

WELCOME TO OUR APRIL BULLETIN

Our bulletin will include **current news articles and an Alliance update.**

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

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

Please share this newsletter with anyone you feel may find it useful.

Anyone can opt into our mailing list.

For more information contact contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk

ALLIANCE UPDATE

VOLUNTEERING NEWS

TRAINING AND EVENTS

FUNDING NEWS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

GOING GREEN

VACANCIES

IT'S EASY TO REGISTER FOR A
FREE MEMBERSHIP AND ACCESS
INFORMATION FACT SHEETS
POLICIES FUNDING NEWS
SOCIAL VALUE OPPORTUNITIES
CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
AND BESPOKE SUPPORT
ALSO
REGULAR NEWSLETTER

[Click to read](#)

OVER 100 ORGANISATIONS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP TO OUR FREE MEMBERSHIP!

The first quarter of 2024 has been a busy one for Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance. We have:

Launched our free membership. It is important as a Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) we have a clear picture of which VCSE sector organisations are operating across our city and in our communities. We will use the information you share to gather this local intelligence. This will support us in understanding the current service offer and to identify the support needs of the sector, sustaining and growing capacity where gaps are identified.

Launched our funding surgeries with our Funding Volunteer Kevin Parnacott, to date meeting 11 individual organisations 1 to 1 to discuss their funding requirements. Kevin is a retired Regional Manager from the National Lottery who supported and assessed funding applications across the Midlands.

Kevin's next surgery will be held on Thursday 25th April 2024. Please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk to book your slot.

Became a Real Living Wage employer, joining Love Amelia, Sunderland Counselling Service, YAP and others from Sunderland VCSE Sector, flying the flag by ensuring our employees are treated fairly and respectfully, knowing that the value of a charity sector employee must be recognised.

Launched our Transport Grant supporting individuals to attend vital clubs, groups and activities. Our aim is to reduce loneliness and isolation whilst increasing mobility and improving health and wellbeing, having a direct impact on the need for specialist support services.

[Click here for more information on the Alliance Team](#)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS NETWORK

Our first Volunteer Coordinators Network, held on Wednesday February 21st, was a success with 30 attendees representing 22 organisations from across the city.

During the event, we introduced an opportunity for organisations in the sector to connect with EPNE (Education Partnership North East), which offers training for individuals and groups seeking to enhance their skills.

We proposed the introduction of a volunteer passport scheme to ease the burden of recruiting volunteers and allow volunteers to transition more freely between roles and organisations.

Attendees shared their corporate volunteering needs, enabling us to connect them with suitable businesses interested in providing volunteer services to the sector.

Additionally, attendees had the chance to network with other organisations, offer assistance, and forge new connections.

**The next Volunteer Co-ordinators Network will be held on Wednesday 22nd May
10am-12pm(location TBC)**

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Reaching out to Sunderland VCSE sector we have collated a list of Corporate Volunteering opportunities across the city which we have shared on our website for businesses, allowing them to see what the sector really need, encouraging more meaningful volunteering offers. Our role is to ensure Corporate Volunteering makes the best possible impact in Sunderland by supporting both the sector and the businesses ensuring their volunteering runs smoothly and successfully for both parties.

If you have any projects, events or activities that you would like to add to the April list, please get in touch with Hannah.foster@sunderlandvsa.co.uk or to see what opportunities are currently available, please visit [Corporate Volunteering](#).

VOLUNTEERS WEEK

This year marks the **40th Anniversary of Volunteers' Week**, which is scheduled to run from the **3rd to the 9th of June**. Share your plans for Volunteers' Week with us – whether you're organising an event, a celebration, or something unique. If you have any inspiring stories or wish to highlight any of your volunteers, let us know and we can feature these in our special edition volunteering e-bulletin.

VOLUNTEERING AND THE LAW ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Our next online training session will be based around Volunteering and the law. This session will cover what laws protect volunteers, what is best practice and things to think about when writing your policies for volunteers. This session will take place online via TEAMS on Wednesday 15th May 10am-11.30am. Please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk to book your slot.

DBS ELIGIBILITY WORKSHOP

The workshop will be hosted by Julia Mitchinson, Regional Outreach Adviser for Northeast Disclosure and Barring Service, will cover:
The benefits of DBS and your organisation working together.
The different levels of DBS checks

This session will take place online via teams on Wednesday 24th April 2024 10:00am - 11:45am
Please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk to book your slot.

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A Life Worth Living Suicide Prevention - Young People
Digital Inclusion Workshops
Food Safety
Mental Health Awareness
Emotional Resilience
Mental Health First Aid Refresher

[To find out more information click here](#)

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance has been formed to support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Sunderland. To attract further investment we have created a dedicated section on our website for funding opportunities. As a member of SVSA you will have access to these opportunities and also the opportunity to ask for support and guidance when completing your funding applications.

[To become a member register here](#)

ADVANTAGE NEWS - WHAT'S OUT THERE

For anyone who writes funding applications or contributes to their charity's strategy or business plan, we'd highly recommend 'Civil Society' News (news@civilsociety.co.uk) for the latest charity research findings and useable statistics. Here's a snapshot of their latest offerings:

Charities which own land are more likely to survive, particularly those in more deprived areas.

Also, **charities in deprived areas** are more likely to own land and assets than those in more affluent areas. 41% compared to 28%!

Living and working in a city with much unused or underused buildings, we are all aware that asset ownership has its benefits but can also become an anchor, weighing an organisation down if you have excess space and can't get tenants to fill it.

During a deep dive into other LIO's finances it's noticeable that some London charities can run almost entirely on the proceeds of room hire and renting space in the buildings they were donated by Victorian benefactors.

Fundraising Convention

Early Bird tickets available for in person and virtual passes to this annual event organised by the Chartered Institute of Fundraising. Small charity rates also available.

<http://www.ciof.org.uk/>

RECENTLY ADDED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

7Stars Foundation are accepting applications for their second 2024 Funding Round

Baring Foundation offers funding for Small Expert Legal Hub Organisations

Funding for Projects that Raise People's Quality of Life (England & Wales)

Funding for Projects to Improve Financial Wellbeing for Low to Middle Income Individuals
Across the UK

Funding of up to £5,000 Available to Tackle Problems within Families (UK)

Funding to Improve Menopause Support for Underrepresented Women (UK)

Funding to Support Challenged & Vulnerable Young People (UK)

Funding to Support Contemporary Projects Across the UK

Grants for Urgent Maintenance Works & Small Repairs to Churches (UK)

Grants of £1,000 Available to Support Grassroots Football (UK)

Grants of up to £100,000 Available for Community Facilities (England)

Grants of up to £100,000 Available to Help Vulnerable People with their Housing Needs
(Yorkshire and the North East)

Grants of up to £5,000 Available to Increase Employment Opportunities for Disadvantaged Adults (UK)

[To become a member register here](#)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY APPOINTMENTS

In partnership with Sunderland City Council we are offering 1:1 appointments with:

Graeme Stephenson - Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer at Sunderland City Council

Andrew Atkinson - Energy Services Manager, Sunderland City Council

Debs Hickling-Walker - Funding and Contracts Officer at Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance

Thursday 25th April and Tuesday 30th April 2024

Elliott House, Mainsforth Terrace, Hendon, Sunderland, SR2 8JX

Through the [BREEZ scheme](#), Sunderland City Council offers eligible community organisations a flexible approach to cutting their energy bills and their carbon emissions. The project is funded by UK Government and Sunderland City Council and, subject to the ongoing availability of funding, runs from January 2024 until March 2025. Sunderland City Council's BREEZ team provides businesses and community organisations with a free, Energy-Saving Opportunities Review and could also award a 50% grant towards the total cost of installing cost-effective energy-efficiency upgrades and improvements. Appointments are available to discuss your needs and learn about what support you can access, looking at how Sunderland VCSE sector can reduce energy costs and cut carbon emissions

To book your appointment please email [**contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk**](mailto:contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk)
Please state which date you are available and who you would like to meet on the day.

[click here for Breeze scheme](#)

OPPORTUNITIES WITH SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Coalfields - Holiday Activities for Children and Young People

Sunderland City Council's Coalfield Area Committee would like to invite Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups, not for profit organisations and public and statutory providers to submit a full application that will deliver Holiday Activities for Children and Young People

The Committee is looking to allocate £50,000 (maximum of £5,000 per application). To request a project brief and application form and for submission to the Area Arrangements Team community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk. By 7 May 2024.

If you would like any advice/support on completion of your application this will be discussed at a workshop to be held on 27 March 2024, the details of which are provided in the project brief. Or alternatively please contact:
Area Arrangements Team community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk.

West Capital Improvements to West Sunderland Community Assets

Sunderland City Council funding opportunity, project brief for the 'West Capital Improvements to West Sunderland Community Assets call for projects.

Interested Groups/Organisations should request an application form and return to community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk by 12 noon on the 26th April 2024. Please ensure you complete all tabs on the application form, before submission.

If you wish to discuss further, please contact Gilly Stanley, Partnership and Community Resilience Manager, West, via gilly.stanley@sunderland.gov.uk who will be happy to answer any questions, groups may have.

Activities for Young People within the Wards of Castle, Redhill, Southwick, St. Peters and Fulwell.

Sunderland City Council North Area Committee – Activities for Young People within the Wards of Castle, Redhill, Southwick, St. Peters and Fulwell.

Interested groups/organisations can request an application form and return to community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk by 12 noon on 2nd May 2024. Please ensure you complete ALL tabs on the application form before submission.

The project brief details a wide range of activities that will be considered and also includes useful information to aid in the completion of the application.

If you wish to discuss further please contact vivienne.metcalfe@sunderland.gov.uk who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Going Green

Earth Day Network

22nd April 2023. The Earth Day Network works around the world to work towards changing things for the better when it comes to: Climate Action, Science and Education, People and Communities, Conservation and Restoration and Plastic and Pollution

[Bodyhttps://www.earthday.org/](https://www.earthday.org/)

National Walk to Work Day

7th April National Walk to Work Day - get involved! Taking simple steps to improve your health could pay dividends years down the line.

<https://ukpublichealthnetwork.org.uk/events/national-walk-to-work-day-2023-04-01/>

Sector Vacancies

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance

Treasurer

Unremunerated

[To find out more click here](#)