

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



Digital Pathfinders has officially launched – see the programme

The £2m *Digital Pathfinders* programme officially launched in the region this week, and a programme of events has already been scheduled, starting with a chance to ask the digital experts in partnership with the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland on [July 1st](#).

There's also a series of masterclasses starting this month, on [choosing a customer relationship management tool](#), on [taking learning online](#), and on [becoming a digital leader](#).

The free programme, which aims to break down barriers to using digital technology, 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 like to hear from you, so [get in touch](#).

[Register for support](#)

Join our roundtable – Covid lessons from voluntary action

This roundtable on July 14th brings together organisations that involve volunteers, mutual aid and support groups from across the region to share their experiences engaging volunteers and members of the community over the last year, and the extent to which mobilising voluntary action has and hasn't worked.

Our keynote speakers will be Professor Irene Hardill and Dr Laura Crawford from Northumbria University, who will provide a summary of some of the key findings of their national research.

[Join the roundtable](#)

Climate action – reaching those that are seldom heard

On [July 2nd](#), the VONNE Climate Action Alliance (VCAA) will be hosting another roundtable looking at engaging people defined by race, ethnic origin or religion, children and young people, and people from disadvantaged communities.

This will bring together organisations with experience working with these people and groups to share insight and highlight any challenges they'd like help to overcome in relation to climate action.

Survey request: understanding VCSE experiences of probation reform

The new probation model, due to be introduced in June 2021, has a clear policy intention to involve the voluntary sector in the delivery of rehabilitation and resettlement services.

Clinks has launched a 10 to 20-minute survey to understand your experience so far of the commissioning of these services. It wants to understand the future role of the

voluntary sector in delivering rehabilitation and resettlement services and determine whether the commissioning process has had an impact on involvement.

[Take part by June 23rd](#)



Flexible workspaces available in the region

With VONNE's new [Workspace Finder](#), you can showcase available workspaces to more than 20,000 members of the VCSE community each month, or find the ideal spot from which to work alone or with others, like [this office, meeting and training space for up to 140 people](#), or [these modern serviced offices](#) from as little as £55 a week.

[Find your perfect match](#)

National news

Government has no information on allocation of emergency funds

VCSE representatives have urged the government to rebuild its relationship with the sector following a lack of transparency over the way emergency funding decisions have been made during the pandemic.

The Association of Chief Executives of Voluntary Organisations (ACEVO) urged ministers to listen to the recommendations in the recently published report from parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which said there was "notable opaqueness" over how some of the £750m emergency funding for charities was allocated.

[Read the report](#)

Bursaries made available for Fundraising Convention 2021

As part of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising's mission to deliver a more equal, diverse and inclusive profession, the North East committee is offering bursaries to its Fundraising Convention 2021.

Bursaries to cover the full cost of a ticket for the multi-day event are available for anyone who identifies as LGBT+ or disabled, or as minoritised due to their race or ethnicity, as well as those working at small charities, and fundraisers recently out of work.

[Find out more](#)

Free one-day course for better fundraising

On August 17th, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations is offering free training in tools and techniques for better fundraising. Places are limited.

[Book](#)

Minister promises social enterprises won't miss out on dormant assets

The minister for civil society has stated that social enterprises will benefit significantly from forthcoming reforms to the dormant assets scheme, which will see up to £800m in additional assets given to good causes from unused insurance policies, pension pots and other securities.

Baroness Barran was speaking at the launch of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Social Enterprise's parliamentary inquiry into the impact of the pandemic.

[Read the full article](#)

Where we are with Covid restrictions

The ongoing spread of the Delta variant of Covid-19 has led to a delay in the full lifting of remaining restrictions so that more people can be vaccinated. To support that aim, the government has created a [toolkit for employers](#) around the vaccine.

Groups of more than six people remain unable to meet indoors, including in private homes or premises if they come from more than two households, and everyone is advised to continue working from home where possible.

Social distancing and the wearing of face coverings will continue until the next review on June 28th, with measures unlikely to lift further until July 19th.

Surge testing and enhanced contact tracing is still being carried out in the areas in which infections are spreading most rapidly.

[The latest guidance](#)

Get free PPE

Members of the VCSE community can receive free Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) from the Department of Health and Social Care.

Regional news

Congratulations to our region's Queen's Birthday Honours recipients

Huge congratulations to our colleagues Helen Golightly, CEO of the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, and Lisa Goodwin, CEO at Connected Voice, who've been awarded an OBE and an MBE respectively for services to the regional economy, and to vulnerable people during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[See the full list](#)



It's Small Charity Week in the North East!

With a packed schedule of free events, *Small Charity Week North East 2021* celebrates and raises awareness of the essential work of our smallest charities, organisations that are #NeverMoreNeeded than now.

Many sessions are focused on the theme of inclusion. Use the hashtag #SmallCharityNE on Twitter to get involved.

[See the events](#)

Funding to support North East town to build back better confirmed

Hartlepool is among 30 UK towns and cities to have been awarded part of £725m to boost their local economy, create jobs and help them build back better from the pandemic.

A new Health and Care Academy and a Civil Engineering Institute will form part of the £25m plans to support more higher-skilled, higher-paid jobs in the local area.

[More on this](#)

North East Criminal Justice Forum event – probation reforms

This event on July 8th will provide an opportunity to discuss the new model for probation and what this means for the voluntary sector.

Attendees will hear from guest speaker John Graham, Head of Communities and Integration for the National Probation Service North East.

Local researcher looks at ethical leadership

A Northumbria University researcher is asking for views from members of the local VCSE community into the mediating effect of psychological empowerment and trust in leadership.

[Take part in the research](#)

Investment programme for culture and creativity announced

The North of Tyne Culture and Creative Investment Programme is Creative England's new programme for those working in culture and the creative industries in the area.

Funded by the North of Tyne Combined Authority, the bespoke programme will invest £500k in grants, £1.5m in loans and £625k in equity, with Creative Fuse offering a range of one to one support, specialist workshops and mentoring sessions.

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.

VONNE to keep building Thriving Communities in the North East and Yorkshire

VONNE has secured a further contract to continue in its role as regional lead for the National Academy of Social Prescribing for the North East and Yorkshire until March 2022.

Work is underway to develop the forthcoming Thriving Communities programme for local VCSE organisations delivering social prescribing activities.

Read VONNE's latest mental health sub-group e-bulletin

Read our latest bulletin for updates on the programme, a toolkit for practitioners and lots of events.

Campaign underway to support the mental health of healthcare staff

The Healthcare Workers' Foundation (HWF) has launched a campaign to fund treatment for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among people working in healthcare.

The campaign aims to raise £10k for extended professional counselling for those affected.

The NHS landscape explained

The NENC Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), Health Network North and Business Durham are hosting a workshop to help people understand the health and social care system, including the newly formed ICS and place-based partnerships, as well as the role of primary care networks and challenges post-pandemic.

At the event on July 20th, local NHS and social care leaders from the ICS and local government will explain how the system is structured and outline opportunities within it.

[Attend the seminar](#)

#LetsTalkLoneliness

This week is Loneliness Awareness Week and everyone across society is encouraged to support people with the official campaign toolkit and stay informed using the #LetsTalkLoneliness hashtag.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Understanding equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

On June 28th, join Womble Bond Dickinson to understand all you need to keep pace with funder, beneficiary and Charity Commission expectations around EDI.

Helping charities tackle digital exclusion: a panel event

On June 22nd and drawing on experiences from the past year, Catalyst's panel of experts will discuss how best to respond to digitally excluded beneficiaries' needs by leveraging local partnership and enabling access to the resources available in local communities.

June is Pride month

Stonewall has a variety of tools and resources on its website to help employers towards becoming as inclusive as possible for those that identify as LGBTQ+.

[Get involved](#)

An update from Clinks on its work to be anti-racist

Clinks has released [a statement](#) on its work towards becoming an anti-racist organisation, outlining the changes it is making to the language it will use.

Free workplace inclusivity webinar

Want to make sure you have inclusive and accessible policies in the workplace? Take part in AbilityNet's upcoming webinar on June 29th.

Support young people into work with Koreo and Charityworks' Kickstart jobs database

Almost 300 job roles are currently available through the joint Koreo and Charityworks Kickstart gateway, for young people in receipt of Universal Credit.

Roles are varied, suitable to all age ranges, including those with some work experience and those without, school leavers, graduates and non-graduates, at a variety of levels.

The paid opportunities all last for a minimum of 25 hours per week for at least six months, with a virtually-delivered talent development programme, including peer coaching and facilitated learning sessions on careers and employability, management of self and others, and broad national conferences building context and connections.

[Take a look](#)

It's Refugee Week this week

This [Refugee Week](#) celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary through a programme of arts, cultural, sports and educational events alongside media and creative campaigns. Take part to connect beyond labels.

VONNE round up

Over the last fortnight, VONNE has:

- Took part in a NAVCA-hosted discussion on the government's levelling up agenda, from which [seven recommendations](#) have been put to Neil O'Brien MP for a white paper.
- Attended a North East Chamber of Commerce roundtable on digital inclusion to frame support for the region, and contributed to North East Local Enterprise Partnership-commissioned research on the same topic, highlighting learning and good practice from our VCSE community.
- Attended Newcastle University's Social Justice Advisory Group to help shape its thematic and funding priorities for the next year.
- Attended the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS) digital strategy group.
- Presented at the north Integrated Care Partnership meeting of chairs from local authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS Foundation Trust Boards around the role of the VCSE sector in the planning and delivery of health and care services and support, particularly in relation to the Covid-19 response.
- Presented at a national conference on involving the VCSE sector in the development of community diagnostic hubs that will deliver services, including wraparound services, in community-based settings.
- Contributed a VCSE perspective to ICS-level work to shape a model that understands the needs of, and risks for, local people on waiting lists for NHS treatment, to help them 'wait well'.
- As part of the [North East England Climate Coalition](#) (NEECCo), hosted a sustainable

finance session with Keystone Impact Investments and ESG Oracle, the recording of which is [available to play back](#).

Digital and innovation

Beyond digital: planning for a hybrid world

The government has released a report into the findings of its inquiry into the potential impacts of our rapidly increasing reliance on digital technology, accelerated by the pandemic.

[Read the findings](#)

Elevate your storytelling with data and performance metrics

In this session on [June 24th](#), Sage Intacct, the non-profit financial management platform, will take a look at recent giving trends and insights and explain how to use this data to boost awareness, use social media, increase transparency and, ultimately, expand your donor base for good.

The webinar, which will be followed by a Q&A, is suitable for charity leaders, heads of department, and finance directors and managers.

Embracing digital for good mental health

Take a look at how charities that support people's mental health have used digital technology to provide life-saving services, both before and during the pandemic.

[Read the article](#)

JustGiving launches new no-fee online donation form

Online fundraising platform JustGiving has introduced a new online donation form that charities can add to their website, emails and social media channels, designed to make giving more straightforward for supporters.

[About Giving Checkout](#)

#BeMoreDigital Strategy Day is on July 8th

Charity Digital's free [#BeMoreDigital Strategy Day](#) includes five sessions from leaders in the field to help charity professionals plan for the future.

There will also be several application-only interactive workshops exploring strategy in detail.

Safer Culture North East



Get to grips with safeguarding

An *Introduction to Safeguarding* session is taking place online on [July 8th](#), and a series of downloadable [fact sheets and other training resources](#) around safeguarding is available for free on our website.

New national safeguarding campaign launches

Join the launch of a new project by the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) to create resources and events to keep safeguarding front of mind for all VCSE sector organisations.

The *Every Person, Every Conversation* campaign is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and all events in the series, including this one on September 7th, will be open to staff, volunteers and trustees of NAVCA members and the North East VCSE groups they support.

Accompanying the events, an [#AreTheySafe](#) resource pack has been specifically designed for the voluntary sector to point colleagues, volunteers, and local groups towards local safeguarding leads, as well as national policy documents to help them understand what to do if they have any concerns about someone's safety.

[Book a place](#)

Events

Unlocking better financial and risk management through young trustees

Thursday, June 24th - 12noon-1pm
Online

This [Young Trustees Movement webinar](#) is for trustees and senior staff of trusts and foundations to explore what young people bring to governance.

Kickstarting the plan for growth

Tuesday, June 29th - 9.30am-11am
Online

This webinar from the [Institute for Public Policy Research](#) (IPPR) will mark the launch of a new program by the Centre for Economic Justice on industrial policy, productivity, and economic strategy.

Walk with WINS

Wednesday, June 30th - 12noon-1pm
Meet at Urban Green Café, Exhibition Park, Newcastle upon Tyne

For its first in-person event in more than 15 months, the Newcastle hub of the [Women in Sustainability Network](#) (WINS) wanted to offer a refreshing, healthy and informal way to connect.

[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...

Referral and Outreach Lead

£26,000 - £28,000

Are you an experienced negotiator and relationship builder interested in female empowerment, sustainable fashion and making a real change to society? If so,

Sessional Youth Worker

£10.89 - £11.73 per hour

[Children North East](#) works with babies, children and young people through the rollercoaster of growing up and this role will see the successful candidate

then this opportunity with [Smart Works Newcastle](#) may be for you.

supporting vulnerable young people in a variety of settings.

Community Activities Development Worker

£21,589 pro rata

[SEARCH](#) is a small voluntary organisation in the heart of the west end of Newcastle that works specifically with older people.

This role will involve assisting in developing an activities program for people aged 50 and over across the outer west of Newcastle.

Donor Services Manager

£23,000 - £25,000

As part of the [County Durham Community Foundation](#) team, you'll be joining a grant-making charity that connects local donors with community projects, groups, individuals and families in need.

Each year, millions of pounds in grants are awarded to hundreds of local grassroots organisations and individuals.

Programme Officer

£19,000 - £21,000

An opportunity has arisen for a dynamic, inquisitive and passionate Programme Officer to support the [Altitude Foundation](#) in its ambition to become a beacon of excellence in tackling social mobility for young people aged 13 to 18 in the North East.

Chief Executive Officer

£47,000 - £52,000

[HospiceCare North Northumberland](#) is looking to recruit a dynamic and thoughtful Chief Executive to lead it through its ambitious 2021-2024 strategy and beyond to effectively deliver and develop services in a sustainable way.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER Thanks for your support!

[Penderels Trust](#) is a charity that's proud to have been at the forefront of independent living for more than 30 years.

Its services give people control over how they live their life and achieve their goals and aspirations, secure in the knowledge that help is always on hand.

[Discover the benefits of 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 VCSE sector, and the region's people and communities.



[Join VONNE](#)

