



# VONNE

voluntary organisations' network north east

## Strengthening the sector

## Supporting the region



Annual review

1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019

We have over 1,200 members of all shapes and sizes across the North East. Our members give us our mandate to advocate on behalf of the sector regionally and nationally.

Our Membership+ supporters enable us to continue our work strengthening and supporting the North East voluntary, community and social enterprise sector.

Thank you.



Join our club

## VONNE Jobs

Our job and trustee advertising services continue to grow and develop. Our jobs pages receive an average of 20,000 page views per month and last year we advertised over **1,050 job and trustee vacancies** in sector organisations across the North East.



"We renewed our VONNE membership yesterday, we've had massive success from the VONNE recruitment service in the past when seeking Board members and wouldn't be without it in our recruitment campaigns."

Jason Fox,  
Organisational Development Manager, Livin

## What we do

We support the development and sustainability of a strong, effective and well governed voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and promote engagement, involvement and collaboration with the sector as a valued partner.



## New member services

Last year we launched three new services to support the sector. All have received great feedback:



**Recruitment service to support you with the job application process**



**Trustee finder to help you find the right person for your board**



**Salary benchmarking service providing you with insight into fair wages in the region**

“This recruitment was our first as a fairly new (and very small) charity... Right from the start, it felt like Angela and the rest of the VONNE team were on top of it – in the inception meeting I felt they understood the importance of this to us and were very clear about what they would do and when – and they kept all their promises about that.”

Simon James,  
Chief Executive,  
The Josephine and Jack project

**FIND OUT  
HOW WE CAN  
HELP YOU!**

[recruitment@vonne.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@vonne.org.uk)

## 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 sector on the issues that affect it.

### Being informed

Our ebulletins inform the North East sector on relevant news and events, provide up to date funding opportunities, advertise job and trustee vacancies and cover updates on criminal justice and health and wellbeing.

Last year we sent our ebulletins to over 8,200 subscribers.

### North East Brexit Group

Our role in the North East Brexit Group means we are up to date on developments and research on the impact of Brexit, and we pass that intelligence onto the sector.

The development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) presents a significant opportunity to develop a local growth funding initiative with a key objective of reducing inequalities. We have worked to influence the design and delivery of the UK SPF for the benefit of North East communities and ensured the North East sector's voice was heard in national conversations around Brexit.

- We met with Philip Alston, Extreme Poverty and Human Rights UN Special Rapporteur, to tell him about the impacts of Brexit on the North East and opportunities for addressing inequalities through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
  - We hosted a visit from Lord Callanan, Minister from Department for Exiting the EU, to discuss the potential impacts, challenges and opportunities from Brexit for the North East sector
- We separately discussed with the department the importance of ESF funding to enable organisations to support those furthest from the labour market to move towards employment, and the likely challenges facing the sector as a result of Brexit
- We were interviewed by ITV Tyne Tees North East Tonight on the likely impacts of Brexit on charities in the region

# Partnerships and collaboration

We facilitate networks to strengthen the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and act as a 'connector', bringing people and organisations together to make things happen.

## Networks

- We provide networking and peer learning opportunities for Chief Executives through our Membership+ supporter scheme and networking breakfasts
- We facilitate the North East and Cumbria Funders Network where we continue to support funders to share information and work more collaboratively to better support grant applicants
- We are a member of the Network's Collaboration and Better Governance groups. The Collaboration group organised a Collaboration Fair, and developed a North East Collaboration Charter and Action Learning Set. The Better Governance group supported events to attract more diverse audiences into trusteeship and training for new trustees and peer-support networks for existing trustees

## Health and Wellbeing

VONNE's Health and Wellbeing Associate is the North East Social Prescribing Facilitator working with NHS England and the national Social Prescribing Network.

We represent the sector as a strategic partner within the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS), the country's largest serving more than three million people.

- We led for the North East in establishing the North East Yorks & Humber Social Prescribing Network (with a membership of over 450) and the NE Social Prescribing Network Steering Group, with an ambition to make social prescribing part of the mainstream health and care offer in the region

- We co-produced and delivered the third North East, Yorkshire & Humber Social Prescribing Network Conference and the first North East Social Prescribing Network Conference
- We supported health and care professionals to engage in 'Funding and Commissioning in Complexity' events co-produced with Building Health Partnership partners and Collaborate

"Public Health England North East Centre's Health and Wellbeing team continue to work closely with VONNE to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities in the North East.

We appreciate the valuable role VONNE have in ensuring the community have a voice and addressing health inequalities, and we look forward to continuing to support them to promote and mobilise our community assets, and support the infrastructure to enable them to grow."

**Michelle Mancini,**  
Health and Wellbeing Support Manager, PHE North East Health and Wellbeing Team



# Partnerships and collaboration

## Criminal justice

Our partnership with Clinks ensures the voluntary sector in the North East is kept up to date with changes to criminal justice policy and provides the opportunity for a North East voice in Clinks policy responses.

- We organised three successful criminal justice forums; bringing together multi sector organisations to help them understand changes in policy, share good practice and learn about other projects across the North East

- We represented the sector on a number of strategic boards including Durham and Cleveland Reducing Reoffending group, Prison and Offender Research in Social Care and Health (PORSCH) and Local Offender Partnership
- We supported the Making Every Adult Matter (MEAM) approach networks in Sunderland and Redcar as well as supporting Newcastle Gateshead Fulfilling Lives



## Support and resilience

We provide the sector with funding information and encourage consideration of different funding streams. We also work to increase understanding of the sector needs amongst funders.

- We worked with Collaborate and Newcastle University Business School to host Funding and Commissioning in Complexity: Putting it into practice. Over 70 delegates from across the sector, public sector commissioners and funders explored new ways of working and best practice
- We supported the North East Fundraising Conference which brought together over 150 delegates to celebrate the best fundraising practice, skills and knowledge, in partnership with the Institute of Fundraising North East and Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- We sent 24 editions of our Funding Information North East ebulletin to over 300 people, helping organisations access funding to continue their invaluable work

70

Over 70 delegates explored new ways of working and best practice.

150

150 delegates celebrated the best fundraising practice, skills and knowledge at the North East Fundraising Conference.

300

300 people received our funding information ebulletin.

## Social investment

With funding from Connect Fund, VONNE has been working to unlock social investment for organisations that it is right for, to reduce their grant dependency and free up grant funding for other organisations in the sector.

Hosted the first ever Good Finance Live event with **16 social investors attending** to meet charities and social enterprises from across the country to discuss their investment needs.

Ran a series of Growth and Resilience events for over **40 organisations** to hear from their peers in the sector about experiences of social investment.

Facilitated a meeting between social investors and charitable funders from the NE and Cumbria Funders Network with Big Society Capital, to explore the potential for better collaborative working. This resulted in a working group **developing tools and resources to support grant funders and social investors to work in partnership.**

## Finances

### VONNE finances 2018-2019

Summary information for year-end 31 March 2019.

The majority of VONNE's income is derived from earned income and public and charitable bodies, which provides funding for core services and projects. Core costs are partially received through the implementation of full cost recovery.

A full set of published accounts are available upon request.

<b>Income</b>	
Grants	42,160
Earned income & donations	78,379
Bank interest	4,100
<b>Project income</b>	
Grants	53,750
Earned income	108,089
<b>Total income</b>	<b>286,478</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Staff costs	226,257
Project costs	41,667
Operational & support costs	47,090
Governance costs	3,108
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>318,122</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit</b>	<b>-31,644</b>

# Our funders

Ballinger Charitable Trust,  
Barbour Trust, Barrow Cadbury  
Trust, Be The Change Network,  
Big Lottery Fund, Clinks,  
Community Foundation Tyne  
& Wear and Northumberland,  
Connect Fund, County Durham  
Community Foundation,  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation,

European Regional Development Fund,  
Hadrian Trust, The Joicey Trust,  
Millfield House Foundation,  
National Lottery Community Fund,  
Northern Powergrid, North of  
England Commissioning Support,  
The Rothley Trust, RW Mann Trust,  
Sir James Knott Trust.

# Our board

Sir Paul Ennals CBE (Chair)  
Ways to Wellness

David Barker MBE (Vice Chair)  
Springboard

Donna Bulmer (Treasurer)  
Haines Watts

Ian Dodds OBE  
The Cedarwood Trust

Alison Dunn  
Gateshead Citizens Advice Bureau

Kasia Kurowska  
Newcastle University

Jenny McAteer  
Groundswell

David Robinson  
LD:NorthEast

Mike Pratt  
Northumberland Wildlife Trust

Steve Rose  
Catalyst Stockton-on-Tees

Fiona Wharton  
Wrigleys Solicitors

# Contact

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

0191 233 2000  
vonne@vonne.org.uk  
www.vonne.org.uk  
@VONNENews  
@VONNEJobs



Registered Charity No: 1084083

A Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England No: 4061592