

VOLUNTARY ACTION



Voluntary Action North
East Lincolnshire



THE BUDGET AND YOU

We've just had a Budget. So what did it mean for your charity and the work you're doing?

No doubt the spending cuts themselves are a cause for concern and they are probably the headline that will impact our sector and the support we all offer most directly. As well as £30bn of overall cuts in the next year, £200m will come out of the Cabinet Office budget which could also filter down to impact on the Office for Civil Society.

Other headlines included:

- changes to the cap on gift aid.
- some specific giveaways to certain national charities (including the £75m from LIBOR fines)
- and some issues around diverted profit tax

It's difficult sometimes to see how budget announcements will directly affect us, but it's worth looking at the reviews – for example from NCVO (here <http://bit.ly/1DyGDDc> and here <http://bit.ly/1NDR26f>)

Interesting too is to see other reactions from around the charitable and non-profit sector. Have a look at <http://bit.ly/1amd4tu>

Even if you're not specifically affected by these budget changes, then the national programme of cuts is going to trickle down and affect you in some way – it's unavoidable. The external environment in which we all operate has an impact whether we like it or not.

So to me this means asking the question – what are we doing (as management, trustees, committee members, staff...) to acknowledge this, plan for it, prepare for it? **Can VANEL help?** There's lots of examples in this newsletter of the way's we're helping locally—so give us a call if you think we can help.

APRIL 2015

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- SUCCESS FOR THE MONEY FOR LIFE CHALLENGE TEAM
- SUPPORT FOR TRUSTEES
- VOLUNTEER SERVICE UPDATE
- NEWS ROUNDUP
- DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
- TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
- & MORE...



Baroness Martha Lane Fox has just delivered an inspiring Dimbleby Lecture for 2015 on the subject of “**Dot Everyone – power, the internet and you**”. It’s a provocative 40 minutes discussion on the need for everyone – and that should include us, charities, social enterprises and voluntary or community groups – in grasping the enormous potential and power of the internet. If you missed it, you can watch it here (<http://bbc.in/1Ce7aQs>) or read the transcript on the new Dot Everyone site www.doteveryone.org.uk. Take a look.



It’s a timely reminder of the huge power of the internet, especially in the context of helping non-profits to do better or greater things, have larger impact, reach more people, do what they do a bit better or more efficiently or more effectively.

And **VANEL** continues to champion this influence of technology on the way local non-profits operate.

Thank you Big Lottery

We’ve just come to the end of a years Big Lottery funding for our IT Supporters Network. During that year we’ve worked with over 40 local groups and organisations providing support, training, workshops, briefings and more on the use of technology, IT, the internet, websites, social media and more. It’s been a successful year (and project), but we’re keen to keep this going further, even if the specific funding has now come to an end. **Thanks Big Lottery for supporting the project!**

What support next?

Our “**Cooking up a website**” training sessions will continue to be scheduled (see details elsewhere). **WebClub** will continue to run every few weeks – and this year we’ve introduced **WebClub Gold** which provides more in-depth, proactive monthly support for your website. Other training sessions will be scheduled occasionally, but these will have costs attached this year (no funding), so keep an eye out for these. If you’ve got specific technology that you’d like training with then please do contact Karl Elliott, karl@vanel.org.uk / 01472 361043, to talk about your requirements.

We’re also building up on our concept of matching digitally skilled local volunteers with local IT needs within groups. So if your group needs help with something IT related, give us (Karl) a call.

VANEL have a lot of IT expertise in house – websites, databases, networks, hardware, software etc, so if you need a specific project defining or delivering then it would be worth talking to us to see how we might be able to help. Obviously this would involve a cost, but we’re not acting commercially here, so costs are pragmatic and are set to ensure you can get the help you need.

experiment. - our new newspaper

VANEL is continually experimenting with technology. We’re always looking for something cheaper, better, faster, easier, more effective and so on. And we’ve been encouraging local non-profit groups to do the same. So we’ve just published **issue 01 of experiment.** – our new, technology and non-profit focused newspaper. It’s a physical, printed way of sharing our thoughts and idea around technology.

We’ve printed issue 01 with help from Big Lottery funding and we’ll be distributing a complimentary copy of this to each of our Member/Friend organisations over the next week or so. Additional copies are available for £3 each to cover costs. We’re hoping that issue 02 can go to print in the not too distant future, but we’d really appreciate your honest feedback on issue 01 first!

Whilst many technology ideas are covered in the newspaper, this issue has a major theme of “**Effective Online Funding Applications**”. We look at the ways in which technology can get in the way when you are trying to get that online funding application completed. And we’ve proposed a 14 point plan to get yourself prepared so that the process can be much more effective. Take a read when you get your copy of experiment. and see whether it helps.

Any feedback or anything at all about experiment. can be emailed to experiment@vanel.org.uk

Our main site for all things technological is www.vaneldigital.org.uk and you can find out much more about our ongoing support via that site and our blog via vaneldigital. Anything else, contact Karl Elliott at VANEL, karl@vanel.org.uk, 01472 361043.



Volunteer Centre
North East Lincolnshire

Don’t forget you can make appointments to see us about volunteering on:

Tuesday morning at Immingham Resource Centre or Wednesday morning in Cleethorpes at Sidney Sussex Pavilion. Grimsby at other times by appointment.

Give us a call on 01472 231123 for appointments.

V:EXPO 2015 - hold the date

V:EXPO 2015 will be on Thursday 4th June, from 10am-4pm at the Epic Centre at Lincolnshire Showground. This is a showcase of innovation in volunteering for **volunteer managers** across Greater Lincolnshire. Volunteer Services from across the area have joined together to present this outstanding event, and tickets have just gone on sale (£25 each).

Visit Eventbrite to book (<http://bit.ly/1DyPbK8>) or you can follow the hashtag #VExpo15. Voluntary Action North East Lincolnshire is involved with this event and we’ll be sharing news and information on our web-site and through our bulletins over the coming weeks/months.

But if you are responsible for managing or recruiting volunteers, then make sure you’ve saved this date in your diary!

Student Volunteering Week

Last month, as part of Student Volunteering Week, Franklin College organised a non-perishable food and toiletries collection for Harbour Place. Over the week they spent time talking to fellow students and collecting donations.



This year marks the 14th year of Student Volunteering Week and Franklin College were selected as the only 6th form college to receive one of the ten nationally distributed pots of funding to support them to take part in Student Volunteering Week. The young people were supported by Liz Drury and Virginia Walton and two of the team along with Liz were invited to London on the Monday for afternoon tea at the House of Commons to launch Student Volunteer Week.

Dave Carlisle, Harbour Place Day Centre, had this to say:

"We can't thank everyone enough for this fantastic donation which will help many of our clients. We intend to make up 'survival packs' and distribute them to clients who are in need. The note from the child is very touching.

The students have worked incredibly hard and have been very successful in their work. This is possibly one of the largest 'single' donations we have received and it will help a lot of people.

Harbour Place supported in excess of 600 people last year and an average of 50 people a day use our services. HP provides 30 meals a day."

VANEL were pleased to be able to help Franklin students with the collection of food, and well done to all students involved.



It can be lonely at the top

Chairs have a vital role to play in their charity or non-profit organisation, yet there is often precious little support that they can draw on. The Chair is a volunteer. The Chair is a Trustee or committee member. But as well as this, the Chair stands out in their role as a leader and coordinator.

At VANEL we're always offering support to volunteers in general, and this year we're also trying to provide a range of support measures for Trustees or Committee Members. But it's also worth noting what support is available for Chairs specifically.

A very recent and useful resource I've come across is **"A Chair's Compass"**. It's a free publication produced by The Association of Chairs, and it's focused entirely on the Chair role and how to approach it. Although it can be purchased in book form, you can fill in a form and download the .pdf from here <http://bit.ly/1NKDqDs>. If you are a Chair, co-Chair or likely to become a Chair then you really should be reading this.

I think I'd also be recommending that the other Trustees on the board should also be reading it. It's incredibly important that each and every Trustee recognises the role of the Chair, supports them and understands how the working together of the entire board is important (and vital) for the success of the charity/non-profit as a whole.

Another invaluable book is **"Good Governance: A practical guide for trustees, chairs and CEOs"**. Published by NCVO for £25 this again brings together everything you'd need to know as a Chair, prospective Chair (or as a Trustee supporting your Chair). If you are an NCVO member then the book is only £17.50. (find it here <http://bit.ly/19Lwya0>)

The Chair is pivotal in getting the best from the board of Trustees and in turn collectively doing their best for the good of the charity/non-profit and the people and communities they serve. It's well worth the entire board investing the money and time in learning a lot more about how to do the role well.

We'll take a good look at these resources and the ideas contained in them at **our next "Tea and Trustees" session at Grimsby Minster on Friday 24th April (9.30am-11.30am)**. If you're a Chair, co-Chair, prospective Chair or simply a Trustee, why not join us for an informal discussion of the issues included?

As an aside, we're also scheduling **our next "Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees" half-day training session**. This is for new or prospective Trustees or those seeking a refresher session. We'll look at what you must do, should do, ought to do, could do and shouldn't do as a Trustee. The session is £20 per person and limited places are available. The date will be fixed when we know who's interested, so get in touch if you'd like some training.

To find out more about "Tea and Trustees", "Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees", governance development resources or how VANEL can help support you and your board/committee, then contact Karl Elliott at VANEL via karl@vanel.org.uk or 01472 361043.

Or visit www.vanel.org.uk/governance.

MEMBER NEWS

2015 events at Grimsby Central Hall

Here's a few details about the next few events coming to Grimsby Central Hall (Box Office 01472 355025).

CAST present Gogglebox of Musicals

Saturday 28th March 6.30pm Main Hall. Tickets Adults £8 Oap's / Children £6
Available on the door.

Café Jazz with Digby Fairweather and the Leo Solomon Trio

Saturday 11th April 7.30pm Roy Kemp Hall. Tickets £12 via Box Office
Box Office 01472 355025

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Ladies Choir and Newcastle Male Voice Chorus

Saturday 18th April 7.00pm Main Hall Tickets F.Circle £12 B.Circle £10 via Box Office

Grimsby Philharmonic Gilbert & Sullivan

Saturday 25th April 7.30pm Main Hall. Tickets F.Circle £13 B.Circle £11 Stalls £9 via Box Office

Grimsby Symphony Orchestra presents 'Summer Classics'

Saturday 9th May 7.30pm Main Hall Tickets F.Circle £12 B.Circle £10 via Box Office

The Grand Fundraising Spectacular

CAST Theatre Company Curtain Up Productions
Humber Belles Humberston Singers
Silhouettes Musical Theatre Orpheus Male Voice Choir
Sunday 10th May 2.30pm Main Hall
Tickets Circles: £10 Adults £8 Children £25 Family
Stalls: £8 Adults £6 Children Family £20
all via Box Office 01472 355025

Abbey Walk Gallery Sculpture Exhibition

Abbey Walk Gallery warmly invites everyone to a preview of Susuan Riemer, Destiny and Deliverance – an artist pursuing a personal vision, on Tuesday 7th April 6-8pm.

Susan will be showing beautifully made sculptures that encompass a recognition that the past is always dressed by the present. The exhibition then continues 8 April - 6 May.

More info from the Gallery
art@abbeywalkgallery.com,
01472 241007



Grimsby Philharmonic Society present their final concert of the 2014 -15 season.

On Saturday April 25th the Grimsby Philharmonic Society present 'Gems from Gilbert and Sullivan' at the Grimsby Central Hall at 7.30pm.

This will be a treat for all Gilbert and Sullivan fans featuring a great selection of many well-known, popular songs and madrigals from their works. Music will include songs from Yeoman of the Guard, The Sorcerer, Patience, The Grand Duke, Trial by Jury, HMS Pinafore, Utopia and Ruddigore. The programme will also include excerpts from the Mikado.

The Philharmonic have invited local, well known singers to sing the main characters including performances from John Barrow, John Elliott, Jo Boddison and Isabel Biggs who was last year's winner of the Cleethorpes Festival Cup. The Society are pleased to be accompanied by the fabulous piano duo Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clemmow. All will be performed under the baton of chorus master Susan Hollingworth



Tickets are available from the Central Hall Box Office by telephoning 01472 355025. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30am – 2.30pm. Front circle £13, Back circle £11, Stalls £9. boxoffice@grimsbycentralhall.org. There will also be supervised car parking.

Members newsletters

A number of our Members and Friends regularly send out newsletters, so please take a look on the VANEL news blog for details of the latest newsletters – and perhaps add yourself to their mailing lists. This week we've put newsletters from care and from HealthWatch in our news.

More news...

This is just a summary of some news items we've received from our Member and Friends. More news goes onto our website every week and our e-bulletin sent out every Wednesday morning should also be keeping you informed. If we've missed your news here, then hopefully it went into the online blog. If we missed it there too, then apologies, but keep it coming and we're trying to share everything that people send us.

www.vanel.org.uk/news

or follow us by RSS at www.vanel.org.uk/va/category/news/feed



MEMBER NEWS

Did someone mention an election?

In the run-up to the Elections, a number of local groups and charities are actively participating in the democratic process and have asked VANEL to circulate news of their activities:

Churches Together HUSTINGS

Churches Together in North East Lincolnshire invites you

to a Great Grimsby Parliamentary Election Hustings on Wednesday 15th April 7pm-9pm at Grimsby Minster, refreshments from 7pm and the Hustings begins at 7:30pm.

All candidates have been invited and the Bishop of Grimsby the Rt Revd David Court will chair the meeting. If you would like to ask a question please send them before hand to admin@grimsbyminster.co.uk. stating your name and the church you attend. There will be time on the night to submit questions and the chair will choose the questions to be asked to ensure a broad range of topics covered. You may like to think about themes raised by Christians in the 2020 Vision of the Good Society written by Churches Together in Britain & Ireland. (see www.ctbielections.org.uk/resources). Parking is available at Cartergate car park.

Oasis Academy HUSTINGS

Everyone is invited to come to a public 'Any Questions?' style Hustings event featuring the Great Grimsby candidates representing the Conservative Party, the Green Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrat Party, and the United Kingdom Independence Party.

The debate will take place at Oasis Academy Wintringham on April 17th, at 7.00pm. It is expected to last about 90 minutes. It is an opportunity for you to get answers on the things you care about.

The event is open to the public, and it is entirely free. But Oasis Academy are asking people to book a seat in advance so that they don't have to turn people away. Please book via this website: <http://bit.ly/1BQs48x>

If you have a question you want the candidates to answer, please submit it in advance, via email to simon.cross@oasiswintringham.org



Get involved with the choir at Grimsby Minster



There is a long tradition of high quality choral singing at Grimsby Minster but recent developments have made the opportunity of being a part of this wonderful tradition much more inclusive.

The main Minster Choir is now open to girls, boys, and teenagers from any school in the area, as well as to experienced adult singers. The Minster's Director of Music has launched a number of projects working with children both at the Minster and in their schools which has seen the number of children singing at the Minster more than double since Christmas. Members of the Minster Choir come from eight different local schools, academies, and colleges, including 70% from just one school: Lisle Marsden Primary Academy!

Since September 2014, a second choir has been formed to sing at services in the Minster, now known as the Minster Singers. This is a group of teenagers and adults, all of whom are highly skilled singers and sight-readers and rehearse briefly before singing one or two monthly services. This has further broadened the base of singers at the Minster, including opening regular opportunities up to adult singers who had previously been denied the chance to sing here.

In addition to these two Minster choirs, we welcome two children's choirs to rehearse weekly at the Minster, both organised by the local Music and Performing Arts Service. These two choirs, Songbirds and Youth Voices, take children from age 5 to late teens and are non-auditioning.

There is truly a choir for everyone at the Minster!

The Minster's Organist and Director of Music, Steven Maxson, is always very happy to discuss possibilities for singing at the Minster with anyone. Further details can be found on the Minster Choirs' website www.minsterchoirs.com, on the Facebook page www.facebook.com/minsterchoirs or the Twitter site www.twitter.com/minsterchoirs.



Humber LEP and Skills Pledge

The latest newsletter from Humber LEP Skills Pledge is now out. Take a read here (<http://bit.ly/1y24c6P>).

The headline is that over 250 organisations have now signed up to the Humber LEP's Skills Pledge (and VANEL is one of those organisations). This achievement is a demonstration of the commitment towards supporting and developing skills that exists in our region. It is however, only the tip of the iceberg. ... Take a read of the newsletter and see if your organisation should be signing up too.

The **Springboard** programme also gets a mention, and as a Skills Pledge sign-up we're keen to support Springboard, with two of our young enfuse team members already being part of the Springboard programme. Springboard uses a network of locally based personal advisors and youth ambassadors, and is supporting 18 to 24 year olds across the region into full time training or employment. Clients receive dedicated one to one support to identify and overcome barriers to work or training before linking in with other areas of the Humber LEP, such as the Humber Apprenticeship Support Service, to find suitable training and apprenticeships.



You can read much more about Springboard here:
www.humberlep.org/skills/springboard

Places still available on STEPS IIE course

There are currently limited places on the next subsidised STEPS® IIE course. This is a course of 3 full days on 22nd & 29th April and 6th May in Grimsby. Full details about the course can be found in the flyer available on our website (www.vanel.org.uk). The cost is £90 for the course. To book a place please contact Donna Blakey at Improved Health, North East Lincolnshire Council (01472 325414, donna.blakey@nelincs.gov.uk)

Safeguarding Level 1 training

We're almost ready to fix a date for our next Safeguarding Training Level 1 course. We have a couple of places left so if you are interested please let Peter Hewson at VANEL know as soon as possible (01472 231123).

This is a full day training session and the cost is £45 per person (refreshments included). The course is accredited and certificated by Children's Workforce Development.

FUNDING NEWS

Big Lottery funding appointments

Rob Maylan from Big Lottery is back in Grimsby again on 15th April for a day of one to one appointments. We've pretty much filled his day with appointments already, but if you'd like to join the waiting list to speak with him then please give Karl Elliott at VANEL a call to let him know (karl@vanel.org.uk / 01472 361043). We'll arrange yet another visit day with Rob in the not too distant future for yet more one to ones. Rob can of course speak to you directly rather than on one of these appointment days, so just let us know you're interested in a conversation.

Big Lottery webinar support

Big Lottery have also very recently launched a webinar support programme for people applying for Awards for All or other schemes.

The programme follows a successful trial period and applicants have said that these web based sessions are a great way of supporting groups looking for funding. Applicants log on to their own computer at home or in the office and can view the Big Lottery presenters slides as they talk them through the presentation content. There's also a question and answer function, allowing the delegate to ask them questions throughout.

Big Lottery currently offering the following webinars:

- Introduction to Awards for All (every Tuesday)
- Evidencing Need in your application (fortnightly)
- Understanding Outcomes (for Reaching Communities applicants only, fortnightly)

Information can be found on the Big Lottery Fund's website either under the Reaching Communities pages www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities or the Awards for All pages (www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/awards-for-all-england) On these pages is a link that allows applicants to register for whichever session suits them best.

Whatever your stage of application – these webinars should prove extremely valuable.

MORE NEWS

Increasing Access to finance for charities and social enterprises

On 20th March, Access Social Investment launched. Access is a new, independent charitable foundation which aims to increase access to finance for charities and social enterprises who have not yet benefitted from social investment. To find out more, please email enquiries@access-si.org.uk or visit their website at www.access-si.org.uk

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The Aviva Community Fund

The Aviva Community Fund is offering grants of up to £25,000 to smaller voluntary and community organisations for projects that will make a real difference to local communities in one of the following categories: Health, disability and wellbeing; Supporting the younger generation; Supporting the older generation; or Community support.

All projects will be put forward to a public vote and so are encouraged to widely promote their projects in their local communities. There is an additional set of awards especially for projects submitted by brokers and financial advisers. One hundred 'Helping Hand Prizes' of £500 will also be given out to projects submitted by Aviva customers, Aviva Investors clients, Aviva employees or any insurance brokers or financial advisers that are not successful in receiving one of the main Awards. The deadline for submissions is 24th April. Find out more here www.community-fund.aviva.co.uk/cms

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Nominet Tech Seed grant funding

The Social Tech Seed grant-funding programme offers early-stage investment to entrepreneurs and charitable organisations that are looking to develop new projects using digital technology for social impact. This programme provides grants of £15,000 - £50,000 and support to help nurture, develop and test ideas. Deadline is 15 April. Full information here: www.nominettrust.org.uk/how-to-apply/our-investment-programmes-0

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Final evaluation of Community First

An independent evaluation of the Community First programme has been completed and can now be found at: <http://bit.ly/1CBa99i>

This report summarises an independent evaluation of the Community First programme.

This summary provides an update on findings from evalu-

ating the Community First Neighbourhood Matched Fund programme. The Cabinet Office commissioned Ipsos MORI and NEF Consulting to conduct the evaluation.

Evaluation work began in October 2012 and continued until the end of March 2015. It aimed to explore how effective the programme was and what social impact has been achieved.

The summary aims to provide lessons for similar interventions in future. The final full report will provide detailed findings in answer to evaluation questions, as well as providing the analytical background for this report.

If you've been involved with Community First in your area, then you might be interested in taking a look at the report.

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Commissioning Academy Civil Society Programme pilot launched

The Office for Civil Society (OCS), part of the Cabinet Office, has launched the Commissioning Academy Civil Society Programme, a new part of the Commissioning Academy. It will support better public sector commissioning by helping commissioners understand and use a range of innovative civil society techniques.

The government aims to support better commissioning across the UK. Over the past 5 years, we have been working to develop training and skills to help commissioners deal with the challenges that public services present and provide better services at a lower cost. This also includes making the most of the contribution that the voluntary sector, communities and service users can make.

We have listened to feedback about supporting commissioners to use tools and techniques from the voluntary sector to provide better public services. The Commissioning Academy Civil Society Programme will build on the success of the Commissioning Academy in doing this. More information available at - <http://bit.ly/1F68C9z>

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"COOKING UP A WEBSITE"

We're taking names for our next **"Cooking up a website" training session** which will take place in April or May. This is a 2 hour, informal, but comprehensive look at how a website works and how it is developed. It's aiming to help address the question of "how much is a website?" by looking more closely at what is involved.

If your charity or group needs to rebuild your website or get yourselves online for the first time, then this can be a very useful introduction to what you need to know. Whether you'll end up doing it yourself or use volunteers or even pay professionals, then this session will help you be more knowledgeable in your planning and management of developing a website.

The session will be held in Grimsby and is £10 per head for Member or Friends of VANEL or £20 per person otherwise. Places are always limited, so please let us know if you are interested. Contact Karl Elliott via karl@vanel.org.uk or 01472 361043. A bit more information is at www.vaneldigital.org.uk

VANEL Editorial Deadlines

If you have news that you'd like us to include in our newsletters or bulletins then you need to get them to us in good time. The monthly newsletter aims to circulate in the first week of each month, so ideally **news should be with us by the end of the previous month**. The weekly e-bulletin goes out Wednesday 8am each week, so news for that **needs to be with us by Tuesday lunchtime** at the latest. We've not got a full time editorial team working away, so we have to schedule editorial work as and when we can for these deadlines. Please don't ask us to publicise events occurring in the next day or two – we need to know much further in advance. But whatever you have, please keep it coming to editor@vanel.org.uk.

Well done Marcus and Louis



In March, two of our staff, **Marcus Czarnecki and Louis Cox** were invited to attend a High Sheriff's event, and were then bowled over to find themselves presented with High Sheriff awards in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. Well done Marcus and Louis – well deserved for all your hard work.

Community Health Champions

Could you be a Volunteer Health Champion? VANEL is working alongside North East Lincolnshire Council's Developing Healthier Communities team to promote a new drive to recruit Community Health Champions. We'll look to recruit volunteers who will be trained and supported to champion health and well-being messages to communities across North East Lincolnshire.

This is a great volunteering opportunity for individuals, but is great for community health too. More information will be online on the VANEL website in due course, and you can contact healthchampion@vanel.org.uk for more information.

www.vanel.org.uk

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Volunteer Centre
North East Lincolnshire



Voluntary Action North
East Lincolnshire

enfuse
Helping Young People. Help Communities.
Help Themselves



Voluntary Action North
East Lincolnshire

CONTACT Us

THE WILLOWS
23 BARGATE
GRIMSBY
DN34 4SS

01472 231123

OFFICE@VANEL.ORG.UK