

PCVS Monthly Newsletter - June 2024

June 1-7th is national volunteering week. This week aims to celebrate volunteers and their massive contribution to society. An estimated 14.2 million people in the UK volunteered through a group, club or organisation in 2021-22. In this volunteering focused issue we feature some of PCVS' volunteers involved in two of our Communities team projects. We also urge you to let us know how things really are for you and your organisation in our annual state of the sector survey. There is also sector news including guidance for charities in this pre-election period, as well as public consultations on proposed reforms to PIP and fit notes which will impact on many of the people organisations work with - those living with disabilities or long term health conditions in particular.

What has PCVS Been Up To?

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire



On Monday 13th May, PCVS attended the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Open Evening in Cambridge. The objective of the evening was to open up the BBC to community groups and leaders across Cambridgeshire and to build relationships that will enable them to have a voice in the local media. We learned all about the BBC, shared stories and experiences as well as having a tour of the newsroom and studios. Food was generously provided by the BBC also.

Pictured are left to right: Clare Barham (Training & Infrastructure Lead at PCVS) Sara (Poverty Truth Commission Community Empowerer) Jonathan Jelley (Acting Voluntary CEO at PCVS) and Sadie (Poverty Truth Commission Community Empowerer).

We were also delighted to be joined by two other Peterborough based groups - Project Abundance and St Marks Community Church.



Peterborough Community Research Champions

Research ready community champions (Community Research Champions) – what have they done and what are they planning on doing?

This initiative was originally piloted nationally back in 2018, the methodology has been adopted again as part of the REND project a national health project designed to improve access to health research studies for diverse communities.

Over the last year PCVS has partnered and supported 9 different VCFS organisations undertake health research in their communities. – explaining what it is, how we do it, why we do it, why we need greater diversity of people involved for better health outcomes etc – to understand the barriers each community faced in accessing and participating in health research studies. These conversations were carried out over a 6-week period, on a one-to-one, basis in small groups and large group setting. This culminated in a rich set of data on why people from different migrant and faith groups in Peterborough do not want to participate in health research.

Feedback from the research was presented to an ICB sponsored celebration and learning event, this included a Q&A session. The event was well received and a great vehicle for the group to share their important findings.

Going forward, the groups will continue to work together, sharing their findings and experiences with others.



State of the Sector Survey

It's that time of year again!

PCVS are running a state of the sector survey to capture a snapshot of the charity and voluntary sector in Peterborough, as part of our role as a local infrastructure organisation.

It only takes a few minutes, and asks you some questions about your organisation. The survey is anonymous.

Your responses will play a part in shaping our service offer and help us more effectively advocate for the sector. Please scan the QR code or click the link to take part.

[State of the Sector Survey - please click here](#)



Congratulations!!!

To Gina Goubran who received the Highly Commended award at the Social Prescribing Link Worker Awards in Birmingham last weekend.

Gina and Dr. Neil Modha were invited to present their outstanding Frequent Attenders project at the conference. Here's what Gina had to say about this incredible achievement:

"I feel so honoured to be chosen as a finalist for the NALW award and very grateful to achieve the Highly Commended award. I am very proud of the work I have done in social prescribing, but I could not have done it without our great team at Thistlemoor Medical Centre."

In addition to Gina's Social Prescribing role, she chairs our Health & Wellbeing forum, all of us at PCVS are so proud of her - well done Gina!!!

What's coming up in Peterborough?



Volunteering

Volunteers' Week celebrates the amazing contributions volunteers make to communities across the UK.

The celebration starts on Monday 3rd June. It's a chance to recognise, celebrate and thank the UK's incredible volunteers for all they contribute to our local communities, the voluntary sector, and society as a whole. Click on the following link to find out more about what's going on [Resources – Volunteers' Week \(volunteersweek.org\)](https://volunteersweek.org)

How to say thank you: The importance of volunteer appreciation (webinar)

This free Volunteers' Week webinar will help you discover meaningful, budget-friendly ways to show volunteers you value and appreciate them.

- Learn how to engage your volunteers to better understand their wants and needs.
- Find out how saying thank you can improve your volunteer retention and satisfaction.

[Book your place at the Volunteers' Week webinar](#)

Volunteering Opportunities in Peterborough - find out more about volunteering opportunities in Peterborough, you can email volunteering@pcvs.co.uk or go directly to our dedicated volunteering website, [Go-ViP](#).

Also, How Are You Peterborough is a great source for information around volunteering opportunities, find out more by following this link [How Are You Peterborough? | Volunteer opportunities by type \(haypeterborough.co.uk\)](#)

There are some great examples of volunteers experiences in Peterborough, in the following short videos:

[Volunteering at FoodCycle](#)

[Volunteering in the Armed Forces](#)



PCVS hosted session - 20 June 10am - 12 noon - Allia Future Business Centre - Find out about Go - VIP and how to use our volunteer platform. Learn about ripple effect impact measurement, share good practice, discuss challenges in volunteer and find solutions together. This event will be facilitated by pcvs staff but led by participants and the discussion points they bring. We can also help you make best use of this platform.

The session is open to organisations and individuals including volunteers wishing to connect with organisations or share experiences. Click here to book - <https://www.go-vip.co.uk/o/PCVS/activities/Third-Thursday-Networking-Lets-talk-about-Volunteering/81210>



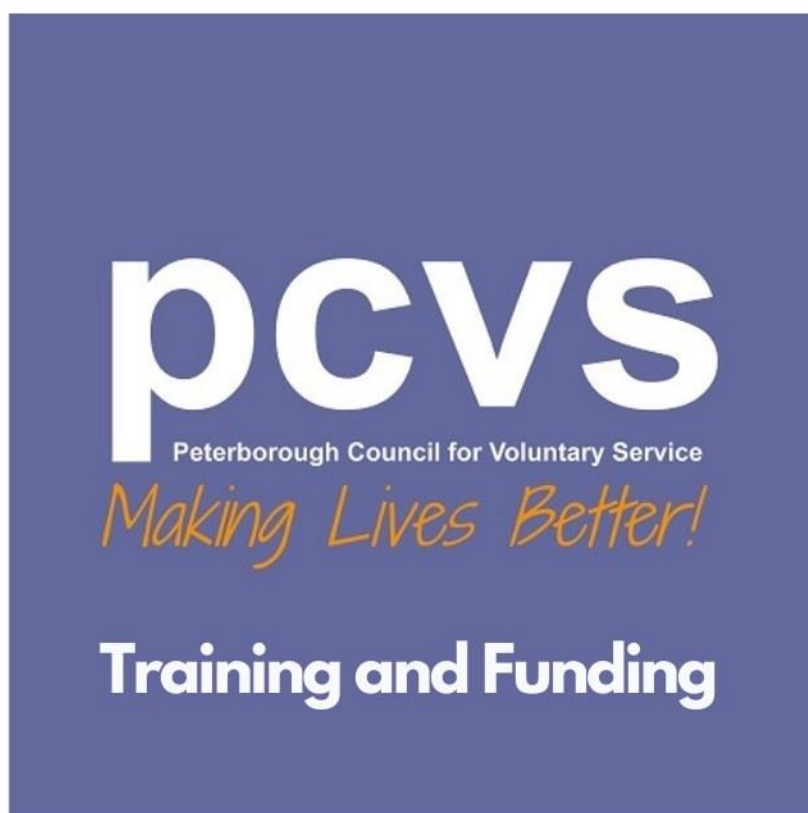
Hot on the heels of Volunteers week is another great volunteering opportunity, with the launch of the Big Help out on the 7th to 9th June. Click the following link for details - [The Big Help Out | Recruit volunteers! - The Big Help Out](#)

Events

The following link takes you to events and activities taking place in the area [PCVS Members Events Noticeboard \(padlet.com\)](#)

If you have an upcoming event that you would like publicising please email communities@pcvs.co.uk

Training & Funding Newsletters



Keep up to date the latest news on funding and training 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](#)

Training events hosted by PCVS in June:

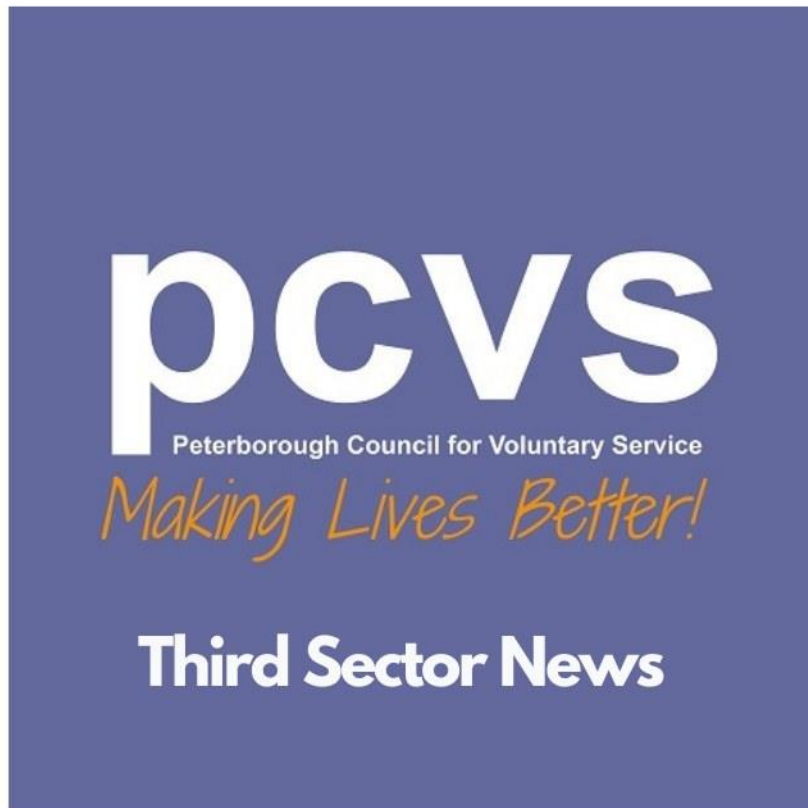
[DBS: Disclosure and Barring Service - 6 June - 10.30 - 2.30 Allia Future Business Centre](#)

[Lenka - Marketing for Charities; Session 3 Getting Social on Social Media - 19 June 1.00 - 2.30 \(online\)](#)

[Let's talk about Volunteering 20 June 10 - 12 Allia Future Business Centre](#)

[DBS: Disclosure Service 21 June 10.00 - 12.00 \(online\)](#)

[DBS: Barring Service 25 June 1.00 - 3.00 \(online\)](#)



General Election guidance for Charities

On 22 May 2024, Prime Minister of the UK, Rishi Sunak, announced the date of the next General Election. On **4 July 2024**, elections will take place across the UK to determine the future composition of the House of Commons. The party that secures the most seats will then win control of UK Parliament.

The following link from the Charity Commission provides guidance to follow between the 23 May and 4 July.

[Charities, Elections and Referendums - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-elections-and-referendums)

Public Consultations

Workwell Pilot project, Public Consultation and call for evidence - PIP and fit notes.

If you work with disabled and or people with long term health conditions these are particularly relevant to you and the people you work with. Please take a look at the documents and make people you work with aware of the consultation too. This is a chance to shape future policy.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough included in WorkWell pilot areas

On 7th May the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced that our area will take a share of the £64 million plan to support 59 000 people to stay in work through joined up working. Individuals who are out of work or at risk of falling out of work due to their health will be referred or self refer to multi-disciplinary WorkWell teams who will provide expert assessment of their work and health needs and create an action plan. To see more - [Written Statements - Written Questions, Answers and Statements - UK Parliament](#)

[New £64 million plan to help people stay in work - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Reform of PIP - Green paper public consultation

“This consultation seeks views on the approaches government should consider around modernising the welfare system for people with disabilities and health conditions.” (DWP website, April 2024) Consultation documents are available in various formats at - [Modernising support for independent living: the health and disability green paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

This consultation closes 22nd July 2024. If you would like to talk with colleagues from various organisations in Peterborough who also work with people living with disabilities and long term health conditions about this and other issues consider joining the Disability Forum [Supporting Local Communities & Forums | PCVS](#)

Fit Note call for evidence

The fit note call for evidence is taking place because the Government want to “..ensure that people get timely access to work and health support. Our aim is that this will provide better support for individuals, whilst helping to reduce sickness absence and improve health outcomes.” (DWP website, May 2024) This call for evidence closes on 8th July 2024. This call for evidence is available in various formats at - [Fit Note Reform: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

DWPs Access to Work applications go digital

Core grants from the DWP’s Access to Work scheme are now available through our online portal. [DWP’s Access to Work applications go digital - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

In next months newsletter we will have more information on engaging with digital technology.



COVID spring booster

The spring COVID-19 vaccination programme is now underway. If you are aged 75 and over, or six months and over with a weakened immune system, please do take up the offer of the spring COVID-19 vaccination as it will help protect you from serious illness. If you have loved ones who are eligible, please encourage them to accept their invitation for the vaccination too. Getting vaccinated is easy –

just visit www.nhs.uk/book-vaccine to book an appointment, or visit www.thevaccinators.co.uk to find a walk-in clinic near you. If you'd rather speak to someone on the phone, you can call 119 to check that you're eligible and to book your appointment. 119 can also help you find your nearest walk-in clinic.

New report is released looking at the Faith sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

After receiving funding from the Integrated Care System (ICS), Support Cambridgeshire, led by Hunts Forum, has conducted research into the faith community's role within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It looks at how big they are, what they are doing within our communities, and how we, as infrastructure bodies, can support them. This work was bid....

The post [New report is released looking at the Faith sector in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough](#) appeared first on [Support Cambridgeshire](#).

The regular monthly CAB Data Insights meeting will focus on Gender Inequalities

June - [Citizens Advice Data Insights: Everyday Inequality - Gender](#), our event on Gender Inequalities will take place **13 June 2024 11-12pm**. We are pleased to announce our speaker panel will include; **Jess Philips**, MP Birmingham Yardley, **Kate Stephens**, CEO, Smart Works, **Jane van Zyl**, CEO, Working Families. [Register now](#).

Leading CEO in Huntingdonshire's voluntary sector announces future retirement

Julie Farrow CEO of our sister infrastructure organisation Hunts Forum announced her retirement next April after 17 years at the head of the organisation.

Gill Benedikz, PCVS' Recovery Project Lead says "Julie's kind support in sharing her knowledge gained through years of experience has been invaluable to all of us at PCVS. We look forward to the coming year and to welcoming her successor next spring."

[Job Vacancies](#)

Volunteer Coordinator - Groups in Fenland and Peterborough

Are you passionate about the value of volunteering? We're recruiting a Volunteer Coordinator to develop and facilitate CamSight's Local Group programme.

In this active hands-on role you will be responsible for the development and facilitation of our Local Groups programme ensuring that a calendar of existing and new groups is delivered across the county. The role will oversee all aspects of our Local Groups including recruiting and training volunteers, arranging venues, speakers, entertainment, refreshments and transport for service users. The role will require you to travel across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Contract: Full Time Permanent

Salary: £25,874 - £27,852 p/a (pro rata)

Hours: PT 18 hours (Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday)

Location: Blended - Cam Sight Office, Homeworking and Community Venues

Key benefits:

25 days annual leave (pro rata for part time staff)

Additional day Birthday leave

Additional Leave between Christmas and New Year

Paid Bank Holidays (dependant on working pattern)

Flexible and Remote working

Company Pension Scheme

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP)

Long service leave entitlement after 5 years of service

Free Sight Test