

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER BULLETIN

This bulletin includes **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 email contactus@sunderlandvsa.co.uk

ALLIANCE UPDATE

SVSA MEMBER CASE STUDY

SOCIAL VALUE

VOLUNTEERING

TRAINING AND EVENTS

VIRTUAL FUNDING SESSIONS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GO GREEN

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

[Click to read](#)

UPDATE FROM ALLIANCE MANAGER TRACY HASSAN

North East Charity Awards

I was delighted to attend the North East Charity awards in September as Love, Amelia's guest representing the VCSE sector for Sunderland. It was a real privilege to be in a room with so much talent and experience.

Congratulations to Love, Amelia who were finalists for Small Charity of the Year and Rising Star awards.

Well done Jo Cooper winning Charity Leader of The Year award for Back on the Map.

ICB Place Sub-committee

I attend Place Sub-committee monthly meetings as a VCSE sector representative. Being a member and having a voice for the VCSE sector across the city is a great way of having a seat around the table, sharing the importance of working in collaboration and looking at ways of improving funding opportunities for the future. We have recently had a discussion around opportunities for social value and how the VCSE sector could potentially benefit in the future. I will update you around developments once discussions are underway.

Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership Board (SSCP Board)

In the summer I met with Jen Beer, Head of Service – Sunderland Children's Safeguarding Partnership and Early Help to discuss representing the VCSE sector on the SSCP Board. I have many years working in the safeguarding arena and felt this would be a great opportunity to be involved to ensure any issues highlighted from the sector can be shared. It provides an opportunity for safeguarding training and looking at ways of working together to ensure services delivered through communities are safe and staff feel informed and confident in following safeguarding procedures. I attended a Board development session in September where we considered the importance of communication and ensuring safeguarding messages are delivered across the city sharing responsibility for keeping children and young people safe. At the SSCP Board meeting in October we discussed the importance of knowing what voluntary and community services are being delivered for children and families across our city and whether there are any gaps or opportunities for growth. I look forward to being an active member on the Board for the VCSE across Sunderland and will provide regular updates.

Operational Board

In September we welcomed Tracy Collins CEO of Age UK Sunderland onto our Operational Board. Tracy is a great addition to our already well established Board who bring together a wealth of knowledge and experience from across the sector.

If you have any suggestions and issues you would like me to raise on behalf of the sector please email me direct tracy.hassan@sunderlandvsa.co.uk

TAKING STOCK SURVEY

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance have been funded by the North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care Board to understand the provision of community assets across Sunderland, in order to identify opportunities for growth & capacity building within VCSE sector.

One of the steps we are taking in this exercise is to conduct a “taking stock” survey, which will be circulated across the VCSE sector. The survey was last conducted in 2022 by Sunderland City Council but we would like more up to date information as we know that things are likely to have changed since then.

We will be collating and analysing responses in January and they will be included in a report that will be widely shared. Survey results will also be shared with Sunderland City Council.

It may take around 10-15 minutes making much of it “tick box” as we can, to save your time.

This will give us an in-depth picture of what’s on offer to fully understand where the opportunities for growth in the sector are.

It does ask about your financial situation so please be open and honest with us about this. We know the sector is heavily dependant upon short-term funding that doesn’t provide a consistent and sustainable offer for our community. We want the evidence to challenge this with funders and commissioners.

By engaging in this activity, you can have a direct impact on our ability to identify opportunities for growth & capacity building within VCSE sector.

Survey will close at 5pm on 31st December and your input is invaluable.

To access the survey please use this link <https://forms.office.com/e/fcRtSz9Xpr>

Or scan the QR code



Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance, working in partnership with Sunderland City Council, 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, encouraging smarter spending to not only deliver services but to 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 local company is offering a £250 Donation to support People with Mental Health or Physical Disabilities.

The closing date is the 22nd November at 12 noon.

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

Recent Successful Social Value Offerings

A local company that provides roofing, scaffolding and associated services across the UK wanted to donate a cash sum to each of the following sectors as part of their social value initiative:

- £400 Young People and Families,
- £500 Older People
- £100 Food Banks

The successful organisations were:

- Sandhill Community Association - £100 Food Bank
- Streetcare - £400 Young People and Families
- Space 4 - £500 Older People

[To become a member register here](#)

CASE STUDY

About the corporate organisation

Penderels Trust was formed as a charitable trust in 1988. With the advent of direct payments, they began working with a number of local authorities across England and Wales under contract to provide advice, support and information services. This work continues to date, working with over 40 local authorities as direct payment support service providers.

Linking with Sunderland City Council and Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance, Penderels Trust was keen to support a local VCSE organisation by using their knowledge, skills and expertise to provide a meaningful and tangible social value offer.

What was offered

Penderels Trust generously offered 15 hours of expertise to complete a funding application for a small VCSE organisation with a turnover under £75,000 per annum that was based and operated within the Sunderland Local Authority area.

There was a lot of interest in the offer. An independent panel reviewed the applications, and, after much deliberation, Street Pastors was selected as the recipient of the generous offer.

How was the Donation used

Sunderland Street Pastors are dedicated volunteers who patrol the city streets on Saturday nights, offering support to those in need or in vulnerable situations. This includes individuals who may be intoxicated, injured, or unable to find their way home. They have secured a rented space in a building where they provide basic first aid, a warm cup of tea, and a safe environment to rest. Operating since 2013, they collaborate closely with the Police, Sunderland City Council, and St John's Ambulance to facilitate contact and referrals when necessary. Their assistance ensures that individuals receive essential first aid that might otherwise lead them to A&E, helping keep intoxicated individuals safe until arrangements for their transport can be made, contributing to a reduction in local crime rates. On busy nights, they may support up to 10 individuals, making it crucial to have a designated place for vulnerable people.

Street Pastors privately rent a small number of rooms equipped with toilets and a kitchen. Their landlord, recognising their charitable status, charges a very reasonable rent; however, they still need to manage their expenses. With their previous funding source having ended, they were actively seeking alternative funding to maintain this essential service. Penderels Trust worked closely with Street Pastors and completed a funding bid on their behalf, successfully securing £9,500 so that they could continue for another 12 months. The money will be used to pay for building rent and insurance.

Comments from Street Pastors

"Gaining this funding has enabled us to have some relief for the coming year, as we secure our premises for another year. The premises is a vital resource as we are able to offer individuals enjoying the Sunderland night time economy a place of safety and somewhere to receive medical treatment, saving pressure on our NHS with unnecessary attendances to A&E where possible."

"We are delighted to receive these funds – as it gives us the opportunity to continue our patrols within Sunderland City Centre on a Saturday night."

Inspector Jamie Southwell, Northumbria Police said,

"The availability and expertise of the street pastors often means they assist those in need which frees up the police resource. The safe haven has been a fantastic addition to the Night-Time Economy (NTE) operation and provides a safe venue for vulnerable people to receive support and medical care".

SUNDERLAND VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS' NETWORK MEETING

Theme - Corporate Volunteering and Social Value

A peer support network for those responsible for engaging, managing and supporting volunteers within a VSCE organisation in Sunderland. The network is made up of professionals who are specifically hired to oversee the volunteer programme, or volunteers with responsibility for other volunteers.

This meeting also welcomes Social Value Managers from companies across Sunderland who have corporate volunteering programmes.

If you'd like to find out more or come along, please contact us at volunteer@sunderlandvsa.co.uk for more information.

9 December 2024

09:30-10.00 Networking and refreshments

10:00-12:00 Meeting

12:00-12:30 Networking

**Venue: The Tansy Centre
South Hylton
Sunderland
SR4 0QD**

ARE YOU A LEADER OF VOLUNTEERS

This fully funded 6 day course focuses on leadership for those in the early stages of their journey.

Gain greater self-awareness, consider how to motivate and support others. Understand the difference between management and leadership, and build your confidence to consider what it means to be a leader.

Module 1 - Tuesday 12 and Wednesday 13 November

Module 2 - Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 December

Module 3 - Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 January 2025.

10:00 - 16:00

For more information contact Abu Shama from Social Enterprise Academy International : [**abu@socialenterprise.academy**](mailto:abu@socialenterprise.academy)

[To become a member register here](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Coaching for Leaders - Sunderland University

SSAB and Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership Schedule of Training

Free Online Safeguarding Training

Social Enterprise Academy - Developing my Leadership

Building Resilience in the Workplace - 14th November 24 - The Tansey Centre

A Life Worth Living Suicide Prevention - Pallion Action Group

Emotional Resilience (Investing in You) - The Hetton Centre

The Peer Partnership Training Opportunities

Youth Work Apprenticeship

Level 2 Food Safety

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

HOW OUR VIRTUAL FUNDING SESSIONS HAVE SUPPORTED YOU

THE BALLINGER CHARITABLE TRUST

This session benefitted 16 VSCE orgs and 17 individuals.

Feedback from the session

"Very informative and clear information about the organisation and application process".

"Relaxed Informal Informative well organised and delivered".

"Great to know more about their application process, what they are looking at when making a decision to progress an application or not. Sincerely appreciate the transparency".

"It was really informative".

"Thanks SVSA another great session :-)".

"Thank you for arranging the session, they are always very useful and can help save time if feel not eligible after these calls. Great session thank you".

- **100% of attendees were likely or very likely to attend a similar session in the future**
- **100% of attendees felt their knowledge of the funder had increased as a direct result of the session**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund Virtual Funding Session Evaluation

This session benefitted 15 VSCE orgs and 16 individuals

Feedback from the session

"Concise".

"Good insight into NL Heritage Fund and the types of projects they fund".

"It explained what they look for in successful applications and made me aware of where to turn for help. "The speakers were very clear and did not waste time in providing redundant information".

"Thank you".

- **75% of attendees were likely or very likely to attend a similar session in the future**
- **100% of attendees felt their knowledge of the funder had increased as a direct result of the session**

THE CLOTHWORKERS FOUNDATION

This session benefitted 23 VSCE orgs and 24 individuals

Feedback from the session:

"The clear and concise information".

"Information clear. Liked use of examples to illustrate what want from applications".

"Helpful step by step processes for applications". "Very clear and concise".

"I prefer the convenience of the teams meetings".

"Thank you for organising".

"Very good use of time and high value information - very much appreciate these sessions".

- **100% of attendees were very likely to attend a similar session in the future**
- **100% of attendees felt their knowledge of the funder had increased as a direct result of the session**

UPCOMING VIRTUAL FUNDING SESSIONS

"FUTURE FORWARD: COLLABORATION, CHANGE, AND GROWTH"

This workshop is designed to strengthen sector-wide collaboration. It will propose a collaborative matching service to connect organisations with compatible partners, identify funding opportunities, and provide support with bid writing for joint projects.

The workshop will also explore approaches for diversifying income streams beyond traditional grants, fostering long-term financial resilience.

Date: Wednesday 27th Nov
Meeting - 10 - 12pm

Online via teams

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION - TIME TO TALK

The event will begin with a presentation about accessing support from Community Foundation, followed by the opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and good practice. The session will be facilitated by Colette Harrison, Development Officer, Sector Support for Community

Date: Tuesday 26th November 2024
Arrival Tea and coffee - 9:45am
Meeting - 10am - 11:30am
Venue: The Tansy Centre

[To become a member register here](#)

NORTHUMBRIA POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER - COMMISSIONER'S COMMUNITY FUND 24/25 (GRANT - NORTH EAST)

£1,000 - £5,000. Organisations. Deadline – 22nd November 2024.

Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner is putting a call-out to communities to apply for funding to support safe spaces, promote good relations in neighbourhoods and to nurture a sense of belonging for all in the Northumbria area.

Through her newly formed Commissioner's Community Fund, PCC Susan Dungworth is making £100k available, with the aim to empower local people and give communities affected by hate crime and anti-social behaviour a helping hand to cope and recover from recent experiences. It is also looking to support projects and initiatives that are determined to educate people and stamp out racism and hateful behaviours for good.

[Find out more about the Commissioner's Community Fund](#)

FUNDING TO SUPPORT PROJECTS THAT WILL MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND.

Stronger Shores is a project covering the North East of England coastline, from Northumberland to Redcar and Cleveland. We are learning how underwater habitats such as seagrass meadows, kelp forests, and native oyster reefs can naturally protect our coastlines from erosion and flooding, improve water quality, and create habitats for wildlife.

The grant will be open to a variety of community groups, schools and charities and grants between £500-£5000 can be applied for. to support projects in the following areas: Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland, Durham, Hartlepool and Redcar and Cleveland.

Stronger Shores community grant's aim to support a broad range of projects that are community led and support the Stronger Shores mission of understanding how natural marine habitats can protect our coastline. We want communities and people to be part of this by building understanding of underwater habitats (seagrass, kelp, and native oysters), how the coastline is changing with the climate crisis, and what action individuals and groups can take to help protect the marine and coastal environment.

We will be accepting applications from Monday 11th November 2024 to Monday 13th January 2025.

[For more information click here](#)

[To become a member register here](#)

ENERGY PROJECT ENABLING FUND (EPEF) ROUND 3 IS NOW OPEN TO APPLICATIONS!

Through round 3 of this programme, capital grants of between £30,000 and £245,000 are available to Community Energy Groups, Public Sector Organisations, charities, and other eligible organisations wanting to deliver local energy projects.

This funding has been provided by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero as part of their commitment to the Local Net Zero Hubs and has been allocated by the NEY Net Zero Hub to facilitate the development and delivery of local energy projects in the North East and Yorkshire region.

All successful projects must be completed, and funding drawn down, by the end of September 2025.

Successful projects will be expected to include match funding of a minimum of 50% of the overall project value, with at least 20% of this coming from commercial investment, and applicants will be required to provide a statement of UK Subsidy Control compliance from a reputable source to support their application.

Successful applicants will receive grant funding in arrears against evidence of spend so you must be confident that your organisation can manage these payment terms if your application is successful.

Please read the guidance document in full before you apply. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com.

Please submit completed applications and supporting documents to enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com by midnight on 8th December 2024.

EPEF Investment Panel

As part of its commitment to ensuring a robust appraisal process that leads to the most effective allocation of EPEF funding, the Hub has recruited an EPEF Investment Panel of independent advisors. The role of the Investment Panel is to provide expertise and challenge during the assessment of applications, helping to shape recommendations to the Hub's Board. The Panel brings a wealth of expertise and knowledge and their input will help the Hub to optimise the fund's potential outputs and outcomes.

[For more information click here](#)

SOME OF THE RECENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE

[Lloyds Bank Foundation Offers Funding for Specialist Small Charities](#)

[Community Radio Fund Accepting Applications for Second 2024 Funding Round](#)

[Defibrillator Funding for Community Spaces across England](#)

[Defibrillator Funding for Community Spaces across England WCIT Charity Accepting Applications for IT4Good Grants Programme](#)

[Defibrillator Funding for Community Spaces across England](#)

[England's Get Fishing Fund Reopens for 2025](#)

[Funding to Modernise Free Debt Advice Services in England](#)

[Rosa's Voices from the Frontline Fund to Open 5 November 2024](#)

[B&Q Foundation Opens for Final Funding Round of 2024](#)

[Funding to Reuse and Recycle Small Household Electricals in the UK](#)

[Samsung's Challenge to UK Youth for Social Impact - Fund Reopens](#)

[Funding to Reduce the Likelihood of Children Becoming Involved in Crime](#)

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

[Funding to Enable Disadvantaged Young People Reach their Potential](#)

[Youth Endowment Fund Launches Open Call Funding Round](#)

[Hinrichsen Foundation Accepting Applications for Third 2024 Funding Round](#)

[Click here for more funding opportunities](#)

Our funding page is updated regularly

[To become a member register here](#)

SUNDERLAND CITY COUNCIL - CALL FOR PROJECTS - EAST COMMUNITY ASSETS

Sunderland City Council's East Area Committee has grants available for local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups who have a long-term lease or own a community facility in East Sunderland to submit proposals to deliver improvements to a community asset.

East Area Committee has £125,000 available and is seeking to fund at least 5 projects across the wards of DOXFORD, HENDON, MILLFIELD, RYHOPE AND ST MICHAEL'S

Please find details of the brief by accessing the following [LINK](#)

For an application form please contact community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk

Please return your completed form to the Area Arrangements Team using the email address: community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk by Monday 2nd December.

An online workshop session is scheduled to take place via Teams at 4pm on Wednesday 13th November, to attend, please access the following link [Join the meeting now](#)

This is an opportunity for you to receive information about the application process and to ask any questions.

If you would like any advice/support on completion of your application, please contact the Area Arrangements Team at community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk

BREEZ

Reducing energy costs and cutting carbon emissions is important for organisations of all sizes, operating in all sectors.

By installing energy-efficiency improvements and also implementing behavioural change initiatives the average company could reduce its energy bill by up to 25%. Organisations that cut energy costs improve viability and future-proof against energy price volatility. Organisations that improve their low carbon credentials often attract more customers.

Through the BREEZ scheme, Sunderland City Council offers eligible local businesses and 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.

For more information see the webpage; [BREEZ - Business Renewables Energy Efficiency Sunderland - Sunderland City Council](#)

LINKS FOR LIFE

Links for Life Sunderland builds on the great work which has been taking place in our communities around social prescribing.

It supports people in Sunderland to access a range of services and activities in the community to help improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Improving health is not always about pointing people towards health services and Links for Life supports people to find groups or organisations that will improve their quality of life in everything from money management to groups that provide isolated people with company - and many other non-medical ways of improving wellbeing.

A digital hub provides advice and information on a range of health and wellbeing topics as well as a directory of community activity.

www.linksforlifesunderland.co.uk is live now and available for use by anyone on the city.

Watch this short video to find out more [Links for Life Intro \(youtube.com\)](#).

How Links for Life can help your organisation

You could use Links for Life to help people improve their health and wellbeing.

That's because at www.linksforlifesunderland.co.uk you can find trusted information about local services and activities on offer in the local community to help make a lasting difference to health and wellbeing. All Links for Life partners have signed up to a set of standards, values and behaviours to provide assurance on the quality of support available.

Find out more about the benefits of joining the Links for Life Sunderland network at www.linksforlifesunderland.co.uk/members

NORTH EAST SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DAY INVITATION

What to Expect:

The theme for Social Enterprise Day 2024 is 'Sustainability: Money, Mindset, and Making a Difference.' We understand the challenges of building a purpose-driven organisation that lasts, so this year, we're highlighting social entrepreneurs who are thriving.

Whether you're looking to start or scale your impact, this event will provide valuable insights into financial sustainability, measuring impact, and the keeping your mind happy and healthy along the way!

Keynote Speaker: Sharon Boyd of I.M.P.A.C.T North East

Sharon Boyd, from I.M.P.A.C.T North East, will lead an engaging keynote session focused on mental health for social entrepreneurs. Sharon will share practical tools, from simple breathing exercises to centering techniques, to help you manage stress and prevent burnout. You'll leave with a personal plan to protect your mental health while growing your social enterprise.

Panel Discussions:

Social Enterprise Day 2024 will feature two interactive panel discussions, exploring how to balance financial sustainability with making a positive impact. Led by experts Kay Wightman of Accounting for Good CIC and Heidi Fisher of Make An Impact CIC, these discussions will dive into the practicalities of running a successful social enterprise while staying true to your mission. Panel members include: Sandeep Kapoor; Project Spice, Afi Dometi; Africa Wad, Corrina Mulholland; Gateshead Community Organisation, Ruth Watson; Ecologico, Nathan Hopkins; Woodshed Workshop.

<https://www.junctionpoint.co.uk/social-enterprise-day-2024/>