

WELCOME TO OUR JUNE BULLETIN

This 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

CELEBRATING OUR 1ST ANNIVERSARY

REPRESENTING THE SECTOR

BECOME A MEMBER

VOLUNTEERS WEEK

TRAINING AND EVENTS

COMMUNITY SURGERIES

FUNDING NEWS

VIRTUAL FUNDING SESSIONS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

SOCIAL VALUE

OTHER NEWS

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](#)

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 1 year since our formation, we have grown to a full complement of staff, allowing us to ramp up support for the Sunderland voluntary sector.

A team of 10 have been appointed, headed up by Tracy Hassan, Alliance Manager, who has worked in the public and voluntary sector for more than 30 years and supported by a Board of Trustees responsible for setting and monitoring the strategic direction and impact of the Alliance. The board is almost complete with just one Trustee vacancy and another vacancy for the role of Treasurer, with both requiring someone with a passion for grassroots organisations and investing in communities, including marginalised groups.

Now with an independent chair, Sarah Reid, Managing Director, Richard Reed Solicitors, and a newly appointed board which includes six trustees from the VCFSE sector, Patrick Melia, Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council and Scott Watson, director NENC ICB and Joanne Gordon, Director Gentoo, the strategy is set to see the Alliance go from strength to strength.

In April we celebrated with a development day with our Board of trustees to outline our vision moving forward and to celebrate our achievements so far. Our Operational Board and staff members all attended a celebration lunch.

Working together with strategic partners and anchor institutions in the city for the benefit of the voluntary and community sector, facilitating collaboration and maximising social value, the Alliance can support community and corporate volunteer recruitment, strengthen connections between organisations, enabling them to develop partnerships and keeping them informed with city wide information. More than 115 organisations have engaged with the Alliance in less than six months, accessing one to one support covering everything from business development, service strategy, budget planning, governance and management, bid writing and funding applications. With the launch of the free membership, we are now in a position to deliver on our strategic vision.

Our aim is simple, to funnel funding to an already vibrant VCFSE sector to ensure sustainability and to meet the needs of Sunderland residents, helping support a stronger sector and creating a stronger city.



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

SUNDERLAND VOLUNTARY SECTOR ALLIANCE TREASURER

Unremunerated

This is an exciting time for the SVSA as we look to appoint a Treasurer to join our Board of Trustees. We would welcome applicants with relevant knowledge and experience in a financial role at a senior level. Please get in touch if you feel that you have the skills and experience that would benefit the role, providing organisational oversight, guidance, ratification and strategic direction on financial matters.

[Find out more here](#)

REPRESENTING THE SECTOR

One of the key objectives of the Alliance is to raise the profile of the VCFSE sector at a strategic level. Over the past year we have discussed this role with our Trustees and our Operational Board members and are exploring ways to implement communication channels to encourage wider sector participation.

We are a member of the City Board sitting with anchor institutes from across the city to ensure the VCFSE is not left behind and to look for opportunities for working more collaboratively together.

We are one of 3 VCFSE members on the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Earlier this year we delivered a presentation highlighting funding priority areas for Sunderland where there are gaps in service delivery and funding.

In September last year All Together Better (ATB) brought together partners to talk about Place Partnership arrangements to shape how things will work in the future. The Alliance has been part of these discussions and is a member of the Health and Care Alliance Transition Group which is now in place to oversee this phase of work. A more detailed update is available via [View email online](#)

We have also had discussions with the Involvement & Engagement Lead who is reaching out to the VCFSE across the NENC area to gather information in relation to VCFSE sector delivery and funding implications to look at ways of supporting the sector in the future.

Over the forthcoming weeks we will be attending the following:

- Sunderland Place Committee
- Health & Care Alliance
- City Board
- Links for Life Operational Group
- Low Carbon Shadow Board

We will share further updates on our partnership work via the e-bulletin as work evolves and we encourage your involvement and contributions.

If anyone has any questions in relation to citywide developments, please email via contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk and we will ensure we feed them into the relevant Board or partnership group.

BECOME A MEMBER

In February 2024 we launched our free membership for VCFSE organisations based or delivering in Sunderland.

This has seen a great response, now boasting over 140 unique organisations already signed up. The membership gives organisations access to:

Training and Networking Events
Social Value Opportunities
Community and Corporate Volunteering Opportunities
Funding updates and Opportunities
Key Policies and Procedures Templates
and some easy to read Factsheets
Access to one to one support from our team.

If you haven't already become a member, then today is the day!

[To become a member register here](#)

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

A big thanks to Community Opportunities!

The Alliance is making great progress in engaging the wider VCFSE sector in a range of services and support.

However without the close partnership we have had with Community Opportunities we may not have made the progress we did when recruiting and inducting our new team. Before we were in a position to directly employ our own staff Community Opportunities supported our recruitment, induction, HR and payroll services.

Community Opportunities (formally SNCBC) have delivered services in Sunderland since 1987, offering a range of community based opportunities for local families and residents including employability and training, community development, environmental programmes, volunteering, heritage, pre-school nurseries and children and youth provision.

A big thanks to Nikki Vokes and her team for the amazing support they provided the Alliance on its journey to independence. Going that extra mile really has helped us when we needed it most.

BREEZ AND THE TYNE AND WEAR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

April and May saw Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance come together with partners to engage the sector in considering energy efficiency and to raise the profile of funding and investment opportunities.

In April we invited Graeme Stephenson and Andrew Atkinson to our office to talk to VCFSE sector organisations about the BREEZ scheme, this gave the sector a chance to talk 1:1 about their buildings and how to make them more energy efficient, bringing the Low Carbon conversation to the sector. Support was given to 13 organisations.

"As with all things you're organising - an absolutely brilliant use of time and very grateful for your efforts in organising high-value opportunities to sit down and chat with specialists/people with capacity to genuinely help. We're meeting with Andrew and his colleague in the near future to look over our community building - keeping fingers crossed."

Graeme Stephenson, Principal Energy Efficiency and Retrofit Officer at Sunderland City Council stated *"It was great to promote BREEZ and VCSE EE fund via your organisation and the interest and uptake has been by and large very positive. We are following up 6 or 7 of the leads generated and hope these will convert into funded installations."*

In May, Lindsey Hall partnered up with the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to bring their 'Time to Talk' Session to the Sunderland VCFSE sector, enabling the sector to learn more about their funding application process. Facilitated by Community Foundation's Colette Harrison (Development Officer, Sector Support for Community), this informal session saw 14 attendees and received some great feedback.

"Exceptionally helpful to meet Pete and Colette from Community Foundation - great atmosphere and forum to learn and talk through thoughts. High-value use of time."

"I liked the back to basics information. It's easy to focus on the calls for applications but forget about the general applications which could be really useful. It's also great to hear about the additional support offered for pro-bono work."

Time to Talk sessions are open to anyone connected with a charitable organisation or support agency and welcomes volunteers, staff members, consultants, fundraisers and trustees. The event begins with a presentation about accessing support from the Community Foundation, followed by the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and good practice.

This first session was held in the Coalfield locality with the next one scheduled for July at Washington Mind. Please visit our website for more information.

Further online sessions are scheduled in the coming months in partnership with Bernard Sunley Foundation and Sir James Knott Trust.

[Click here for more information](#)

SUNDERLAND VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GRANT

With over 30 expressions of interest for this grant, it was evident we have an unmet need for transportation across the City.

Gathering local intelligence we identified a need for a flexible community transport offer to support the well-being of local people. Community transport has also been identified as a need to support social prescribing across the city and providing access to services that can reduce loneliness and isolation. Supporting individuals on low incomes, who are vulnerable or have a disability, to attend a community group, social or physical activities

Providing a community transport service could impact the individual by:

- Reducing the need for specialist support services or medication.
- Reducing loneliness & isolation.
- Increasing mobility.
- Increasing the opportunity for friendships.
- Increasing opportunities for children and young people.

When transport is not available to support the above requirements health and well-being of individuals often deteriorates placing pressure on emergency and specialist services

As part of our strategic plan to collaborate, represent, include and invest we set about looking for VCFSE organisations that can do just that.

The grants are to support the following outcomes:

- Improve health.
- Promote connections, collaboration & co-production across Sunderland VCFSE sector organisations.
- Develop sustainable VCFSE sector Community Transport service.
- Strengthen communities.

Deadline for applications in mid May saw 21 submissions with all applicants to be advised in late June of the outcome.

We are certain this grant will be beneficial to Sunderland communities and the organisations that support them, and we look forward to giving a further update later in the year.

[To become a member register here](#)

VOLUNTEERS WEEK

Volunteering in Sunderland has never been more important and valuable to both VCFSE organisations and the communities they serve. At Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance, we can support you with all your volunteering needs.

Hannah, our Community and Corporate Volunteer Co-ordinator has been busy over the last few months developing a Volunteer Passport Scheme and hosting further training (Volunteering and the Law) and events (Volunteer Co-ordinator Network).

Hannah has also created an [online form](#) for individuals wanting to volunteer in Sunderland, helping us match volunteers up with available roles in the City. She has also created a needs led survey, asking VCFSE organisations based or delivering in Sunderland to tell us what they need from both community and corporate volunteering, creating a 'shopping list' for businesses wanting to fulfil their corporate volunteering hours.

All in all a couple of busy months, and to cap it all off (and to celebrate Volunteers' week) Hannah has created a volunteer centred e-bulletin containing interviews with volunteers and VCFSE organisations, hints and tips on volunteer engagement, support offered from Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance and much more.

The bulletin is jam packed with appreciation for the incredible volunteers of Sunderland.

[Head to the Link to take a look](#)

[To become a member register here](#)

COMMUNITY SURGERIES

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance are holding Community Surgeries across the city for VCFSE organisations based or delivering in Sunderland as a way of bringing the Alliance further into the local community.

If you want to find out more about the Alliance or have some quick questions before you start a project or piece of work. Or you may want support around governance, funding, finance, or just need an independent sounding board for a new idea.

To book your appointment please email the appropriate SVSA team member. Please follow the link to find out more information, venues and contacts.

[To find out more click here](#)

OTHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

A Life Worth Living Suicide Prevention - Young People

Youth Work Apprenticeship

The Stories We Tell And Are told Grief Training

Digital Inclusion Workshops

Level 1 Food Safety

Level 2 Food Safety

Introduction to Youth Work

Community Building Training

Senior Leader MBA Apprenticeship

Online Safeguarding Training

Introduction to Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (EDI) workshop

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

SOME OF THE RECENTLY ADDED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE

[£3 Million Support Package to Scale Up Creative Businesses](#)

[Arnold Clark Community Fund Opens for 2024](#)

[Ballinger Charitable Trust Microgrants](#)

[Community Partnership Programme to Tackle Food Poverty & Support the Elderly](#)

[Funding for Innovative Ideas to Tackle Food Waste](#)

[Funding Programme to Help People Move Towards Paid Employment to Open 3rd June](#)

[Funding to Help Improve the Mental Health of Young Women in NI and North of England](#)

[Funding to Provide Early Years Education for Armed Forces Families](#)

[Funding to Provide Musical Moments of Joy for People Living with Dementia](#)

[Funding to Support Disadvantaged Young People](#)

[Grants for Unpopular Causes in Deprived Areas](#)

[Grants of up to £500 Available to Support Local Good Causes](#)

[Grants to Help Children & Young People Make, Learn & Earn in Music](#)

[Hilden Charitable Trust to Accept Applications from 30 May](#)

[Hubbub and Starbuck's 'Eat it Up Fund' Accepting UK Applications](#)

[Synergi Focuses Small Grants Fund 2024 on Democratising Policy](#)

[Wolfson Foundation's 'Funding for Places' Grants Programme Opens for Second Round](#)

[Women's Urgent Support Fund for England Opens for Round 2](#)

[New Charity Offers Grants to Support People in Fuel and Food Poverty in Great Britain](#)

[New Fund to Help Organisations Grow their Social Impact](#)

[Click here for more funding opportunities](#)

This page is updated regularly

[To become a member register here](#)

VIRTUAL FUNDING INFORMATION SESSIONS

BURNARD SUNLEY FOUNDATION

Burnard Sunley Foundation are a family grant making foundation which supports charities in England and Wales working to improve the quality of life and provide greater opportunities for the young, elderly, disabled and disadvantaged.

The Foundation has awarded over £136 million in grants since it was established in 1960. Each year they donate just over £4 million to capital projects that deliver a real community focus or provide facilities to support those in need.

This session will provide information on the funds they have currently available, how to apply and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

Date: 27th June

Time: 10am - 11am

This event will take place online and joining instructions will be provided prior to the meeting.

Please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk to book a place

SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST

The primary objective of the Sir James Knott Trust is to help improve the conditions of people living and working in the North East of England.

In the last financial year, the Sir James Knott Trust made grants to the value of £2.3m. The Trust funded 355 organisations who went on to support people across Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham, and Hartlepool.

This session will provide information on the funds they have currently available, how to apply and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Date: Tuesday 2nd July

Time: 10am - 11am

This event will take place online and joining instructions will be provided prior to the meeting.

Please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk to book a place.

[To become a member register here](#)

GRANT GIVING CHARITABLE TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

On our funding page you will now find information about Trusts that the Sunderland VCFSE sector may not be familiar with.

The Alfred Gubay Charitable Trust
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Hobson Charity Ltd
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust

also we are busy collating a
Core Cost Funding Unrestricted Grant List

[Click here for more information](#)

FUNDING DROP IN

We are holding funding 'drop ins' in each of the Sunderland areas over the next two months. If you have a query about bid writing, what charitable trusts may fund or just want to talk through a project that you are considering, pop in and have a chat. Our Funding and Contracts Officer, Debs Hickling-Walker and Volunteer Funding Officer, Kevin Parnacott will be available to answer your questions or do a quick funder search.

The following will take place immediately after the area VCS meeting. (You don't have to be attending the meeting to come to the drop in.)

6th June 2024 - Stockton Road Methodist Church (East Locality) - 3 - 4pm
12th June 2024 - Pallion Action Group (West Locality) - 11:30 - 12:30pm
2nd July 2024 - ELCAP (Coalfields Locality) - 12pm - 1pm
18th July 2024 - Marley Potts Firestation (North Locality) - 2:30-3:30pm
30th July 2024 - The Millenium Centre (Washington Locality) - 11.30 -12.30pm
Please note times are approximate

If these dates aren't suitable or you would like a full appointment to discuss your funding/fundraising needs please email: contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk .

[To become a member register here](#)

Social Value

Working in partnership with Sunderland City Council SVSA are looking to explore and develop opportunities to use Social Value creatively. The aim is to invest in community groups, local charities, and social enterprises to benefit residents and Sunderland neighbourhoods.

Social Value is becoming a valuable asset to our local communities especially when public funds are limited. Social Value encourages smarter spending to not only deliver services but also address social, economic, and environmental issues in the local community.

By applying for these opportunities, local voluntary and community organisations can receive essential services and funding to support their goals, contribute to community welfare, and align with broader environmental and social goals.

Current Offers

- A home media and infrastructure company who have advertising sites nationwide are offering a two-week free digital advertising campaign on bus shelters and free-standing units throughout the City for six VCFSE sector organisations in Sunderland during 2025.
- A North East company is offering to provide commercial repairs, servicing and installation of automatic doors, roller shutters, UPVC and Composite doors, UPVC windows, gates and barriers.
- A UK-based civil engineering, construction, and development company is generously offering a cash donation of £1,000 to each of the following areas: Mental Health, Food Banks, The Environment and Carers.

(please email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk if you are interested in applying for one of these opportunities)

Successful Social Value Offerings

- A Technology Company offering a cash donation of £550 to one VCFSE organisation who were looking to improve their local environment or be involved in Sunderland's aim to be Carbon Neutral by 2040.

The donation was awarded to Grindon Community Church who aim to use the money to replace broken heaters in their Sanctuary Hall which are inefficient and not eco-friendly. The monies will be used to part fund the total cost of the rewiring and replacement of the broken heaters in their sanctuary hall.

- A local company providing Street Furniture offered a Graphic Design services for works such as posters, literature, or flyers.
-

The donation was awarded to two organisations:

Radio Sunderland who will use the offer to design a new 'volunteers required pop-up banner' to use at public events and book markers to issue to patients in hospital.

Veterans in Crisis who will use the offer to create a logo for Veterans in Crisis Media that would be used on a wide range of products including the web site, social media, merchandise, flyers, business cards, letter head, quotations and other items that would help to create a brand.

[To become a member register here](#)

FORGOTTEN NORTH: LEVELLING UP POLICY AND NORTH EAST CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS EXPERIENCE.

At Sunderland University Business School, we are currently conducting research on the 'levelling up' policy introduced in 2019 by the Conservative government. This policy aims to reduce inequalities and increase living standards in deprived areas across the United Kingdom.

As part of our study, we are seeking to capture the perspectives of charitable organisations as major players in the 'levelling up' strategy. Specifically, we aim to understand your experiences with fund allocation in the North East of England, hear the voices of local communities for comprehensive insight, and address the existing gap in understanding local stakeholder views and policy impact.

Therefore, we would greatly appreciate your participation in our study. Your data will be kept anonymous, and you can choose to participate in one part or both of our research methods, which include surveys and interviews.

The questionnaire will take approximately 25 to 30 minutes to complete. Additionally, if you are interested, we can schedule a follow-up interview after you have completed the questionnaire.

Please use the below link for the questionnaire

[Questionnaire](#)

Your participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time if you wish. Your contribution to our research will help us amplify your voices and hopefully influence decision-makers in the future. Together, we can work towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

The deadline for responses is 14th June.

Many Thanks for your support

Dr Julia J. Nobari Dr Yashar Salamzadeh Dr Matti Morovat "

TRANSPORT OPPORTUNITY WITH TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN

The scheme offers a unique opportunity to lease a wheelchair accessible minibus for free, in return for carrying out a morning and afternoon 'Home to School Route' (HTST) for students who require accessible transport to get to school. By participating in this program, your organisation will gain access to cost-effective transportation to use during the day, evenings, and weekend, as well as supporting the provision of accessible transport across the city.

Key features:

- Lease a wheelchair accessible diesel minibus for free!
- Gain use of a vehicle to support your day-to-day activities
- Your organisation will carry out 1 home to school route in the morning and 1 in the afternoon (route details will be provided by our SEND Transport Team)
- Fuel allowance provided to cover costs of HTST routes.

What to do if you're interested:

- All details will be advertised on the NEPO portal system w/c 3rd July. This ensures a fair and transparent process and will be in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- NEPO allows providers to view the commissioning opportunity, express interest and submit a response entirely online.
- If you are not yet registered, please register by visiting the website - [Body](#)
- The NEPO system will take you through a step-by-step process to register and it is important that you select your categories of services that you are interested in delivering to ensure you receive notification of the right contract opportunities in the future.

If you have any questions around registering on the NEPO portal, please contact ian.elliott@sunderland.gov.uk

If you have any questions, please contact sarah.erasmus@togetherforchildren.org.uk