

# A Snapshot of the Voluntary Sector in the... Coatbridge Area



## LOCAL AREA...

The Coatbridge area has a population of **47,730** (2011 census). Coatbridge is the area's biggest town with a population of 43,970 (2012 estimate). The area is split into the three wards of Coatbridge North and Glenboig (Ward 6), Coatbridge West (Ward 9), and Coatbridge South (Ward 10). Outside the main town of Coatbridge, Glenboig village is situated rurally to north of the town and Bargeddie is situated to the west bordering Glasgow's local authority area.

Leisure activities and tourism is a main focus of Coatbridge, with facilities such as Summerlee Museum, The Time Capsule, Showcase Cinema, Hollywood Bowl and Drumpellier Country Park. Significant employers in the local area include Tannoy Ltd and New College Lanarkshire. Coatbridge is also home to Albion Rovers Football Club.

Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation results from 2012 indicated that some areas of Coatbridge have some of the poorest health statistics in Scotland. It is estimated that one in five residents of Coatbridge are classified as obese.

## VOLUNTEERING...

From January 2014 to December 2014, **220 new volunteers** from the Coatbridge area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by the local Third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action NL).

During the same period, 280 voluntary sector organisations listing a main premise in the Coatbridge area promoted **135 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 **12,000 individuals** from the Coatbridge area engaged in volunteering during 2014-15 (conservative estimate including charity trustees).

Volunteering activity was also notable in the local area through opportunities provided by statutory partners, including **NHS Lanarkshire** (at Coathill Hospital), **North Lanarkshire Council** (mainly through Active Schools North Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire Shopmobility, and Community Learning and Development), and **Secondary Schools** (clear evidence of senior pupil involvement in volunteering at Coatbridge High School, St Ambrose High School, and St Andrew's High School). Students of **New College Lanarkshire** also regularly volunteer.

## SECTORAL PROFILE...

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicates that **280 voluntary sector organisations** listed premises in the Coatbridge area as their main address (as at 2015), with an estimated total **1300 voluntary sector organisations**, including a high proportion of local authority wide and national organisations, having a footprint in the Coatbridge 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 profile of the voluntary sector in Coatbridge is fairly diverse, with a healthy mixture of small and large organisations based in the area and providing a wide range of services. With health and employability levels in the Coatbridge area sitting below the North Lanarkshire average, it is clear that the voluntary sector has responded to the needs of local citizens with the type of services provided (for example, North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd's central base for leisure activities is in Coatbridge, and Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership promotes healthy eating from its base in Bargeddie).

Coatbridge town centre is somewhat short of a recognised hub for voluntary sector activity, although the Fountain Business Centre does house a few voluntary sector organisations. A modern community hub and sports facility adjacent to St Andrew's High School is operational to the south of Coatbridge. Drumpellier Country Park provides a focal point for much conservation and outdoors sectoral activity.

## ONLINE RESOURCES...

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

- **Coatbridge Local Area Partnership** – Local strategic community planning table. Key items on the agenda include anti-social behaviour, activities for young people, improvement to local play facilities, continued development of Coatbridge town centre, health improvements, estate management and community safety
- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group** – Key strategic group linking the voluntary sector to North Lanarkshire Partnership
- **Coatbridge 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)
- **Coatbridge Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging and consulting with citizens of the Coatbridge community
- **Coatbridge 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 Coatbridge area:

- **Coatbridge Citizens Advice Bureau** – Provides free, impartial, and confidential advice services for local citizens
- **Glenboig Neighbourhood House** – Focal point for community activity and development in the rural village of Glenboig
- **The Conforti Institute** – Promotes global citizenship and education opportunities for citizens from the local area
- **The Safety Zone** - Provides youth work services, a cafe and community hub for children, families and residents of Bargeddie.

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

- **Deaf Services Lanarkshire** – Based in Coatbridge, providing a range of support services to the deaf community in Lanarkshire
- **Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership** – Works to maintain the Lanarkshire network of community run food and health initiatives, with central base in Bargeddie
- **North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd** – Charitable Trust delivering sport, recreation and health improvement services for local people
- **Routes to Work Ltd** – Provides employability support, advice and guidance to local citizens from its Coatbridge office.

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

- **DEBRA** – Retail shop based in Coatbridge town centre contributes to fundraising to support those with EB skin disorder
- **Enable Scotland** – Delivers services from its Coatbridge office to support children and adults who have learning disabilities
- **Irish Diaspora in Scotland Association** – Promotes and celebrates the strong Irish cultural history in Scotland
- **TCV Scotland** – Provides conservation and environmental support in and around the Drumpellier Country Park 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, **Glenboig Neighbourhood House** is the lead organisation for the Coatbridge 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.