

pcvsv

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

Making Lives Better!



Welcome to our first newsletter of 2025!

We hope everyone has managed to take some time to rest and refresh over the festive season and we look forward to seeing you all soon. Our offices open again on 2nd January and the PCVS team will be back to work, supporting our members and communities through our wide range of services and events.

As those of you who attended our recent AGM will be aware, here at PCVS we are taking a fresh look at our communications and making these work better for our members and partners. Included in this is our new website (see below for more details) and a new style newsletter to share what's going on here at PCVS as well as raise awareness of our partners and members news and events.

If you would like to share information about an upcoming event, opportunity, amazing achievement or maybe even feature in a 'Spotlight On' article, please get in touch to find out more. We want this newsletter to be used to share all of our news with communities across Peterborough so please get involved!

If you know of an organisation or group that doesn't currently receive our newsletter but that may find it useful, please do forward this on and encourage them to get in touch to sign up - the more we share between us and work together, the stronger we can become.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year from all of us here at PCVS.

Contact us on communities@pcvs.co.uk



PCVS launches New Website for 2025!

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service has launched our new website with a brand new look and lots of useful information for our members and local organisations. The website is now live so please do take a look and see what you think. [PCVS.co.uk](https://www.pcvs.co.uk)

Our refreshed and redesigned website now includes an Events calendar where you can see what's going on both within PCVS and across our member organisations. There's a Training and Infrastructure page with access to online courses and resources – and much more in our members area will coming soon!

Check out the Jobs page in the About Us page to see job and trustee opportunities too; although PCVS doesn't have any current vacancies we now include paid jobs within the voluntary and charity sector locally.

Coming soon will be more content for our members including your very own microsite hosted by PCVS. To get a flavour of a microsite and how your organisation will appear. Explore the new Members Directory which features a few of our members who volunteered to help us on the pilot of the website.

We want to hear your feedback and ideas to help us to develop the website. We will be sending out information to all of our members about how to get involved and be featured on the site. Please keep an eye out for our emails and if you're not yet a member get in touch to find out how to sign up.

Contact us on pcvs@pcvs.co.uk



PCVS Members Support Offer

PCVS provides information and advice to all our member organisations and to make sure our offer continues to meet what is needed we will be reviewing this over the next few months. Along with our regular training and networking events, volunteering support service and community support, there will be soon be dedicated access to a Members area on our new website and lots of other useful extras!

If you would like to know more and get involved with helping to develop our PCVS Members Offer please get in touch by contacting pcvs@pcvs.co.uk -

mark your email subject as: Members Offer and we'll get back you with further information.

Training & Events

To see all PCVS events please go to our website [Member Events | PCVS](#)
Our 2025 programme of events will be released soon including our popular '3rd Thursdays' and a new addition 'Training Tuesdays' - we hope to see you there!

(please note that some events/dates are still to be uploaded to the website so do check back soon....)

And don't forget to check out other events by our members [Events Archive | PCVS](#) If you'd like to post your events on our calendar please get in touch and we'll show you how. communities@pcvs.co.uk

Funding Opportunities

To see the latest funding opportunities go to our latest Funding Padlet [Funding News letter \(padlet.com\)](#)

We'll be posting out further funding opportunities soon so keep an eye out for our emails!

And make sure you don't miss the new funding opportunity shown below for the latest ICB/Assura Grants - if you need support please get in touch.

THIRD THURSDAY

NEW FORMAT STARTING 2025

INTRODUCTIONS

SHORT TRAINING
MODULE

MEET THE FUNDER
PRESENTATION
Q & A

REFRESHMENTS
&
NETWORKING

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THIRD THURSDAYS 2025
Meet the funder/ Networking/ Training
Save the dates!

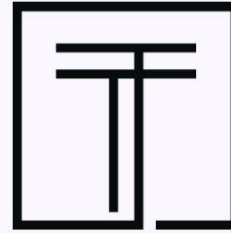
<i>January</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 16	<i>February</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 20	<i>March</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 20
<i>April</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 17	<i>May</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 15	<i>June</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 19
<i>July</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 17	<i>August</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 21	<i>September</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 18
<i>October</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 16	<i>November</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 20	<i>December</i> ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ 18



❖ TRAINING TUESDAYS

STARTING JANUARY 2025

- Monthly courses to set our members up for success
- Foundational Skills Training for Organisations
- Comprehensive need-based training sessions
- Collaborative training format combining active participation & digital tools



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PCVS - Connecting you to the best resources



Funding Opportunity

**Assura & NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
ICB**

Grants Programme - Round Two

Promoting health and well-being and opportunity for all, by tackling health inequalities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Assura/ICB grant programme is now open for applications.

Voluntary sector organisations can apply for up to £12,000 to fund projects that work with local people to tackle health inequalities and promote wellbeing at an Integrated Neighbourhood level. The grant programme criteria sets out a list of the areas that are being targeted in this round.

See here for the criteria, other information and how to apply [webpage](#)

Expressions of interest need to be submitted by 26th January 2025.

Once you have read through all the information, please contact debbie@huntsforum.org.uk for a link to the EOI form.

Please note that projects will need to have the support of the relevant Integrated Neighbourhood Manager. To contact them, please email nwangliaft.northcpcarepartnership@nhs.net



PCVS Volunteering Service

At PCVS we offer a comprehensive volunteering support service with a dedicated platform - Go-ViP - for Peterborough that enables volunteers to look for and sign up for opportunities. The platform also provides space for organisations to register and post their volunteering opportunities.

We are also a Volunteering Centre and as part of this service we offer a weekly session where anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer can book an appointment or drop in to gain advice and information.

If you would like to know more about PCVS's Volunteering Service please go to [Peterborough CVS | Go-Vip](#)



Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission

The Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission continues to work together towards delivering on their priorities. We are particularly pleased to announce that the digital inclusion work, in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council, is progressing well and is aiming to embed access for local people to improve their digital skills and gain access to digital devices.

This work will form part of the Celebration Event on February 26th at Kingsgate Community Church. The event will showcase the work of the PTC journey through film, presentations and personal experiences of being involved in a project focused on the lived experience of our people and their

tools, skills, and support needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Many individuals and communities in Peterborough still face barriers to accessing digital resources, from lack of internet connectivity to limited digital literacy. This collaboration seeks to break down these barriers and ensure that **no one is left behind** in the digital age.

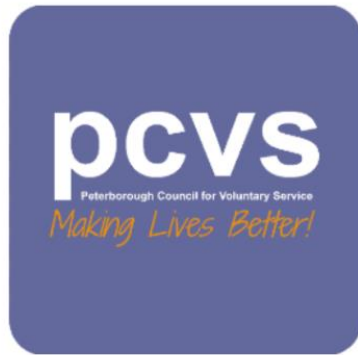
PCVS, in partnership with local stakeholders, will be focusing on several key areas to foster digital inclusion.

By joining this forum, you can contribute to creating a more connected, informed, and resilient community.

Who Should Get Involved?

- **Community Leaders and Volunteers:** Looking to enhance digital access and literacy within your communities.
- **Businesses and Employers:** Seeking to improve digital skills among your workforce or customers.
- **Educators and Trainers:** Interested in learning new tools and resources to teach digital skills.
- **Local Authorities and Policymakers:** Wanting to develop strategies for digital inclusion in the region.
- **Anyone Interested in Digital Access:** If you care about making the digital world more accessible to all, this forum is for you!

To find out more please contact us on pcvs@pcvs.co.uk



CVS Recovery Project

The National Lottery funded CVS Recovery Project has just completed its third year. We are pleased to be able to continue our work on forums and Poverty Truth Commission until the end of March next year.

The forums have continued to be busy with many issues.....

The Disability forum is still very engaged with the Station Quarter redevelopment. Members see this as a once in a generation opportunity to make Peterborough more accessible. Discussion on the Assisted Dying bill is also high on the agenda for the new year.

The Domestic Abuse forum are planning an International Women's Day event, to try to engage local students in discussion of issues around sexual harassment. Recently members have been busy with the 16 days of action

against gender violence, including the flag raising and Mayor's reception noted in last month's newsletter.

We were also extremely pleased to be able to redistribute a number of refurbished mobile phones to enable survivors of domestic abuse to reach out for help more safely.

The Food Poverty Forum: We have run a series of workshops with community hubs on identifying all the work carried out in the hubs, awareness raising of diversifying income and how to implement that. As a result of that work PCVS has been successful in gaining some funding from NAVCA and Cadent to begin to develop more Centres for Warmth in Peterborough. We also say a big thank you to our partners at Allia Impact, for their support in funding the training workshops.

The Health and Wellbeing Forum: Presentations have included the new employment support project: 'Workwell' which will be delivered by Papworth Trust (see the flyer shown at the end of this newsletter for more information). We have also hosted a really thought provoking training session on Self-Harm Awareness delivered by YMCA on behalf of Fullscope and the team of young people who created a great film resource for this purpose.

In these final few months of the project we will be carrying out research focusing on:

Community Cohesion - Last summer the UK experienced huge tensions, fueled by far-right rhetoric - for a while Peterborough experienced a palpable fear of rioting and racial hatred. The riots didn't happen, but people did turn out to support our communities. We want our research to explore how we can all work together to strengthen understanding and share community life across the city. This is our place - Peterborough - and we feel strongly that it

is the people of the city who should be setting the agenda not outsiders.

Digital Inclusion/Exclusion - We have been pleased to support 'Connecting Cambridgeshire' as they begin to work in Peterborough, and will be using research to map current provision in the city both at an institutional level and at a community level. Once the initial mapping has been completed, we will work with Connecting Cambridgeshire to develop a digital forum, who will help decide what, and where initiatives like digital hubs or volunteer recruitment for digital champions might be best placed. We know there is a huge amount of digital inclusion work that happens under the radar in the city by communities.

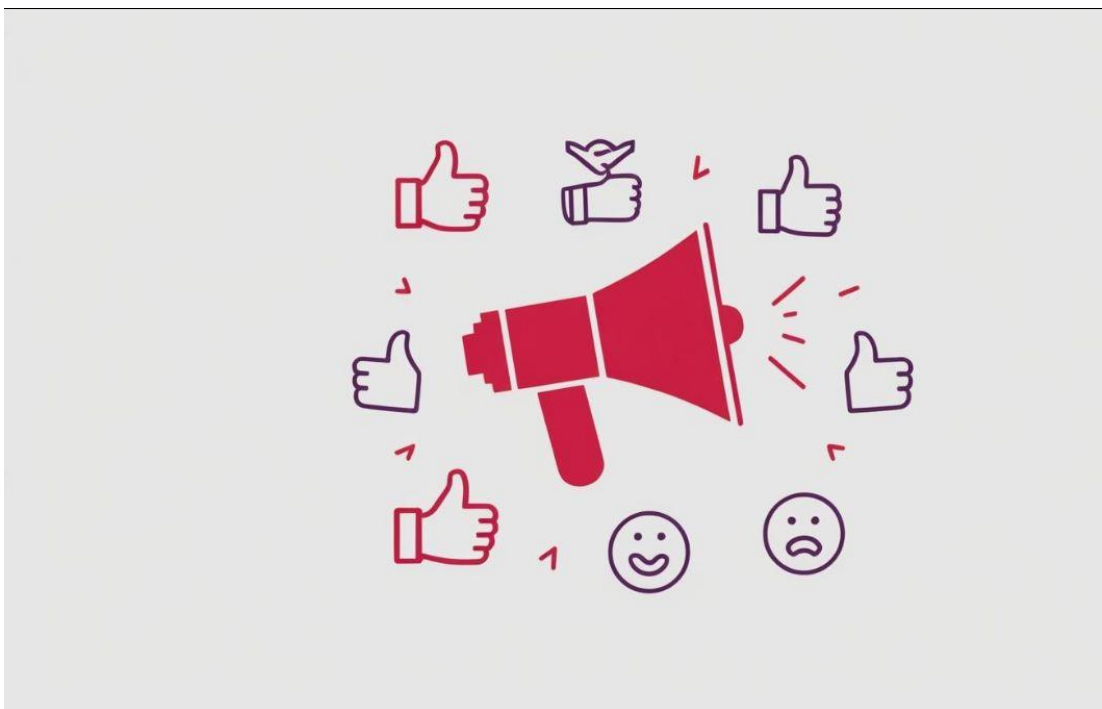


Cadent Centres for Warmth

We are extremely pleased to announce our newest project funded by a partnership between Cadent and NAVCA. This project idea came directly from the work of the Food Poverty Forum and demonstrates the strength of local collaborative working.

The project has begun to be rolled out in early December and has already had a great deal of interest. For more information please contact us on :

communities@pcvs.co.uk



Feedback on our Forums!

A year ago we evaluated the Forums to understand what they meant for our sector, the difference they made to our members, and how they work. We learned a lot from this process and this has directly influenced how we've worked in the last year.

A year on, and with so many changes in our city and beyond, we want to check in on how the Forums are working, celebrate what you've achieved together, and understand what we as your CVS organisation can do to represent and support the sector. Please do complete the brief survey as it is hugely important that we hear your views so that we can continue to develop our work to meet the needs of our members and local communities.

How you can feedback:

1. Complete this survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/W9sDvA9gnd>

2. Talk to our independent evaluator, Ali Lyons. There is an opportunity to let us know at the end of the survey if you'd be happy to chat to Ali - this can be in person, by phone or video call.

The survey will be open until Friday 24th January 2025.



Working together to tackle poverty in Peterborough

Peterborough City Council is launching a project to address poverty and disadvantage, aiming to develop a comprehensive strategy informed by local data and evidence. The goal of this work is to revolutionise the approach to addressing poverty and disadvantage in the city by developing a single strategy that increases the impact of existing work and creates resilient communities. They are keen to collaborate with partners across the system, including voluntary, community and faith-based organisations.

The work intends to build on the work that has been done within the Poverty Truth Commission.

Key areas of interest include:

- **Health Inequalities:** Poverty is closely linked to health inequalities, leading to chronic conditions, mental health challenges, and barriers to healthcare access. The project seeks evidence on how poverty impacts health outcomes, case studies, and evaluations of programs addressing these issues.
- **Child and Family Poverty:** Child poverty is a major concern in Peterborough, affecting over a third of children, with a notable negative impact on the education and development of children affected by poverty. The project seeks evidence on the effects of poverty on children and successful interventions for supporting low-income families.
- **Cost of Living Crisis:** The rising costs of essentials are pushing more households into poverty, leading to issues like fuel poverty, furniture poverty, and food insecurity. The project seeks evidence on current trends and initiatives - particularly successful approaches for addressing these impacts.

Find out more about how your organisation can get involved

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-and-plans/health-and-social-care-strategies/poverty>

Health and Wellbeing Survey in Peterborough Have your say!

Your health and wellbeing are our priority! We're here to listen, learn, and understand the unique challenges you face and the opportunities that can help you thrive in your community.

To take part, scan the QR code below or visit
<https://forms.office.com/e/3QmTQFNnMH>



Please complete the survey by 31st January 2025



Please share this H&W survey!

Our partners in health from the North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Care Partnership have asked for support with sharing this important health and wellbeing survey. If you haven't already received this information, we

ask that you share it widely with your communities and local networks.

The survey is also available in hard copies and other languages. If you would like alternative copies or wish to know more, please contact us and we can put you in touch with colleagues who can support you.

The Survey is open until the end of January and although it takes only takes a few minutes to complete, your responses will be invaluable to those making decisions about local health services - please make sure you Have your Say!

To access the survey, scan the QR code shown on the above poster or go to <https://forms.office.com/e/3QmTQFNnMH>

We thank you for your support!



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

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COMMUNITY
FUND

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



Updated Information about National Lottery Funding

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 the [Reaching Communities pages](#).

If you are thinking about applying to the National Lottery for funding over the next year, we highly recommend reading through their newly updated information.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Voluntary Sector Network



Together for
healthier communities

Here at PCVS we work closely with our partners in both health and across the VCSE sector. The Voluntary Sector Network is a great opportunity for all local organisations to come together, get involved and learn more about opportunities for collaborative working.

Follow 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 letter "V" is stylized with a diagonal stroke that extends upwards and to the right, crossing the top of the letter "O".

The Chancellor has now replied to our open letter following the October budget, which called for urgent action on the planned increase to employer National Insurance Contributions (NICs) for the voluntary sector.

PCVS represented its members and joined with many other voluntary sector organizations and our national partner NCVO to ask the Chancellor to consider the negative impact of NI rises on charities and ask for support to protect our vital work. Unfortunately the response was not what we had hoped for and we are disappointed that there will be no exemptions for the sector. We know that this will result in further difficulties for voluntary organisations who are already struggling to provide services in challenging financial circumstances.

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

We will continue to advocate on behalf of the sector and if your organisation needs support, please do get in touch. To read about some of the further campaigning that has been taking place [Attempts to exempt charities from NICs rise fail in House of Commons](#)

Contact us on Communities@pcvs.co.uk



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1165856

Friendship Club Development Co-ordinator Required

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (AUKCAP) is an independent charitable organisation which exists to improve the quality of life for older people in the county.

The Friendship Club Development Co-ordinator will work with local communities to identify suitable areas to develop and facilitate clubs for older people within the Peterborough unitary authority. This will involve getting to know the local neighbourhood and networking with other public and voluntary organisations

AUKCAP currently runs 10 Friendship Clubs for older people in Peterborough. The Friendship Club Development Co-ordinator's role is to offer ongoing support, advice and guidance to these established clubs & their volunteers when needed.

12 hours per week

Role will be home based, with travel in and around Peterborough (flexibility to visit & cover Friendship clubs throughout the week including Tuesday pm.)

£8,918 PA

Closing date for applications: Thursday 2nd January 2025

Interviews: w/c 13th January 2025

The successful candidate will be required to undertake Disclosure and Barring Service check at ENHANCED level.

For an application pack or more information please contact:

Marcia Short

E-mail: recruitment@ageukcap.org.uk

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.

