

**Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA)  
Local Infrastructure Organisation**

(A Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

# Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2024

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Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance Report of the Board of Trustees for year ended 30th April 2024.

The Board presents the Trustees report and examined financial management accounts for the year ended 30th April 2024.

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**CHARITY NAME:** Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance

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**CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER:** 1202811

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**REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS:** Elliott House  
Mainsforth Terrace  
Hendon  
Sunderland  
SR2 8JX

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** Patrick Melia OBE, Chair  
(stepped down Jan 2023)  
Sarah Reid, Chair (appointed Jan 2023)  
Vacant, Treasurer  
Wendy Cook  
Joanne Cooper  
Sylvia Copley  
Richie Duggan  
Joanne Gordon  
Scott Watson  
Trish Cornish (appointed Dec 2023)  
Lesley Spuhler OBE (appointed Dec 23)  
Anita Burke (resigned March 2024)  
Joanne Laverick (resigned May 2023)

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**SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM:** Tracy Hassan  
Lindsey Hall

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Independent Examiner, Jim Dodds  
External Accounts &  
Payroll Provider, Julie Maxwell  
Bankers, Co-operative Bank  
HR & Legal, Peninsula  
Health & Safety, Avensure  
Insurance, Park

# Introduction

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance (SVSA) is a Local Infrastructure Organisation who gained charitable incorporated status in April 2023.

We've been formed by the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to increase support, encourage effective partnerships, increase funding and investment and raise the voice of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in Sunderland.

We are becoming a recognised route for local commissioners, funding organisations and investors to communicate with the sector.

We are facilitating the delivery of social value and strengthening relationships with anchor institutions and businesses to maximise Social Corporate Responsibility to strengthen community services.

## Structure governance and management

SVSA is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation Association model controlled by its constitution and managed by a board of trustees.

## Recruitment of Trustees

The board of trustees to date have been appointed following a recruitment and selection process. Our constitution states we can have between 6-12 trustees with 70% from the VCSE sector and 30% from anchor institutions and the business sector.

## Induction and training for new trustees

New trustees are offered a meeting with the Chair, Alliance Manager and staff. There is also online training to cover the following:

- Initial Trustees responsibilities
- The Charity Governance Code
- Financial governance
- Risk & Reserves
- Public Benefit
- Safeguarding for trustees

## Risk management

Trustees and review the risk register and the financial management report on a monthly basis with a full review annually. The SVSA financial policy and procedures are reviewed regularly by the newly established finance sub-group with a full Board review annually.

# Our Charitable Purpose

SVSA has been developed to support the sustainability and growth of VCSE sector organisations with charitable purpose in Sunderland. It also has a role in attracting additional funding and investment into the city for the sector. It is a conduit between VCSE sector organisations, local commissioners, and national funding organisations to strengthen relationships for public benefit.

## Public benefit

To promote the voluntary sector for the benefit of the public in Sunderland.

## Our Mission

To create ambition, energy and drive to support communities to bring about social change, grow community wealth and create resilience.

## Our Vision

Stronger Sector, Stronger City

## Our Values

### Integrity

Integrity in our workplace is about trust, where honesty and ethical behaviour guide every decision and action, fostering a culture of respect

### Transparency

We believe in open and honest communication, sharing information freely, and maintaining an environment built on trust.

### Collaboration

Celebrating teamwork, listening to diverse perspectives and encouraging open communication, we embrace collaboration knowing that working together we can achieve more.

### Accountability

Taking ownership of our decisions and actions and recognising their impact on each other and the sector. Through this we build confidence and drive, holding ourselves accountable for achieving our goals and upholding our values.

### Inclusivity

Recognising diversity as a strength, we know that each individual brings a unique perspective and value to our team. Creating a culture of respect and empowerment.

# Our Aim

## Working with the Sector we aim to:

- Build the capacity of Sunderland voluntary and community sector organisations to become more sustainable
- Develop a membership of connected voluntary sector organisations across Sunderland
- Share good practice and respond to local needs
- Develop joint-working and income generation opportunities

## Our Service offer:

- To provide an independent strategic voice
- Secure additional resources and capacity by
  - Attracting external funding
  - Making better use of community facilities
  - Working differently to deliver services
  - Avoiding duplication of provision
- Work in partnership with strategic partners and anchor institutions for the benefit of the voluntary community sector by
  - Facilitating collaboration
  - Maximising social value

## Offering practical support to:

- Set up a Charity, Social Enterprise or Community Organisation
- Understand legal structures and governance
- Operate according to your legal responsibilities
- Design and deliver a successful organisation or project
- Identify appropriate funders and support with applications
- Build skills in your team to ensure sustainability
- Maximise your offer with the support of volunteers
- Connect with other organisations and develop partnerships
- Stay informed with city wide information

# Area of Public Benefit

The SVSA objectives provide benefit to the public in Sunderland (area of benefit) by promoting and supporting the effectiveness of voluntary and community sector organisations.

Trustees of SVSA confirm they have read and paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. Trustees confirm they've complied with their duties under Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 with regard to public benefit. Having considered the guidance, trustees have concluded that SVSA's work directly supports and strengthens Sunderland's VCSE sector with guidance and information to influence service delivery and improve outcomes for public benefit to residents of Sunderland.

# Our Object

The object of the CIO is:

## TO PROMOTE THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN SUNDERLAND AND SURROUNDING AREAS BY:

- a. Liaising between charities, voluntary organisations, government agencies and other groups on relevant issues.
- b. Providing training, conferences and seminars on subjects relevant to the efficiency of the voluntary sector.
- c. Assisting the administration of funding programmes to charities and voluntary organisations, monitoring for grants, recommending grants, assisting in application for grants.
- d. Providing information to the press and the public on the operation of, or problems encountered by the voluntary sector.

# Achievements

## 24th April 2023 – April 2024

Since registration we have secured £435,660 grant funding to support our delivery over a 2-year period for the delivery of our support offer, we have developed our services based on the needs as identified by the VCSE sector themselves. We developed policies, procedures and systems to ensure our organisation has the right governance, management, health and safety and is compliant. We have become a Real Living Wage employer and have recruited an experienced and knowledgeable team to support the sustainability and growth of the VCSE sector across our city.

## Recruitment

We have successfully recruited and inducted:

- Full time Office Manager (April 2023)
- Full time Investment & Commissioning Manager (Jul 2023)
- 3 full time Voluntary Sector Development Workers. (Sept, Oct 2023 & Jan 2024)
- 1 full time Community and Corporate Volunteering Co-ordinator (Oct 2023)
- 1 part time (3 days) Social Value and Investment Officer (Oct 2023)
- 1 part time (3 day) Engagement and Community Mapping Officer (Oct 2023)
- 4 new trustees (including a new independent Chair) for our Strategic Board
- 8 Operational Board members (advisory)

## Sector Development

Between the launch of our membership in February 2024 until April 2024 we recruited 102 members (appendix 1 membership list) where we provide one-to-one support, training and events, funding and access to online information and advice as follows:

- 55 organisations received intensive support around governance, business planning, budget profiles, evaluation, monitoring, market research, sustainability, growth and customer engagement.
- 100 organisations have completed training and events development opportunities
- 59 organisations supported with the completion of funding applications

## Investment

We have worked collaboratively to increase funding and investment opportunities securing £369,890 social value offers and securing £334,174 additional funding for the sector across the city.

Working in partnership with VCSE sector, anchor institutions and the private sector we have established a process for capitalising on social corporate responsibility and have developed a Social Value programme.

We have delivered 17 social value opportunities and provided £369,890 worth of investment to 62 local VCSE sector organisations delivering grass root services in local communities.

### EXAMPLES OF INVESTMENT WE HAVE FACILITATED:

- Graphic Design support
- Landscaping and environmental projects
- Bid Writing/Governance Workshops
- Development/Review of a Strategy Document
- Support an organisation to become a Disability Confident Employer
- Digital Advertising on Bus Shelter and Free Standing Displays
- Provision of Roller Shutter Doors
- Provision of Building Materials
- Donation to support an Arts and Culture Project
- Donation to support an Environmental project
- Provide and fit free Smoke Detectors
- Donations to projects that support mental health, food banks, carers, younger people and families, older people, homeless

## Communications, Engagement and Partnerships

Prior to registration and since registration the SVSA has provided opportunities for the sector to share information, suggestions and challenges. We have undertaken a review of volunteering needs, funding priorities and focused on the ageing well landscape in the City. We have also consulted with the sector to find out how they see a 2-way communication channel working with us and them, taking into consideration communication with wider partners. Our bi-monthly e-bulletin provides a forum for sharing information and encouraging feedback and consultation with our members with 305 subscribers.

The SVSA has secured representation on a number of Strategic Boards and working groups across the city. We are looking at ways of further developing this representation and improving opportunities for the flow of information to and from boards. The SVSA is a member on the following groups:

- Sunderland Place Committee
- ICP Central (covering Durham, South Tyneside & Sunderland)
- Health & Care Alliance
- City Board
- Links for Life Operational Group
- Low Carbon Shadow Board
- Starting Well
- Living Well
- Aging Well
- Sunderland Safeguarding Children's Board

In November 2023 we facilitated the Let's Communicate Event reaching over 36 attendees from 32 organisations. We have delivered themed network events covering Older Peoples' services and volunteering reaching 36 organisations and 46 individual attendees.

We have undertaken a review of funding across the city with the sector and gathered information in relation to funding priorities for the city as follows:

- Older People's services
- People with Disabilities
- Young People's services
- Veterans
- People affected by Cost-of-Living Crisis
- People furthest from the jobs market
- Mental health services

## Research

We secured £45,426 to undertake a regional Social Prescribing and Community Mapping programme on behalf of the ICB. We are completing a comprehensive review of social prescribing and community services across the Sunderland. We have presented mid programme findings at ICP Central in relation to priorities, challenges and opportunities. Since October 2023 we have consulted with 33 organisations and produced a midway report providing local intelligence to help shape the future commissioning of local services.

## Volunteering

We have developed a Community and Corporate Volunteering programme to support service delivery and developments in local neighbourhoods providing additional capacity and resources. We have facilitated 588 corporate volunteering hours. We have provided community volunteering training and networking to support volunteer engagement and recruitment.

# Next Steps

## Our Strategic Objectives 2024-2027

- 1) Offer to support sustainability and growth across VCSE sector organisations to increase public benefit (governance)
- 2) Secure additional funding and investment
- 3) Facilitate effective community and corporate volunteering opportunities
- 4) Have a Strategic Voice working with the sector to influence decision making

We will continue our work in close partnership with the VCSE sector and partners to look at ways of strengthening and growing the VCSE sector across the City of Sunderland. Offering support, training and guidance to raise standards and sustainability.

We will work with anchor institutions and regional and national funders and philanthropists to look at ways of securing additional funds to support grass roots services and ensure this fits with the priorities and aspirations of our city.

We will introduce a volunteer passport to support community volunteering and we will continue to grow the corporate volunteering opportunities from business and anchor institutions.

We will continue to represent the sector and look at ways to raise our profile regionally and nationally ensuring the voice of local people and VCSE sector is heard and influences change as a strategic level.

# Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2024

## Summary Statement of financial activities (full management accounts available on request)

for the period 24 April 2023 to 30 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
		£	£	£
<b>Income from:</b>				
Donations and legacies	6	550	-	550
Charitable activities				
Grants and contracts	7	415,554	64,489	480,043
Other trading activities	8	200	-	200
<b>Total income</b>		<b>416,304</b>	<b>64,489</b>	<b>480,793</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
Charitable activities				
Operation of the charity	10	265,090	14,489	279,579
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>265,090</b>	<b>14,489</b>	<b>279,579</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>151,214</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>201,214</b>
Extraordinary Item	9	70,069	-	70,069
<b>Net movement of funds</b>		<b>221,283</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>271,283</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Total funds brought forward		-	-	-
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>221,283</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>271,283</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

## Balance Sheet

As at 30 April 2024

	Notes	£	Total 2024 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	17	103,618	
Cash at bank and in hand		180,580	
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>284,198</b>	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	19	<b>(12,915)</b>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<b>271,283</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<b>271,283</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Unrestricted income funds			221,283
Restricted income funds			50,000
<b>Total funds</b>			<b>271,283</b>

# Appendix 1

## Membership list

Back on the Map	More than Grandparents
ShARP	Friends of Doxford Park
Hetton New Dawn	Acumen Community Buildings
Foundation of Light	Headway Wearside
Three13 Training	Durham Wildlife Trust
Washington Support Group for Men	Anchor
North East Sport	Theatre Space NE
The Bunker	Springwell Village Community Venue
Sunderland Mind	Transform North East
Grindon Church Community Project	The Little Company of Calm
Weights and cakes	Minerva Arts and Wellbeing
Sunderland Seafront Trust (trading as Roker Pier Tours)	Hetton-le-Hole Independent Methodist Church
Military Veteran Football Club	My Sisters' Kitchen CIC
Sunderland Training and Education Farm	Sunderland Cardiac Support Group
The Salvation Army	HOPS
Sunderland Parent Carer Forum	Deaf Empowering Network
North East Dementia Care	Durham Christian Partnership
Seventeen Nineteen - Churches Conservation Trust	Invigor8 North East
Gateway Wheelers	Rise North East
Sunderland Royal Society of the Blind	Alzheimer's Society
Sunderland Carers Centre	Catch22
Adventure into Art	Media Savvy Training Solutions
Easington Lane Community Access Point	Creative Minds (North Star Counselling)
Disability Support Group North East	Redby Community Association
Mindful Walks North East limited	The Cultural Spring
Active Families North East	Hearts Creative Project
Sunderland African Community Association	Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre
Castletown methodist Church	Washington Riding Centre - Tyne & Wear RDA
Rickleton Residents Association	Age UK Sunderland
	Gravel Walks Community Association

North East United I  
Grace House  
Regeneration NE  
St George's Church  
Turn a Leaf  
Betsy Jenny Counselling  
and Wellbeing Café  
Fatfield Residents Association  
Out North East  
DEAD GOOD CIC  
B' Active 'N' B' Fit CIC  
Sunderland Sports Fund  
Love, Amelia  
Stroke Association  
Mindful Balance CIC  
The rise project Sunderland CIC  
Just let your Soul Grow  
Fulwell Community Library CIC  
KEEP WASHINGTON TIDY  
Roker Methodist Church  
Lambton Raptore Basketball Club  
Eating Distress North East  
Crafting Connections CIC  
Niemann-Pick UK (NPUK)  
Saint Michael's Community Centre  
CISWO  
Luminary Photography CIC  
Veterans In Crisis Community  
Interest Company  
District youth abc  
Houghton le Spring Residents  
Community Interest Company  
2nd Herrington Scout Club  
Groundwork NE & Cumbria

Kalanikethan Indian arts,  
music, sports CIC  
Sunderland Counselling Service  
Chance  
Communities Together  
Sunderland West  
Sunderland District Scouts  
1st Houghton (St Michaels)  
Scout Group  
Sunderland Headlight  
Social Chef  
Wear Recovery - Change,  
Grow, Live  
Hearts Creative Project  
Box Youth and Community Project





## **Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance**

Elliott House  
Mainsforth Terrace  
Hendon  
Sunderland  
SR2 8JX