

# Chairman's Message

Last year, I said that the last year had been a hard one for Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire, as funding cuts had led to fewer staff covering more areas of work. This year I have to repeat myself – it has been more of the same.

I want to thank the remaining staff for continuing to provide the services needed by our members. They have been flexible and accommodating, and so far we have had no complaints at all from members about work not being done on time and to the standard normally expected.

However, this has been at a cost – we have lost staff members for whom the load became too heavy, and those remaining are now at full capacity, yet they keep on thinking of new ways to do things and new things to do.

Over the next year, you may notice changes as our funding continues to decrease and we need to find new ways to fund the work we know needs to be done. The only way we can find this money is by providing new paid-for services, so you will hear of VANL in new areas of work – and if you come to us with an offer of a partnership or a request for something we would not normally do, you may be welcomed effusively!

All this means that there is a possibility that our staff won't have the capacity to produce work as efficiently as in the past, so please bear with us and give us as much notice as possible when you need work to be done. We will do it, but it may take longer.

And please continue to support us by telling others about what we do – our services are available to small businesses as well as voluntary and community groups, so if you mention us to people you know, and they buy in our services, it will help us to keep providing the services you yourself use. We know our member groups appreciate us, and we are grateful for that, but please spread the word and we'll all become stronger!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Ransome", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Allen Ransome

Chair

# Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire Ltd. Board of Trustees 2014 / 2015

Rikki Arundel	2014
Ian Cameron	2014
Donald Campbell	October 2013
Ros Carlile	October 2012
Harold Edwards	October 2013
Cllr. Jon Evison	2012
Richard Hall	2014
Alan Mabbott	2002
Elizabeth Marshall	2014
Geraldine Miller	2012
Peter Nicholls	2011
Allen Ransome	1998
Ian Reekie	2011
James Truepenny	2012
Mae Wilson	Co-opted 18 February 2015

# Introduction

To echo our Chair's comments above, this year has been very difficult for VANL and the local and national voluntary sector, with increasing insecurity in future income sources and therefore sustainability of the sector.

The regional and national research data and comments (NCVO, Involve Yorkshire and the Humber and NAVCA) show the sector is seeing big demand increases at a time of austerity and cuts, with some organisations on the brink of closure as a result.

Charities have not seen any appreciable economic recovery. While the rest of the economy has begun to grow, the charity sector's income has flat-lined since 2009.

The voluntary and community sector is a fundamental lynch pin of a strong, inclusive and equal society; doing valuable work looking after people who for one reason or another are unable to look after themselves, since government has abrogated its responsibilities in many of these areas. Without the third sector, many elderly people would be filling up hospitals, many more homeless people would be filling the streets and many disabled people would be living in confined and lonely circumstances in their house, unable to get out.

The voluntary and community sector is generally looking for new ways to pay for its work, since the grants and contracts which could formerly be depended upon are declining fast. Instead, charities and the larger voluntary groups are looking for new opportunities through business development and earned income; in other words, they are doing commercial work to try to pay for the charitable services that they know are needed, and VANL is no different.

While some sections of the population may think this is a good thing, there are many concerns including the fact that charities are now competing in the business market for contracts, and that doing this kind of work leaves far less time to carry out their normal pursuits. To put it plainly, if your staff are running a commercial training course, they are not helping the people they would normally support.

VANL faces unprecedented demand from people looking for opportunities to build their confidence and self-esteem, to diversify or grow their skills, from people who have had negative experiences in their life, like poor education, redundancy, unemployment, mental or physical ill-health, domestic violence and much more. They do this through our WRAP programmes, volunteering, coaching and mentoring, or our accredited and non-accredited training programme.

The demand for this support results from those most vulnerable facing too many barriers to access the mainstream, which is set up for the many and not the few.

And perhaps most importantly we are here to help the voluntary sector to grow and change to meet the needs of their beneficiaries and communities. All 900+ of them when and if they need us, and it is this work (termed infrastructure support) that is most under threat.

The findings from the National Independent Commission on the Future of Local Infrastructure (*Change for Good*, published in January 2015) makes the recommendation that Local Infrastructure needs to be creatively resourced and sets out a number of recommendations for independent funders and local and national government.

The message to Local and National Government is:

- ⚙️ Engage with the ideas presented in the Commission's report
- ⚙️ Act strategically to fund core VCS Infrastructure Support
- ⚙️ Collaborate with independent funders

There are recommendations for infrastructure organisations as well and **VANL is up for implementing them:**

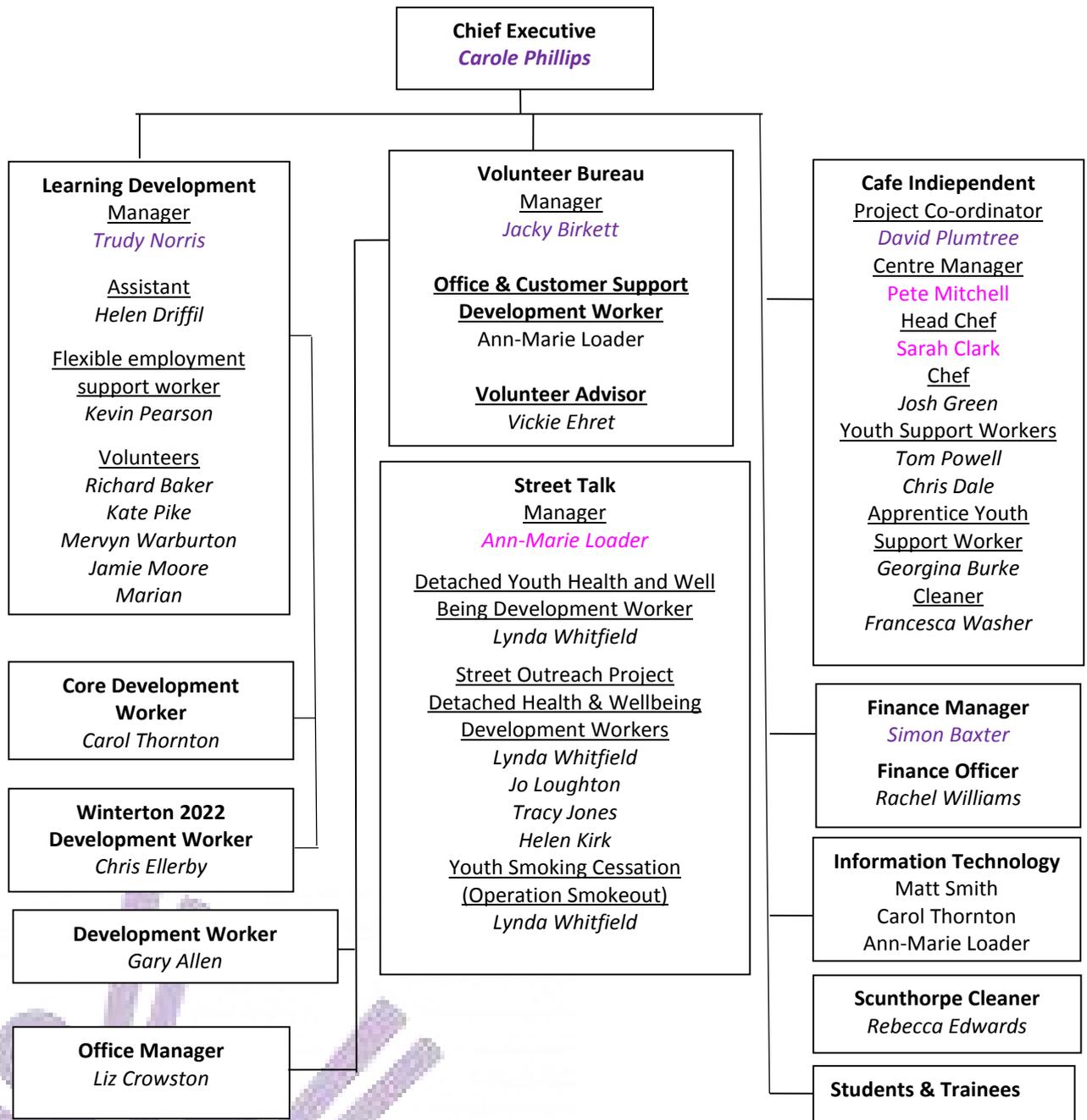
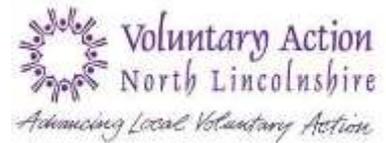
- ⚙️ Redesigning services
- ⚙️ Navigating change and building strong relationships
- ⚙️ Working together across geographies
- ⚙️ Insisting on a seat at planning tables!

**Breaking News** – VANL has been appointed a Big Assist Beacon for Change as we have successfully led change and developed new ways of working.

We hope that our local authority and other statutory agencies will engage with the findings of this report and respond positively for the sake of those most vulnerable and the communities of North Lincolnshire.

*Carole Phillips and Carol Thornton*

# Staffing Chart



**KEY**  
Managers are in  
*Purple*

# Summary Activities, Achievements and Performance

- ⚙️ We have created partnerships with like infrastructure organisations which span the Humber and Greater Lincolnshire. This should improve the opportunities for the voluntary sector in North Lincolnshire, to benefit from new and emerging opportunities such as European Structural Investment Funds and the development of volunteering through creating efficiencies and sharing learning.
- ⚙️ We continue to support the people and the community of Winterton by acting as their Local Trusted Organisation and accountable body for the Winterton2022 Big Local project.
- ⚙️ We continue to bring voluntary sector organisations together to create joint projects and activity.
- ⚙️ 5 organisations (and VANL) have achieved the locally developed Supporting Volunteers award, which helps to ensure the volunteer experience is as safe and rewarding as it can be, further supported by the continuing and expanding Volunteer Managers Network organised by our Volunteer Centre Manager.
- ⚙️ Our Commercial partners continue to support the voluntary sector with Tata staff supporting our 'Make a Festive Difference Campaign' by donating vouchers to the Women's refuge.
- ⚙️ DHL have continued to support Stonecroft Cheshire Home, improving the house and gardens for the benefit for the residents. DHL have also supported Café INDIE with developing GROW; the youth led Enterprise Incubator.
- ⚙️ Mason and Baggot continue to offer pro-bono legal advice to our members.
- ⚙️ We have supported the voluntary sector by providing help, advice and assistance to support continued survival and growth; responding to need in the current, increasingly challenging environment (see pie charts below).
- ⚙️ We delivered 92 courses, 30 of which were new and 25 supporting personal skills development. Our curriculum is built on needs identified in and by the community, through our Membership Manager Approach and in response to consultation.
- ⚙️ We have continued to maintain and improve our services as a Quality Assured voluntary sector Support and Development organisation and Volunteer Centre.

## Statistical detail

Our targets for the Council funding year (Jan 14 to Dec 14\*) of 138 groups and 2 partnerships receiving funding support was exceeded: 150 groups and 5 partnerships were actually assisted. Eight groups (exceeding our target of 5) used methods of income generation that were new to them.

All the groups on which we carried out health checks were assessed as having passed on policies and procedures and 99% passed on financial administration. This is because if a group is not achieving acceptable levels, our staff work with them until their systems are up to standard.

Our Volunteer Centre exceeded its target of increased the number of volunteering roles by 213 and achieved an actual increase of 235. An extra 169 people became actively involved in volunteering, with the help of VANL staff. The target of 10 organisations achieving a Supporting Volunteers award was also achieved.

\*Please note this year does not correspond with below statistics which are for April 14 – March 15

Further information on statistics is demonstrated through charts to make it more easily assimilated.

Figure 1.

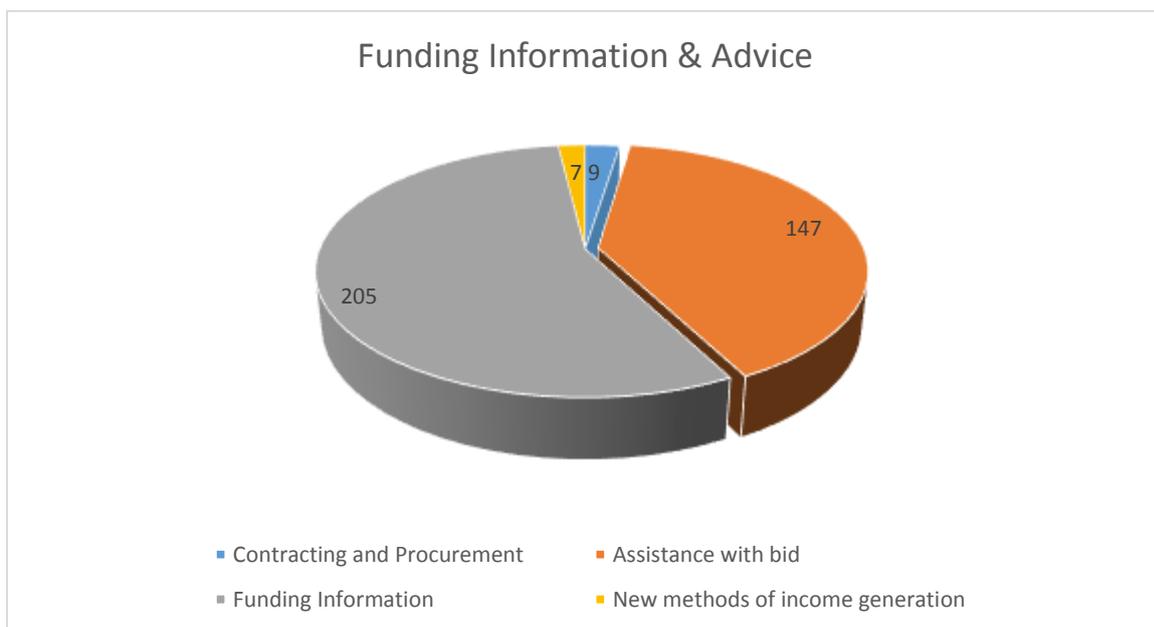


Figure 2.

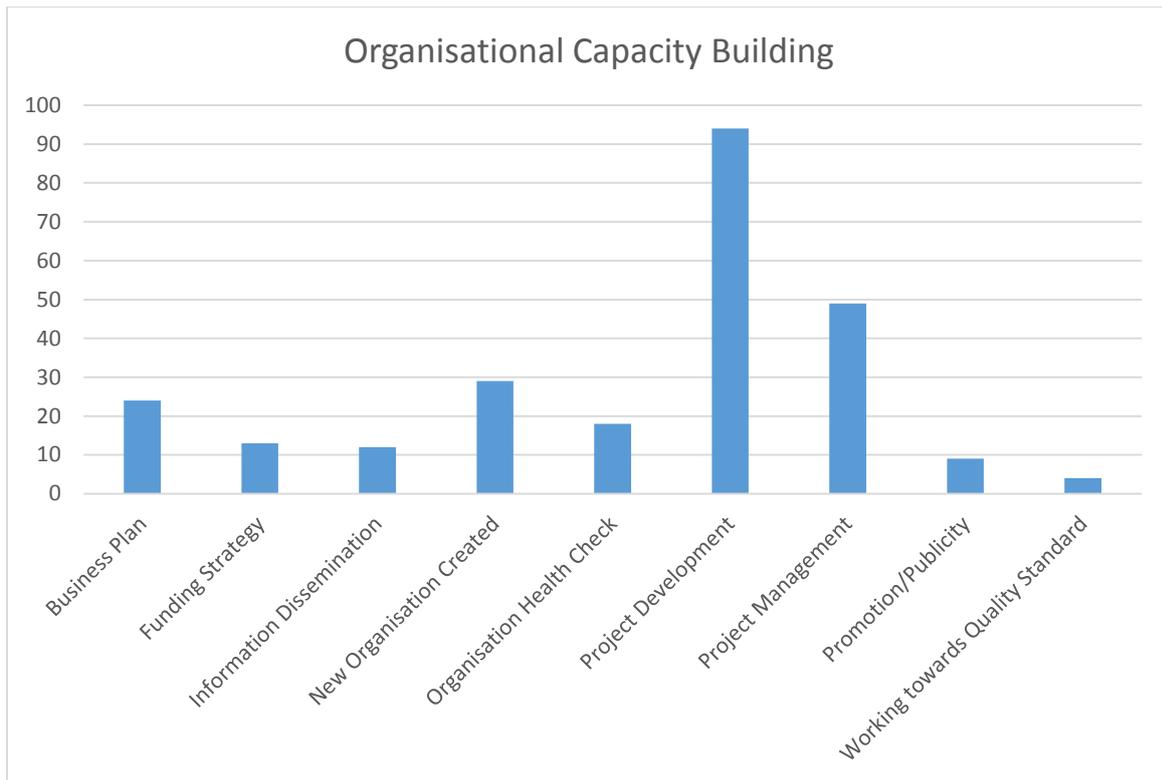


Figure 3.

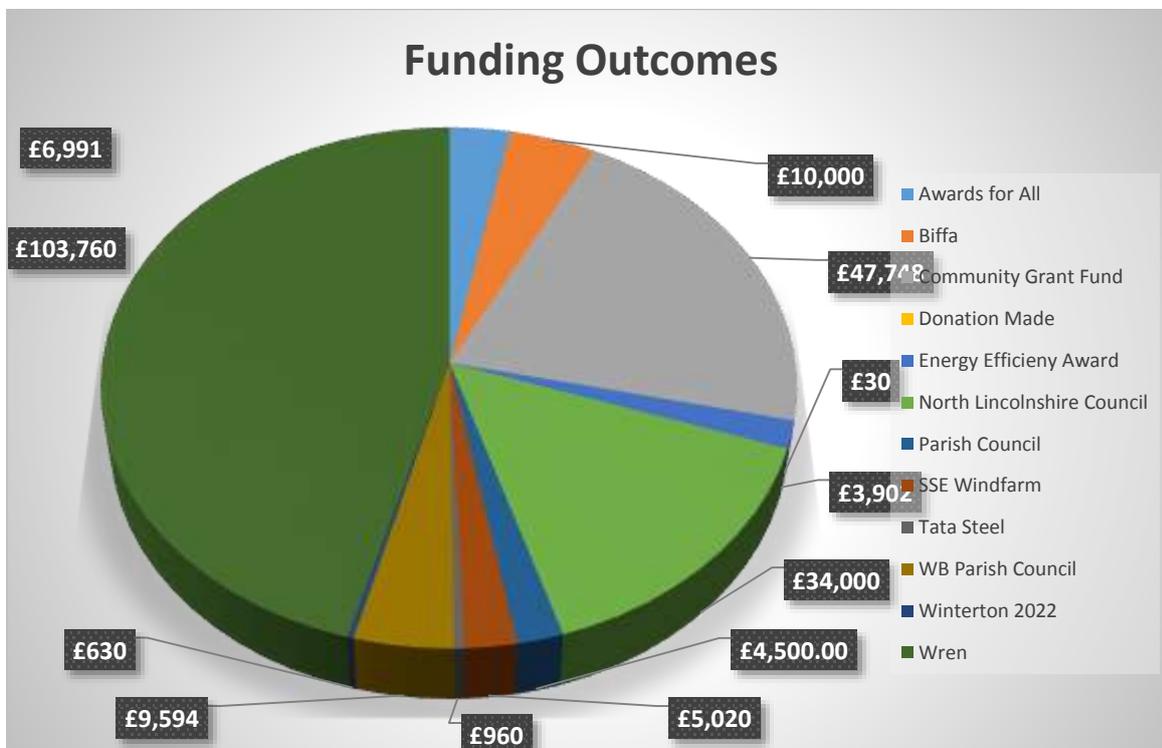
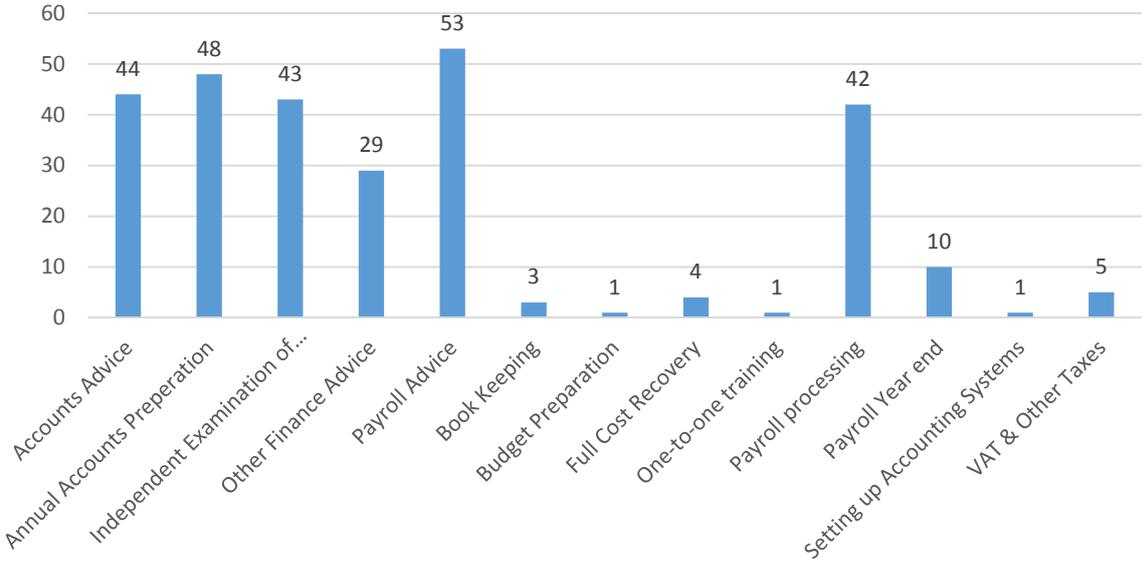


Figure 4.

# Finance



# Future Plans

The most pressing task for the next year will be to secure new sources of funding to secure the future of the organisation, so that we can continue to deliver our charitable objectives, particularly as our 3-year agreement with North Lincolnshire Council to deliver support to the voluntary and community sector comes to an end. In order to achieve this we will:

- Strengthen our relationship with other infrastructure organisations working in the neighbouring areas, in the Humber, Lincolnshire and Sheffield, including creating joint projects and consortium bids.
- We will strive to increase income generated from our own efforts
- We will work to respond to the changing needs of the sector in the services we provide including auto-enrolment.
- Engage with Independent and government agency funders to strive to improve the success of the local VCS in securing such sources of funding.
- Investigate and pursue opportunities to develop Social Prescribing activity with the CCG, Local Authority and other voluntary sector providers.
- To strive to secure continuation of the Learning for Change Project.
- We will create a separately branded project to deliver and expand our health-related work, including the Choices Clinics, Street Outreach Programme with Working Girls, WRAP and Youth Smoking Cessation work named Lincs2Wellbeing. Lincs2 Wellbeing will have its own Steering Group made up of people who are committed to improving the health offer for adults, families and children and young people.



Lincs2Wellbeing

Services to be developed include:

## Youth Smoking Cessation

Next year we will be building on our success improving the health and wellbeing of young people in schools by expanding the project to more schools, to reduce smoking prevalence among children and young people in education settings.

## Street Outreach

We have seen a rise in homeless people accessing our services, we aim to support them where possible and signpost those to appropriate services as and when needed.

# VANL Training Provision and Learning for Change Programme

## Changes in our Team

We were delighted to welcome Helen Driffill to the team as training coordinator. Helen brings a host of skills to the organisation including working in small business and supporting vulnerable adults.

Farewell to Kevin Pearson who supported some of our learners with more complex needs into a work-based learning opportunity.

## The Learning for Change Programme

This is a Big Lottery Funded (Reaching Communities) Programme that funds both community learning, and learning and support for people in recovery (with addiction, mental health, ex-offenders and their families)

2014 has seen our Big Lottery Project Learning for Change go into its 4th year of delivery. Incorporating learning from previous years we have aimed to respond to the community and to couple this with some innovation.

**In 2014 we delivered 92 courses, 30 of which were new and 25 supporting personal skills development.** Our curriculum is built on needs identified in and by the community, through our Membership Manager approach and consultations.

We are starting to think about extending our funding for the L4C programme and with this will be undertaking an evaluation of the programme.

Here are a couple of case studies that demonstrate the learner journey within Learning for Change.

## Case Studies

**This case study has been anonymised. Tracey registered with us in 2012**

Tracey was in the armed forces until 1998. After leaving it was difficult to get work; she describes herself as drifting between temporary jobs and having no consistency in her life. The pressures eventually led to Tracey suffering a breakdown 5 years ago.

Tracey contacted Voluntary Action North Lincs, looking for productive ways to use her time as an aid to recovery. At that time she was very isolated, living in a rural area with no friends or family. She attended a number of training courses on the

*"The one to one support was the most helpful to me, simply knowing that there was somebody who cared".*

Learning for Change programme at VANL, including the Wellness and Recovery Action Planning, as well as coaching support.

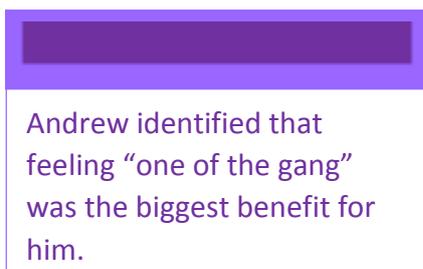
*“The one to one support was the most helpful to me, simply knowing that there was somebody who cared”.*

Tracey is now working towards a degree and is a highly valued voluntary worker at two local projects where she helps others on their recovery journeys.

### **Work Based Learning case study - Andrew**

Andrew has a degree of learning disability and was educated outside of mainstream schooling. Since leaving school he has done some voluntary work, he has helped family members with labouring work and has tried unsuccessfully to gain qualifications in building-related trades at a local college.

Andrew has a sense of frustration that he does not fit in and has previously had issues controlling his anger and has used alcohol as a way to manage his frustrations.



Andrew identified that feeling “one of the gang” was the biggest benefit for him.

Andrew does not learn well in a classroom environment and is keen to be active, outdoors and working with others.

The Learning for Change team spent time with Andrew, exploring his interests and discussing his frustrations. He was quite open with the team about his history and we were able to identify potential triggers for his frustration.

A potential placement was identified with a local building company and an initial meeting held on site with the owner. He then spent two days labouring on building sites.

Andrew identified that feeling “one of the gang” was the biggest benefit for him. He worked hard on the placement, learning about the different trades involved in the construction industry and how they work together. He joined in with the banter on site and gained a sense of wellbeing through being included.

Andrew is currently volunteering at another construction-related business where he continues to gain in self-worth.

Both employers have highlighted the positive impact on other staff of supporting a volunteer with additional needs to feel included.

(Thanks to Woodworx builders and Buildbase Builder’s Merchants)

*Insert photo.*

## Wellness Recovery Action Planning

Big Thanks to our Copeland Institute trained peer WRAP facilitators, thanks to whom we have been able to offer 4 WRAP programmes through the year. WRAP is a strengths-based person-centred programme that is particularly useful for people with more complex needs.

*Insert photo*

## 1:1 Support

We offer support to learners in the form of coaching and WRAP, thus helping people achieve those small steps to achieving their goals.

## The Curriculum

We offer accredited and certificated learning and are a registered provider with the Skills Funding Agency. This year we have offered an additional 6 courses from the Centre of Environmental Health and have increasingly responded to requests for bespoke provision from organisations.

## Events

We had a huge response to our 'Meet the funder' event which enabled local groups and individuals to meet with a range of grant funders to test their ideas for project, receive advice and guidance on starting up a project or developing an existing one.

## The Future

Looking towards our final year we will be seeking continuation funding for Learning for Change with a new programme based on learner evaluations and local needs.

## Experience-Led Commissioning

We have been delighted to continue to be involved in the local work carried out by the CCG to redesign services, especially looking at the needs of people in Crisis with a Mental Health condition. We hope the findings go on to have real impact for the people represented.



# Volunteer Centre

## North Lincolnshire

I open my annual report to state that this year has been one of the most testing for the Volunteer Centre North Lincolnshire.

The sunshine amid what have been cloudy days has been the number of people that continue to use our Volunteer Brokerage Service to find a volunteer opportunity that suits the time they have to offer and the things they want to achieve. It is a pleasure seeing people venture through our door, sometimes timidly, not really knowing what they would like to do, but leaving feeling motivated, useful and enthusiastic about the benefits volunteering can bring to their life.

Volunteer Brokerage 01.04.2014 - 31.03.2015



From 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015, Vickie has helped 523 individuals search for voluntary work. On behalf of those 523 people, Vickie has made 1,017 referrals to organisations looking for volunteers; an average of 1.9 referrals per person.

We have listened to what our volunteer involving organisations have told us:

*“We receive lots of referrals but often can’t get in touch with the applicants either by telephone, email or letter. It can be very frustrating as well as expensive both in time and money.”*

In the past we have referred people to as many volunteer roles as they expressed an interest in, but this year, based on the comments made by partner organisations, we decided to encourage applicants to prioritise the roles that most interested them. We encourage them to come back if the initial roles don’t suit them so we can offer further support.

The amount of time and money wasted can be considerable in sending out application packs, trying to ring volunteers, leaving messages, sending letters, emails etc. It can be very disheartening to busy volunteer managers when a high number of referrals result in a very low number of recruited volunteers. We now encourage people to apply to one or two organisations and come back for further support if they are unsuccessful.

Conversely people who want to volunteer tell us that organisations don't always get back to them after they have been referred. We hope that by reducing the number of referrals, organisations have more time to contact applicants. We have also worked hard to encourage people to respond to telephone calls, emails and letters to inform organisations if they are no longer able to volunteer for whatever reason. Some find jobs after they apply, others go into training or circumstances change so they are no longer able to give time to volunteer.

SO, the achievement of helping 523 over the past financial year is good considering the problems we have experienced and the reduction in hours to deliver our service.

Another real positive has been the support given to VANL by our wonderful volunteers. We couldn't deliver our services without them. Our volunteers get involved in reception tasks, tracking volunteers, accountancy support, general administration, and anything else they want to get involved in. So thank you to:

Marion, Amanda, Bert, Matthew, Kate, Richard, ...



And now, I hardly dare mention the elephant in the room – the [www.do-it.org](http://www.do-it.org) website. There have been problems:

- The difficulties faced by people who want to volunteer in navigating their way around this 'new and improved' online platform continues.
- The difficulties faced by organisations that need volunteers to apply through this 'new and improved' online platform continues.

The toughest thing for the Volunteer Centre team has been losing valuable tools that help us manage our work load; managing the cases of volunteers, the organisations and their opportunities, and the ability to monitor and report on our work to demonstrate social and economic value.

Without wishing to go into long boring explanations about the difficulties we continue to face, we would like to apologise to our partner organisations for the inconveniences the website has caused – losing information, reduced numbers of online applications, difficulties registering on the site etc. And we apologise to people who have used the website and found it visually attractive but a nightmare to navigate. WE SHARE YOUR PAIN!

Vickie and I are working closely with colleagues from Volunteer Centres in the Yorkshire and Humber region and Lincolnshire (part of the East Midlands region) to find alternative solutions. We feedback concerns, issues and frustrations through regional groups to IVO, the organisation funded to the tune of £2 million by the Government to develop the 'new and improved' online volunteering platform. ***Well it's not doing it for us and we want something that works!***

Enough about do-it. It makes Vickie and I very stressed just thinking about it.

# InvolvingLincs

On a positive note we are now working closely with our colleagues in Lincolnshire Voluntary Services and Lincolnshire CVS. What a huge area Lincolnshire covers! We are thrilled to

not only be part of the 'gang' in Yorkshire and Humber, but now part of the Greater Lincolnshire area. We are members of 'Involving Lincs', and the subgroup 'Volunteering Lincolnshire'. We have made new friends, shared practice, ideas and in the future we hope to share services across the Greater Lincolnshire area. It has been a breath of fresh air and we continue to look forward to working with some wonderful people.

One achievement of the Volunteering Lincolnshire group is work towards our first area wide volunteering conference, 'V:Expo15', but news about that next year!

## Volunteer Managers Network

We continue to meet with our fellow volunteer managers through regular, well attended VOLUNTEER MANAGERS NETWORK meetings. The meetings regularly attract representatives from between 10 – 20 local volunteer involving organisations. We hold the meeting approximately each quarter (sometimes bi-monthly) in different locations of North Lincolnshire and on different days each time so that volunteer managers working part time can attend at least some of the meetings.

We always enjoy lively debate around volunteering related issues. Partners generally say that the 'Open Forum' section is the most useful, keeping up to date with news and sharing practice. We have tackled subjects such as working with young volunteers, volunteers attending home visits, quality issues, do-it updates, DBS updates. New work has resulted from organisations meeting up at the network sessions, such as sharing training programmes.



We have supported members to achieve Supporting Volunteers Award, including:

- North Lincolnshire Council Adult Community Learning
- Scunthorpe Samaritans
- Carers Support Centre
- Scunthorpe and District Mind
- VANL (us!)
- Empathy/Freshsteps



We are currently supporting other groups to achieve their awards, including

- North Lincolnshire Council Sports Development
- Westcliff Drop In
- Crosby Community Association
- The Forge

Organisations achieving the award say 'Jacky gives us a good grilling!', which means I closely inspect their volunteer programme, carefully checking their evidence to clearly demonstrate examples of good practice. I have found some excellent practice which is celebrated, and I make suggestions to show how other practice can be modified slightly to make improvements. Most importantly, volunteers have to confirm that they enjoy volunteering, and feel well supported and safe in their role.

Organisations working towards the award tell us that they find it extremely useful to undertake SVA as it gives them an opportunity to revisit their volunteer programme and make changes where necessary, or feel confident that they are doing a great job!

## Businesses and Groups that give more

This year we once again celebrate the local businesses and groups that have supported local charities.



As a result of a Volunteer Centre 'Make a Festive Difference' campaign, **Tata Steel** donated Vouchers so that families from the Women's Refuge could enjoy a wonderful Christmas Party, paying for decorations and food. Tata Steel also had a gift collection amongst its staff and donated them to the children within the Refuge. Creative Support also received support from Tata Steel, receiving a voucher to pay for a lovely Christmas lunch for residents. Tata have also donated funds of £1000 for equipment and a further £20,000 to Café Indie to support the development of GROW.

Due to relationships developed through the Brokerage Service, **DHL** have also been active in supporting local groups. Stonecroft House, Leonard Cheshire Home has received support to decorate rooms and tidy the gardens, and some cash donations. DLH have also contributed £10,000 towards the development of GROW and Café Indie.



**Mason, Baggott and Garton** are also a great contributor to the local voluntary and community sector, providing free legal advice to VANL Member organisations.



**Rotary Club of Scunthorpe Pentagon** have worked with the Volunteer Centre to deliver a community information event in February 2015, bringing together local organisations for the benefit of local people at Greeson Hall. Whilst it wasn't well attended by community members, local groups used the opportunity to network.



And finally, the Volunteer Centre begins to work towards renewing its quality accreditation through the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). We were proud to achieve the award for the first time two years ago, which measured the brokerage service against 6 areas of work. We are now working towards re-accreditation in December 2015.

The Volunteer Centre branding can only be used by organisations that have achieved VCQA and only one organisation per area can hold the award.

Things are different this year because I have been working in both North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire, commissioned by VANEL to deliver their volunteer brokerage service, as well as VANL's. VCQA will be achieved in partnership with VANEL, aligning the Volunteer Centre brokerage activities across both counties. Our aim is to provide a consistent service across both areas for both organisations and volunteers. So whilst this year has brought new challenges, it has also been an exciting year full of new opportunities.

Jacky Birkett, Volunteer Centre Manager



# CHOICES Clinics

This year we continued to provide support to five schools within North Lincolnshire.

What we do:

- We make contact with young people in their chosen setting to gain an understanding of their lifestyle and to build mutual respect.
- We provide information on healthy lifestyle choices, and encourage young people to explore their attitudes towards issues such as alcohol, sex, drugs, self-esteem, bullying, community, etc. in a responsible manner.
- We work to support young people in making informed decisions about forming and sustaining a range of relationships, with friends, parents, partners, and the wider community.
- We aim to reduce the number of early/unplanned pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and terminations in young people.
- We operate the C Card scheme, and access to condoms as appropriate.
- We work to bridge the gaps in understanding between young people and their local communities, to improve the quality of life in the area.
- We work with partner agencies to increase local service delivery to young people.

## Project Stats

In the April 2014 to July 2015 period the Street Talk Team have worked within 4 schools and made contact with 2795 young people, 1501 males and 1294 females and distributed 7800 condoms and carried out 106 Chlamydia tests. During this time we have discussed issues around Alcohol and Emergency Contraception, Breast and Testicular Cancer, Aids, Drugs, Exam Stress and Mental Health, Fire Safety, Healthy eating and exercise, Staying Safe, Sun Safety, Pregnancy, Sexual Health & saying No, Self Harming, Child Sexual Exploitation and smoking cessation.

If this is a service you would like to see within your school you can contact Ann-Marie Loader on 01724 845155 for more information.

## Street Outreach Programme (Working Girls)

Street Outreach teams offer a valuable support service to some of the people most deeply excluded from their communities. This work is challenging and requires workers to be attentive, proactive and persistent, to understand the individual needs of each service user. Movement in to mainstream support services is key to addressing the difficulties faced by street sex

We have seen a rise in homeless people accessing our services, we aim to support them where possible and signpost those to appropriate services as and when needed. Thanks to Safer Neighbourhoods this project is able to continue for another year!

workers and substance misusers who are not already engaged in structured treatment, and street outreach is the most direct engagement point for this.

Street-based sex workers are the sex workers most at risk, but are also vulnerable members of society for reasons other than their involvement in sex work. This partnership will provide help and support to Street Sex Workers in North Lincolnshire between June 2014 and March 2015; specifically the project aims to engage with Street Sex Workers, deliver effective and robust psychosocial support and harm reduction interventions that include contraception, needle exchange, and Blood-Borne Virus screening and testing.

The project further aims to assertively link clients into wider health care via supported referrals and to co-ordinate intelligence. We share this intelligence appropriately and safely with key partners. These interventions aim to target known 'Kerb-Crawlers' and reduce numbers of victims of rape and child sex exploitation. The project works closely with North Lincs CCTV to locate hot spots, maintain safety and obtain intelligence. This project, which is funded by Safer Neighbourhoods, is going from strength to strength with a great partnership approach from various services.

We have seen a rise in homeless people accessing our services, we aim to support them where possible and signpost those to appropriate services as and when needed. Thanks to Safer Neighbourhoods this project is able to continue for another year!

## Project Stats

Throughout the whole project we have made contact with 61 clients of these contacts 42 are female and 19 male, 376 condoms have been issued (Femidoms & lubricant also issued). We are now engaging with and supporting 10 homeless people in partnership with The Forge.

## Youth Smoking Cessation Pilot

Next year we will be building on our success improving the health and wellbeing of young people in schools by delivering a pilot project to reduce smoking prevalence among children and young people in education settings.

There are two components to this work:

1. To develop and deliver an intervention to reduce the uptake of smoking.
2. To develop and deliver a range of interventions to support smoking pupils to quit smoking.

There is not a proven effective model for providing support to stop smoking for children and young people. It is the intention that an experimental approach will be taken to identify models of support that may prove effective.

The pilot scheme proved successful so we have now been given additional funding to extend the service into additional secondary schools throughout North Lincolnshire.

## Project Stats

Throughout the project we have engaged with a total of 261 Males and 214 Females of which 37 males and 49 females have signed up to receive stop smoking support, this has ranged from CO2 readings, various discussions and working through work books to highlight issues and assess young people's needs.

So far we have had 13 young people QUIT smoking for four weeks or more and 46 who have reduced their smoking to less than half if not more to when they first started with us.

We have been giving young people various information through this period including 106 leaflets and information for parents, siblings and other family members, young people have been returning to the sessions thanking cleanlungs for supporting them and given them information for parents to quit or reduce smoking. Young people have reported back to the group that 11 parents have reduced smoking and 6 referrals have been made to Solutions 4 Health/GP.

If this is a service you would like to see within your school you can contact Ann-Marie Loader on 01724 845155 for more information.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Lynda Whitfield, Joanne Laughton, Tracey Jones and Helen Kirk for supporting me with the various projects mentioned above; you are an amazing team it's a pleasure working with you!

*Ann-Marie Loader – Manager*

# Café INDIEpendent

Cafe INDIEpendent is a social enterprise (Company Limited by Guarantee) created by VANL as a wholly owned subsidiary which provides training and development opportunities for young people, many of whom are furthest away from employment. Including young people in trouble, leaving care, with a disability or facing multiple barriers to work.

Established in February 2014 as a High Street Café and Music House, in arguably one of Scunthorpe's most iconic buildings it has continued its development, quickly establishing itself as a talking point for the town and a hub of community involvement and development.

This year we have worked with 145 young people and have had significant positive impact with 85 participants moving into gainful employment.

We have further developed and refined the programme itself - building in more opportunities for young people to take on more responsibility and develop communication and leadership skills in the training of new participants. We support participants to develop and deliver issue based workshops to the group, developing skills, understanding and presentation skills in the process.

We have run several youth projects, from film projects and concerts to a youth club (attended by 35 young people) to encourage different pathways into the programme and ensure a wide reach and engagement with young people who stand to benefit most.

We have further developed the progression pathways from the project, linking to other employability projects, training organisations and employers, ensuring access to positive activity and personal development is continued.

We have established ourselves as a community hub, recognised for impacting upon the lives of young people. We have delivered a wide variety of quality events to address social issues. 91% of people commenting on venue rated it as 5 stars.

We have showcased and highlighted the work of young entrepreneurs through events, providing a route to market products, the opportunity to hone communication skills, encourage positive attitudes towards young people and recruit mentors. We have supported 24 young entrepreneurs, with a focus on process over product, embedding social conscience in



## Suspended coffees

Suspended coffees...It's about more than coffee.

Since opening you lovely lot have bought 137 suspended coffees that we have then given to people in need. People who are homeless, people who are struggling and people who just need a friendly place with a friendly face to treat them as human beings. The difference something so simple can make is powerful.

So, thanks you lot, you're amazing ☺

- *Quote from Facebook*

their development. Two enterprises in particular - Know Media and LTBL - have firm foundations and their future looks secure.

Young people do not only gain work experience, they work with adults and across different backgrounds through various groups - such as Knit Happens, LGBT, our own Events Group and Music Group, Scunthorpe Steel Town, Fetes and Carnivals - building positive relationships and breaking down barriers. The community recognise the project for its core purpose and have responded, generating goodwill and cohesion in the community.

*David Plumtree, Café Independent Project Co-ordinator*

## Winterton 2022



Winterton 2022 is the name for the Big Local programme in Winterton.

The Big Lottery Fund in England is investing £200 million in 150 urban and rural communities that have been overlooked for funding in the past. Each Big Local area receives at least £1m Lottery funding over at least 10 years, which residents themselves are in charge of spending on ways to improve their community,

but they are not allowed to become a constituted body, so have to work through a "Local Trusted Organisation" or LTO. VANL are the LTO for the group of local residents who run this in Winterton, and now employ a part time Coordinator on their behalf. Things are beginning to take off.

We have entered into an agreement with Crosby Employment Bureau to assist in funding up to 5 Apprentices, ideally based with Winterton companies. CEB are now approaching possible host employers.

We are working on another Street Party to be held on May 25<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday in Winterton Town Centre. It will be bigger and better than previous year's events, with Segways, Laser Quest and Rocketball, as well the usual entertainment on stage, street entertainers, bouncy castles and stalls. The event will give us a chance to engage with local residents about what we doing and consult on future plans.

We have started working in partnership with the Credit Union to encourage people to start saving, and switch from payday lenders, and to generally promote the work of the Credit Union in Winterton.



*Chris Ellerby, Winterton 2022 Co-ordinator*

We have acquired a mobile office for events and ‘surgeries’ by local organisations in the town. Some work needs to be done to convert the unit ready for use, but this will be available in time for our May Street Party.

We are promoting Winterton businesses. We have compiled a list of all businesses in Winterton and are about to launch a ‘Buy Local Buy Winterton’ campaign, which will feature posters in shop windows and business premises, web promotion and will also be promoted at the Street Party.

We have recently run a 4 page colour supplement in local magazine *Out and About in Winterton* promoting what we’ve been doing, and our future plans. There are a whole range of initiatives planned for 2015-16 and the group is going from strength to strength.

*Chris Ellerby – Winterton 2022 Co-ordinator*

## Community Development

Development work includes helping new groups to get started, helping a few older groups to close down, and arranging the support that groups need in between.

The Poirier Foundation invited us to go with them to view a facility in Yorkshire which provided the kind of service they were hoping to provide here in North Lincolnshire. During the visit we began writing a business plan for the group, and with further support the group are now up and running, registered as a Community Interest Organisation (CIO) and beginning to achieve their aims.

Trudy, Helen and I undertook training on Experience Led Commissioning for the Health Service. This is a method of research similar to the participatory appraisal we normally use, and while adding to our skills it enabled us to help with the consultations so that new pathways through the health service experience could be drafted. Reports so far are that patients are finding that things run much more smoothly.

Towards the end of 2014 I took a training course on social enterprise to help me advise people thinking of setting up a new organisation. Many people now have some superb ideas, but need to be able to draw a salary so in some cases social enterprises would suit their needs better than forming a voluntary group.

As part of my work supporting Winterton 2022 (the Big Local project in Winterton), Chris Ellerby and I have been to training and networking sessions in York and London.

The Community Interest Group has 237 members, from voluntary and community groups, charities, statutory organisations and press, circulating articles including local groups’ news stories, events and new rules and regulations for charities. This work enables local groups to publicise their work to a wider audience.

Following an introductory meeting with Rob Malyan of Awards for All, I helped organise a Meet the Funders event in Scunthorpe which was very well received. Groups were able to talk to the funders and better understand what they needed to do to make successful funding bids.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my work is networking groups together. Because of my work in community development, I know people in many walks of life and in many varieties of community group. Sometimes, I have a 'lightbulb moment' and am able to put two or more groups in touch with each other so that they can work together and achieve something larger. If we can network over a cup of tea, then that seems to oil the wheels very well!

In Gary's absence, I had the interesting experience of offering funding advice. While I'm trained to do this, for a long time I haven't had a lot of practice because Gary's so good at it! However, my skills are now back up to date and one of the resulting applications has been successful (at the time of writing: we await results on others.)

At the end of the year a volunteer joined me to help with writing articles for publication. A different point of view has helped rejuvenated the publicity services in the weekly Community Voice column I write for the Scunthorpe Telegraph, and the Community Interest Group stories on the website. At the end of March 2015 we had 1120 followers on our Twitter page, following the news stories put out through the Community Interest Group. The CIG itself consisted of 230 members who receive alerts about news stories, as well as having the opportunity to send in stories themselves.

Any group is very welcome to send in news about what they are doing for dissemination to the mailing list and on social media, and of course we can always use more volunteers!

*Carol Thornton, Development Worker*

## Funding Advice and Development Work

Over the last year we have seen some very successful projects come to fruition with the help of grant awards from a variety of Funders. We have helped groups apply to North Lincs Council's Community Grant Fund which continues to be particularly helpful at both ends of the funding scale. Some of the groups who have been successful in this respect with VANL's help include Scunthorpe Model Railway Club; Grange Farm Hobbies Centre; Owston Ferry Methodist Chapel; St Paul's Church Hall; Epworth Imperial Hall; Cadney Church Hall and Saxby All Saints PCC. The Community Grant Fund has lots of advantages, particularly in that its focus is exclusively North Lincolnshire and it provides a both a source of small grant funding or larger capital amounts which can be used as match funding for larger projects.



*Debbie Clark inspecting the new kitchen at Cadney cum Howsham Village Hall, funded with the aid of a Community Grant Fund Award.*

In last year's Annual Report I advised that one of our best Funders – WREN – had announced it was closing its landfill site at Winterton which meant that most of North Lincolnshire would no longer meet the Wren funding criteria of 'falling within ten miles of a Wren landfill site'. This would have had a significant negative effect on grant funding for community groups in our area as in 2013 alone Wren grants in the Humber area totalled some £271,000. However, the good news is that Wren has reversed this decision, the Winterton site is still open and hence so is the Wren Community Fund for community groups in our area. The maximum award which can be realised from Wren is currently £50,000 and although only a really good, comprehensive application would succeed in applying for an award of this amount, we have helped groups with successful applications. For example, Goxhill Memorial Hall received a grant of £56,713 (when the maximum allowed this) Kimberley Performing Arts £37,910 and Coronation Hall Owston Ferry £20,000 – all with help in the application process from VANL.

*"On behalf of the members I would like to say a huge 'thank you' for all your help in receiving the grant for the new heating system".*

Another local Fund which groups should consider looking at is the SSE Sustainable Development Fund. The funds basically come from the windfarms in our area and again the advantage is that this fund is restricted to the North Lincolnshire Council area. Although this Fund is relatively new we have been successful in helping Althorpe Methodist Chapel apply for funding for a new heating boiler. The

Church Secretary, Mrs Betty Oldridge said “*on behalf of the members I would like to say a huge ‘thank you’ for all your help in receiving the grant for the new heating system*”.

Finally I am sure many of our Members will at some time have come into contact with Margaret Kirk, the Village Hall Advisor with Humber and Wolds Community Council. Margaret has recently retired and I am sure we all wish her well for the future.

*Gary Allen, Funding and Development Worker*

## Office and Customers Service

I am now in my 23<sup>rd</sup> year of working at Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire and still enjoying my work. Ann Marie still works here, but has diversified and now spends time working on her “Projects” so I have taken over some of her office-based work, including DBS Checks and office services, which has resulted in an increase in my work load on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays, my working week.

We now provide a Disclosure and Barring Service and up to date we have processed around 220 applications; we are now just waiting for confirmation from the Government office that we can become an umbrella organisation ourselves and thus increase our profitability and service.

Along with attending the Voluntary Action Board Meetings and the Finance and General Purpose Committee meetings to take minutes, I have taken over the preparation and minute taking of the Café Indie Board Meetings on a monthly basis, the VANL Staff meetings, co-ordinating and booking staff holidays and also arrange appointments for the Volunteer Centre.

Over the last year we have had 17 new member organisations joining us and I look forward to working with them. They are: North Lincs & Humberside Sailing Club; Epworth Thurlow Pre-School Playgroup; Brigg Live Arts; Fresh Steps; Friends of St Lukes; Amber Project; Outcasts Cricket Club; North Lincolnshire Women’s Aid; Scunthorpe and District Model Railway Club; Althorpe Methodist Church; Greeson Hall Community Association; Crowle Community Hall Management Committee; Penderels Trust; Sea Cadets; Kirton in Lindsey Exhibition Endowment and Humber Taiko.

Use of Volnet has shown that over the year I have got over 500 activities to my credit, and that does not include answering the telephone and dealing with customers as it would be impossible to record those because of the volume.

Although the Common Treasury service is diminishing because of the wear and tear on the games, we still have a few tried and tested ones which go out especially in the summer for fetes, garden parties etc.

*Liz Crowston, Office Manager*

# Finance

The finance section has been kept very busy with the varied demands of VANL, its projects and needs of its member groups for help with their finances. We provide Bookkeeping for 3 organisations, Payroll for 16 organisations and one-to-one training with these, mostly by Rachel Williams, who works 4 days a week for VANL.

The member groups served by our Community Accountancy vary from very small groups completely run by a small committee of volunteers to significant incorporated registered charities, which own or rent their own land and buildings, employ staff and undertake a substantial level of activities for the benefit of the communities and people of North Lincolnshire. We have prepared and annual accounts for 48 organisations and completed an independent examination.

A new area of work for us has been providing a payroll service for individuals with a personal budget, employing their own care staff and Personal Assistants and we look forward to expanding this service next year.

Challenges to look forward to next year – Auto Enrolment.

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2015

		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2015 Funds	Total 2014 Funds
	Note	Designated	General			
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
Incoming resources from generated funds:						
Voluntary income		-	107,268	414,220	521,489	542,062
Less: relating to 2014/15		-	-	(104,386)	(104,386)	(29,991)
Net Voluntary income	3.	-	107,268	309,834	417,102	512,071
Activities for generating funds	4.	-	19,657	-	19,657	12,625
Investment income	8.	2,826	1,603	-	4,429	5,089
Incoming resources from charitable activities	4.	-	36,752	-	36,752	33,728
Total incoming resources		2,826	165,281	309,834	477,940	563,513
<b>Resources expended</b>						
Charitable activities	5.	-	(150,390)	(320,086)	(470,476)	(560,130)
Governance costs	5.	-	(26,011)	-	(26,011)	(34,820)
Total resources expended		-	(176,401)	(320,086)	(496,487)	(594,950)
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers</b>		2,826	(11,120)	(10,252)	(18,547)	(31,437)
<b>Transfers between Funds</b>	15.	(13,221)	(22,418)	35,639	-	-
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognized gains and losses</b>		(10,395)	(33,538)	25,387	(18,547)	(31,437)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	11.	2,543	-	-	2,543	1,602
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		(7,853)	(33,538)	25,387	(16,004)	(29,835)
<b>Reconciliation of Funds:</b>						
<b>Funds brought forward at 1 April 2014</b>		219,011	275,958	75,157	570,126	599,961
<b>Total funds carried forward at 31 March 2015</b>	16.	211,158	242,420	100,544	554,122	570,126

**Balance Sheet  
as at 31 March 2015**

	Notes	£	2015 £	£	2014 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>					
Tangible Assets	10		210,145		190,382
Investments	11		<u>97,011</u>		<u>91,643</u>
			307,156		282,025
<b>Current Assets</b>					
Debtors	12	22,921		27,237	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>416,918</u>		<u>361,517</u>	
		439,839		388,754	
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(192,872)</u>		<u>(100,653)</u>	
<b>Net Current Assets</b>			<u>246,967</u>		<u>288,101</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>			<u>554,122</u>		<u>570,126</u>
<b>Financed by:</b>					
Restricted funds	16		100,544		75,157
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds	15		211,158		219,011
Other Charitable funds	15		<u>242,420</u>		<u>275,858</u>
			554,122		570,126

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The financial statements were approved by the Board on August 2015.



Mr. A Ransome  
Chairman

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

# Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire

## Membership April 2014 – March 2015

ACT FAST North Lincolnshire  
Action for Children Kaleidoscope Project  
Age UK North Lincolnshire  
All Saints Church Belton  
Althorpe Methodist Church  
Alzheimer's Society North & North East  
Lincolnshire  
Amber Project  
Ancholme Valley Heritage  
Appleby Parish Council  
Appleby Village Hall Committee  
Arthritis Care - Scunthorpe Branch  
Barnetby Under Fives  
Barrow Methodist Church  
Barrow on Humber Village Hall  
Barton and Brigg Methodist Circuit  
Barton Arts  
Barton Belles  
Barton Evangelical Church  
Barton Lions  
Barton on Humber Civic Society  
Barton Town Council  
Belton Playing Fields Association  
Better Barrow Community Project  
Bottesford Town Council  
Bottesford with Ashby PCC  
Bottesford Women's Institute  
Brigg & District Breast Cancer Support Group  
Brigg & District Flower Society  
Brigg Gateway Club  
Brigg Senior Citizens  
Brigg Town Council  
Broughton Town Council  
Broughton WI  
Burton on Stather Playing Fields Assn  
Burton Stather Village Hall Committee  
Burton Stather WI  
Burton Upon Stather Parish Council  
Cadney cum Howsham Village Hall Committee  
Café Church  
Carers' Support Centre  
Carlton Education & Enterprise  
Castledyke Ltd @ Barton Children's Centre  
Central Community Centre Association  
CPRE North Lincolnshire

Creative Support  
Crosby Community Association  
Crosby Employment Bureau  
Crosby Forward  
Crosby One  
Crowle & Ealand Charter Group  
Crowle & Ealand Regeneration Group  
Crowle and Thorne Moors Peat Railway Society  
Crowle Community Hall  
Crowle Lights Committee  
Cruse Bereavement Care  
Daisy Lincs  
Diamond Jubilee Town Hall  
Empathy  
Epworth Mechanics Institute Library  
Falls Prevention Group - North Lincs  
FreshStart, Brigg & District  
Fresh Steps  
Friends of Althorpe and Keadby Primary School  
Friends of Healey Road Allotments  
Friends of Scunthorpe Co-operative Junior Choir  
Friends of St Hugh's  
Friends of St Luke's  
Friends of the Barton Line  
Frodingham After School Club  
Goxhill Methodist Church  
Grange Farm Community Centre  
Grasp the Nettle  
Grimsby & Scunthorpe Rape Crisis  
Hallcroft Residents Association  
Haxey & Westwoodside Heritage Society  
Haxey Parish Council  
Headway - Scunthorpe & Area  
Heart to Heart  
Hibaldstow Parish Council  
Hibaldstow Preschool  
Hibaldstow Village Hall  
Humber and Wolds Rural Community Council  
Humber Taiko  
Humbercare  
Humberside Chinese Association  
Humberside County Bowls Development Assn  
Humberside Federation of Women's Institute  
Iron Will Cancer Support Group

Isle of Axholme & Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership	Scunthorpe Male Voice Choir
Isle of Axholme Physically Handicapped Society	Scunthorpe Polish Social Centre
Kay Traviss Youth Dance Group	Scunthorpe Sea Cadets
Kimberley Performing Arts Centre Ltd	Scunthorpe Solo Club
Kirton in Lindsey Exhibition Endowment	SGMWG
Kirton in Lindsey Society	Sounds Right
Kirton in Lindsey Town Council	St Andrew's Church
Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research Winterton & District Branch	St Andrew's Church
LIFE (Pregnancy Care Scunthorpe)	St Augustine Webster RC Church
Lincoln & Lindsey Blind Society	St Bartholomew's Church Appleby
Lincoln Gardens Community Assn	St Hugh's Church
Lincolnshire House	St Hugh's Church Lads and Girls Brigade
Lindsey Lodge Hospice	St Hugh's Communication & Interaction Specialist C
Linkage Community Trust	St John's Ambulance (Barton Division)
Lloyds Avenue/Kingsway Neighbourhood Watch	St Nicholas Church Ulceby
Lodgemore Community Association	St Oswald's Parish Church
Luddington Village Hall	Stepping Stones Pre-School
Madani Community Development	Swinburne & New Westcliff Residents Association
Madani Youth Organisation	Tatterfoals Morris Team
Magic Moments for Autistic Kids	The Elderberries
Mencap Pathway	The Forge Project Limited
Messingham Village Hall	Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum
Midweek Ramblers	Thornton Curtis Village Group
New County Choral Society	Thornton Curtis WI
New Holland Parish Council	Tin Pot Arts Education Collective
New Holland WI	Ulceby Heritage Society
North Lincolnshire Credit Union Ltd	Ulceby Parish Council
North Lincolnshire Music & Drama	Ulceby Pre-School
North Lincolnshire Women's Aid	Ulceby Village Association
North Lincs & Goole PIG	Victim Support
Outcasts Cricket Club	Viking Resource Centre
Owston Ferry Coronation Hall	Warley Road Residents Association
Park Community Association	Waterside Artist's Co-operative Ltd
Penderels Trust	WEA Barton Branch
Queen Street School Preservation Society	West Butterwick Village Hall
Residents Unity Group	Westcliff Community Association
Riddings Community Association	Westcliff Neighbourhood Drop-In Centre
Royal Voluntary Services	Whitton Village Hall Committee
Samaritans	Winteringham Village Hall
Saxby All Saints PCC	Winterton Agricultural Society
Scunthorpe & District Choral Society	Winterton Disabled Club
Scunthorpe & District MIND	Winterton Rangers Football Club
Scunthorpe & District Model Railway Club	Winterton Senior Citizens Forum
Scunthorpe & District MS Society	Winterton Town Council
Scunthorpe and Glanford Remedial Club	Wootton Village Hall
Scunthorpe Berkeley Lodge Townswomen's Guild	Workers Educational Association (Scunthorpe Branch)
Scunthorpe Citizens Advice Bureau	Worlaby Parish Council
Scunthorpe Congregational Church	Wrawby Pre School
Scunthorpe Hospital League of Friends	