



PCVS November 2025 Newsletter

As November arrives and the year begins to wind down, there's still plenty of activity across our local voluntary sector. From seasonal events to training sessions and new opportunities to connect, there's lots to get involved with, so take a moment to explore the updates and articles below.

We're looking forward to our 2025 Conference and AGM and hope to see many of you there, where we will be launching our new Membership Offer, reporting on the work of the recent Poverty Truth Commission and exploring the State of the Sector in our Round Table discussion.

If you know anyone who would find this newsletter of interest please do forward it on. Contact us at communities@pcvs.co.uk to be added to our distribution list if you would like to receive the newsletter regularly.

Violent Incident: 1st November

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS) is deeply shocked and saddened by the incident that occurred on Saturday evening on a train from Peterborough, in which numerous people were injured. Our thoughts are with all those affected — the victims, their families, and everyone who witnessed or responded to this traumatic event.

We are proud of the compassion and resilience that define our communities here in Peterborough. At times like these, it is vital that we come together in solidarity and reject fear, division, or blame. Violence has no place in our society, and neither does hate. We thank the emergency services for their swift and professional response, and the

medical teams caring for those injured.

As our community processes this distressing news, we encourage everyone to channel their concern into positive action — supporting one another, checking in on friends and neighbours, and, where possible, donating blood to help save lives.

Together, we stand for a city that is caring, safe, and united.
Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service (PCVS)

PCVS NEWS



Peterborough Council for Voluntary Service

A Sector Under Pressure: Building a Community of Support



10am - 2pm
Thursday 6th November

Allia Future Business Centre,
London Rd, PE2 8AN

*Please join us at our annual
Members & Stakeholders Event
incorporating the 2025 PCVS
Annual General Meeting*

Registration and refreshments from 10am

Booking Essential: To reserve your place please use
the QR code above or [HERE](#)

Charity number 299823 www.pcvs.co.uk Company number 02119687

Over the past year, PCVS has gone through a period of real transformation. We are now in an exciting position to strengthen the support we provide to our VCSE sector in these very challenging times.

We have two new Senior Development Officer roles within our Communities Team here at PCVS. One role looks after our specialised Infrastructure Support to our member organisations, the other, focuses in on our projects and work on Health Inequalities. Both need a driven, community champion who wants to make a real difference here in Peterborough.

Please see the Recruitment Packs on our website <https://www.pcv.co.uk/about-us/jobs/> for more details or do contact recruitment@pcv.co.uk if you would like to have a discussion to find out more. PCVS is a friendly place to work, passionate about community, collaboration and creating meaningful impact. If you think these roles might be for you, we would love to hear from you.

Closing date 5th November.



PCVS MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

PCVS will be moving membership sign up online via our website soon. Watch out for an email invite to sign up on www.pcv.co.uk as we launch the pilot of the new system (please check junk mail).

Membership is currently free and we need as many of you as possible to test out the sign up process and make your directory page! Once you've signed up you will be able to log on and see funding news and additional training resources on our web pages. You'll also get a members directory page to promote your services or group.

Plus you'll be able to submit your events to appear in our 'What's Going On' calendar

of events!

Keep an eye out for that email!

PCVS out in the community



October has been a busy month for the people coordinating PCVS' work promoting health and care research!

On the 2nd of October, Family Voice were kind enough to invite James to have some space at The Local View Business Expo at Kings Gate.

On the 4th James and Farsh helped support Inclusion and Diversity East Anglia's Black History Month event on Cathedral Square. On the 8th we also attended the Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough summit in Huntingdon.

It's been great to be out in the community this month, whether that was mixing with other socially conscious businesses and organisations, completing surveys and getting feedback as part of our work with Black Voices, or listening to people share their stories at the Healthwatch summit.



PCVS, in partnership with the NIHR, are continuing to promote 'Be Part of Research', a free online service developed by the National Institute for Health and Care Research, that helps you find studies to take part in.

Signing up is free and easy, and once you've let the platform know what health conditions you're interested in, it automatically matches you with studies you might be eligible for.

Scan the QR code or go to this link to find out more: https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/join?utm_source=print&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=ren25-cambridgeshirepeterborough

Why Take Part In Research?



Shape the
future of care



Reduce
inequalities &
improve local
health
outcomes



Be part of
making the
change!

Ask us about becoming a Community Research Champion!

Charity number 299823
Company number 02119687

Web: www.pcvs.co.uk
Phone: 01733 342683
Mail: communities@pcvs.co.uk

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Health and Care Research?

- Research aims to learn new things, understand how things work, and test solutions to problems. Most research revolves around a question, such as, "How does climate change affect the health of older populations?"

What types of Health and Care Research are available to get involved with?

- Not every study is a clinical trial! Research can involve conversations, photos, diary entries, case studies, or following large groups over a long time.

What happens to my contribution?

- Health systems need evidence to make changes. By taking part, you are helping generate this evidence! Your impact might feed in to a campaign to encourage lifestyle changes, awareness raising, or new treatments being made available.

**Ask us about becoming a
Community Research Champion!**

Charity number 299823
Company number 02119687

Address : Allia Future Business Centre, London Road
Phone: 01733 342683
Mailbox : communities@pcvs.co.uk



Peterborough Community Research Champions Coffee Drop In



**31st July
28th August
25th September
23rd October
27th November
29th January
26th February
26th March**

Join us at one of our regular coffee afternoons at the PCVS office to learn more about taking part in health and care research, network with researchers and community champions, and learn how it can benefit you and your community. All sessions are from 2pm to 3:30pm on a Thursday. See above or check our website for dates!

Who should attend?

**Researchers
Community partners and
members**

There is no need to book, just drop in!
See our website for more information:
www.pcvs.co.uk/events

Allia Future Business Centre , London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN



Digital Hub Launches at The Light Project

On Friday 26th September, Cambridgeshire Combined Authority Mayor, Paul Bristow attended the **Light Project Peterborough** to see their digital hub in action. Paul was given a tour of the site and the ambitions to offer other activities such as gardening.

Partner organisations, PCVS and the Connecting Cambridgeshire were represented to support Paddy Berryman from the Light Project who was showcasing their updated devices that support the homeless to get online and access many different support services. Paddy is an in house advocate initiating basic digital skills training as well as improving literacy skills.

A dedicated space is available to support people to apply for accommodation, access information and utilise the facilities to improve their life chances and wellbeing.

We look forward to watching the Hub work - and the fabulous garden space - develop and grow!

Digital Hubs Update

We are delighted that although the project only started 6 months ago we now have Digital Hubs confirmed across 15 locations. They are all at different levels of maturity and all have different challenges, including sourcing volunteers which we are actively addressing via a number of routes.

At our September steering group meeting Esther Baffa-Isaacs from Peterborough City Council, shared a digital map she had developed which will show the hubs

opening times and service offering, once complete and up and running it will help us identify gaps across the city.

The Train the Trainer events put on by [Cambridge Online](#) to support hub startups have been a great success and there will be further sessions for those who could not make the earlier one's and the opportunity for volunteers and staff from other groups to attend. (see "Training" below for more details).



Digital Hub Launch at St Johns

PCVS was also delighted to join the team for the launch of the Digital Inclusion Hub at St. John's Church in the city centre.

We look forward to updating you with more Hub launches very soon!

Digital Inclusion Network

We are currently scheduling a number of Digital related training events.

We have the following training webinars planned for:

Tuesday 2nd December - "Effective use of social media"

Tuesday 24th March - "AI and how to use this to support your work"

Further details will be provided nearer the time.

To hear more about what's going on with the project, what training resource is available and to learn more about what's happening around Peterborough and Cambridgeshire please join our Digital Network mailing group - email John.Robinson@pcvs.co.uk if you would like to join.



On Line Safety & Young People Conference

On Thursday 5 March 2026 , PCVS is leading on a conference focusing on safety online for young people. This important conference will be putting young people at the centre of an increasingly challenging digital world in which they have to navigate.

Speakers are currently being confirmed, and invitations will be sent out towards the end of October.



Personal Assistant Register

Within PCVS sits the Direct Payment team that support individuals who have been assessed as being eligible for funding to source their own care. As part of that support there is the Personal Assistant (PA) Register. The register holds a list of individuals looking to provide care and support.

The register is open to individuals to apply to be included on this list. Once approved the PA's have access to the job roles available, it is then for them to decide if they would like to be short listed for a role.

PCVS does not employ the PA's directly, they are employed by the individual clients. More information on how to apply is available on the PCVS website: [Personal Assistants Register | PCVS](#)

Volunteering Opportunity Highlight



Digital Inclusion Volunteer

St Johns Church

Be part of our friendly team and help deliver vital online skills to digitally excluded members of the public.

Help by providing 1-2-1 assistance with basic digital tasks such as:

- Using a mobile phone, tablet, laptop (basic IT)
- Setting up and using email and social media
- Completing online forms, updating CVs
- Scam awareness skills, online safety

Requirements:

- Competent digital skills
- Willingness to undertake necessary training

For more information and how to apply [Digital Inclusion Volunteer | Go-Vip](#)



BBC Make a Difference Awards 2025

The Make a difference BBC Awards are a chance to say “Thank You” and show recognition and appreciation for people who love to make life better for others. We were delighted that this year one of our amazing volunteers was nominated for an award and although didn't win, was recognized for their valuable contribution to making life better for our communities.

Sara Moor has been volunteering at St Johns for some time, has been a Community Empowerer as part of our Poverty Truth Commission and now is supporting our Digital Hubs work and Community Health Research. Sara attended the awards ceremony along with James (PCVS) and Rev Michelle Dalliston (St Johns Church) and had a great night celebrating with all the other wonderful nominees.

Well Done Sara - we don't know how you find the time but we think you're incredible!

Nominations came in from all across the UK and winners were selected from a panel of judges.

Awards were given in each category, across each BBC radio station with ceremonies of celebration taking place across the UK from September 2025.

Training Opportunities



VCSE Training & Networking Opportunities

Training Opportunities for PCVS Members

Our training programme continues to offer a variety of sessions based on what you've told us are the topics you most need to know about. Sessions will grow your skills and confidence, offer support with challenges your organisation may be facing and strengthen your connections across the sector.

Our Training Tuesdays programme is underway and our regular Third Thursdays are continuing to prove popular.

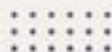
More opportunities are being added all the time—so keep an eye on our website and make sure you don't miss out!

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

PCVS 3rd Thursday Event

pcvs
making lives better!

www.pcvs.co.uk



MEET THE FUNDER

Come and meet **Heidi Haxeltine**. The Community Fund's local Funding Officer will be talking about their current Environmental Funding – open to non-environmentally focussed groups, as well as those whose core purpose is environmental.

Bitesize Training - This months session will be provided by Beth from IEHUB,

Come and learn, network, share knowledge and skills in a relaxed environment, with refreshments provided.



This event will be popular and spaces are limited.
To book your place use the QR code above or go to
<https://www.pcvs.co.uk/events/#pcvsEvents>

20th November 10.00-12.00 PCVS Offices

Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services, Allia Future Business Centre, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 5AN
Tel 01733 342683 - email pcvs@pcvs.co.uk - website www.pcvs.co.uk
Company Registration 02119687 Charity Registration 02119687



**Mental Capacity Act and Deprivation of Liberty Training
for Carers Services and the Private, Voluntary and Independent Sector.**
Delivered by James Codling, Cambridgeshire Local Authority on Tuesday 25th November 2025, 10:00 – 12:30

This training has been planned following the joint Adult and Children's Services event on 3 July 2025, where Local Authority leaders made a strong commitment to improving transitions for young people and families between Children's and Adult Services.

This training will run for 2hours 30 minutes. The closing date will be Tuesday 18th November. The training will include an overview covering how to explain this to families. Time is also built in to ask questions.

The training will provide an overview of:

- ◆ Duties and responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and how it relates to health/social care decisions for people 16+
- ◆ How the MCA principles apply to health/care decisions and how they should be applied in practice by professionals
- ◆ The importance of always involving and supporting people in decision making
- ◆ Mental capacity assessments, best interests assessments and decisions in practice, and how decision making should be evidenced by professionals
- ◆ What constitutes a restraint/restriction and the importance of the less restrictive option
- ◆ What constitutes a deprivation of liberty as per the 'acid test' and the process for authorising a possible deprivation of liberty (DoLS and Community DoL)

Who Should Attend: Carers Services and those working in the PVI Sector in support of Transitions and Preparing for Adulthood

How to Book:

- Please use this booking link <https://buytickets.at/improvementeast/1908364>

Funding & Grant Opportunities



**Peterborough City Council & Community, Voluntary and Faith sector Partnership Grant Proposal -
Supporting rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping in Peterborough**

Background

Peterborough City Council (PCC) has been awarded an additional £50,000 from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to enhance local efforts in tackling rough sleeping. This funding is to be distributed through to voluntary, faith and community sector organisations based in Peterborough.

Purpose of the Grant

To support innovative, impactful, and locally driven initiatives that prevent rough sleeping or support individuals currently experiencing homelessness in Peterborough.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be a member of a community, voluntary or faith organisations or active Safer off the Streets partners.
- Organisations must be based in Peterborough and deliver services locally.
- Projects must directly support individuals who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping in Peterborough.

Funding Scope

There is not a maximum or minimum amount that organisations can apply for. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- Outreach and engagement activities
- Emergency accommodation or tenancy sustainment support
- Mental health and wellbeing services
- Access to food, clothing, or hygiene facilities
- Employment, training, or skills development initiatives

Application Process

Interested organisations should submit a short proposal (maximum of 1 A4 page) outlining:

- Project objectives and target beneficiaries
- Planned activities and expected outcomes
- Budget breakdown and timeline
- Evidence of need and partnership working

Deadline for Applications: Friday 28th November 5pm

Submit to: Sarah Scase – Housing Needs Operations Manager – sarah.scase@peterborough.gov.uk

Assessment & Awarding

Applications will be reviewed by a panel including PCC and Safer off the Street representatives. Funding will be awarded based on impact potential, value for money, and alignment with strategic homelessness priorities.

Reporting

Successful applicants will be required to provide a brief end of project report detailing outcomes, spend, and lessons learned.

Requirements

WorkWell – Expression of Interest (Voluntary & Community)

WorkWell is a free and complementary service to help people struggling to find or keep a job due to physical and/or mental health. Trained work and health coaches work with people to develop a personalised support plan that may include connecting with a range of local services. These could include

- Financial advice and debt management
- Employment advice and support
- Health and wellbeing services
- Housing advice
- Training and skill development
- Relationships and domestic abuse
- Home adaptations
- Carer support
- Substance misuse

The programme has been very successful, and we are looking to reach out to more beneficiaries through the voluntary sector. In particular we would like to support

- People with learning disabilities
- Autistic or neurodivergent people
- Young people not in education, employment or training
- Care leavers
- Offenders
- BAME communities

Eligibility is age 16+ who are able to work in the UK and registered with a GP in Cambs & Peterborough.

Does your organisation or group work with any of the above groups and can you help us promote WorkWell? There is funding available for activities.

Does your organisation or group provide any services that WorkWell participants can access? If these are not already publicly funded, there is funding available to expand your services.

Please complete this expression of interest and send to: cpicb.cpworkwell@nhs.net

Name:

Organisation:

Brief Description of how your organisation can help:

For further information Rob.henchy@nhs.net (North Cambs inc. Fenland, Hunts, Pboro)
Tim.deer@cambridgeshire.gov.uk (South Cambs inc. Cambridge City, East Cambs, South Cambs)



Health and Wellbeing Small Grants and Large Grants

The Evelyn Trust improves health by funding outstanding Cambridgeshire projects - in the laboratory, clinic and community. It has two Health and Wellbeing schemes, for which funds are aimed at Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough) charitable organisations.

The Small Grant Awards scheme can be applied for at any point. Awards are for £4K-10K and applications are reviewed three times per year. Applicants are told promptly what the decision is. For the next round, applications received before 5pm on Friday 7th November will be reviewed by the end of November.

The deadline for the Large Health and Wellbeing grants up to £120,000 is Friday 14th November 2025. Larges are reviewed in a two-stage process, with successful applicants funded from July 2026.

Please see our website to register for the online application process and to see further detail.

<https://evelyntrust.com/our-grants/>



The PEM Charitable Trust

As a Cambridge firm, we want to be able to support local Cambridge charities.

In 2018 we proudly launched the PEM Charitable Trust, which enables us to be more agile and to support smaller, local charities. We wanted our giving to be meaningful and personal to our people.

The PEM Charitable Trust is a registered charity (registered charity number 1181792), managed by four internal trustees – [James Burrett](#), [Kelly Bretherick](#), [Warren Tilbury](#) and [Michael Godfrey](#), and one external trustee – Laurence Weeks.

The trustees work alongside our internal grant-giving committee which represents a variety of departments across the firm (who review the applications and decide on who should receive grants) and in 2022 we proudly issued our first grant!

This committee allows our employees to decide which causes are closest to the heart of the firm to really see the difference PEM can make.

To celebrate our 150th year, we are aiming to donate 150 grants by the end of 2025! We are delighted to have hit 100 grants in June.

The application window is now open until 31 August, it then closes for September and reopens from 1 October to 30 November.

All information and how to apply is available on the website [The PEM Charitable Trust | Corporate Social Responsibility – PEM](#)

For more information, please email our ESG & Community Lead, Amy at ahayden@pem.co.uk

*Please note you must be Cambridgeshire based, and current audit or independent examination clients of PEM are not eligible for these grants.

HEALTH NEWS AND UPDATES



National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme

Peterborough and Fenland are among 43 areas chosen to launch neighbourhood health services under the National Neighbourhood Health Implementation Programme (NNHIP).

Backed by the North Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Care Partnership, the scheme aims to deliver more integrated, community-based care, particularly for people with multiple health needs or frailty.

Dr Neil Modha, GP and Co-Chair of the North Care Partnership, said *“We’re absolutely delighted to be part of the first wave of this national programme. It’s a real recognition of the fantastic work my colleagues are doing every day and the support we’ve had from patients and communities. This is an exciting chance to learn, share and make an even bigger difference for local people.”*

For further information on this, please see link to online website [here](#).

PCVS represents the VCSE at the North Care Partnership Board and is one of a number of voluntary sector organisations supporting the work of the NNIP. The programme offers a unique opportunity to improve the experience and outcomes for patients and we are excited to see the positive outcomes.



The Voluntary Sector Network is the new name for the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Health Alliance which launched in July 2022.

It is responsible for developing and embedding ways in which grassroots charitable and non-profit organisations have a greater voice and influence in the Integrated Care System (ICS). It also provides direct access to ICS leadership and governance structures.

The Voluntary Sector Network sees its vision as developing a vibrant and thriving VCSE sector within the ICS; driving health and wellbeing in our communities in an inclusive and empowering way.

The key goals are described in the [ICS VCSE strategy](#) – 'Working for a Better Future'.
These are:

- Support and enable a thriving VCSE sector to play its part.
- Place the VCSE as an equal partner within the system.
- Work to drive change, create a tangible impact on people and communities, and tackle health inequalities.
- Build strong, inclusive, and empowering relationships throughout the partnership.

Further information including details on how to join the Voluntary Sector Network can be found on the [Support Cambridgeshire website](#).

Information about some of the opportunities available to VSN members are shown below. We encourage all VCSE organisations who are delivering services that support health and wellbeing across our communities to get involved and join the network. See the website link above for details of how to join.

New ICB Executive Appointments

Appointments to the Executive Team of the new clustered ICB have been announced. We are delighted to see some colleagues we know well and we extend a welcome to those who are joining us. The VSN is inviting key Execs to future meetings, so please watch our agendas as they are published.

[Central East Leadership Team](#) | [CPICS Website](#)

AGENET online seminar

You are invited to join this free seminar on the theme of “Capacity building through collaborations with diverse people and across organisations”. It is online on: 20th November 2025 12pm - 1.30pm and chaired by Jennifer Lynch, Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Research in Public Health and Community Care (CRIPACC), University of Hertfordshire.

Everyone is welcome and you can register [here](#).

Springboard Opportunity

Springboard is an award-winning personal development programme for women that has previously been offered free to VCSE colleagues. Please see attached for details. C&PICB are now exploring running another cohort and are seeking expressions of interest from VCSE organisations. Ordinarily, participation in Springboard costs around £250 per person, with each cohort accommodating 32 participants. Email melanie.paine1@nhs.net to express an interest in taking part.

Webinar - Making Healthcare more inclusive for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities

Members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities in the UK continue to face severe health inequalities — dying on average 10 years earlier than the general population. Many experience direct discrimination or witness it happening to others, leading to deep mistrust in healthcare services.

This mistrust often results in delayed or avoided care. And when people do seek help, inadequate communication, misunderstandings, and system barriers can prevent them from getting the support they need.

Everyone has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, free from discrimination. The United Nations has called on the UK to take stronger action to eliminate racism, stereotypes and health inequalities — and to ensure universal healthcare coverage for all.

Join the conversation

We invite all colleagues working in or supporting healthcare, from frontline staff to policy makers, to join this important collaborative webinar. Together, we'll explore practical steps to build trust, improve communications and understanding, and make healthcare more inclusive for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities across the **East of England**.

Date: Tuesday 12 November

Time: 10:00am – 12:00noon

Location: [Join via Microsoft Teams](#) (Meeting ID: 358 969 332 005 7)

How you can take action

- **Accept the Teams invitation** to secure your place.
- **Share this event** with colleagues who work in patient care, administration, or policy.
- **Come ready to listen, learn, and collaborate** on change that matters.

Together, we can make sure **no one is left behind**.

[Join the meeting now](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Please see below some community updates and helpful information.

You can find out about many more by visiting our website via the link below. If you would like to promote your event in our newsletter and on our website, please get in touch.

[Member Events](#) | [PCVS](#)



As you may know Peterborough City Council Public Health are looking to commission a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) and strengthen the approach to recovery to support the Drugs and Alcohol related work in Peterborough.

In support of this an information session has been arranged as part of planned procurement activity for **Wednesday 5th November from 1pm to 2pm** to allow colleagues to gain an understanding of the detail of what is involved in a LERO and recovery service commission and consult on the approach.

With contributions from PCC Public health and procurement teams the session will aim to give an overview of the following

- The core concepts underpinning the LERO offer, and detail of how the Council wants to strengthen recovery services in Peterborough
- The main elements of the [Governments guidance](#) from May 2025
- Examples of best practice models
- The PCC approach to developing a LERO and recovery offer
- An overview of the PCC procurement approach and timelines

To join the session – please follow this link [LERO AWARENESS EVENT REGISTRATION](#)

Please feel free to share this invitation with colleagues who may benefit from seeing it.



Peterborough City Council Budget Consultation

The budget consultation for Peterborough City Council is now live and runs until 25 November.

They are asking residents to get involved and it would be great if you could complete the survey and share it, as they are keen to reach as many residents as possible

The budget consultation document is accessible here on their website. [Budget consultation 2026/27 | Peterborough City Council](#) Hard copies are also available in all city libraries.

Information is also available here in a press release we issued recently. [Council launches budget consultation for 2026/27 | Peterborough City Council](#)



Autumn Updates from Allia

We're very excited to tell you about our shiny new websites for both [Allia](#) and our [Future Business Centres](#). Have a browse and let us know your thoughts!

The [Allia website](#) explains our '[Tipping Point](#)' strategy and how to get [involved](#) and allows you to search our wide range of business support programmes tailored to your business needs or location. The new [Allia Future Business Centre](#) website offers advanced filtering so you can find the perfect workspace or meeting room by location, room type and size to show you the full breadth of our facilities.

Scale Up programme in Cambridgeshire - part of the Vision programme

Looking to grow your business while staying true to your values?

Allia Impact are running a free 7-week intensive programme designed for founders ready to take their social enterprises and impact businesses to the next level.

Apply Now! [Read more and apply](#)

This programme is part of the Vision Programme - funded by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority managed by Social Enterprise East of England, and delivered by Allia Impact.



Not-for-profit & Charities Update – Azets

This month's Azets update is a great read for anyone in the charity or not-for-profit sector. It highlights the latest guidance from the Charity Commission, updates on fundraising and trustee requirements, and useful insights on finance, governance, and digital trends. A handy roundup to help you stay on top of recent sector developments.

Click here to read: <https://www.azets.com/en-uk/insights/a-not-for-profit-charities-update-latest-sector-guidance>

New Library Pods

We have installed confidential meeting pods in several libraries. These spaces have been designed to provide a safe, welcoming and non-judgemental environment for people who may need early help with their emotional and mental health, or who face barriers to accessing support.

Pod locations:

Central Library – 2 x four person pods

Hampton Library – 1 x four person pod

Orton Library – 1 x two person pod

How the meeting pods can help:

- Provide confidential space for individuals to meet with support staff
- Offer laptops and WiFi access for self-help tools
- Support those in digital poverty with access to vital information and services
- Create a safe environment for people who may not be able to seek help elsewhere due to personal, cultural or social barriers.

We are keen to work with local agencies to make sure these pods are used effectively.

Agencies can:

- Book pods in advance to meet clients in a confidential setting
- Encourage clients to drop in and use the pods independently
- Contribute relevant resources (leaflets, service links, helpline numbers) to make available in the pods

If your organisation would like to begin using the pods with your clients, or if you would like to discuss partnership opportunities, please contact us at libraryenquiries@peterboroughlimited.co.uk



Open Street Art Festival - Bengali Sanskriti Club

After a series of exciting workshops across the city and beyond, The Bengali Sanskriti Club Peterborough, brought all the creativity to Cathedral Square on Saturday 13th September 2025.

People were welcomed and encouraged to participate with live street art demos, hands-on activities and the chance to let their imagination flow.



Peterborough Presents awarded £800,000 as Arts Council England Creative People and Places (2026-29) portfolio announced.

The programme puts culture in the hands of the local community

Peterborough Presents has been awarded £800,000 as part of Arts Council England's largest ever Creative People and Places (CPP) Portfolio, which sees **£42 million invested in 45 programmes** from 2026–29, to deliver more grassroots-led cultural experiences in areas across England where involvement in arts and culture is below the national average.

Peterborough Presents has been running since 2015 working closely with residents in neighbourhoods across Peterborough to develop new creative activities and events. The team work closely with communities over 3 – 5 years to understand what they want to see happen and then work together to realise their ideas. Their work in Millfield, Eye and Westwood has previously seen the development of Eye Lantern Parades, restoration of Millfield Link mural, new murals, films, magic shows and new craft and dance groups. The next 3 years will see them work in Eye, Dogsthorpe / Welland, Fengate and develop work with the South Asian communities, young adults and those who identify as Deaf Disabled or Neurodivergent.

CPPs bring together community, grassroots and cultural organisations as partners to take the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in creative and cultural activities. CPPs are empowering local people to pursue the art they want, where they live.

This funding is made possible thanks to National Lottery players. Every National Lottery ticket purchased generates money for good causes and enables people in villages, towns, and cities up and down the country to get access to cultural experiences where they live.

Sarah Haythornthwaite, Programme Director at Peterborough Presents added: *“We are delighted to be successful with our funding from Arts Council (ACE). This commitment from ACE will allow us to continue the great work we have been developing with communities and partners in Peterborough. It is always an honour to co-commission with our communities. Peterborough is seen to have a lower than average engagement in creativity and culture. We know that often, this isn’t because people don’t want to take part but because what is on offer isn’t relevant to them or maybe transport, cost or time stops them getting involved. It is by working together with communities that we are able to make high quality, accessible creative activity that is meaningful to the residents of the city, whether that is lantern parades, magic shows, films, or exhibitions around disability rights. These activities bring communities together, give them a voice, support people’s wellbeing and celebrate hidden creativity. We also get to invest in established artists from Peterborough and beyond and locally based creatives at the start of their careers. Over the next 3 years we will be getting to know new neighbourhoods and communities and we can’t wait to see what we create together.”*

Hazel Edwards, South East Area Director, Arts Council England, **said:** *“Peterborough Presents is empowering communities to shape their own creative futures. Through bold partnerships and inclusive programming, it’s making culture more accessible, diverse, and locally driven. We are proud to support this transformative work through Creative People and Places.”*

Peterborough Presents is hosted by Nene Park Trust and supported by a consortium of partners such as - Nene Park Trust, Metal, Eastern Angles, PCVS, Peterborough City Council and Creative Lives.

To find out more about Peterborough Presents visit peterboroughpresents.org or look them up on Facebook / Instagram

For more information please contact:

Sarah Haythornthwaite, Programme Director,
sarah.haythornthwaite@neneparktrust.org.uk / 07917 967 182



navca
local focus national voice

Understanding the VCSE sector's finances and funding landscape

The latest VCSE Barometer Survey (closing 5 November) explores the realities of funding across the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Share your views on:

- How is your organisation's financial position changing?
- Where are you finding (or losing) funding?
- Are grants and contracts covering your true costs?

Your responses will help build a clearer picture of the sector's financial health — from reliance on reserves and full-cost recovery to changing fundraising strategies — and shape future policy and support.

[Take part here.](#)

Financial resilience for trustees - campaign by the Charity Commission

Charities are facing significant challenges in the current climate. During these uncertain times, supporting trustees to lead their organisations with confidence has become more crucial than ever. Research indicates that some trustees have lower confidence in managing finances compared to their other responsibilities. Trustees are often busy volunteers and it can be difficult to know where to start.

This is why we're working alongside the Charity Commission to encourage trustees to take a look at the Trustee Finance Toolkit. The page brings together a quick financial health check and resources to help trustees plan and manage their charity's finances, including:

- Financial health checker
- Finance 5-minute guide
- Internal financial controls for charities
- Reserves policies
- Improving charity finances
- 15 questions trustees should ask

[Find out more here.](#)



Table Tennis for Women and Girls

On behalf of **Peterborough Mums UK**, I would like to warmly invite you to join us at our *Table Tennis for Women and Girls* session on **Tuesday, 11th November at 1:15pm**, held at **Hampton Vale Community Centre, 1 Stewartby Avenue, Peterborough PE7 8NJ**.

(On-site parking is available.)

Peterborough Mums UK serves over **10,000 mums in and around Peterborough for the last 13 years**, providing opportunities for friendship, wellbeing, and community connection. Our *Table Tennis for Women and Girls* sessions bring together women of all ages and backgrounds — from new mums to grandmothers — to enjoy a friendly, inclusive environment that supports both physical and mental health.

Our work has been recognised and featured by Table Tennis England and local media for its positive community impact:

- [Peterborough Mums Connect Through Table Tennis](#)

- [East Region Blog – December 2023](#)
- [Peterborough Telegraph Feature](#)



The Peer Action Collective (PAC) — a youth-led network working to make communities safer and fairer across England and Wales — has released a new report on how violence affects children and young people. Since 2021, over **12,000 young people** have been involved through peer research and social action, shaping real solutions based on lived experience.

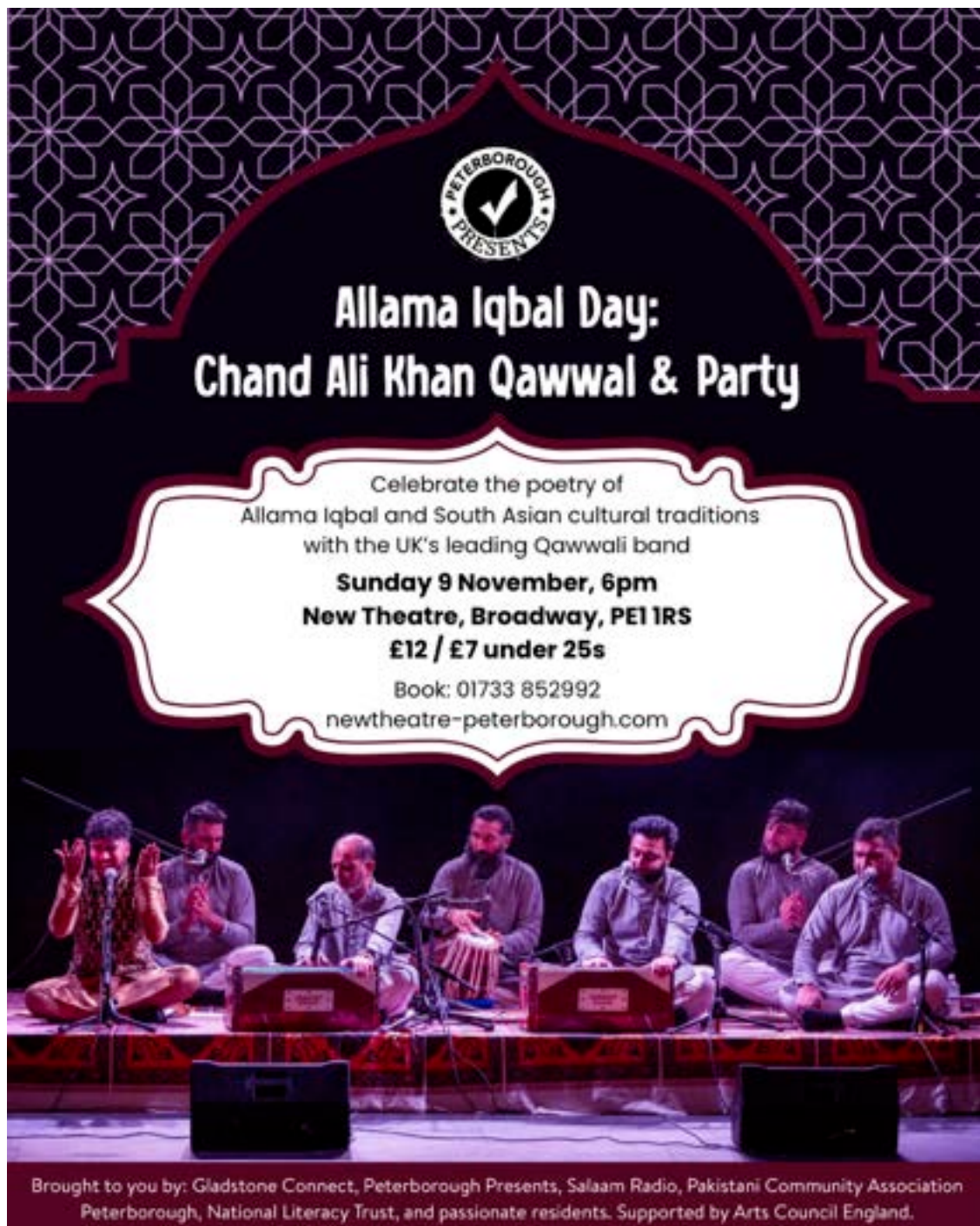
This latest report, capturing insights from over **5,000 participants (2023–2025)**, explores how violence is experienced both on the streets and online, and how **safe spaces, positive activities, and trusted adult relationships** can help prevent harm. Young people also highlighted the need to understand the reasons behind behaviour, improve **mental health support**, and create **non-judgemental environments** in schools and communities.

Their findings informed social action projects tackling issues like **online harms, school discipline, mental health, and access to safe spaces**. The report identifies five key lessons:

- Safe, inclusive spaces and positive activities help young people thrive.
- Understanding behaviour prevents harm more effectively than exclusion.
- Consistent mental health support is crucial.
- Trusted, empathetic adults make a lasting difference.

- Involving young people builds trust and leads to better solutions.

Read the full report here: <https://peeractioncollective.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/PAC-A4-REPORT-V4-ACCESSIBLE.pdf.pdf>





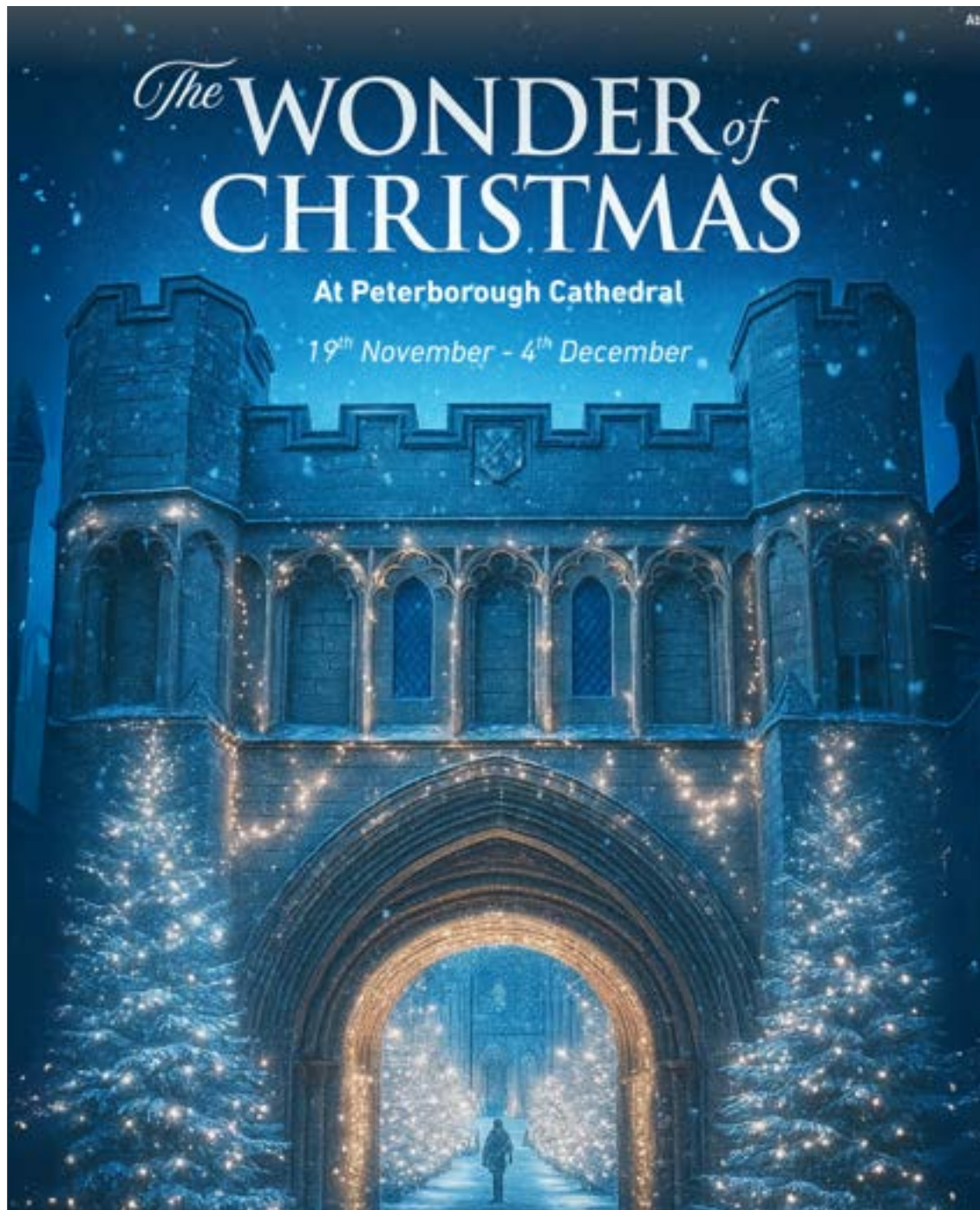
Allama Iqbal Day: Chand Ali Khan Qawwal & Party

Celebrate the poetry of
Allama Iqbal and South Asian cultural traditions
with the UK's leading Qawwali band

Sunday 9 November, 6pm
New Theatre, Broadway, PE1 1RS
£12 / £7 under 25s

Book: 01733 852992
newtheatre-peterborough.com

Brought to you by: Gladstone Connect, Peterborough Presents, Salaam Radio, Pakistani Community Association
Peterborough, National Literacy Trust, and passionate residents. Supported by Arts Council England.



The Wonder of Christmas' at Peterborough Cathedral.

Step through our arch into a Narnia like, winter wonderland. Be mesmerized by enchanting light displays and immersive soundscapes, wander among beautifully decorated Christmas trees inside the cathedral, follow the star on our nave ceiling and let the joy of the festive season come alive in the heart of the Cathedral.

By day you and the family can visit the festival of Christmas trees, with entry by suggested donation and by night you can enjoy the full light and sound, Christmas experience, with entry by ticket only, on selected nights.

The Wonder of Christmas begins on the 19th of November with selected

evening dates – the daytime Christmas tree festival runs until Jan 4th.

We're inviting local organisations, charities, and community groups to take part in this year's Christmas Tree Festival at Peterborough Cathedral. It's a wonderful opportunity to showcase your creativity, share your message with thousands of visitors, and be part of wonderful community celebration in the heart of the city.

If your organisation would like to decorate a tree, please complete the short jot form below and a member of our team will be in touch with more information;

<https://form.jotform.com/252454871139058>



Keeping Everyone Safe at Home: 25 Years of The Bobby Scheme

Next year marks a milestone—the Bobby Scheme celebrates 25 years of protecting older and vulnerable people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Since 2001, its police-vetted team has secured over 45,000 homes, reducing both crime and fear of crime.

Specialists provide free home visits, fitting locks, alarms, detectors, and RING products, while also offering advice on home and cyber security. More than security, the scheme restores peace of mind and independence.

The current “**£25K for 25 Years**” campaign aims to expand support for those just outside the core criteria but still at serious risk. Donations fund emergency visits, vital security upgrades, trusted repair connections, and reassurance that transforms lives.

Support the campaign: thebobbyscheme.org | [JustGiving](https://www.justgiving.com/)



Santa Skydive

An adrenaline-charged challenge this festive season!

This festive season, join us on Saturday 29th November 2025 on Sibson Airfield to be part of #TeamEACH and tick a tandem skydive from 13,000ft off your bucket list, all while raising much needed funds for East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH).

To secure your place, we ask that you pay a £50 deposit and commit to raise at least £395 for the fantastic experience. In return, providing you have reached the £395 fundraising target, EACH will cover the full cost of your Tandem Skydive.

Self-funding your jump is also an option and will cost a total of £230. If you choose this option, we would still encourage to fundraise any amount you can for EACH in the run-up to your jump!

Santa suit provided!!

To book today, hit the 'Book Now' button, contact UK Parachuting on 01502 476131 or email community@each.org.uk for support.

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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