

Spotlight

Devolution

Featuring:

One Million Women and Girls, and Tyne and Wear Citizens

Pages 6 and 12

Also in this issue

Page 8

How the voluntary sector can help make devolution work

Page 10

How devolution fuels collaborative projects in the North of Tyne

Contents

Introduction by Lisa Goodwin, Chief Executive	3
The importance of working together - North of Tyne Combined Authority	4
Introducing the One Million Women and Girls campaign - Cullagh Warnock	6
How the voluntary sector can help make devolution work - Arlen Pettitt	8
How devolution fuels collaborative projects in the North of Tyne	10
The role of community organising in devolution - Tyne and Wear Citizens	12
Devolve responsibility for your financial processes to us	14

About this magazine

Connected Voice Magazine is published four times a year. We aim to make sure all information is correct and up to date but we do not accept liability for any mistakes that may inadvertently appear. Views and opinions in this magazine are not necessarily those of Connected Voice.

Images: as part of our commitment to accessibility, we describe images for those using screen readers.

If you have any queries about this magazine email connect@connectedvoice.org.uk

Issue 18: Devolution

Our special Spring 2024 issue of Connected Voice Magazine is all about Devolution.

With the creation of the new North East Combined Authority now imminent - the election for a new leader takes place on 2 May 2024 - Devolution has arguably never been more important for us to understand.

First, we hear from our Chief Executive Lisa Goodwin about the role the VCSE sector has to play in Devolution, and vice versa. We also hear from Robin Fry, Inclusive Economy Advisor at the current North of Tyne Combined Authority, about the importance of strong relationships between the VCSE sector and combined authorities.

Elsewhere, Cullagh Warnock introduces the all-important One Million Women and Girls campaign, and Arlen Pettitt explains how the VCSE sector can help make Devolution work.

Clare Rodgerson from Tyne and Wear Citizens also takes us through the role of community organising in Devolution, and our Deputy Chief Executive Giovanni Spatuzzi reflects on how Devolution has already fuelled many of our collaborative projects here at Connected Voice.

We hope you enjoy this special issue and welcome any questions you may have! ●

Devolution

Lisa Goodwin
Chief Executive



Devolution! You are either fed up of hearing about it, or it isn't really on your radar. That's my sense of the situation in the North East right now. We have been quite consumed by it here at Connected Voice, because we've been working with our partner organisations on arranging a hustings event with the North East Combined Authority leadership candidates for the VCSE sector, and, of course, because we made it the theme of this magazine! But a recent poll has shown how little awareness there is of the new North East Combined Authority, and of the powers it will hold. Only 28% of people are said to be aware of it, compared to 45% in Tees Valley. Given that the new Authority will bring additional money and more powers to our region, we feel it is vitally important that VCSE organisations are aware and engaged.

“The VCSE sector has an important voice and perspective in many of the decisions the new Authority will eventually make.”

VCSE organisations tend to operate mostly on a local level - sometimes covering areas as small as streets. For our sector, the focus is rightly on our day-to-day operations, and so political changes on a regional footprint may feel almost irrelevant. But, the reality is that we have a much-needed opportunity to make a difference for the people we support, by engaging with the new Authority from the beginning. The VCSE sector has an important voice and perspective in many of the decisions the new Authority will

eventually make. Transport is a good example. The One Million Women and Girls campaign featured on page 6 highlights why they wanted to engage the leadership candidates, so they could think through various issues, including how to better design transport with women and girls in mind. On page 12, Tyne and Wear Citizens have highlighted how they want to work with the new Authority on tackling three key issues identified by their members, including the Cost of Living. Even if you are not a campaigning organisation, there is a reason to be involved, and that is to influence how the additional money coming into our region will be spent. We know that many VCSE organisations have struggled with the impacts of inflation and reduced availability of funding (especially public sector funding) over the past few years. For too long we have been providing a 'sticking plaster' where people have not been able to access other support. So, it is obvious to me that we should use the opportunity of a new Authority to try to push more investment into the preventative services that so many VCSE sector organisations provide.

I don't for one moment think that the new Authority will be able to provide a solution to all of the funding issues our sector has at the moment, but we will certainly be pushing for discussions about how VCSE organisations can benefit, and how we can follow on from the great groundwork that began under the North of Tyne Combined Authority, to fund smaller and grassroots organisations as part of their major funding programmes. ●

The importance of working together

Robin Fry

Inclusive Economy Advisor, North of Tyne Combined Authority

Robin Fry, Inclusive Economy Advisor at the North of Tyne Combined Authority, reflects on the importance of strong relationships between the VCSE sector and combined authorities

Working together

Last year, the Local Government Association (LGA) published a toolkit to support Local Authorities to establish strong relationships with the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. The toolkit identifies five key types of relationships that exist between Local Authorities and the VCSE sector:

- 'Shaping relationships', that enable the VCSE sector to engage with Local Authorities on a strategic level
- 'Ongoing relationships', that support day-to-day collaboration
- 'Neighbourhood relationships', that support local engagement and sharing of resources
- 'Commissioning relationships', that support the co-design of services
- 'Delivery relationships', that enable VCSE sector organisations to be awarded contracts for service delivery

These five relationships are also important to establish in the context of a Combined Authority. In 2020, the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) published a VCSE Accord setting out a framework for a new relationship between the Combined Authority and the VCSE sector. The Accord includes a commitment to building and sustaining

the VCSE sector's strategic capacity to deliver a shared vision of an inclusive economy.

Alongside the Accord, a North of Tyne VCSE Stakeholder Engagement Group was established, bringing together Chief Executive Officers from the local infrastructure bodies for the voluntary sector, as well as Voluntary Organisations' Network North East (VONNE), working in partnership with lead officers from the three constituent authorities.

The group has continued to meet quarterly, advising the NTCA Cabinet on the wealth, wellbeing and social inequalities in North of Tyne communities and providing specific expertise in co-design and co-production, helping to ensure the voices of *all* residents inform NTCA's work and ambitions.

Getting things done

Over the last year the group has focused its attention on three key areas: supporting the capacity of the VCSE sector to support our communities; developing the North of Tyne as an area of excellence in volunteering; and ensuring the VCSE sector can play a full role in shaping and delivering NTCA's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan. Members of the group have also represented the VCSE sector in key

decision-making and advisory forums including Cabinet and the Inclusive Economy Board.

Reflecting on the aims set out in the NTCA VCSE Accord, members of the group have identified significant progress in terms of strengthening the relationship between NTCA and the VCSE sector:

- The group has been able to develop a better understanding of the scale and economic contribution of the VCSE sector thanks to the data and intelligence shared by VCSE sector colleagues.
- NTCA is utilising the VCSE sector as a key delivery partner to extend the reach and impact of NTCA investments.
- Specific funding and contracts have been awarded to VCSE organisations to deliver targeted support to people and communities.
- VCSE sector input has enabled NTCA to design programmes that will have the greatest impact.
- NTCA has been able to co-deliver work in partnership with the VCSE sector.
- NTCA has played a key role in providing leadership and convening partners around joint challenges such as child poverty, digital inclusion and good work.

- Senior NTCA staff have taken time to engage with VCSE sector organisations.
- Building relationships has taken time and has benefitted from informal, open and honest meetings, and a commitment to collaboration.

Opportunities to do more through Devolution

The new North East Combined Authority will consist of the elected mayor and seven elected members, one appointed by each of the seven constituent Local Authorities. In addition, there will also be a representative of the VCSE sector and the business sector, who will be full members of Cabinet.

The interim corporate plan for the North East Combined Authority sets out an approach to working that is highly collaborative, inclusive, and joined up. Strong relationships with the VCSE sector will be key to success.

Find out more about the North of Tyne Combined Authority's work towards an inclusive economy and related projects at www.northoftyne-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/projects/education-inclusion-and-skills ●

Photo: A view across the River Tyne from the Gateshead Millennium Bridge



Introducing the One Million Women and Girls campaign

Cullagh Warnock

Grant Maker and Charity Leader, One Million Women and Girls Campaign

Freelance grant maker and charity leader Cullagh Warnock introduces the One Million Women and Girls Campaign, launched ahead of the forthcoming elections this May

The One Million Women and Girls campaign seeks to take the opportunity of devolution and the new North East Combined Authority (NECA) to maximise the potential of the one million women and girls living in our region. We have a core group of around 20 women who are actively involved in the campaign, all bringing different skills, all active on different aspects. We work in the public sector, the voluntary sector and business, we are self-employed and retired, and mostly we are doing this in our own time. We are councillors, academics, trade unionists and, most importantly, we are cross-party, unaligned and unfunded.

We have formed this campaign because we know that women have been hardest hit by austerity policies brought in over the last decade, hardest hit by the pandemic, and have borne and are still bearing the brunt of the cost of living crisis. We see the formation of the new Combined Authority as an opportunity to bring about real and sustained change for the one million women and girls in our region and, importantly, we are making both an equalities argument and an economic argument.

Rather than asking for specific individual policies, we are calling for NECA's governance and structures to ensure **all** policy and programme development works for women and girls.

We know from experience that understanding the needs of women and girls needs to happen at the beginning

of this process, not as a tick-box exercise once policies and programmes have been developed. And we also know that when this happens, it results in better policymaking for everyone in our communities, for men and boys as well as women and girls.

We have been lobbying all the leadership candidates to sign our pledges and take the lead on concrete, practical action. We are also talking to women and women's groups about the upcoming elections and encouraging them to use their vote.

All six of the leadership candidates attended our sold-out debate on Wednesday 13 March (along with an audience of 350 people in the room, and more watching via livestream), answering questions from the audience on safe, reliable transport, how to ensure women and girls have access to jobs in the green industries of the future, and much more. All the candidates signed our pledges:

1. I/we will take practical steps to improve the lives of women and girls in our region

2. I/we will work with partners to ensure women and girls can access safe transport, can access housing, good quality jobs, training, and adult education

3. I/we will listen to women and girls from all communities and act on what they tell me/us to understand what they

need/the barriers they face

4. I/we will put in place systems and structures to ensure equality for women and girls

5. I/we will explicitly consider the specific impact on women and girls of every policy/strategy we develop, seeking to maximise positive and mitigate negative impacts

We are also asking all seven local authorities to pass motions based on these pledges. Newcastle and North Tyneside have already done so, and two others are set to in the next two months.

We have produced a summary of research which sets out both the evidence for why NECA needs to take a gender lens in all its activities, and proposals for the structures that are needed behind the scenes to ensure change happens. The latter are based on conversations with other devolved authorities and governments and on research into the common factors that have resulted in meaningful progress elsewhere in the world. They are rooted in what actually works and include:

- sustained **senior leadership** and buy-in
- a comprehensive toolkit and

methodology with audit, analysis and equality training for all staff

- systematic, comprehensive listening to **build intersectional gender competence**
- collecting, sharing and using **data disaggregated by gender**
- mechanisms that ensure NECA is **accountable** for its activities in this area

We also suggest NECA should assess, publicise and address **its own gender pay and representation gaps** to increase women and girls' active participation in the democratic process.

We are ambitious for the women and girls in our region. We are looking for transformational change and these are the building blocks we can all use to achieve this.

If you would like to know more about the campaign, read the research, or get involved, please email onemillionwomenandgirls@gmail.com

You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#), and it would be great if you could sign and share our [petition](#). Thank you! ●

Photo: The logo for the One Million Women and Girls campaign



How the voluntary sector can help make devolution work

Arlen Pettitt

Policy and Communications Consultant;
Author of North East Policy Newsletter 'Wor
Room'



North East policy and communications consultant Arlen Pettitt explains how the voluntary sector can help make devolution work

If there's one thing the voluntary and community sector knows better than anyone else, it's the power of involving people in decisions being made about them. By bringing power and resources closer to the change you're trying to make, you're going to be more efficient, and you're going to have better outcomes.

And that, essentially, is the idea behind the new North East mayor we'll be electing in May - but they'll need the voluntary sector to help them do that effectively.

“By bringing power and resources closer to the change you're trying to make, you're going to be more efficient, and you're going to have better outcomes.”

Alongside the local elections in May, the people of Northumberland, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Gateshead, South Tyneside, Sunderland and County Durham will also have a chance to choose a single figurehead to represent them for the first time.

It's part of process called devolution which has seen the creation of regional mayors across large sections of England, including Greater Manchester, Liverpool, the West Midlands and West Yorkshire.

These mayors wield powers and control funding transferred from Westminster

covering areas like transport, housing, adult skills, business support and investment. As well as representing the region and exercising power handed down from central government, they will also need to work to coordinate across the seven local authorities on their patch.

From May, they'll come together to form the North East Combined Authority. The mayor will have their own team, and will also draw on the expertise and resources of the seven local authorities, with the leaders of the councils forming the mayor's cabinet.

Those cabinet members will then hold specific portfolios - for example, Newcastle's Nick Kemp is responsible for the economy brief, and chairs the project board underneath it. Durham's Amanda Hopgood will look after culture, creative, tourism and sport. South Tyneside's Tracey Dixon will hold the education, skills and inclusion brief. The others will cover transport, environment, housing, and finance and investment.

So, while the mayor will be the ultimate decision maker and will set much of the agenda, they'll not hold all the power. A lot of the decision-making on specific issues will rest with the cabinet members, and lots of the detail will be worked out by the boards underneath them.

There'll also be an audit and scrutiny committee and a business board, with the latter taking on the business

representation role currently played by the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP).

The voluntary and community sector will be part of the decision-making too, with a representative of the sector holding a non-voting role in the cabinet, alongside the chair of the business board.

The North East is a region with lots of challenges, but lots of opportunities too. With devolution, there's a chance to grasp both. In his Spring Budget, the Chancellor opened the door to some of those opportunities, with extra funding for housing and regeneration, 'growth zones' focused on offshore and renewable energy, and for a film and TV studio in Sunderland.

The devolution deal itself takes aim at many of the challenges, with poverty

66 The North East is a region with lots of challenges, but lots of opportunities too.

and inequality, the needs of coastal and rural areas, and the transition to Net Zero all getting sections in the text of the deal. Those will be the issues the Combined Authority uses to focus its activity, and where it will measure its success.

A look at the numbers as they stand paints a stark picture. Compared to the rest of the UK, the North East has higher child poverty and lower life expectancy, a lower employment rate and lower pay. Productivity is lower, and there are fewer businesses per head. Indicators for mental health, obesity and alcohol-related hospital admissions all place the North East at the bottom of the list.

The voluntary and community sector is already a key player when it comes to addressing many of those problems. The sector can reach the hard to reach, it can broaden horizons, and it can plug gaps. It will also have a crucial role when it comes to making more progress in the future.

The new North East Combined Authority will run programmes and distribute funding, but the ideas, collaborations and the genuine action will come closer to the ground.

As the new governance structures in the region are being established, and as the key individuals are finding their feet, there's a need for us to shout about those ideas and that action. There'll be practical opportunities too, like the chance for the Combined Authority to issue grants for rural community infrastructure, direct dormant assets towards community groups to improve health, or coordinate public assets better by involving the sector in placemaking and commissioning.

More than that, voluntary and community sector organisations can be what makes devolution work - actually work - for the people of the North East, by connecting them with policies designed for them.

We should use every opportunity we have to talk about that, including through influential networks like Connected Voice.

For more information, contact arlen@arlenpettitt.co.uk. For a weekly update giving a North East view on national politics and policy stories, be sure to subscribe to Arlen's newsletter 'Wor Room' at worroom.substack.com ●

How devolution fuels collaborative projects in North of Tyne

Giovanni Spatuzzi
Deputy Chief Executive,
Connected Voice



As we move towards wider devolution, we wanted to share some of our reflections about how the devolution that has already happened has supported collaboration within our own world of VCSE infrastructure support

In the North of Tyne Combined Authority area, comprising Newcastle, North Tyneside, and Northumberland, devolution has already acted as a catalyst for collaboration. Given that we shared a new 'Combined Authority' area, in 2019 local VCSE infrastructure organisations and Volunteer Centres decided to work together more closely. Connected Voice, CVA Blyth Valley, VODA North Tyneside, Northumberland CVA, Volunteer Centre Newcastle, and Community Action Northumberland now have three partnership projects focused on increasing both the support available for VCSE organisations and the number of people volunteering. These projects are not all funded by the Combined Authority - but our willingness to work together across the wider footprint is something that funders valued.

The Elements e-learning platform allows residents involved in the running of VCSE organisations to access free education and skills development. Designed in collaboration between Connected Voice, VODA North Tyneside, and Northumberland CVA, the Elements platform offers training courses tailored to staff, volunteers and trustees on subjects such as governance, safeguarding, fundraising, and charity finance. The platform therefore allows individuals to acquire new skills, boost their employability, and contribute

meaningfully to their organisations and the communities they serve. Each of our organisations was previously running these courses in person. Having the e-learning platform has saved our staff time, while also allowing much greater flexibility for people to complete the training in their own time.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority Volunteering Project is a collaboration between Connected Voice, VODA North Tyneside, Northumberland CVA, and Volunteer Centre Newcastle, which aims to cement the region's reputation as an area of volunteering excellence. Through resource development and sharing, the project fosters a culture of civic engagement and social responsibility. By simplifying access to volunteering opportunities and sharing best practice, it both enriches the lives of volunteers and strengthens the fabric of VCSE organisations, enabling them to better support their beneficiaries. Since this project began, we have worked together on engaging the private sector to support their local communities, as well as developing how-to guides and volunteering handbooks, which have been widely used across the area.

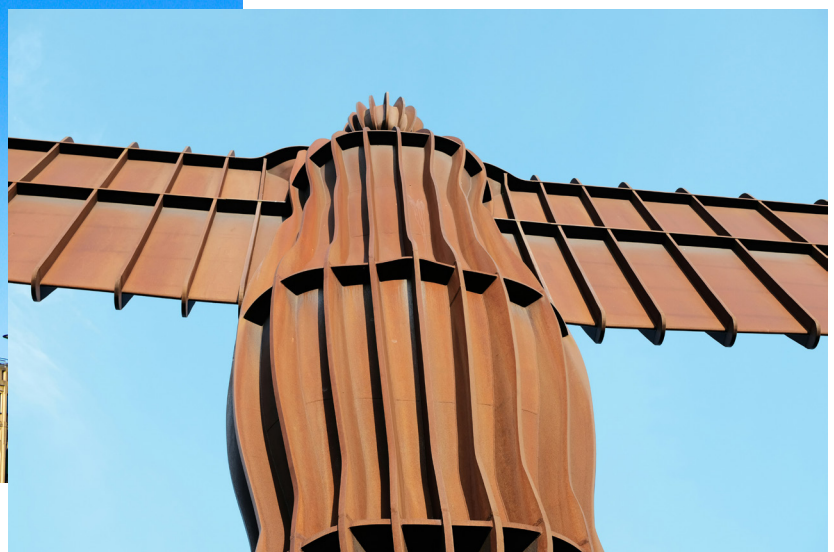
Complementing these programmes is the UKSPF Volunteering and Social Action programme, which channels support through one-to-one engagement and training towards VCSE organisations seeking to engage

residents in meaningful volunteering activities. We know that our sector is heavily reliant on volunteers, and that many organisations are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit volunteers. We also know that volunteers with additional needs have so much to give, but sometimes find it more difficult to find a suitable role. By connecting individuals with tailored volunteering opportunities and providing ongoing support, this initiative nurtures a sense of belonging and purpose. The collaborative work between Connected Voice, CVA Blyth Valley, VODA North Tyneside, Northumberland CVA, Volunteer Centre Newcastle, and Community Action Northumberland maximises the collective impact of local infrastructure organisations and volunteer centres. We are able to cross-refer and provide different types of support as needed, across a wider area than each of our traditional 'patches'.

At their core, these partnership projects represent examples of the transformative power of devolution. We had always worked closely with our sister organisations in neighbouring areas, but the fact of devolution in the North of Tyne area gave us a reason to formalise that joint working and take the next step. As the region continues to chart its course towards a hopefully brighter future with the creation of the North East Combined Authority in May, we hope sharing these initiatives serves as a useful example of the value of collective action in building stronger, more resilient communities. We hope that by empowering local authorities and VCSE organisations to collaborate ever more closely, the new Authority will not only address pressing social challenges, but also foster a greater sense of ownership and agency among residents. ●



Photos: Grey's Monument in Newcastle City Centre (left); The Angel of the North (below right)



The role of community organising in devolution

Claire Rodgerson

Senior Organiser, Tyne and Wear Citizens

Claire Rodgerson, Senior Organiser at Tyne and Wear Citizens, discusses the importance of community organising, and outlines their ask of the new Combined Authority

Tyne and Wear Citizens is part of Citizens UK, the UK's biggest, most diverse and most effective people-powered alliance. We bring together everyday people and local organisations to help build a better, fairer society.

Community organising is about bringing people together to drive change. This means building community-led solutions to both big and small problems - solutions that work for everyone. We know that everyday people have the ability to shape the world around them, and together we can put the power back into everyday people's hands in order to hold those responsible to account.

We believe that, through developing our local leaders, we can ultimately drive nationwide change. We build positive working relationships between communities, elected power-holders and businesses, making sure everyone is heard and that no-one is left out or left behind.

Across the UK, over 500 member institutions including charities, education institutions, faith organisations and trade unions work together for leadership development and the strengthening of civil society and social justice. In the North East, the 35 members of Tyne and Wear Citizens - including Connected Voice - undertake listening campaigns involving thousands of conversations to find out what is putting pressure on our

communities, what we have in common, and how we can come together to address and find solutions to some of the injustices being faced.

Since 2016, these issues have included problems in housing, the environment, hate crime, mental ill-health, poverty, and racism, to name but a few. To date, we have increased the number of Real Living Wage-accredited employers from 30 to over 300, including the creation of two Living Wage Cities (Newcastle and Sunderland); we have supported young people to improve their mental health services and win reduced bus fares with the 'Get Round for a Pound' scheme; we have also established a hate crime charter across five public transport providers, improved local parks, and much more.

We undertook a deep listening campaign across our membership last year, and we heard about struggles to cope with the cost of living crisis, struggles within the education system, and a housing crisis that makes housing unaffordable and often uninhabitable.

With almost half of the world's population expected to head to the polls at some point this year, we're organising across the UK to make sure that everyday people get their voices heard.

Our region can often appear broken, but at Tyne and Wear Citizens, we believe that action can always lead to hope,

which is why we have developed agendas that we want to work on in partnership with the soon to be established North East Combined Authority and Mayor, and also with the next UK Government.

We believe that our joint efforts and energy would help fix some of our region's most longstanding problems. We believe that these solutions, and the work of community organising more generally, can help bring more prosperity to the North East.

We're focusing on three important strategies:

1. Making change

Our members across the UK have developed seven national priorities that we want the next Government to address. You can read these in our [Citizens Agenda](#).

In the North East, members have had thousands of conversations to discern three priority areas that we want to see addressed via devolution. These are some of the things they want to see addressed:

a. The Cost of Living Crisis - we want to see a significant growth in Real Living Wage-accredited employers in the region and a better deal for people who access the benefits system.

b. Education - we want to see greater racial equity in our education system, and improved access to school counsellors for all pupils.

c. Housing - we want to see greater accountability measures for landlords, plus genuinely affordable homes.

2. Engaging with candidates and elected officials

Be they MPs, elected mayors, or cross-party candidates.

3. Voter registration

Working with others from across the UK to [make sure that 300,000+ at-risk voters can exercise their right to vote](#) in this critical year for our democracy.

Crucially, community organising is about action! As an alliance, Tyne and Wear Citizens takes public, non-partisan action through fun, imaginative and public demonstrations to hold those responsible to account.

We publicly connect our members, and the issues that are important to them, to power holders who can implement change. With devolution around the corner, we'd love you to join us to experience us in action.

On 2 May 2024, we'll go to the polls to elect our North East Mayor - a pivotal moment for our region. In the run-up to this, we'll be holding an assembly at which our members will ask candidates key questions on the issues above and seek a positive, long-term working relationship.

Please [register here](#), and be sure to spread the word! ●

Photo: A picture of a lady presenting at a previous Tyne and Wear Citizens Assembly



Devolve responsibility for your financial processes to us

Devolving responsibility for your organisation's financial processes to our Business Services team can both keep you compliant and free up your valuable time. Here's more about two of the key services our team can support you with

Payroll

We offer a comprehensive and reliable Payroll service that helps free up your valuable time, so that you can focus on your organisation's core activities without worrying about the complexities of Payroll.

Here's why you can trust us with your Payroll:

- **Guaranteed compliance:** Stay up-to-date and penalty-free in the face of ever-changing tax laws and regulations
- **Expert support:** Get access to dedicated Payroll specialists known for their precision and reliability
- **Scalable services:** From start-ups to more established enterprises, we can adapt to your growth every step of the way
- **Secure processing:** Rest assured your data and details are safe with our top-tier encryption and data protection measures
- **Full-service features:** Enjoy comprehensive Payroll processing and auto enrolment (pension) services that are fully compliant with current legislation

Devolve responsibility for your Payroll to us today - save time, reduce costs, and guarantee accuracy.

Reece Calvert (below) is our Payroll Manager, and he'd love to hear from you. Get in touch at reece.calvert@connectedvoice.org.uk



Independent Examinations

We can also support you to complete your Independent Examination, audit, year-end accounts and tax returns, taking it all off your hands so you can concentrate on what matters.

Here's what you get from our team:

- **Extensive knowledge of charity accounts and legislation:** We are a charity ourselves, and we have years of experience dealing with CICs, limited and co-operative organisations, and all the related legislation
- **A reliable, trustworthy team:** Our reliable team will answer queries within 24 hours, and you will have access to a direct number, so that you can speak to a real person in real time
- **A cost-effective service:** We secure services and resources at preferential rates, which allows us to offer our own services at more accessible prices without compromising on quality

Doug Maltman (below right) is our Charity Independent Examiner, and Lilian Hetherington (below left) is our Independent Examiner. You can reach them at douglas.maltman@connectedvoice.org.uk / lilian.hetherington@connectedvoice.org.uk ●



Contact us

**Connected
Voice** Support and
Development

Expert support services that enable voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to set up, be sustainable and informed, achieve their objectives and come together.

connect@connectedvoice.org.uk
0191 235 7021

**Connected
Voice** Advocacy

Free professional support to individuals to help them be aware of their rights and choices, make informed decisions, advocate for themselves and facilitate their voices being heard.

advocacy@connectedvoice.org.uk
0191 235 7013

**Connected
Voice** Business
Services

Quality and cost-effective financial support services that meet the growing needs of charities, community organisations and social enterprises.

cbsteam@connectedvoice.org.uk
0191 235 7020

**Connected
Voice** Haref

Working with communities and organisations throughout Newcastle and Gateshead to reduce health inequalities linked to ethnicity and culture.

haref@connectedvoice.org.uk
0191 235 7022

**Connected
Voice** Health Equity

Connecting charities and community organisations to health services to improve digital inclusion, mental health support and social prescribing.

0191 235 7022

**Connected
Voice** Volunteering

Supporting volunteering across Newcastle and Gateshead through employee volunteering (Sector Connector), promoting volunteering opportunities and offering advice.

volunteering@connectedvoice.org.uk
0191 235 7038 (Gateshead Volunteer Centre)
0191 235 7039 (Sector Connector Newcastle)

www.connectedvoice.org.uk

 @ConnectedVoice_

 @ConnectedVoiceCharity

 @Connected Voice