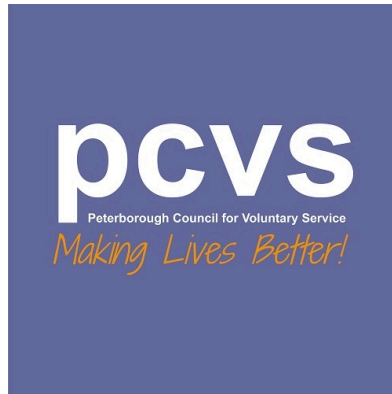


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PCVS Monthly Newsletter - December 2024



2024 PCVS Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting

Following the meeting our Chair, Jonathan Jelley shared his thoughts: "What an incredible Annual General Meeting of Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS) on Thursday 14th November. In excess of 100 guests gathered in the distinguished presence of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Mrs Julie Spence OBE CSTJ QPM and the High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire Mr David

With the theme of Building Healthier Communities: A Collaborative Approach, we enjoyed inspiring speeches from Jan Thomas, CEO of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board and Dave Poulton from Up the Garden Bath.

Our fabulous CEO, Kirsteen McVeigh, also outlined our plans to find new levels of support for our hundreds of member groups and charities in Peterborough.

We also said goodbye and thank you to Ratilal Joshi and Mandy Thompson, two long serving trustees and marked 20 years of dedicated service by Chris de Wilde from our Direct Payments team.

We were also delighted to acknowledge the outstanding work of Gina Goubran, one of our Social Prescribers working at the brilliant Thistlemoor Medical Practice. Nationally recognised, we are incredibly proud of Gina.

Despite the challenges we face in the sector and in Peterborough generally, this was the most positive, energetic and optimistic meeting from a charity with 44 years service to the City and which I now have the great honour of chairing for another 3 years after today's motions were passed.

Warmest thanks to everybody who attended."



It's been a reflective time for Peterborough's Poverty Truth Commission as we start approaching the end of our two-year commission cycle. January 2023, when we started, feels like such a long time ago now, and even our launch last November (see the video [here!](#)) is starting to get a bit misty.

We weren't really sure what was going to happen when Cheryl and I convened everybody for our first full commission meeting in February, but we knew we had a great group of people and a lot of goodwill and faith that we could start doing things different in Peterborough. We quickly developed a rapport and a shared understanding within the group which only continued to deepen as we kept meeting as a full commission and then started getting together in smaller, more focused groups.

Even apart from the friendships and connections we've made, there's a lot we've achieved, and plenty of ways our impact will go on beyond this commission cycle. We've worked extensively with Peterborough City Council to see what can be improved about their Housing Jigsaw portal, and more generally with their processes around registering as homeless and applying for accommodation. We've identified that form filling, particularly digital forms, is a huge barrier for people trying to access services, and we've worked with Jobsmart to run a pilot offering face-to-face help with forms (**see below for info!**)

We've also partnered with Connecting Cambridgeshire to assist in convening a digital inclusion forum in the city and to help identify spaces and communities that would benefit from the resources Connecting Cambridgeshire can offer, such as assisting with Wi-Fi connections, purchasing devices for use in the space or to be loaned out, and help with training digital champions. We're really excited about this! If you'd like to be part of this work, do contact james.farson@pcvs.co.uk or cheryl.mcguire@pcvs.co.uk.

Over the last couple of months, we've also been working with Kip and Julian, the same filmmakers who produced the excellent films we showed at our launch event and produced the highlights video for our launch that we linked above. We're excited to show you what we've been working on! We're planning to show this last film at our celebration event, which is going to be on the 26th of February next year, at Kingsgate in Parnwell. We've sent out the save the date, but we haven't put out our proper invitations yet. If you haven't received a save the date and feel you should have, do get in touch with James or Cheryl.



**JobSmart
Peterborough**

Would you like to improve your digital skills?

Are you struggling with filling in electronic forms or do you just want to talk to someone face-to-face? JobSmart is hosting a weekly in-person session for people who need help with completing digital applications and forms.

**Digital Skills Drop-in Sessions
Every Monday | 10.00am - 12.00pm**

Simply drop-in to JobSmart on Broadway, Peterborough City Centre, opposite Tesco Metro, on Mondays from 10.00am - 12.00pm. One of our tutors will be on hand to assist you.

While you're there, make sure to ask about our other available sessions, including; Time to Shine, Confidence Plus and our many resources available to help you improve your skills.



**poverty
truth
network**



pcvs
Making Lives Better

Sessions developed in partnership with the Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service and the Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission.

For more information please contact **JobSmart** on **01733 863068**
or **jobsmart.pbo@ieg.ac.uk**



White Ribbon Flag 2024

The White Ribbon flag was raised at Peterborough Town Hall on Monday 25 November to show support to Peterborough's survivors of domestic abuse and the international campaign to end male violence.

Gill Benedikz from PCVS joined the Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Marco Cereste and Mayoress Maddalena Cereste and representatives from local specialist services.

The theme for White Ribbon Day this year is 'It Starts With Men' with the campaign highlighting that violence against women and girls is rooted in

lives.

The event launches the start of the annual 16 days of action against domestic abuse, which begins on 25 November.

More information about White Ribbon Day can be found at www.whiteribbon.org.uk. Find out more about the support available at <http://cambsdasv.org.uk/>.

Events, Funding & Training 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 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!

[Events Newsletter](#)

[Funding Newsletter](#)

[Training Newsletter](#)

Upcoming training & networking events hosted by PCVS in December:
3rd Thursday Networking Event - "Festive Celebration", join us for mince pies and a few nibbles - 19 December 10am - 12pm click here to register - [Third Thursday Networking: Festive celebration | Go-Vip](#)

Sector News



The National Lottery Community fund have shared the plans for England's portfolio. Please check out the blog on the [website](#) which has a great video explaining our ambitions. There is also an updated message on our [Reaching Communities pages](#).



Following the link to catch up with the Voluntary Sector Networks latest newsletter - [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough + Voluntary Sector Network - Update Bulletin - November 2024 - Support Cambridgeshire](#)

The logo for NCLVO, consisting of the letters 'NCLVO' in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. The 'L' is stylized with a diagonal slash through it.

Insurance Contributions (NICs) for the voluntary sector.

[Chancellor responds to our open letter on the impact of increased employer National Insurance Contributions for charities | NCVO](#)



Need help with your health to stay at work?



WorkWell is a free program that helps people who might be struggling because of their health to find jobs or keep their jobs. Work and health coaches talk to you about what you need and help you find the right support.



Visit www.growthworkswithskills.com/workwell to find out more

A dedicated support service that aims to help disabled people and those with health conditions to start and stay in work, follow [WorkWell](#) to find out more.

Jobs

Healthwatch Peterborough

An opportunity to improve services for people who use adult social care. Volunteer as an Independent Member on one of the five Cambridgeshire and Peterborough adult social care Partnership Boards and help shape the services local people use. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Partnership Boards give people with experience of using adult social care services a say on current and future care.

To find out more click here: [Partnership Boards | Healthwatch Peterborough](#)

Our mailing address is:

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