

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



We're [#GoingGreenTogether!](#)

Over the last few months *VONNE* and the other members of the *VONNE Climate Action Alliance (VCAA)* have been working hard to engage and discuss with others in the North East VCSE sector about how we can create and support a movement of organisations tackling climate action.

After 10 intense weeks of learning and your generous feedback throughout the process, we're proud to share with you our new website – [Going Green Together](#).

Find out more about our journey to its launch, and the next steps we're keen for you to be involved in, in our recent blog post and the [first issue of our new newsletter](#).

[Read the post](#)



Join us as *LARCH* Programme Manager

VONNE is expanding its team with a Programme Manager for our *Local Access in Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool (LARCH)* project, a multi-million pound investment to tackle inequality by boosting the Tees Valley's social economy.

This is a newly created role to coordinate and support the *LARCH* Partnership to operationalise and then deliver the enterprise development programme over the next five years. The successful candidate will be enthusiastic and creative, with excellent organisational, interpersonal and project management skills and experience of managing complex partnership projects, as well as a passion for developing the social economy and supporting the growth and resilience of VCSE organisations.

[Apply by October 4th](#)

Our reading for wellbeing project hits the news

VONNE is a partner in the newly-launched *Ann Cleeves Reading for Wellbeing* project in the North East, working with public health leads across six local authorities to use books to boost health through community reading workers.

The programme, which was launched at an event at *The Gala Theatre* in Durham, has so far attracted the attention of media both in and outside the region, with features in *The Chronicle*, *The Northern Echo*, *The Independent*, *The Evening Standard*, and on *ITV News* and *Steph's Packed Lunch!*

[About the project](#)

Get your ticket to our AGM+

VONNE's 2021 AGM+, which is taking place on the morning of November 18th, will focus on *The digital debate: empowerment for all*.

The event will feature a discussion panel looking at the issue from different perspectives and the implications and provocations for the sector, to be followed by breakout discussions in groups to interrogate aspects of the debate in more detail.

Our thanks to *Brewin Dolphin* for their support for the event.

[Book now](#)

A final reminder to use your *Workspace Finder* credits

VONNE's *Workspace Finder* allows you to showcase available workspaces to thousands of members of our network each month, or find the ideal spot from which to work alone or with others.

When it was introduced six months ago in response to feedback from our members, all Membership+ organisations received five free credits with which to place an ad.

But from October, non-members will pay £50 per ad, while Bronze level supporters will be asked to pay £30 per advert, with a discount available for bulk purchases.

Silver and Gold Membership+ supporters will continue to receive one free *Workspace Finder* credit per year, and anyone joining us with Direct Debit will receive a credit to be used for either a *Workspace Finder* advert, or one for the recruitment of a trustee.

[Use your credits by the end of next week](#)

National news

What the cabinet reshuffle means for the VCSE sector

As part of the recently announced cabinet reshuffle, charity policy is now the responsibility of Nadine Dorries MP, the new secretary of state for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), who replaces Oliver Dowden, who was made Conservative Party chairman.

Meanwhile, Danny Kruger MP, who led the government-commissioned review of civil society last year, has joined the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and former charities minister Baroness Barran has become academies minister.

[Understand the changes](#)

A recap on Covid-19 winter preparation plans

Booster vaccinations for those at greatest risk of infection have begun this week, as has the vaccination programme for 12 to 15-year-olds, to help the country protect the NHS from unsustainable pressures on its services this autumn and winter.

This series of [explainer videos](#) can help VCSE organisations cascade the winter plan to reduce the impact of the virus.

Download the UK Fundraising Benchmark Report 2021

The Status of UK Fundraising 2021 brings together findings from more than 1,170 fundraising professionals surveyed to understand how the UK's not for profit sector adapted its practices during the pandemic and beyond.

Get a comprehensive view on how your response to Covid-19 compares to others in the sector, and measure your organisation across areas such as supporters, income and digital transformation.

[Get a copy](#)

Join the Civil Society Almanac launch

The *National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)* is launching the latest edition of the *UK Civil Society Almanac* at 2pm on September 29th.

The almanac is the most detailed resource on the voluntary sector's

Read the latest *Respond, Recover, Reset* report

September's report focuses on the role of digital technology in our daily lives.

Meanwhile, the 10 to 15-minute [barometer survey](#) for October's report, produced monthly by the *NCVO*, is open until Monday (September 27th), looking

finances and workforce. It contains information on organisations of all types and sizes, from income and assets to the demographics of our sector's volunteers.

[Attend the webinar](#)

at the pandemic's ongoing effect on VCSE organisations' finances, operations, employees and volunteers.

[Read the publication](#)

Regional news

Investment boost for the South of our region

South Tyneside, the Tees Valley and County Durham have been selected by *Arts Council England* as among 54 national 'priority places' as part of its vision for creativity and culture to help people thrive within healthier and happier lives.

Recognising its past investment in these locations has so far been too low, these hot spots will receive a level of focus designed to help them play a key role in levelling up across the North.

The impact of digital exclusion on education and employment

A report published by the *North East Local Enterprise Partnership (North East LEP)* has highlighted the impact digital exclusion in the North East is having on people's ability to access education, develop skills and gain employment.

[Read the report](#)

Community energy: what will enable successful development?

VONNE has worked with the *North East LEP*, *North of Tyne Combined Authority*, *Durham County Council*, *South Tyneside Council* and *Community Energy England* to produce a report to understand why the North East has the lowest concentration of community energy projects in the UK.

It's widely acknowledged that achieving net zero will require individuals, communities and businesses to think differently about how they heat their buildings, power their transport and generate their power. However, it is less well understood how we will bring about those changes, and community energy groups offer one pathway.

[Read the research](#)

Developments at *MEA House*

VONNE [Membership+](#) supporter *MEA House*, from which VONNE is also based, is in the process of improving its connectivity on the building's ground and fifth floors, with fibre broadband, wall-mounted TV screens with an HDMI lead and cameras, so meetings can be conducted both in person and remotely at the same time.

This work, which will soon be complete, is part of the board's plans to revitalise the space as a flexible hub for the VCSE community of the North East, more details on which will be released soon. To find out more about plans and progress, email anne.webster@vonne.org.uk.

The Community Anchors' Fund is open for applications

The Community Anchors' Fund from the *Virgin Money Foundation* provides flexible grants of between £10k and £30k to cover core costs, pay for existing work or to design and launch a new activity.

Community Anchors are those vital, go to community organisations working in local neighbourhoods, providing support, services, activities and volunteering opportunities shaped by local people of all ages, genders and ethnicities.

Awards can be spread over one, two or three years and all applications are assessed as part of a rolling programme. The foundation particularly wants to encourage applications from organisations working in Middlesbrough, Stockton and Darlington.

[More details](#)

Up to £1,500 on offer for grassroots organisations

TK Access Solutions' Community Fund awards grants to North East-based groups and organisations that inspire teamwork and innovation.

Open to grassroots clubs, Ofsted registered educational providers, community and not for profit groups and social enterprises, applications must be submitted online by Monday, to be voted for by the public.

The 23 applicants with the most votes will be awarded a grant, with the project with the most votes receiving £1,500, followed by a second prize of £750, a third prize of £500 and 20 awards of £250.

[Apply by September 27th](#)

Congratulations to *Streetwise!*

Newcastle-based charity *Streetwise Young People's Project*, a [VONNE Membership+](#) supporter, has been chosen from more than 350 charities across the UK as one of 10 winners of the [2021 GSK IMPACT Awards](#).

The awards recognise the outstanding work of small and medium sized charities working to improve health and wellbeing of their communities.

Help make the North Pennines a landscape for everyone

How can we make our upland rural areas, like the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), more welcoming and accessible to a greater diversity of people? Who does and who doesn't get the opportunity to visit and connect with the North Pennines, and why?

If these questions interest you, why not be part of a community action research group contributing to making change happen? The team at North Pennines AONB wants to bring together a group of people with diverse lived experiences, and ultimately support visits to the AONB for groups and communities that face barriers to access.

The group will run from November 2021 to April 2022, with three one day sessions in the North Pennines AONB and two half day online sessions.

Apply by [October 7th](#)

You can get more [#VONNENews](#) on [Twitter](#). Join the conversation using hashtags [#VONNENetwork](#) and [#VONNEMembers](#). We also have a page on [LinkedIn](#).

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.

Research programme meeting: Impact of social prescribing on health and wellbeing

Join the *Fuse Healthy Ageing and Health Inequalities Research Programme* for a meeting on the [impact of social prescribing on health and wellbeing](#).

This half-day event, featuring *VONNE's* Health and Wellbeing Associate Jane Hartley as a panellist, concludes the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) evaluation

of a social prescribing intervention for people with Type 2 Diabetes in North East England.

VCSE organisations call for national strategy to reduce health inequalities

Members of the Inequalities in Health Alliance (IHA), a coalition of non-profit organisations committed to improving health in the UK, have [written to the Prime Minister](#) calling for a clearly defined, cross-government strategy to tackle health inequalities.

Could you co-chair the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance?

The Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance CIC (CHWA) – a national organisation that promotes the link between culture and transformations in health – is looking to recruit a new co-chair.

The CHWA provides resources, networking opportunities and support to organisations working with creativity and culture to support health and wellbeing. Its mission is to build innovative partnerships across culture, creative practice, health, social care and local government to ensure more people across the UK have access to culture and the health benefits that come with it.

The new co-chair will join a team of six board members and two full time staff. They should have expertise in health inequalities, as well as a professional history in health or social care, or an academic role with a focus on this area.

[Apply by November 1st](#)

Equity, diversity and inclusion

Representation Matters: A Black History Month event

Connected Voice is presenting this event [on October 20th](#), devised and delivered by *Success4All*, as part of its celebrations of *Black History Month 2021*, themed 'Proud to be me'.

Book your place at Charities Against Hate Live

Charities Against Hate, a coalition made up of charities and campaigners working to stop online hate and bring about positive change on social media, will be hosting its first ever free, virtual event on November 16th

[Sign up now](#)

VONNE round up

Over the last fortnight, VONNE has:

- attended the first meeting of the *VCS Emergencies Partnership* Local Liaison Leads. *VONNE* has been appointed lead for the North in partnership with Lancashire BME Network, to ensure the voice of the region's VCSE sector is heard in national conversations, and that unmet needs are identified and responded to
- spoken at the *NENC ICS Digital Summit* on digital inclusion, highlighting the need for the health and social care sector to work in partnership with the VCSE community to identify people at risk of exclusion, and design and deliver interventions that work together
- attended the NAVCA event, *Every Person, Every Conversation Are They Safe?* as part of our work in partnership with local infrastructure organisations to deliver free and accessible safeguarding support to the region's VCSE community
- met with the team from the *Henry Smith Charity* to finalise the details of our event on October 5th on its [Strengthening Communities funding programme](#)
- discussed the first draft of the VCSE sector's 'manifesto' on approaches to supporting inclusive economies with the *North East LEP area Skills, Inclusion and Employment Focus Group*, more to be shared shortly
- contributed towards the judging for this year's *North East Charity Awards*, the shortlist for which is due to be announced soon
- contributed at board level to the *Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Impact Programme*.

Digital and innovation



Digital Pathfinders is about more than events

Digital Pathfinders isn't all about events. Our cross-sector delivery team can talk to you about your challenges, needs and ideas, and match you with a digital expert who will work with you for 12 hours on a one to one basis to achieve change that lasts.

If you're in the North of Tyne area, which is made up of Northumberland, Newcastle and North Tyneside, and want to find out more, email Georgia.Goncalves@vonne.org.uk.

The programme is a partnership between *VONNE*, *Digital Catapult North East Tees Valley*, *Generator*, and *Steam Digital* – made possible by funding from the *North of Tyne Combined Authority* and *Digital Catapult*.

Our next event as part of the programme is taking place on September 30th and will help you create online content that's accessible to all.

Exclusive to *Digital Pathfinders* participants, we're now also able to support Newcastle-based SMEs that interact with customers on a face-to-face basis, with [accessing a new grant](#), that will part-cover the costs of implementing digital technology to increase their efficiency and covid resilience.

[Find your path](#)

Tomorrow! *VONNE* part of summit on accelerating investment and innovation

As part of its work to grow the region's investment ecosystem, *Innovation SuperNetwork* has partnered with British Business Bank to launch the second Accelerating Investment and Innovation Summit, which is taking place tomorrow (Thursday), and our Deputy CEO will be one of the event speakers.

The summit will bring together policy makers, investors and SMEs to discuss the national challenges and opportunities around investing and innovation against a regional backdrop.

[See the speakers](#)

This month: data protection essentials

VONNE is part-funded by ERDF as part of the *Catalysing Innovation* in North East Clusters 2021-2023 project, delivered by the *Innovation SuperNetwork*.

As part of this, on September 28th, [Data protection essentials](#) with Steph Kyne of *TrimTab* will help you better understand key issues around compliance for your organisation.

Share your insight into cyber security scams

Do you work with service users that have been impacted by fraud and scams, or with vulnerable groups where this is a growing concern?

Three Hands is running a research programme with a high street bank to explore the experiences of the people and communities you serve. The aim is to hear from those that have been victims of fraud or a scam, and are happy to share their insight for positive change.

Join a 30-minute online session for further information on the programme, on September 30th, October 5th, October 7th or October 13th.

[Arrange a session](#)

Innovation Festival taking place next month

From October 18th, *Northumbrian Water* will be hosting its *Brilliant Get-Together*, a three-day event as part of its annual *Innovation Festival* that will see innovators from all over the globe joining forces to find new exciting ways to address a series of challenges for our region and wider society.

Safer Culture North East



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



COMMUNITY
FUND

Help people stay safe with our free training

Our next *Designated Person for Safeguarding* training is taking place online on October 7th, and a session on the *Role of the Advocate in Safeguarding* on November 16th.

Further Introduction to safeguarding sessions will be held on November 23rd and December 14th. A series of downloadable fact sheets and other training resources around safeguarding are also available free of charge on our website.

Events

Develop your personal power and impact

Friday, October 8th - 12.30pm-3pm
Venue TBC (central Newcastle)

As part of the *North East Youth Alliance* Workforce Development offer, NEYouth is offering this free face to face workshop, which will include light refreshments from 12.30pm, to provide practical tools for feeling empowered to encourage successful team collaboration.

Challenging poverty in the North East: A rights-based approach

Wednesday, October 13th - 6pm-7pm
Online

At this regional *Challenge Poverty Week* event, hosted by the *North East Child Poverty Commission* and *Thrive Teesside*, hear why and how the Socioeconomic Duty, or Section 1 of the Equality Act 2010, should be voluntarily adopted by organisations in our region.

First trusteeship gathering

Friday, October 22nd - 12noon-1pm
Online

An informal gathering, hosted by the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, for anyone considering

Steam Digital Ask the Expert

Wednesday, October 13th - all day
Online

Part of Digital Pathfinders, *Steam Digital* is offering free one hour consultations with a digital expert providing one-to-one

a trustee role or who is new to trusteeship.

strategic and practical advice to help your organisation succeed and grow.

[See more events](#)

Listings with VONNE Jobs

VONNE Job Finder advertises job and trustee vacancies from the VCSE sector across the North East, and there are plenty of new 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 bulletin](#), follow us [@VONNEJobs](#) for daily updates, and save time and money with our [recruitment support](#), [Trustee Finder](#) and [salary benchmarking](#) services.

Featured roles

Trustee opportunities with RSACC

The Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre (RSACC) Darlington and County Durham is looking for [trustees](#) and a [chair of trustees](#) to join its team. If you're an innovative and dynamic individual, interested in steering the charity through its next stage of development, one of these roles could be for you.

Last chance to apply...

Trainee Cognitive Behavioural Therapist

£22,100 - £23,100

Are you looking to make a difference to children and young people? Are you excited to work therapeutically with children and young people using evidence-based interventions to help them create changes in their lives?

Train with [Changing Futures North East](#).

Independent Advocate

£9.80 - £12.34 per hour

Darlington Association on Disability (DAD), a centre for independent living, is seeking a candidate that is passionate about advocacy, and upholding and safeguarding the rights of the people it supports.

Experience and qualifications in advocacy are preferred.

Project Development Worker

Funding Manager

£23,461 pro rata

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

£32,656

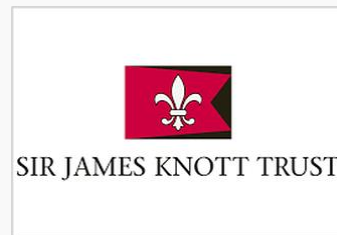
The National Lottery Community Fund has an opening for an individual who is passionate about their community and the VCSE sector to help lead a team.

[Visit VONNE Job Finder](#)

SPOTLIGHT ON GOLD MEMBER

Thanks for your support!

The Sir James Knott Trust supports charitable activity in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, County Durham and Hartlepool, by making grants to organisations that help improve the conditions of people living and working in the North East of England.



[Discover the benefits of Membership+](#)



Become a VONNE Member

Support from 1,600 strong VONNE members is more crucial than ever in informing and underpinning our work to strengthen the North East VCSE sector, and the region's people and communities.

[Join VONNE](#)

