



ncva | Northumberland
Community &
Voluntary Action
In the community for the community

FUNDING

GOVERNANCE

EMPLOYMENT

VOLUNTEERING

NETWORKS

In the community, for the community

NCVA exists to enable the community, voluntary organisations and charities to develop and succeed. To do so we provide expert advice, training and information. We provide a voice for the voluntary sector and help to build partnerships.

Working with people in Northumberland to improve lives, we:

- **PROMOTE** Volunteering and community activity
- **CHAMPION** the voluntary sector, giving a voice to and highlighting the efforts of people working in their communities
- **HELP** people find volunteering opportunities and help organisations find volunteers
- **ENABLE** people to develop skills, become more employable and find jobs
- **RUN** voluntary programmes to help older people retain their independence
- **EMPOWER** people organising voluntary groups and charities in the community
- **ASSIST** voluntary groups, organisations and charities to operate legally and effectively, and to find trustees
- **GUIDE** voluntary groups and local charities to find funding for their work
- **ORGANISE** networks and bring community organisations into partnerships that amplify their reach and enable them to learn from each other
- **PROVIDE** practical services available to community groups and local charities that small organisations cannot have 'in house'

Chairs Report



It is with a mix of pride and sorrow that I address our members and supporters. Ideally, this message would come from Rodney James, but his unfortunate passing in late 2023 has placed me in a position to possibly fill his role. Rodney was a person of intelligence, intuition, and compassion. His commitment to communities left a tangible impact, especially on WCVS and later on NCVA. We extend our condolences to Rodney's family and friends; he will be greatly missed.

This Annual Report underscores NCVA's ongoing efforts, highlighting its significance within the broader community and for our members. I express gratitude to NCVA staff and the board for their hard work during what has been, and may continue to be, a challenging period.

Under Caroline's leadership and with the board's support, NCVA has tirelessly supported organisations and individuals post-COVID. Their assistance spans fundraising, constitutional guidance, training, policy advice, networks, information platforms, volunteering opportunities, social and digital inclusion, and employability support. Operating in a challenging financial climate, our goal is to ensure no one in our communities is left behind.

With this in mind, I present our vision for the future. To those reading this report—NCVA members, the board, and staff—I emphasize the need

to prioritize the community. It's crucial to convey this message to everyone we encounter. We must collectively be more discerning in understanding the genuine needs of our communities, encompassing economic wellbeing, health, mental wellbeing, tolerance, and efficient ways to support those unable to support themselves.

Collaboration with government entities, whether national, regional, or local, is vital. Isolationism poses challenges for the communities we aim to support. Given the financial constraints, NCVA should serve as a central hub, linking available funding sources—central, private, or third sector—with the actual needs. Resources must align with needs, and we can provide valuable insights to various bodies, working to connect them and third sector organisations for cost-effective, empirically effective, and comprehensive support.

I believe NCVA can be the central hub, guiding and leading efforts to bring communities together. However, this requires collective effort, pooling our knowledge to understand the needs of all community members. Despite the challenging environment, I am confident that the sector and NCVA can lead in developing community infrastructure.

I wish you success in your future endeavours and thank you for your support to NCVA. I hope this report showcases NCVA's strengths, instilling confidence in our shared commitment.

NCVA is what is these days referred to as an 'infrastructure organisation' serving Northumberland.

An 'infrastructure organisation' enables organisations that directly offer services to people and communities do so more effectively. In this case NCVA serves voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations. Our members are those organisations, rather than individuals.

The services NCVA provides are known as 'infrastructure services'. This includes helping organisations here in Northumberland to win funding, build capacity, supporting their development, sharing knowledge, experiences and best practice, and the co-ordination of partnerships and networks that deliver more than an organisation can deliver alone.

As an infrastructure organisation we also offer support and mentoring, help develop skills and spread knowledge. NCVA promotes volunteering and community action and is a voice advocating for VCSE organisations throughout Northumberland.

But it's not just about providing services. Voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises are shaped by the community needs that they were created to serve. They are flexible and fluid, changing with those needs and responding to new challenges as they arise. This is one reason partnerships involving VCSE bodies offer more than the sum of their parts and why infrastructure organisations like NCVA work to provide the conditions and support that enable them to flourish.

Caroline Rogan CEO writes:

Over the last twelve months, we have faced formidable challenges stemming from reduced funding, increasing demands and limited resources. Undeterred by these hurdles, the NCVA team has exhibited unwavering commitment, addressing the diverse needs of our organisations and the community we serve.

As the impact of new funding alternatives hits our sector, we have played a pivotal role in disseminating crucial information via social media platforms, and offering support and advice to organisations, individuals, and groups. Serving as a hub for vital infrastructure services to enable the sector to grasp these opportunities and deliver essential services.

We have facilitated networks which provide a linked-up approach to addressing and delivering effective provision of services, forums for transparent discussions and support to access different funding streams. We hold positions in strategic partnerships locally and regionally to ensure our members and communities needs are escalated and represented, ensuring every voice is heard.

Looking ahead, NCVA will remain unapologetic in showcasing the sector's work and providing a collaborative information-sharing hub. Our core community action work will receive heightened visibility, emphasizing the value it delivers to communities, people, and places. We will encourage sector involvement in influencing change, responding to calls for evidence, and campaigning for positive transformations.

Our mission to support the community and champion the sector, remains steadfast, we will highlight areas of need enabling funders to support the sector and shared causes. We remain committed to building capacity, community confidence, volunteering opportunities, providing support and training for employability, and are excited about forging partnerships for pathways to a better quality of life for our communities.



NCVA remains grateful for the outstanding efforts of our staff and trustees, whose enthusiasm and commitment shine through in every initiative. The Annual Report is a testament to their collective dedication, and heartfelt thanks go to the funders, partners, and members who make this vital work possible.



To the Chair of Trustees, Rodney James, who sadly passed this year; you left a burning flame of example, dedication and pursuit of excellence that we can all take into the future.

With thanks to Vice Chair, Joe Jackson, our amazing trustee board and my predecessor as CEO, Anne Lyall, for their support during this transition.

FUNDING

NCVA plays a pivotal role in preparing community groups for funding endeavours. We assist in getting groups ready for funding by supporting in the development of funding strategies and guiding them through the search for financial support from various sources within Northumberland and beyond. Crafting funding strategies can be overwhelming for community and voluntary groups, but with the right guidance, a comprehensive plan can be established.

Searching for funding is a time-intensive process, regardless of the project type or funding level required. The funding landscape is dynamic, with opportunities emerging on short timeframes. NCVA offers personalised advice to its members, disseminates information on funding opportunities, and organises regular funding fairs that bring funders and potential bidders together.

In essence, NCVA serves as a valuable resource, ensuring that community groups are well-prepared and equipped to navigate the complex terrain of funding. By providing guidance, disseminating information, and fostering skill development, NCVA empowers community groups to not only secure the financial support they need but also to effectively manage and execute projects that make a meaningful impact in our communities.

We finally saw the return of the Northumberland funding fair after a two-and-a-half-year gap, due to COVID restrictions. At the first event, held at Hirst Welfare in Ashington, 55 groups attended with 14 funders. A total of 248 appointments equates to over 41 hours of face-to-face time with funders.

"Thanks so much for organising the funding fair!"

The funding fair was a fantastic opportunity to explore our options going forward as an organisation. Sometimes it can be really daunting to scroll through applications and funding information online - so having a name and friendly face in front of you really makes a difference! I also really liked being able to get a sense of what sort of things funders are looking for in the application. It was also a great chance to network with other organisations in Northumberland - something I think we are usually all too busy to do. It made me feel more confident to move forward with ambitious projects and find the money we need to so that."

FUNDING

We have worked in partnership with The Ballinger Charitable Trust to support them in distributing National Lottery Community Fund funding for the direct delivery of youth work. The main area of this work has been to support the delivery of micro-commissioning for volunteer-led youth providers, this has been carried out in partnership with Community Action Northumberland.

So far £27,000 has been distributed via these awards with a third round in April 2023. We have also helped to identify youth organisations for larger grants.

"The £500 donation was amazing; we used the funding to help with running costs including our FareShare delivery for the Grab Bags. We put some funds towards items for activities including a large sound system with microphone, and a giant Jenga set.

"Residents on three estates were able to enjoy various activity days and have said they felt like our presence there enhanced their feelings of inclusion which is great for us. On one particular estate we assisted in setting up a community group which ensures that the elderly residents are involved and taken care of in their community."



Between April 2022 and April 2023 groups supported by Northumberland CVA have raised funding in excess of 3.24m

Northumberland CVA provided 99 groups with funding and support advice

GOVERNANCE

Ensuring effective governance within community and voluntary organisations is a fundamental mission of NCVA and a pivotal service for both new and existing member organisations.

Good governance revolves around adept leadership and the proper functioning of an organisation. NCVA offers tailored advice to member organisations, fostering good governance through one-on-one consultations, training sessions, collective guidance to management committees, and supporting the recruitment of trustees.

For newly formed organisations, NCVA provides guidance on setting up and customising their governing bodies to align with day-to-day functions and activity targets. Assistance includes advice on adopting constitutions and rules, implementing governance monitoring procedures, and establishing transparent and accountable practices.

Existing organisations often face the challenge of clinging to outdated practices. NCVA advises on reviewing mission, goals, and values, and assists in implementing new structures. The organisation also keeps members informed about changes in legal frameworks affecting charities and other relevant legislation, such as safeguarding policies and data protection regulations. By staying updated on legal changes, NCVA empowers management committees to make informed decisions based on the latest advice and information, contributing to the overall efficiency and credibility of the organisations it supports.

Through the year we have supported 8 groups to start as new organisations, including providing information on the roles and responsibilities of committee members, adopting a governing document and registration where required.

“Marc has been a great support to us from the outset, helping us to navigate the complicated charity application process. He is very calm, approachable, and eager to help provide solutions. We couldn’t have been registered without Marc’s considerable knowledge and guidance so from us all at Chameleon Buddies - thank you!”

GOVERNANCE

Advice and support on safeguarding is one of the most requested services with 22 groups supported this period around their safeguarding policies, procedures and access to training. A high percentage of these groups were referred from the Community Foundation and supporting them helps to ensure they can receive funding. Organisations do not have to be members of Northumberland CVA to receive advice and support around Safeguarding, but we do encourage them to apply.

“We as a club decided to apply for a funding grant to help our club with finances after suffering a membership loss due to covid. Once we applied and our initial application was turned down due to lack of certain policies and documents (Safeguarding) it was clear we would need help to collate all the information needed for the application.

NCVA offered the sort of service we required to complete our application for the grant. Indeed, the service offered was first class, we spoke to their officials several times on the phone and received very good advice and lots of help. After filling in the necessary paperwork for the grant we were offered an appointment with NCVA so that we could check the paperwork through with one of their officials.

After the meeting and further advice from the NCVA we were able to re-submitted our application form and are pleased to say this time it was accepted and a grant was offered to our club..

NCVA did a fantastic job of helping us and we cannot thank them enough”

57 groups supported with governance advice

148 VCS groups supported throughout the year

22 groups supported around their safeguarding policies, procedures and provided with access to training

EMPLOYMENT

Drawing on more than 25 years of experience in employability, NCVA has cultivated extensive expertise, enabling us to provide client-centred services with a strong emphasis on stabilising participants' foundations, offering holistic and person-centred services and one-to-one support. Our award-winning programmes have positively impacted over 4,000 people, providing invaluable support to those facing challenges navigating the labour market.

NCVA places a significant focus on enhancing self-esteem and confidence, promoting overall well-being, and supporting access to peer mentoring and providing specialism in volunteering opportunities, digital inclusion and activities and events to overcome social isolation and promote community identity. Contributing to the enduring development of individuals, empowering them to navigate their personal and professional journeys with confidence and resilience.

Bridge Northumberland is a 'Building Better Opportunities' programme, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund, that brings unemployed and economically inactive people into the labour market. The programme is delivered by a not-for-profit partnership of six voluntary community organisations. Northumberland CVA became the lead partner in 2020, when the project was struggling to find its feet, our expertise has been instrumental in turning it around. Success was celebrated in March 2023 with 2024 participants benefiting from the programme, 341 progressing into education or training, 564 moving into job search, employment, or self-employment and 92% of people completing Bridge Northumberland feeling more confident to progress into the labour market. It is testament to the Bridge team, their resilience, ownership and specialist provision in all aspects of the beneficiary journey that has made this programme so successful.

"Best support network I have ever worked with, I couldn't have done this alone. I now have the choice of not one but three jobs!"

"I feel as if I am dreaming, I never thought I could achieve anything like this. Being an apprentice has changed my life."

EMPLOYMENT

Volunteering serves as a valuable pathway to employment by offering individuals a platform to develop essential skills, gain practical experience, and explore and clarify their career interests whilst building confidence and self-esteem. The Volunteer Connector Project has consistently provided support to beneficiaries through peer mentoring. Participants who enlisted as Volunteer Connectors underwent a comprehensive induction with training covering safeguarding, equality, diversity, and a focus on maintaining professional boundaries and confidentiality. This initiative proved instrumental in fostering a diverse set of skills and experiences, enriching CVs and job applications, thereby enhancing long-term employability.

Through assisting fellow beneficiaries on the Bridge Project, Connectors have effectively shared their insights into the project's benefits, utilised their experiences to support others, and contributed to boosting confidence and self-esteem. Notably, some individuals who initially received support from a Connector have progressed to assume the Connector role themselves, underscoring the project's positive impact in propelling people forward.

88 beneficiaries engaged to have Peer Mentoring support with a Volunteer Connector

36 beneficiaries trained to be a Volunteer Connector

875 hours of Peer Mentoring support time

“The support from the project was great and they understood all my anxieties and didn’t judge. They offered opportunities to find a way to believe in myself again and enabled me to become part of the community again.”

VOLUNTEERING

NCVA collaborates closely with numerous charities and community groups, which heavily rely on volunteers to deliver vital services across Northumberland. Our mission is to facilitate the connection between these organisations and potential volunteers, striving to encourage as many individuals as possible to engage in volunteering opportunities. We operate an online brokering services, effectively matching volunteers with suitable opportunities and providing support for Employers to safely provide these opportunities.

Recognising the manifold benefits, we emphasise the transformative impact volunteering has on individuals—whether economically inactive, unemployed, retired, or otherwise. Volunteering not only equips people with new skills but also fosters social connections, promotes physical activity, enhances mental health, and instils a sense of purpose.

Working in partnership with North Tyneside VODA, Connected Voice and Newcastle Volunteer Centre, NCVA is excited to be part of the North of Tyne Project to make the North East an area of excellence for volunteering. The aim of the partnership is to promote a climate in which volunteering can flourish. We draw on local and national research exploring priorities for local volunteering, involving organisations from across the region. As part of this project, we are developing free, specialist training for volunteers to access online as well as good practice guides for organisations. NCVA are also developing connections that encourage partnerships between business and the VCSE.

Sector Connector is a new collaboration between businesses and voluntary sector organisations in Northumberland. Each benefit by sharing skills and resources.



We support businesses that want to make a positive difference in their local community by connecting them to charities and community organisations that need help. For voluntary and community organisations, Sector Connector offers in-kind support from local experts. We also support businesses to develop their Corporate Social Responsibility offer and to become involved with Northumberland communities. Working with Sector Connector can help evidence the Social Responsibility strand of the Good Work Pledge for the North of Tyne. Sector Connector provides access to free or reduced-cost training, skills, and professional advice and support for your VCS organisation by linking up with business expertise. It's also an opportunity to recruit new volunteers and trustees.

VOLUNTEERING

Supported Volunteering has remained a crucial source of support in the past year. Through collaboration with local voluntary organisations, we've facilitated a variety of volunteer placements across the county, aligning with the interests of beneficiaries.

Volunteering not only offers an avenue to acquire new skills but also plays a pivotal role in enhancing interpersonal skills and confidence. It provides an opportunity to meet new people, build relationships, and actively supports local communities. While venturing into volunteering for the first time may seem daunting to some, our team of Volunteer Buddies has been instrumental in overcoming these challenges, ensuring that the experience is positive for everyone involved.

379 beneficiaries onto Supported Volunteering

350 moved from supported to unsupported volunteering opportunities

94 volunteer Buddies supported the project

85 Organisations engaged and supported to provide Volunteering opportunities

“One of our buddies has been volunteering since the beginning of the project and did an excellent job of supporting a volunteer by reinforcing encouragement, communicating regularly with the volunteer and keeping us up to date of progress”

“I got on well with my buddy, we were well matched, and we communicated regularly. Everyone at the food bank was friendly and made me feel welcome and useful. I am now looking for delivery driving jobs as I now have some experience on my CV”

“I have been volunteering as a buddy for NCVA for over 2 years. During this time, I have supported several different people either on a regular weekly basis or the occasional one-off support to cover absences. I thoroughly enjoy supporting volunteers”

NETWORKS

Community networks stand at the core of NCVA's mission to champion Northumberland's voluntary sector, acting as vital conduit to amplify voices, broaden reach, and enhance the influence of community and voluntary organisations. Circulating information across all the networks keeps organisations informed of developments from the VCSE and statutory partners, nationally, regionally, and locally. We are in a changing landscape particularly regarding the Local and Health Authorities which presents challenges but also opportunities for the VCSE to be involved and influence these changes. Leveraging our sector knowledge and experience, NCVA actively facilitates partnerships, sustains networks, and broadcasts the achievements of these organisations through the following key networks:

Northumberland Employability Network. Centrally aligned with NCVA's work to enhance skills and job prospects in Northumberland, this network brings together organisations dedicated to employability services. The platform serves as a collaborative space, working in partnership with Northumberland County Council, to share experiences, forge connections, and collectively address challenges in the employability sector.

Northumberland VCFSE Health and Wellbeing Network. A partnership that unites community and voluntary groups. The aim is to facilitate the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices while fostering connections with statutory services in the county.

South East Northumberland Network. Addressing shared challenges in transport connectivity and social deprivation, this network focuses on the towns accommodating half of the county's population within a mere 3% of its land area. It serves as a platform to share experiences and collaboratively address common issues.

Northumberland VCSE Voice. This platform creates a secure and confidential space for members to voice their opinions, set agendas, and seek solutions in a constructive and respectful manner. Independent voices are encouraged, with members contributing their knowledge, skills, expertise, and lived experiences.

Food Network. Dedicated to disseminating pertinent information about food availability, demand, distribution, and support, this network aims to ensure effective and efficient food provision for residents. By bringing organisations together, the network works to minimize food waste, optimize distribution, and communicate accessible pathways for Northumberland residents to obtain the food they need. Collaborating with NCT and partners, the network enhances coordination and referral pathways to meet the food provision needs of residents.

NETWORKS

The Health & Wellbeing Network Conference brought together voluntary and community groups working in health and social care to raise issues and concerns and priorities. It was an opportunity to disseminate and share relevant information to increase understanding of strategic health reforms and the implications these have on the voluntary and community sector.

The Health and Wellbeing Network Conference is an opportunity to raise issues affecting the sector from a service delivery point of view and equally from a community point of view. It is important that all voices are heard and able to contribute to the fast changing and newly emerging changes within the Health Sector.

The VCFSE Health & Wellbeing Network is a network partner of Thriving Together who supported this conference.

We had two guest speakers Siobhan Flynn, VCSE Partnership Programme Engagement Manager, VONNE looking at the regional picture and how the new structures will fit. Sam Allen, Chief Executive Integrated Care Board (ICB) for North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS).an overview of how the Integrated Strategy will be achieved

Three workshops were facilitated throughout the day which enabled the delegates to discuss the presentations, raise issues, concerns and priorities. It was an opportunity to share relevant information and for all voices to be heard. The conference was also an opportunity to network and have the voice of the sector heard during the workshops and break out rooms. The conference was so successful that it was decided it would be an annual event.

107 delegates attended from across the Community and Voluntary Sector, Northumberland County Council and the NHS

“Good opportunity to voice/discuss concerns and question what change should look like”

“Excellent event, really great to meet to so many charity colleagues and learn about ICB and ICS”



NCVA also provided the following services...

Assisted Shopping

NCVA brings together volunteers to help enable older people to get out to the shops with one-to-one support. The service helps combat social isolation as well as meeting a basic need in which participants can do things for themselves. Whilst the Project has always been referred to as a Shopping Project the main benefit for our clients is the social contact that they have with each other, volunteers and staff. For many the trips are the only time that they have contact with someone from outside of their family circle, and for some, the trips are the only time that they left their home. The trips were supported by 10 amazing NCVA Volunteers.

39 shopping trips with a total of 180 attendees

630 hours of activity time for clients

Digital Inclusion: Tea and IT

Having identified a gap in ICT provision in the area, NCVA established a digital inclusion programme. This project started in early 2022, funded by Northumberland County Council to deliver IT Support to residents in Northumberland. We initially thought that we would deliver training to groups of people, but experience showed that people had very different levels of knowledge and experience and as such one-to-one support has been shown to be the best approach.

Although we advertise our sessions as being available to adults of any age, many of our clients are older people who have had limited or no experience of using computers. Following the success of our sessions in Cramlington and Haltwhistle, we have run weekly sessions from our Office base in Ashington. In addition to the sessions in Ashington we have also delivered sessions in community venues over the course of the year.

51 clients at accessible venues

237 one-to-one appointments

245 hours of activity time for clients

NCVA also provided the following services...

Activities with Bridge

NCVA delivers the activities for Bridge Northumberland. Collaborating with various organisations throughout the county, we successfully provided beneficiaries with diverse activities, spanning conservation projects, SHE DIY, boxing, arts, crafts, and cookery. Additionally, we organised in-house events such as wreath making and photography, culminating in an exhibition showcasing the photographic work produced by beneficiaries. The impact of this project has been extensive, contributing significantly to enhancing health and well-being. It has played a pivotal role in reducing social anxiety, fostering confidence, and empowering beneficiaries to cultivate new interests, improve fitness, and make positive contributions to their local communities.

In March our activities and events coordinator, teamed up with the Great Northumberland Forest and with support of volunteers planted over 300 trees as part of the Economy Regeneration plan. The trees were planted at Prudhoe Castle.

419 clients

28 activities

over 3,732 of client hours



We delivered and more.....



JOIN US

We're up for it!



Improving our skills

Getting experience

Giving a little

Gaining a lot

**We posted 198 new
volunteering opportunities**

**NCVA reception desk
supported the community
enquiries**

**1864 emails
over 500 calls**

**Provided continued support to our 495 Northumberland
CVA members, as well as our network members currently
standing at 514**

We published

25 Ebulletins

**12 Job & Update Bulletins
and 1 Additional special bulletin**

Reaching 687 recipients

**As part of Vodafone's
everyone.connected campaign
we have given out 113 free pay
as you go sim cards ensuring
digital inclusion and
connectivity for 6 months**

We delivered and more.....

Community Builders Initiative

The funding extension from National Lottery Community Fund, allowed the Community Builder role to evolve into a Countywide one. Supporting Northumberland CVA to increase its capacity to provide community development and capacity building support across the voluntary sector in Northumberland.

A partnership with Community Foundation Tyne and Wear/ Northumberland has continued to promote the community windfarm fund it administers. This has involved direct engagement and promotion to community organisations across the area of benefit and 'meet the funder' drop ins at local village halls.

As part of the National Lottery 'Open Week' in March 2022, engaged social enterprise, Creative Remakery, to hold a creative workshop. This was an event open to the public, hosting 15 people using the opportunity to promote volunteering and signposting to VCSE services.

Managed the Facebook Group 'Northumberland CVA Community Recovery Updates and Information Sharing' which continues to be used to cascade information and complement the digital presence of Northumberland CVA. Since its inception in March 2020 at the start of the Covid 19 pandemic it has shared 1,563 updates and currently has a membership of 483 and occasionally sees individual posts having a reach of up to 4k.

Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership

Northumberland CVA was contracted by Northumberland County Council to support the development of a £1.5m bid to the North of Tyne Combined Authority for a programme within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The focus of the funding is to support impactful volunteering and social action projects; and to invest in capacity building and infrastructure support. The fund will support VCS organisations in South East Northumberland.

Our role in the development of the bid was to consult and engage with the VCS in the target area, recruit potential partnership members and to develop documentation for the partnership. The bid for funding was successful and is due to launch in 2023/24.

We delivered and more.....

Act Green Together #ShowtheLove

We collaborated with Creative Remakery and Full Circle Food to support and promote the #ShowtheLove campaign across Ashington in February. This was about encouraging conversations about climate change, with the hope from the promotion and publicity of this, more groups and individuals would be willing to engage and discuss the themes. 40 local individuals were engaged and with a collaboration of VCSE and statutory sector, we were able to facilitate valuable discussions about feelings of climate change and what actions could be pledged to make changes.

NCVA activities and events Bridge Beneficiaries produced a fabulous photographic display on the topic of climate change, which could be viewed at NCVA, they also designed green heart displays and dressed the windows of the local businesses supporting this campaign across Ashington Town.



We delivered and more.....

Hosting the Illuminated Sheep Art Trail

Northumberland CVA was successful in becoming part of a brand new visual arts trail which lit up Northumberland to celebrate the arrival of the Lindisfarne Gospels in the North East, inspired by the Gospels' themes of light, sheep and pilgrimage.

A full flock of 30 life-sized illuminated sheep, created by artist Deepa Mann-Kler, appeared at a handful of key Northumberland locations.

From Berwick to Hexham and Haltwhistle to Blyth, the flock then separated creating a number of art trails across the region. Looked after and customised by community champions, businesses and organisations, Illuminated Sheep encouraged locals and visitors to find their inner shepherd, exploring the region's rich landscape, heritage and culture to [#FindTheFlock](#).

The children at Ashdale named our illuminated sheep so we wanted them to meet Sheepington and be able to have their photo taken with him. There were lots of smiles and cuddles for Sheepington that day and every class member received a certificate from NCVA to say a huge thank you for taking part.



Looking to the future

NCVA will continue with its proactive approach to supporting the community and the VCSE sector in Northumberland. As funding streams change, they bring with them uncertainty but the opportunity for new ways of working. NCVA will continue to develop relationships, partnerships, and collaborations to make real difference for the people in our community and to ensure that the VCSE in Northumberland are supported to access all available opportunities.

Partnerships

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar for the UK's government Levelling Up agenda and has provided the opportunity to access funding.

The People & Skills funding is an opportunity to maintain the strong VCSE employability partnership with a new employability project. NCVA will be providing the fundamental Key Workers roles to support participants to access interventions provided by the six voluntary partners to remove barriers to employment pathways,

The Volunteering and Social Action programme is a coalition led by North Tyneside Voda with a further six voluntary partners. This partnership will build on the current North of Tyne partnership to further strengthen the volunteer offer and to provide infrastructure, training and governance of VCSE organisations to provide better support to volunteer and social action projects. NCVA will be providing the Supported Volunteering, Health Checks, and social action projects.

Assisted Shopping

We will be sadly saying goodbye to the assisted shopping project. The board made the difficult decision to close the project due to the requirement of specialist services to continue with shopping trips. In the meantime, NCVA will be linking all clients with local accessible community services and ensuring all clients will be digitally included over the next three-month period.

Digital Inclusion NCVA will continue to provide the support for Northumberland residents to become digitally included, by providing not only fundamental training but also devices and connectivity.

Looking to the future

Community Builder

This coming year we will be showing our commitment to the climate change agenda as we work towards the Investors in the Environment accreditation. We will be using this to review the work and activities we do as a charity to reduce our carbon emissions and consider some of the practices and behaviours we will have to adapt.

This means we can then share our own experiences with our members and give some advice on how they can start putting their own measures in place. As well as being the right thing to do for the planet, more and more funders are asking applicants for evidence of policies and activities, so the more we can raise awareness on this the better.

Engage

Engage is an exciting new service being delivered by Northumberland CVA. Aimed at those over fifty the project will work to improve the wellbeing and quality of life of older people in local communities across Northumberland. Engage, will enable access to a range of existing community activities and events to promote social connections, improve mental health and wellbeing and reduce loneliness and social isolation.

Offering a person-centred approach, we will provide individually tailored programmes to enable our participants to attend community activities and events that take place in local communities as well as volunteers to support them to attend. This in turn will help promote independence and build confidence.

NCVA finance and reception team

The finance and reception team will continue to provide much needed support to organisations and residents with accounts, payroll, job listings, administration, photocopying, room bookings and signposting services.

NCVA TEAM

Caroline Rogan – CEO

Marc Johnson – VCS support services manager

Caroline Burdon – Bridge worker lead

Rob Gillie – Volunteer development officer

Clair Parker – Bridge engagement officer

Angela Evans – Bridge worker

Martin Conway – Community Engagement officer

Jane Coney – Communications officer

Tony Stroughton – Supported Volunteering and connector

Sharon Harris – Volunteer Development Officer

Angela Broome – Executive assistant to CEO

Julie Fox – Bridge activities co Ordinator

Tony MacDonald – Bridge worker

Leanne Brown – Bridge worker

Susan Eaton membership and networks officer

David Gravell – Bridge worker

Lisa Wackett – Project co Ordinator

Rachel Lewis - Finance Co-ordinator

Bethany Moir – Reception

Trustees and Income Generation

Rodney James – Chair

Joe Jackson – Vice chair

Mary Hindmarsh – Trustee

Maureen Rolf – Trustee

Colin Nevin – Trustee

Sue Ashmore - Trustee

Income Generation

2022/23

- Payroll (7 Payrolls)	£2,935.75
- Accounts Preparation (4 groups)	£395.00
- Job Listings (18 listings)	£450.00
- Cheque Handling	£10.00
- Room Hire	£1,486.00
- Photocopying/Printing	£336.75
- Office Lease	£9,380.00
- Charity Registration (2 registrations)	£1,098.00
- Financial Support (VONNE)	£840.00
- Micro-commissioning (Ballinger Trust)	£2,500.00

Notes

Notes

5 reasons to join NCVA

NCVA exists to enable the community and voluntary organisations in Northumberland to develop and succeed. We work to grow the voice, influence and reach of the voluntary and community sector with a thirty year track record of success.

1 Advice
Get access to advice and expertise to help for your charity, your club or your community group.

2 Information
NCVA has all the information you need to be more effective in the community.

3 Voice
Help amplify the voice of community and voluntary groups.

4 Network
NCVA helps bring your group together with others, to get new ideas and achieve more together than you can alone.

5 People
Take advantage of NCVA's networks to find and train the people you need.

And it's FREE ...

6 ways to contact us

CALL: 01670 858 688
EMAIL: enquire@northumberlandcva.org.uk
VISIT: Northumberlandcva.org.uk
WRITE: Northumberland CVA 107 Station Road,
Ashington NE63 8RS
FACEBOOK: @NorthumberlandCVA
TWITTER: @NorthumberldCVA

