

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



## LOCAL AREA...

The North area has a population of **84,130** (2011 census). Cumbernauld is the area's biggest town with a population of 51,610 (2012 estimate). The area is split into the five wards of Kilsyth (Ward 1), Cumbernauld North (Ward 2), Cumbernauld South (Ward 3), Abronhill, Kildrum and the Village (Ward 4), and Strathkelvin (Ward 5). The North area includes towns and villages around Cumbernauld, including Moodiesburn, Condorrat, Croy and Kilsyth. The area is sometimes regarded as quite separate from the remainder of North Lanarkshire in terms of its geography, structure and transport links.

Cumbernauld was initially established as one of five Scottish 'new towns' after the Second World War to cope with Glasgow's oversized population. Media coverage towards the town's structure and design has not always been favourable; however significant development work has taken place over the last decade to upgrade the town centre and its large indoor shopping mall. Cumbernauld in the last few years has seen a surge of business activity, with a number of leading manufacturers relocating to the Wardpark industrial estate.

## VOLUNTEERING...

From January 2014 to December 2014, **281 new volunteers** from the North area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by the local Third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire).

During the same period, 390 voluntary sector organisations listing a main premise in the North area promoted **155 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 **16,000 individuals** from the North 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 Cumbernauld Central Health Centre and Kilsyth Victoria Cottage Hospital), **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 at Cumbernauld Academy, St Maurice's High School, Kilsyth Academy, Greenfaulds High School, Chryston High School, and Our Lady's High School).

## SECTORAL PROFILE...

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicates that **390 voluntary sector organisations** listed premises in the North area as their main address (as at 2015), with an estimated total **1300 voluntary sector organisations**, including a large proportion of local authority wide and national organisations, having a footprint in the North 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 North area depicts an industrious, vibrant hub of voluntary sector activity, with the area's large population replicated with an equally large number of active voluntary sector organisations and volunteers. In keeping with the geography and demographics of the local area, the voluntary sector in the North area takes a somewhat unusual form compared with other localities in North Lanarkshire. It would appear that a high number of national voluntary sector intermediaries have identified Cumbernauld as a very central location from which to provide services to the whole of Scotland. However, much fewer North Lanarkshire or Lanarkshire wide serving organisations have established main base here due to the North area's geographical segregation from most key towns in the local authority.

Localised voluntary sector activity and volunteering in the smaller towns and villages located outside Cumbernauld town is very strong, most notably in the communities of Croy, Kilsyth and Moodiesburn.

## 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:

- **North Area Local Area Partnership** – Local strategic community planning table. Key items on the agenda include anti-social behaviour, activities for young people, developing the capacity of the local community, and continued development of Cumbernauld town centre
- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group** – Key strategic group linking the voluntary sector to North Lanarkshire Partnership
- **Cumbernauld and North 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)
- **Cumbernauld Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging with citizens of Cumbernauld
- **Kilsyth & Villages Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging with citizens of Kilsyth and Villages
- **Northern Corridor Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging with citizens of the Northern Corridor
- **North Area Community Learning and Development Partnership** – Multi-agency Partnership to assist the development of local communities, facilitated by North Lanarkshire Council Community Learning and Development.

## ORGANISATIONS...

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

- **CACE (Older People Active Lives)** – Promotes the welfare of vulnerable older people and carers through a range of services
- **Cumbernauld Citizens Advice Bureau** – Provides free, impartial, and confidential advice services for local citizens
- **Cumbernauld YMCA-YWCA** – Delivers a variety of services for children, young people, families and communities, including an accommodation service for 16-25 year-olds in need
- **Moodiesburn Community Development Trust** – Community activities and development for people of the Moodiesburn area.

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

- **North Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd** – Charitable Trust delivering sport, recreation and health improvement services for local people
- **RECAP Community Project** – Furniture and recycling project that refurbishes and redistributes household goods to local people
- **The Alpha Project** – Provides free community support services, including day care, to disabled people living in North Lanarkshire
- **Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire** – Scottish Government's Third Sector Interface for supporting voluntary sector in local area.

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

- **Quarriers** – National charity supporting adults with disabilities, providing a befriending and support service in the North area
- **Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments** – Offers education and therapy services for children with motor disorders
- **Scottish Spina Bifida Association** – Provides support, advice, and information about Spina Bifida, based in Cumbernauld
- **The Richmond Fellowship Scotland** – Provides support to people with a range of needs to help them live independent lives.

*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, **CACE (Older People Active Lives)** is the lead organisation for the North 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.