

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

Join our AGM+ next month

Join VONNE and its trustees and members for our AGM+, an online forum entitled, *Return, Reflect, Rebuild: Enabling the VCSE sector through local action and innovation*.

Booking is now open for the event, which will be on Zoom between 9.30am and 12.30pm on November 19th.

[Find out more](#)

Join our VCSE Digital Skills Programme engagement discussion

Join VONNE and our partners WEA and New College Durham next week to discuss the development of a VCSE Digital Skills training programme for the region.

Following on from our recent VCSE Digital Skills survey, the [initial findings](#) from which are available on our website, we want to have a discussion with VCSE organisations to effectively shape a programme that meets the requirements of VCSE organisations across the North East.

[Book your place](#)

Strategically thinking the unthinkable: Planning for the future and delivering on your mission

We all know difficult times are here and will be sticking around for a while. The future is uncertain, but we also know that charities and the people within them are passionate about their mission and delivering services to people that need them.

This event, on November 25th, will look at how strategic planning should include thinking boldly about the unthinkable – including why and how organisations shrink, collaboration, mergers, and closures – and why these are important topics to consider.

VONNE will be joined by guest speakers Peter Deans, Director of Business Mind Social Purpose, an independent consultancy providing strategic management advice to public bodies, charities and social enterprises, and private companies that deliver public services, and Dave Garratt from Eastside Primetimers, a consultancy that offers support to the sector.

[Book now](#)

#TheTimeisNow for a cleaner, greener world

VONNE has signed up to The Climate Coalition's declaration stating the time is now to lead the UK towards a healthier, greener and fairer future.

This guest blog post, by Jasmine Vorraso from the coalition, explains why the declaration is so important. You can also watch this short [explainer video](#).

[Read Jasmine's blog post](#)



National news

First impact report published by VCS Emergencies Partnership

The Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership is made up of a range of organisations from within the sector, including VONNE, with the aim of improving coordination at national and local levels before, during and after emergencies such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

Bringing together local, national and global expertise from the sector, the partnership, which has now issued its first report covering the period between March and August this year, aims to help people prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies, so they can rebuild their lives.

[Read the report](#)

Kruger review broadly welcomed by the VCSE sector while job loss warning follows news of treasury support to replace furlough scheme

The VCSE sector broadly welcomed the ideas put forward in the Kruger review into how the government might make the most of the voluntary sector in the UK's recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Danny Kruger, the Conservative MP for Devizes, made a raft of recommendations including that the government should seek to unlock £500m from the National Fund to support the sector, and establish a £2bn endowment fund to support disadvantaged communities.

Although the measures were welcomed, there remains some anxiety over whether and when the government might adopt the recommendations.

Meanwhile, VCSE sector representatives have warned that the chancellor's new Job Support Scheme will do little to protect the sector from long-term financial damage.

Social Investment Business to deliver £3 million Community Business Renewal Fund

Power to Change, the independent trust that supports community businesses in England, has this week unveiled the Community Business Renewal Fund, a £3 million unrestricted grants programme to help established community businesses in England to assess, diversify and strengthen their operations.

Opening on November 3rd, the fund will provide grants between £10,000 and £20,000. Applications are open to all community businesses that were financially viable before the pandemic, but priority will be given to those supporting people at higher risk from Covid-19, those operating in areas of high deprivation, or working closely with communities of colour.

[Read more](#)

Apply to the Postcode Recovery Fund

The Postcode Recovery Fund has been created to support charities to develop innovative solutions that address the many issues affecting people as society recovers from the effects of the pandemic.

A total award fund of £3m will be given to charitable organisations to deliver projects in Great Britain in 2021-2023. Charities can apply for up to £1m for a project that addresses a systemic societal issue related to the pandemic.

Funders are looking for impactful and original projects that can demonstrate a clear link to the effects of the pandemic across the following six funding priority areas:

- Educational inequalities
- Homelessness
- Domestic Violence
- Health and wellbeing
- Social exclusion and isolation
- Poverty

[About the fund](#)

National VCSE sector conference focused on Covid-19 recovery coming soon

The Voluntary Sector Response and Recovery Conference will be the first national meeting of sector leaders, coming together to assess practical solutions to help charities survive following Covid-19.

Taking place online across two mornings (November 10th and 11th), plus a follow-up implementation workshop on November 23rd, attend to hear the latest advice on employment law, job support, and support for staff wellbeing, with leading figures from the NCVO, Macmillan, Mind, and Barnardo's.

[Register online](#)

End of year fundraising toolkit published

The End of Year Fundraising Toolkit 2020, from Blackbaud, is a step-by-step guide to planning a successful year-end fundraising campaign, containing expert advice, practical tips, resources and worksheets that will help you to make the most of the opportunities still available in 2020.

[Download the toolkit](#)

Regional news

VERY HIGH
HIGH
MEDIUM

HM Government NHS

LOCAL COVID ALERT LEVEL

HIGH

Social Contact 1 household / bubble indoors. Rule of six outdoors.	Weddings and Funerals Up to 15 guests for weddings and up to 30 guests for funerals. 15 for receptions, wakes and related ceremonies.	Overnight Stays Overnight stays permitted subject to social contact rules.	Working from home guidance Work from home where possible.
Shopping and Retail Open.	Leisure and gyms Open.	Hospitality Open with some restrictions including 11pm closing time and table-service only.	Entertainment and tourist attractions Open, except nightclubs and adult entertainment.
Education Schools, FE colleges open. Universities must reflect wider restrictions.	Healthcare Services Open.	Residential Care Closed to external visitors other than in exceptional circumstances.	Travel and Transport May continue to travel to open venues, but reduce number of journeys where possible. Avoid travel into Local COVID Alert Level Very High areas where possible.
Sporting Activity Organised sport / licensed physical activity allowed in outdoor settings. Indoor organised sport must follow social contact rules (other than youth or disabled sport).	Worship Open, subject to social contact rules.	Childcare Registered and wraparound childcare. Supervised activities permitted in private homes. Children's groups permitted. Childcare bubbles for under 14s.	Youth Clubs and Activities Permitted.

The new coronavirus rules – clarity on the three-tier system

Following the introduction of the new three-tier system across England to help curb rising Covid-19 infection rates, the government has clarified what we can and can't do according to our new 'high level' classification.

Check the website for your Local Authority for more detailed guidance in your area and keep an eye out for further updates at [gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-restrictions).



Trustees' Week 2020 is coming soon

Trustees play a vital role in the VCSE sector, volunteering to make important decisions about the way charities work.

This past year is likely to have been the most challenging yet for trustees as they steer organisations through the unpredictability and uncertainty of Covid-19. But Trustees' Week, which starts on November 2nd, provides current charity trustees, as well as those that have not yet taken on the role, with the chance to learn and develop, with events by local organisations including Connected Voice, The Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, and Durham Community Action. See our website for [all Trustees' Week events](#).

Don't forget we also offer a [Trustee Finder service](#), to ensure you find individuals with the right expertise for your board.

Northumberland CVA would also like to know how trustees in the county feel about their role during these difficult times, and has put together a simple [Trustees' Week survey](#) to gather their thoughts.

North of Tyne Combined Authority sets out local recovery plan

North of Tyne Combined Authority has announced its five-point plan for recovery from the coronavirus pandemic, along with its proposal to government, outlined in a short animation, asking for more investment to enable a quicker recovery for residents, businesses and communities – and a better and greener future.

A more inclusive economy forms the backbone of the proposals to help North of Tyne become the area that travels fastest towards net zero emissions and new green jobs.

The authority has also launched a new campaign, [#CrowdfundNorthofTyne](#), through which local groups can get up to £5,000 towards their community crowdfunding campaigns. The deadline to get involved is November 3rd.

[Watch the film](#)

Booking open for #ThisIsTheNorth People's Powerhouse Convention

This year's #ThisIsTheNorth People's Powerhouse Convention is taking place online on November 24th and 25th.

The evening programme will be completely youth led and organisers want to hear ideas from youth groups across the north.

Confirmed speakers for the daytime programme include former chief prosecutor and campaigner Nazir Afzal OBE, North of Tyne Mayor Jamie Driscoll, Chair of Bolton NHS Trust and The New Local Government Network Professor Donna Hall CBE, CLES CEO Neil McInroy, IPPR North Director Sarah Longlands, and Chair of both Involve and Levenshulme Inspire, Ed Cox.

Book your place to ensure you are central to the conversations around social, economic and racial justice in the north.

[Register to attend](#)

Vote for your County Durham Volunteer of the Year

The County Durham Community Foundation is asking all organisations across the county to vote for their local volunteers of the year.

For the County Durham Together Awards, the foundation is sponsoring the category and Chief Executive Michelle Cooper said: "We really want the award to represent the huge collective effort that has saved lives this year, and shown that kindness and community are still so strong in our region."

[Vote now](#)

Health and wellbeing news

North East pilot service to delay the onset of dementia launched

A North East social enterprise has secured funding to pilot a new innovative service to delay the onset of dementia.

Unforgettable Experiences, which is also a VONNE Membership+ supporter, will provide creative, interactive and practical support to older people to help them to participate in a series of weekly arts, cultural and heritage activities online.

[Read the full story](#)

Join the regional development programme for patient and citizen leaders

The Patient and Citizen Leaders Development Programme North East and Yorkshire provides a development opportunity for patient and citizen leaders that are working with people and services in the NHS. This could be in hospital trusts, general practice, mental health services, community services, research settings or elsewhere.

The programme, which will take place over five half-day modules beginning on November 20th, is for people and patients that have gifted their time, insights and experience to work alongside clinicians and managers to achieve better outcomes for people receiving services.

To apply for a place, [get in touch](#) by October 31st.

A reminder to #DoYourBit to help tackle flu

Those most at risk from flu are also more vulnerable to Covid-19, so the NHS is asking you to #DoYourBit to protect individuals and communities by encouraging people to get the annual flu vaccination.

The job is free to anyone at increased risk from the effects of flu, including:

- those aged 65 and over
- pregnant women
- those with certain medical conditions (aged six months to 64 years)
- those in long-stay residential care or another long-stay care facility
- those receiving a carer's allowance
- the main carers of elderly/disabled people whose welfare may be at risk if they fall ill
- those that live with people at high risk of Covid-19 (on the NHS shielded patient list), or that expect to be with them on most days over winter
- NHS and social care workers
- children aged two to three years
- all primary aged school children and Year 7 pupils.

[#DoYourBit](#)

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Moving from non-racist to anti-racist

Acevo and Voice4Change England released *Home Truths: Undoing racism and delivering real diversity in the charity sector* in June, the final report in the year-long *Making Diversity Count* project.

The report, part of wider awareness raising and activist work being done by many, including Charity So White and the Black Lives Matter movement, frames the conversations around racism in the charity sector with an acknowledgment that it's a significant unresolved issue.

There is an increasing understanding of the distinction between being non-racist and becoming actively anti-racist, and VONNE, together with GLT Partners, is hosting an event on November 26th to provide a space for the North East VCSE sector to have these conversations.

[Attend the event](#)

Charity So White launches campaign to gather lived experience to combat racism

A survey by Charity So White is being carried out to gather lived experience to help the organisation more effectively combat racism in the charity sector. The survey closes on October 26th.

[Take the survey](#)

New report into diversity and inclusion in VCSE leadership

The extent to which leadership opportunities in the VCSE sector are open to all members of the community who feel that they may have a contribution to make has become a serious topic of conversation in recent months, but debates have been hampered by a lack of reliable evidence.

But a new report from Third Sector Trends makes a contribution to the debate by presenting evidence on the personal and biographical characteristics of Third Sector leaders across the north of England.

[Read the report](#)

How Ngozi Lyn Cole and Bonnie Chiu are supporting Lloyds Bank Foundation on a racial equity journey

The Covid-19 pandemic and Black Lives Matter movement have led to a seismic shift in how foundations such as Lloyds Bank Foundation consider racial equity in their makeup and grant making strategies.

In this blog post, two women from ethnic minority backgrounds that work in the foundation sector talk about what they think is needed to bring about lasting change.

[Read the blog post](#)

Embedding inclusion, diversity and equality into your community-led housing

This event next week (October 22nd) has been organised by Community Homes on the Map, the South of Tyne Enabling Hub, which aims to support individuals and groups to explore the concept of community-led housing.

The event is open to all, but participants from communities of colour and refugee groups are particularly welcome. Guest speaker Claude Hendrickson will share his own experiences and lead the discussion on ways to ensure inclusion and diversity in future community-led housing projects.

VONNE round up

Over the past few weeks VONNE has:

- Attended the Cleveland and Darlington Strategic Coordination Group to ensure the voice of the VCSE sector is included in Covid-19 crisis responses.
- Worked with Digital City Teesside University to develop a digital offer to Tees Valley VCSE organisations, supporting them to access funds and expertise (more info in the Digital and Innovation section below).
- Contributed to deciding which projects receive funding from the Durham University Impact Acceleration Account, seeking to ensure university research has an increased impact on local communities.
- Attended meetings as members of the North East Child Poverty Commission.
- Supported the Climate Action Network of the Integrated Care System (ICS) to develop its Climate Change Sustainability Strategy.
- Hosted the second North East & North Cumbria VCSE Partnership Forum meeting themed around the ICS health strategy, at which more than 50 participants shared their top organisational and beneficiary challenges in the current pandemic. There

was also a presentation on the [NHS Charities Together Covid-19 Community Partnership Grants Programme](#).

Digital and innovation

How to innovate through change and uncertainty

With the pandemic situation unlikely to go away in the near future, many organisations are looking to not simply innovate in order to cope, but to take this as an opportunity to re-think their service provision.

This free VONNE workshop, with innovation expert Michael Coates, MD of Protostar, will help organisations shape their 'new normal' in an innovative manner.

[Sign up](#)

Digital funding and support for the Tees Valley

[DigitalCity](#) at Teesside University, working with VONNE, has an opportunity for Tees Valley VCSE organisations to investigate how digital can help create more efficient service delivery.

DigitalCity can access funding to boost collaboration around common areas of interest and help answer key questions:

- Which are the best operational areas to investigate where digital may have the biggest impact?
- Where do you find trusted advisors that don't have vested interests?
- How can you trust that the methods suggested will reap the benefits sold to you?
- How can you ensure that making changes won't adversely affect what you currently deliver?

[Get more info](#)

Gift Aid automation project kicks off

Charities, academics and tech companies have begun a project to automate Gift Aid in a bid to unlock millions of pounds in unclaimed tax relief, as reported by Civil Society.

The coalition, led by the Charity Tax Group, said it's designing a digital system for making Gift Aid payments, which will remove the "clunky administrative processes" that act as a barrier to some giving. Charities involved in the *Future of Gift Aid* project include Cancer Research UK, Sue Ryder and the Children's Society, working alongside academics at leading universities and companies like Streeva and JustGiving. The project is still looking for a bank to join the work.

[Read more](#)

New guide into designing and delivering online sessions

As the world becomes increasingly digital, accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, knowing how to design and deliver engaging sessions online is essential. So a new toolkit from Lloyds Bank Foundation provides an overview of how to create engaging sessions for an online audience.

The guide is designed for use by people of all levels of experience and no prior knowledge is needed.

[Download the toolkit](#)

New report into the VCSE digital journey

A new report from Catalyst will help you understand the journey that charities go on as they build their digital capabilities.

It looks at the steps charities took, the barriers they encountered, and the ways they found to make the path less painful.

[Take a look](#)

Report launched on fixing the digital divide

The Good Things Foundation has produced a report looking at what can be done to increase digital inclusion in the UK, and fix the digital divide.

The UK is leading the world as a digital nation, yet nine million people who struggle to use the internet independently are being left out; it's time to work together to #FixtheDigitalDivide.

The report calls for investment of £130m over four years to allow 4.5 million more people to be happier, healthier and better off.

[See the report](#)

Podcast training discounted for VCSE sector representatives

MIC Media is offering VCSE sector discounts for its online workshops between now and next Wednesday (October 22nd) that equip participants with everything they need to know to start their own podcast, including what equipment they need, how to create engaging content, and how to get their finished podcast on all the big platforms like Apple podcasts or Spotify.

[Grab a slot](#)

Safer Culture North East



Join our safeguarding programme of events

Safer Culture North East is hosting a series of training sessions this autumn. See these events, and more on [our website](#):

- An introduction to safeguarding on [October 22nd](#).
- Understanding safeguarding for voluntary and community organisations on [October 21st](#).

- Safeguarding – the responsibilities of trustees on November 5th, and the responsibilities of Designated Persons on November 10th.
- Safer recruitment of staff and volunteers on November 12th.
- Training for Designated Persons for safeguarding on November 21st.

[Download our safeguarding factsheets](#)

Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 – links and resources

Safeguarding Adults Week 2020 will take place from November 16th and each day will have a different focus. To help you prepare, The Ann Craft Trust has gathered a number of resources for each theme.

[Download the resources](#)

Creating a safer organisation – safeguarding for CEOs

As the leader of your organisation – whether your job title is Chief Executive or something else – you have responsibilities to keep other staff, volunteers and people who come into contact with your organisation safe.

You should work with your trustees and designated safeguarding lead to deal with any safeguarding concerns and public concerns which may arise. More information on this is available through the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

Events

Community Partnering Fund briefing

Wednesday, October 21st - 10am-11am
Online

Leeds Community Foundation is launching the next round of the Community Partnering Fund on behalf of Northern Gas Networks and Northern Powergrid to enable local organisations and community groups to deliver schemes that tackle issues that are close to their hearts as utility companies.

Social Impact masterclass by GLT Partners

Monday, November 9th - 10am-11.30am
Online

Due to the ongoing impact of coronavirus on the not-for-profit sector, the Virgin Money Foundation's free social impact masterclass - delivered by GLT Partners - which was originally due to be a face to face event earlier this year, has been rescheduled and reconfigured for Zoom. Rebooking to the new event is required.

Data, decisions & impact: How statisticians help civil society

Tuesday, November 3rd - 1pm-2.15pm
Online

The Royal Statistical Society (RSS) and Operational Research Society (ORS) are hosting an [online event](#) to highlight the ways in which volunteers with statistical and operational research expertise have worked with charities to deliver better data analysis and robust decision making.

Supporting financial wellbeing in the voluntary sector

Wednesday, November 11th - 11am
Online

Often, there's a link between struggling with money and poor mental wellbeing. Delivered by the [Money and Pensions Service](#), this 45-minute webinar will provide an insight into how you can help improve the financial wellbeing of your customers, colleagues and communities.

[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 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...

Funding Officer

£12 per hour

[Cleveland Fire Support Network](#) works with communities, enhancing life chances for all and promoting a safe environment. The post-holder will work to develop, manage and administrate funding, assisting in managing and developing existing relationships and securing new sources of funding from a portfolio of supporters.

Education Support Assistant

£18,486 - £20,545 pro rata

The [Workers' Educational Association](#) is the UK's largest voluntary sector provider of adult education. Providing comprehensive administrative support to its local educational team, the successful candidate will be involved with student recruitment, publicity, marketing and a variety of tasks using online platforms to support course delivery.

Counsellor - Female

£16,780 pro rata

NIWE Eating Distress Service is looking to expand the services it provides people aged 16+ experiencing eating distress across the North East, and is recruiting for a suitably qualified and experienced counsellor to join the growing service.

Trainee Money Advice Caseworker

£21,286

Citizens Advice Northumberland is looking for someone with exceptional communication skills, excellent IT skills and a passion for the organisation's aims and objectives to join the team.

[Visit VONNE Jobs](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

Sherburn House Charity is based two miles south east of Durham city. Also known as Christ's Hospital in Sherburn and simply as Sherburn Hospital, it exists to provide residential care and sheltered housing to elderly residents and former residents of North East England, and works to relieve need, hardship and distress in the region by providing grants, both to individuals and to other organisations who work with disadvantaged groups.



[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](#)



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