

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

Save the date! VONNE's annual conference confirmed

While the full details are yet to be finalised, on November 18th, VONNE's annual conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM), will focus on the theme of inclusion.

A virtual event, the itinerary will offer a range of perspectives to consider and there'll be lots of opportunity for discussion. More details will be announced in due course.



VONNE welcomes Nathan

VONNE welcomed Durham University graduate Nathan Choat to the team last week as our new Communications and Events Support Assistant.

[More on the team](#)

NEECCo welcomes Amy

Amy Coates joined the North East England Climate Coalition (NEECCo) as part of the VONNE team this week, as Communications and Events Officer.

[More about NEECCo](#)

Read about Nathan's experience at a recent careers panel about the VCSE sector that VONNE took part in, in [his first blog post](#) on our website.



More North East workspaces

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.

For example, hiring costs for this [event and conference space in central Newcastle with accompanying meeting rooms](#) start from just £12 per hour.

[Find out more](#)

National news

Covid-19: the rules and the data

The North East currently has the highest number of Covid-19 cases in England, so while formal restrictions are coming to an end on Monday (July 19th), caution is being urged.

[New guidance](#) has been issued to protect the clinically vulnerable as we enter stage four of the roadmap out of lockdown, and all organisations are asked to encourage vaccine take up among staff, volunteers and in the communities in which they work.

[See the guidance](#)

Contribute to the latest Covid impact barometer survey

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) is asking for your views in the latest round of its research into the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the VCSE sector and those it supports.

[Share your views](#)

Research into what applying for funding feels like

Applying for funding is an emotional rollercoaster. But the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) has captured the experience of applying for funding from 22 charities, in their own words, and the five surprisingly simple things they'd like from funders.

[Compare your experience](#)

Put your finger on the donor pulse

The summer 2021 edition of the quarterly [Donor Pulse Report](#) from Enthuse is available, with insight into the changing landscape of giving.

Offer insight to student changemakers

On August 4th, Enactus UK is hosting a virtual community networking session and it is asking for VCSE representatives to attend.

Share insight into the needs, challenges and experiences of the people and communities you support with a small group of student changemakers to inspire their social enterprise projects and maximise their social impact on youth action.

No preparation or additional commitment is required.

[Attend in August](#)

Join the Earth Convention

This is a critical time in the world's response to climate change and the environment. So Rathbones has launched the Earth Convention, bringing together world experts in a series of online talks featuring discussions on topics ranging from feeding the world to why our planet needs cities to survive.

Accompanying the talks, a series of Planet Papers start with what it means to invest responsibly in our rapidly changing world.

[Access the site](#)

It's Every Flower Counts Week

Every Flower Counts Week takes place until July 18th and VCSE sector organisations are being encouraged to support it.

Like No Mow May, the week is an initiative from conservation charity Plantlife that encourages householders, business owners and those responsible for public open spaces to simply count the number of flowers in a square metre patch of lawn to understand how much life is supported by them, by receiving an individual 'nectar score'.

Spare three minutes

Social Enterprise UK is asking for input into its July advisory panel survey. The June survey data report can be read at socialenterprise.org.uk.

[Take the survey](#)

You can get more #VONNENews on [Twitter](#), where there's always plenty of conversation. Join in using the hashtags #VONNENetwork or #VONNEMember.

Regional news

Free training to support women in need

A VONNE Membership+ supporter and domestic abuse charity, Wearside Women in Need (WWiN) is working in partnership with Harbour to deliver free online training to anyone living, studying, working or volunteering in NorthTyneside, Northumberland or Newcastle that is interested in becoming an Ask Me Community Ambassador.

For more details, email askme@wwin.org.uk and one of the team will be in touch.

[Sign up to train](#)

Congratulations to Changing Lives

VONNE Membership+ supporter Changing Lives has been shortlisted in the Property Innovation Award category of the Charity Times Awards 2021.

[See the winners](#)

Electrical recycling to benefit families and the environment

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) project from Groundwork North East and Cumbria, takes donated, unwanted or broken domestic electrical appliances, such as kettles, toasters, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, hair dryers and food mixers, repairs them and finds them new homes where people are in need.

Email dawn.james@groundwork.org.uk or phone 07548 223 758.

Can you offer a Technical Level student placement

Education Partnership North East at Sunderland College is seeking employer placements as part of its new T Level qualifications that will be offered from September.

Support is available for placement hosts in the form of a £1k gift per student placed, up to a maximum of 20 students.

Unpaid opportunities in the following careers are needed:

- web development
- app development
- web design
- software development
- digital marketing
- IT business analysis.

If you can help, email victoria.moyse@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk.

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.

Learning Together: What is social prescribing and how do you connect with it?

This webinar on July 21st will demystify social prescribing and explain how you can connect with your local social prescribing link workers. There'll be an opportunity for questions and voluntary sector partners from across the region will also share examples of successful social prescribing schemes.

[Attend on 21st](#)

Community Champions webinar: engaging with ethnic minoritised and inclusion health groups

On July 28th, this Microsoft Teams-hosted session will focus on sharing learning and practice from engagement with ethnic minority and inclusion health communities.

Speakers will be Catherine Parker, Consultant in Public Health, Public Health South Tees, Idrees Rashid, Specialist Public Health Practitioner, Public Health South Tees, and Adiba Rashid, Project Coordinator, Race Equality Network.

[Attend on 28th](#)

NENC VCSE Mental Health Group to meet next week

If you've not already signed up, there's still time to register for our next North East and North Cumbria VCSE Mental Health Group meeting, taking place on Wednesday, July 21st, 9.30 to 11am.

As well as feedback from the NENC Integrated Care Partnerships engagement session, we'll be hearing about different approaches to developing peer support and leadership.

Read the [group's latest news](#).

[Sign up](#)

Report to help us aim for a fairer recovery

The Health Foundation's Covid-19 impact inquiry report offers a comprehensive review of the factors that fuelled the UK's death toll.

The publication shows there is extensive evidence that poor health and existing inequalities left parts of the UK vulnerable to the virus and its devastating impact.

[Read the evidence](#)

Five principles for post-Covid digital healthcare

Healthwatch's [new report](#) explores people's experiences of digital and remote healthcare and sets out five principles for post-Covid care to ensure no one is left behind.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Our tips for making your websites more accessible

VONNE is part of [Better ConNEcted](#), a regional campaign for digital inclusion. As part of that, we're taking steps to improve our own accessibility, and in this [blog post](#), our Partnerships and Projects Support Officer Georgia Goncalves offers a few tips to help organisations, including VONNE, do better.

Free digital inclusion training and an Android tablet

Starting on July 26th, this is a remote Level 1 Diploma where candidates, who must be at least 19 by August 31st and either unemployed or working 16 hours a week or fewer, will study from home, with help and guidance from a tutor.

Participants will learn how to select and set up digital devices and systems and how to use a keyboard, pointing device or touch screen. They'll start to understand digital presence, awareness and safety, digital technology in the home and in the workplace, and managing digital finances. They'll also be introduced to using word processing software, the internet, email, problem solving, teamworking, using a digital diary, exploring and using social media, and using spreadsheets.

The two-week course is open to residents of Newcastle, Northumberland or North Tyneside, and candidates, which will receive an Android tablet upon completion, can't currently be in education. They must also have the right to live and work in the UK, and need access to a desktop, laptop or tablet computer with a webcam. Smart phones unfortunately can't support course content.

Phone Donna Ham for more details on 07877 092 832.

New £50m fund for black and minoritised community-led VCSEs

The National Lottery Community Fund and The Ubele Initiative, on behalf of The Phoenix Way Partners, have jointly announced funding to support black and minoritised community-led charities and grassroots groups over the next five years.

[Find out more](#)

Represent our region as part of a new national anti-racism group

The National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) has established an anti-racism group comprised of NAVCA staff, members and those who represent the sector.

The group aims to hold NAVCA to account and work closely with its members to encourage them to be actively anti-racist. To find out more, email lucy.straker@navca.org.uk.

VONNE round up

Over the last fortnight, VONNE has:

- hosted a super roundtable, bringing together those that took part in our climate action roundtables on engaging people and communities most impacted by climate change, to discuss common learning, challenges and opportunities
- represented the VCSE community at the national European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Growth Programme board meeting
- hosted a *Café Conversation* for the Common Purpose-led Plexus Challenge, which brings together public, private and voluntary sector leaders, to explore the challenge of an inclusive recovery from Covid..
- attended a brainstorming session with Big Society Capital on a project to encourage greater diversity in the make-up of social investment committees
- been part of panel at a Home Office event with the Charity Commission on the importance of safeguarding
- hosted a Thriving Communities Learning Together webinar on quality assurance for smaller VCSE organisations in the context of social prescribing
- held a North East and Cumbria Funders Network meeting on the health landscape and opportunities for collaboration to support allocation of health funding to the sector.

Digital and innovation



Digital Pathfinders programme is taking shape

Register for our new *Digital Pathfinders* programme to take advantage of a free programme of bespoke support tailored to your organisational challenges.

As well as next week's event on taking learning online, we have workshops planned for September around digital accessibility, followed by a three-part session on making the most of and getting the right data, and another three-parter delivered by Digital Voice before the end of autumn.

You'll also have the chance to access one to one support to help you work through the programme, whether you have limited resources, are confused by the jargon around digital technology, or simply don't know where to start with adopting digital.

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.

If you have digital expertise, we'd also be keen to hear from you, so get in touch.

[Join the programme](#)

Learn about funding to support healthy ageing

On July 19th, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) will launch its Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthy Ageing Social Ventures Competition, a £4m scheme offering grants to help people remain physically active for longer, and minimise the impacts of ageing.

In this free session on August 2nd, which is part of a programme of support designed to encourage innovation in small and medium VCSE organisations in the region, you can hear more about eligibility and how to apply.

[About the session](#)

Read the Charity Digital Skills Report 2021

This year's Charity Digital Skills Report, the annual barometer of digital skills, attitudes and support needs across the sector, looks to answer two big questions:

- Have charities started to embed digital change for the long term, and what does this tell us about the future of the sector?
- What resources and support do charities need to better use digital to achieve their aims as we emerge from the pandemic?

[See the report](#)

Five charities work together on payroll giving initiative

Five large national charities have joined forces to innovate payroll giving, with the aim of doubling its take up.

The collaboration between Barnardo's, Crisis, The Royal British Legion, RNIB and WaterAid, will take the form of an independent business, called WeAreGoodGiving, which is wholly owned by the five charities and has been founded with support from innovation consultancy Good Innovation.

Free ebook on digital transformation

Explore what digital transformation means for the non-profit sector through case studies and 'how-to' advice pieces from industry experts in the latest ebook from Blackbaud Europe.

[Download the ebook](#)

Kit to enable hybrid working

As lockdown eases, many organisations are preparing to re-open their workplaces and welcome staff back into the office full time. But the reality is that the way we work

has changed, and for many, hybrid working that combines face to face and virtual team interaction will become the norm.

Charity Digital has suggested some equipment to help.

[See the suggestions](#)

Safer Culture North East



More training in safeguarding available

Our next *Introduction to Safeguarding* sessions are taking place online on September 23rd, with training for the *Designated Person for Safeguarding* taking place on October 7th.

A series of downloadable fact sheets and other training resources around safeguarding are also available for free on our website.

Help safeguard the digitally excluded

Digital Safety CIC is a North East-based not for profit with a mission of *Digital Safety for All*.

It's currently running a digital safeguarding research project with Loughborough University to improve access to standards, tools and resources for those supporting people online or remotely.

If you're a frontline worker, or volunteer of a community organisation, charity or public body working with those who are digitally vulnerable, you're asked to take part in a five-minute survey. Get in touch for more details at info@ds-cic.com.

[Take part in the survey](#)

Every person, every conversation: are they safe?

This event, by the National Association for Community and Voluntary Action (NAVCA), will launch its *Every Person, Every Conversation* project, and is for staff,

volunteers and trustees of the region's VCSE community.

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, the project will create regional peer support events and resources that will point colleagues, volunteers, and local groups to local safeguarding leads, as well as national policy documents to help people understand what to do if they have any concerns about someone's safety.

[Register for the session](#)

Events

Wednesday Webinar

Wednesday, July 21st - 12noon-12.30pm
Online

Part of a new weekly series of virtual learning sessions, this webinar from [Time to Spare](#) will look at the ways our monitoring and reporting tools can be used to collect, show and report valuable insights to funders and beyond.

Understanding welfare benefits

Tuesday, July 20th - 4.30pm-7.30pm
Online

Through a combination of case studies, exercises, quizzes and insights from Society Matters CIC's expert, you'll become familiar with the 14 currently available [UK welfare benefits](#), and the factors affecting claims.

Celebrating welcome in the North East

Thursday, July 29th - 4pm - 5pm
Online

To mark the 70th anniversary of the UN Refugee Convention, join [Asylum Matters and City of Sanctuary](#) to share and celebrate examples of welcome across the North East.

The event will provide the opportunity to discuss the future of asylum in the North East, and the potential impact of upcoming legislation.

Facebook - everything you need to know

Friday, July 30th - 9.30am 4.30pm
Online

This free session from Northumberland CVA and Nicola Jayne Little of MINT will cover goal setting and the audience you'd like to attract, as well as setting up your account and how you use a page, group and Messenger effectively with consistent content.

Reserve a spot at enquire@northumberlandcva.org.uk.

[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 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...

Head of Community and Education

£30,000

The [Alnwick Garden](#) is recruiting for a Head of Community and Education to lead its team and work on a diverse range of programmes addressing the needs of local communities.

Business Support Administrator

£19,500 - £21,000

[Natural Ability](#) is looking for someone with excellent communication skills that is well organised with high levels of accuracy to become part of its busy team. The successful candidate will have strong administration experience, in particular in finance and/ or HR.

Project Development Worker

£22,996 - £23,000 pro rata

[Kids Kabin](#) is looking for someone creative and motivated to run hands on and practical workshops for children age seven to 13 in Newcastle.

Availability in the afternoons is essential.

Mental Health in Schools Service Manager

£34,154

The [Children's Society](#) is looking for someone familiar with working towards a whole school approach to ensure children and young people have quality mental and emotional health support.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

[Sunderland City Council](#) is the local authority for the city of Sunderland, delivering many services to residents and businesses. These council-led service providers work in partnership as part of the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance

to ensure the VCSE community in Sunderland is supported to grow and is resourced.

[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](#)

