



PCVS October 2025 Newsletter

As October begins, and the evenings draw in, there's still lots happening across our local voluntary sector. There's a busy season of events, training, and opportunities to connect so do take some time to read the articles and notices below.

The invite for our 2025 Conference and AGM is also below which all out members and supporters are welcome to join. Please make sure your book your place early to avoid disappointment.

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.



Annual AGM 2025



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 ww.pcvs.co.uk Company number 02119687



We're Hiring!

individuals who are passionate about Peterborough and improving life for the city's residents.

We will soon be advertising for a number of key roles so if you think that working with us might be right for you, then make sure you keep an eye out for PCVS update emails, social media and check in at the jobs page on our website regularly. Jobs | PCVS



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.pcvs.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!



Peterborough Poverty Truth Commission

Over the past few months James, and others who are part of the Peterborough Poverty Truth Community, have been across Peterborough promoting the learning from the Poverty Truth Commission, continuing to connect with people who recognise the value in working directly with people who have lived experience of the issues they are trying to improve.

As part of that, we've also developed a workshop that explores some of the learning from our commission, as well as the best practises we developed and recommend to other people and organisations working in this area.

We delivered the workshop in September as part of our series of 3rd Thursday Networking events and the feedback so far has been great! We had a good mix of people who are already part of our community and people who are curious and looking to develop their own practise, and it sparked a wide, brave conversation, which is what Poverty Truth is all about.

Watch this space for further workshops, and please don't hesitate to contact us at communities@pcvs.co.uk if you'd like us to run one for your group.





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



Our First Community Research Drop-in!

Bringing people together is at the core of what PCVS does. We've begun hosting regular drop-in session as part of our health and care research work; this is a regular, friendly, casual space where we help connect researchers with communities and also introduce new people to the benefits of taking part in research and becoming a Research Champion.

Please see the dates below for our next drop-ins or check our website for more information.

Each session runs from 14:00 to 15:30 at our office - Allia Future Business Centre.

We'd love to see you!



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 Inclusion Network

We are currently scheduling a number of Digital related training events. The first is an in-person event on Monday 1st September at 7pm at our office, it's themed around "Staying Safe Online" and will be led by Paul Bayer from Getsafeonline - if you would like to attend please <u>click here.</u>

We have the following training webinars planned for:

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

Tuesday 24th March - "Al related"

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.



Safety Online for Young People Conference.

In March 2026, PCVS will be hosting a conference with a focus on Safety Online for Young People. Central to this will be the voice of young people and their views on online safety and the impact of it on their lives.

Perspectives from a range of organisations will be heard and examples of good practice discussed. The online world is an increasingly complex arena and the conference will be an opportunity to gain a greater understanding of this challenging issue.



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 <u>Digital Inclusion Volunteer | Go-Vip</u>

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 <u>Training and Infrastructure</u> <u>Support | PCVS</u> TRAINING TUESDAY VOLUNTEERING

How to get the most out of our volunteering matching platform, Go-ViP



Your organisation wants to make a difference, how can you find enough volunteers to reach your goals?

This on-line session will teach you how to get the best from the PCVS Go-ViP site and find out:

- · how to reach more people
- · set up an organisation page
- · message volunteers
- · add a form to a volunteering opportunity



VOLUNTEER

Scan the QR code to book or visit www.pcvs.co.uk



7TH OCTOBER



13.00-15.00



ONLINE



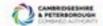
Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services, Atla Future Business Centre, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 8AN
Tel 01733 342683 - email pcys@pcys.co.uk - website www.pcys.co.uk
Company Registration 02119687 Charity Registration 02119687















PCVS 3rd Thursday Event SUPPORTING SMALL CHARITY FINANCES:



Pitfalls, Fixes & Free Help

This months session will be delivered by experienced charity finance expert; **Aishat Idris**, who will be giving tips, advice and guidance in managing your charity finances. This invaluable session will leave you feeling more confident in this area. With the usual networking opportunities this promises to be a great session.

Thursday 23rd October 10.00am-12.00pm PCVS Offices

Free parking & Refreshments

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



Peterborough Council for Voluntary Services, Alia Future Business Centre, London Road, Peterborough, PE2 BAN
Tel 01733 342683 – email poysi@poys.co.uk – website www.poys.co.uk
Company Registration 02119687 Charity Registration 02119687



Digital Literacy for Youth: Risks and Opportunities

Organiser: Cambridgeshire Digital Partnership

When: 2nd October 2025

Time: 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Online

Price: Free for any voluntary sector organisation in Cambridgeshire

Book your space here: https://cambridgecvs.org.uk/event_listing/digital-literacy-for-youth-risks-and-opportunities/

Culture Connects: Using Culture and the Arts to Bridge the Digital Divide

Organiser: Cambridgeshire Digital Partnership

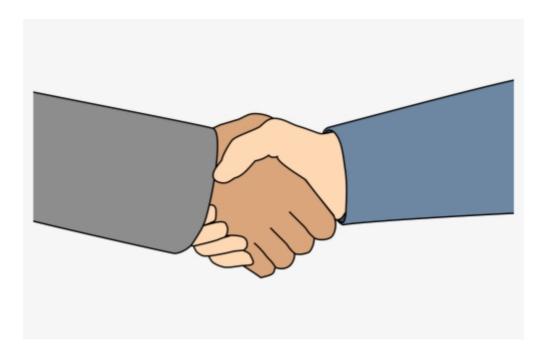
When: 7th October 2025

Time: 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Location: Online

Price: Free for any voluntary sector organisation in Cambridgeshire

Book your space here: https://cambridgecvs.org.uk/event_listing/culture-connects-using-culture-and-the-arts-to-bridge-the-digital-divide/



Exclusive CEO Leaders Evening – Limited Spaces!

We are excited to share an exclusive invitation for our PCVS members from Rachel Hales of Get Synergised to a social evening especially for CEO leaders of registered charities and social enterprises to come together, connect, and socialise.

You may have heard of the <u>With Purpose Network</u>, powered by <u>Get Synergised</u>, which is an in-person and online networking and partnership community connecting businesses meaningfully and sustainably with registered charities, social enterprises, and public sector partners across Cambridgeshire for social and economic good. Its 85+ members share time, skills, expertise, resources, and finance to both give and receive help for mutual benefit across the private, non-profit, and public sectors. You can find out more about all the benefits - <u>HERE</u>

The With Purpose Network also hosts a variety of networking and social events for its members, and as such are organising an exclusive event for CEOs of registered charities and social enterprises in partnership with Hotel Du Vin, a With Purpose Network business member, and are opening a number of spaces to members of PCVS and Support Cambridgeshire who are not yet in the network. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow CEOs across Cambridge and Peterborough, build new connections, share experiences and, most importantly, enjoy a fun evening socialising.

Rachel and the Hotel Du Vin team would like to thank you for your commitment and tireless work with an evening of food, wine, and drinks in the beautiful surroundings of the hotel and bistro. You'll also have the opportunity to sample some of their autumn/winter menu – take a look at Hotel Du Vin & Bistro Cambridge - Here - While the evening is free to attend, a £10 donation is requested, with all proceeds going to a charity selected and in attendance on the night.

Through PCVS, the With Purpose Network powered by Get Synergised, and Support Cambridgeshire, we are committed to bringing community CEO leaders together—to support, learn, encourage, and socialise. We hope this will be the first of many gatherings between our organisations.

Tickets are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis and are expected to go quickly

Book Here

We look forward to seeing you there!

Rachel Hales

Rachel

Founder, Get Synergised



THE ACTIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Continuing the Journey of Physical Activity System Change in Peterborough

Living Sport is hosting a face-to-face event in Peterborough, building on the momentum of the Place-Based Leadership Programme held on 23rd-24th October 2024.

This invitation is also open to:

- · Anyone representing an organisation in Peterborough that delivers physical activity
- · Anyone representing an organisation in Peterborough that wants to embed and support physical activity in their wider work

This gathering will be a chance to:

- \cdot Share the progress we've made on system change in physical activity,
- · Reflect on the challenges we've encountered,
- · Explore/discuss the local system mapping of support for physical activity so far
- · And most importantly, shape the "what next" together, with the time and space to co-create ideas for a future forum/group/platform/space that supports ongoing collaboration, where everyone's contribution is recognised and valued.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



This September, <u>Health Data Research UK</u> (HDR UK) is launching a new community grants programme called <u>Take the Lead</u>, offering between £500 and £1,500 for community groups to deliver projects, events or activities that explore how data can support health and wellbeing within their local community. Grants will support activities taking place between January and March 2026.

The programme is designed to support community-led ideas and engage groups not usually involved in health data science, particularly those working with:

- People disadvantaged in terms of income
- Minority ethnic communities
- Older children and young adults aged 11–25 (especially in areas of deprivation)
- People over 65 (especially in areas of deprivation)
- · People living in rural areas
- People experiencing digital exclusion

Take the Lead grants will open for applications in September 2025, **closing date is 5pm 13th October 2025.** Eligibility and guidelines will be shared on <u>our</u>

website then.





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 including 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 you 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/

HEALTH NEWS AND UPDATES



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Voluntary Sector

Monthly Network Update

'Together for healthier communities'

VSN Member Survey

If you're already a member of the VSN please do take a couple of minutes to complete our member survey! . <u>Https://forms.office.com/e/vZUqXZmRhR</u>

Chair and Chief Executive appointed to lead new ICB

Robin Porter has been announced as Chair Designate and Jan Thomas as Chief Executive Designate of the 'Central East' Integrated Care Board (ICB) cluster. See here for more about Jan's appointment and attached for further details. We are also pleased to share that Kate Vaughton has been appointed Executive Director for Neighbourhood Health, Place & Partnerships. Working to Kate will be a director focused on each current ICB area, and Pam Green has been named as the C&P lead Director for Neighbourhood and Place.

Share your views about co-production training and support

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Involvement and Participation Network is a group working to amplify local voices and fostering co-production and is supported by the ICB. This survey developed by members of the Network is asking for views about what would help you develop a culture of co-production in your organisation.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr8I4fPgfTui8CD0-vktKyaaZ_F6q-6gRBP4kkdDcwEr7LTA/viewform

NHS England consultation on workforce needs

Please do respond to this survey and tell the Department of Health and Social Care what your organisation requires, in terms of workforce, to support delivery

https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/10-year-workforce-plan

Community and Mental Health Services review

The Integrated Care Board (ICB) is undertaking a review of community and mental health services across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough with the aim of assessing how they align with wider strategic objectives, including those set out in the Strategic Commissioning Plan 2025–28 and national 10 year plan. The first phase will cover Children's and Family Community and Mental Health Services and Adult Community and Mental Health Services commissioned by the ICB from CPFT and CCS, including sub-contracted services. There will be a presentation about this review at the September VSN meeting. We have two spaces for VCSE representatives to join the review's Steering Group and we will keep members updated on progress and implications for our sector.

Health Inequalities Information Statement Data Pack

Colleagues at the ICB have collated this pack of health-inequalities data which you may find helpful. Whilst it is rather a large pack to digest, there is a helpful summary table that could be used for quick reference. This data pack is part of the ICS Strategic Outcomes Framework, which some of you may remember was presented to the VSN December meeting. We hope members will be able to use some of this data for funding applications and monitoring submissions; bringing to life the statistics with people's needs and experiences.

Homelessness Charter

A collaboration between public, private, non-profit and community organisations from across Cambridge has launched a Charter to End Homelessness and is calling on everyone who lives and works in the area to support this work by signing the charter. They are asking for support from individuals as well as organisations. You can find out more about the Charter on their website: https://cambridgehomelessnesscharter.org.uk/

Building relationships with hospitals and community providers

At our last meeting we heard from Jessica Brocklehurst, Strategy & Innovation Director for North West Anglia Foundation Trust (NWAFT) about their Clinical Strategy. We had a great discussion and Jessica came away with ideas for working with our sector. We are now looking at setting up workshops to develop these ideas. Watch out for more on this. We are also making links with other Trusts to offer similar opportunities. We will be hearing more from NWAFT about their development plans at our September meeting.

Creative Health Showcase Plus

We are taking the idea of showcases, that have been so successful in the past and developing into a more comprehensive session which will include national experts and opportunities for Q&As. Watch out for the first of these in October, we will be inviting all our members and partner colleagues.

How does the health system work?

A little reminder that there is a presentation on our webpage of the structure of our current health system. <u>VSN WEBSITE LINK</u>







COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Please see below some of the events that are over the next month. You can find out about many more by visiting our website Member Events | PCVS



Safer off the Streets - Join us for a free, half-day in-person STOP Suicide workshop with Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire Mind.

Learning outcomes for the workshop:

- Identify persons at risk of suicide
- Know about communities at particular risk of suicide
- Finding connection to life
- Talk openly about suicide and help a person at risk to stay safe
- Look after your own wellbeing
- · Be aware of crisis and support services

Click here to register your interest -

https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?
id=yHpqHocApEuV6WI1iWk5jz9Qeiva8RdFkBn6qsgoNh5UQVdFV0FGSUtPQ
UdIODk3MVRNWIE3MUY2TS4u&route=shorturl we will contact you ASAP to confirm your space.

Date & Time: Monday 13th October - prompt 1.30pm start. Session finishes at 4.30pm

Venue: Peterborough Salvation Army Citadel, 1203 Bourges Boulevard,

Peterborough, PE1 2AU

Parking: Free parking is available behind the Citadel.

Spaces are limited to 18 delegates. Please book quickly to secure your place. If you are unable to attend after booking, let us know as soon as possible so your space can be offered to someone else.



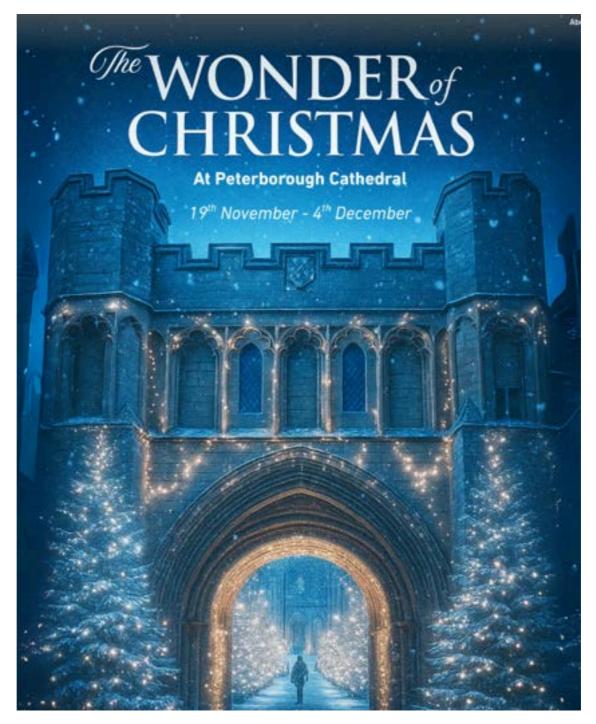


IDEA Launch Event

On the 6th of September PCVS were invited to the launch of Inclusion and Diversity East Anglia (IDEA) at Queensgate. We had a chance to chat to people from the community about some of the work we're doing, such as the network of Community Research Champions we are continuing to develop, as well as having a chance to take in the music and the fashion show and drink lots of chaitea!

It was a great event that showcased how many communities there are in Peterborough and how much they have to offer when we can work together in a way which recognises the diversity of our city.

IDEA will also be hosting a **Black History Month event on the 4th of October**, and PCVS will be there promoting our health and care research work. Details of the event are on the flyer above and we'd love to see you there!



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



Great Eastern Run 2025

Run a half-marathon through Peterborough city centre!

Taking place on Sunday 12th October 2025 and organised by Good Running Events, the AEPG Great Eastern Run is a major event in the UK running calendar. With a start and finish at the Embankment, the event boasts a super flat and fast route around the streets of Peterborough City Centre.

Why run with us?

By participating in the Great Eastern Run, you'll be running with a purpose. The money you raise will go towards supporting children and young people with life threatening conditions and their families. Your steps will make a meaningful difference in their lives.

Registration and sponsorship

The entry fee for this event is £10.

There is a minimum sponsorship ask of £250.

Questions?

Find out more information here: https://www.each.org.uk/support-us/events/great-eastern-run-2025/

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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