



RECRUITMENT PACK

(DISCOVERME PROJECT WORKER)

MARCH 2026



Welcome



Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your recent interest in the **DiscoverMe Project Worker** at VODA (North Tyneside Voluntary Organisation Development Agency).

VODA works to support and develop the voluntary and community sector by providing a wide range of support services and by representing the views of the sector to government and policymakers on a local and national level.

- We have over 300 VODA members made up of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in the North Tyneside area. In addition to this, we have a further 600 groups and organisations that are part of our community database and networks.
- We have a strong Board of Trustees that brings a wealth of experience and knowledge.
- We have a committed, passionate and experienced staff team.
- We provide advice and guidance for the trustees, committee members and anyone else involved in the governance of an organisation.
- One of our key objectives is to ensure the voluntary and community sector has a strong voice and is respected and involved in decision-making as an equal partner.
- We have additional funded projects that support the local community and CVS. Including the North Tyneside Volunteers Centre.

We offer 28-33 days holiday plus Bank Holidays (pro rata for part time staff), a personal development and training allowance, flexible and hybrid working, BUPA cash plan, 5 volunteer days (pro rata for part time staff), car and cycle mileage allowance and the ability to contribute to the culture and practices of VODA by being involved in the staff working groups.

- VODA recognises that everyone has a contribution to make to our society and a right to equal treatment.
- VODA is fully committed to providing an environment which eliminates discrimination and actively promotes diversity and values differences based on the unique contributions of individuals.
- We are part of the Disability Confident Employer scheme. If you are disabled and meet the minimum criteria, you are guaranteed an interview.

If you are selected for an interview, you will be contacted via email with a date and time. Interviews will be held in person in the Spirit of North Tyneside Hub. You will be sent directions to the Hub, the names and roles of those interviewing you and pictures of the space. We will also ask if you have any additional requirements to be able to attend an interview. VODA sends applicants the interview questions prior to the interview, and you are able to bring notes into the interview with you.

The closing date for applications is **Wednesday 8th April 2026 at 12 noon**, with interviews being held on **Thursday 16th April July 2026**.

To apply, send your CV and a covering letter of no more than 500 words outlining how your experience and skills meet the requirements of the role to admin@voda.org.uk

If you would like to discuss the role before applying, please contact Kirsty Christofi, Health Projects Manager on 0191 643 2626 or kirsty.christofi@voda.org.uk

If you require this pack in an alternative format, please contact admin@voda.org.uk or call 0191 263 2626

Vicky Smith



About North Tyneside VODA

VODA is North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations Development Agency. We value, promote and support the development of the voluntary and community sector by providing an independent, sensitive, responsive and inclusive service to achieve an active and lively community, which is rich in volunteers.

VODA has been in existence since 1993. VODA is overseen by a Board of Directors, who are elected by VODA members at our Annual General Meeting.

Below are VODA's main areas of work:

Advice and support for voluntary or community organisations based in or operating in North Tyneside on a range of topics including developing a new group, fundraising, financial management, and governance.

Information production: We ensure the local voluntary sector stays informed about key issues impacting its work. Our regular e-bulletin, with over 1,600 subscribers, provides timely updates, funding and essential news. Our website features a comprehensive collection of information sheets and guidance to support the sector. Additionally, we manage multiple social media profiles, sharing information on events, news, and training opportunities.



VODA runs the accredited **Volunteer Centre** for North Tyneside, raising awareness of the benefits of volunteering, recruiting, and placing volunteers with a range of voluntary, community and statutory organisations. We deliver volunteering projects including a supported volunteering project for people with enduring mental health issues and other long-term conditions.

About North Tyneside VODA

Training: VODA provides low cost or free training to meet the needs of the local voluntary and community sector, both in person and online.

Networking and developing partnerships with local, regional and national organisations. VODA facilitates local networks including the Volunteer Network and North Tyneside VCS Chief Officers group. VODA works strategically with a range of voluntary and public sector organisations including North Tyneside Strategic Partnership.

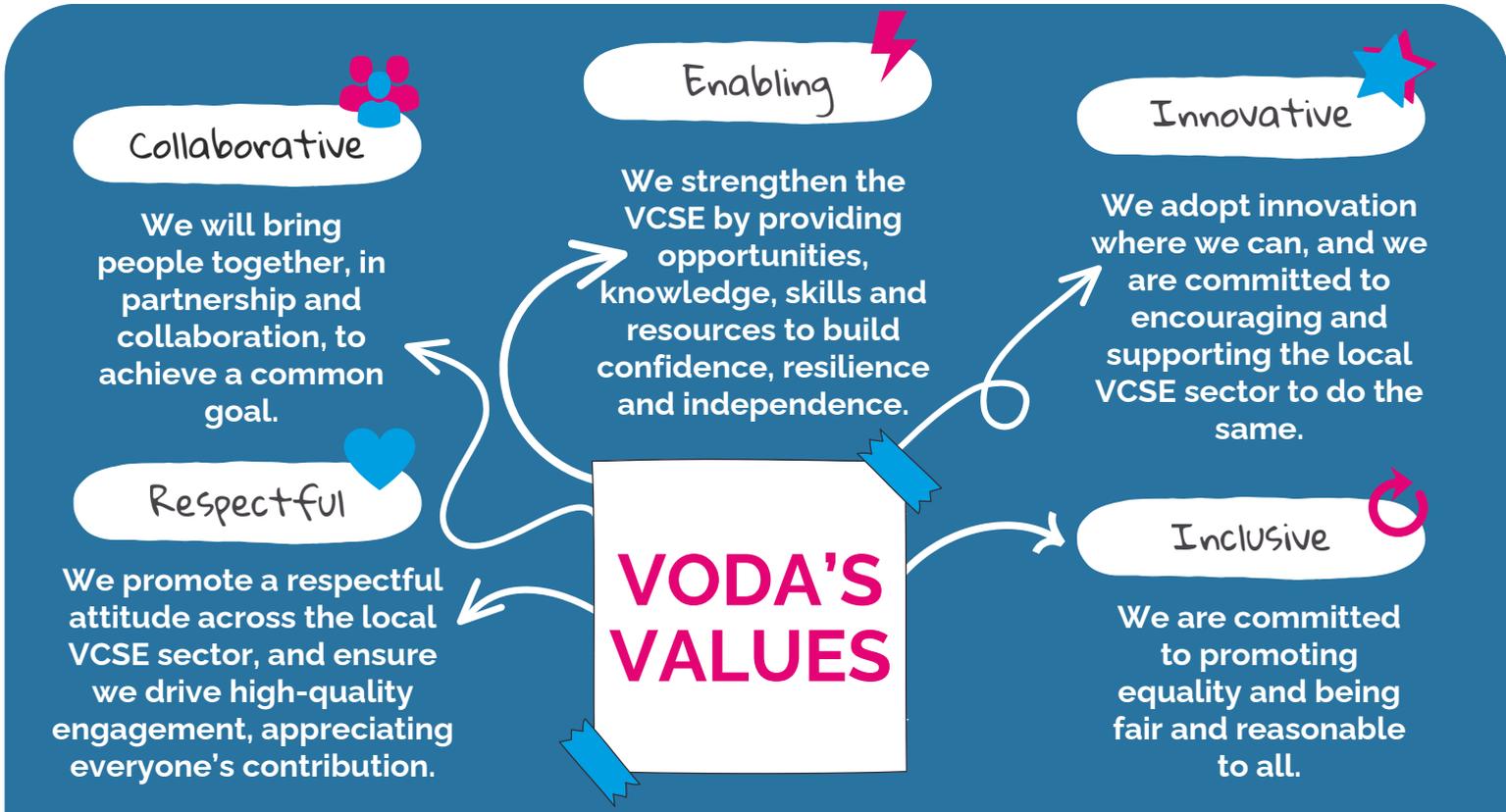


Representation: VODA provides a voluntary sector viewpoint and facilitates representation within the sector in North Tyneside on a broad range of issues.

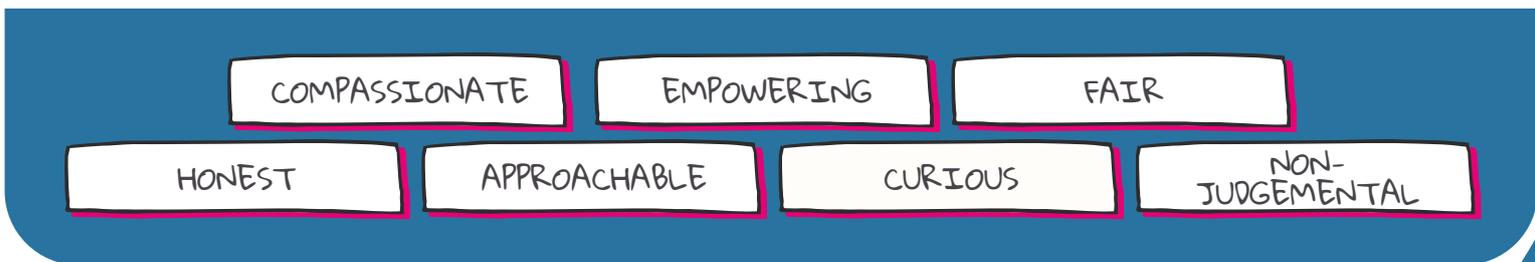
VODA manages a range of contracts and other projects as appropriate to the needs of the local community, and where they fit with our strategic objectives.



VODA Values



ALIGNED TO OUR VALUES, OUR ORGANISATIONAL BEHAVIOURS ARE:



ENGAGE - SUPPORT - DELIVER

VODA'S MISSION

We support volunteers and community organisations to enable people to live happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives in North Tyneside.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

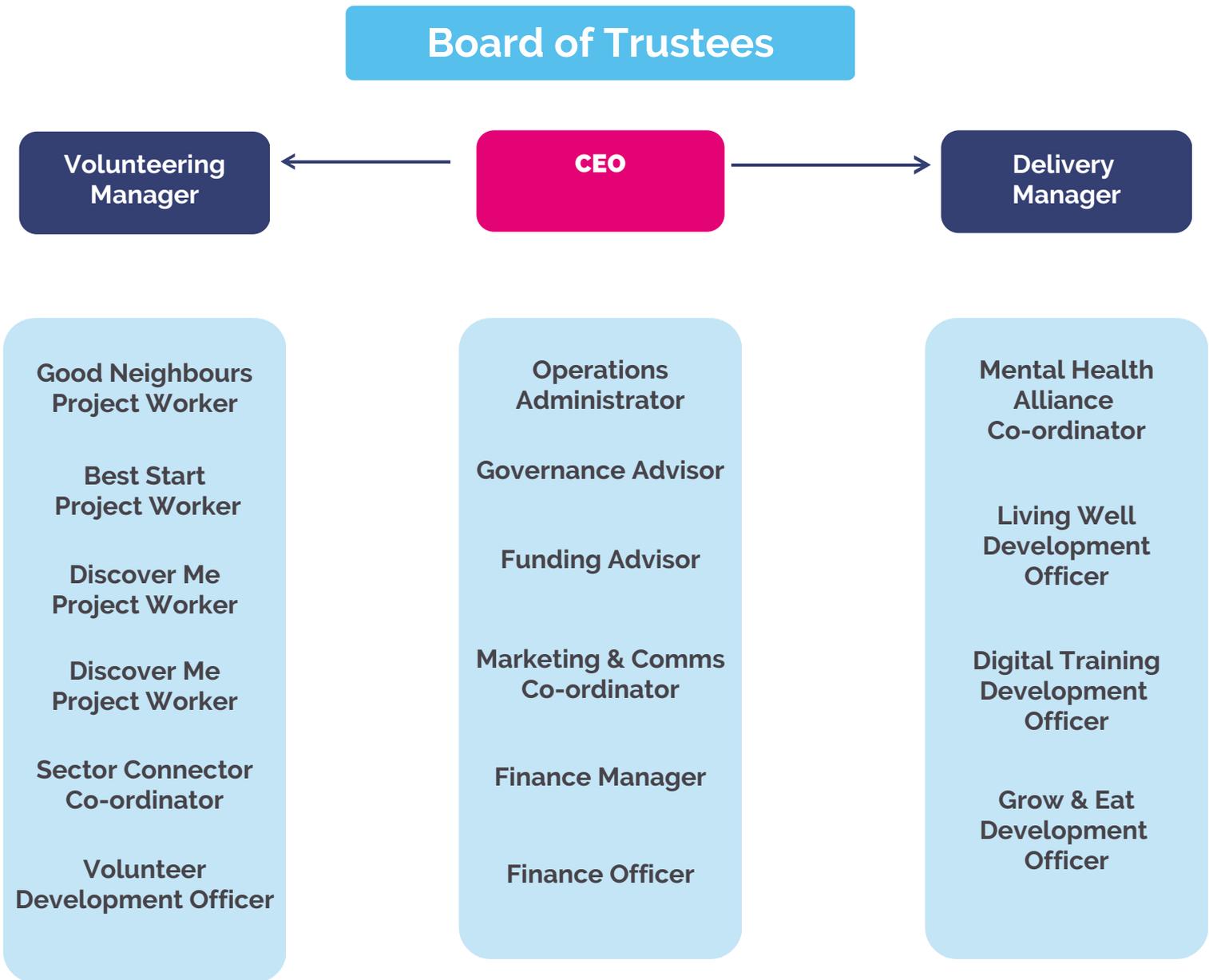
CORE SERVICES	VOLUNTEERING	SUSTAINABILITY	PARTNERSHIPS	REPRESENTATION
				
				
We will provide a full range of high-quality core services free to volunteers and voluntary and community organisations across North Tyneside.	We will manage and operate the North Tyneside Volunteers Centre, and directly deliver programmes that enable volunteers to support local residents and organisations.	We will offer a number of chargeable services that are in demand within the VCSE sector, but which lie outside of our free core services.	We will support and facilitate strong, mutually beneficial partnerships between VCSE organisations and other sectors.	We will ensure the VCSE sector has a strong voice, is respected and is involved in decision-making as an equal partner.

VODA VALUES

SECTOR & BOROUGH WIDE

ENGAGE - SUPPORT - DELIVER

Structure of VODA



Why work for VODA

At VODA we try to create an atmosphere of trust and respect, where people feel valued and engaged, and where everyone is treated equally. We strive to be a good employer, service provider and neighbour. Among the benefits of working for VODA are:

- **Flexibility and Hybrid Working:** We believe in arranging work patterns around other commitments such as family life, so we offer a 50% hybrid working arrangement and flexibility around working times.
- **Pay:** We pay our staff at very competitive rates.
- **Pension:** Providing you are eligible, VODA contributes a monthly amount into the designated pension scheme.
- **Mileage allowance:** We pay car or cycle mileage allowance for work-related journeys.
- **Holidays:** Full-time staff currently get a minimum of 28 days holiday a year, rising by 1 day per year up to a maximum of 33 days plus Bank Holidays. Part-time staff receive holidays pro rata.
- **Volunteer Days:** We offer 5 volunteer days per year (pro rata for part-time staff).
- **Wellbeing Activities:** We offer an optional monthly wellbeing hour when staff can choose to take part in a variety of activities organised by the wellbeing working group.
- **Focus on Employee Development:** We believe that as staff develop, so too does VODA. To encourage this, we provide a Personal Training Budget, regular Support and Supervision Sessions – with the emphasis very much on support – to help staff review their projects and their own needs. At the end of the year, we pull everything together in a more formal Personal Review & Development Session to help you take stock of what has happened during the previous 12 months, and what you need to do to meet the challenges that lie ahead.
- **Sick Pay Scheme:** We operate a contractual sick pay scheme (after the first 6 months of employment) to help you when you are unwell. The length of contractual sick pay depends on how long you have worked for us.

Why work for VODA

- **Health Care Scheme:** Staff are entitled to join our health care scheme operated by BUPA.
- **Carers Leave** VODA staff are entitled to one week every 12 months of paid Carers Leave if they have dependants who rely on them for care.
- **In-house expertise:** VODA has been around for more than three decades and during that time, we have built up expertise in several key areas. The way we work allows you to draw on that expertise and add your own to it.
- **Unrivalled experience:** VODA is a key player in North Tyneside's voluntary and community sector. You will gain invaluable experience that you can use to further develop your career.
- **Cross-team working:** No one works in isolation at VODA. In addition to being an integral part of your own team, you will have the opportunity to work with other teams on common themes, to join working groups, and to have your say on a wide range of issues.
- **Conferences:** We encourage staff to attend conferences that will benefit them, VODA and the community.



Quotes from staff



“ VODA's friendly and welcoming atmosphere is one of the many reasons I love working here. Our wide range of projects makes every day interesting, as does our diverse team of encouraging and enthusiastic staff. VODA's collaborative approach to working in the community is one of the many reasons it is such a valued institution and employer in North Tyneside. VODA really cares about its employees and strives to ensure staff are happy and fulfilled. VODA goes above and beyond to accommodate its staff, as well as promoting flexible working and good wellbeing in the workplace. ”

“ VODA is the best place I have ever worked at-everyone is so friendly and supportive. ”

“ VODA is a fantastic place to work - they really strive to give you a healthy work/life balance ”

“ The staff team are fantastic, so supportive, helpful and encouraging of each other. There is a culture of wellbeing, listening to staff and encouraging them to develop their skills throughout the organisation. The individual projects are amazing, there is always lots going on but everyone still works collectively. ”

Quotes from staff



“ I love working for VODA. They really take care of their staff and value each and every one of us. I always feel supported to, listened to and heard. I've never felt happier in a job. It is such a great team to work with.

”

“ At VODA, I feel trusted to do my job in a way that works for me, with the flexibility to balance life and work. There's always support when I need it, and I know I'm part of a team that's making a real difference in the community.

”

“ I have worked at VODA for nearly 2 years now and can honestly say it's an incredibly supportive environment and no matter what project you work on, you're really made to feel part of the wider team. I have also appreciated the amount of training/development opportunities on offer.

”

“ I really enjoy working at VODA with likeminded people. I have found everyone to be very welcoming, supportive and generous with their time and knowledge. It's great to feel well supported and encouraged to develop your own post and project.

”

Job description

Job title: DiscoverMe Project Worker

Hours: 15 hours per week

Salary: £26,213pa pro-rata

Contract Type: This role is fixed-term for 12 months with the potential for extension depending on funding.

Responsible to: Volunteering Manager

Job Purpose

To support young people in North Tyneside to design and deliver activities that improve the mental health and wellbeing of their peers and their local communities.

Summary

To promote DiscoverMe locally, ensure smooth intake of young people, deliver effective sessions, support volunteers, and maintain efficient project operations.

Help Us Reinvent Support for Young People in North Tyneside

North Tyneside VODA is launching DiscoverMe #ReinventUs, a brand-new Recovery College for young people aged 11–19. This project builds on the success of our 16–25 DiscoverMe model and will offer peer-led, strengths-based sessions that help young people develop resilience, confidence, and essential life skills in safe, inclusive community spaces.

We're looking for a compassionate, creative, and youth-focused DiscoverMe Youth Worker to help shape and deliver this exciting new offer.

About the Role

As a DiscoverMe Youth Worker, you will:

- Co-produce sessions with young people, ensuring their ideas and experiences drive the project
- Deliver weekly group sessions focused on wellbeing, resilience, confidence-building, and life skills
- Build trusting, supportive relationships with young people aged 11–19

Job description

- Engage those who may be isolated, struggling with low-level mental health challenges, or facing barriers to support
- Work collaboratively with schools, youth organisations, CAMHS, and community partners
- Support volunteers and peer leaders to take active roles in the project
- Help gather feedback and shape the ongoing development of the Recovery College
- Promote the project across North Tyneside to ensure it reaches those who need it most

This is a role for someone who believes in early intervention, community-based support, and the power of young people to shape their own futures.

About You

We'd love to hear from you if you:

- Have experience working with young people in a supportive, empowering, or educational setting
- Understand the challenges young people face around mental health, confidence, and social isolation
- Are passionate about co-production and youth-led approaches
- Can create safe, inclusive, and engaging group environments
- Are organised, proactive, and comfortable working independently
- Can travel across North Tyneside to deliver sessions and outreach

Experience in youth work, mental health, education, or community development is helpful, but what matters most is your ability to connect with young people and champion their strengths.

About the Project

DiscoverMe #ReinventUs will run across Wallsend, Whitley Bay, North Shields, Killingworth and Longbenton, offering accessible, community-based support for young people who may not meet clinical thresholds but still need a safe place to talk, learn, and grow.

Job description

Personal Specification

Experience, Skills and Knowledge

Essential Skills

- Experience of working within a youth or community-focused project.
- Ability to work effectively with a diverse group of young people, with an understanding of their needs, experiences, and barriers to participation.
- Proven experience in building and maintaining positive relationships with key services and partners to enhance project delivery.
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to deliver engaging presentations and workshops to a range of audiences.
- Ability to plan, deliver, and co-produce engaging sessions with young people, ensuring content is relevant, accessible, and impactful.
- Experience providing support and guidance to young people, including in co-facilitation or peer-led environments.
- Strong understanding of safeguarding procedures and the ability to respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns.
- Excellent organisational skills, with the ability to manage multiple tasks, prioritise effectively, and meet deadlines.
- Experience in recruiting and supporting volunteers.
- Ability to track and evaluate project impact, using data to inform decision-making.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team, with a proactive approach to problem-solving.
- Strong administrative skills

Desirable

- Knowledge of the Young Persons Recovery College model or similar frameworks.
- Experience in managing digital platforms, including websites, social media, and newsletters.

Job description

Terms and conditions

Location: North Tyneside

Salary scale: £26,213 - £28,140

Contract: This role is offered on a fixed-term basis for 12 months with the potential for extension beyond the initial period depending on future funding..

Pension: If eligible, you will be auto enrolled into the VODA Pension Scheme.

Hours: 15 hours per week

Holidays: The holiday entitlement is 28 days per year, increasing by one day per completed year, rising to a maximum of 33 days. All holidays are pro rata for part-time staff.

Maternity/Paternity: Details of maternity/paternity leave are available.

Sick Pay: Details of sick pay arrangements are available.

Health Scheme: Employees are entitled to join VODA's health scheme, which is operated through BUPA.

Expenses: Travel expenses are paid for necessary work-related journeys.

Notice: One month



**North Tyneside Voluntary Organisations
Development Agency (VODA)**

Spirit of North Tyneside Wing,
2nd Floor, Wallsend Community Hub and Library,

16 The Forum, Wallsend, NE28 8JR

T: 0191 643 2626 E: admin@voda.org.uk

www.voda.org.uk

Facebook: @NTVODA

LinkedIn: @North Tyneside VODA

Charitable Incorporated Organisation: 1075060