

Voluntary
Action
Shetland



ANNUAL REPORT

2021 – 2022

**SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY
AND VOLUNTARY ACTION**

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

WILLIE SHANNON



We are now seeing light shining at the end of what has been a long, dark Covid tunnel, which is encouraging and uplifting. The impact on so many lives over the past couple of years should not be underestimated.

However, what has been clear, especially over the last 12 months is the extraordinary effort that has been made by the VAS team, the groups that we work with and the many volunteers in our community. These have been beacons of light that, despite it all, gave us hope for the future and something to hang on to.

We had to adapt to working in a different way, particularly as lockdown evolved and this was done successfully through a number of events: Virtual Volunteers' Week, Trustees' Week, Saltire Awards – and many others.

I have always thought that the mark of a good society is how well it looks after the most vulnerable. VAS and the groups that they work with and support help to make sure that those in need of the services that Market House and the Third Sector provides, can access them in a friendly and welcoming environment. This is so important at the best of times but even more so over the last 12 months as people have started to lift their heads and wondered what the world was going to be like as we emerged from lockdown. It is a huge testimony to VAS staff and community groups that have worked hard to ensure the services that make a positive difference to people's lives, are there when they need them.

Lynn Tulloch has been in post for a full year and is settling in extremely well as Executive Officer. All organisations change and Lynn has brought a fresh approach, which has been well received by our partners in the community and the VAS team.

Finally, I want to pay tribute to my fellow Directors on the Board of VAS, who give up their time willingly and contribute because they care and are passionate about the work that VAS does as the umbrella body for the Third Sector in Shetland. What we do and the support that is provided, has never been more needed. Please read the Annual Report 21/22 to get a peerie flavour of VAS.

VAS BOARD DIRECTORS 2021/2022

MR WILLIAM SHANNON	CHAIRPERSON
MR MAGNUS FLAWS	VICE CHAIRPERSON
MRS OLIVE MCLEOD	FINANCIAL DIRECTOR
MR ALEC MILLER	DIRECTOR
MRS MARILYN STEWART	DIRECTOR
MR WILLIE HENDERSON	DIRECTOR
MR ALLISON DUNCAN	DIRECTOR
MR STEVEN LAIDLAW	DIRECTOR – APPOINTED DEC 2021



**I HAVE ALWAYS
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VULNERABLE**



VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND

Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) is Shetland's Third Sector Interface. VAS provides a single point of access for support and advice for the Third Sector within Shetland. There are 32 Third Sector Interfaces (TSI's) in Scotland with one situated in each local authority area in Scotland.



TSI's play an important role in the Third Sector landscape. They are a key point of intelligence about local third sector organisations and volunteering. They understand the local landscape and how it effects the third sector's ability to contribute to local outcomes and national strategies (such as health and social care, community empowerment). TSI's are well positioned to identify support needs for local community groups, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and around volunteering. TSI's can identify third sector issues and perspectives that can feed into both local and national policy.

The role and aim of Shetland's TSI is:

TO BE A CENTRAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

- About the Third Sector Locally.
- About Local and National Policy and how it might affect the Third Sector, communities and citizens.
- About how the Third Sector can contribute to those agendas.

TO BE THE VOICE

- Ensuring a strong Third Sector Voice at a Strategic Level within Local Planning Structures and Nationally.

TO BUILD CAPACITY

- Developing the capacity of volunteering, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprise to achieve positive change

TO CONNECT

- Providing Leadership, vision and co-ordination for the Local Third Sector to better respond to local priorities, including through partnership and collaboration

SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

VAS's regular Voluntary and Independent Sector Partnership (VISP) newsletters on Funding has helped to ensure organisations were aware of funding opportunities both for crisis funding and other programmes.

The VISP General newsletter has also helped organisations stay up to date with local news, sector developments including changes to legislation and good practice, consultations, resources and events in the current and changing environment.

In their recent newsletter survey based on 22 responses:





**THIS IS A GREAT NEWSLETTER, AND HELPS TREMENDOUSLY WITH
LOOKING FOR NEW FUNDERS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES. THANK YOU –
MAKES MY LIFE SO MUCH EASIER!**



41 FUNDING NEWSLETTERS CIRCULATED

41 GENERAL INTEREST NEWSLETTERS CIRCULATED

84 INFORMATION E-BULLETINS

227 RECIPIENTS REPRESENTING 197 VOLUNTARY GROUPS RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTERS



**AMAZING AMOUNT OF
INFORMATION THAT I WOULD
NOT KNOW ABOUT IF YOU
DIDN'T SEND IT OUT.**

**THE CONTENT IS GOOD ... THE SPLIT
BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS
HELPS TO JUMP TO THE SECTION
YOU WANT TO READ.**



VOICE OF THE SECTOR

VAS continued to represent the voluntary sector on a number of strategic partnerships and working groups, ensuring voluntary groups have a voice through VAS and other third sector organisations.

138 MEETINGS ATTENDED AT 36 MULTI-AGENCY GROUPS

**16 ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS FOR THIRD SECTOR'S CONTRIBUTION ON STRATEGIC
PLANS, ANNUAL REPORTS AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENTS**

In their recent Strategic Lead survey based on 7 responses:

• All 7 agreed that:

- ☐ VAS was fulfilling the role to maintain an understanding of the Third Sector in order to represent at strategic level
- ☐ VAS's role has enabled Third Sector Organisations to confidently, contribute to policy locally and nationally
- ☐ VAS's role increased Commissioners/Key Influencers understanding of the role of the third sector in contributing to strategic delivery
- ☐ VAS's role supported stronger existing partnerships and helped develop new strategic partnerships
- ☐ VAS was fulfilling the role to be the lead organisation for engagement with the Third Sector

• 6 out of 7 agreed that VAS increased Commissioner's/Key Influencers access to a range of third sector organisations that can contribute to local outcomes



I THINK VAS AND THEIR STAFF DO A REALLY GOOD JOB OF ENGAGEMENT WITH PUBLIC SECTOR AND SUPPORTING THE WORK THAT GOES ON



Quote from a strategic lead

Full details of all the groups VAS is represented on can be found on their new website:

www.voluntaryactionshetland.com

BUILDING CAPACITY

Support

VAS's aim is to provide flexible and tailored support to third sector organisations to build their capacity and improve their capabilities to deliver good quality, vital services which support people in Shetland. VAS promote good practice, provide training, advice and support collaboration and networking within the sector. Covid-19 has continued to impact the delivery of services to the Voluntary and Third Sector organisations this year, hence VAS adapted by providing more and more one to one support, training and networking opportunities over online platforms like Zoom and Teams.

106 ORGANISATIONS RECEIVED ONE TO ONE ADVICE ON A RANGE OF TOPICS

136 PVG'S PROCESSED FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS/CHARITIES

51 INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS UNDERTAKEN FOR GROUPS

7 CHARITIES PROVIDED WITH MONTHLY PAYROLL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Some of the key issues staff supported on were:

- Identifying appropriate legal structures for organisations
- Charity registration, becoming an incorporated organisation through the Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) process and dissolving organisations
- Covid – Health & Safety procedures and Risk Assessments
- Insurance
- Funding
- Ensuring the right policies and procedures were in place, including General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), Conflict of Interest etc
- Volunteer burnout and the need for succession planning to recruit new committee members
- Bank accounts for voluntary organisations

Training

Training delivered to groups and organisations last year included:

- Roles and responsibility training for Trustees
- Introduction to Cyber Resilience
- Risk Assessment/Cleaning Training/Food hygiene for safe reopening of buildings
- Mental health awareness
- Implementation of the UNCRC
- EU EXIT and Impact on Third Sector
- Fuel Bank Foundation Training
- Use of the Open Learn platform for learners
- Bespoke Development Training specific for charity group

9 TRAINING SESSIONS DELIVERED ONLINE AND IN PERSON



IF IT WERE NOT FOR VAS, MY WORK WOULD BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT

WE KNOW WHAT VAS OFFERS AND THE SERVICE IS REALLY GOOD AND HELPFUL AS WELL AS KEEPING UP TO DATE THROUGH THE NEWSLETTERS AND FINDING INFORMATION. IT IS A ONE STOP SHOP FOR THE THIRD SECTOR AND IT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE COMMUNITY LED ORGANISATION IF THIS SERVICE WAS REDUCED OR STOPPED



In their recent community feedback survey based on 73 responses:

79%

**RATED THE SERVICE
THEY RECEIVED FROM
VAS AS EXCELLENT**

51%

**OF RESPONDERS SAID THEY
WERE NOT SURE WHERE
THEY WOULD GO IF VAS DID
NOT EXIST TO GET ADVICE,
SUPPORT AND HELP**

100%

**AGREED THAT VAS IS THE
KEY POINT OF CONTACT
FOR INFORMATION AND
KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE
THIRD SECTOR LOCALLY**

83%

**AGREED THAT BY RECEIVING THE
REGULAR FUNDING AND GENERAL
NEWSLETTERS THEY WERE MORE
INFORMED ABOUT RELEVANT
TRAINING/FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES, LEGISLATION
AND POLICY**

97%

**AGREED THAT WHEN ACCESSING
SUPPORT, VAS UNDERSTOOD THE
ORGANISATION AND ITS NEEDS
AND ADAPTED THEIR SUPPORT
ACCORDINGLY TO FIT WITH THEIR
REQUIREMENTS**

96%

**AGREED THAT AS A RESULT OF
SUPPORT ACCESSED FROM
VAS, ORGANISATIONS DELIVER
IMPROVED SERVICES**

96%

**AGREED THAT AS A RESULT OF USING
VAS SERVICES, ORGANISATIONS/GROUPS
FELT CONFIDENT IN DEVELOPING
THEIR ORGANISATION/GROUP
FURTHER**

68%

**AGREED THAT, AS A RESULT OF
VAS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY
TO ENGAGE IN A NUMBER OF
FACILITATED ACTIVITIES, ORGANISATIONS
FELT MORE CONNECTED WITH
OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

45%

**AGREED THAT AS A RESULT OF
VAS CONNECTING WITH ORGANISATIONS
THEY FELT BETTER ABLE TO
INFLUENCE AND CONTRIBUTE
TO SHETLAND LOCAL AND
NATIONAL POLICY**



**WE HAVE USED THE SERVICE OF VAS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS NOW
AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MET BY VERY FRIENDLY, APPROACHABLE AND
HELPFUL STAFF. THEY ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND HAVE HELPED US TO
UNDERSTAND WHERE WE MAY BE STRUGGLING WITH ISSUES**



Funding

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Distribution – VAS received £73,265.82 from the Scottish Government to respond to the mental health need arising from the pandemic. The ambition of the funding was to support initiatives, which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level and working collaboratively with a Local Partnership to establish local needs and a process to distribute the funds throughout Shetland.

19 COMMUNITY GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS RECEIVED FUNDING TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Celebration of National Weeks

Trustees Week – 1st to 7th November 2021 – A highlight of the year was Trustees Week, during which VAS hosted a Roles and Responsibilities training taster session and held an Ask the Trustee Question & Answer panel with 5 local trustees. There was also a targeted social media campaign through Trustees week, with spotlights on a number of local volunteers who are committee members, who shared their story about their volunteering role.

Virtual Volunteers Week – 1st to 7th June 2021 – Volunteers' Week is a time to recognise and thank volunteers. During an exceptionally difficult year, people have taken the time to volunteer and made a huge difference to people and their communities – just as they do every year. The theme for this year's Volunteers' Week was '**A time to say thanks**'. VAS Volunteering asked volunteer involving organisations if they would like to take the time to share a thanks to recognise volunteers that helped during the last 12 months and to thank those who usually volunteer but have not been able to because of the pandemic and shared these posts through social media. The VAS team also came together as an organisation to share their thanks too.



Promoting Volunteering

VAS Volunteering has had a busy year supporting volunteers to find suitable volunteering opportunities and supporting organisations to recruit and reward their volunteers. They currently have 65 active volunteering opportunities registered, with 23 having been promoted last year.

As things started getting back to 'normal' following all the COVID-19 restrictions, staff returned to work from the office more and were pleased to restart face-to-face meetings with both volunteers and organisations. Volunteer involving organisations have slowly started reopening and recruiting volunteers again which has provided more opportunities as volunteers start to look for placements once more. Last year this was a challenge to find opportunities for increased enquiries regarding volunteering opportunities, as many organisations were not recruiting due to the pandemic. With the restrictions relaxing, the team have also started to go out into the community again promoting volunteering. VAS also recruited a new Youth Volunteering Support worker Lavinia Schmidt in August 21 who is working closely with local schools and youth groups.

3478 ENQUIRIES FROM VOLUNTEERS

1387 ENQUIRIES FROM VOLUNTEER INVOLVING ORGANISATIONS

158 ORGANISATIONS RECEIVED SUPPORT ON RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEERS/POLICY DEVELOPMENT

658 VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS REGISTERED

1049 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS REGISTERED – (820 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS U25/229 ADULT VOLUNTEERS)



THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP WITH THIS AND YOUR HELP THIS YEAR



Quote from Volunteering Involving Organisation who VAS Volunteering have supported in recruiting volunteers by promoting their opportunities

In their recent volunteering survey based on 22 responses:

95%

RESPONDENTS FELT THAT
THE SERVICE THEY RECEIVED
FROM VAS VOLUNTEERING
WAS GOOD/VERY GOOD

100%

RESPONDED GOOD/VERY
GOOD IN THE EASE
OF ACCESSING VAS
VOLUNTEERING
SERVICES

95%

FOUND AT LEAST
ONE VOLUNTEERING
OPPORTUNITY THAT
SUITED THEM

100%

FELT MORE INVOLVED IN
THEIR COMMUNITY BY
VOLUNTEERING

Social media continues to be an important way of communicating and engaging with the Shetland public to promote and celebrate volunteering. VAS volunteering staff have continued to take a targeted approach to Social Media with their promotions such as Virtual Saltire Awards, Shetland Community Spirit Awards and Volunteers Week.

Following on from the success of the 2020 Shetland Community Spirit Awards VAS was delighted to launch the second Shetland Community Spirit Awards. The aim of the Awards was to honour people in Shetland who had shown great initiative and kindness and supported their communities during the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery period and to recognise the amazing volunteering, which had taken place during this time. Their contribution to supporting others throughout such a difficult time has been invaluable and ultimately, volunteers are the golden threads running through our Shetland communities.



Nominations were received during August 2021 and certificates were distributed in September and shared on social media. A final celebration of the recipients was shared via a colour feature in the local newspaper in October.

A total of **48 awards** were handed out to **31 individuals, 12 local shops and 5 organisations.**

VAS would like to say a big thank you to all who nominated and a huge congratulations to all award recipients.



Due to the COVID-19 pandemic VAS was unable to have a Saltire Awards ceremony in March 2021. Instead, VAS commissioned local filmmaker Keiba Clubb to produce a short film to celebrate the awards virtually.

Included in the production were young people who received their awards, people representing local volunteer groups, charities and some great local tunes from young musicians too. The film was launched on the VAS Volunteering Facebook page during Volunteers week in June 2021.

VAS also developed a short version of the film which highlights the benefits of volunteering. This was launched later in the year at the VAS AGM.



Stills from the Saltire Film



IT WAS A BRILLIANT IDEA TO HAVE A FILM MADE AT THIS DIFFICULT TIMES TO CELEBRATE ALL OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SO WELL DONE YOU.



A Volunteer Involving Organisation Said About recognising the recipients of the Saltire Awards by film

CONNECTING PARTNERS

VAS organises and chairs the **Third Sector Forum** – an independent network of third sector organisations in Shetland. The Forum, which normally met monthly in person, has been meeting over Zoom instead. This has enabled members to share information and good practice; identify needs and learn from each other; consult, identify representatives to particular bodies; act as a filter for information to and from the sector; and lobby, both locally and nationally, on issues affecting the sector. Statutory Partners and Commissioner's/Key Influencers were invited to the forum to engage with a range of third sector organisations to see how the Third Sector could support local needs and contribute to local policy and outcomes.

10 THIRD SECTOR FORUMS OCCURRED WITH 22 CHARITABLE GROUPS REPRESENTED

6 THIRD SECTOR FORUM MEETINGS WITH STATUTORY PARTNERS ENGAGEMENTS

Last year VAS continued to support the **Shetland Halls Association** – a membership organisation made up of representatives from Shetland's 50+ public halls. The Association met twice during the year. Following discussions with the halls and other community groups it was decided to create a new **Shetland Community Facilities Network**. Launched in March 2022, the Network is open to the wide range of community groups which manage a facility – from community halls, boating clubs and youth centres to museums and churches. The Network aims to offer peer support, guidance and good practice on common issues from insurance, policies and procedure, net zero strategies, volunteer recruitment, water bills, electricity bills, etc.



VAS also owns and runs **Market House** – Shetland's Third Sector Hub. In Market House, there are 12 resident independent organisations alongside VAS and their projects with a mix of employed staff and volunteers. In addition to this, Market House have several rooms available for hire, with a reduced rate for VAS members. The rooms range from a two person comfortable meeting room to a 30-seater conference room. Since opening in June 2021 after lockdown and working within COVID restrictions VAS have had 1632 room bookings and had 1583 visitors to Market House. Market House also provides a One Stop Shop for third sector organisations which includes photocopying, printing, binding, bulk postage and much more. Information on Market House and relevant costs can be viewed on the new VAS website: www.voluntaryactionshetland.com



VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND PROJECTS

Voluntary Action Shetland has four projects that sit under the umbrella of VAS. Three provide direct delivery services to people in Shetland and the fourth is a literary magazine, published three times a year by VAS.



SHETLAND BEFRIENDING SCHEME

The Shetland Befriending Scheme had some changes within the team last year. Mairi Jamieson who was the 16+ Development Worker took up the post as Project Co-ordinator in April 2021, with Ian Edwards taking up the 16+ Development Worker post in June, 2021.

In April 21 face to face matches were able to resume following guidelines as set

out by the Scottish Government. Service users and volunteers were provided with PPE and risk assessments were carried out before each meeting. For those still not keen to resume face to face within their match, telephone and zoom support continued.

Staff have delivered 12 group activities which have been offered to both those in a match and those not matched and through this 45 service users have benefited from them. Some feedback from parents/carers and those that attended:



Befriending team.

Photo: Ian Edwards



ALTHOUGH HE WASN'T ABLE TO ATTEND IT WAS GREAT FOR HIM TO BE INCLUDED AND OFFERED THE GROUP ACTIVITIES WHICH BOTH HE AND I REALLY VALUE



WITH MY CHILD BEING PART OF A LARGE FAMILY AND ACTIVITIES BEING SO EXPENSIVE TO DO - THIS MEANS HE CAN DO NICE THINGS TOO



LOVED EVERY ACTIVITY I HAVE DONE AND LOOK FORWARD TO COMING TO MORE



GIVES HIM TIME OUT AND GREAT TO KNOW HE'S ENJOYING HIMSELF AND I CAN SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY OTHER SIBLINGS



The Covid-19 response Telephone Support Service came to an end in September 2021 having supported over 20 individuals. The feedback from the individuals who received support was very positive and made the service very worthwhile.

The scheme had 2 successful recruitment drives last year recruiting 14 new volunteers across the service.

Staff have all returned to the office on a fulltime basis and it is great to get the team back together again after such a long while.

Towards the end of the year the service was very grateful to the volunteers who were willing to participate in a volunteer film for training and promotional purposes which is due to be used at the next volunteer training delivered in May 2022.

The scheme continues to be immensely grateful for all the financial support from their local and national funders over the last year.



Shetland Carers

Shetland Carers continue to support and empower unpaid carers in Shetland to manage their caring role and have a life alongside caring.

The last 12 months has been incredibly busy for Shetland Carers.

Registered Carers – With 408 carers registered at 31st March 2022, the service has seen a 57% increase in carers reaching out for support, since March 2020.

Carers Week – Activities provided during Carers Week in June 2021 included a live yoga session with Wendy Hatrick, an online Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) tapping routine for clearing stress, and a FREE 'Cuppa and Cake' to carers and a companion during the week kindly donated by Fjara.

Carers Rights Day – In November 2021, Shetland Carers provided a drop in session to encourage carers to reach out for information, advice and support.



Shetland Carers Staff presented Respite Certificates to Fjara, Busta and Brudolf Hotel in recognition of their support of local carers.

Pictures taken by Shetland Carers Staff

Respite Scheme – Shetland Carers restarted their Respite Scheme in autumn 2021 by providing carers FREE breaks at Fjara, Lerwick and Shetland Hotel and Busta House Hotel, which were kindly donated by these partners. Other new business partners also signed up to donate breaks for the first time.



Additional funding for Carers – Funding was awarded through Scottish Government's *Short Break Fund*, which enabled Shetland Carers to develop a new Winter Wellbeing Fund to support carers. They offer carers a choice of recovery grant, short break grant, annual membership to Shetland Recreational Trust leisure centres, or overnight respite provision through Shetland Care Attendant Scheme. From April 21 to March 22, through all the grants schemes (funded by Short Break Fund and Shetland Charitable Trust) **Shetland Carers awarded 96 grants (or memberships) to carers worth £16,250.**

Through Creative Breaks funding, Shetland Carers were able to offer Counselling Sessions to their carers for the first time as well as blocks of massage sessions. Feedback from carers has been positive to these new additions to the service, which they hope to continue throughout 2022.



Display at the Shetland College for YCAD 2022

Carers Trust Partner – Shetland Carers became a Network Partner of Carers Trust Scotland for the first time and developed a new Young Carers Support Worker post through funding from Carers Trust's Making Carers Count Programme.

Young Carers Action Day (YCAD 22) took place in March 21 and various displays in the community raised awareness of young carers. New Guidance and documents for Identifying a Young Carer, created jointly with SIC, went live as did SIC's new iLearn e-module 'What is a Young Carer'. The Young Carers service has seen an increase in registrations this year. They now have two support groups offering age appropriate activities: Young Carers Group (11–17yrs old) and a Young Adults Carer Group (18–24yrs old).

Sibling, Parents' and Friday Groups – They have continued meeting face to face over the year, where restrictions have allowed and they held a family session in March. They have seen an increase in attendees and all groups continue to be well received by attendees and their families.



The Sibling Group – beach combing

Shetland Carers Strategy Group – *Shetland Carers* continued to chair the multi-agency Shetland Carers Strategy Group and have promoted and been involved in consultation around the proposed National Care Service. Staff have been attending the Living Well Hub at Brae, which offers a drop-in service for anyone who may need access to health and social care support.

Full details of Shetland Carers support can be found at www.shetlandcarers.org on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram at **Shetland Carers**.



Peer Education – Since April 21, OPEN has delivered 65 awareness raising and harm minimisation workshops to 1,192 young people across all high schools and junior high schools in Shetland. Following the workshop, participants' understanding and knowledge of the topics discussed increased on average by 72%.

Peer Mentoring – In the past year, one mentoring relationship came to an end after one-and-a-half years of mentoring sessions with the mentee, which was

hailed as a great success! There is currently one active mentoring relationship – and OPEN are very keen to take on new mentees to pair with the programme's three trained peer mentors.

The project are looking to adapt the Mentoring Programme in the coming months; to better suit the development of Da Café – which will provide a better gateway for mentee recruitment.

Da Café – The Thursday youth café drop-in nights at The Olive Tree reopened (4–6pm) after the summer. These drop-in sessions have continued to increase in popularity – and now currently see over 35 young people attend per session!

Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience Project (EWR) – The EWR Project has benefited from the involvement of young people by employing them as EWR workers over the last 3 years, supported by the OPEN Project & VAS. It has demonstrated that by providing the appropriate support, leadership training and quality improvement methodology – young people can design, develop and deliver evidence-based research and present their findings at strategic level. Whilst this project has now come to a close in March 22, their findings and research will help shape service delivery for the future.

Peer Researcher – In October 21, OPEN employed two young people for a 9-month peer research post; which aims to explore the need for a dedicated safe space for young people in Shetland; through consultation with young people, with the support of a professional researcher.

Youth Worker – In March 22, the project recruited its first Youth Worker, whose role will primarily focus on the delivery and development of workshops, as well as engagement with young people and the recruitment of new volunteers.

Time to Shine Leader – In January 22, OPEN received funding from the Rank Foundation to employ Jess Carlyle through the Time to Shine leadership placement as the organisation development lead. In this role, Jess will be exploring how OPEN can transition into an independent and fully youth-led charity. Jess has also recruited and formed a steering group of young people who meet fortnightly to lead the way going forward with the transition, and will receive training in leadership and board member skills.



Back left to right: Nathan Brown, Peer Educator & Youth Committee / Tegan Patterson & Callum, Peer Educators / Alex Tresadern, Peer Educator, Mentor & Youth Committee / Shannon Boston & Akira Foster OPEN Peer Researchers. **Front left to right:** Bee Leask, Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience worker / Rachel Wiseman, Peer Educator, Youth Committee member / Wayne Leask, OPEN Development Worker / Jessica Carlyle, OPEN Organisation Development Lead.

NEW SHETLANDER

The New Shetlander is published three times a year (Voar, Simmer and Yule issues) by VAS and supported by a voluntary committee. The magazine is circulated widely with subscribers throughout the world. **1446 copies** were sold last year.

Contributions of prose and poetry with a Shetland interest are all considered for publication. New writers, young and old, are always welcome in the magazine.



EXTRACT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Charitable income - grants		798,798		800,483
Other income		204,060		160,842
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		1,002,858		961,325
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	991,897		780,336	
Depreciation	91,591		91,591	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		1,083,488		871,927
		<hr/>		<hr/>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS		(80,630)		89,398
Capital Reserves transfer (to cover depreciation)		91,591		91,591
Capital grant income (allocated to capital funds)		-		(7,593)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
INCREASE IN INCOME FUNDS		10,961		173,296
		=====		=====

BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2022

		2022		2021
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets		736,258		827,849
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	6,684		9,518	
Investments: fixed term deposits	185,316		183,944	
Cash at bank and in hand	447,908		397,687	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
		639,908		591,149
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors falling due within one year	(119,930)		(59,501)	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		519,978		531,648
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,256,236		1,359,497
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES				
Pension liability		(4,911)		(27,542)
		<hr/>		<hr/>
NET ASSETS		1,251,325		1,331,955
		=====		=====
REPRESENTED BY				
Restricted capital funds		736,258		827,849
Restricted income funds		404,548		432,894
Unrestricted income funds		110,519		71,212
		<hr/>		<hr/>
TOTAL FUNDS		1,251,325		1,331,955
		=====		=====

The figures contained within the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet shown above were extracted from the company's audited financial statements. These were approved by the board of directors.

A copy of the company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 can be obtained from our main office or by writing to the following address: Registrar of Companies, Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9FF (quoting ref SC165677)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – REFLECTIONS

12 months in and I am still learning! A lot of ground has been covered over the last year engaging in many really good conversations as well as helping to support work over Voluntary Action Shetland's four core activities: **To be the Central Resource of Knowledge, To be the Voice, To Connect and To Build Capacity.**

Whilst Covid has continued to impact on our lives the VAS core team and it's projects have never been busier. VAS staff have continued to provide a range of support to many voluntary, community groups and charities to help them to deliver their services and activities safely to those in the community who need it. Our projects over the last 12 months have also been immensely busy delivering their service in whatever way they have been able to in line with Scottish Government guidelines; they have done an amazing job and you can read more about their achievements in this report.

A key thing for me over the last 12 months has been about listening to people and thinking about how the Third Sector can work together with other partners to enable people to have good outcomes. Early Action and partnership working has been key in these conversations alongside offering people choice in what they need and what is important to them.

Last year the Third Sector provided input into a range of local and national plans and partnership reviews, including; the National Care Service consultation, providing feedback on the refreshed materials for GIRFEC – Getting it right for every child, Shetland Children's Partnership, Shetland's Local Housing



Strategy and Shetland Islands Health and Social Care Partnership Joint Strategic Commissioning Plan to name a few.

It's so important for the Third Sector to regularly contribute and be part of future planned activity going forward and I am looking forward in continuing to support this to happen. A HUGE thank you goes to my staff team and my board for all that you do, and to all the volunteers throughout Shetland for your significant input to enable activities to happen in our communities. It could not happen with you, ♥.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Lynn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND

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VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED TO CORE ACTIVITY AND THE PROJECTS. WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, MUCH OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN OVER THE LAST YEAR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.



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