

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

Save the date for VONNE's AGM

Our AGM this year is to take place online on November 19th between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

More details will be announced in due course, but for now, please save the date!

Guest blog: Understanding your why

A new strategic partnership has been forged to transform communities through a rise in active living. The new organisation, Rise, has been formed after two previously independent active partnerships – Tyne & Wear Sport and Northumberland Sport – came together to work with businesses, local government, the health sector, education settings, and the justice system among others, to develop more active communities across Northumberland and Tyne & Wear.

Chief Executive Officer of the new organisation, Clare Morley, was keen to share learnings from the newly-created team about understanding your organisation's 'why', which was a key focus ahead of the launch.

[Read Clare's blog post](#)

National news

Warning that UK civil society will inevitably shrink as 2020 almanac is published

The UK Civil Society Almanac 2020 is a comprehensive overview of facts and figures related to the voluntary sector nationally, including its size and scope, finances, staff and volunteering. Compiled by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the report covers the financial year of 2017/18, but its authors have also pulled out what this latest report can tell us about what's happening in the voluntary sector today, and the challenges organisations may face in the future.

This includes the fact that despite the "immense difference" the VCSE sector clearly makes to society, it will, "inevitably shrink in the immediate future" according to NCVO CEO Karl Wilding. He said: "Public income being the main source of income growth means that social distancing restrictions and a reduction in people's disposable incomes will have a direct impact on charities' incomes. Undoubtedly, this will result in job losses, a possible reduction in services and the closure of some charities."

Read the full press release on the [NCVO website](#). Download the almanac at data.ncvo.org.uk. And you can also join in the conversation on social media using the hashtag #ncvoAlmanac.

£45m coronavirus partnerships announced

The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has opened a £45m programme to fund charities and social enterprises working with people disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

The money will be distributed through five partnerships, which includes £5m for migrant and refugee charities made available by the Barrow Cadbury Trust, and another £5m for homelessness charities via Homeless Link. A further £5m will be distributed to charities giving welfare advice, while nearly £20m will go to social

enterprises. A consortium headed by Power to Change has received £10m to work with community businesses and other local organisations in England.

[More about the programme](#)

Charities receive £32m+ from dormant trusts

Funding has been announced for the Revitalising Trusts programme, which takes funds lying dormant in the accounts of inactive or ineffective charities and puts them to charitable use. Since its launch in 2018 the programme has used £32 million to help good causes.

The programme, which has secured funding by DCMS until March 2021, is managed by the Charity Commission and UK Community Foundations and has contacted over 1,800 charities since it began. It will reach out to around 500 more inactive trusts in the year ahead.

[Read more details](#)

Peer support on offer from IVAR

Between now and September, you can sign up for a 90-minute online peer support session from the Institute for Voluntary Action Research (IVAR).

These allow up to 12 VCSE leaders at a time to share the challenges they are currently experiencing. Past attendees valued hearing other leaders' experiences, having a safe space to offload and time to pause and reflect.

[Sign up for a slot](#)

New recruitment guides from the Chartered Institute of Fundraising

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising (IoF) has published a series of recruitment guides which aim to help the sector improve the diversity of its workforce.

The four guides offer advice to hiring managers, small charities recruiting their first fundraiser, people looking to start or move into a career in fundraising, and recruitment agencies. Each has been written with input from recruiters and experts on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI). All four guides also reflect on the challenges of more diverse recruitment during and after the coronavirus crisis.

[See the guides](#)

New flexible furlough resources from ACAS

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has reviewed its [guidance on furlough](#) in light of the flexibility that was added to the government's job retention scheme earlier this month, and published new [letter templates](#) to assist employers considering using it. All are free to download and use.

Regional news

This week is North East Trusts Week

The Institute of Fundraising North East is delighted to be working in partnership with RAISE, North East Development Forum, and Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to bring you the inaugural virtual North East Trusts Week this week.

It's not too late to take advantage of multiple free virtual sessions running each day. Visit our website for [news of events still to come](#) and follow [#NorthEastTrustsWeek](#) on Twitter to stay up to date with the latest updates.

A chance to raise your profile on TV

ITV Tonight would like to speak to local charities supporting those whose economic situation has been particularly affected by the coronavirus pandemic – including charities working to tackle food poverty, help with career advice, or provide other financial support and guidance – with a view to taking part in a programme due to air in August that will examine the current state of the economy and ask what can be done to help people who need financial and emotional support.

To get involved, email emma.slater@itv.com.

New toolkit to work with volunteers on easing lockdown

Network Point Newcastle has created a toolkit to help you start the conversation with your volunteers about coming back from lockdown and what that means for your organisation.

[Download the toolkit](#)

Book edited by local researchers to inspire hope in post-pandemic services

A new book edited by team members at Northumbria University provides inspiration for those who want to ditch the old normal for good, and emerge from the pandemic with more hopeful, human and bespoke ways of thinking about public services.

Kittens Are Evil II: Little Heresies from Triarchy Press is edited by Charlotte Pell, Rob Wilson, Toby Lowe & Jan Myers and is available online for £12. However, use the code 'tpdirect' to get a 20 per cent discount.

[Buy the book](#)

Health and wellbeing news

The 2021 GSK IMPACT Awards are open for nominations

Applications are now open for the 2021 GSK IMPACT Awards, funded by GSK and managed in partnership with The King's Fund.

Winning organisations will receive core funding of up to £40,000, plus access to excellent training and development to support their leaders.

To be eligible, organisations must be at least three years old, working in a health-related field in the UK, with income between £80,000 and £2.5 million. Up to 20 awards will be made, ranging from £3,000 to £40,000; the training and development is valued at a further £9,500. Organisations will also have a film made, receive help with press and publicity, and be given a set of promotional materials.

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Monday 14 September 2020.

Public Health England training: Covid-19 Psychological First Aid

Public Health England has developed a new Covid-19: Psychological First Aid online training course for frontline staff and volunteers to help them look after their mental health during the pandemic.

The three-part training course, which is free for all frontline workers and volunteers and takes around 90 minutes to complete, aims to provide frontline staff and volunteers with additional resources on how to take care of their own mental health and wellbeing, how to provide support to those who need it most, and advice on how to cope with difficult situations.

[Enrol now](#)

The NHS explained: The King's Fund launches course about our health system

The King's Fund has partnered with online learning provider FutureLearn to offer a free online course on how the English health system really works.

The NHS explained: how the health system in England really works, is open for enrolment and will provide a broad understanding of the NHS – its inner workings, how it all fits together and the challenges it typically faces.

[Find out more](#)

New campaign to seek help and get signs of cancer spotted sooner

Following a drop in the number of people being referred urgently for suspected cancer during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Northern Cancer Alliance has launched a regional awareness campaign to encourage people to contact their GP or nurse if they're concerned about signs or symptoms of cancer.

Whether it's a lump, a new pain, unusual bleeding or an unexplained symptom, recognising the signs and getting them checked out as soon as possible could help save lives.

[Learn about the campaign](#)

Five principles set out in shared statement

VCSE organisations from across the country have signed a shared statement to underpin and test any policy change on behalf of those living with underlying conditions.

The statement, led by National Voices, outlines five principles for the next phase of the Covid-19 response, and the organisation is now working with charities and health and care leaders to make sure they underpin decisions made.

If you would like to sign up to the statement, email sam.batey@nationalvoices.org.uk.

[Download the statement](#)

VONNE round up

Over the past couple of weeks VONNE has:

- Took part in the North of Tyne Combined Authority's Inclusive Economy board meeting where we agreed to focus activity on developing the Good Work pledge and youth employment support as key priorities linked to the Covid-19 recovery.
- Represented the sector within the North East & North Cumbria Strategic Health Co-ordination Group, co-ordinating and sharing intelligence around Covid response and recovery planning at a system level.
- Facilitated a LARCH (Local Access in Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool) Partnership Forum meeting to share progress and agree next steps. The programme, funded by Access Foundation and Big Society Capital, will see £4m in social investment awarded from 2021.
- Attended the North East Health Impact Assessment Steering Group, exploring the direct and indirect impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable groups.

Digital and innovation

Download the Charity Digital Skills report 2020

As Covid-19 has unfolded, charities have had to embrace remote working, digital fundraising and online service delivery as never before, so 2020 could prove to be a pivotal moment.

This impact is one of the key changes explored as part of this year's Charity Digital Skills Report, the annual barometer of the state of digital skills across the sector, which also measures long term changes taking place behind the scenes.

[Download the report](#)

Communications training available with Media Trust and Google Digital Garage

Media Trust has announced a Digital Summer School for charities to start next month, which will focus on communications in the Covid-recovery and rebuild phase.

Since the coronavirus outbreak, charities are increasingly relying on digital platforms to connect with their audiences and beneficiaries, share important updates, advocate for support for marginalised communities and raise funds.

Between May and June, almost 1,000 charities tuned in to Media Trust's virtual digital communications webinars, run in partnership with the BBC, BBH, Google, Snap and Twitter. The final session in July, in partnership with Google Digital Garage, will focus on digital marketing strategy.

[Read about the summer school](#)

Suicide prevention charity launches pioneering digital care service

A leading suicide prevention charity has launched a digital service to provide online care plans for vulnerable young people across the UK.

PAPYRUS Prevention of Young Suicide says the unique two-way safety plan - HOPELINK - will help save lives by allowing young people to work confidentially with professional advisers, empowering them to create, adapt and amend their own care plans.

Kelly Thorpe, Head of Helpline Services at PAPYRUS, said: "This is the first service of its kind. Led by the user, it's accessible, user-friendly and totally confidential, allowing vulnerable young people to create their own safety plan in which they write down and store whatever it is that helps to keep them safe when they have thoughts of suicide.

"It offers a prompt, a reminder of what they've agreed to do or who the right people are to speak to, offering vital information and written support which they can access at any time."

The two-way care plan was created and developed by two interns at digital agency Earthware.

[Read more](#)

Safer Culture North East



Safeguarding for trustees

All charities have safeguarding responsibilities, no matter who you work with, and trustees are ultimately responsible for their organisation.

There are six main areas of activity relating to The Charity Commission's 10 principles on safeguarding for trustees:

- Understanding and managing risks
- Policies and procedures
- Making safeguarding a priority
- Supporting your staff and volunteers
- Handling and reporting concerns
- Your culture and values

As part of the Safer Culture North East project, Catalyst Stockton is running a session on safeguarding for trustees [this Friday](#).

[Use NCVO's safeguarding resources](#)

Recognise, respond, report

There are three steps to making your organisation a safer one: recognising abuse, responding to concerns and reporting appropriately.

People in your organisation should know the signs and symptoms of harm and abuse and understand that those signs are not always clear. As a general rule, the more directly you work with children or adults at risk, the more detail about recognising the different types of harm and abuse you should know. Staff and volunteers need to know they are expected to record safeguarding concerns, disclosures or allegations and take action in response.

It can be hard to take action but these [five reasons to speak up if you're worried](#) will help.

[Find out more](#)

Safer recruitment

Safer recruitment applies to staff, volunteers and trustees. Making safeguarding part of your recruitment helps you create a safe and positive environment for everyone you work with.

If your organisation works directly with children or adults at risk you should follow a detailed best practice guide for safer recruitment. However, even in a small organisation, you should apply three key principles to put safeguarding into practice when choosing your staff and volunteers:

- Your processes must relate to the level of risk involved. Don't burden people with too many responsibilities for a low risk role.
- Your requirements must suit the risk of each role. Don't use a one-size-fits-all approach for all staff and volunteers.
- You must review this at least once a year, check you are following your plans and make sure they are working well to keep people safe from harm.

[See more](#)

Events

How to support your team when working remotely

Monday, July 20th - 2pm to 3.30pm
Online

Digital technology makes it easier than ever before to work remotely. But it can be hard to maintain a positive work/life balance and team morale when your team is not sharing the same physical space. Join this [free workshop](#) to learn about practices and resources you can use to ensure your team performs well.

Restructuring your organisation from the inside out

Wednesday, July 22nd - 12noon to 1pm
Online

The Wrigleys charities and social economy team is delivering a series of webinars that will look at restructuring options for organisations to put them in the best place possible to help society through the crisis. This [free session](#) will look at the employment law implications of reorganising your organisation.

Introduction to Google Analytics webinar

Friday, July 24th - 11am to 12.30pm
Online

Join this [free workshop from Third Sector Lab](#) to learn how to monitor the performance of your website and digital marketing campaigns, and how to use the data to improve the performance of your website.

Natalie Mott, a digital marketing consultant with core interests in technical SEO, keyword research, project management and outreach, will lead the session to help you increase your impact using digital.

Charities in the time of Covid (and beyond)

Thursday, July 23rd - 12:30pm to 1.30pm
Online via Zoom

This is the first of a series of events Pro Bono Economics intends to run on the state of the VCSE sector.

At [this webinar](#), it will set out the findings of its regular Covid survey with reflections from Rita Chadha, CEO of the Small Charities Coalition, and from a leading service

delivery charity (to be announced) on the specific challenges faced since the outbreak of Covid-19, the coping mechanisms developed, and expectations for the future.

[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...

Administrator

£21,500

The Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle is looking for the right candidate to provide high quality administration support to its [department for education](#).

Finance Officer

£23,836 - £25,801 pro rata

Wearside Women in Need (WWiN) specialist domestic abuse service is looking to strengthen operations with an experienced [Finance Officer](#).

Link Worker

£20,802

Age UK Sunderland is looking for the right individual to provide an interface between voluntary sector organisations and clients, health and social care and other statutory bodies using a social prescribing model.

Community Engagement Tutor

£22,660 - £25,000

Northern Learning Trust is seeking a highly motivated tutor to enable it to expand its Learning Hive delivery model. You will be experienced in working with learners who face multiple barriers to progression.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind is the leading local charity that provides confidential services for people experiencing emotional or mental health problems and their families. Established in 1995, the charity provides information and activities for people in the community experiencing mental health difficulties.

[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](#)