

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

National recognition for the impact of Covid-19 on the VCSE sector

Following our [report compiling the results of our region-wide survey](#) last month, over the last couple of weeks, VONNE and the wider VCSE sector in the region have seen both local and national media interest in the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our sector.

Last week, our CEO Carol Botten put several of our members in touch with ITN and was interviewed for the breakfast shows on both BBC Radio Newcastle and Radio Tees; and on Monday this week, appeared on ITV News Tyne Tees to talk about the situation in light of the cancellation of this year's Great North Run. The survey report has also been featured in [The Northern Echo](#), on [ChronicleLive](#), [Great Britain News](#), and in [Newcastle Magazine](#), while [The Guardian](#) has warned that up to 10 per cent of charities nationally may face bankruptcy due to Covid-19, and [Civil Society News](#) predicts a £10bn funding gap in the next six months.

[Read Carol's reflections on the report](#)

You can now request help with new VCS Emergencies Partnership service

Over the last few weeks, VONNE, on behalf of the network of Local Infrastructure Organisations across the North East, has been working with the national Voluntary and Community Sector Emergency Partnership to assist with establishing, developing and managing the *Request Help as a Local Organisation* service across the North East. VONNE is working as a Local Liaison Lead for the North East region.

The service has now launched across the north and organisations can use an online form to request support when local support organisations are unable to find the solutions required.

[Request help](#)

A blog in celebration of #SmallCharityNE

This week is Small Charity Week, a celebration of small charities, both in the North East and further afield, and it's safe to say this year has been a tough one so far!

In the North East there are more than 7,000 formal organisations and many more community groups and unregistered organisations working hard to make life better. Those with an income below £100,000 account for more than 80 per cent of the sector, and nearly half has an income of less than £10,000.

Join us in recognising and celebrating the enormous achievements of small charities in the North East, this week and every week!

[Read Anne's blog](#)

I ♥ Small Charities

Two VONNE events for post-lockdown planning

Returning to 'business as usual' Planning your lockdown exit

Now that lockdown is gradually lifting, it's time to think about how you're going to help your organisation and staff adjust to the new environment.

This session, on June 23rd, will be led by [Phil Jackman](#), Director of Guerilla Working, North East Initiative on Business Ethics and Dynamo North East.

[Sign up](#)

This fast-paced and practical webinar gives you a detailed checklist, and brings together the issues organisations should consider before bringing staff back to the office.

On July 2nd, join Andrew Willson of [Absolute Quality Consultancy & Training](#) to hear a four-phase strategy to return to workplaces safely and quickly.

[Book now](#)

National news

1,500 free National Fundraising Convention places available to small charity staff

The Institute of Fundraising has announced it is offering 1,500 free places at its National Fundraising Convention to individuals from small charities.

The three-day event takes place from July 6th, with more than 80 development sessions and networking opportunities available. Eligible individuals are those working for organisations with an income of between £1 million and £2.5 million.

Applications opened on Monday (June 15th), closing on June 26th, and are being offered on a first come, first served basis.

[Apply now](#)

Environmental toolkit launched by Institute of Fundraising

A new resource has been developed to help charities consider the kind of environmental change that is right for them, and how they can bring it about at an individual and organisational level.

Upon launching the toolkit, the Institute of Fundraising (IoF) said charities should take environmental issues into account when fundraising returns to normal levels after the Covid-19 crisis, and the VSCE sector has a role to play in minimising our environmental impact because of the risk climate change poses to the communities we serve.

[Download the toolkit](#)

New leadership programme for young people starts this month

In 1948, leaders across the UK started the National Health Service. It was an act that created what has since become a symbol of the UK's civic values. As today's young people will be our leaders when the NHS turns 101 in 30 years, UK101 is a leadership model co-created by more than 1,000 of our country's young leaders.

The free, online programme by Common Purpose brings this model to life, helping young people build their leadership competencies, so they can match the ambition of 1948's leaders and create their own unique legacy. Those who complete the programme will also receive the UK101 Leadership Badge: an online badge you can use to set yourself apart as a UK101 leader.

[Join the cohort](#)

Help improve commissioning with Lloyds Bank Foundation

Lloyds Bank Foundation is appealing to VCSE organisations to share with it their experiences of commissioning, to help ensure approaches adapt as funding pressures increase.

Find out more about the project, including how you can share your story, in a blog post by policy and national programmes Manager, Caroline Howe.

[Read the blog](#)

Make your community a brilliant place to live with new initiative

12 leading organisations, including [NAVCA](#) and [NCVO](#), have come together to launch *MyCommunity*, a go-to space to help groups find information and support while encouraging positive community action.

[Join MyCommunity](#)

Open call for innovation by Sport England

Sport England has issued an open call for innovative solutions to reduce inequalities, and help those most affected by the impact of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic to get active and improve their lives.

[Read more](#)

Online Covid-19 leadership programme for migration and refugee sector

A free online leadership programme from [Clare Social Leadership](#) starts next month, seeking to strengthen leadership skills and organisations in the migration and refugee sector to cope with the immense pressure of Covid-19, and learn together about how to respond and lead.

For those unable to attend the recent information session about the course, you can watch a [video of the webinar](#) on YouTube, [download the slides](#), and [read the Q&A](#) online. The deadline to apply to be part of the first cohort is June 22nd.

[Apply now](#)

Regional news

Small Charity WEEK North East 2020

#SMALLCHARITYNE

Still to come this Small Charity Week in the North East

There's already been tonnes of stuff to help small charities with everything from fundraising to marketing, legal considerations and more, but there is lots more to come before the week is out.

Tomorrow, you can hear from a peer with KEDA Consulting, join the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland on sustainability through collaborative working, think about future funding with Connected Voice, and have marketing made simple by Hartlepower.

Meanwhile on Friday, Hartlepower walks you through websites versus Facebook, the Community Foundation fields questions on behalf of first time trustees and their potential matches, Connected Voice helps you through all things HR, and the Institute of Fundraising explains more about the support it can offer.

To see all the events on offer, visit vonne.org.uk/member-events.

Could your ideas tackle the impact of climate change?

The Innovation SuperNetwork North East is looking for organisations to join its Climate Change Innovation Accelerator responding to the potential impact of coronavirus on the climate emergency.

The accelerator will run with a series of innovation challenges to better understand what the potential issues are, and will offer one-to-one support to help organisations develop their ideas, access funding and take their solutions or services to market. The initial focus areas are around home working, the use of public transport in a socially-distanced world, encouraging the use of low emission vehicles and reducing the environmental footprint of on-demand and home delivery services.

[Find out more](#)

Help the LEP reach more diverse social enterprises

The North East Growth Hub, which is powered by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership, is currently seeking high-potential start-ups to access its support, including social enterprises.

In particular, it is keen to reach more organisations run by individuals from LGBTQ+ and black, asian and minority ethnic communities across the North East.

[Spread the word](#)

Health and wellbeing news

We're looking for coronavirus case studies like this

Mental Health Concern is continuing to support the most vulnerable during Covid-19; its community and wellbeing services link workers have managed to maintain contact with their clients, and are accepting new referrals by embracing new ways of remote working and taking the time to explain changes to all clients.

We're keen to gather more examples of good practice from across the VCSE sector in the North East region, that we can share with you all. If you have a story you'd like to share with our members about the great work being done around the region to benefit individuals and communities within the pandemic, let us know at vonne@vonne.org.uk.

[Read the case study](#)

Prize for coronavirus self care innovation

Each year, the Self Care Forum awards a £500 bursary to the person or organisation that has shown initiative in promoting self care, and this year, a special award will be made for an innovative coronavirus initiative.

If you've implemented an initiative that has made a difference to individuals, whether you're an individual, a community champion, an employer, GP practice, local authority, or service-based organisation from the private, public or charitable sector, you're eligible to enter.

The closing date for submissions is July 31st and the prize will be awarded in Self Care Week in November 2020.

[Enter the prize](#)

Report into financial inequality and mental health in light of Covid-19

A briefing from the 'Coronavirus: Mental Health in the Pandemic' Study has been published by the Mental Health Foundation.

It states that those who face the greatest disadvantages in society also face the greatest risk to their mental health, with the distribution of infections and deaths during the pandemic, the lockdown and associated measures, and the longer-term socioeconomic impact likely to reproduce and intensify the financial inequalities that contribute towards the increased prevalence and unequal distribution of mental ill-health.

[Read the briefing](#)

Let's talk this Loneliness Awareness Week

As well as Small Charity Week, this week is Loneliness Awareness Week, and Let's Talk Loneliness has published lots of useful resources and advice to help combat this serious social issue.

[View the resources](#)

Psychological first aid training available for essential workers

Public Health England has launched a free, online psychological first aid training course aimed at all frontline and essential workers and volunteers.

The 90-minute course aims to increase awareness and confidence to provide psychosocial support to people affected by Covid-19. Psychological first aid is globally recognised for use in emergency situations and this new course has been developed as part of the national incident response by Public Health England, in partnership with NHS England, Health Education England, FutureLearn and E-Learning for Health.

No previous qualifications are required and the course is also available in three sessions for the learner to complete at their own pace.

[Enrol now](#)

Reminder to join initiative to help organisations work together against Covid-19

Regional public health leads are asking organisations to join an initiative to support the collation and sharing of knowledge and intelligence across the system about the impacts of, and response to Covid-19, around non-Covid morbidity and mortality.

C-WorkKS will look at key areas of concern but also positive impacts, to bring knowledge together and promote understanding to enable more effective, equitable and efficient ways of working, highlight gaps and maximise the value of non-Covid, system-wide work done.

To get involved, register on or sign into [Knowledge Hub](#) and then join the *PHINE KHub group* at <https://khub.net/web/phine-network-north-east>.

[Join the group](#)

VONNE round up

Over the past couple of weeks VONNE has:

- Facilitated a VCSE Skills, Inclusion and Employment Group session, which included a discussion on digital exclusion, and information about Newcastle Futures Tyne Online employability project, and the North East LEP's Covid-19 recovery skills, employability and inclusion work plans, following the [recovery work done to date](#)
- Convened a roundtable discussion on digital inclusion with stakeholders including those from the technology and education sectors, covering the issues experienced by people unable to access services as well as the organisations that support them
- Taken part in an introductory session for new members of working groups for the [Local Access in Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool \(LARCH\) project](#)
- Represented the VCSE sector within a regional public health-led steering group undertaking a Covid-19 health inequalities impact assessment for the North East
- Met with Tees Valley Combined Authority to discuss its economic recovery plan and the importance of the VCSE sector's experience and voice in planning, drawing on findings from our recent [Covid-19 impact survey](#)
- Been interviewed by charity digital expert Zoe Amar about the [Charity Digital Code](#) and how VONNE uses it to inform and guide our digital support and practice.

Digital and innovation

'Tech for Good' VCSE support available in North East

Our recent [North East VCSE Sector Covid-19 impact survey](#) highlighted that 30 per cent of organisations require more support with homeworking software, digital and communications tools and technology to help them more effectively deliver services and support to beneficiaries.

In response, VONNE has been working with international technology firm [Accenture](#) to leverage more support to the region's VCSE sector from its Tech for Good group, which coordinates requests from charities, social enterprises and community organisations seeking IT, tech and digital support from experienced volunteers.

[Get some support](#)



Join our next #TechLunchTuesday

Join VONNE and [Consult and Design](#) for our final Tech Lunch Tuesday of the month on June 30th.

Part of our [Social Tech North East](#) work, this is an informal, virtual drop-in session for the digital technology and VCSE communities to come together, chat, ask questions or share experiences.

[Register now](#)

Online events to support digital inclusion

Microsoft has a raft of tools available to help charities engage with supporters and organise their staff and volunteers.

A webinar series is taking place this week (w/c June 15th) to help voluntary sector organisations make the most of the software available to them.

[See the options](#)

Digital training for trustees

This course from Civil Society will help trustees and charity leaders keep up-to-date with regulations and governance guidelines including the [Charity Digital Code](#) using its new [checklist](#), particularly during challenging times. Digital and the Covid-19 crisis is changing the way charities fundraise, deliver services and communicate, and this creates new opportunities and challenges for trustees.

Taking place over two mornings on June 24th and 25th, this course, for which there is a fee, is packed with insights to help you understand which digital trends are most critical for good governance, how to manage risk, and what every charity board should be doing to delegate digital effectively during the pandemic.

[Secure your place](#)

Digital support for organisations in the Tees Valley - RSVP this week

[DigitalCity](#) is offering support to those in the Tees Valley VCSE sector facing digital challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Next Friday (June 26th), a one-hour seminar will be offered to help you on your way to understanding digitalising your organisation and transitioning services online, gaining access to technology, tools, software and platforms, website development and funding opportunities.

Join the session to highlight any particular challenges you're facing during these unprecedented times, and explore possible solutions with support recipient Pam Bennet, Director of Going For Independence - a community interest company that provides a range of activities to assist with independent living.

[More about the event](#)

Safer Culture North East



Policies and procedures

Having safeguarding policies is crucial to keep people safe. But arguably more important is the thinking that goes behind them. An effective policy is a live document, updated and brought before your Board of Trustees for approval regularly.

Your policy should set out your commitment to keeping people safe, demonstrating that you understand the potential risks to people using your services, and the relevant legislation, outlining how your procedures will help keep people safe, and who in the organisation is responsible for safeguarding, as well as how to report and respond to disclosures.

You should also think about how to embed your policy into practice and bring safeguarding into the day to day through safer recruitment, relevant training, and the implementation of a code of conduct.

More guidance on writing safeguarding children policies can be found on the [NSPCC website](#), and safeguarding adults on the [Ann Craft Trust website](#). There are also more resources available on the [NCVO website](#), and on our [Safer Culture North East](#) pages.

Events

Give your marketing a jump start

Monday, June 22nd - 2pm to 3pm
Online

freshbusinessstinking.com in association with BT Skills for Tomorrow brings you this [free webinar to sharpen your](#)

Roundtable: Positive collaboration post-Covid

Tuesday, June 23rd - 10am to 11am
Online

Wrigleys Solicitors' Newcastle Charities team is hosting a [virtual roundtable](#) to discuss 'Positive Collaboration' as we

marketing skills.

Keith Weed and Ritchie Mehta will discuss the marketing levers organisations can deploy to not only survive in the short-term, but build brand equity over the long-term, and take advantage of the eventual upswing.

emerge from lockdown.

The session will focus on collaboration as a means for organisations to navigate the opportunities and challenges ahead, and the benefits and pitfalls of working collaboratively within the sector or with external partners.

Managing returning to work safely and legally - free webinar

Thursday, June 25th - 10am to 11am
Online

Northumbria University is bringing together colleagues from its Health Sciences Department and Law School to provide organisations with practical information on how to re-open safely and legally during the Covid-19 pandemic.

North East Together: Learning together for a better future

Thursday, June 25th - 12.45pm-4.30pm
Online

North East Together's June 2020 event focuses on how we can learn from the rapid change we're experiencing now and how we can use what we're learning to imagine and create a new future together.

North East Youth Alliance information session

Wednesday, July 1st- 9.30am to 11.30am
Online

Youth Focus North East is pleased to offer an online information session via Zoom to help you find out more about the North East Youth Alliance, with the support of the National Lottery Community Fund.

To book, or for more information, email info@neya.org.uk.

Powerful Communities Masterclass

Tuesday, July 7th - 10am to 11.30am
Online

This Virgin Money Foundation masterclass, delivered by GLT Partners, will help organisations avoid 'doing to' a community and build on their strengths and abilities into the future, wherever it may lead. Guest speakers are Vidhya Alakeson, Chief Executive of Power to Change and Sarah Gorman, Edberts House CEO.

[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 listings since the weekend. 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...

Financial, Employability and Digital Coach

£21,544 pro rata

Reaching Out Across Durham (ROAD) is a Building Better Opportunities Programme funded by the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund, working in partnership with seven voluntary and community sector delivery partners to support long term unemployed people towards employment.

The purpose of this role with [Citizens Advice County Durham](#) is to provide financial, employability and digital inclusion assistance to referred adults over 25 in County Durham.

Infrastructure and Environment Strategic Lead

£34,151

The [North North East Active Partnership](#) is on a mission to create a world in which more people enjoy the benefits to body and mind of an active lifestyle, with equal opportunities to be active in their own way.

It is looking for someone that shares its vision, values, and appetite for change, and that can provide leadership and advocacy in developing this workstream, in relation to both active travel and the built and natural environments, to ultimately increase physical activity levels across the North East region.

Link Worker

£22,443 - £23,945

[Building Futures East](#) is looking for a suitably qualified and experienced individual with the skills, enthusiasm and personal values to deliver on its new

Wellbeing Guidance Officer

£22,443 - £23,945

For its *My Future Matters* project, Building Futures East is looking to provide participants with the wrap-around health and wellbeing support of a

project, *My Future Matters*, which has secured funding via the European Social Fund (ESF) to provide a tailored package of employability and wellbeing activities, including personal and vocational skills development.

Wellbeing Guidance Officer, to engage with 500 individuals across Newcastle and North Tyneside, with a particular focus on helping drive change in communities in the east of Newcastle and in Wallsend.

Larkspur Life Team Worker

£22,750

Edberts House is a community charity currently managing four projects in Gateshead to make our communities happier, healthier and more welcoming places to live.

The right candidate will be part of an exciting new project funded by the Violence Reduction Unit to pilot the evidence-based Thrive approach of early year intervention and engagement in a community setting.

Byker Partnership Manager

£30,000

Northern Stage is looking for someone to develop and clarify the remit and structure of the *Byker Children and Young People Partnership*, to create a robust, effective, sustainable and safe cross-sector delivery model that will underpin future community activity. This will involve formalising the structure of the partnership working model, creative engagement activity and training and development for partners and stakeholders

Trustee

Voluntary role

Nunnykirk is a small, independent school based near Netherwitton, Morpeth in Northumberland. Established in 1977, it supports pupils with specific learning difficulties such as autism spectrum disorder, dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and social, emotional and mental health problems.

It is seeking new trustees, with expertise and skills in financial, legal, business development and premises or architectural matters, to help develop the school further.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)

DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle



SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

The Diocese of Hexham & Newcastle represents the Roman Catholic Church in the North East of England.

A registered charity, it is led by Bishop Rt. Rev. Robert Byrne CO, who ensures the dynamic growth and renewal of the church through sustainable partnerships throughout the community.

[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](#)