

A Snapshot of the Voluntary Sector in the... Bellshill Area



LOCAL AREA...

The Bellshill area has a population of **42,900** (2011 census). Bellshill is the area's biggest town with a population of 20,650 (2012 estimate). The area is split into the three wards of Thorniewood (Ward 13), Bellshill (Ward 14), and Mossend and Holytown (Ward 15). The locality includes some significant housing areas outside the main town, most notably Viewpark, Tannochside, Mossend, and Holytown.

In the 19th century, iron and steel production were key to the town's development. Today, the largest employers in the local area include Morrison Facilities Services Ltd and Virgin Media. The area's central location and close proximity to key motorways (M8 and M74) has helped attract industry in recent years, with Strathclyde Business Park housing a number of larger employers.

Key community venues include Bellshill Cultural Centre, Sir Matt Busby Sports Centre, and Strathclyde Country Park, which Bellshill sits on the fringe of. The Park is a central location for sports, environmental and cultural activity for local citizens.

VOLUNTEERING...

From January 2014 to December 2014, **119 new volunteers** from the Bellshill area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by the local Third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action NL).

During the same period, 164 voluntary sector organisations listing a main premise in the Bellshill area promoted **86 live volunteering opportunities** through engagement with the Third Sector Interface. The most frequent genres of volunteering opportunities available in the local area were working with children or young people and working in a health or care setting. Based on the number of active volunteering opportunities in the local area, Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire estimates that approximately **10,000 individuals** from the Bellshill area engaged in volunteering during 2014-15 (including charity trustees).

Volunteering activity was also notable in the local area through opportunities provided by statutory partners, including **NHS Lanarkshire** (at Bellshill Community Health Clinic), **North Lanarkshire Council** (mainly through Active Schools North Lanarkshire and Community Learning and Development), and **Secondary Schools** (clear evidence of senior pupil involvement in volunteering in Bellshill Academy and Cardinal Newman High School). A few private sector organisations, most notably **Virgin Media**, have also demonstrated community commitment by encouraging employer supported volunteering.

SECTORAL PROFILE...

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicates that **164 voluntary sector organisations** listed premises in the Bellshill area as their main address (as at 2015), with an estimated total **1100 voluntary sector organisations**, including a proportion of local authority wide and national organisations, having a footprint in the Bellshill area during the period April 2014 to March 2015. Key investors in the voluntary sector locally include North Lanarkshire Council, Scottish Government, The Big Lottery Fund, Voluntary Action Fund, and several private sector trust funds.

The voluntary sector in Bellshill can best be summarised as a collection of several smaller, geographically community focussed organisations, with evidently less national and local authority wide voluntary sector services operating in the area compared with other localities in North Lanarkshire.

According to data from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), the collective income of charities in the Bellshill area is lower than any other locality in the North Lanarkshire area. However, the impact and outcomes achieved by the voluntary sector in the Bellshill area appear to be every bit as positive as in other areas of North Lanarkshire. This indicates that the voluntary sector in Bellshill is delivering excellent value for money. Organisations such as Bellshill and Mossend YMCA and Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre have clearly demonstrated the positive impact that well-organised, very local voluntary sector services can have on residents of the Bellshill area.

ONLINE RESOURCES...

- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire** – www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk
- **Voluntary Action Scotland** – www.voluntaryactionscotland.org.uk
- **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations** – www.scvo.org.uk
- **Volunteer Scotland** – www.volunteerscotland.net
- **Locator Tool (for older people's services)** – www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org.uk/locator
- **Saltire Awards** – www.saltireawards.org.uk
- **Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator** – www.oscr.org.uk

STRATEGIC RESOURCES...

- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Strategy 2013-18** – North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group's strategy document outlining a vision for the voluntary sector
- **North Lanarkshire Partnership Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-18** - Key strategic documents of North Lanarkshire Partnership highlighting priorities and objectives for developing communities
- **A Framework for Third Sector Connectivity to Community Planning in North Lanarkshire 2015-18** – Outlines a vision and three-year Improvement Plan for voluntary sector involvement in Community Planning
- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire Business and Operational Plans** – The Business and Operational Plans of The Third Sector Interface include a number of aims and objectives for developing the local voluntary sector
- **MILO Platform** – The Scottish Government endorsed online database for Third Sector Interfaces to hold key data.

PARTNERSHIPS...

Listing some of the key local partnerships and forums relevant to the local voluntary sector:

- **Bellshill Local Area Partnership** – Local strategic community planning table. Key items on the agenda include multi agency approach to regeneration of Bellshill town centre, estate management, environmental improvements, anti-social behaviour, community safety, and health improvement
- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group** – Key strategic group linking the voluntary sector to North Lanarkshire Partnership
- **Bellshill Area Voluntary Sector Locality Network** - Network for the local voluntary sector, facilitated by Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire on behalf of the North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group (two gatherings per annum)
- **Bellshill and District Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging and consulting with citizens of the Bellshill and District community
- **Bellshill Community Learning and Development Partnership** – Multi-agency Partnership to assist the development of local communities, facilitated by North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development
- **Other Partnerships** include Voluntary Sector Thematic Networks (including Employability Network), North Lanarkshire Social Economy Partnership, and private sector liaison.

ORGANISATIONS...

Brief synopsis of a few key **local voluntary sector organisations** operating in and specifically providing services to the Bellshill area:

- **Bellshill and Mossend YMCA** – Delivers a variety of services for children and young people, including out of school care, holiday playschemes, mentoring service and crèche provision
- **Bellshill and District Citizens Advice Bureau** – Provides free, impartial, and confidential advice services for local citizens
- **Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre** – Provides local residents with a cafe, food coop, out of school care, and day care provision
- **Viewpark Family Centre Association Ltd** - Provides a range of services for children and families in the Viewpark area.

Brief synopsis of a few key **local authority wide voluntary sector organisations** with a major footprint in the Bellshill area:

- **Active4All** – Provides services to enable disabled people to access sports and operates the YOOZ social enterprise in Bellshill
- **Lanarkshire Muslim Welfare Society** – Provides community activities for those of Muslim faith at Lanarkshire's central Mosque
- **Liber8 Lanarkshire Ltd** – Supports young people with health and leisure activities and life choices, with a main base in Viewpark
- **Routes to Work Ltd** – Provides employability support, advice and guidance to local citizens from its central office in Bellshill.

Brief synopsis of a few key **national voluntary sector organisations** with a significant footprint in the Bellshill area:

- **British Red Cross** – Operates a Medical Loan Delivery Service for citizens of the Bellshill and surrounding areas
- **Cancer Research UK** – Retail shop based in Bellshill town centre contributes to fundraising to support cancer research locally
- **Society of St Vincent De Paul Scotland** – Two Ozanam Club operate locally to support children with learning disabilities
- **The Salvation Army** – Retail shop based in Bellshill town centre contributes to fundraising for Christian activities in the local area.

Please note that the organisations noted above represent only a small sample of active local and national voluntary sector organisations.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The voluntary sector, along with NHS Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Council and the Independent Care sector, played a key role in the delivery of North Lanarkshire's Reshaping Care for Older People Change Plan during the period 2011-15. Following on from the Change Plan, the voluntary sector is a central delivery partner in Scottish Government's Health and Social Care Integration agenda.

As part of a well-established Locality Partnership Development Programme, **Orbiston Neighbourhood Centre** is the lead organisation for the Bellshill area for supporting and facilitating voluntary sector involvement in Health and Social Care Integration. A number of local voluntary sector organisations have been funded to deliver services that contribute to this agenda.