

# VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND

England & Wales · Charity number 702930

## Details

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Other names	SUNDERLAND CENTRE FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE, THE SUNDERLAND COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE, S C V S
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	<a href="#">01759477</a>
Registered	1990-05-31
Register	<a href="#">View on the Charity Commission register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland 15 Norfolk Street Sunderland SR1 1EA
Phone	0191 5651566
Email	<a href="mailto:info@vcas.org.uk">info@vcas.org.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.vcas2020.org">www.vcas2020.org</a>

## Activities

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**Objects:** (A) TO SUPPORT VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS WHICH RESIDE OR OPERATE IN THE CITY OF SUNDERLAND AND IT'S IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING AREA (HEREINAFTER CALLED "THE AREA OF BENEFIT") SO THAT THEY CAN FUNCTION MORE EFFECTIVELY.B) TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY, IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT AND IN PARTICULAR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, SPORT AND LEISURE, THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SICKNESS.C) TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE CO-OPERATION IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

**Activities:** To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the wider community in the City of Sunderland, and in particular the advancement of education, the furtherance of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

## Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Armed Forces/emergency Service Efficiency, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Recreation, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND
- Sunderland

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£49,250	£80,213	-	-
2024-03-31	£55,212	£84,679	-	-
2023-03-31	£23,786	£76,901	-	-
2022-03-31	£19,920	£44,953	-	-
2021-03-31	£64,542	£54,261	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alan Cummings		2023-12-05
Amanda Lowery		2023-12-05
KUMARESWARADAS RAMANATHAS		2017-03-03
Katherine Lowe		2016-03-01
Paul Brigham		2022-12-08
Rachidy Bikaya		2018-05-18
Stephen Armstrong		2015-03-09

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

England & Wales - Charity number 702930

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# Accounts

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**Voluntary and  
Community Action  
Sunderland**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

2024 - 2025

Company No. 01759477

Charity No. 702930

# Welcome Chairman's Comments



“

“This year has been one of both challenge and achievement for Sunderland’s Voluntary and Community Sector. Against a backdrop of rising demand and challenging resources. However our trustees, staff member organisations continue to demonstrate resilience, creativity, and commitment to the voluntary sector and people of Sunderland.

I am proud that VCAS has grown to 388 members, reflecting the strength and diversity of our sector. Together, we have secured vital funding, created new volunteering opportunities, and built partnerships that will help to develop and shape the future of our communities.

Our officers have worked tirelessly to support organisations of all sizes, from grassroots groups to established charities, ensuring they have the tools, training, and advocacy they need. The Taking the Temperature survey has given us a clear picture of the sector’s health, and we will use this evidence to campaign for fairer investment and stronger infrastructure.

Looking ahead, our mission remains clear:

To champion, connect, and strengthen Sunderland’s VCSE sector so that it continues to thrive. Thank you to our members, funders, trustees, staff, volunteers, and partners for making this possible.”

”

**Stephen Armstrong - Chair**



# Mission and Vision

To strengthen, support, and champion Sunderland's Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector by enabling organisations and volunteers to create positive change and lasting social value.



## We achieve this by:

- **Engaging** the whole sector in opportunities to develop, collaborate, and improve services.
- **Inspiring** good practice and bottom-up approaches that build stronger, more resilient communities.
- **Empowering** organisations and communities through representation, equity, and advocacy that can influence real change

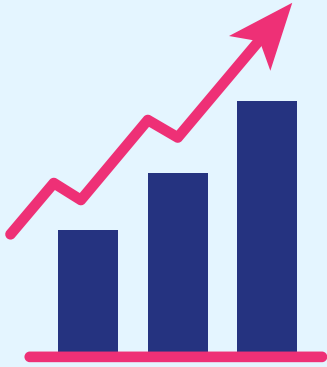
“ to achieve positive community development by supporting stronger communities and transforming lives through community-led action. ”

## Vision

### A thriving, inclusive, and resilient VCSE sector that:

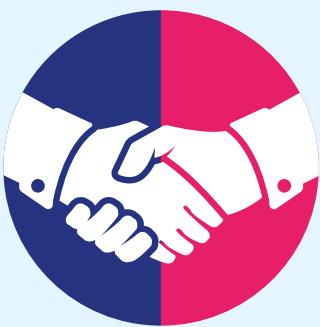
- **Empowers** communities to take the lead in shaping their future.
- **Celebrates** diversity and ensures every voice is heard.
- **Sustains** itself through collaboration, innovation, and shared learning.
- **Transforms** lives through community-led action, building stronger communities and a fairer city for all.

# Highlights 2024-2025



In 2024–25, VCAS continued to deliver impact at scale. Membership grew to 388 organisations, each contributing to Sunderland’s vibrant community life. Our officers supported **205 organisations** with tailored advice, governance support, and funding guidance, helping to secure **£200,000+** in new investment for smaller VCSE Sector organisations.

Training remained a cornerstone of our work, with **150 organisations** building skills in safeguarding, fundraising, business planning and governance, leadership. We brokered **30 volunteering opportunities**, connecting people with causes that matter. Developed and piloted a bespoke training package.



Partnerships flourished, from collaborations with regional universities to joint initiatives with funders. Together, we celebrated the sector’s achievements through the **Open Arms Awards**, where **116 VCSE organisations engaged**. VCAS enabled **65 organisations face-to-face meetings** with funders at our regular summer, winter Funderland events.



During the year, VCAS have engaged with **388 member organisations**. Achieved through our dedicated small team, whose skills and ambition for the sector is reflected into providing the best services for those organisations.

# Conference Summary and Recommendations

## March 2025 – Issues Identified



### Funding Inequity & Competition



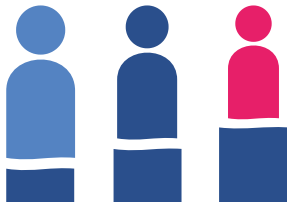
- Larger organisations dominate funding streams grassroots groups struggle to access resources.
- Short-term funding creates instability, staff turnover, and weakens trust with communities.

### Capacity & Time Pressures



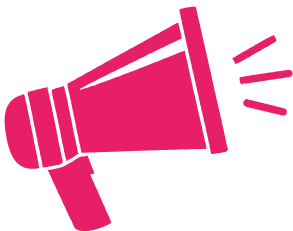
- Smaller, volunteer-led groups lack time and skills for governance, bid writing, and strategic engagement.
- Partnership working often feels like a “luxury” rather than a supported function.

### Exclusion & Representation Gaps



- Disabled people, neurodiverse individuals, young people, BME communities, and smaller groups risk being “left behind.”
- Sector culture can feel “cliquey,” with quieter or newer organisations excluded from networks.

### Weak Infrastructure & Voice



- Local infrastructure is under-resourced, limiting coordination and advocacy.
- VCSE voices often feel unheard in policy and strategy development.

### Trust & Collaboration Barriers



- Competition for scarce funds fosters mistrust.
- Power imbalances in partnerships leave smaller groups feeling tokenistic.

# Conference Highlights



**Strong Engagement:**  
100% of delegates said they would attend again; 72% rated the event "excellent."



**Regional Advocacy:**  
VONNE emphasised the importance of storytelling + data (*"no numbers without stories, no stories without numbers"*) to influence funders and policymakers.



**Community-Led Voices:**  
Presentations from grassroots organisations (e.g. ELCAP, ICOS, All Together Consortium) showcased the power of lived experience and peer-led models.



**Youth Voice Amplified:**  
The All Together Consortium demonstrated how young people can influence change when given space and support.

**Academic Partnerships:**  
UCL and University of Sunderland highlighted opportunities for co-produced research and knowledge exchange.



**Networking & Collaboration:**  
The event created a rare, valued space for cross-sector dialogue, with delegates calling for it to become a regular fixture.



# Reflections 2024-2025



VCAS sustained and developed core services throughout a challenging year thanks to a focused staff team and strengthened partnerships. Our five dedicated and skilled part-time officers kept vital support running for Sunderland's VCSE sector while we built new strategic relationships with the University of Sunderland, University College London, and Insights North East.

VCAS continue to operate in line with NAVCA's core principles for local infrastructure organisations and remain committed to advocating for the whole sector, with particular attention to groups who are often feel under pressure and lack capacity. Despite progress, the sector faces significant headwinds. Since 2019 the CEO has been tasked with delivering a stronger, more comprehensive infrastructure for the city, but service duplication and restricted access to funding have constrained impact. These structural challenges require urgent attention if we are to sustain and scale support for grassroots organisations and offer a brighter future for all the sector.

Most importantly, our **Taking the Temperature** survey provides vital evidence, highlighting both the resilience of our sector and the urgent need for sustained investment. This insight will guide our advocacy in the year ahead.



# Research & Insight

## Taking The Temperature:

### Sector Snapshot



#### Organisations

- 58% are registered charities
- 10% charitable companies
- 8% were CIOs (foundation model) and CICs
- 6% were unregistered charities or “other” types. Reflects a broad spectrum of governance models, with a strong presence of formal charities and growing interest in social enterprise structures.

#### Geographic spread

- 50% deliver services city-wide
- 26% operate in a single city area
- 17% work regionally, and 7% nationally

This shows that most groups are deeply embedded in Sunderland’s communities, with a significant number scaling their impact across multiple areas.

#### Who VCSE Groups Support

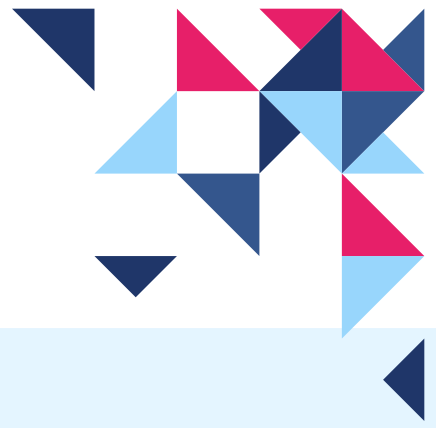
Top beneficiary groups:

- Young people and children (67%)
- Older people (64%)
- Mental health (52%)
- Women (52%)
- Disabled people and men (50% each)
- BME communities (38%) and refugees/asylum seekers (36%)

This confirms the sector’s role in supporting both universal and marginalised groups, with strong representation across age, gender, and inclusion priorities.

# Research & Insight Taking The Temperature:

## Sector Snapshot



### Main service themes

- Advice and support (50%)
- Health (42%)
- Social isolation and inclusion (42%)
- Children & young people (37%)
- Community hubs (34%)

These priorities align with the cost-of-living response and wider wellbeing agendas.

### Sector Pressures and Growth

#### **Staffing:**

- 76% have full-time staff, 82% part-time, 84% volunteers, and 89% trustees
- 24% saw a reduction in full-time staff; only 13% saw increases
- 63% reported stable volunteer numbers, but 18% saw declines

This suggests resilience but also pressure on paid roles and volunteer recruitment.

#### **Demand and income:**

- 72% saw increased demand for services
- 38% reported income growth, but 31% saw reductions
- 26% of groups operate on under £50k annually; only 7.7% exceed £500k

These figures highlight the strain of rising demand against static or shrinking resources.

# Research & Insight Taking The Temperature: Sector Snapshot



## Funding Landscape

### **Top funders applied to:**

- Community Fund (55%)
- Tyne and Wear Community Foundation (48%)
- Sir James Knott Trust (39%)
- Other local/niche funders (52%)
- Heritage Lottery Fund had low engagement (13%) and fewer reported success
- Success rates were highest with Community Fund (41%) and Community Foundation (37%)

**This points to a reliance on a small pool of funders and limited success with national programmes**

### **Funding sources:**

- 74% received charitable grants
- 62% used fundraising
- 53% accessed public sector grants
- 38% earned income through goods/services
- 32% drew on reserves

**The mix shows creativity in income generation but also dependence on grant funding**

# Research & Insight Taking The Temperature: Sector Snapshot



## Sector Needs and Priorities

### Top learning needs:

- Funding and “how to” (77%)
- Social media and marketing (60%)
- Business planning (50%)
- Safeguarding, compliance (43%)
- Trustee development and risk management (37%)

These reflect a desire for practical, strategic skills to build resilience and visibility.

### Top challenges for 2025:

- Funding insecurity
- Volunteer recruitment
- Rising demand and cost pressures
- Risk of closure or merger for some groups

These underline the urgency of infrastructure support and funding reform

### Key Themes & Concerns

- **Funding Inequity:** A small number of organisations secure the majority of grants; grassroots groups struggle.
- **Short-Termism:** Reliance on short-term funding undermines stability, staff retention, and long-term planning.
- **Capacity Gaps:** Smaller groups lack governance confidence, bid-writing skills, and business planning capacity.
- **Flat Volunteering:** Volunteer numbers are not growing despite rising demand.
- **Cost of Living Impact:** Rising costs affect organisations, staff, volunteers, and service users.
- **Representation:** Under-represented groups (youth, BME, disabled, grassroots) risk being “left behind.”

# Research & Insight Taking The Temperature: Sector Snapshot



## Sector Needs and Priorities

### **Calls to Action for Funders & Policymakers**

#### **1. Invest fairly:**

- Ensure equitable distribution of resources across Sunderland's 500 VCSE groups.

#### **2. Back grassroots:**

- Recognise and resource smaller, community-led organisations.

#### **3. Fund for the long term:**

- Move away from "stop-start" cycles to multi-year, flexible funding.

#### **4. Strengthen infrastructure:**

- Resource VCAS to provide a coordination approach to wider sector support including, training, advocacy and cross sector representation.

#### **5. Champion inclusion:**

- Embed under-represented voices in decision-making and strategy. Stop playing 'lip-serves' to these issues.

# VCAS Priorities for 2025–26: Summary

## Strengthening Sector Provision & Infrastructure

- Expand training, governance, business planning, and bid-writing support
- Facilitate cross-sector collaboration, consortia formation, and academic-policy partnerships
- Use community mapping and impact evaluation to reduce duplication and identify unmet needs



## Amplifying Marginalised Voices

- Ensure underrepresented groups are engaged in planning and decision-making
- Campaign for fairer funding distribution, highlighting Sunderland's specific challenges
- Support community-led organisations to inform policy and co-produce solutions



## Promoting Funding Equity & Resource Mobilisation

- Advocate for multi-year, core, and unrestricted funding to replace short-term grants
- Provide funding alerts, tailored support, and lobby for accessible micro-grants
- Use funding data to argue for Sunderland's fair share and monitor sector capacity
- Empower lived experience to shape responsive, equitable solutions



## VCAS Commitment

- Champion a fair, inclusive infrastructure with grassroots voices at the centre
- Uphold NAVCA principles: leadership, collaboration, capacity-building, and volunteering

## Sector Challenges Ahead

- Restricted funding and complex commissioning
- Rising demand for services
- Need for resilience, adaptability, and strategic leadership

# VCAS Priorities 2025-2026

## 1. Strengthening Sector Infrastructure

- Expand support for training, governance, business planning, and bid development
- Enable cross-sector collaboration, consortium building, and academic-policy partnerships
- Use community mapping and impact evaluation to reduce duplication and surface unmet needs

## 2. Amplifying Marginalised Voices

- Ensure underrepresented groups are involved in planning and decision-making
- Advocate for fairer funding, highlighting Sunderland's unique challenges
- Support community-led organisations to influence policy and co-create solutions

## 3. Promoting Funding Equity & Resource Mobilisation

- Campaign for multi-year, core, and unrestricted funding to replace short-term grants
- Share funding alerts, offer tailored support, and push for accessible micro-grants
- Use funding data to evidence Sunderland's needs and monitor sector capacity
- Centre lived experience in shaping responsive, equitable approaches

## 4. VCAS Commitment

- Champion inclusive infrastructure with grassroots voices at the heart
- Uphold NAVCA principles: leadership, collaboration, capacity-building, and volunteering

## 5. Sector Challenges Ahead

- Limited funding and complex commissioning processes
- Rising demand for services
- Urgent need for resilience, adaptability, and strategic leadership

# Summary Statement of Accounts





**Expenditure**

**£80,213**



**Income**

**£49,250**



**Closing Reserves**

**69,914**

Alan Cummings: Treasurer

# Acknowledgement and Thanks



As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to 2025–26, VCAS extends its deepest gratitude to the people and organisations who make Sunderland’s VCSE sector thrive.

- **To our Trustees:** Thank you for your unwavering guidance, strategic insight, and commitment to good governance. Your stewardship ensures VCAS remains accountable, ambitious, and rooted in community values.
- **To our Volunteers:** You are the heartbeat of our sector. Your time, energy, and compassion continue to transform lives and strengthen communities. We honour your dedication and the difference you make every day.
- **To our Funders and Supporters:** Your belief in our mission and investment in our work have enabled innovation, resilience, and growth across the sector. We thank you for your trust and partnership in building a fairer Sunderland.
- **To our Members and Sector Partners:** Your collaboration, creativity, and shared purpose have shaped every milestone. Together, we’ve built networks, delivered impact, and championed inclusion. We are proud to stand alongside you.

VCAS remains committed to amplifying your voices, advocating for your needs, and supporting your journey.



Thank you to all our partners  
and funders who  
have supported and worked  
with us to meet the needs of  
our VCSE Sector organisations  
in Sunderland

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**  
**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

**Directors Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**

*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
NE32 5HS

## **Legal and Administrative**

### **Registered office address**

15 Norfolk Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR1 1EA

**Company Number: 01759477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

### **Officers**

J Hilton	Company Secretary
S Armstrong	Chair
R Bikaya	Trustee
K Lowe	Trustee
K Ramanathas	Vice Chair
P Brigham	Trustee
A Cummings	Treasurer
A Lowery	Trustee

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust

The directors for the purposes of company law have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (The Company) for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### **Principle Activity**

To support voluntary and community sector organisations which reside or operate in the City of Sunderland and its immediate surrounding area (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") so that they can function more effectively.

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, in the area of benefit and in particular the advancement of education, sport and leisure, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities with the area of benefit.

### **Statement of trustee's responsibilities**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved On behalf of the board

Director Signature ...  .....

Name .....Stephen Armstrong .....

Date .....12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.....

### Independent Examiners Report

I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective January 2015);
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable to proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 30/10/2025

Julie Maxwell – MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2025

Income	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grant Income				
Community Foundation	23,675		23,675	10000
UKRI	17,957		17,957	1724
Ballinger	0		0	7000
James Knott Trust	7,000		7,000	12500
NAVCA	0		0	8822
Other Grants	618		618	15166
Other Trading Activity	0		0	
Bank Interest	0		0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>49,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,250</b>	<b>55,212</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Salaries	64,109	0	64,109	43,121
Repayments	618	0	618	2,100
Project Costs	5,632	0	5,632	9,580
Insurance	302	0	302	292
Utilities	2,519	0	2,519	1,332
Consultancy	0		0	15,520
Office Costs	1,834	0	1,834	10,496
Alarms / Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Subs	150		150	84
Travelling	462	0	462	170
Rent and Room Hire	3,903		3,903	0
Accounts	612	0	612	651
Depreciation			0	0
Bank Charges	71	0	71	1,334
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>80,213</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,213</b>	<b>84,680</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-30,963	0	-30,963	-29,468
Opening Reserves	100,877	0	100,877	130,344
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<b>69,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69,914</b>	<b>100,876</b>

Statement of Financial Position – Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland – period ended 31/03/2025

	2024 2025	2024 2025	2023 2024
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets			
Depreciation		0	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Unity Current Account	70,264		102,208
		70,264	102,208
Debtors			
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>70,264</b>	<b>102,208</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals	360		1,341
		360	1,341
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>
 <b>Represented by:</b>			
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2025	-30,963		-29,467
Funds C/fwd.	100,867		130,334
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2025</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>

The company was entitled to an exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with the respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board for issue on ...12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.....

Director Name - ..... Mr Stephen Armstrong .....

Director Signature - .....



Company No. 01759477

## Notes

### 1. Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

#### 1.2 Income

Income from fees is recognised in the accounts when invoiced unless it relates to future accounting periods, in which case it is deferred and included in creditors

Grants / Income receivable are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate specifically to a future accounting period, in which case, they are deferred.

Where a grant is received relating to a future accounting period, the profit and loss account shows the gross amount together with the changes in the amount deferred to future accounting periods. Deferred grant income at the year-end is included in creditors.

#### 1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

#### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed Assets are initially recorded at cost

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

### 2 Operating Loss

	<b>2025</b>
	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after charging:	(30,963)
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	0
	<hr/>
	(30.963)

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

	<b>2025</b>
<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2022	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
	<hr/>
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0
	<hr/>

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	0
Additions in period	0
	<hr/>
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
	<hr/>
Depreciation	0
Sale of Fixed Asset	
	<hr/>
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	0
	<hr/>
Net Book Value	<hr/>
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	0

### 5 Debtors:

**2025**  
£ 0

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**£ 0**

### 6 Creditors: falling due in one year

**2025**  
£

#### Trade Creditors

Accruals - Accounts

360

Accruals - other

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**360**

	<b>2024</b>
<b>7. Funds</b>	
	£
Opening Balance	100,867
Decrease in Assets	(30,963)
Balance carried forward	<u>69,904</u>

# **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

## **Directors Report and Financial Statements**

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**

*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
NE32 5HS

## **Legal and Administrative**

### **Registered office address**

15 Norfolk Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR1 1EA

**Company Number: 01759477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

### **Officers**

J Hilton	Company Secretary
S Armstrong	Chair
R Bikaya	Trustee
K Lowe	Trustee
K Ramanathas	Vice Chair
P Brigham	Trustee
A Cummings	Treasurer
A Lowery	Trustee

### **Bankers**

Unity Trust

The directors for the purposes of company law have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (The Company) for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### **Principle Activity**

To support voluntary and community sector organisations which reside or operate in the City of Sunderland and its immediate surrounding area (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") so that they can function more effectively.

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, in the area of benefit and in particular the advancement of education, sport and leisure, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities with the area of benefit.

### **Statement of trustee's responsibilities**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved On behalf of the board

Director Signature ...  .....

Name .....Stephen Armstrong .....

Date .....12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.....

### Independent Examiners Report

I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

### Independent Examiners Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective January 2015);
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable to proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 30/10/2025

Julie Maxwell – MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2025

Income	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grant Income				
Community Foundation	23,675		23,675	10000
UKRI	17,957		17,957	1724
Ballinger	0		0	7000
James Knott Trust	7,000		7,000	12500
NAVCA	0		0	8822
Other Grants	618		618	15166
Other Trading Activity	0		0	
Bank Interest	0		0	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>49,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49,250</b>	<b>55,212</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Salaries	64,109	0	64,109	43,121
Repayments	618	0	618	2,100
Project Costs	5,632	0	5,632	9,580
Insurance	302	0	302	292
Utilities	2,519	0	2,519	1,332
Consultancy	0		0	15,520
Office Costs	1,834	0	1,834	10,496
Alarms / Maintenance	0	0	0	0
Subs	150		150	84
Travelling	462	0	462	170
Rent and Room Hire	3,903		3,903	0
Accounts	612	0	612	651
Depreciation			0	0
Bank Charges	71	0	71	1,334
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>80,213</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,213</b>	<b>84,680</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-30,963	0	-30,963	-29,468
Opening Reserves	100,877	0	100,877	130,344
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<b>69,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>69,914</b>	<b>100,876</b>

Statement of Financial Position – Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland – period ended 31/03/2025

	2024 2025 £	2024 2025 £	2023 2024 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets			
Depreciation		0	
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Unity Current Account	70,264		102,208
		70,264	102,208
Debtors			
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>70,264</b>	<b>102,208</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals	360		1,341
		360	1,341
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>
 <b>Represented by:</b>			
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2025	-30,963		-29,467
Funds C/fwd.	100,867		130,334
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2025</b>		<b>69,904</b>	<b>100,867</b>

The company was entitled to an exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with the respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board for issue on ...12<sup>th</sup> December 2025.....

Director Name - ..... Mr Stephen Armstrong .....

Director Signature - .....



Company No. 01759477

## Notes

### 1. Accounting Policies

#### 1.1 Accounting Convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

#### 1.2 Income

Income from fees is recognised in the accounts when invoiced unless it relates to future accounting periods, in which case it is deferred and included in creditors

Grants / Income receivable are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate specifically to a future accounting period, in which case, they are deferred.

Where a grant is received relating to a future accounting period, the profit and loss account shows the gross amount together with the changes in the amount deferred to future accounting periods. Deferred grant income at the year-end is included in creditors.

#### 1.3 Expenditure

Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

#### 1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed Assets are initially recorded at cost

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

### 2 Operating Loss

	<b>2025</b>
	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after charging:	(30,963)
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	0
	<hr/>
	(30.963)

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

	<b>2025</b>
<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2022	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
	<hr/>
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0
	<hr/>

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	0
Additions in period	0
	<hr/>
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
	<hr/>
Depreciation	0
Sale of Fixed Asset	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	0
	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Net Book Value	<hr/>
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025	0

### 5 Debtors:

**2025**  
£ 0

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**£ 0**

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### 6 Creditors: falling due in one year

**2025**  
£

#### Trade Creditors

Accruals - Accounts

360

Accruals - other

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**360**

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	<b>2024</b>
<b>7. Funds</b>	
	£
Opening Balance	100,867
Decrease in Assets	(30,963)
Balance carried forward	<u>69,904</u>

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

England & Wales - Charity number 702930

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# Accounts

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# Annual Report



2023  
2024



Champion of Sunderlands  
Independent VCSE Sector



**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

# Letter from the CHAIR

**Covering the period from April 2023 to March 2024.**

As Chairman of VCAS over the last 12 month period, I would initially like to thank our funders, trustees, staff and volunteers for their continued support and hard work.

Secondly I would like to thank our members, now at 378 for their continued support. It is encouraging to see how our members engage with the services and resources we provide. We are as always led by our members on what services are needed and how we can support VCSE organisations to be more resilient and provide the resources and support that are needed in communities across the city.

Thank you!



**Stephen Armstrong**

**VCAS CHAIR**

# VCAS Mission

## Mission

VCAS are dedicated to supporting and promoting an inclusive, equitable, resilient and vibrant Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector (VCSE) for Sunderland and the local communities they serve.

We actively enable the diverse VCSE sector in Sunderland to have opportunities for support, collaboration and ongoing organisational development enabling resilience and sustainability.



## Vision

*“To achieve positive community development by supporting stronger communities and transforming lives through community-led action”*

- **ENGAGE:** Enable all of the VCSE Sector to have the opportunity to engage, develop and improve services.
- **INSPIRE:** A stronger VCSE Sector that is based on good practices that help to build from the ‘bottom-up’
- **EMPOWER:** Provide representation to improve equity and equality across the sector, to support and influence real change.

# VCAS HIGHLIGHTS

At the heart of VCAS are its members and the support they need to thrive and development for the benefit of the community.

VCAS has increased its membership in 2024 and have through staff developments been able to offer much needed additional support and opportunities to the VCSE Sector across Sunderland. Our ambition moving forward is to offer even more opportunities next year and help those organisations thrive.

**378**

VCAS  
MEMBERS  
ENGAGED

**240**

VCSE SECTOR  
ORGANISATIONS  
SUPPORTED

**65**

VCSE SECTOR  
ORGANISATIONS  
ATTENDED  
FUNDERLAND & FUNDER  
EVENTS

**125**

VCSE SECTOR  
ORGANISATIONS  
ACCESSED TRAINING

# VCAS HIGHLIGHTS

### Funding and other VCSE Sector Support

These activities and figures directly related to our funding support, which includes 1:1 support, outreach and organised events with funders. The funding officer worked with 85 organisations, supporting funding applications and funding strategies for organisations.

These groups were supported through:

- 1:1 and group funding appointments
- Outreach and drop in sessions across the City
- £150k was secured for VCSE Sector organisations community groups

- 60 local VCSE Organisations were provided with opportunities to meet the The National Lottery Community Fund, The Community Foundation, Coalfields Regeneration Trust and BBC Children in Need, benefitting from the funding information sessions.
- Other work with VCS groups has included; governance support, developing a funding strategy, improving their organisational structure, having the correct policies in place and planning for their long term sustainability.
- 8 new groups have received support and advice on setting up their group, writing a constitution and putting safeguarding procedures in place for their organisation so they can start to raise funds for their work in the community.

£137,000

*VCAS have supported VCSE Sector organisation's to access new grant making programmes that targeted small voluntary groups at the heart of community engagement.*

£10,000

£400,000

## Mackem Money



40 Sunderland Organisations received funding through the Community Foundations Participatory Grant Making Programme



## The Ballinger Trust

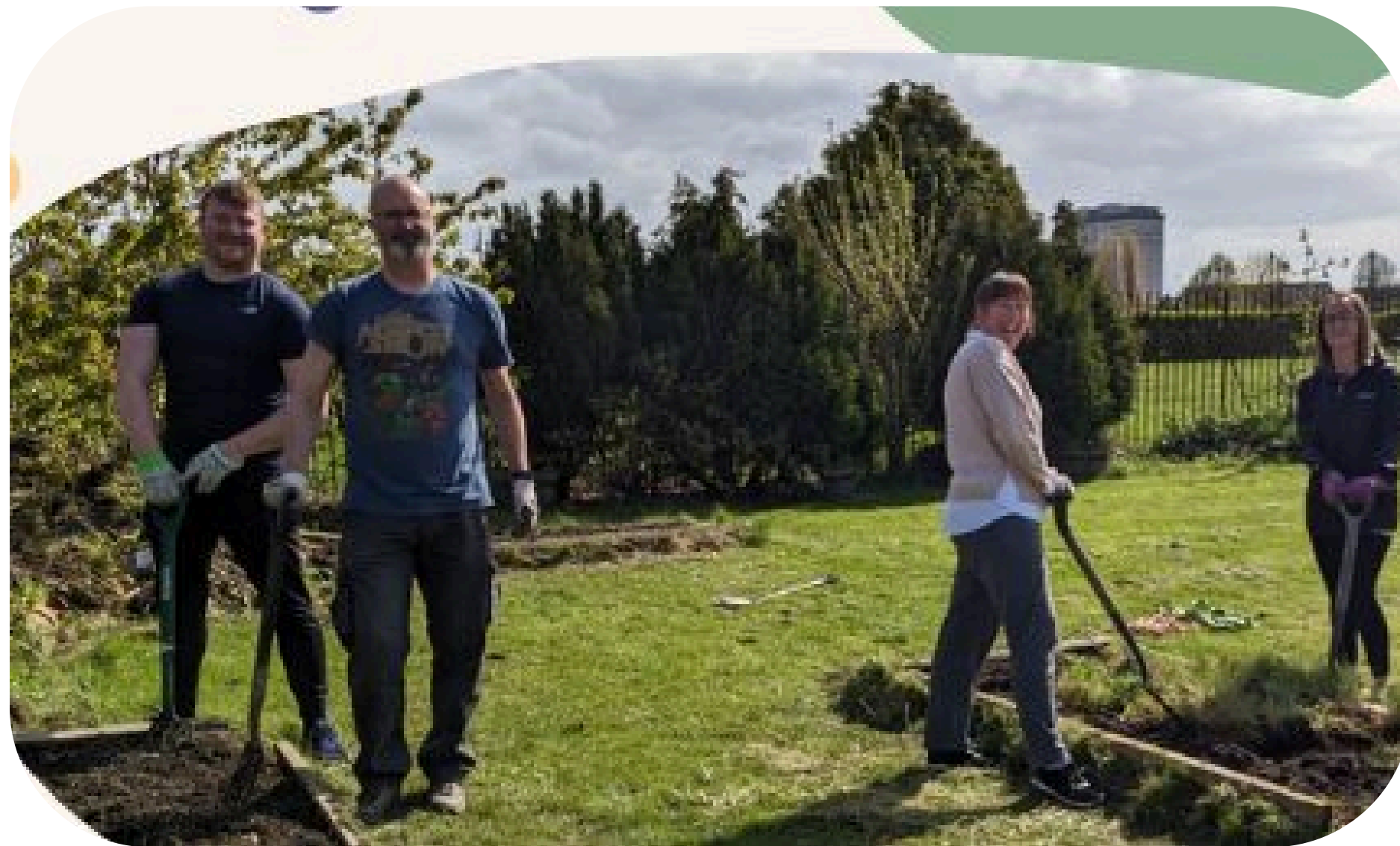
15 Small VCSE Sector organisations received funding



## Other funding

VCAS have help to secure additional funding for groups across the city

# **Volunteering Partnerships**



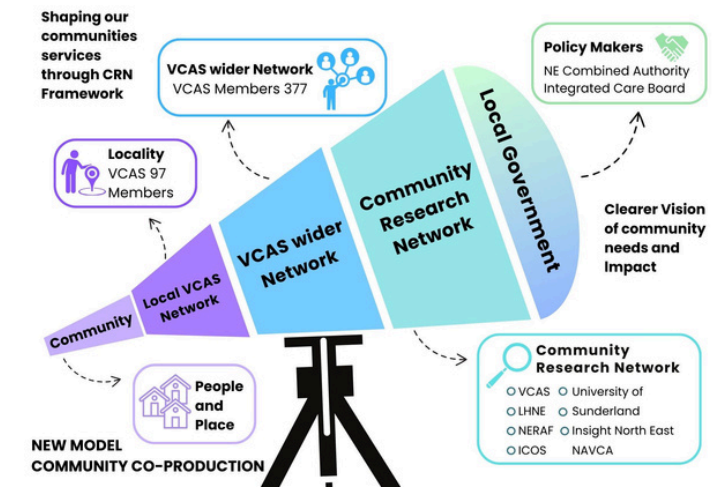
**Sunderland Association  
Football Club - SAFC**

**Northern Housing  
Consortium**

**70 new volunteering  
opportunities**

# UK Research Innovation

## COMMUNITY RESEARCH NETWORK



VCAS were one of only 25 organisations across the UK to secured research funding to consider a new community research network that could implement an effective 'bottom-up', community driven methodology that values the community's 'authentic voice' for those often overlooked, marginalised or even invisible.

This was an opportunity to consider a secondary funding application., where communities were at the heart of the development of a new CRN, and to co-create effective tools to develop a framework for change and new learning. This proposal was to enable the 'reversal of the telescope' that would enable VCSE organisations to impact policy and decision makers; creating new effective mechanisms for meaningful community change and sustainability.

**The East End**

**7 Partners**

**£50,000**

spanning two financial years

Supporting Ukrainian Refugees and other displaced people in Sunderland

## **NAVCA Ukrainian Refugee Fund**



The objective of this project was to:

- Build capacity and capability in communities
- Enhance community cohesion and integration through developing stronger links
  - Improved relationships and stronger cross sector collaboration between VCS and statutory bodies

This initial research worked with Sunderland for Ukrainians (SfU International Community Organisation of Sunderland (ICOS); Young Asian Voices (YAV) Friends of the Drop In (FODI); Hope Vineyard Sunderland Church Sunderland Black and Minority Ethnic Network who have 10-member organisations.; North East Business and Innovation Centre, to identify need and co-produce an Implementation Plan.

Other agencies contacted included: Sunderland City Council; Sunderland Connect Network; Integrated Care Services; Erasma Group; Vonne Health Network; Chris Howson – Interfaith Forum; Sunderland Community Soup Kitchen; Swan Lodge and NERAF – addiction support. This programme of work was an initial development to support a new strategy for cohesion going forward.

**19 Organisations Identified**

**9 Participating organisations**

**£8,822**  
Awarded

# THE OPEN ARMS AWARDS 2023

*VCAS Open Arms Awards is a real opportunity to show case and celebrate the VCSE Sector in Sunderland and the phenomenal impact it has on all of the communities we live in.*



**415  
Nominations**

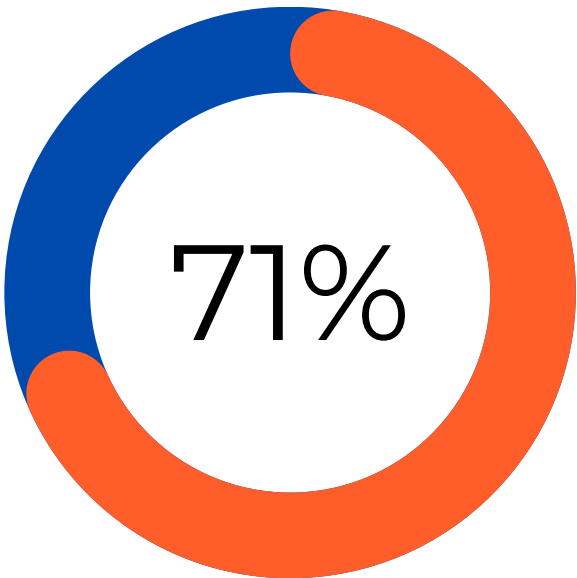
**37,000  
Votes**

**22 VCSE  
AWARDS**

# 2024 Highlights: VCSE Sector -Taking The Temperature

VCAS is dedicated and committed to providing resources and support to its members that will enable their organisations to thrive and develop. VCAS has build on previous information form the Taking The Temperature surveys and ongoing evaluation to understand sector needs and develop appropriate engagement and training opportunities. This year was no exception!

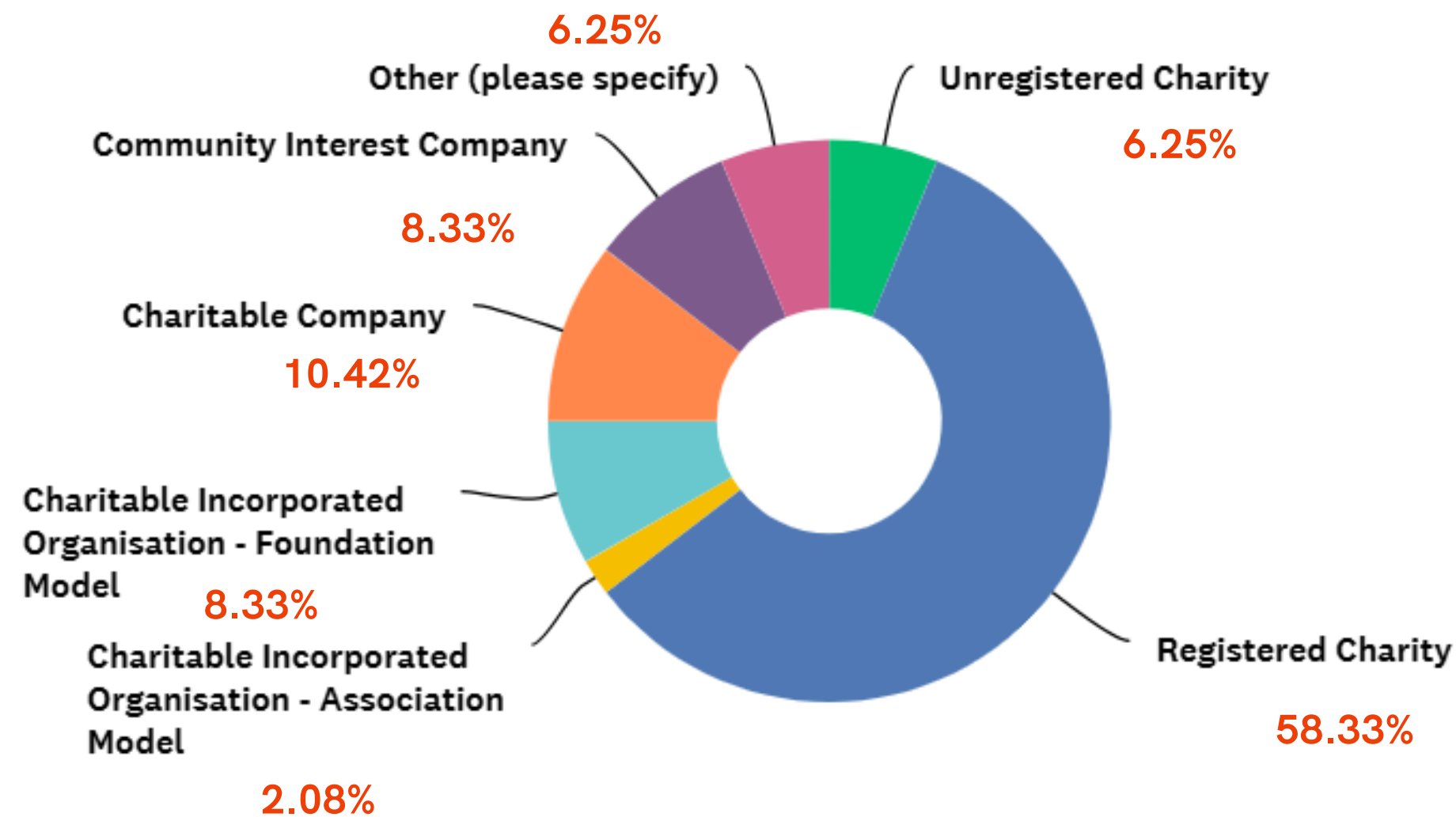
Over the last year VCAS has worked alongside its members to nurture their success and provide appropriate services. Over 240 VCSE sector organisations in Sunderland have accessed many of those services.



**Increase in demand for services**

- ✓ **Networking**
- ✓ **Funding advice**
- ✓ **Funding applications and strategies**
- ✓ **Funding & financial surgeries**
- ✓ **Governance, trusteeship and board development**
- ✓ **Accountancy support**
- ✓ **Financial systems**
- ✓ **Training**

VCAS conduct an annual survey of Sunderland's VCSE Sector, known as 'Taking The Temperature.' This Survey has been undertaken since 2015 to help provide a consistent snapshot about the state of the sector. This year 49 organisations responded, an increase of 1 from 2023.



## Organisational Structures

Of the 49 organisations that responded to the survey 48 answered this question. Just over 58% were registered charities operating across Sunderland and the outlying districts. This was a 28% increase from last year's survey. In contrast only 8.33% of CICs responded, which was a decrease of over 25%.

It should be noted that a number of organisations are seeking advice and support about governance and legal structures. Many of the CICs that have sought support from VCAS are looking at either the potential to transfer to a CIO or operate other models more appropriate for their operations and activities.

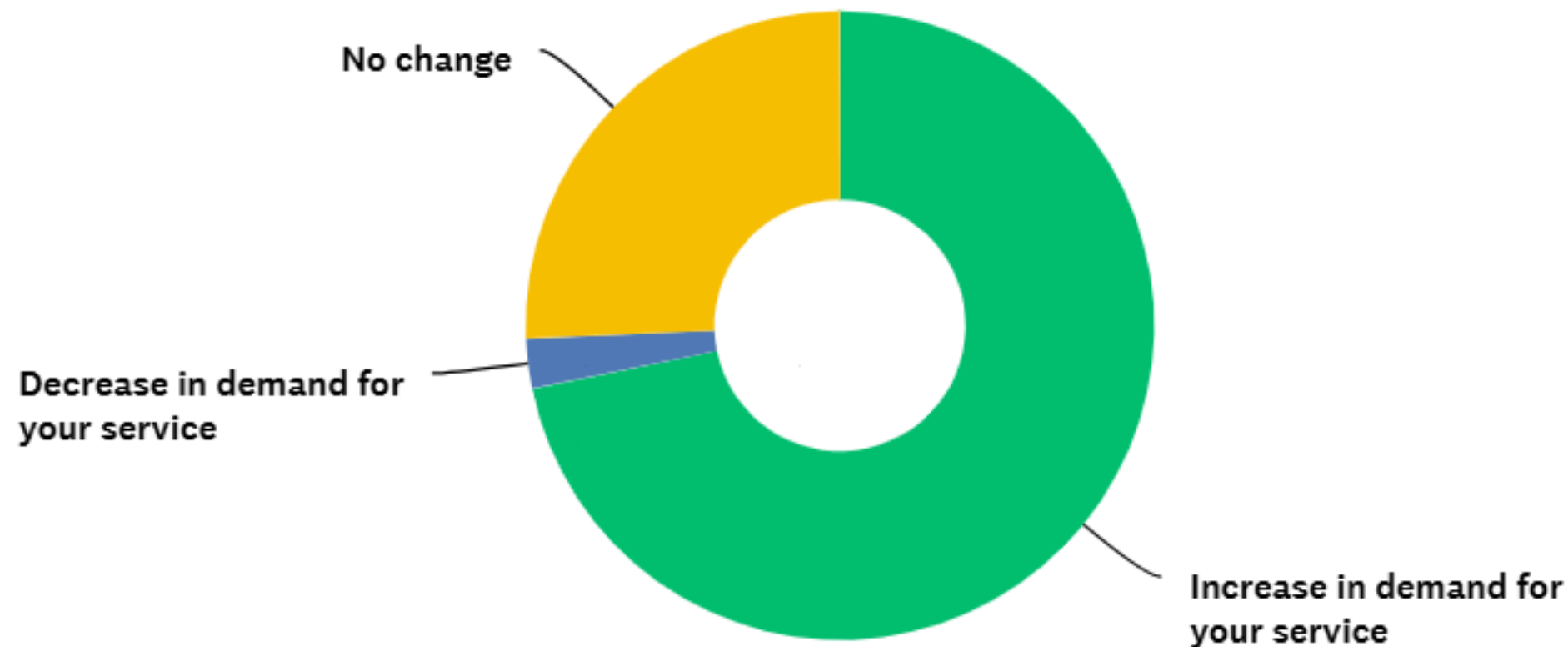
It should also be noted that following many challenges, charities are consolidating their efforts and re-engaging at a number of levels to meet growing community need.

As VCSE Sector organisations across Sunderland have responded throughout the year and adapted to various challenges. WE note that as always despite the challenges these organisations face, many increase delivery to meet increase in demand.

## Meeting The Community Needs

Of the 49 organisations that responded to the survey 39 answered this question about the demand for their services.

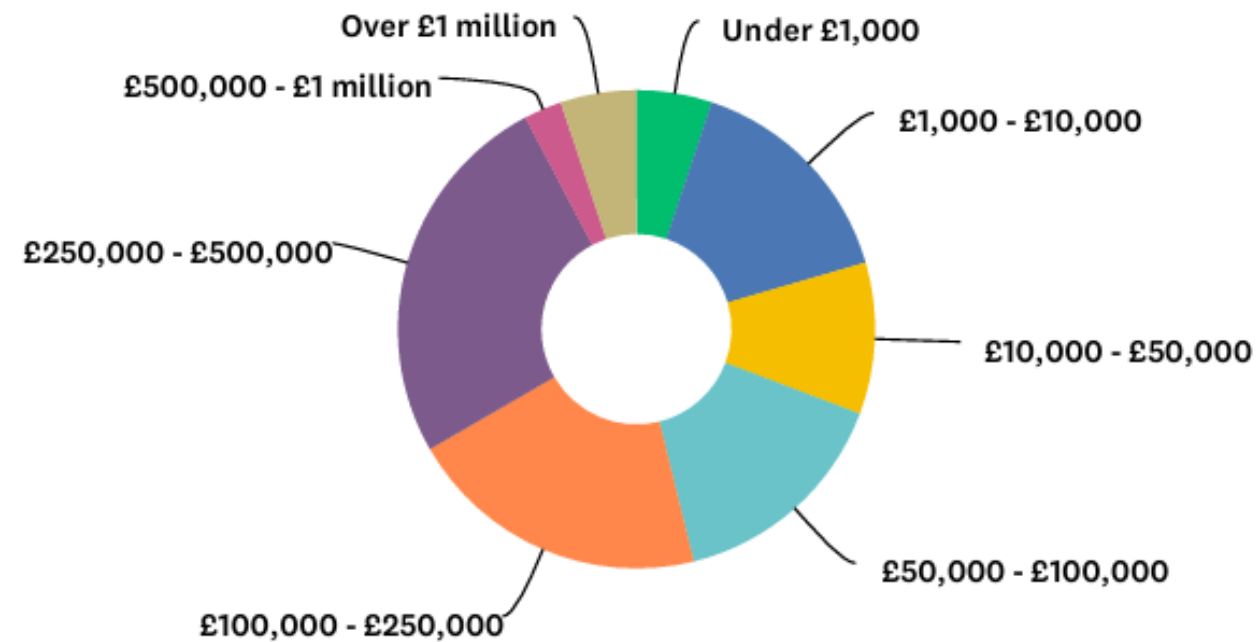
- 72% of those organisations had seen an increase in demand of their services. This shows a consistent trend across both 2023 and 2024. In their responses the primary driver was the continuing impact cost of living crisis
- Approximately 26% saw no change, with only 2.5 % seeing a decrease in demand for services.



*“We have seen more of a need for community support, more of a need for support with the cost of living crisis”.*

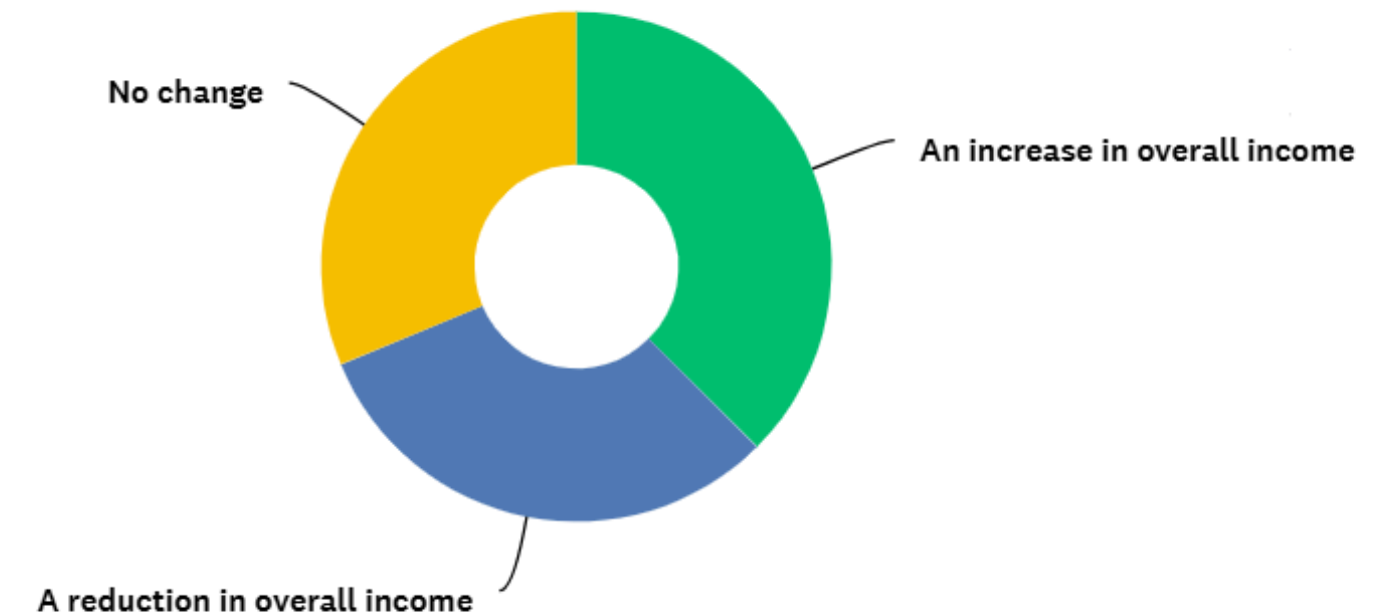
*“We have started to support more older people who are unemployed or looking to do volunteering to improve their skills and confidence”*

## Income in the last 12 month period for VCSE Sector Organisations



Of the 49 organisations who responded, 39 answered this question. 25.6% of those that responded had an income of between £250k-£500k. This response showed over 20% increase in those organisations responding within this income bracket. Interestingly, those organisations reporting in the £50k-£100k nearly doubled. While those at lower end under £10k fell by 10%

## Impact on Organisational Income



From the period 2023 to 2024, the survey results suggest that the impact on organisational income, whether that is an increase, decrease or remains the same, seems to have stabilized. These consecutive surveys are showing consistent results, which suggest the VCSE sector is beginning to navigate out of the previous challenges of the pandemic and Brexit, whilst still navigating increases in demand on services due to ongoing cost of living crisis.

VCAS are dedicated to understanding the needs of the sector enabling those organisation to respond effectively to community need. Those that responded identified 81 categories . These included the following:



## **FUNDING:**

Funding is always one of the key issues that affect organisations. Not surprisingly this came out strongest. It included issues around core funding, long term staff costs, financial responsibilities for assets. This all has an impact on the future proofing of an organisation and long term planning



## **VOLUNTEERS:**

This area continues to be a challenge for many organisation following the pandemic. Many organisations identified recruitment and retainment of volunteers to support thier organisations and services. They also noted a need for younger volunteers and developing a leadership programme.



## **RISING PRICES:**

Not surprisingly the increase in core costs, energy process and the overall increase in services and demand has an a impactful affect on an organisation's cost calculations

VCAS are dedicated to understanding the needs of the sector enabling those organisation to respond effectively to community need. Those that responded identified a number of areas . These included:



## **GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE:**

The challenges for organisations are ongoing as they need to refresh and review all their policies and procedures and try and ensure best practice for their organisations. This includes the right legal structure .



## **MARKETING AND RECOGNITION:**

Many of the organisations we work with an so busy delivering and supporting service users, often consistent marketing and promotion gets left behind. However having a consistent presence is a valuable commodity for your users and for funders.



## **DEMONSTRATING IMPACT:**

Not surprisingly organisations sometimes struggle with showing and effectively measuring the impact of their work.

# Statement of Accounts



Expenditure

£84,679



Income

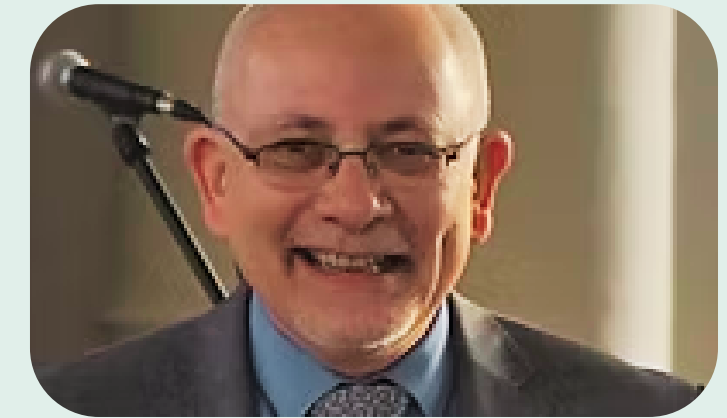
£55,212



Assets


£102,208

# Connect With Us




 15 Norfolk St



 Website

[www.vcas2020.org.uk](http://www.vcas2020.org.uk)

 E-mail

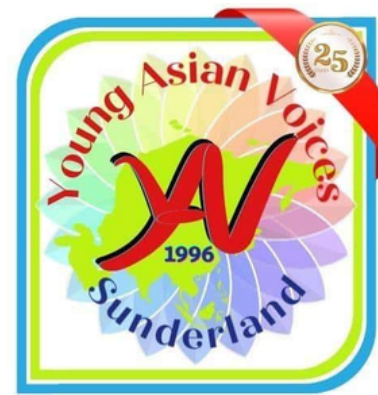
[info@vcas.org.uk](mailto:info@vcas.org.uk)

 Phone

01915651566

 Address

15 Norfolk Street, Sunderland SR1 1EA



Thank you to all our partners and funders who have supported and worked with us to meet the needs of our VCSE Sector organisations in Sunderland



**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**  
**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

**Directors Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**



*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
NE32 5HS

## Legal and Administrative

### Registered office address

15 Norfolk Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR1 1EA

**Company Number: 01759477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

### Officers

J Hilton	Chair
S Armstrong	Vice Chair
R Bikaya	
K Lowe	
K Ramanathas	
P Brigham	(appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023)
A Cummings	(appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023)
A Lowery	(appointed 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2024)
K Stabler	(resigned 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023)
M Bulmer	(resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023)

### Bankers

Unity Trust

The directors for the purposes of company law have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (The Company) for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

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To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities with the area of benefit.

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- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
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The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved On behalf of the board

Director Signature .....  .....

Name .....Stephen Armstrong

Date .....4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Independent Examiners Report**

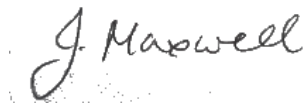
I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **Independent Examiners Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective January 2015);
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable to proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 19/11/2024

Julie Maxwell – MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2024

Income	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grant Income				
Community Foundation	10,000		10,000	15000
Other	1,724		1,724	
James Knott	7,000		7,000	
Ballinger Trust	12,500		12,500	7000
NAVCA	8,822		8,822	
UKRI Grant	15,166		15,166	
Other Trading Activity	0		0	62
Bank Interest	0		0	1724
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,212</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,212</b>	<b>23,786</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Salaries	43,121	0	43,121	39,584
Repayments	2,100	0	2,100	1,736
Project Costs	9,580	0	9,580	1,348
Insurance	292	0	292	302
Utilities	1,332	0	1,332	1,286
Consultancy	15,520		15,520	0
Office Costs	10,496	0	10,496	6,962
Alarms / Maintenance	0	0	0	358
Subs	84		84	267
Travelling	170	0	170	0
Accounts	651	0	651	350
Depreciation			0	24,635
Bank Charges	1,334	0	1,334	72
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>84,679</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84,679</b>	<b>76,901</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-29,467	0	-29,467	-53,115
Opening Reserves	130,344	0	130,344	183,449
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<b>100,877</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,877</b>	<b>130,334</b>

**Statement of Financial Position – Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland – period ended 31/03/2024**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£		£		£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Tangible Assets						
Depreciation				0		
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Unity Current Account	102,208				130,684	
			102,208		130,684	
Debtors						
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>102,208</b>		<b>130,684</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Accruals	1,341				350	
			1,341		350	
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2024	-29,467				-53,115	
Funds C/fwd.	130,334				183,449	
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2024</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	

The company was entitled to an exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with the respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board for issue on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.....

Director Name ...Alan Cummings.....

Director Signature .....



Notes

**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Accounting Convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

**1.2 Income**

Income from fees is recognised in the accounts when invoiced unless it relates to future accounting periods, in which case it is deferred and included in creditors

Grants / Income receivable are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate specifically to a future accounting period, in which case, they are deferred.

Where a grant is received relating to a future accounting period, the profit and loss account shows the gross amount together with the changes in the amount deferred to future accounting periods. Deferred grant income at the year-end is included in creditors.

**1.3 Expenditure**

Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

**1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Fixed Assets are initially recorded at cost

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

**2 Operating Loss**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after charging:	(29,467)
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	0
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	(29,467)

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

	<b>2024</b>
<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2022	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
	<hr/>
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0
	<hr/>

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	0
Additions in period	0
	<hr/>
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	0
	<hr/>
Depreciation	0
Sale of Fixed Asset	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
	<hr/>
Net Book Value	<hr/>
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	0

### 5 Debtors:

**2024**  
£ 0

---

**£ 0**

---

### 6 Creditors: falling due in one year

**2024**  
£

#### Trade Creditors

Accruals - Accounts	350
Accruals - other	991

---

**1,341**

---

	<b>2024</b>
<b>7. Funds</b>	
	£
Opening Balance	130,334
Decrease in Assets	(29,467)
Balance carried forward	<u>100,867</u>

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**  
**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

**Directors Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**



*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
NE32 5HS

## Legal and Administrative

### Registered office address

15 Norfolk Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR1 1EA

**Company Number: 01759477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

### Officers

J Hilton	Chair
S Armstrong	Vice Chair
R Bikaya	
K Lowe	
K Ramanathas	
P Brigham	(appointed 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023)
A Cummings	(appointed 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023)
A Lowery	(appointed 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2024)
K Stabler	(resigned 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023)
M Bulmer	(resigned 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2023)

### Bankers

Unity Trust

The directors for the purposes of company law have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland (The Company) for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### **Principle Activity**

To support voluntary and community sector organisations which reside or operate in the City of Sunderland and its immediate surrounding area (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") so that they can function more effectively.

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, in the area of benefit and in particular the advancement of education, sport and leisure, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities with the area of benefit.

### **Statement of trustee's responsibilities**

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved On behalf of the board

Director Signature .....  .....

Name .....Stephen Armstrong

Date .....4<sup>th</sup> December 2024

### **Independent Examiners Report**

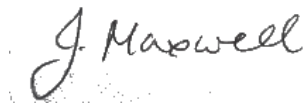
I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

### **Independent Examiners Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective January 2015);
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable to proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Date 19/11/2024

Julie Maxwell – MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2024

Income	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Grant Income				
Community Foundation	10,000		10,000	15000
Other	1,724		1,724	
James Knott	7,000		7,000	
Ballinger Trust	12,500		12,500	7000
NAVCA	8,822		8,822	
UKRI Grant	15,166		15,166	
Other Trading Activity	0		0	62
Bank Interest	0		0	1724
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>55,212</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>55,212</b>	<b>23,786</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Salaries	43,121	0	43,121	39,584
Repayments	2,100	0	2,100	1,736
Project Costs	9,580	0	9,580	1,348
Insurance	292	0	292	302
Utilities	1,332	0	1,332	1,286
Consultancy	15,520		15,520	0
Office Costs	10,496	0	10,496	6,962
Alarms / Maintenance	0	0	0	358
Subs	84		84	267
Travelling	170	0	170	0
Accounts	651	0	651	350
Depreciation			0	24,635
Bank Charges	1,334	0	1,334	72
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>84,679</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84,679</b>	<b>76,901</b>
Surplus/(deficit) for year	-29,467	0	-29,467	-53,115
Opening Reserves	130,344	0	130,344	183,449
<b>Closing Reserves</b>	<b>100,877</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100,877</b>	<b>130,334</b>

**Statement of Financial Position – Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland – period ended 31/03/2024**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
	£		£		£	
<b>Fixed Assets</b>						
Tangible Assets						
Depreciation				0		
<b>Current Assets</b>						
Unity Current Account	102,208				130,684	
			102,208		130,684	
Debtors						
<b>Total Assets</b>			<b>102,208</b>		<b>130,684</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>						
Accruals	1,341				350	
			1,341		350	
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2024	-29,467				-53,115	
Funds C/fwd.	130,334				183,449	
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2024</b>			<b>100,867</b>		<b>130,334</b>	

The company was entitled to an exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with the respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

Approved by the Board for issue on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.....

Director Name ...Alan Cummings.....

Director Signature .....



Notes

**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1 Accounting Convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

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**1.3 Expenditure**

Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

**1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Fixed Assets are initially recorded at cost

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

**2 Operating Loss**

	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after charging:	(29,467)
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	0
	<hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/>
	(29,467)

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

	<b>2024</b>
<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2022	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
	<hr/>
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0
	<hr/>

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	0
Additions in period	0
	<hr/>
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	0
	<hr/>
Depreciation	0
Sale of Fixed Asset	<hr/>
	<hr/>
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	0
	<hr/>
Net Book Value	<hr/>
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2024	0

### 5 Debtors:

**2024**  
£ 0

---

**£ 0**

---

### 6 Creditors: falling due in one year

**2024**  
£

#### Trade Creditors

Accruals - Accounts	350
Accruals - other	991

---

**1,341**

---

	<b>2024</b>
<b>7. Funds</b>	
	£
Opening Balance	130,334
Decrease in Assets	(29,467)
Balance carried forward	<u>100,867</u>

**VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

England & Wales - Charity number 702930

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# Accounts

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# Sunderland

## Voluntary and Community Action

### Annual Report 2020 - 2021



Company No. 01759477  
Charity No. 702930

# Chairman's Report

This has been an unprecedented year with new challenges faced by the voluntary and community sector across the city as the pandemic brought the unexpected and set new demands on our already overstretched and under resourced VCSE sector. However the response of Sunderland's VCSE Sector has been outstanding, meeting community needs and ensuring the most vulnerable in our organisations and across the city were met.

Voluntary Community Action Sunderland [VCAS 20/20], its trustees and staff reinforced their commitment to supporting the independence of the Voluntary Sector in Sunderland, ensuring that small VCSE organisations have a voice that is heard and recognised amongst larger partners and stakeholders. It is critical for the future growth of the sector and it is VCAS 20/20 role to champion the sector and provide that representation.

VCAS work is to engage, inspire and empower Sunderland's Voluntary Community Sector to survive and thrive., this has never been more relevant. The long term impact of the pandemic, as VCS groups, try to navigate these uncertain times is not yet fully comprehended or understood. The future uncertainty will continue to play a part on the future role of the VCSE sector and on the role of VCAS moving forward.

In October 2020 , 33% of respondents to VCAS" Reflect Reboot and Recover" survey reported that they had been closed in full or impart with many others reporting adapted "online" support. VCAS continue to regularly monitor the health and well-being of Sunderland's VCSE Sector through its 300+ member organisations.

As chairman of VCAS through this pandemic I would like to reinforce to our members our commitment to support a thriving and independent sector and our hope that we can move forward and build stronger partnerships enabling communities.. Thank you to our staff, volunteers and funders for their support over this last year. **Stephen Armstrong**

# Supporting the VCSE Community



As the Covid-19 crisis hit the VCS in Sunderland, we were immediately aware as the infrastructure support agency that many organisations would be experiencing their own crisis and looking to respond and develop an immediate response to support their communities. We asked our members in the middle

of March 2020,( through a Covid-19 response survey) -What their fears were going forward. One of VCAS's member organisations encapsulated the needs of the sector through these comments:

*"The VCS will step up - it is what we all do."..... However, there is a real risk in this situation as we all push ourselves to meet the needs of the community and the expectations of others.*

*"The VCS has suffered from under funding and under resourcing for years now, so there is no deep pool of resources to draw from."*

*"In my opinion VCAS has a significant role to play in raising VCS concerns with decision makers making sure that they understand the short, medium and long-term issues for the sector. Smaller organisations may not survive and even those that were doing reasonably well will take a significant hit."*

Driven by input from its membership, VCAS provided a wide range of needs driven support during the pandemic for VCS. organisations These projects have included: "**CLEaR**" developed during 2020 to ensure that the VCS of Sunderland had the capacity to plan and build in resilience to its

services 'VCAS 20/20' The project provided 1:1 support, as well as team and organisational capacity building. This Included regular virtual "Coffee Mornings" that allowed groups from across the city to share their challenges and solutions to supporting.

**CLEaR**" established innovative interventions that will support the sector , including:

- Identify areas of the Group/Charity that need to be strengthened
- Lead & inspire their teams to anticipate and consistently deliver service users' needs
- Enhance communicate the organisation's vision and strategy to partners and stakeholders
- Further develop networking & collaborative partnership
- Identify & further develop Influencing & communication skills and competencies
- Design and implement robust processes and procedures





## HIVE : High Impact Voluntary Engagement

This project, which ran from October 2020 to May 2021, was supported by a grant of £29,6241 from the National Lottery Covid-19 Emergency Funding. The HIVE project has been a direct response to support the local voluntary and community sector (VCS) during the pandemic.

HIVE offered a programme of engagement to support the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector [VCSE] in Sunderland enabling the sector to grow stronger by offering ways to connect, collaborate and promote itself. HIVE offered several opportunities for the VCS sector to meet and engage through area and thematic discussions. It helped to build knowledge and expertise through training, funding advice, guidance and one to one mentoring.

A free on-line pilot marketplace was developed to share learning and resources and drive cross-sector collaboration. It also provided spaces for an exchange of informal support. It is hoped that the on-line marketplace will enable the project to be sustainable beyond its lifetime.

HIVE was a starting point, its aim, during its initial implementation was to begin the process of building up the sector, making it stronger, more resilient and more equitable.

### Project performance

The project fully achieved nearly all of the forecast outputs. Total project expenditure was £29,624, with £29,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund and an additional £624 from VCAS's own funds. HIVE project has delivered all its forecast project activities, including activity that was not scheduled like the funding surgeries which were a response to direct requests from community groups. The number of organisational audits provided was lower than anticipated. With organisations facing many pressures, it was understandably harder than envisaged to engage during this period. The ambition was to engage as widely as possible with the voluntary and community sector in Sunderland and the activities were open to both VCS organisations and those who engaged with the sector including local authority officers. The project had a dynamic design, with activity in the early stages of the project feeding into the content and makeup of the learning sessions, funding surgeries and the web portal.



As the Covid-19 pandemic hit the VCS in Sunderland, VCAS was immediately aware that many organisations were experiencing their own initial crisis. Although each organisation was keen to respond as rapidly as they could to support their service users, they themselves did not have a plan or strategy in place about how they would survive through the crisis and beyond it. In mid-March 2020, VCAS undertook a Covid-19 response survey with their membership to identify the sectors concerns and needs. The findings are encapsulated in the statements below:-

1. There had been a rapid response to community needs during the pandemic by the Sunderland VCS which had been incredibly positive.
2. There was concern about the survival of organisations, post pandemic, many were over stretched with limited resources and capacity.
3. Some organisations did not have the benefit of strong management frameworks with the associated experience to manage boundaries and mitigate the risk to themselves and their service users.
4. There were concerns about exacerbating the public health issue for everyone without the community knowledge of how rapidly the virus was spreading.
5. The sector looked to VCAS 20/20 as the independent infrastructure body in Sunderland to play a significant role in representing them amongst decision makers.



Following on from this initial Covid-19 responsive survey and developing the Hive programme over the 6 months period the outstanding recommendations for the sector were:

**Funding Surgeries**  
Free to attend, make sure you can attend any slot you book as places are limited.

<b>December</b> Thursday 10th, Thursday 17th	10am – 1pm
<b>January</b> Thursday 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	10am – 1pm
<b>February</b> Thursday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	10am – 1pm
<b>March</b> Thursday 4th, Thursday 11th	10am – 1pm


 Book Online: [www.vcas2020.org/hive](http://www.vcas2020.org/hive)


1. Financial training for staff, volunteers, including trustees that is tailored and made relevant to the needs of smaller community groups.
2. Provision of 1-2-1 funding support
3. Informal and formal support perhaps facilitated by VCAS 20/20 to provide help for community groups and organisations that do not have the know-how to set up a fundraising page, and/or sell products/services on-line so that VCS groups are not losing out on this important way of generating income.
4. VCS groups to work with VCAS 20/20 to articulate their concerns and needs for future planning beyond emergency funding
5. Explore the potential to facilitate and support the co-operation and collaboration amongst organisations to access and secure larger pots of funding.

In summary the intelligence around the needs and ongoing development of Sunderland’s VCSE sector is critical both for local information exchange but also at a more strategic level that supports shaping national funding agendas moving forward post pandemic.






# Reflect, Reboot and Recover:

## The road back from Covid-19 for Sunderland's VCSE Sector

As previously outlined, the initial VCAS consultation with VCSE sector at the beginning of the pandemic was vital to be able to:

- Respond to the immediate needs of members.
- The immediate impact of the pandemic on members and community.
- Inform VCAS of the needs of member organisations as they come out of lockdown.



	"Be an Outspoken and Commanding Voice" for the sector
	Ensure the whole sector is represented with funders. Advocate for funders to finance core costs
	Facilitate on-going interactions and partnership approaches in sector. "Join us up". "Link us up"
	Represent the VCS sector at a strategic level
	Provide advice, guidance, funding and networking services

Thoughts that there would be a slow but steady return to 'normality' were swiftly eroded and at regular 'coffee mornings' held with members additional needs and support were identified with members sharing knowledge and experience in needs.

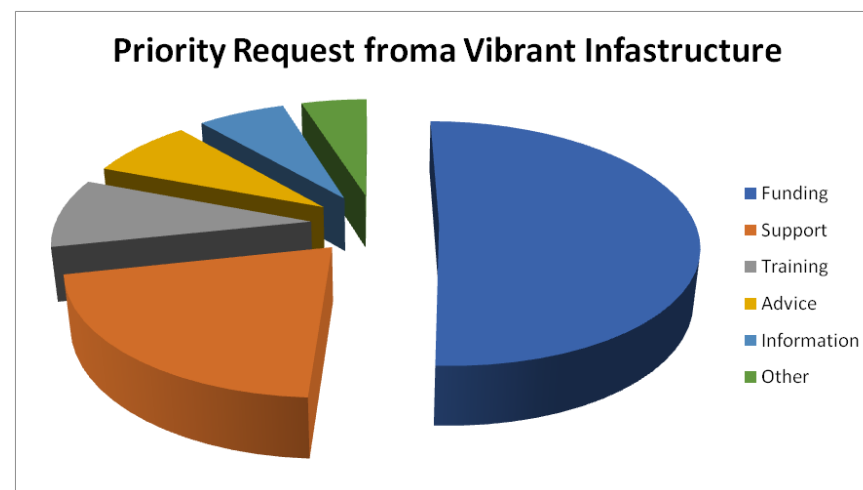
***"Reflect Reboot and Recover – the Road back from Covid 19 for Sunderland's VCSE Sector"*** was released to the sector on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 and circulated to all VCS in the City via Newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and personal invite. VCAS received responses from 62 organisations, 10 more than responded to our initial pre lockdown survey in March 2020. Responses came from a broad cross section of organisations based throughout the City. The responses and comments will again allow VCAS to inform local and national strategy as the LIO for the sector and ensure that its support and training for VCS groups is appropriate and focused on the expressed needs of the VCS and their communities as we recover from lockdown.

# Review and Reflect

VCAS continue to strive and develop VCSE Sector representation that will benefit its 330+ members to ensure a vibrant and equitable voluntary sector for the City of Sunderland. To provide a representative voice.

We continue to engage the sector and reflect and represent their concerns, hopes and fears for those organisations moving forward. The highlights of this financial year can be summarised;

- The impact of the pandemic has rightly been counted in terms of lives taken but longer-term impacts, in physical and mental health, will likely go uncounted. With that in mind VCAS believes that added investment in events and activities, supporting and building service users, staff and volunteers' confidence to return to the 'new normal' to help minimise the impact of the pandemic on personal health and wellbeing.
- Additional access to funding to support established strategies, not dependent upon alignment with Public Sector strategy, is made available across the City.
- Continue to provide an independent voice for the wider sector in the city.
- Share opportunities for funding
- Share network, learning opportunities for organisations across the whole of the city
- Represent the VCS at a strategic level and facilitate ongoing interaction and partnership approaches within the VCS.
- Support a more joined-up approach to Sunderland's VCSE Sector and integrated sector developments
- Ensure a fairer distribution of funding (including statutory funding support)
- Develop and increase support to smaller VCSE organisations that represent a large proportion of Sunderland VCSE.



# Moving Forward

*'Their charitable purpose, local footprint, universal offer, independence and accountability to their members, give LIOs a unique sense of place, local network connections, good will, understanding and expertise' (NAVCA)*

## Recent challenges for the VCAS:

- A turbulent period over the last 3 years that has been exasperated by organisational re-structuring and reduced financial capacity.
- Recent uncertainty with the local authority proposals to deliver a new model of support through an 'Alliance' based approach across the 5 localities in the city has hampered VCAS's development.
- The need to develop of a more robust forward-looking strategy that meets the needs of member organisations, partners and stakeholders, has been informed over the last 12 months through continuous engagement and consultation.
- The onset of an unprecedented pandemic that has seen local voluntary organisation attempting to navigate these challenging times.
- Political change, social uncertainty and long-term austerity have brought significant pressures on VCSE sector, their work and their development.



# VCAS Aims and Objectives:

1. to provide services, support and advice to, and promote local charities, community groups and social enterprises that deliver social action.
2. to offer the VCSE sector a combination of support, challenge, leadership, resource, skills and knowledge.
3. Foster and improve relationships between the local voluntary sector, public bodies and local business Support 'social action
4. Enable local VCSE organisations to be represented and have a voice.

VCAS's function as the LIO will be to support the VCSE sector in Sunderland through **5 key stages**:



## **Development**

Enabling the VCSE to identify, and appropriately meet, unmet needs and gaps in service provision within their communities

## **Support**

To improve the capacity of VCSE by providing and promoting technical and practical support services

## **Representation**

As independent support we provide effective and accountable representation of VCSE sector views and their interests.

## **Networking, Connecting and Co-operation**

To encourage networking, enabling the VCSE to share knowledge, information and skills, and to promote cooperation between the voluntary, public and private sectors.

**Collaboration and Strategic Partnership** To negotiate an effective role for the VCSE sector through strategic and developmental partnerships that have a greater impact for the wider sector.

*"A healthy, independent, and engaged civil society is a hallmark of a thriving democracy. A robust sector is a sign of a confident democracy, which offers many ways in which citizens' views and concerns can be amplified."*

# Moving Forward Starts NOW!

Recent appraisals will be used to develop this forward strategy for VCAS alongside recent consultation and engagement events from the previous 12 -18 months. It is agreed that:

1. The organisation must identify the most supportive and sustainable model which should include increased community engagement and a degree of outreach through the development of additional resources.
2. VCAS primary must represent those organisations that they hope to serve, consequently consultation and review of services and support should be an ongoing aspect of this strategy.
3. The new structure will support a phased short-term development from current staffing regime to the introduction and development of additional staff/sessional support for the organisation through additional funding.
4. It is also anticipated that the Management Board will be strengthened and consolidated
5. A financial appraisal following the sale of the asset will be agreed and endorsed by the members.
6. The assets will ensure the development of an independent and strategic LIO support service for the city of Sunderland



# FINANCIAL REVIEW

VCAS is funded by, grants and a variety of generated funds from activities. The total income for the year was £65,542.00 (2020: 15,360.00) this income is allocated across respective funds on the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The expenditure for this financial year was £54,261.00 ( 2020: 36,228.00).

The Balance Sheet at 31 March 2021 shows total funds carried forward of ££208,482 (2020: 198,201.00 ) of which fixed assets were £170.00

## **Reserves policy.**

VCAS has maintained a small level of free reserves over the years currently there are £13,000 free reserves to meet the working capital requirements of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. It has established a policy whereby the free unrestricted funds held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of annual expenditure.

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND  
(A Company limited by Guarantee)

Directors Report and Financial Statements  
For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2021



	2020 AMOUNT (£)	2021 TOTAL (£)	2019 2020 (£)
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant Income	52,600		9,850
Other Trading Activity	11,942		5,431
Bank Interest			79
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>64,542</b>	<b>15,360</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Staff Salaries	28,949		24,458
Repayments	1,500		250
Project Costs	2,747		2,027
Insurance	632		582
Utilities	1,088		3,377
Consultancy	15,465		0
Office Costs	1,769		3,493
Alarms / Maintenance	402		1,108
Subs	575		163
Telephone/Internet	712		384
Accounts	350		350
Bank Charges	72		36
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>54,261</b>	<b>36,228</b>
<b>Total Income – Expenses</b>		<b>10,281</b>	<b>-20,868</b>

2021

£

10,28

1

Operating Profit is stated after charging:

Depreciation of owned fixed assets

0

10,28

1

## Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets

## Current Assets

Unity Current Account

Unity Savings

Santander Bond

Debtors

## Total Assets

## Current Liabilities

Accruals

## Current Assets less Current Liabilities

## Net Assets

## Represented by:

Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2021

Funds C/fwd

## Balance as at 01/04/2021

	2020 £	2021 £	2019 2020 £
Tangible Assets		170,000	170,000
Unity Current Account	26,146		15,284
Unity Savings			13,267
Santander Bond	13,267		28,551
Debtors		39,413	
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>209,413</b>	<b>198,551</b>
Accruals	931		350
		931	350
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2021	10,281		-20,868
Funds C/fwd	198,201		219,069
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2021</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>

A full copy of the audited accounts are available through VCAS or online at The Charities Commission.

ENGAGE  
INSPIRE  
EMPOWER

VCAS VISION 2020



The logo for VCAS Vision 2020 is a circular emblem with a white center and a blue, diagonally striped outer ring. Inside the white center, the letters 'VCAS' are written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a black silhouette of a city skyline with a bridge. At the bottom of the circle, a red rectangular box contains the text '20/20' in white.



Community  
**Foundation**  
Tyne & Wear and Northumberland  
Enriching lives through effective giving

The logo for the Community Foundation features a stylized circular icon composed of concentric, overlapping blue and white rings. To the right of the icon, the text 'Community' is in a light blue font, 'Foundation' is in a bold black font, and 'Tyne & Wear and Northumberland' and 'Enriching lives through effective giving' are in a smaller, light blue font.



**COMMUNITY  
FUND**

The logo for the Community Fund features a stylized black outline of a hand with the index finger pointing upwards. To the right of the hand, the words 'COMMUNITY' and 'FUND' are stacked vertically in a bold, pink, sans-serif font.



**navca**  
local focus national voice

The logo for navca features a circular icon made of small red dots arranged in a ring. To the right of the icon, the word 'navca' is written in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font, and the tagline 'local focus national voice' is written in a smaller, black, lowercase sans-serif font below it.

# **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

## **Directors Report and Financial Statements**

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 - 31<sup>st</sup> March  
2021**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**

*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow

## **Legal and Administrative**

### **Registered office address**

8 Frederick Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear  
SR1 1NA

**Company Number: 0175477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

### **Officers**

J Hilton	Chair
S Armstrong	Vice Chair
M Bulmer	Treasurer
R Bikaya	
K Lowe	
K Ramanathas	
K Stabler	

### **Bankers**

Santander Bank

Unity Trust

The directors for the purposes of company law have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements of Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland(The Company) for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

## **Principle Activity**

To support voluntary and community sector organisations which reside or operate in the City of Sunderland and its immediate surrounding area (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") so that they can function more effectively.

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community, in the area of benefit and in particular the advancement of education, sport and leisure, the protection of health and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness.

To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above purposes and to that end bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities with the area of benefit.

## **Statement of trustee's responsibilities**

The directors for the purposes of company law are responsible for preparing the Directors Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and UK Accounting standards.


Company Law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the company for that year preparing the financial statements the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in operation

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

Director Signature .....  .....

Name ...Stephen Armstrong.....

Date .....20/12/2021.....

### **Independent Examiners Report**

I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **Independent Examiners Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
  - i. To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (the FRSSE) (effective January 2015);
- (2) To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable to proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed 

Date 16/12/2021

Julie Maxwell - MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2021

	2020	2021	2020 2021	2019
INCOME	AMOUNT (£)		TOTAL (£)	2020 (£)
Grant Income		52,600		9,850
Other Trading Activity		11,942		5,431
Bank Interest				79
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>64,542</b>	<b>15,360</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Staff Salaries		28,949		24,458
Repayments		1,500		250
Project Costs		2,747		2,027
Insurance		632		582
Utilities		1,088		3,377
Consultancy		15,465		0
Office Costs		1,769		3,493
Alarms / Maintenance		402		1,108
Subs		575		163
Telephone/Internet		712		384
Accounts		350		350
Bank Charges		72		36
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>54,261</b>	<b>36,228</b>
Total Income - Expenses			10,281	-20,868

**Statement of Financial Position - Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland - period ended 31/03/2021**

	<b>2020 2021</b>	<b>2020 2021</b>	<b>2019 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets		170,000	170,000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Unity Current Account	26,146		15,284
Unity Savings			
Santander Bond	13,267		<u>13,267</u>
		39,413	<u>28,551</u>
Debtors			
			<b>198,551</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>209,413</b>	<b>198,551</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals	<u>931</u>		<u>350</u>
		931	350
<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>
<b>Net Assets Represented by:</b>		<b><u>208,482</u></b>	<b><u>198,201</u></b>
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2021	10,281		-20,868
Funds C/fwd	198,201		<u>219,069</u>
<b>Balance as at 01/04/2021</b>		<b><u>208,482</u></b>	<b><u>198,201</u></b>

- (A) FOR THE YEAR IN QUESTION, THE COMPANY WAS ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION (UNDER SECTIONS 475 AND 477 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006);
- (B) NO MEMBER OR MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO DO SO HAVE DEPOSITED A NOTICE REQUESTING AN AUDIT WITHIN THE SPECIFIED TIME PERIOD; AND
- (C) THE DIRECTORS ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMPLYING WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006 WITH RESPECT TO ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND FOR PREPARING ACCOUNTS WHICH GIVE A TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF THE STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY AS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR AND OF ITS PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTIONS 394 AND 395 (DUTY TO

PREPARE INDIVIDUAL COMPANY ACCOUNTS AND APPLICABLE ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK), AND WHICH OTHERWISE COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006 RELATING TO ACCOUNTS, SO FAR AS APPLICABLE TO THE COMPANY.

(D) THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SMALL COMPANIES UNDER PART 15 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006 AND WITH FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARD FOR SMALLER ENTITIES

Approved by the Board for issue on \_20/12/2021\_ Director Name ...Janette Hilton.....

Director



Signature .....

Company No. 01759477

Notes

## **1. Accounting Policies**

### **1.1 Accounting Convention**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008)

### **1.2 Income**

Income from fees is recognised in the accounts when invoiced unless it relates to future accounting periods, in which case it is deferred and included in creditors

Grants / Income receivable are credited to incoming resources on the earlier date of when they are received or when they are receivable, unless they relate specifically to a future accounting period, in which case, they are deferred.

Where a grant is received relating to a future accounting period, the profit and loss account shows the gross amount together with the changes in the amount deferred to future accounting periods. Deferred grant income at the year-end is included in creditors.

### **1.3 Expenditure**

Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

### **1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Fixed Assets are initially recorded at cost

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

## **2 Operating Loss**

**2021**

	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after	10,2
charging:	81

Depreciation of owned fixed assets

0
10,2
81

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2020	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	170,0
Additions in period	00
	0
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	170,0
Depreciation	00
Charge for year	0
	0
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	170,0
Net Book Value	00
	170,0
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	00

### 5 Debtors:

**2021**

£ 0

	<hr/> £ 0 <hr/>
<b>6 Creditors: falling due in one year</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Trade Creditors</b>	
Accruals - Accounts	350
Accruals - other	581
	<hr/> 931 <hr/>
<b>7. Funds</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance	198,201
Decrease in Assets	0,281 <sup>1</sup>
Balance carried forward	<hr/> 208,482 <hr/>



# **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY ACTION SUNDERLAND**

**(A Company limited by Guarantee)**

## **Directors Report and Financial Statements**

**For the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 - 31<sup>st</sup> March  
2021**

**Company No. 01759477**

**Charity No. 702930**

*Prepared By:*

Julie Maxwell MICB  
JM Bookkeeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow

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**Company Number: 0175477**

**Charity Number: 702930**

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S Armstrong	Vice Chair
M Bulmer	Treasurer
R Bikaya	
K Lowe	
K Ramanathas	
K Stabler	

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within part 15 of the companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board

Director Signature .....  .....

Name ...Stephen Armstrong.....

Date .....20/12/2021.....

### **Independent Examiners Report**

I report on the financial statements of The Company for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### **Independent Examiners Statement**

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Signed 

Date 16/12/2021

Julie Maxwell - MICB - Independent Examiner

JM Book keeping  
11 Edith Street  
Jarrow  
Tyne and Wear  
NE32 5HS

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## Income and Expenditure Account

Period ending 31/03/2021

	2020	2021	2020 2021	2019
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Insurance		632		582
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Consultancy		15,465		0
Office Costs		1,769		3,493
Alarms / Maintenance		402		1,108
Subs		575		163
Telephone/Internet		712		384
Accounts		350		350
Bank Charges		72		36
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>54,261</b>	<b>36,228</b>
Total Income - Expenses			10,281	-20,868

**Statement of Financial Position - Voluntary and Community Action Sunderland - period ended 31/03/2021**

	<b>2020 2021</b>	<b>2020 2021</b>	<b>2019 2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Assets		170,000	170,000
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Unity Current Account	26,146		15,284
Unity Savings			
Santander Bond	13,267		<u>13,267</u>
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Debtors			
			<b>198,551</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>209,413</b>	<b>198,551</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accruals	<u>931</u>		<u>350</u>
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<b>Current Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		208,482	198,201
<b>Net Assets Represented by:</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>
Profit and Loss Account 31/03/2021	10,281		-20,868
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<b>Balance as at 01/04/2021</b>		<b>208,482</b>	<b>198,201</b>

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(D) THESE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SMALL COMPANIES UNDER PART 15 OF THE COMPANIES ACT 2006 AND WITH FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARD FOR SMALLER ENTITIES

Approved by the Board for issue on \_20/12/2021\_ Director Name ...Janette Hilton.....

Director



Signature .....

Company No. 01759477

Notes

## 1. Accounting Policies

### 1.1 Accounting Convention

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Expenditure is brought in to the financial statements on the accruals basis

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Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of the assets, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

20% straight line

## 2 Operating Loss

**2021**

	<b>£</b>
Operating Profit is stated after	10,2
charging:	81

Depreciation of owned fixed assets

0
10,2
81

### 3 Taxation on ordinary activities

<b>Current Tax</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Tax based on period 31st March 2020	0
Amount written back from previous period	0
Tax Charge to Income and Expenditure	0

### 4 Tangible Fixed Assets

	£
Net Book Value on transfer	170,00
Additions in period	0
	170,00
Cost at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	00
Depreciation Charge for year	0
	170,00
Total as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	00
Net Book Value	170,00
At 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	00

### 5 Debtors:

**2021**

£ 0

	<hr/> £ 0 <hr/>
<b>6 Creditors: falling due in one year</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>
<b>Trade Creditors</b>	
Accruals - Accounts	350
Accruals - other	581
	<hr/> 931 <hr/>
<b>7. Funds</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>
Opening Balance	198,201
Decrease in Assets	0,281 <sup>1</sup>
Balance carried forward	<hr/> 208,482 <hr/>

