

## PCVS Monthly Newsletter - May 2024

### **Embracing Change: A Personal Reflection from Chairman to Acting Voluntary CEO in Turbulent Times.**



At the end of last year, our CEO suddenly and unexpectedly left. In the midst of the disruption this inevitably caused, daily issues were mounting, pressing decisions needed to be made and we required instant leadership to restore stability.

With no solutions immediately available, I proposed to the board that I step down from my position as Chairman (a position I had been honoured to hold for two years) to become the acting CEO. This would immediately place somebody who was known to staff and stakeholders alike and crucially,

would allow the necessary time to find the right permanent CEO. This proposal was fully supported by the Charity Commission.

It was deeply important to me personally that I take no salary or expenses from PCVS. Initially, I insisted that this information be suppressed, even to staff. However, having become aware of some external misinformation, it was necessary to be clear about the arrangement that my role was purely voluntary. This was not about me personally but more to communicate that having a voluntary CEO of a charity that promotes volunteering would be a powerful concept, albeit temporarily.

The decision to transition from board leadership to an operational role was not made lightly. As Chairman, I was accustomed to overseeing strategic initiatives and providing guidance from a bird's-eye view. Little did I know that this transition would be such a rewarding experience, teaching me invaluable lessons along the way.

One of the most significant lessons I have learned from this experience is the importance of adaptability and resilience. Stepping into a new role amidst uncertainty required me to quickly adapt to changing circumstances, make tough decisions, and lead with confidence. I discovered that resilience isn't just about bouncing back from difficulties; it's about thriving in the face of them.

Moreover, this experience has again highlighted the power of our exceptional and dedicated staff who have all united to address the pressing needs of our own charity and the communities we serve. I cannot adequately express how enormously proud I am of each one of them. At some personal cost, they have continued to leverage our collective strengths and resources to overcome challenges and make meaningful impacts.

Furthermore, serving as Voluntary Acting CEO has provided me with a deeper understanding of the intricacies of the operational management of PCVS. This hands-on experience has equipped me with newfound knowledge that will undoubtedly be valuable to take back to the board of trustees.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding aspects of this journey is the opportunity to see more closely how the work of PCVS make a tangible difference in the lives of others. Stepping into a frontline role, I have been able to directly contribute whether it was mobilising resources to support vulnerable populations or implementing innovative solutions to address emerging challenges, every action we took together had a meaningful impact.

As I reflect on this experience, I am filled with gratitude and inspired by staff and stakeholders alike who came together to navigate through change with courage, drive and compassion.

**Jonathan Jelley MBE JP**

## What has PCVS Been Up To?



There's been too much great stuff going on at PCVS for us to tell you about all of it, but we'll pick out a couple of highlights for you.

### **Third Thursday Networking**

Our last Third Thursday networking session on the 18th of April saw our Health Outreach Co-ordinator, Anameeka, and one of our social prescribers, Gina, giving a presentation about the [Joy app](#) and how it can help organisations reach communities, as well as improving health outcomes for individuals by empowering them to take charge of their own health care.

Our next Third Thursday session is on May the 16th and will give you a chance to meet Heidi from the National Lottery. More details and booking information can be at [this link](#).

### **Volunteer Manager Drop-In**

On the 23rd of April Dee hosted a drop-in session for volunteer managers to enable them to network and also to talk about and answer any questions around our volunteering platform, [Go-ViP](#). The event was well attended and saw people who manage and promote volunteering across the city come to our office to have a good chat, eat some cake, and share resources and ideas.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for how we can help your organisation support and encourage volunteering, please [contact us](#).

### **Marketing Training**

We have engaged Lenka Koppova to put on some marketing training focused on how to help your charity reach more people. The first session, on April 17th, was a walk through marketing 101, but was no less engaging for starting from the beginning. Lenka really encouraged the participants to think about what it is their charities offer, and who they offer it to, as a springboard to think about their marketing strategies.

The next session will be on the 15th of May and looks at creating a content plan for your organisation's marketing channels. There are still spaces available and you can [book here](#).

## Car Parking at Allia Future Business Centre



- Please note the current parking arrangements when visiting Allia - The ANPR system is now live.
- All visitors should park in the gravel area and report to reception to log their details. It's pretty straightforward, just remember to enter your vehicle registration details on the iPad in reception, to ensure you don't receive a fine.
- Unfortunately, Allia cannot control the ANPR System and cannot cancel any tickets.

## What's coming up in Peterborough?



### **Volunteering**

We are currently building membership of our [For volunteers | Go-Vip](#) platform, and over time this will become our preferred route for promoting events. However, in the short term we will continue to post the latest events information to our [PCVS Members Events Noticeboard \(padlet.com\)](#). If you would like your events to feature in the noticeboard please email details to [communities@pcvs.co.uk](mailto:communities@pcvs.co.uk)

As we enter May and the sun starts to shine! The large annual outdoor events start, PCVS will have a stall at Peterborough Celebrates, and we hope to see you at there! [Peterborough Celebrates Festival | Nene Park Trust](#)

### **Health Day Event - Making Sense of the Health System**

Not sure what the difference between an IN and the ICB is? What does a social prescriber actually do? Do you struggle to find where your organisation needs to be connecting with health services? And how you might fit into the integrated care system? Join our Health Day event for voluntary and community organisations in Peterborough so you can help your community better.

PCVS' Recovery Project Health and Wellbeing Forum are hosting this morning of health discovery on Mon 20th May 10-12 at Allia conference centre. The event has good representation from across health services, staffed by the people you need to know. Come and get to know the system and the people.

If you require any further information, please contact [John.Robinson@PCVS.co.uk](mailto:John.Robinson@PCVS.co.uk)

## **Peterborough VI (Visually Impaired) Forum**

Dear local visually impaired (VI) people,

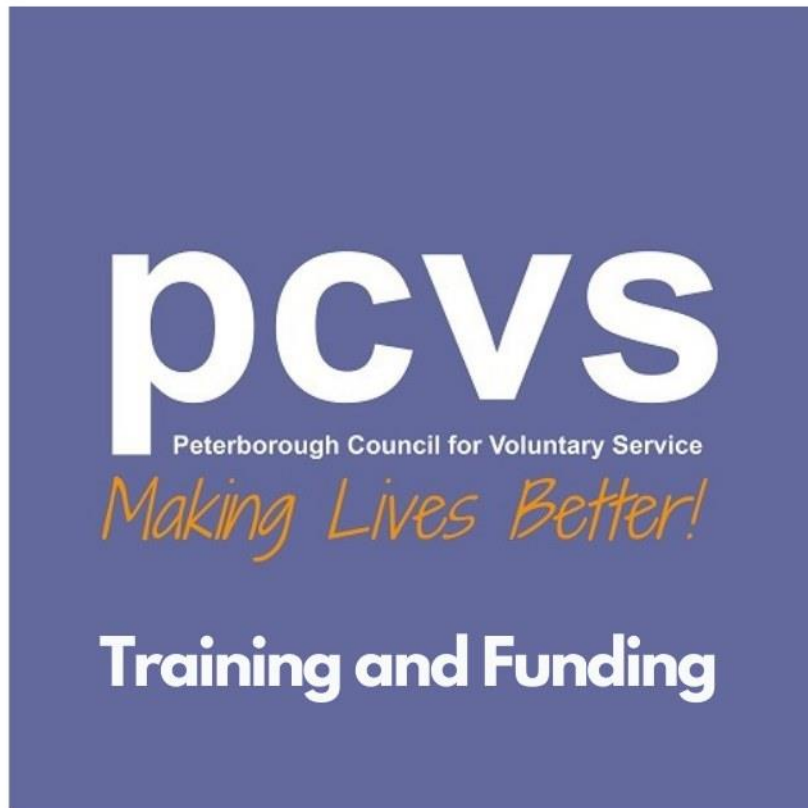
We would like to invite you to the Peterborough VI Forum, a group run by and for local blind and partially sighted people

The idea of the Peterborough VI Forum is to bring together local visually impaired people and partner organisations to find out about and keep up to date with the latest events, activities and services available for blind and partially sighted people from the local area. We will be inviting organisations and individuals who provide and run various services and amenities locally. This is a chance to hear directly from those service providers about the latest news and updates from what they have to offer and a chance for us to ask them any questions we may have. We have Bernie Reddington, RNIB Regional Campaigns Coordinator and Mohammed Atif, RNIB Tech for Life Coordinator both for the East of England as speakers at the next forum.

**The Peterborough VI Forum meets quarterly on the first Thursday of the month between 10:00 and 12:00. Our next meeting is on Thursday Jun 6 at the RNIB office at Northminster House and on Microsoft Teams for anyone who can't be there in person.** Following this meeting, we will meet again in Sept, Dec and Mar. If you would like to be there or have any questions, please email Warren Wilson on the below email address:

[Warren.wilson@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Warren.wilson@rnib.org.uk) Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Training and Funding Newsletters



Keep up to date the latest news on training and funding via our newsletters. These include ongoing free online training opportunities and details of our recently launched 3rd Thursday of the month sessions at Allia Future Business Centre that are proving to be popular!

These padlets are permanently live and maintained by our team. Check back regularly for new resources!

[Funding Newsletter](#)

[Training Newsletter](#)



**FREE RESOURCE**

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence partnership have developed a new free online module offering basic awareness of sexual violence, its impact, the role of the media, the law, and what help and support is available. [https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/sexual\\_violence\\_awareness/252891](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/sexual_violence_awareness/252891)

**CHANGES IN THE LAW:** The Online Safety Act (Jan 2024) made sharing AI-generated intimate images without consent illegal. It is also illegal to share or threaten to share intimate images without consent. It is no longer necessary to prove the perpetrator's motivation to cause harm to prosecute. Cyberflashing - sending unsolicited sexual images has been criminalised if there is proven intent to cause harm or gain sexual gratification by the perpetrator.

**New Service for Peterborough:** Peterborough City Council in conjunction with Change Grow Live will offer a new support service to people with alcohol and drug issues and can help provide advice in areas including budgeting, debts, employment, mental health and responsibilities. For more information email: [aspirehomelessproject@cgl.org.uk](mailto:aspirehomelessproject@cgl.org.uk)

**Citizens Advice Data Insights: Is the Cost-of-Living Crisis really over?**



"We'll take a look at the claims that the cost-of-living crisis is easing. For the first time we'll be able to see in our data the impact of the government's measures to ease the crisis, which were effective from April. However, the crisis is deep and we'll be asking if the Government has done enough to support the most vulnerable." [May Data Insights: Is the Cost-of-Living Crisis Really Over? Tickets, Wed, May 15, 2024 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)