

pcvsv

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

Making Lives Better!



Welcome to our February newsletter 2025

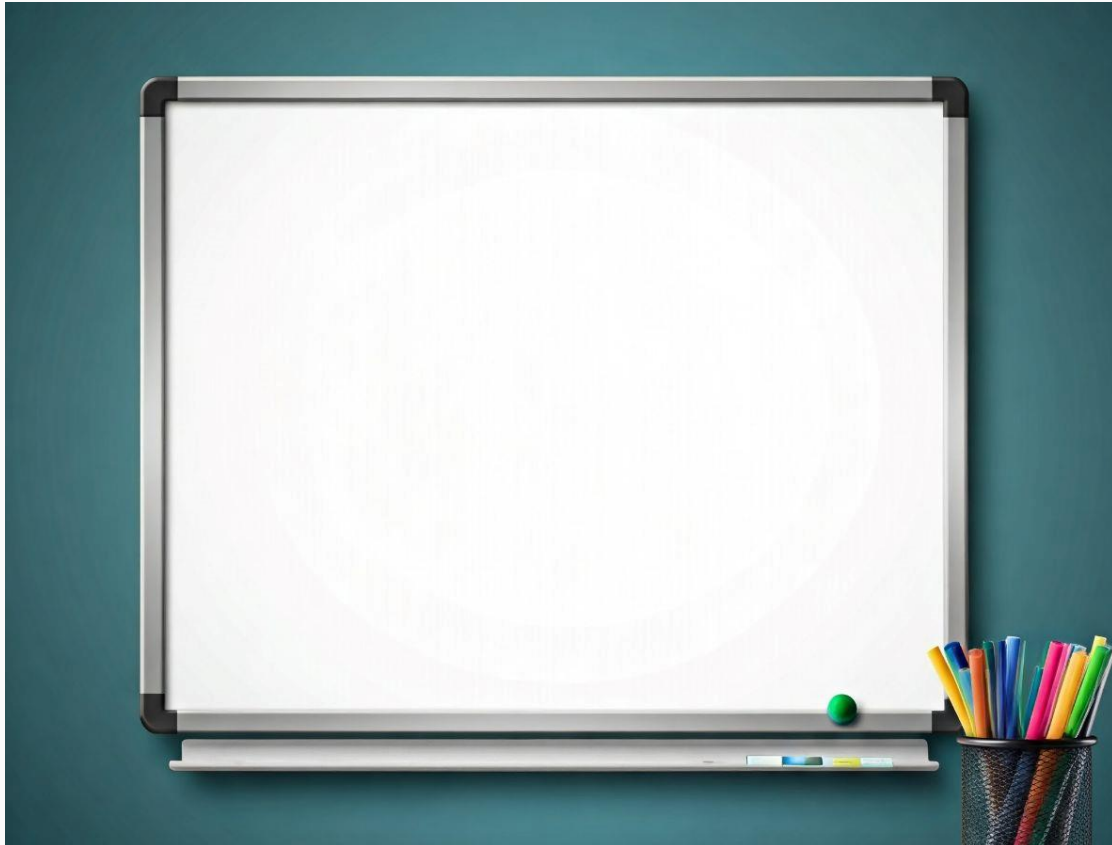
We hope you are all staying warm and well during these winter months and looking forward to the spring as the evenings start to become lighter.

This month's newsletter has updates from our current projects as well as lots of useful information from our partners and members. Don't forget that if there is anything that you would like to share information about, such as 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.

Contact us on communities@pcvs.co.uk



Members Training Opportunities

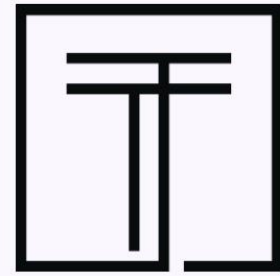
PCVS offers many training, support and networking opportunities to all member organisations. All PCVS events are promoted on our new website so keep an eye out for what's coming up soon!

Check out the calendar here [Training and Infrastructure Support | PCVS](#)

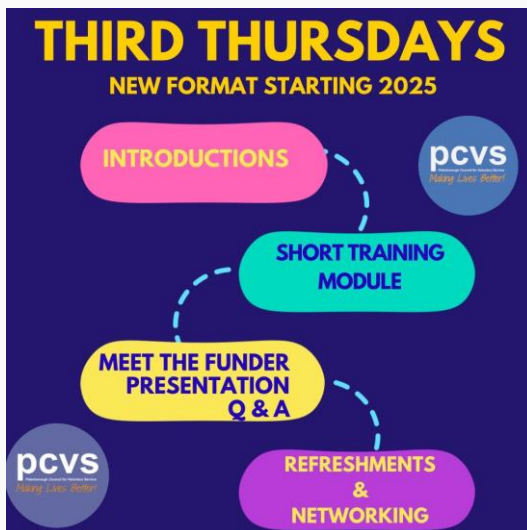
❖ TRAINING TUESDAYS

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



PCVS - Connecting you to the best resources



THIRD THURSDAYS 2025

Meet the funder/ Networking/ Training
Save the dates!

January	February	March
16	20	20
April	May	June
17	15	19
July	August	September
17	21	18
October	November	December
16	20	18

pcvs making lives better!



Peterborough Poverty Truth Commision Updates

On Thursday 16th January 2025 a delegation of four from the Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission travelled together by train to attend the Lincoln Against Poverty celebration event. This was in response to a kind invitation from Local Motion Lincoln to their celebration event, marking the end of one phase of their PTC's work and the beginning of another.

They had identified four main topics of focus which were similar to those identified by the Peterborough PTC:

1. Welfare Transformation was all about people being able to access the help that is rightfully theirs (for example, people on disability benefits).
2. Accessibility encompassed areas such as physical access, digital access and language used (1st or 2nd language, or the use of complex language such as the "manager-speak" and acronym overload that our PTC have encountered).

3. Awareness included educating people that mental health challenges and addiction are illnesses, and tackled the problem that nowadays people can only access help in a crisis, rather than receiving ongoing support and prevention.
4. Central Points of Contact tackled the problem of people having to tell their story over and over again to different agencies and services and called for a 'one-stop shop' where information could be shared.

The day was inspiring, with time dedicated to discussion around the key topics allowing for a deep dive and sharing of thoughts and ideas. Delegates were able to leave feeling empowered to make a difference and Peterborough's Poverty Truth Celebration Event in February (see below for information) is set to continue this.



In January, Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission were invited by Peterborough City Council's Public Health Team to talk about their work as a commission, hear about the research into poverty being undertaken by the local authority, and take part in a roundtable discussion to map out the work

being done to alleviate poverty in Peterborough.

Cheryl and James presented the PTC story so far and the work that's leading us up to our celebration event on the 26th of February (invites have started to go out – if you haven't received one then do contact us!)

We're always so inspired to go along to events like this, because we get a chance to meet all the people that are committed to working against poverty in Peterborough. The will is there, and we just need to work together. The last exercise was great – the discussion about our priorities in the room and the open vote on the direction we want the work to take very much aligns with how we work by consensus, directed by the community, and we're excited to see the direction this will take!

Nothing about us, without us, is for us

*Peterborough Poverty Truth
Celebration Event*

Wednesday 26th February 2025

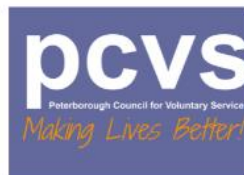
KINGSGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Seymour Room

**5PM - lovely Buffet & your contribution
to our poverty tree**

**5.30 - Celebration commences including
film, inspirational speakers highlighting
the achievements of the Peterborough
Poverty Truth Commission & where we
go from here**

7.30pm Close

**poverty
truth
network**



Poverty Truth Commission Celebration Event

The Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission Celebration Event is taking

place on Wednesday 26th February 2025, 5.00pm until 7.30pm at the Kingsgate Community Church, Peterborough.

Places are filling up fast so if you haven't already accepted and would like to attend, please do so through the link below to secure your space. This will be a really super, positive event and will be a brilliant opportunity to network with many people from community, charitable and statutory organisations.

There will be food from 5pm with the presentations commencing at 5.30pm.

Please complete the attached form via the link below to secure your place at the event and include any relevant information about any food allergies so we can make sure we cater for you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/va0WRVSBsm>

James and Cheryl will look forward to seeing you at what will be a really wonderful, celebratory event.

A Monster Calls

And if you would like to see the wonderful talents of Cheryl, she is directing a play '**A Monster Calls**' which is being performed at the Key Theatre Studio, Peterborough from 26th to 29th March 2025. It is a story of resilience, strength and love with a strong storytelling element and a mixed age and diverse cast. She would love to see you there.

<https://keytheatre-peterborough.com/event/peterborough-mask-theatre-present-a-monster-calls/>



Community Cohesion Group/Forum

We're excited to explore the idea of starting a Community Cohesion Group/Forum to strengthen connections, support local needs, and foster collaboration in our community.

Your insights are invaluable in helping us shape this initiative. To that end, we've created a brief survey designed to be short and focused—ensuring it's easy for you to share your thoughts while providing us with meaningful feedback.

Click here or scan the QR code to take the survey: <https://forms.gle/fJEErfB9EFGEXKd2A>

Your participation will help ensure this group reflects the needs and interests of our community.

Thank you for taking a few moments to share your perspective!"



CVS Recovery Project

The Recovery Project has entered its final planned quarter of activities, with plenty going on in the run up to the end of March.

The Disability Forum met on the 9th of January; the main focus of the meeting was the proposed Station Quarter Redevelopment. The forum was joined by representatives from PCC, ARUP and LDA Design to share the latest planning assumptions in advance of submission of the full business case. Some of the key points discussed were, access through to Cowgate via the proposed new routing from the station, the rationale for not having improved access via the Bourges Boulevard bridge into Queensgate, changing places toilets, disabled parking facilities, tactile way finding and

segregation of cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. The project agreed to set up an onsite meeting to enable users of the proposed new facilities to feedback practical insight on the plans, prior to finalising the business case. Our next meeting is Thursday 11 March 11am - 1pm.

The Domestic Abuse Forum members met on the 22nd of January to workshop ideas on how to feed into this year's International Women's Day event. At an earlier meeting the group had agreed it would like to highlight sexual harassment in the workplace, get women to know and be confident in asserting their rights at work. We want to reach young women (age range approx. 15 - 25) who are starting out on their careers and agreed that the most effective medium would be through the production of a short video/social media piece. Work is ongoing to get this in place by March. Our next meeting is Monday 3 February 11am - 12pm.

The Health & Wellbeing Forums next meeting will take place on the 4th of March 12pm - 2pm. The focus will be around Wellbeing, weight loss, getting active etc - Who are the service providers, what do they offer and at what cost? We are finalising input from a range of existing service providers who will join us to discuss their service offering with forum members.

The Food Poverty Forum will be convening before the end of March to support Peterborough City Council in their evidence gathering work, associated with their poverty project which is aiming to transform the way that poverty and disadvantage is approached within Peterborough, with a view to developing a single strategy focused on increasing the cumulative impact of the work taking place and creating thriving, resilient communities. If you would like to learn more about the project please click here: [Poverty in Peterborough | Peterborough City Council](#)



national gas



An introduction to our Go-ViP supporter - National Gas

National Gas are supporting us in the continued development of our on-line volunteer platform Go-ViP

<https://www.go-vip.co.uk/>

Who are we?

National Gas are the largest owner and operator of the gas transmission infrastructure across the UK. Basically, we're the motorway that gets gas from A to B. We don't produce or sell gas, we just move it around the country to where it needs to be, where local energy networks then move it from us into your homes. We also look after over 7 million gas meters across the UK through National Gas Metering, and we deal with emergency and planned maintenance and repairs on our gas works through National Gas Services. We play a critical role in our country's energy security, keeping homes warm and the lights on.

As a national business, we have operations all across the UK including our Peterborough Compressor station. As a neighbour to the wider Peterborough area, we want to make sure we're giving back to the communities within which we operate. Whether this is through engaging our people in

volunteering opportunities, sharing our skills and expertise across local businesses and causes, or donating material or financial goods to causes in need – we want to help.

If you're a local cause, charity, social enterprise or otherwise within the Peterborough area, we want to be able to offer our support. We might not be able to help with every request that comes our way, but where we can, we'd love to try.

Last year, Andrew Smales, Project Officer, and his hardworking team, spent two days volunteering at Sacrewell Farm. Andrew said *"It was our pleasure supporting Sacrewell Farm. We all had a fantastic 2 days digging and building, really worthwhile work. Another thank you to the Sacrewell team for making us feel so welcome and feeding us."*



Kiera Pullen, ESG Analyst, said *"I'm thrilled that the platform is helping you achieve the goals you originally set out with, and to see that steady and confident increase in numbers is brilliant, utterly brilliant. I am SO thrilled"*

we've been able to be a part of this project!

If you'd like to learn more about the way's we could help, please feel free to reach out to me Kiera.Pullen@nationalgas.com or the team at National Gas at, cgf@nationalgas.com and thank you!

PETERBOROUGH
CITY COUNCIL



HELP US SHAPE FUTURE SERVICES

EARLY HELP: WHAT DOES GOOD LOOK LIKE?

<p>Would you like to become a member of a community focus group to play a role in collaboratively designing early help services of the future?</p>	<p>We are looking for a maximum of 10 volunteers, aged 18 or over and from a range of backgrounds and life circumstances, who live within the Millfield area of Peterborough.</p>
<p>Taking part will help us to understand how we can work differently to improve the health, wellbeing, and independence of local people.</p>	<p>At the community focus group, we are interested in hearing about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· support services that you use· food and cost of living <p>You can discuss your experiences and help us make recommendations for future services.</p>

Wednesday 12th February 2025
17.30 - 18.30
(Further details to be shared with participants)
Flat-rate £20 Amazon voucher payment per session attended to cover expenses.

Sign up here:



Early Help Focus Group

We are inviting members of the community to join us in shaping our early

help services to better meet the needs of local people. Our early help services aim to provide timely and effective support for individuals and families in our community. To ensure these services are meaningful and accessible, we want to collaborate with local people who can bring their unique perspectives to the discussion. **Please could your organisation support us to identify 1 – 2 individuals that could help with giving feedback, insight and ideas?**

If anyone is interested in participating, **please contact us by Friday 7th February**, via this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/8nmcveQnJ6>. If you represent an organisation and know of an individual that would like to be involved but is digitally excluded (no access to email/ internet), please support them to complete the form or pass their details to esther.baffa-isaacs@peterborough.gov.uk (with their consent).





Wildlife Trust for **Beds, Cambs & Northants**

Spotlight On....

This month's spotlight is on volunteering opportunities with the wildlife trust, an amazing way to get involved with nature and be part of making a real difference to local wildlife.

Would you like to volunteer with the Wild Life Trust?

We are part of a national movement of [Wildlife Trusts](#) of which [Sir David Attenborough is President Emeritus](#).

It is no secret that nature is in trouble. Wildlife is disappearing at an alarming rate - some are calling it the next mass extinction - and the threat of climate catastrophe is a constant worry. We live in a time of emergency. But there is still hope - we can tackle both of these critical issues - but we need to scale up and act now.

Together, with the movement of Wildlife Trusts, we want at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature's recovery by 2030. Making more space for nature to become abundant once again will give our struggling wildlife the chance to recover and also restore beautiful wild places - places that store carbon and help to tackle the climate crisis.

We are extremely grateful to be supported by over [1,000 volunteers](#) and over [37,000 members](#) from across our three counties.

Our brilliant members and volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation, they help us defend and protect the natural world which is currently facing an ecological crisis. It is their support that enables us to deliver so much for wildlife.

Would you like to get involved?

Youth Rangers are one way to get involved with this worthy cause with projects ongoing in the Cambridgeshire Area

Paxton Pits

Meet at Paxton Pits Education Centre, Little Paxton, nr St. Neots. They get together on one Sunday each month, 10am-12 noon. For more information, please contact Debbie McKenzie, Education Centre Manager on 01480 473161 or Debbie.mckenzie@wildlifebcn.org

Youth Rangers of the Fens - mostly monthly

Regular sessions for young people (aged 11-17) to take part in practical conservation tasks and surveys to help wildlife. We meet most months on a weekend during term-time, with mid-week sessions in school holidays. Sessions take place at Wildlife Trust sites in Peterborough and the the [Great Fen](#). For more information, please contact Laura Allen on laura.allen@wildlifebcn.org

West Cambs 100s Youth Rangers- mostly monthly

This is a new group with activities on offer such as practical volunteering, socials, workshops, talks and walks. Exactly what we do will be decided by the group. We'll meet roughly monthly either in school holidays or on Saturday mornings. Sessions will be in various locations between Gamlingay, Cambourne, and Trumpington. If you are interested in learning more, email rebecca.neal@wildlifebcn.org

If you or anyone you know is interested in getting involved follow this link and look for the Youth Rangers information [Youth Rangers | Wildlife Trust for Beds Cambs & Northants](#)

The logo for 'Metal' is displayed in a bright green, sans-serif font.

**Inspiring change through art:
New strategy, programmes and a brief update.**

We can't look towards a new year without reflecting on all the big and beautiful changes we've started making at Metal this year. From a new strategy to open calls for artists in power and cultural democracy, to new ways of working and creative programmes exploring what's possible when things go wrong, it's been a positive year and we've already got lots in the pipeline for 2025 too. We'll see you there!

It's been (and we know it's going to continue to be) an exciting time at Metal. Those cogs we were going on about in the background finally turned. We have a new mission to [inspire positive change through art and creativity](#), and we're changing our governance and how and what we programme to involve more people in the decision making.

So, what will our new programmes look like? Ambitious! They'll have three themes:

- Community and Connection
- Climate and Nature
- Social Justice

They'll create opportunities for international exchange, respond to national agendas and conversations, create spaces of fun, solidarity and connection, and bring people together through art. We'll be working deeply within our communities in South Essex, Cambridgeshire and Liverpool with more people, and develop digital programmes to reach people in new and accessible ways.

In Peterborough, we launched [What's Possible When Things Go Wrong](#), a month of socials, celebrations, laughs and tears as part of our final programme in the building at Chauffeurs Cottage. Leaving our space there wasn't our decision, but we embraced it with optimism and it turns out a lot of great things can happen when things go wrong! From eating dozens of dumplings whilst re-imagining new spaces, to dancing in the nooks and crannies of the building, film screenings, poetry readings, and a party that had us dancing till the small hours, we definitely made it a memorable month. We've been filling boxes and packing up our things, and we can't wait to welcome you to our new home in the city. More on this coming soon.

For over twenty years, Metal has shown the important role art plays in building community and making lasting positive change in places. We're really looking forward to continuing to grow this, working in new ways and with new artists and creatives over a long period of time. Learn more about this [here](#)



ALMOND TREE
STRATEGIC CONSULTING

Is there a volunteering crisis in the UK? - Blog by Julian Lomas of Almond Tree

Since 2013/14 the Government has published an annual [Community Life Community Life Survey](#), reporting on trends in volunteering and charitable giving by the general public. The 2023/24 survey reveals some worrying issues for volunteering in England.

In short, the decline in numbers of formal and informal volunteers over recent years has continued and volunteering is now at an all time low. Only 33% of adults in England report that they give up their time at least once a month to help someone else and only 54% had volunteered at least once in the last year. This is despite evidence that young people are more willing to volunteer, even in formal roles such as being a Trustee.

Combined with a [recruitment crisis for staff in the voluntary sector](#), this is very worrying indeed. [Small charities](#) in particular are highly dependent on volunteers. It seems the spirit of Covid lockdowns, which saw a massive rise in mutual aid volunteering has evaporated.

The main reason why people are volunteering less appears to be work commitments (51%), perhaps unsurprising in challenging economic times.

However, a third of people simply say they do other things in their spare time, suggesting an underlying shift in attitudes towards social responsibility.

The key motivators for volunteering remain:

- Wanting to improve things/help people (47%)
- Having spare time (32%)
- The cause is important to the person (30%)
- Wanting to meet people and make friends (25%)

What can be done about this?

In our view, the most important thing is to make your charity stand out:

- Invest in your communications to raise awareness of your cause, the impact you make in your community and why you need volunteers.
- Invest in the volunteers you have to nurture and support them. Find out what motivates them and try to facilitate more of that. If they love volunteering with your charity they will tell others about it.
- Invest new ways in which people can volunteer, such as [virtual volunteering](#).
- Invest in [tools to support volunteer recruitment, development and retention](#).
- Invest in building partnerships with local employers so that they can [support their staff to volunteer](#) with your charity.

It's tough out there but hidden in the averages of the overall downward trend, there are voluntary sector organisations that are thriving because they invest in the volunteers and the things that matter to them.

DeafblindUK

Firewalk



The hottest, shortest sponsored walk in the world!

Peterborough Cathedral

Friday 21 March 2025

Brave a barefoot walk across red-hot wood embers measuring around 800 degrees!

£19
Early bird entry
with a pledge to raise £100

No tricks, no special effects.
Just you and the fire.

"An amazingly empowering experience...loved it!"

Deafblind friendly event – A British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter and venue guides will be present to ensure the training and firewalk is accessible to all participants.

Find out more and sign up today

Online deafblind.org.uk/firewalk

Call 01733 358 100 Email fundraising@deafblind.org.uk



Scan me

Registered charity no. 802976  REGULATOR



Kickstart 2025 enter the Charity Awards.

The Charity Awards is Civil Society Media's annual awards programme held to identify, recognise and reward those organisations doing exceptional work in all areas of charitable activity.

It is a year-round programme that uses Civil Society Media's portfolio of magazines, reports, events and websites to celebrate and highlight best practice across the sector.

The Charity Awards are judged by a respected panel of voluntary sector heavyweights, each of them leaders in their own fields with years of experience of leading and managing civil society organisations. The judges assess each entry against our Hallmarks of Excellence – attributes that should be present in any successful project. Awards are given out in ten categories and an overall winner is chosen from the winners in each category.

The awards have been designed so that any charity – regardless of their size, location or cause – can enter their project and be in with a chance of winning.

Applications are welcomed from charities large and small, and the structure of the awards categories ensures that any project or activity can be considered - from a board diversity initiative to a public affairs campaign, the launch of a new service or the scaling up of a proven intervention.

Submitting an entry is free. Charities making the shortlist will receive four tickets to attend the presentation ceremony on the 3rd of July as guests and vouchers to

redeem against Civil Society Media products and events. Entries are being accepted until the 26th of February and you can visit the website to learn more about the awards programme and to start your application.

[Visit the website to enter the Charity Awards](#)

If you have any questions, please check the [FAQs page](#) or email awards@civilsociety.co.uk.



A warm invitation from our VCSE Influence and Participation Project Board and Manager to our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough health and care colleagues,

Collaboration across our System – please let's all connect and celebrate

on 18th March 2025 10am-3pm at Magpas Huntingdon

Many of you joined us for our Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Influence and Participation Project Board launch with the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Partnership (MHLDAP - a Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Accountable Business Unit) launch at the end of 2023.

We came from across our health and care 'System' to together identify local priorities and connect through a shared commitment to integration, transformation and ultimately improving people's lives. We are delighted that in continuously increasing connectivity, networking and collaboration ever since we are all contributing to a partnership based approach across the levels of our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System and local communities.

We are holding this free event to celebrate contributions to and examples of how we are together enhancing '**Collaboration across our System**' and therein both directly and indirectly the health and care of our residents.

Please **book your place with me Fiona**

Kerr, Fiona.Kerr@cpslmind.org.uk and let me know of any dietary or other requirements. Free parking is at the venue.



We are writing to you to invite you to a social run by and for young working age visually impaired people in Peterborough and the surrounding area! Please read on for more info on what we do and please contact us to let us know of your interest!

We would like to invite you to a monthly trip to the pub for a drink and or bite to eat with us in a relaxed informal setting. The hope is we can bring together a local group of similar aged, like-minded visually impaired people who can relate to each other's local issues around being visually impaired in Peterborough, but mainly have a good time getting to know each other. Please read on for info on where and when we would like to meet.

Where: Brewery Tap, 80 Westgate, Peterborough, PE1 2AA

When: 3rd Weds of month from 18:00
To get in touch with your interest you can contact us in the following way

Email: eofevisocials@gmail.com

Alternatively, we will be regularly advertising on social media and will be using the Facebook groups RNIB Connect East of England and RNIB Connect East Midlands to advertise these meet ups, please see a link to the RNIB Connect East of England Facebook group below.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RNIBConnecteastofengland/>

We hope to see you soon!



**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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Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services
Making Lives Better

**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.

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.

 **Funded by
UK Government**

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.



Our mailing address is:

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service
Allia Future Business Centre
London Road
Peterborough, Cambs PE2 8AN

United Kingdom

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