

# Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance E-Bulletin September 2023

**Welcome** to your latest edition of the Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance e-bulletin.

This e-bulletin will includes **current news articles and an Alliance update.**

You will also find information on **volunteering opportunities, job opportunities, training and funding news.**

We hope that you enjoy the bulletin, and we look forward to any feedback you may wish to share.

**Note: Information in this bulletin has been shared directly from the source/organisation. If you require any further details, please use the links to contact the organisations directly.**

## City-wide information



## Links for Life Charter Questionnaire

Dear provider

Sunderland City Council want to ensure that partners help us to shape the emerging model for Links for Life Sunderland. You may know about Links for Life already, but if not here is a short video as way of introduction

[Links for Life Sunderland https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40](https://youtu.be/h8EizBukS40)

To be a recognised Links for Life service provider we are asking organisations to sign a charter, to ensure our residents know what to expect of a Links for Life provider. To ensure we meet these expectations there could be some requirements we would ask our provider partners to commit to, which are referenced in the link, however there will also be some great benefits from being a Links for Life provider.

Please take a few minutes to have a look at the information provided in the link below and provide your input, so we can ensure the charter is appropriate for our partners and our residents we work with.

**Complete the questionnaire here: [Links for Life Charter Questionnaire](#)**

**Please provide responses by 10th September 2023**

Your time and contribution is much appreciated.

If you have any further questions please feel free to get in touch with [leah.codner@sunderland.gov.uk](mailto:leah.codner@sunderland.gov.uk)



## Free Coach led introduction to weightlifting sessions for schools and community organisations

Are you working with young people and adults from areas of low deprivation?

**Weights and Cakes** are offering FREE coach led introduction to weightlifting sessions delivered each week for 6 weeks at a time

Who can take part?

### Community Organisations:

Young people (12-17) or adults of any age interested in becoming more active through weightlifting

- Age appropriate sessions that are active, fun, build confidence and engage participants in conversations about healthy lifestyles

- For group sizes up to 12 (dependent on space)
- 3 weeks delivered at your venue (if you have a gym/sports hall) and 3 weeks delivered at a designated weightlifting club
- Equipment provided by the coach
- Can be delivered multiple times to increase the number of people able to learn weightlifting, or to help start a weightlifting club
- Transportation not included

For more information contact Zoe Chandler [info@weightsandcakes.com](mailto:info@weightsandcakes.com)



**COULD YOUR SCHOOL, COLLEGE OR ORGANISATION BENEFIT?**

FREE coach led introduction to weightlifting sessions delivered each week for 6 weeks at a time

- Age-appropriate sessions that are active, fun, build confidence and engage participants in conversations about healthy lifestyles
- For group sizes up to 12 (dependent on space)
- 3 weeks delivered at your venue (if you have a gym/sports hall) and 3 weeks delivered at a designated weightlifting club
- Equipment provided by the coach
- Can be delivered multiple times to increase the number of people able to learn to weightlift, or to help you start a weightlifting club
- Transportation not included

**BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING**

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We are approaching schools, colleges and community organisations – particularly those working with young people and adults from areas of lower deprivation

**WHO CAN TAKE PART?**

**Strong is not a size!**

- Raise the Bar is suitable for all sizes and body shapes
- No previous experience of weightlifting or sport is needed
- Males and females both benefit from developing strength

**Schools**

- Young people aged 12-17, groups of girls or boys

**Community organisations**

- Young people (12-17) or adults of any age interested in becoming more active through weightlifting

**BRITISH WEIGHT LIFTING**




## Meet the Future Walls Team at PopRecs

This is an engagement event for **local artists/creatives** who would like to be involved with the street art project. You are invited to come along and hear more about the Future Walls programme and meet the team.

**Thursday 21st September 6-8pm. 172-175 High Street West Sunnside SR1 1UO**

Future Walls is an art project featuring a series of public murals created by world-leading urban artists. The project will be led by supporting community engagement sessions and workshops.

For more information about Future Walls visit [Future Walls - Street Art in Sunderland](#)

**Meet the  
Future Walls  
Team at  
PopRecs**

We would like to invite you to come  
along and hear more about the Future  
Walls programme and meet the team

**THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 21  
6-8PM**

172-175 HIGH STREET WEST  
SUNNISIDE, SR1 1UP

[www.futurewalls.uk](http://www.futurewalls.uk)

ART OF PROTEST  
*Projects*

Sunderland's  
Business  
Improvement  
District

### **LGBT+ North East - new service in Sunderland**

LGBT+ North East have just been granted funding for a **Sunderland** service which is opening on the **1st September 2023**. We also have branches running in Newcastle, South Tyneside, Gateshead and Durham and are extremely excited to get to work in Sunderland.

Our service offers support to **11–25-year-olds** who are struggling with their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

The support we offer includes: one to one appointments which are tailored around the individual's needs, family support for both the young person and their family to help develop understanding and improve communication and finally peer support groups which will be held weekly to encourage

socialisation and reduce isolation. As well as this, our head trainer, Jack offers a variety of training courses that you or your colleagues may find useful.

More information can be found at our website: <https://humankindcharity.org.uk/service/lgbt-north-east/>

## About us

We are here to work with you because you are LGBT+ or have questions about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Sometimes people need to talk about other things too! When we don't know enough about some of the other things you need to talk about (for example, your mental health or housing) we will find someone who does.

## How we work

When making an appointment, your worker will try to contact you by text, WhatsApp, phone call, email or letter. You can tell us how you want to be contacted.

When your worker cannot get to an appointment, they will let you know as soon as they can. When you cannot get to an appointment, please let your worker know as soon as you can.

When we cannot get in touch with you after 3 goes, or when you miss 3 appointments in a row without telling us or having a good reason, you will no longer be part of the service.

When this happens, we say that "you will be signed off from the service" or "your case will be closed".



When your case has been closed and you decide you still want support, you can contact your worker to let them know. Sometimes you might have to wait to start working with us again.

## Alliance Update



Over the last few months we have been spending time developing our organisation with all the hurdles that comes with it, and recruiting a new team that will drive our organisation forward. This has brought about a huge transition which has focused our time on setting the right approach to our work, listening to you the sector and deciding what our [priorities and objectives](#) are.

All of this work is gathering momentum, with a focus now on how we offer a quality service to Sunderland's voluntary and community sector. We will continue to listen to your needs and respond in a way that is open, transparent and collaborative, working with you to grow investment for the sector and improve outcomes for people living in our city and surrounding areas. It is crucial that we use this time to lay foundations to enable us to hit the ground running once we successfully recruit.

Our most recent member of the team started in July, with our next member joining us in September, and we are looking to recruit further. While our team grows, we will be working to raise the profile of SVSA and mobilise the work we are wanting to achieve. This will take time, but we are confident that our organisation and the sector will reap the benefits of a considered, thorough and steady approach.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your time and ongoing support we know this will continue as we drive forward into our next exciting chapter.



## Job opportunities



### **Finance Officer - Lambton Street Youth & Community Hub**

**Lambton Street Youth and Community Hub** are looking to employ a **Finance Officer**. The applicant must have experience in an office environment; including experience with Sage accounts. They will preferably have a firm knowledge of working with Sage 50

**Their role and responsibilities will include all administration pertaining to the project including:**

- administrative processes as instructed, including scanning and filing
- checking of timesheets for monthly payroll, maintenance of leave records, staff expenses and mileage claims
- checking of sessional staff invoices against rotas and supplier invoices against delivery notes and purchase orders
- Data entry on Sage software
- timesheets, invoices, and other documents
- Complete payments via BACS
- Chase outstanding payments
- All forms of data entry and record keeping relating to areas of work
- Complete data analysis as required by the Finance Manager Adhering to finance policies and procedures and confidentiality

- Handle other telephones, general enquiries and taking messages
- Follow and adhere to Health and Safety procedures
- Ensuring work areas are tidy Any other delegated duties considered appropriate for the post

**Working Hours:** This is a part time role for 12 hours a week. Hours can be worked on a flexible basis over 5 days (Monday to Friday)

**Rate of Pay £12phr**

For more information email [enquiries@lpsych.com](mailto:enquiries@lpsych.com) or Tel:0191 5675227



## Volunteering



### Love the Outdoors? Passionate About Football?

**North East Sport Youth FC** presents a wonderful voluntary opportunity for those who love football, cherish the outdoors, and wish to contribute positively to the community.



## North East Sport Youth FC Volunteer Groundsman Opportunity

**We're actively seeking dedicated individuals who have a passion not only for the sport but also for the environment it's played in. Key Responsibilities:**

- Ensuring the pitches remains in pristine condition.
- Working collaboratively with a dedicated team to keep the grounds tidy and welcoming.
- Setting out and marking lines for matches.
- Handling and maintaining essential equipment like nets, posts, and protective covers.

### **Who We Hope to Welcome:**

- Individuals with a strong sense of teamwork and community.
- Enthusiasts eager to be an integral part of a friendly and vibrant club.
- Dedicated souls committed to preserving and enhancing the playability and beauty of our grounds.

**Additional Notes:** All candidates will require a DBS check. Safeguarding training is mandatory but fear not! We provide this as well as crucial training through the esteemed Grounds Management Association. For more information on the training, please visit: Grounds Management Association <https://thegma.org.uk/> **Interested?**

Reach out and be part of our community. Contact us at North East Sport and embark on a journey filled with grass, goals, and greatness.

[Contact - North East Sport](#)



### **Corporate Volunteering with Different Narrative**

On a very wet day in July Different Narrative offered the city some Corporate volunteering in the form of a litter pick!

“We may have got a bit soggy as we cleaned up old socks, shoes, beer cans, bottle tops and cigarette butts galore, but it was worth it to spruce up the shoreline for its nearby residents, school-holidays, visitors, and local dog-walkers and their four-legged friends. Its great what can be achieve when you pull together and sprinkle in the feelgood factor”

**If you are a voluntary Sector organisation or a business and want more information about corporate volunteering please get in touch – [contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk](mailto:contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk)**





## Funding news!



### **North East and Cumbria Funder's Network: Regional Funders event**

**25th September – 11am to 4pm – The Great North Museum, Newcastle**

**The North East & Cumbria Funders Network**, facilitated and supported by **VONNE**, are trialling an annual regional funders event to provide opportunities for funders and social investors to engage directly with VCSE organisations and increase awareness and understanding of them as funders/ investors and to enable interactions between funders/ investors and VCSE organisations through various activities.

This approach is different to a funding fair. We want to enable funders and VCSE organisations to **connect, learn from each other and build greater understanding and awareness.**

**Throughout the day there will be:**

- Interactive workshops focused on different topics
- Panel Q&A sessions
- Roundtable discussions to enable smaller conversations on a wide range of topics put forward by VCSE organisations for funders to join
- Networking opportunities to build connections

[Register your place](#)

### **Suicide Prevention Grant Fund 2023-2025**

**The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has made available a £10 million grant fund to support suicide prevention activities delivered in England by VCSE organisations in 2023 to 2025.**

**The strategic objectives of the Fund are:**

- to support non-profit organisations to configure their suicide prevention services and activities to better meet the increased demand seen in recent years

- to support a range of diverse and innovative activity that can prevent suicides, both at a national and community level.

**Before beginning your application, you should:**

- read the [application guidance](#) carefully - this gives full details of the objectives of the fund, who is eligible to apply, what the application process involves, including what is required from you
- refer to the terms and conditions of the grant fund set out in the [grant funding agreement template](#) - this is for reference only at this stage and only successful organisations will be required to complete it

If you have any queries having read the guidance or wish to join one of our online events where we will be talking through the application process and answering questions from prospective applicants contact us at: [suicidepreventiongrant@dhsc.gov.uk](mailto:suicidepreventiongrant@dhsc.gov.uk).

The application period remains open until **1st October**. Applications must be made online via the Find a Grant portal [Suicide Prevention Grant Fund 2023-2025 - GOV-UK Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](#) unless exceptional circumstances apply.

### **UK Community Ownership Fund Opens for Round 3 Window 2**

**The UK Government's £150 million, four-year Community Ownership Fund** is accepting full applications which are open to groups that have been successful with their Expression of Interest. Groups that have not submitted an expression of interest and want to apply for this round must submit their expression of interest before 11 September 2023.

The funding is intended to support community groups in taking ownership of at-risk assets and to provide essential renovations for assets already in community ownership, ensuring long-term sustainability for the benefit of the community.

The asset being saved through community intervention must either have a current or past community use. It could be at risk from closure, sales, neglect under current ownership, energy inefficiency that threatens long-term sustainable operations or an unsustainable current business model. Successful projects that have been funded thus far include community centres, sporting and leisure facilities, pubs, cultural buildings and heritage buildings.

Incorporated voluntary and community organisations or parish, town and community councils can apply for:

- **Capital funding of up to £2 million for all asset types. (It is expected that most awards will be for up to £250,000.)**
- **Revenue funding of no more than £50,000 or 20% of the total capital funding applied for, whichever is smaller.**

Applicants are required to provide at least 20% of their total project costs from other sources.

My Community, the official delivery partners for the Community Ownership Fund support programme, have published a number of different guides on their [website](#) which new applicants may wish to refer to.



Organisations can make an Expression of Interest (EOI) at any time. If they are successful, they will be invited to submit a full application, which they do not have to do immediately; however, they must submit their EOI at least three weeks before the closure of the bidding window in which they want to apply to allow time to receive feedback and then to submit their application.

**The current round (Round 3 Window 2) closes on 11 October 2023 (11.59am, midday).**

[The Community Ownership Fund - GOV-UK Find a grant \(find-government-grants.service.gov.uk\)](https://find-government-grants.service.gov.uk)

### **Enterprise Nation Fund Celebrates Small Businesses Guided by Values**

A new initiative, the Enterprise Nation Fund, has been established to acknowledge and support small business owners whose work is shaped by their individual values. This scheme aims to provide these entrepreneurs with a platform to succeed and expand.

Grants, mentoring, and a supplementary prize package will be awarded to selected applicants, aimed at nurturing their small firms. Three winners will be chosen across three categories, which align with Enterprise Nation's own values (Entrepreneurial, Trusted, and Community-led).

Each winner will receive a £5,000 grant and a year-long mentoring programme led by an experienced entrepreneur, offering insights and growth strategies.

The prize package goes beyond financial support, providing extra resources to boost selected companies. Winners will have the opportunity to meet with a TikTok Ads Specialist at TikTok's London office, helping them create a personalised media plan. Additionally, a Dell laptop will be won, and £500 credits for VistaPrint will support with branding.

Santander's Navigator 'Prepare' package, valued at £1,800, will offer support for businesses exploring international growth. And a 12-month Adobe Creative Cloud All Apps membership, worth £596, will equip winners with creative tools.

Businesses based in the UK or Ireland may apply. These businesses must have been trading for at least three months, and have a workforce of no more than 25 employees.

**The deadline for applications is 14 September 2023 (23:59 BST).**

[The Enterprise Nation Fund | Apply to win a small business grant | Enterprise Nation](#)

### **Money Saving Expert (MSE) Charity Announces Funding Theme for September Round**

**MSE Charity** has announced the theme for the September 2023 grant round is **'Life Changes'**.

The new round is focused on funding groups working with adults who are specifically impacted by one of life changes (bereavement, retirement, relationship breakdown, homelessness, offenders or resettlement (migrants/refugees), to develop the personal financial life skills which are essential to navigate through the transition they are facing.

Grants of up to £8,000 will be available (an increase from £500 from previous rounds).

Full project cost recovery will be considered, but costs must only relate to the project itself and not the organisation's core funding.

Small to medium-sized non-profit organisations with a constitution can apply, including UK registered charities, community interest companies, social enterprises and credit unions. To be eligible, applicants must be based in the UK, looking for funding for UK based activities, have an annual

income of less than £750,000 and unrestricted reserves that are less than six months of their running costs.

**Applications are usually invited twice a year: in February and September.**

**The September application form questions and eligibility quiz are currently available to review,** and groups should review them before the fund opens for applications as **each grant round is limited to the first 40 accepted applications.** Previous rounds have closed within a couple of weeks of opening.

**Applications will be accepted from 4 September to 29 September 2023.**

[MoneySavingExpert charity fund](#)

### **The Arts Society Accepting Applications for Autumn 2023 Funding Round**

**The Arts Society** is offering grants of up to £3,000 for UK-registered charities with an annual turnover of less than £3 million to deliver projects across all aspects of the arts and heritage, such as:

- Projects that support a wide range of activities to introduce people of all ages and backgrounds to artistic experiences and practise, such as the development and training of skills in the arts, crafts, and heritage through bursaries, sponsorships, and crafts apprenticeships.
- Support for regional museums, galleries, and arts organisations, such as:

Special projects.

Displays.

Internships and part-time posts.

Training.

Conservation activities.

- Regional and local theatres and performing arts spaces and groups.

Priority will be given to projects that provide access to the arts to those that would not normally have access to them, projects where there will be more emphasis on localism, and projects and organisations that support the arts and heritage at a grassroots level and achieve greater impact for local communities.

There is a two-stage application process, wherein groups must register their organisation with The Arts Society through their online portal before applying.

**The deadline for applications is 30 September 2023.**

[The Arts Society Grants | The Arts Society](#)

### **£76m Cost of Living Fund**

**The £76M Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund** was launched in July. The fund will support organisations across England to deliver critical frontline services. Organisations will be able to apply



for funding to maintain or expand critical cost of living services from now until the end of March 2024.

Applications will be for amounts between **£10,000 and £75,000**. The funding is **ONLY** open to frontline organisations running critical services in communities. Applicants **MUST** be able to demonstrate both increased costs and increased demand.

**To be eligible for this funding your organisation must:**

- offer critical services to low income households and individuals around at least one of the following: food and emergency supplies, emergency shelter, safe spaces, warmth and financial or housing advice
- be able to demonstrate increased demand and increased costs for those critical services
- be registered with the Charity Commission or an incorporated not-for-profit company
- provide services to a local community in England - with a focus on small and medium organisations, although national organisations can apply where they can demonstrate local impact

The fund is part of the £100M for charities announced in the Spring Budget. It will be administered by the National Lottery Community Fund.

The application window is open now and will close at 12 noon on Monday 16 October 2023.

[The Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)  
[The Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund | The National Lottery Community Fund \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)

### **Funding to Support Blind and Partially Sighted People Across the UK**

**The Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT)** is offering grants of up to **£10,000** for registered charities across the United Kingdom to deliver a broad range of projects and activities that achieve positive outcomes for blind and partially sighted people.

**In 2023, TPT will consider applications that fall under the following priority:**

- Collaboration and Sustainability -promoting positive change to improve the capacity and sustainability of the sight loss sector and organisations which work with blind and partially sighted people.

**Funding will also be considered for applications in the following areas:**

- Infrastructure and impact – including developing technological capabilities, restructuring reviews, Theory of Change, feasibility studies, partnership working (including resource sharing) and integrations and mergers.
- Insights and research – including gaps in data and evidence that can improve knowledge across the sector.

- Innovation Seed Fund – initial funding for ideas and projects which can have a transformative benefit to the lives of blind and partially sighted people.

**Funding can be used to cover costs such as:**

- New staff posts.
- Professional fees.
- Paid training and upskilling.
- Resource development
- Capital items.

There is a two-stage application process. Groups must first submit an online expression of interest form before being invited to submit a full application.

**The deadline for expressions of interest is 30 September 2023.**

[Grants - Thomas Pocklington Trust \(pocklington-trust.org.uk\)](https://pocklington-trust.org.uk)

**London North Eastern Railway Accepting Applications for Community Funding**

**The London North Eastern Railway (LNER) Customer and Community Investment Fund** is open for applications from charities, organisations and communities along the operator's 956-mile route

**The annual Fund offers a total of £500,000 each year with grants ranging from £1,000 to £50,000** for projects to help create a more inclusive, prosperous and connected community.

The funding is intended to support the core themes of mental health, education and employability skills amongst marginalised groups, diversity and inclusion, and environmental sustainability including biodiversity, sustainable travel, and waste reduction and the circular economy.

**Applications will be considered from registered charities, community groups and other types of not-for-profit organisations, including town and parish councils, local authorities, business partnerships, community rail partnerships and schools** (only for extracurricular activity and outside the usual statutory remit).

Preference will be given to small and medium charities, over larger charities, (ie, charities with an annual income of more than £1 million per annum).

The scheme does not need to be located within proximity of a LNER station; the fund is open to those located within 10-15 miles of the east coast mainline route.

**The deadline for applications is 24 September 2023 (11:59pm).**

[Applications open for LNER's Customer and Community Investment Fund | LNER](#)

**KFC Youth Foundation Invites Applications for Autumn Funding Round**

The KFC Youth Foundation, recently rebranded from the KFC Foundation, offers grants of up to £2,500 to not-for-profit groups with a turnover of less than £300,000 and that have existed for at least 12 months.

Applications will be considered from registered charities, registered community interest companies, unincorporated clubs or associations or unregistered charities in the UK that are located near a KFC restaurant and which:

- Benefit young people aged 11-25 years old.
- Supports those in a position of economic disadvantage (including one of the following: care leavers, those experiencing homelessness, young carers, young parents, refugees, young people at risk of or with experience of the criminal justice system).
- Empower young people to fulfil their potential and build a positive future by providing spaces that allow young people to feel safe and secure, helping them to unlock talent, build life skills, provide mentoring and improve their chances to gain meaningful employment.
- Will demonstrate positive results from their project within 12 months of KFC funding being received.

The funding will not support uniformed groups, generic youth work activities or curricular activities that take place during the school day.

**The deadline for application is 24 September 2023.**

[The KFC Foundation | KFC's charity helping young people](#)

**WE NEED YOU!**



We want to make sure that this e-bulletin is **interesting and informative** for you. To help us produce an e-bulletin that you want to keep reading, can we ask for your help?

We want to provide you with **good news stories, case studies and opportunities** for our fellow VCS organisations, maybe even a '**day in the life of**'. If you would be happy to feature in a future e-bulletin, please get in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you!