of the jurors, highlight the strong desire of the public to participate in making decisions on the transition, as well as for public information campaigns and widespread education.

There's a strong emphasis on the need for long-term commitment and funding from central government, as well as devolution, so plans can be tailored according to local needs.

[Download the report](#)

Bounce back and harness financial support

A series of masterclasses has been designed to help established and incorporated non-profits in the creative, cultural, heritage and digital sectors to bounce back from Covid-19.

The Creative Fuse Tees Valley Bounce Back Funding Programme, part of Digital City, is free to eligible individuals or organisations and includes four classes, plus one-to-one mentoring support covering investment, grant applications and securing funding from a range of sources.

[Sign up](#)

Have your say on the value of the Tyne

The Tyne Estuary Partnership, part of North East England Climate Coalition partner Groundwork North East and Cumbria, is asking all organisations, educators and communities for their opinions on the benefits of the river environment.

Taking part in any or all of the three two-minute surveys, which respectively look at the river's business, education and community benefits, will help inform the partnership's choices and support its funding bids.

Levelling up for people and equalities - a webinar

On the morning of March 16th, join IPPR North for an event on how the levelling up agenda can be best implemented to benefit people and communities.

[Attend the event](#)

Support on offer from a local university

The University of Sunderland has MBA students seeking six-month placement opportunities to contribute new ideas, skills and enthusiasm into organisations across the region.

The university understands that organisations may not be able to pay placement holders a salary in the current climate and says students can help in areas including organisational analysis, human resources, marketing strategy and supply chain, and with projects ranging from recruitment and data analysis to digital marketing.

If you'd like a chat about the potential benefits to your organisation, contact Deborah Storer at fblt.employabilitysupport@sunderland.ac.uk or on 0191 515 3341.

Health and wellbeing news

We recently introduced the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Health and Wellbeing Network mailing list, which will provide you with the opportunity to receive information periodically on health and care system developments relevant to our region and the VCSE sector working within it.



Tackling misinformation about the Covid-19 vaccination

Thanks to a huge UK-wide effort, more than 19.8m people have received their first dose of a vaccine to help protect them against Covid-19.

People aged over 65 and those who are clinically vulnerable can now book a vaccine appointment, and a further 800,000 adults are being prioritised to receive a vaccine as soon as possible.

However, there is misinformation preventing some people from getting the jab, or following the latest stay-at-home rules. So the above graphics and a series



Protecting service users from vaccination scams

Unfortunately, along with misinformation, there has been a rise in scams and fraud attempts targeting vulnerable people, many of which look legitimate.

Nobody has to pay for the Covid-19 vaccine and the NHS will never ask for bank details.

The government's SHARE checklist can help people spot false information online or on social media, and suspected scams should also be reported to actionfraud.police.uk.

of accessible explainer videos have been created to help dispel some of the myths.

[Watch the videos](#)

Further information and resources are available through [Public Health England](#).

[See the checklist](#)

Inquiry underway into racial inequality in health and social care

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched a statutory inquiry into racial inequality in health and social care, and is seeking evidence to understand the experiences of ethnic minority people working on the frontline in lower-paid roles.

[About the inquiry](#)

Next week - International Social Prescribing Network conference

Starting on March 4th, this two-day fully digital event offers insight into the latest research and developments in social prescribing, unpicking what makes it work best and how it can address inequalities and sustain communities.

Recordings for those that are unable to attend live sessions will remain available to delegates for a month, offering plenty of inspiration for [#SocialPrescribingDay](#) on March 18th.

[See the programme](#)

Healthcare resilience event with Jonathan Ashworth MP

At 10am on [March 9th](#), the IPPR will host Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Jonathan Ashworth MP as he talks about healthcare resilience.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Call for evidence: UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The Runnymede Trust is coordinating a report to assess the government's implementation of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ([CERD](#)), and is seeking evidence from civil society organisations, academics and institutions to help hold ministers to account.

Submit your contribution to influence the report and its recommendations for action.

[Submit evidence](#)

It's LGBT+ History Month 2021

The theme for this month's virtual activities has been 'Body, Mind, Spirit' and it isn't too late to show your support.

There are resources available through the [NHS Confederation](#) and on the initiative [website](#). As well as that, Connected Voice Hate Crime Advocate Sherene Meir has written a blog post to highlight the issues still faced by people from LGBTQ+ communities.

[Read the blog post](#)

Reducing isolation for blind and partially sighted people

[British Wireless for the Blind Fund](#) is providing free of charge audio equipment to people who are blind or visually impaired to reduce loneliness and provide companionship and entertainment for some of the UK's most isolated people.

Unravelling the knot of trauma, poverty and multiple disadvantage

With support from Lankelly Chase, the Revolving Doors Agency has published a collection of eight essays exploring how poverty, trauma and structural disadvantage create and perpetuate multiple disadvantage.

[Read the essays](#)

VONNE round up

Over the past few weeks VONNE has:

- Started our Catalyst-funded Definition programme to develop ideas for how digital tools can develop and deliver the work of the [VONNE Climate Action Alliance](#). We'll be sharing our work and the process we go through, so watch this space.

- Attended the North of Tyne Combined Authority inclusive economy board at which the importance of tackling digital exclusion at a strategic level as part of Covid-19 recovery plans was discussed.

- Caught up with our partner and VONNE [Membership+ supporter](#) Yes We Can CIC about its events, workshops and training [programmes for 2021](#).
- Met with Tees Valley mayoral candidate Jessie Joe Jacobs and local infrastructure organisations to discuss the vital contribution of the VCSE sector to the economic and social life of the region.
- Convened a partners meeting of the national project of which [Safer Culture North East](#) is part, to champion the importance of safeguarding and help embed it across all VCSEs.
- Informed more than 70 successful applicants who will now join the North East and Yorkshire [Learning Together programme](#), part of the National Academy For Social Prescribing [Thriving Communities](#) initiative, for which VONNE is regional lead.

Digital and innovation

We'll be at VentureFest North East next month

VentureFest North East helps organisations from across the region discover how innovation can enable them to remain relevant, competitive and connected.

Usually held at St James' Park where it welcomes around 700 delegates each year, this year's event, by Innovation SuperNetwork will be fully digital, and VONNE will be part of the exhibition.

[About VentureFest](#)

Choosing a system to help you manage your data

Datavise London has created a seven stage guide for small charities looking at database options, and is urging organisations to take several steps before even looking at what's available.

[Read the guidance](#)

Full agenda revealed for #BeMoreDigital 2021

Charity Digital's [fully virtual conference](#) will be held from 9am to 1pm each day between March 2nd and March 4th, with 20 sessions across four streams: digital fundraising, digital marketing, digital strategy and digital service delivery.

2021's key cyber security challenges

Tips to stay cyber safe working from home

Adrienne Campbell is a security consultant with a degree in computer forensics and counterterrorism. Here she offers insight into five issues all VCSE organisations need to consider.

[Read more](#)

As part of Safer Internet Day and with cyber attacks at an all-time high, Paul Rubens offers VCSE professionals six pointers to keep themselves safe from cyber criminals when working from home.

[See the advice](#)

Maximise your digital fundraising campaigns

The Access Group has created an 11-step survival kit for digital fundraisers to modernise their processes and make more of digital fundraising.

[Download the toolkit](#)

Safer Culture North East



Addressing the issue of bullying and harassment in the VCSE sector

We were disturbed to hear the reports about overt oppression and widespread and discriminatory bullying that has taken place at NCVO.

Bullying such as has been reported is structural across the VCSE sector and society as a whole, and VONNE continues to be part of Safer Culture North East, which aims to normalise conversations around safeguarding and promote a suite of resources developed by national partners that are housed on the NCVO website.

We will continue to signpost to these resources as our priority is supporting the sector, and these tools have merit. We also have a responsibility to be part of the solution.

[See our statement in full](#)

Upcoming safeguarding training

The next *Introduction to Safeguarding* sessions are taking place on [February 25th](#), [March 24th](#), [May 6th](#) and [July 8th](#), and training around the role of *Designated Person for Safeguarding* is taking place on [June 9th](#).

Sessions on *making recruitment of both staff and volunteers safer* are taking place on [April 22nd](#) and [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](#)

Events

Aspirational trusteeship

Tuesday, March 2nd - 11am-12noon
Online

Join [Community Foundation and 50:50 Futures](#) to explore your personal aspirations as a trustee.

Youth loneliness workshop

Tuesday, March 9th - 2pm - 3.30pm
Online

[Youth Focus North East](#) would like to invite those working with young people for a discussion about youth loneliness.

Stronger Things 2021

March 9th-11th - 3pm-4pm
Online

Are you driven by the idea of a fairer society? Sustainable public services? Communities that are making a difference?

Join [New Local](#) for a different kind of event, featuring the movers and shapers in local government, public services and communities.

North East and Cumbria women and girls learning event

Monday, March 8th - 10am - 12noon
Online

The National Lottery Community Fund is hosting an online learning event on [International Women's Day](#) that will bring together commissioners, funders, policymakers and service providers to kickstart dialogue and collaboration to develop more coherent funding and effective service provision.

[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 and salary benchmarking services](#).

Last chance to apply...

Resilience Team Coordinator

£24,276

The [Pioneering Care Partnership](#) is looking for someone to help provide a dedicated package of support to help improve mental health and resilience of people across County Durham impacted by Covid-19.

Volunteer Coordinator

£25,175

[Independent Age](#) works to ensure that as we grow older, we all have the opportunity to live well with dignity, choice and purpose, providing information, advice and connection services for older people in Teesside.

Development Officer

£23,000 pro rata

[Together Newcastle](#) works across Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside to create faith-based social action in some of the most challenging communities. It is looking for someone to expand its work establishing the Places of Wellbeing project.

Day Care Manager

£23,000

[St Anthony of Padua Community Association](#) has more than 30 years' experience providing a range of care services including its Day Care service, which provides a range of activities and opportunities tailored to individual needs and interests.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

[North NE Active Partnership \(RISE\)](#) wants to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to be active in their own way – particularly those that need it most – boosting health and happiness.

The logo for RISE, featuring the word "RISE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by a period.

[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](#)



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