

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023

vonne.org.uk

STRENGTHENING & SUPPORTING THE SECTOR



Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended March 31st, 2023

The trustees, who are the directors of the organisation for the purpose of Company Law, present their annual director's report together with the charity's financial statements for the year ended March 31st, 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements of a director's report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice, which is applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard that applies in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Reference and administrative details

Name: Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE)

Registered Office: 4th Floor, MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8XS

Charity Registration Number: 1084083

Company Registration Number: 4061592

Names of the charity trustees at the date this report was approved:

Chair: Alison Dunn

Treasurer: Craig Henderson**, Donna Bulmer*

Trustees:

Vice Chair: Steven Duckworth

Professor Edward Kunonga, Colin Hewitt, Kerry Robinson, Alison Dunn, Steven Duckworth, Michael Fawole, Kumareswaradas Ramanathas, Jonathan Carling, Sandra Coulter, Colin Hewitt, Jane Kingston, Victoria Burnip, Adam Hill **, Craig Henderson**, Ian Dodds OBE*, Jenny Clark* and Donna Bulmer*

*retired November 2022

** appointed November 2022

Company secretary: Carol Ownsworth (nee Botten)

Key management personnel: Carol Botten, Chief Executive, and Menisha Gela, Deputy Chief Executive

Bankers: Unity Trust Bank, Four Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2JB

Accountants: Debere, Swallow House, Parsons Road, Washington, Tyne and Wear NE37 1EZ

Auditors: Read Milburn & Company, 71 Howard Street, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 1AF

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The organisation, a registered charity, is controlled by its governing document, the Articles of Association and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The VONNE board of trustees has between three and 15 members. Trustees are nominated and elected from the membership. Notice is sent to all members prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM), with each member organisation entitled to vote. Up to six trustees may be appointed by serving trustees for their particular expertise, qualifications and knowledge.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees have a full induction delivered by the chief executive and key team members prior to attending their first board meeting. They are provided with an induction pack containing all the key information about VONNE, Charity Commission guidance, role descriptions and other relevant materials.

Organisational structure

VONNE is managed by a board of trustees elected from the membership and governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The board takes all strategic decisions relating to VONNE, including:

- receiving and reviewing reports from the chief executive and company secretary
- acting as the formal employer of VONNE's staff, ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated.
- monitoring and assessing VONNE's financial position, including budget setting
- developing, reviewing and monitoring VONNE's strategic plan and annual work plan, to influence and direct VONNE's work
- agreeing and reviewing appropriate policies and ensuring VONNE meets its legal responsibilities
- communicating relevant information and views gathered outside VONNE to staff and trustees. There's a finance and general purpose sub-group that reports to the board on finance, internal policy and human resources issues.

Risk management

Trustees reviewed the risk register this year and monitor it regularly, with a full review carried out annually. Trustees are confident that risks have been identified, appropriate preventative measures are in place and remedial activities are available. VONNE's financial processes are regularly reviewed, both by the board and externally, to ensure they continue to be robust.

Indemnity insurance

VONNE has professional indemnity insurance cover, in respect of the trustees and officers of the charity.

VONNE'S Mission



To support the **development** and **sustainability** of a **strong, effective** and **well governed Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector**, and promote **engagement**, **involvement** and **collaboration** with the sector as a valued partner.



VONNE's strategic aims 2019-2023

- To be the expert source of knowledge and intelligence on the VCSE sector in the North East with a particular focus on the existing and emerging needs of the people and communities it serves.
- To be a source of information to the VCSE sector on issues that impact upon it.
- To raise the North East sector's profile and be a leading voice for it.
- To support external stakeholders to effectively engage and collaborate with the VCSE community, through effective system change and new approaches.
- To support the North East VCSE sector to be effective, ambitious and enterprising.
- To be an effective and sustainable organisation.

VONNE's values



**We strive for
excellence**



**We value
Transparency**



**We champion
inclusivity and
fairness**



**We encourage
learning and
sharing**

Public benefit

VONNE's objectives provide benefit to the public in North East England (area of benefit) by promoting and supporting the effectiveness of voluntary and community organisations.

Trustees of VONNE confirm they've 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 VONNE's work directly supports and strengthens the North East VCSE community with guidance and information, and increases its ability to influence policy and practice in the region.



VONNE Membership

Our 1,386 members allow us to continue our work to strengthen and support the North East's VCSE sector. Our members give us a collective voice that enables us to represent our sector regionally and nationally.

We brought members voices more fully into our work through our [Member and Stakeholder surveys](#), which gave great insights into what we're doing well as well as highlighting key areas for improvement. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete the survey - we used the feedback to help shape our work, including the development of our new website. Core membership has increased by over six per cent since last year.

[Membership+](#) is our paid for membership scheme, which gives members access to a range of enhanced benefits. Nearly 27 per cent of our members are also Membership+ supporters. Income from fees contributes to core running costs, with every penny re-invested into our work. Membership+ numbers increased by over 15 per cent since last year.



VONNE Jobs

Our Job Finder service had another successful year - we advertised over 1,200 job and trustee vacancies in sector organisations across the region through the year.

The [jobs pages](#) on our website received an average of around 22,000 page views each month, while our weekly ebulletin was sent to over 3,200 subscribers and @VONNEJobs Twitter had more than more than 2,700 followers.

As part of our commitment to champion better recruitment practices in the North East VCSE sector, we continued to support key campaigns such as [#ShowTheSalary](#) and [#OpenToAll](#). #ShowTheSalary is a national campaign to always include salaries in job adverts to promote transparency and encourage fairer wages across the VCSE sector. #OpenToAll means employers not asking for a degree in job adverts unless one is essential for the role. Both initiatives aim to remove barriers to entry to roles in the VCSE sector.



Enhanced Recruitment Services

Our enhanced recruitment services, which includes salary benchmarking, a trustee finder service and enhanced recruitment support has continue to provide support to a number of member organisations this year. Levels of demand increased for our salary benchmarking service as organisations restructured following Covid-19. We look forward to further growing this area of work in the coming years.



**1,300+
members**

**8,300 ebulletin
subscribers**

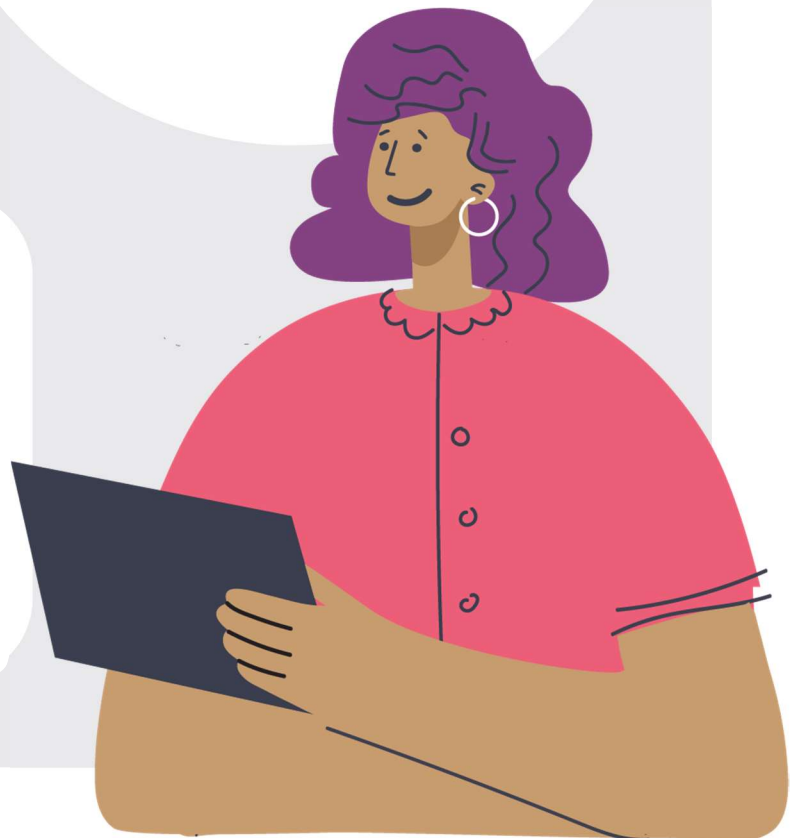


**22,000
monthly
website
views**



**Over 600
organisations
engaged in our
projects work.**

**1,200 job
vacancies
listed.**



Information and Intelligence

We **raise the profile of the sector** and ensure it is valued as an **equal partner**. We're an **expert source of intelligence** on the sector and provide information to the VCSE community on issues that affect it.





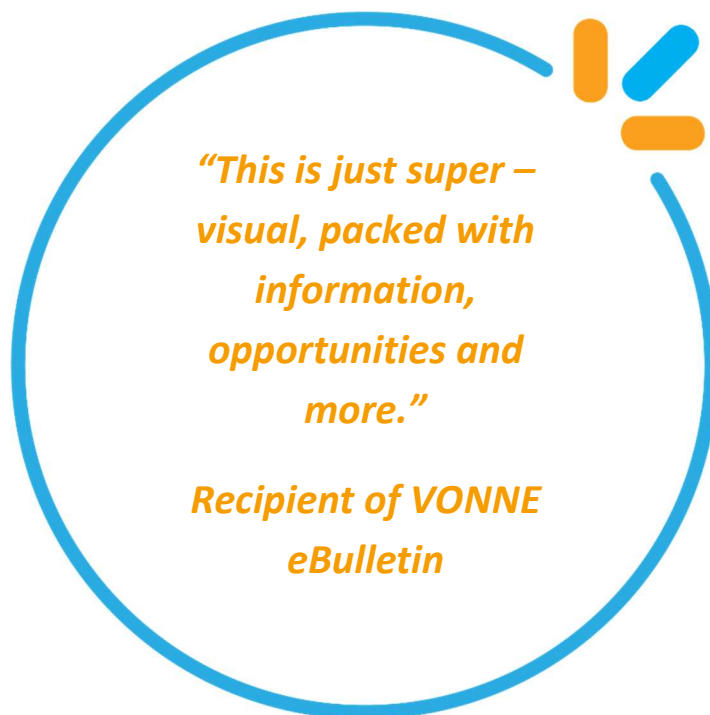
Our communication channels

We keep North East VCSE organisations informed about key information through our social media channels and a number of regular eBulletins, including VONNEnews, VONNEJobs, FINE and Health & Wellbeing ebulletins.

Last year we sent a total of 116 ebulletins to more than 8,300 opted-in subscribers. Engagement remained consistent with a high interest in VONNE news and opinion articles, particularly around recruitment.

We developed our social media branding and increased our engagement on LinkedIn, resulting in a 56% increase in followers.

We started planning the development of a new VONNE website, which will be launched in May 2023 and have improved accessibility, user-led journeys and information about VONNE's work and values.



VCS Emergencies Partnership

VONNE continued in our role as regional Local Lead for the VCS Emergencies Partnership project, which shares local intelligence with regional and national structures to inform emergency responses and influence policy decisions. During the year 2022-23 we have disseminated key messages relating to the Cost of Living crisis, support for Ukrainian and other refugees and opportunities for capacity awareness and training on emergency responses, preparedness and resilience to the North East VCSE sector to inform the mobilisation of regional support.

"VONNE takes the sectors voice into rooms and networks where it had not previously been heard – well done – that isn't easy to be achieved. Keep up the good work."





UK Shared Prosperity Fund

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) launched in April 2022, and in the 12 months that followed VONNE shared key intelligence and information with the sector, built strong relationships with the lead authorities for UKSPF in the region, and enabled engagement and consultation with the sector through our networks and specific events.

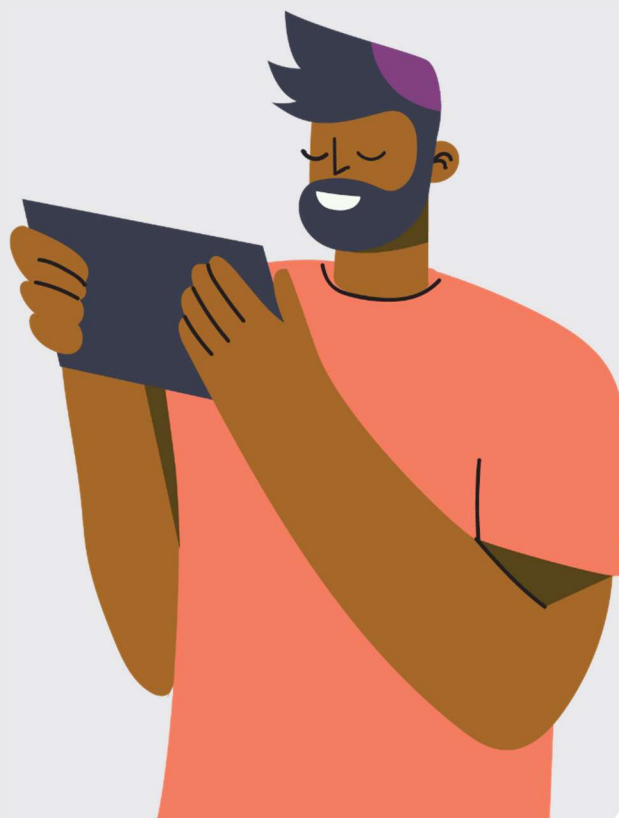
We have worked collaboratively with North of Tyne Combined Authority and other lead authorities to scope and influence potential delivery and programme models. VONNE continues to represent the VCSE sector on the North of Tyne Combined Authority UK Shared Prosperity Fund Partnership Group and provides regular UKSPF updates to our networks and through our communications channels.

What our members think about us

In a members and stakeholder survey held this year, **84% of members** agreed that VONNE effectively acts as an **expert source of knowledge and intelligence** for the VCSE sector.

Sharing information and intelligence

This year, we've been involved in over **35 networks** where we promote **engagement, involvement, and collaboration** with the VCSE sector as a valued partner.



Partnership and collaboration

We **facilitate networks** to **strengthen the VCSE sector** and act as a 'connector', **bringing people and organisations together** to make things happen.





Networks

We provide learning opportunities and encourage collaboration through our Membership+ supporter scheme and CEO Peer Support Network, which is a benefit of silver and gold Membership+ that usually meets monthly. The network, which is open to the CEOs of silver and gold Membership+ supporters enables leaders to share challenges and support each other in a 'safe space'.

We facilitate the North East and Cumbria Funders' Network, through which we share information and support funders to collaborate and better support grant applicants. In 2022/23 we have focused on EDI in grant making practice, reflected on the findings from Third Sector Trends research, the impact of the cost-

of-living crisis on sector organisations and the people and communities they serve. In addition, we have continued to provide a forum for network members to share information on the funding landscape and support and encourage collaboration between funders with a particular focus on support to youth sector organisations.



We're a key partner of the North of Tyne Combined Authority Inclusive Economy Board, and within the North East LEP, on which our CEO serves as a board member, we also represent the sector on the North East Skills Advisory Panel. We facilitate the VCSE Skills, Inclusion and Employment Network to feed in and

back to these structures.

"If I'd thrown out that challenge to any other region in the country, people would still be sitting in a room discussing the reasons why it wouldn't be possible... Look what you've achieved here!"

We've facilitated the North East Building Better Opportunities (BBO) Network documenting the key findings, learning and recommendations from the programme. We have brought the BBO projects together with representatives from both the North East LEP, North of Tyne Combined Authority and Tees Valley Combined Authority to ensure learning and legacy can be fed into UKSPF plans and wider employability provision and policy.

In 2022 we launched the North East VCSE Policy Forum, working in partnership with IPPR North and funded by the Millfield House Foundation. The Policy Forum provides a vehicle to ensure a unified VCSE sector voice to policy makers at a local, regional and national level either by scrutinising and responding to emerging policies and legislation or by pro-actively engaging in the development of regional policies or strategies.

As members of the North East Child Poverty Commission, we worked with other members, VCSE organisations and other regional bodies to demand urgent government action to address the levels of child poverty in the region.

We support networks of Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) across the region, bringing them together both to facilitate joint working, and to disseminate relevant policy information from VONNE to their grassroots member groups.

Continuing partnership projects include:

- **Digital Pathfinders**, a three-year cross sector partnership which aims to encourage digital adoption across sectors. VONNE acts as the VCSE partner and offers access to free, independent, high quality, digital expertise through events, training masterclasses and 12 hours of bespoke one to one support.
- **Local Access Redcar & Cleveland and Hartlepool (LARCH)**, which is tackling localised community inequality in the Tees Valley's social economy through enterprise development support and access to blended social investment. The five-year LARCH programme moved into its second year from Jan 22, and received over 70 enquiries from VCSE organisations and individuals. LARCH is innovative in its implementation, from informal support provided by our partnership to funded business support, mentoring, coaching, or training that best meets the needs of our target groups. The programme has awarded funds and continuing to work closely with 8 clients who are at the beginning of their development journey. In Year 2 we have had a focus on developing our learning of how the programme support has influenced and created a culture change, enabling the sector to become more financially resilient and sustainable.
- The **VONNE Climate Action Alliance**, which successfully secured National Lottery Community Fund and County Durham Community Foundation funding to launch the next stage of our **Going Green Together** programme. Building upon the original website (www.goinggreentogether.org) launched in September 2021, the Going Green Together project is divided into three new programmes.
 - Think Green Together offers open access tools, resources and events, alongside subsidised Carbon Literacy Training.
 - Become Green Together is an intensive 12-month support programme, providing tools and guidance for VCSE organisations to create and implement environmental sustainability strategies, gain accreditation with Investors in the Environment, and calculate and reduce their carbon footprint.

- Act Green Together is a seed fund programme supporting organisations to co-design new climate action projects with local beneficiaries from marginalised, disadvantaged, and under-represented communities.

We have been engaging participants into each of these strands over the past year and gathering learning about their needs and environmental journeys. As the first programme of its kind in England, we are sharing our learning with other regions and working collaboratively with others to explore the potential for scaling up or replicating this work elsewhere.

- The cross-sectoral **North East England Climate Coalition (NEECCo)**, hosted by VONNE, continues to work towards a regional approach to address the climate emergency, ecological collapse and the need for a just transition working across a number of areas including built environment, land use and agriculture, waste & resources, retrofitting housing, indicators, and sustainable finance.
- **Developing a VCSE community hub with the MEA Trust at MEA House:** Engagement and development work has continued with the MEA House community to help create a hub for the VCSE sector.



Health and Wellbeing

VONNE is the lead partner in the **North East and North Cumbria (NENC) VCSE Partnership Programme**, an NHS England and NHS Improvement-instigated scheme supporting the VCSE community to create alliances to facilitate a coordinated VCSE voice at Integrated Care System (ICS) level, and have greater strategic influence in emerging ICS governance structures resulting from the white paper, Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all, which set out legislation to move ICSs onto a statutory footing. We have secured confirmation of funding from the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for 2023/24 including dedicated funds for reimbursement of VCSE representatives involved in ICS strategic meetings. We continue to facilitate VCSE representation on both ICS boards to further embed the VCSE within the system.

The Partnership Programme hosts a growing **Health and Wellbeing Network**, sharing information via a 3-weekly Health and Wellbeing bulletin, with membership increasing from 264 to 628 over the year 2022/23. Partnership Forum meetings are held bi-monthly for senior VCSE managers responsible for organisational policy and strategy. The forum hosts a variety of guest speakers including Claire Riley Executive Director of Corporate Governance, Communications and Involvement, and the members act as a representative group with whom external stakeholders can engage. A VONNE Health and Wellbeing twitter account was set up to utilise the reach of social media, which has grown to 425 followers.

The programme also launched its Executive Group in October, consisting of democratically nominated representatives from all sub-groups, external network partners and infrastructure organisations to gain broad geographic and thematic input from the whole sector across ICS footprint, to discuss and agree key collective issues, themes and messages to share at the strategic forums they sit within.

We have supported the development of coordinated relationships with NHS workstreams, and continue to work with the ICB to create links into the programme sub-groups, of which there are now 10, including a Workforce sub-group led by the new Health Partnerships Strategic Manager, who is the VCSE representative on the ICB People Committee.

The programme structure was tested successfully with a concern around VCSE contracts raised at a sub-group in January, which was escalated to the Partnership Forum and then raised by the VCSE representative at the ICB Board meeting, resulting in plans for the programme to work directly with the ICB to support improved arrangements and timescales for all.

The **Health & Wellbeing Research Partnerships Coordinator** post, funded by a partnership with the Creating Connections research network, commenced in July to facilitate improved relationships between the VCSE and research, and to strengthen VCSE understanding and ability to direct research in support of improved outcomes for beneficiaries.

This work has been highly successful and the Coordinator facilitated the inclusion and support of VCSE organisations within the national **Research Engagement Network Development project**, in which the Partnership Programme was a key partner alongside the ICS, supporting £84,000 of the £100,000 total funding to be invested directly into the VCSE sector to support the engagement of children and young people within mental health research.

VONNE represents the VCSE within the Healthier and Fairer Group, previously known as the NENC ICS Health Inequalities Advisory Group and Operational Group, with the Health Partnerships Strategic Manager Co-Chairing the Healthy Communities and Social Prescribing Steering Group. In October 2022, the ICB confirmed investment of £300k per year for this workstream for 2023/4 and 2024/5. The majority of this funding will be invested through local infrastructure partners to build capacity and resilience of social prescribing across the North East and North Cumbria region.

VONNE is the North East & Yorkshire regional lead for the **National Academy for Social Prescribing (NASP) Thriving Communities Programme**, a national programme for voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) groups supporting communities most impacted by Covid-19. During the year we have delivered regional 'Learning Together' programmes involving over 170 VCFSE leaders, to share learning, gain ideas, access funding and develop partnerships across sectors. We will be continuing and expanding the programme during 2022/23.

Our Health and Wellbeing Associate is the **NENC Social Prescribing Facilitator**, working with NHS England and Improvement to provide strategic support to embed social prescribing across health settings working with the VCSE and wider stakeholders. We have established and support a NENC social prescribing virtual network bringing together regional and local NHS partners with VCSE.

We secured additional funding via the North East & North Cumbria ICS to support expanding the network in 2022/23 to become a Healthy Communities and Social Prescribing Network to foster greater collaboration and partnerships to support social prescribing and tackling health inequalities.

In addition, further investment was secured under the **NENC Healthy Communities and Social Prescribing Programme** to host a NENC Community Connector Programme to aid collaboration/ sharing of learning from Health & Covid Champions in Gateshead and Middlesbrough with Local Authorities across the North East and North Cumbria, as well as 27 months of funding to support the development of social prescribing and engagement of the VCSE organisations in local social prescribing models and networks across the region.

During the year we received additional **NHSE Personalised Care resource** to support work to encourage development of social prescribing for children and young people and to lead on a piece of research and development work exploring unpaid carers experiences of the discharge from hospital process for the person they care for. Northumbria University were commissioned to undertake the research work which will be completed during 2023.

VONNE is co-lead for a North East pilot project '**Reading for Wellbeing**' supported by the author Ann Cleaves, who has donated funds matched by 6 local authorities to recruit 9 community reading workers, supporting people to access books and reading to improve their health and wellbeing. In February 2023 a Celebration event hosted with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities showcased the value of the programme. Several other Local Authority areas within and outside of the North East region are interested in developing the programme in their areas which will be the focus of work in 2023/24.

The Health and Wellbeing team has restructured to reflect the increased workload, integration into health structures and planned retirement of the Health and Wellbeing Associate in April 2023, resulting in the creation of four new externally-funded posts; VCSE Engagement Coordinator, Health Partnerships Strategic Manager, Health Champion Project Manager and a part time Health and Wellbeing Projects Support Officer post, all of which commenced in 22/23.





Digital and Innovation

This year VONNE has continued our support for the sector with digital and innovation through our ERDF funded Catalysing Innovation project, working with the Innovation Super Network; the Digital Pathfinders programme; and support for the sector with digital inclusion. Working with external stakeholders this year we held workshops for the sector on:

- Project Management methodologies
- Design Thinking and how to adopt them in a VCSE organisation
- Doing recruitment differently roundtable where organisations could share best practice to overcome the sector-wide challenge.
- Two Easyfundraising webinars to support organisations to diversify their income with innovative fundraising through retailers.
- Two North East Ambition Information sessions to raise awareness about the workforce development support available to organisations through the Education Trust's project.
- Communicating the Climate Crisis with ACT Climate Labs to help organisations identify misinformation and develop their communications strategy around the climate crisis.

Within the Digital Pathfinders programme we held workshops on a variety of topics including digital fundraising, cyber security, data and many more. This year we hosted 8 masterclasses and engaged 54 organisations in the programme.

During this year we continued our work in digital inclusion including involvement in workshops and activities to support the development of Digital Inclusion strategies with the North East Local Enterprise Partnership and the Tees Valley Combined Authority.



Support and resilience



We provide the sector with up to date and relevant funding information through our **Funding Information North East (FINE)** ebulletin and searchable funding directory.

We also encourage and support sector organisations to actively consider and development more diverse income streams including earned and contract income and social investment.

Through the NE and Cumbria Funders Network we also work to increase understanding among funders, social investors, and statutory bodies of the sector's needs.



Last year, we:

- continued our community support and engagement work with Northern Powergrid, facilitating their *Future Fairness Panel* of representatives from VCSE organisations across the north, and sitting on their Social Experts Advisory Group and main Stakeholder Panel;
- sponsored the North East Charity Awards encouraging organisations to nominate themselves and for the wider sector and region, to celebrate and promote the sector's vital work across the region within and beyond the pandemic;
- Initiated work relating to People & Culture with VCSE organisations, hosting roundtables and explored the appetite for a Learning Community for organisations to identify common challenges, develop joint solution and share best practice.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The 2022/23 financial year saw further growth of overall income (124%) and expenditure (73%) from the previous financial year, due in part to new project development and funding for our work addressing the climate emergency, engaging the VCSE sector with the ICS, Personalised Care and Health Communities & Social Prescribing funding and the continuation of other significant projects such as LARCH and Digital Pathfinders. Our core earned income from membership fees, job advertising and recruitment services increased again during this financial year with job advertising performing particularly well.

At year end, we achieved a £21,393 surplus on the general unrestricted fund, after transfers from our designated funds. We ended the year with a significant surplus of £678,937 in our restricted funds. We spent out the existing restricted funds relating to a number of projects but received further restricted income in continuation funding for several projects, which increased the funds held in restricted reserves back up to £831,908. We anticipate that all restricted funds as at 31 March 2023 will be utilised in 2023/24.

Accounting for unspent restricted funds, the overall surplus for the year is £621,480. We spent some designated funds consistent with our strategic objectives and against allocations made towards the end of the previous financial year. The trustees have prepared forecasts for 2023-2026 to consider the potential impact on VONNE of possible scenarios on funding, alongside measures that can be taken to mitigate this. Based on these assessments and the current reserves position, the trustees have concluded they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.



Reserves policy

VONNE believes it's important to maintain a reserves policy to ensure effective resource management, and to enable financial viability and longer-term sustainability. Four key elements have been taken into consideration to assess a realistic reserve level. These are:

- The reliability of current income sources and new income opportunities
- Expenditure on planned activities
- Future needs, contingencies and risks
- Consequences of being unable to meet forecast needs.

VONNE has no endowment funding and has no significant capital assets it could earn from, or dispose of, to realise additional income. Significant levels of activity are funded through grants or contracts from the public and charitable sectors, but these resources are generally time-limited and usually restricted by the funder. Uncertainties are compounded by the ongoing economic impact of the cost-of-living crisis/ high inflation levels on VCSE sector organisations and wider political instability. In addition, the board considers there to be a higher level of uncertainty around funding and income streams for infrastructure organisations. As a consequence, a conservative reserves policy is considered the most appropriate.

The VONNE board uses a continual process of careful financial management, and will aim to review, establish and maintain adequate reserves to enable the organisation to function effectively. A cautious approach to investment is adopted, maximising income by using interest-earning, short-term, accessible bank accounts.

Annually, the board will review the amount of funds designated for specific purposes, such as maternity and sickness salary cover, redundancy liability, and organisational development funds (outlined in full below). In addition, the board agrees to hold general unrestricted reserves to cover organisational running costs for between 6 and 12 months, with a target of 9 months, to continue VONNE's activities should anticipated income not be received.



Designated funds

The current total amount of funds designated for specific purposes is £165,833 (see below for further detail). Over and above this, VONNE holds a total of £113,325 in general unrestricted reserves, which would be sufficient to continue VONNE's core activities for 6.5 months should anticipated income not be received.

Since core costs change from year to year and have such an influence over the total level of reserves required, all elements of this policy will be reviewed bi-annually each June and December, or more frequently if requested by the board.

The trustees wish to allocate the unrestricted closing reserve level of £279,158 in the following manner:

Project development and innovation fund and innovation fund A project development fund to support new initiatives and unforeseen project activities to strengthen the VCSE sector in the North East or the sustainability of VONNE.	£10,000
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Innovation Clusters Match Fund To meet the ongoing costs of repairing and replacing capital equipment, and in particular, IT equipment.	£4,166
Repair and renewals fund To meet the ongoing costs of repairing and replacing capital equipment, and in particular, IT equipment.	£2,500
Staff contingencies and liability fund To meet unexpected staffing costs related to parental leave, sickness leave and other periods of absence and to cover current redundancy liability for individuals whose posts may be lost during a restructure, or as a result of funding streams coming to an end. Redundancy costs are calculated on the basis of current weekly pay.	£51,367
Organisational development fund To meet the development costs of new income generation/sustainability activities for VONNE, including significant staff development investments. Any activities funded would include a proportion of related staff costs.	£10,000
Website Development To meet the costs of the new website build in 2022/23 to provide better content, useability and customer service for our members and the wider VCSE sector. These costs will be amortised over the following 3 years.	£42,000
Organisational Restructure Fund To fund new core roles in VONNE to enable greater capacity for delivery of core & membership services as we grow our core income streams	£43,000
Office reconfiguration To meet the costs of longer-term reconfigurations to the VONNE office to enable a more flexible working space.	£2,800
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS	£165,833
Unrestricted (free) reserves	£113,325



Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of VONNE for the purposes of Company Law) are responsible for preparing the report of the trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company, and of the income and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period.



In preparing these statements, trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare financial statements on an ongoing concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company, to enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company, and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware;
- and the trustees have taken all steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Auditors

The auditors Read Milburn & Company will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the board:

Alison Dunn (Chair)

Thank you!

Thank you to all of our funders, partners, collaborators, colleagues and most of all our members.

2022/2023 VONNE funders:



Millfield House
Foundation



SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST



Community
Foundation

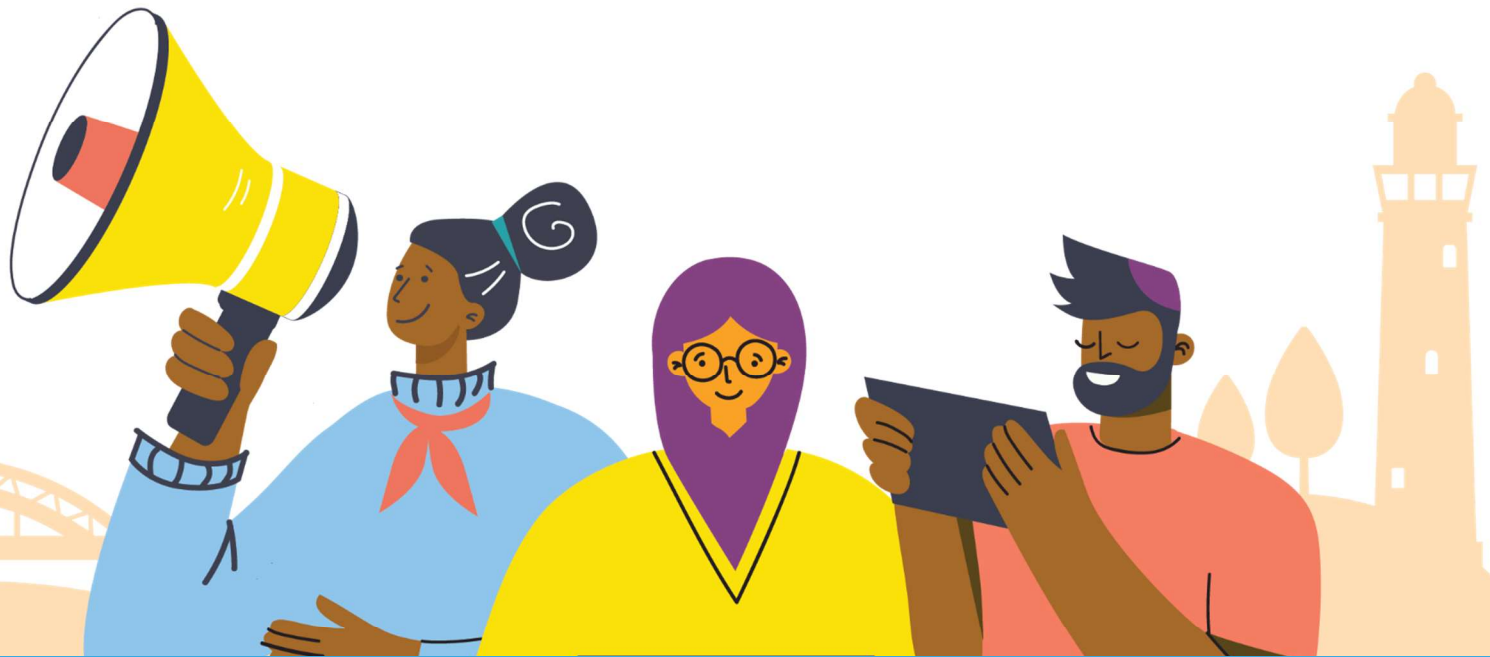


and FINE grant funders Hadrian Trust, RW Mann Trust, Rothley Trust and the Barbour Foundation.



VONNE

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS' NETWORK NORTH EAST



STRENGTHENING & SUPPORTING THE SECTOR

vonne.org.uk

0191 233 2000

vonne@vonne.org.uk

4th Floor, MEA House, Ellison Place, Newcastle
upon Tyne, NE1 8XS