



VODA news

The quarterly newsletter for voluntary and community organisations in North Tyneside

January 2018

Issue 124



Friends of North Tyneside

Volunteers make time to make a difference

Plus VODA's award winners, the launch of a new North Tyneside charity supporting young people indirectly affected by cancer, details of our new training programme and lots more.

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VODA is a registered charity providing advice, training, information and support to volunteers and voluntary and community organisations working in North Tyneside.

To find out more visit the About Us section on our website or telephone 0191 643 2626.

Formats:

We can produce this newsletter in large print and various other formats - please contact us to discuss your needs.

Next Edition:

The spring issue of VODA News will be published in April 2018.

The deadline for copy is 15 March 2018.

Disclaimer:

The information in VODA News is, as far as we know, correct at the time of going to print.

However, North Tyneside VODA can take no responsibility for any changes that occur or guarantee the quality of information or services provided by others.

Welcome

Welcome to the New Year issue of VODA News - we hope you all enjoyed the festive holidays.

Our issue starts with our Acting Chief Executive Robin Fry looking ahead to some of the challenges the sector faces during the coming year, and more importantly, how we can work together to face them.

We also look back over the first Friends of North Tyneside programme - a short-term volunteering project for people aged 50 and over. We're currently recruiting volunteers for the second wave of the programme - if you are in this age group and want to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.

There's news from North Tyneside Council on how you can get involved in important consultations around its budget, and plans for North of Tyne devolution. Plus a round-up of other local news, funding opportunities and details of our brand new training courses. We hope you enjoy this issue!

New website

We have recently launched our brand new website - if you haven't already visited, please take a few minutes to explore the site and let us know what you think.

We've worked with North Tyneside web designers Wubbleyou to bring you a more modern and user-friendly site which is fully equipped to bring you the latest news and updates relevant to the sector. There are also case studies from the groups and volunteers that VODA works with, details of all of our projects, and lots of useful resources for you to download. Visit www.voda.org.uk - we look forward to hearing your feedback.



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VODA News is a community newsletter that is sent to almost 700 groups, organisations and individuals. We offer a low-cost insert service: £45 for VODA members, £60 for other VCS groups, £85 for private business and statutory organisations. If you have a leaflet or a flyer that you'd like distributed, why not use VODA News to get the word out? Contact our Development Team for more information.

Challenges for the year ahead

A message from our Acting Chief Executive



Towards the end of last year I attended the annual VONNE Conference to hear Julia Unwin CBE outline what she considers to be the key challenges facing our sector. As luck would have it, all four challenges start with the letter D making them easy to remember - Devolution, Deficit, Democracy and Digital. From a North Tyneside perspective these four Ds are certainly on VODA's agenda and will likely form a major part of our work this year.

The 'minded-to' North of Tyne devolution deal appears to offer some great opportunities to attract new business to the area. But what about the VCS? It is vitally important that we are recognised as a key partner in helping to shape and deliver these new arrangements. VODA will support the local authority to meet with as many of our members as possible to represent the interests of local residents who access their services. See page 14 for the current consultation regarding the proposed governance arrangements.

In terms of Deficit I'm sure you are well aware that North Tyneside Council is facing one its most challenging years with yet more budget savings needing to be found. Please do take a few minutes to take part in the Council's consultation and encourage your users to do the same (see page 14).

Democracy was the focus of our most recent Chief Officers' Group meeting, with Jackie Laughton providing a useful overview of North Tyneside Council's decision making process. Together we explored new ways of ensuring elected members are fully aware of the essential work carried out by the VCS across the borough.

Which leads me to the final D - Digital. A recent Lloyds Bank's 'Business Digital Index' suggests that 52% charities are at risk of getting left behind because they do not make effective use of social media and lack access to digital skills. We have some amazing groups in North Tyneside which support the most vulnerable people in our borough. However we are aware that some of these groups aren't effective at letting people know what they do and the impact of their work. This year we aim to train and support a team of young volunteers to provide digital support to community groups across North Tyneside. Watch this space.

So what else can you expect from VODA in 2018? We will continue to support a borough rich in volunteers through the work of our excellent Volunteer Centre. Keep an eye out for more marketplace events, taster sessions, Volunteer Network meetings and opportunities to access the expertise of private sector organisations. Our Development Team will continue to provide essential support and advice for groups of all sizes through one to one advice sessions, information sheets, funding fairs, training programmes and drop-in events. Behind the scenes, in Lisa's absence, I will continue to represent the interests of the sector on a local and regional level working with North Tyneside Council, CCG and others to ensure we can face the four D's together.

And to you can keep up to date with all these services on our brand new website - www.voda.org.uk.

“We have some amazing groups in North Tyneside, which support the most vulnerable people in our borough.”

VODA's Award Winners 2017

Back in October, we held our AGM and annual awards ceremony, which recognise the stars of North Tyneside's voluntary and community sector - in case you missed it, here's a round up of our award winners for 2017.

Organisation of the Year: West Moor Residents Association



Drew Gransbury, who made the nomination said: "I believe that West Moor Residents Association and the Community Centre are a beacon within the area. The activities that take place cater for people of all ages, from baby cafés and toddler groups to lunch clubs and carpet bowls sessions...The Association is there for the community, whether it's in the form of the activities they run or as a place that people can go to for help or advice. I believe they should be recognised not just for what they have done over the past 12 months, but for the past 40 years too."



Volunteer of the Year: Joyce Greely

Susie Flintham, who nominated Joyce said: "Joyce has volunteered with The Alzheimer's Society Singing for the Brain project since it began in North Shields. At times she has single-handedly run the group, which is a vital part of living well with dementia." Sadly, Joyce was too unwell to attend our AGM so Susie Flintham collected the award on her behalf. Susie is pictured with Chairman of North Tyneside Council, Cllr Cath Davis who presented the awards.

Commendation Volunteering Award: Phil Embleton



Phil was nominated for his award by Mary Glendon MP, who said: "Phil has run Forest Hall Young People's Club for a number of years, dedicating his time and expertise to provide the young people with a fantastic sports and recreational facility in my constituency. I recently visited the Club and I was amazed at Phil's hard work and the services on offer to both able-bodied and disabled young people. I have no hesitation in recommending Phil for this award." Phil was unable to attend our AGM, so his award was collected by Phil's colleague, Liam Wood.

Young Volunteer of the Year: Tony Binalle



Tony was nominated for his award by Helen Collins at Meadow Well Connected who said: "Tony came to us soon after his 16th birthday through an Alternative Education Placement. Tony maintained a 100% attendance record and at the end of his school placement asked if he could return as a volunteer. He has taken a lead on building paths, laying flagstones and creating a pond – his contribution to the gardens at Meadow Well Connected is immeasurable. He is now a reliable, hard-working, mature young man with a commitment and dedication to making things happen."

You can read all of our winners stories at www.voda.org.uk.

Friends of North Tyneside:

Making time to make a difference

Launched in September 2017, Friends of North Tyneside is a short-term volunteering scheme for people aged 50 and over, funded by Nesta. During the course of the 12 week programme, the first 'wave' of volunteers have planned and delivered two social action projects making a big impact on people in the local community.

The second wave of the programme begins on 22 January 2018 - we are currently recruiting volunteers who can 'make time to make a difference' and give two days a week for 12 weeks - see opposite for details.

Making Christmas Special



This project saw a team of volunteers plan and run a series of workshops, craft sessions, quizzes and social events for older and isolated residents of North Tyneside in the run-up to Christmas. A number of the volunteers, including Lilian Atkins (below), went on to volunteer on Christmas day itself.



The volunteers also contacted a number of local businesses to request donations of gifts for the people they'd been working with to ensure everyone had at least one Christmas present (pictured above is VODA's Ian Dougall who collected a donation from the Co-Operative supermarket on behalf of the project).



"I'm a Friend of North Tyneside"

"I live in sheltered accommodation and saw the Friends of North Tyneside programme advertised on a poster in the laundry room. I wasn't sure at first but my granddaughter persuaded me to give it a go and I'm glad she did. I lost my husband three years ago and most of my family live away from the North East now so I found myself with some time on my hands. I also liked the idea of meeting new people and doing something caring – I cared for my husband so that comes naturally to me.

Although I was apprehensive when I first came along, everybody here – the staff and other volunteers – are so friendly I felt comfortable in no time at all. I love crafts, I'm always knitting, so the Making Christmas Special project really appealed to me. I'm really enjoying the programme and I'll actually be sorry when it finishes."

Lilian Atkins, North Shields

If you are aged 50 or over and are looking for a new challenge we'd love to hear from you. As part of the Friends of North Tyneside, you'll be taking part in fun, interactive sessions to plan and carry out a social action project for the benefit of people and communities in North Tyneside. You can join a team which will focus on one of the following projects:

- Helping children prepare for school by supporting pre-school learning activities
- Helping young people get ready for work by supporting enterprise and employability activities
- Making older residents feel safe and special by planning and running social activities

Taster Sessions: Wednesday 17 January

In order to give you a chance to find out more and have a go at some of the activities you might be involved in, we are holding two fun and informative Taster Sessions on Wednesday 17 January at the Cedarwood Trust, Avon Avenue, North Shields.

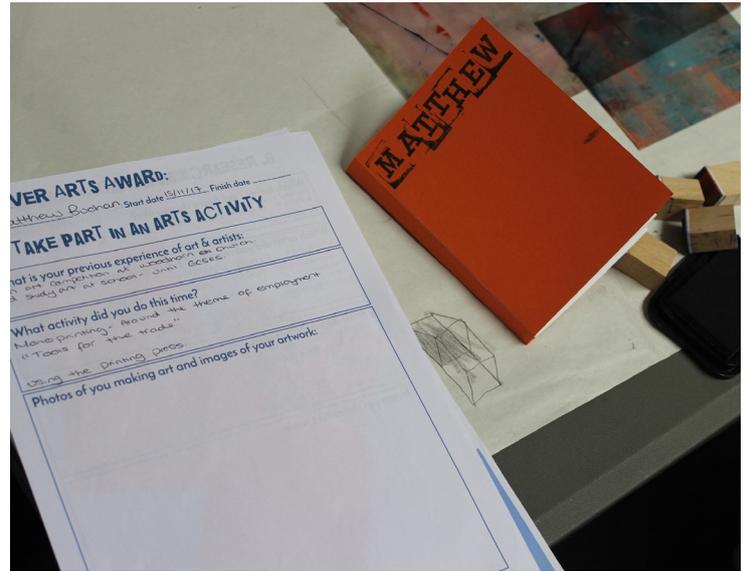
The free sessions take place at 10.30am and 1.30pm and refreshments are included. Try your hand at cooking and baking for the community, our 'business in a box' challenge, meet volunteers and the friendly Friends of North Tyneside team.

Visit www.voda.org.uk for more information.

Pathways to Employment



This project saw Friends of North Tyneside volunteers work with young people to help them develop skills, experience and knowledge to work towards the jobs market. Sessions they took part in included CV development and job interview preparation, finance skills, exploring values, 'start-up box' social enterprise



challenge, monoprinting and life skills coaching. Many of the young people involved reported an increase in their confidence and have made lasting friendships and relationships with each other and with the volunteers. See below for volunteer Steve Snowdon's experience.



"I'm a Friend of North Tyneside"

"I worked in banking for over 40 years and recently took early retirement. I knew I wanted to do something but wasn't sure I could commit to anything long-term so the Friends of North Tyneside really appealed to me. I was keen on helping young people get into work and using my own skills and experience to 'give something back,' but actually it's much more than just helping with job searches.

As a team we've helped them to build their confidence, develop life skills and join in with tasks they might never have otherwise. I've built a strong relationship with one young person in particular – she struggled with public transport so now we travel in together and I support her with that and other aspects of the programme. This is definitely a rewarding scheme to be involved in, we can really see the positive difference we're making."

Steve Snowdon, North Shields

Good Neighbours take part in mass volunteer bulb plant



A team of volunteers including those from VODA's Good Neighbours project, the North Shields Chamber of Trade and Commerce, North Tyneside Council and the Phoenix Detached Youth Project, joined forces to help plant 2,500 bulbs at the Georgian square in December. The bulbs were bought by the Chamber's committee, as part of its commitment to ensure that the town is an attractive place to live, work and visit.

David Bavaird, chair of the North Shields Chamber, said: "This is a great example of what makes North Shields special. We have had volunteers young and old come down to help with the bulb planting, it is community spirit at its best. Northumberland Square is right in the heart of North Shields and is a beautiful area dating back to Georgian times. We want to make sure that the area is taken care of and looks its best so that we can all take pride in our town."

Cllr John Stirling, cabinet member with responsibility for environment, said: "I'm delighted we could play a part in organising this event. It was a fantastic piece of work that required a lot of effort from everyone involved and I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labour when the plants blossom in the spring."

For more information on the Chamber and its #OneNorthShields campaign visit facebook.com/OneNorthShields or Tweet @NorthShieldsCOC. Photo credit: rusbymedia

VODA volunteer recognised with award from Age UK



The annual Age UK Ages Takes Centre Stage volunteer awards celebrate and reward the contribution of North Tyneside's older people to the community. The awards are sponsored by North Tyneside Council, Age UK North Tyneside and DFDS Seaways, who hosted the awards ceremony and invited guests on board the cruise ship MS King of Seaways while docked at the Royal Quays in North Shields.

One of this year's award winners was Les Garrick, (pictured centre with Age UK's Alma Caldwell and the

captain of DFDS), who was nominated and recognised for his work with VODA's own Good Neighbours project.

Ian Brigstock who coordinates the project said this about Les: "On reaching retirement Les decided to use his skills for the benefit of others for free through Good Neighbours. He also passes down these skills to other volunteers who accompany him; Les is a lead volunteer which means he sometimes supervises other volunteers on 'handyman' jobs. He has visited over 40 different people this year alone, many of them numerous times and carrying out various small but essential DIY jobs."

When asked why Les deserved an award, Ian said: "Les goes the extra mile. He will ring the beneficiary first to arrange a convenient time to visit, go out and buy the part or fixture if they can't get out and buy it themselves and will always come back and finish a job if necessary. Feedback from beneficiaries about Les is universally positive with comments about Les including words such as 'diamond', 'star' and 'angel.'

NCS Blog: “One of the best experiences I’ve ever had”

Twenty-five young people graduated from VODA’s autumn NCS delivery in December, having completed a challenging programme of outward bound activities, skills workshops and social action delivery. One of our participants, Sophie Harrison, provides us with her first-hand account of the programme:



“NCS is one of the best experiences I’ve ever had.

When I started my NCS experience, to say I was nervous is an understatement! It was something totally new for me as I had never done anything like this before. I only knew a few people prior to going, and on top of that I suffer from home sickness - so when all three were combined I really wasn’t sure how I would find my time there.

When we arrived in Grasmere my anxiety started to kick in as I had been put into a room with people I didn’t know. However, we all immediately clicked and being in that room ended up being one of the highlights because of how much fun we would have, it’s a bond I hope I won’t ever lose. The following day we went for a super long walk that lasted FOUR HOURS! That day I learned a lot about myself like how if I set my mind to something I can achieve it! When I was first told I was going on such an intense walk my immediate reaction was “there is no way I can do that.”

We returned home on Monday morning having grown as people, ready to return the next day. We started by having to set up our own enterprise in which we chose ‘Creepy Cupcakes’ to fit with the theme of Halloween. We had to produce the product, sell it and then use that money to complete our social action project. We sold the cakes to members of the public and made over £100!

Following this we had to produce a Dragons Den style pitch to various members of the VODA team for why they should invest in our social action project. This helped me massively as it taught me presentation skills to build my confidence as well as how to work well in a team. After this we began our social action project in which we decided to support a Christmas party at the Cedarwood Trust in Meadow Well. This was also a massive success and it felt like all our previous work had paid off!

One of the things that made NCS the most enjoyable experience it could be was the bond between us and the leaders. Without them I would have felt uneasy and may have ended up not doing the program but they made me feel amazing! They were super supportive of anything we were going through as well as being funny and kind which was super important in a situation like NCS.

Overall I would recommend NCS to anyone and everyone! It truly is a life changing experience and makes you feel like you’ve done something good in the world as well as helping your people skills. On top of this it provides you with experience for going into the world of work and university.”

Thanks to Sophie and to Eye of the Tyne Photography for images of the Autumn NCS graduation.



Your Big C and Me

Donna Naseby, the Chair and founder of a new support service for young people indirectly affected by cancer, writes about the charity for VODA News:

“At ‘Your Big C and Me’ our aim is to support children indirectly affected by cancer. We believe that due to the lack of current provisions many children will feel unsupported and isolated due to an indirect cancer diagnosis. We understand cancer affects the entire family and family life.

We have first-hand insight into the difficulties and challenges families dealing with cancer face on a daily basis and believe it is important to support these families and offer them a greater understanding, as well as support, friendship, hope and fond memories.

Each child will experience their loved one’s diagnosis in a different way. Whether it be a parent, carer, grandparent, sibling, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or friend, the diagnosis remains the same. We offer an engaging environment to provide support, understanding and comfort to children during their loved one’s cancer journey, a place where children can feel engaged, be better educated (about cancer) and make friends in a similar situation.

We meet weekly, offering various activities, education resources and general support. We will also offer opportunities to fight isolation by supporting the children to participate in the planning of activities and structure of the group.”

For more information visit www.yourbigcandme.co.uk.

Testimonials

“In 2015 aged 42 I was diagnosed with Cancer, it was a very difficult time for the whole family. I found support for myself, but was unable to pinpoint any direct support for my two teenage children. This is where the idea for ‘Your Big C and Me’ came from.”

Donna Naseby – Chair and Founder

“Since being diagnosed with terminal brain cancer in 2015, I have been searching for help for my son Connor. He is really looking forward to attending Your Big C and Me and I think it is a fantastic idea to help and give support to my son and others like him.”

Natalie Sweeney

“I believe Your Big C and Me will become another important tool in the fight against cancer. Giving young family members affected by the diagnosis of a loved one an environment to explore their feelings and emotions in such a difficult time.”

Lynn Russell-Brown

Your Big C and Me are currently seeking committee members who can bring more skills to the development of the charity, and for volunteers who can help in the day-to-day running of the charity and the delivery of events. For more information email yourbigcandme@gmail.com.



What is an SSL certificate and why do you need one?

Jackie Latham of Jackdaw Web Design is our guest Sector Connector contributor in this issue of VODA News, and here outlines an important aspect of Internet safety.



What is an SSL certificate?

SSL stands for 'Secure Socket Layer' and is a widget that encrypts data sent between your website and the visitor's browser, whether that's on a computer, tablet or phone.

The 'certificate' is the bit of data that tells the browser that your SSL is a valid one.

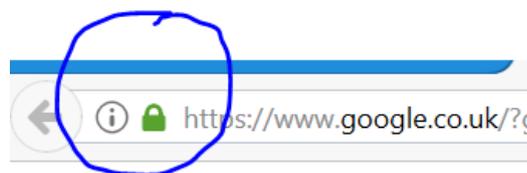
How do you know whether or not you've got one?

There are two ways to tell if you, or the site you're visiting, has an SSL certificate (depending on which browser you're using):

1. The URL of the site starts with 'https' instead of 'http':



2. You see a little padlock (usually green) in your browser bar:

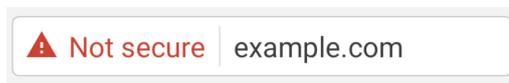


Who needs an SSL certificate?

This is where it all gets interesting! Until last year, only sites processing sensitive information such as payment details needed to have an SSL certificate.

However, the Internet is still widely seen as a largely unsafe place to be, and even non-sensitive data can be useful to ne'er-do-wells who could use it for such things as identity theft, so Google decided to start encouraging all sites to install SSL certificates. Google started to do this by giving extra ranking points for sites which use SSLs.

Google has now turned from the carrot of extra points, to the stick of warning visitors about sites which are still not secure. As of late last year, Google Chrome (Google's own browser) has been marking any page which uses a form (such as a contact form) as not secure by putting this in the browser bar:



It's expected that other browsers, such as Firefox, Internet Explorer and Edge, will soon follow suit. And as of January 2018, this change will extend to ALL pages.

So how do you get an SSL certificate?

If your web host has set it up, you can sometimes install the SSL certificate yourself, though you will need access to your site's control panel. Failing that, you'll need to contact your host (or your web developer) and ask them to do it for you.

How much does an SSL certificate cost?

SSL certificates come in grades, from the least secure to the most secure. Generally the more secure the SSL certificate the more expensive it will be. The good news is that there is now a free SSL certificate, though you may have to pay a one-off installation charge (it averages about an hour to install one certificate). From there, prices range from a few pounds a month to several hundred pounds a year.

Note that not all hosts offer the free certificate, so your first port of call should always be them (or your web developer).

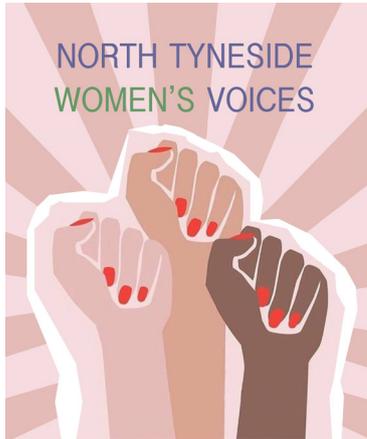
Where to go for more information

Contact your host or your web developer in the first instance. If they can't help, feel free to give me a call or drop me an email:

Jackie Latham on 07762 140 433 or email jackie@jackdawwebdesign.co.uk.

Community News

Women's votes, women's voices, women's images: Commemorating 100 years of women's votes



“If you would you like to get involved in North Tyneside Women’s Voices projects over the next year, you can do so in the following ways.

You can tell us which films by or about women you think should feature in the Women’s film festival

at the Whitley Bay Jam Jar Cinema next year by going to our North Tyneside Women’s Voices Facebook page and posting your suggestion.

You can suggest which books written by or about Women should be on North Tyneside libraries commemorative reading list by going to our North Tyneside Women’s Voices Facebook page and posting your suggestion.

You can like our Facebook page, share it with your friends and encourage them to get involved: www.facebook.com/North-Tyneside-Womens-Voices-1719540708079323/

You can attend our events next year including a talk on 8 March about the local history of the suffrage movement and an event on 10 March featuring youth drama, debate, singing and starting with a march in North Shields.

You can help us collect images and comments about voting from 100 local women on our Instagram site: www.instagram.com/womens_votes/ sharing a photo and comment about ‘Using your vote? Why? If not why not?’

Please share this information with other women you know who live, work or play in North Tyneside. For more information visit the Facebook page (address above) or email premfry015@aol.com.

Whitley Bay Young People’s Centre: Recruiting volunteers and trustees

The Centre, which provides youth clubs and activities, is looking to recruit to the following voluntary roles:

Youth Work volunteer:

To plan and deliver personal and social education activities to young people (aged 10+) at a regular youth club. Session runs every Friday from 5pm to 7pm. Experience of working with young people is essential - enhanced DBS check provided.

Management Committee members:

To support the development of the Centre and its fundraising needs. Should have experience of management committees processes, knowledge of fundraising and supporting centre development and be able to attend one meeting a month.

For more information about either of these roles, please contact Veena Bumma-Dykes on 0191 253 0257 or email veenabummadykes23@gmail.com

My Care North Tyneside

The advice and information website for residents of North Tyneside, their families and carers, My Care North Tyneside connects you to local support, services and activities.

Find advice and information to help you:

On a range of issues including support to live at home, accommodation choices and support or carers.

Online calculator:

To help you find out how much you may need to contribute to the cost of your care and support.

Find local services and organisations:

The SIGN North Tyneside directory of services will show you a wide range of wellbeing and care services as well as events happening in your local area.

Worried about someone?

You can make a general enquiry or report a concern or suspicion of harm.

For more information visit www.mycare.northtyneside.gov.uk

Key Fund Application for Young Carers Group

'Teen Relax' are weekly sessions delivered from the YMCA providing a safe space for young people with caring responsibilities to relax and have fun.

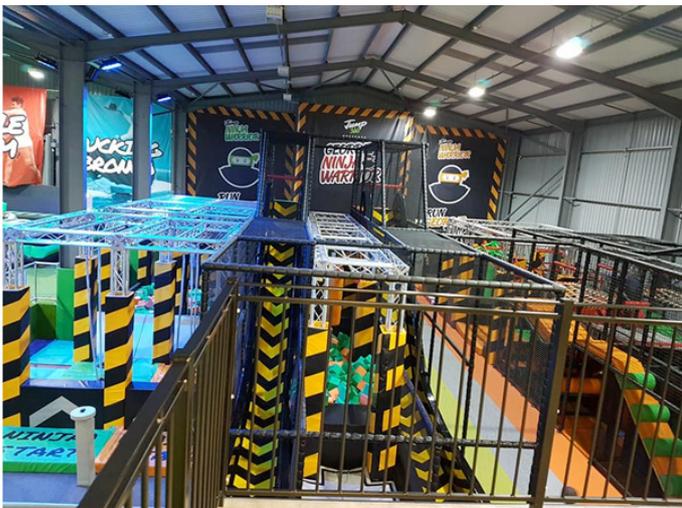
Since October of last year, VODA has been working with the young carers group, helping them to develop an application to the Key Fund, which provides loans and funding to ignite passion in young people to plan and deliver their own Key Projects.

The young carers decided they would like to complete a stage one Key Fund application for £250 to further their skills and provide a fun social activity for their group. Over a three month period, VODA supported the group to plan their project and pitch it to a panel, and were delighted to hear that the application was a success.

For their activity, the Teen Relax group decided to take a trip to Jump 360 in Benton (pictured left) where they could enjoy time with friends and have a well-deserved break from their caring roles.

Through the application process, the group developed some important life skills such as time management, planning, negotiation and team work. The group even managed to get themselves a discount for their jump session and the trampoline park stayed open an extra fifteen minutes on the night of their Key Fund project!

For more information about Teen Relax visit www.ymcanorthtyneside.org/young-carers/



Volunteers donate hand-crafted crockery to homelessness project



Voluntary artists, who came together through VODA's SAINT (Social Action in North Tyneside) project, have used their creativity to help a project that has created rehousing packs for young people affected by homelessness. The Artists Unite North Tyneside group formally presented the gifts at Depaul UK's Regional Office in Whitley Bay just in time for Christmas. Each individually designed set contained a bowl, small plate, dinner plate, mug and tea-towel.

Alysia Trackim (pictured left), Depaul's Get Up & Go Programme Coordinator in North Tyneside, said: "Depaul UK was delighted to receive this gift from such kind and creative people. Community is an important aspect of wellbeing and to have an enthusiastic group create such beautiful pieces will definitely be appreciated by our young people starting out in their own homes."

Depaul UK, a homelessness charity operating within the international Depaul Group, works with homeless and vulnerably housed young people across our Tyneside communities. For more information visit www.uk.depaulcharity.org.

Residents asked to give views on Council budget plans



North Tyneside Council

North Tyneside residents are being urged to have their say on spending plans as the council is forced to make savings of £37 million over the next two years.

North Tyneside Council's Cabinet has shared proposals to reduce spending by £16 million in 2018/19 and a total of £37 million by 2020. This is as a result of a reduction in government funding of over £11 million and demand and price pressures of nearly £28 million over the next two financial years.

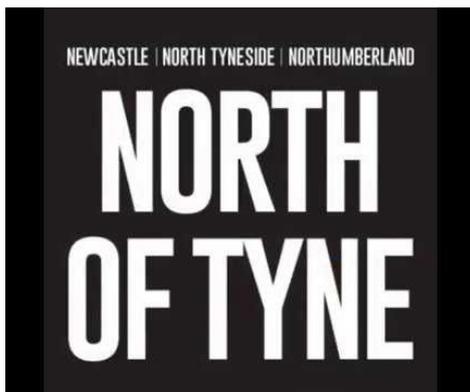
Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor of North Tyneside, said: "Faced with steeply declining government funding and relentless pressure on the council's already severely reduced budget, we are forced to make tough choices.

"Our proposals aim to protect essential services, ensure the council operates as efficiently as possible and continues to provide excellent value for money to local taxpayers."

The public consultation on the draft budget proposals for 2018/2019 will run until January. The responses will be analysed and considered before budget-setting decisions are taken by a meeting of full council in February.

Full details about the proposals and budget consultation are available on the council's website at www.northtyneside.gov.uk

Devolution Deal for North of Tyne



A 'minded to approve' devolution deal has been agreed between Government and North Tyneside, Northumberland and Newcastle councils.

"It provides people with the chance to retrain, gain new skills and secure jobs at all levels in growing economies in our area. We will be able to invest in our infrastructure to support existing businesses and attract new ones, and make the North of Tyne an even better place to live.

"It's vital that the North of Tyne has a strong voice as the country makes important decisions about its future. This deal gives us a seat at the table with other mayors, where we can fight for the needs of our residents."

The landmark deal will see unprecedented funding and powers devolved to the North of Tyne area, including an investment fund of £600 million. The deal will create a new North of Tyne Combined Authority that will be headed up by a new Elected Mayor for the North of Tyne.

Norma Redfearn, Elected Mayor for North Tyneside said: "This is a very exciting deal that will help us to develop our economy and give us access to a wide range of new opportunities.

"I am extremely proud of North Tyneside and am confident this deal will allow us to build on the strengths of our people and businesses."

A public consultation is currently taking place – you can find out more about it and what it means for North Tyneside at www.northoftynedevelopment.com.

See page 3 for our Acting Chief Exec's message.

Budget measures related to Universal Credit

In the recent budget the Government announced a package of improvements for new claimants of Universal Credit (UC). North Tyneside Council have prepared a briefing which summarises the changes:

Waiting Period

The seven-day waiting period has been abolished from February 2018. This will reduce the official wait for the initial UC payment from 6 weeks to 5 weeks.

Advance Payments

From January 2018, new Universal Credit claimants will be offered an advance of up to 100% (currently the maximum advance is 50%). The repayment period for advances will also increase from 6 months to 12 months. From Spring 2018, UC claimants will be able to make their claim for an advance payment online via their UC online account.

Transitional Payments for those in receipt of housing benefit

Any claimant moving from legacy benefits to Universal Credit, and in receipt of Housing Benefit prior to moving to Universal Credit, will receive a transitional payment – an extra two weeks support with their housing costs when they move to Universal Credit. This will be unrecoverable, automatic and received early in the first assessment period.

Temporary Accommodation Housing Support

The budget announcement included the statement: “Currently local authorities see a funding shortage when they place people into temporary and emergency accommodation as they can only recoup around 50% of the cost from Universal Credit. This housing support will be increased to 80% of their expenditure on temporary accommodation.” Details of how this will be delivered are to be confirmed.

Providing budgeting help

Under the existing Universal Credit Support Framework the DWP provide funding to Local Authorities aimed at enabling them to give Personal

Budgeting Support (PBS) to UC claimants.

The type and level of support that is required under PBS is relatively basic and aimed at helping claimants to cope better with monthly budgeting.

The CAB delivers PBS support to Universal Credit claimants in North Tyneside. In North Tyneside the Authority recognises that many new UC claimants need more than the basic level necessary to meet the DWP requirements. So, CAB assess the needs of all those who attend due to a PBS referral and will provide enhanced support if necessary, including Debt Management advice and support, welfare benefits maximisation and Financial Capability support.

Help for vulnerable tenants in the Private Sector

It will be easier for claimants to continue to have their housing costs paid directly to landlords once they are on Universal Credit. The DWP will soon be issuing new guidance to staff to ensure that claimants living in the private rented sector, who’s Housing Benefit was previously paid directly to landlords, are automatically offered this option when they join Universal Credit.

Freephone helplines for UC claimants

The DWP have announced that all DWP Universal Credit phone lines will now be free.

The key Universal Credit Freephone numbers include:
Universal Credit live service: 0800 328 9344
Universal Credit full service: 0800 328 5644

Universal Credit Re-profile

North Tyneside were scheduled for Full Service from 23 February 2018 – it will now roll out Universal Credit Full Service from May 2018. The DWP have also announced that the Live Service will no longer take any new Universal Credit claims. Between the beginning of January 2018 and full service roll out date in May 2018 new claimants in North Tyneside (not living in a Full Service area – NE7 7), will be asked to claim legacy benefits or tax credits. For more information visit <http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk>.

Funding Update

VODA's Funding Fair: Thursday 15 March



VODA's Funding Adviser, Frank Gillender, has a date for your diaries: "VODA's annual Funding Fair will take place on Thursday 15 March, 1pm to 5pm at the Linskill Centre in North Shields.

This is your opportunity to meet face-to-face with up to four of the region's top funders, tell them about your project and get advice and guidance on putting in a strong application.

There will also be a chance to attend an informative workshop delivered by funding expert, Karen Griffiths.

Details of funders and how to book will be announced on our website and e-bulletin so look out for more information coming soon. Please note, booking is essential, this is **not** a drop-in event.

Changes to Big Lottery's Reaching Communities

Reaching Communities awards grants of between £10,000 and £500,000 for projects in deprived areas. At present, Big Lottery Fund are changing the application process for Reaching Communities. This is an important part of their ambition to make it easier for groups and communities to apply for National Lottery funding, and to help them to make the best funding decisions possible.

In order to deliver this, Big are implementing a temporary pause on the submission of Reaching Communities applications between Monday 15 January and Monday 2 April 2018. All applications received before 15 January will be processed in the existing manner.

For more information visit www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities



Big Lottery Fund Awards for All

Awards for All is the Lottery's quick and simple way to get grants of between £300 and £10,000. Registered charities, constituted groups and not-for-profit organisations can apply for funding for a wide range of items and activities, including equipment, events, small capital projects, staff and training costs, transport, running costs and volunteer expenses.

Applications should show how your project or activity will:

- bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
- improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage

For more information and to apply visit: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/awards-for-all-england

Funding Update

Community Foundation Funds

Wellesley Trust Fund

Deadline: 9am on 5 February

This fund supports organisations working with young people in Northumberland, Tyne & Wear and County Durham, including Darlington. In this round, the Community Foundation welcome applications from all organisations, regardless of whether they've received a grant from the fund in the past. Previous grantees are able to apply for projects of up to three years' duration.

Projects previously supported by the Wellesley Trust Fund include general youth provision, uniformed groups activity, specialist skills and employability support, and work with specific groups of young people (e.g. disabled young people, or those with mental health problems). Both revenue and capital projects can be considered.

Grant size: £500 to £10,000 per year

The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust

Funds charitable activities benefiting residents of Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, County Durham and Teesside. Priority will be given to those which:

- ease social deprivation and/or
- enrich the fabric of the local community and the quality of life of individuals within that community

Grants are available to support organisations' core costs, as well as discreet projects, and will generally range from £500 to £10,000.

Examples of projects that the 1989 Willan Charitable Trust will fund include:

- Projects that meet the needs of communities experiencing high levels of deprivation
- Self-help initiatives that improve local quality of life
- Services for young people that address educational needs or offer diversion from crime and anti-social behaviour

- Projects assisting local communities affected by crime and anti-social behaviour
- Art projects that help tackle deprivation or improve local quality of life
- The work of youth organisations and, in particular, the Sea Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Boys' Brigades and other uniformed organisations. Grants here will not generally exceed £1,500
- Projects that draw on the region's rich maritime tradition to deliver improvements in local quality of life or address deprivation

The Trustees wish to prioritise projects for which Willan funding will represent a significant contribution to delivery of the project. Please see the website for full guidelines.

REEDS Grassroots Fund

The fund supports projects in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland that aim to improve the life chances of disadvantaged communities.

Priority will be given to organisations with an income of up to £100k, but organisations with a larger income may apply if their project meets the fund aims.

Applications should clearly show how groups/areas facing greatest disadvantage will be improved or supported.

Examples of disadvantaged communities include those affected by poverty, unemployment, homelessness, asylum seeker/refugee status, disability and people with learning disabilities. Activities include befriending, advice and guidance, training, advocacy and any other focused activities to improve an individual, group or community's situation. Grants of up to £3,000 will be considered.

For information about these funds and more:
www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply/
0191 284 8413
general@communityfoundation.org.uk

Funding Update

AB Charitable Trust

Deadline: 2 March 2018

The Trust supports registered charities working towards combating abuse and violations of human rights and to support the disadvantaged by fostering community action.

The Trust is particularly focussed on charities supporting unpopular causes reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. They support charities working where human dignity is imperilled and where there are opportunities for human dignity to be affirmed.

Applications are particularly welcomed from charities working to support:

- migrants, refugees and asylum seekers
- prisoners and penal reform
- human rights, particularly access to justice

The Trust generally makes one-off grants between £10,000 and £20,000 to registered charities working in the UK with annual incomes of between £150,000 and £1.5m, that do not have substantial investments or surpluses.

Application forms and full guidance can be downloaded from the website.

www.abcharitabletrust.org.uk
020 7313 8070
mail@abcharitabletrust.org.uk

Community Trees Fund

Deadline: 31 March 2018

The Community Trees Fund, which forms part of the Tree Council's Annual Community Action Programme, has re-opened for applications. The Tree Council is the UK's lead charity for trees and works in partnership with communities, organisations and Government to make trees matter to everyone.

The Community Trees Fund is open to applications for tree planting projects from schools and community groups (both formal and informal) in the UK.

All projects supported will show how children under the age of 16 will be actively involved in the planting that should take place during National Tree Week - usually at the end of November - or soon afterwards.

Funding of between £100 and £700 for up to 75% of the cost of the planting project is available; the remaining 25% of the cost will need to be secured by the applicant organisation.

www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants/community-trees

BBC Children In Need: Small Grants

Deadline: 1 March 2018

BBC Children in Need give grants to projects that involve children and young people of 18 years and under experiencing disadvantage through:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Any kind of disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Living in poverty or situations of deprivation

Through the Small Grants programme you can apply for grants of up to £10,000 per year for three years - a total request of £30,000.

In the Small Grants programme Children in Need are looking for projects where a relatively small amount of money can make a big difference for children and young people.

Full guidelines and supporting documents can all be found on the website along with examples of previously-funded projects.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4fjVTzz5QmQx5rx0S4NVg0Q/small-grants
Regional Office: 0303 081 5913

Funding Update

Sir James Knott Trust

Next deadline: 1 March 2018

An independent, grant making charitable trust based in Newcastle upon Tyne, the Sir James Knott Trust supports community projects in Tyne and Wear, Northumberland and County Durham.

The aim of the Trust is to help improve the conditions of people living and working in the North East of England. They do this by awarding grants under the following themes:

- Arts and culture
- Community issues and events
- Conservation and environment
- Education and training
- Health and sport
- Heritage and historic buildings
- Housing, homelessness and hardship
- Maritime

Trustees meet three times a year to consider applications for over £1,000 - the next deadline for which is 1 March 2018. Applications for grants of under £1,000 can be processed outside of these scheduled meeting dates usually within 4-6 weeks.

Applications should be made in writing including the information detailed on the website.

www.knott-trust.co.uk/
info@knott-trust.co.uk

RW Mann Trust

One of the region's most accessible and user-friendly funders for registered charities in the North Tyneside area, the trust offers grants of up to £1,000 for a wide range of work and activities. These include (but are not limited to) organisations that work with youth groups, children, people with disabilities, older people, schools and colleges. The application process is a simple, two page covering letter and there is a quick turnaround response.

www.rwmanntrust.org.uk/

Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust

The Trust issues grants to registered charities that support people of all ages who are socially disadvantaged and/or have mental and/or physical disabilities.

Most grants range from £1,000 to £5,000 and the maximum grant available is £10,000.

This Trust operates a rolling application process and does not have a website or a formal application form. Applications should be made by writing a letter to:

Mrs Maria Edge-Jurgens,
Anton Jurgens Charitable Trust, Saffery Champness,
71 Queen Victoria Street, London, EC4V 4BE

Telephone: 0207 841 4000

Shears Foundation

This local Foundation funds selected organisations and projects in the fields of community development, environmental issues, sustainable development, health and welfare and cultural developments all with an emphasis on education and raising awareness.

Applications can be made at any time and should be made in writing, containing details of the charity, the amount of funding required, including a full budget, and information on other funding applications.

The Foundation prefers to discuss potential projects by email and not by telephone.

Lyn Shears, Shears Foundation
c/o Community Foundation
Philanthropy House, Woodbine Road, Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1DD
Email: lyn@shears.onyxnet.co.uk

For the latest funding news, please subscribe to our e-bulletin - visit www.voda.org.uk or email amy.millar@voda.org.uk.

VODA Training: Spring Summer

JANUARY

23 Time Management

Full day course

FEBRUARY

7 Stop Smoking Briefing Interventions

Free session from North Tyneside Council

22 The New Charity Governance Code

Free Sector Connector workshop

27 Illegal Money Lending Awareness

Free session from Illegal Money Lending Team

MARCH

8 Why won't they read my leaflet?

Free Sector Connector workshop

29 First Steps to Funding

Half day course

APRIL

5 GDPR for Charities & Community Groups

Free Sector Connector workshop

12 Search Engine Optimisation

Free Sector Connector workshop

19 Roles and Responsibilities

Half day course

26 Safeguarding Children and Adults
in North Tyneside

Free afternoon session

MAY

8 Disclosure and Barring Service

Half day course

17 IT to Make Work Easier

Free Sector Connector workshop

JUNE

13 Make Your Meetings Work

Half day course

North Tyneside Recovery College

North Tyneside Recovery College offers free courses related to wellbeing, mental health and recovery, to give students the opportunities for social contact, personal development and participation which come from involvement in education.

The recovery college has been developed in partnership between VODA and Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust, with courses provided by a range of organisations. The first term ran from September to December 2017 with 14 courses and workshops on offer.

Feedback from students has been positive and comments have included:

“Great selection of courses”
“Cant wait for the next prospectus”
“Excellent course; very positive”

The college hopes to offer a wide range of courses during 2018 including mindfulness, art and gardening. Enrolments for next year are already underway and the next prospectus is due to be published soon. For more information or to enrol, call or text 07976 627475 or email ntrecoverycollege@gmail.com.



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www.voda.org.uk
admin@voda.org.uk
0191 643 2626