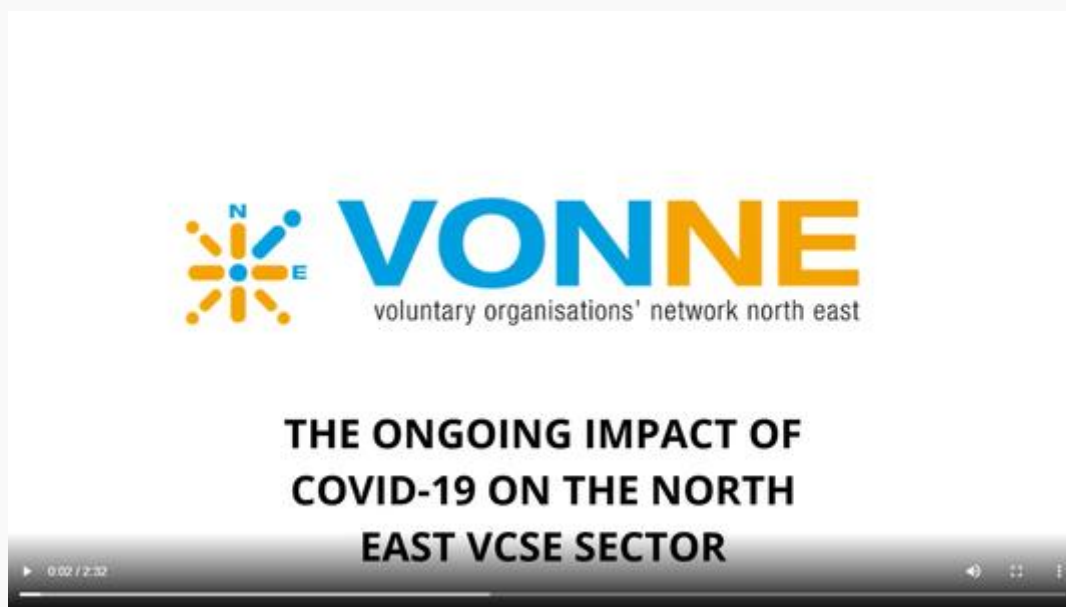


VONNE is the regional support body for the voluntary community and social enterprise sector in the North East. If you have any content you'd like to share in future editions of VONNE News, please contact us at [VONNE](#).



## VONNE news and opinion



### Survey results: the latest on Covid's regional impact

The results of our latest collaborative survey to understand the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on VCSE sector organisations and their beneficiaries in the North East reveal that around half of respondents expect to dip into their reserves to stay afloat this year.

Smaller organisations in particular (those with an annual income under £50k) told us they're likely to see an unplanned income reduction of more than 50 per cent, which will put them in deficit. That said, a significant number said they're anticipating an unexpected surplus, having secured additional grant funding and other income during the pandemic.

Read our [news story](#) for more details, which includes a short film summarising the findings, as well as a link to the full report.

[Get the full report](#)

## Blog post: Supporting climate action activities and campaigns

VONNE is currently working with a small group of partners on developing the [VONNE Climate Action Alliance](#), and our conversations with local organisations have shown there is an appetite to support climate action campaigns and activities, so our Chief Executive Carol Botten wanted to share some current and future opportunities with you.

[Read Carol's blog post](#)



## Meet VONNE's new faces

VONNE has welcomed some new members to its team this month.

Georgia Goncalves will be working with our partners and on some of our projects, while Lisa Taylor is the deputy programme manager for our health and wellbeing work in the North East and North Cumbria, and Sara Toal will be supporting communications and events.

[Meet the team](#)

## The next VCSE Skills, Inclusion and Employment Focus Group

The group acts as the voice of North East VCSE employment, inclusion and skills providers, influencing a range of public sector partners at a local, regional and national level.

Its next meeting is on February 3rd.

[Register to attend](#)

## Planning your Lockdown 3 Exit Strategy

This fast-paced and practical webinar, accompanied by a detailed checklist, brings together the huge array of issues that organisations should consider during the daunting process of bringing staff back to the office when it's appropriate to do so.

[Sign up](#)

## National news

### Calls are made for emergency support

Civil society leaders are once again calling on government to develop an emergency support package for the VCSE sector.

Ahead of the government's budget statement in March, non-profit leaders are urging Rishi Sunak to urgently work with them to develop a package of financial support for our #NeverMoreNeeded organisations to fill the estimated £10bn+ hole in their collective finances due to Covid-19.



[Read more](#)

### Get the latest government guidance on safe volunteering

Visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for the most up to date guidance on how volunteering can be done safely and effectively by organisations and groups during the pandemic, and in line with [lockdown restrictions](#).

[See the guidance](#)

### Looking at *The Road Ahead*

*The Road Ahead* is an annual analysis of the changing operating environment for anyone working in the voluntary sector published by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), whose Chief Executive Karl Wilding [announced he was stepping down](#) this week.

It identifies and explains forces and trends that are shaping the sector and are likely to have an impact on organisations in the future; the 2021 report is out now.

[Read the report](#)

### Survive and Thrive in 2021 with the Charity Excellence Toolkit

2020 brought Covid-19 and, in 2021, we have the new variant, ongoing lockdown restrictions and Brexit to consider. But the Charity Excellence Framework says that if

we act now, we can mitigate the risks and find opportunities with its updated [strategy toolkit](#).

## Report released into civil society's role in democracy

The Brexit Civil Society Alliance's latest report has been published, making the case for civil society's role in democracy to be embraced.

The publication, *[Seizing The Opportunity: The Case For Embracing Civil Society's Role In Democracy](#)*, aims to provide a way forward, setting out the structural and cultural shifts that are required to truly include the voices of civil society organisations in democratic and policy-making process.

## Get ready for the 2021 Census

The census is a unique survey that takes place every 10 years across England and Wales, giving a detailed snapshot of all people and households from all walks of life to help inform decisions on services that shape our communities, such as schools, doctors' surgeries and bike lanes.

Census day is on Sunday, March 21st, and Census 2021 is a digital-first census, which means people will be encouraged to respond online if they can, on any device, including mobile phone or tablet. Households will soon begin to receive their Census 2021 access code in the post and you can use it to fill in the questionnaire as soon as this arrives.

There's a wide range of support available for anyone that may need help at [census.gov.uk](https://census.gov.uk).

[About the census](#)

## Work with government - a guide

A new guide has been published for VCSE organisations on how to bid for and win contracts with government.

Published last week from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport and the Cabinet Office, the guide includes 10 top tips for tendering, and recognises that the expertise of VCSE organisations means they're often ideally placed to help create compassionate, responsive and efficient public services.

## Accounting for social value

A newly-published note, [Procurement Policy Note 06/20](#), sets out how to take account of social value in the award of central government contracts by using the Social Value Model.

There's an accompanying [guide to using the model](#), which recognises the benefits that can aid in the recovery of local communities and economies, with new ways of working that support the health of those affected by the Covid-19 virus.

[Get the guide](#)[More details](#)

See our website for details of an event on [February 3rd](#) about winning central government contracts and the Social Value Model.

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## Regional news

### Your chance to pitch for up to £5k towards your project

Join North of Tyne Combined Authority for a [free online workshop](#) on February 11th to find out how you can pitch for up to £5k towards your project.

2020 showed us the power of communities coming together to achieve amazing things in the face of adversity. Do you have an idea for a community project in your local place? A way to make your neighbourhood more sustainable, inclusive, or accessible, from community gardens and cycle hubs to workshops and murals.

[Register](#)

### Northumbrian Water asks community venues and volunteers to *Bin the Wipe*

You might think you're making a responsible choice when you buy wipes that have the word 'flushable' on the packet, whether they are for personal use or for when you're volunteering. But what if you knew that they would still settle or snag in sewer pipes, causing blockages that can flood homes, the environment – even care homes or community centres – with the things that you and neighbours have flushed down the loo?

In some areas, Northumbrian Water has found increased amounts of wipes close to care homes, or community venues where parent and baby sessions are held. Now, the organisation is asking people who work, volunteer or visit these settings to be careful to always *Bin The Wipe*.

[More details](#)

### This week is Village Halls Week

Celebrate 100 years of village halls as part of #VillageHallsWeek this week with a podcast tomorrow morning (Friday) with Louise Beaton OBE.

[Sign up to listen](#)

## Consultation continues into community energy

The 'energise your community consultation', which was launched recently by the Centre for Sustainable Energy on behalf of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and local authorities in the North East, remains open.

They are keen to understand via a 15-minute survey 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.

As part of this research, a focus group discussion for organisations with little experience in community energy is being held on February 1st between 1pm and 2pm.

To arrange attendance, email [Sarah.Becker@cse.org.uk](mailto:Sarah.Becker@cse.org.uk).

[Complete the survey](#)

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## Health and wellbeing news

### Save the date! The next NE VCSE Mental Health Group meeting

The NE VCSE Mental Health Group is a sub-group of the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) VCSE Partnership Forum for charities, social enterprises and community groups that undertake mental health and wellbeing work in the region.

Its key function is to support and facilitate two-way communication and engagement between regional VCSE leaders and the Integrated Care System Mental Health Workstream, and its next meeting will be held from 9.30am to 11.30am on March 25th.

Make sure you don't miss out on information and updates from this new forum by signing up via [VONNE's website](#) and indicating your interest in mental health and wellbeing.

### Third International Social Prescribing Network Conference taking place in March

Want to understand more about social prescribing?

This is the only conference in the world bringing together the latest research and developments in social prescribing, unpicking what makes it work best, and how it can address inequalities and sustain communities.

The programme is being broadcast over two days on March 4th and 5th, but to be Covid-proof, all delegates will be able to access recordings of each session for a month afterwards. For all enquiries email [spnc@salford.ac.uk](mailto:spnc@salford.ac.uk).

[Attend the conference](#)

## Mental wellness campaign launches across much of the region

Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (CNTW) has launched a campaign to raise awareness of mental wellbeing this winter. The aim is to reach those who may be struggling and to offer advice on how to support loved ones who might be in need.

[Read the info leaflet](#)

## Renewal call for members of the North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network

The North East and North Cumbria Child Health and Wellbeing Network team has undertaken a review of membership, and to ensure full compliance with the GDPR, all members old and new are being asked to join or rejoin the network for 2021.

[Join now](#)

## Ageing better - a digital event

An online event is taking place on February 11th as part of the National Lottery Community Fund's Ageing Better programme.

The session will explore learning from the programme around the importance of 'community connector' models, including social prescribing services, in tackling loneliness and social isolation, and how community connectors have adapted their work to deliver vital support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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[Equity, diversity and inclusion](#)

## Diversity in volunteering – a report by NCVO

Third in its *Time Well Spent* series, NCVO's latest report looks at diversity and volunteering from the perspective of organisations that involve volunteers.

It covers:

- what volunteer participation looks like
- how diversity is viewed by volunteer-involving organisations
- organisational experiences with diversity and volunteering
- key issues and learning
- key considerations for volunteer-involving organisations to take forward.

[See the research](#)

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## VONNE round up

Over the past few weeks VONNE has:

- Restarted its Membership+ CEO Peer Support Network for CEOs of silver and gold Membership+ supporters. In 2021, we'll be meeting monthly to share insight and discuss topics of joint interest. Email [vonne@vonne.org.uk](mailto:vonne@vonne.org.uk) to be added to the group.
- Attended Newcastle University's Social Justice Advisory Group
- Met with Social Value UK to initiate delivering its [Inspiring Impact](#) programme for the North East, workshop dates to be announced soon
- Facilitated the North East Building Better Opportunities Network, bringing the projects together with North East LEP and Tees Valley Combined Authority representatives to discuss how to ensure learning can be fed into UK Shared Prosperity plans and wider employability provision.

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## Digital and innovation

### New year - good time for a digital audit?

Charity Digital has compiled a useful round up detailing how charity teams pivoted to digital tools in 2020, along with suggestions for improvements you can take forward into the rest of 2021.

In addition, the three-day [#BeMoreDigital Conference 2021](#) will be held from March 2nd, with 20 sessions to choose from.



[Read the round up](#)

## Editable PDFs to help you plan campaigns

Blackbaud has created a downloadable calendar of the year's key giving days and cultural milestones, with editable PDFs, so you can maximise fundraising opportunities in 2021.

[Download the calendar](#)

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## Safer Culture North East



## Safeguarding for HR Managers

Doing safeguarding well takes a whole organisation. HR Managers and directors play a leading role in establishing safeguarding throughout organisations in several areas:

- Strategy and policy development
- Promoting a safeguarding culture
- Supporting and monitoring internal and external reporting processes
- Recruiting staff, volunteers and trustees

NCVO's safeguarding resources talk you through using human resources as a driver for safeguarding, and safeguarding from interview to exit.

[See the resources](#)

## Safeguarding training in February

The next [Introduction to Safeguarding](#) session is taking place on February 25th, and training around the role of [Designated Person for Safeguarding](#) is on February 23rd.

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

[See events](#)

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## Events

### Emotional resilience for not-for-profit workers

Friday, February 5th - 10am-12noon  
Online

This workshop from [Inspire South Tyneside](#) offers a starting point for the development and maintenance of emotional resilience to support mental wellbeing.

### Third Sector Tech Summit

Thursday, February 11th - 9am-5pm  
Online

This [summit](#) will bring together senior leadership, product, technology, HR, and digital teams to discuss how to optimise the use of technology to operate a successful modern charity.

### Trends in grant making following Covid-19

Thursday, February 4th - 10am-11.30am  
Online

Join [Keda Consulting](#) for this free webinar for a key update on grant making following Covid-19 and other recent developments.

### Rebalancing the relationship: collaborating with other charities

Wednesday, February 10th - 2pm-3pm  
Online

This [free webinar from NCVO](#) will be an opportunity to learn about the practical steps you can take to work more collaboratively with large and small organisations.

[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...](#)

## Senior Support Worker – Housing First

£27,941

Shelter is looking for a client-focused individual with recent experience of providing person-centred support to vulnerable people to help people with multiple complex needs to secure accommodation.

## Investment Manager - Social Investment

£35,000

Northstar Ventures is seeking to appoint a Social Investment Manager to help actively manage its Social Investment Fund and to assist on raising the social investment profile in the North East.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Worker

£23,369

The right candidate for this role with Age UK County Durham must be passionate about helping to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of older people living with low mood, anxieties and low confidence. You will provide confidential support to older people experiencing poor mental health due to Covid-19.

## Commercial Manager

£35,000

Urban Green is seeking a visionary, passionate and commercially minded person to contribute to the reinvention of a Newcastle visitor attraction, hospitality and retail offer. You'll have a track record of creating profitable hospitality and visitor attractions with outstanding customer service, and providing inspiring leadership.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)

## SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

National Energy Action began almost 40 years ago when students at Durham University established a group of volunteers to install loft insulation in the homes of elderly local people. Their experiences led them to realise there was a huge problem with people living in cold and unhealthy homes. Subsequently, working with Newcastle City Council, this project was replicated on a wider scale by putting together different funding streams to develop community insulation projects.



*Action for Warm Homes*

[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](#)

