

Wishaw and District Area



LOCAL AREA...

The Wishaw and District area includes the towns of Wishaw, Shotts, Overtown, Allanton, Harthill and Salsburgh, and has a population of **54,509** (2011 census). Wishaw is the area's biggest town with a population of 30,510 (2012 estimate). The area is split into the three wards of Fortissat (Ward 12), Murdostoun (Ward 19) and Wishaw (Ward 20). Geographically, outside the town of Wishaw, the area can be largely classified as rural, with a number of smaller settlements.

Former industrial employers in the area included many steelworks, but these days the biggest employers include NHS Lanarkshire (Wishaw General Hospital is located in the area), Royal Mail (Scottish distribution centre is located at Shieldmuir), HM Prison Shotts, and large supermarkets including Tesco, Asda and Morrisons.

Issues affecting local citizens include social deprivation, unemployment, and rural isolation. Craigneuk in Wishaw is recognised as the 9th most deprived community in Scotland, according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2012).

VOLUNTEERING...

From January 2014 to December 2014, **352 new volunteers** from the Wishaw and District area were successfully matched with local volunteering opportunities through support provided by the local Third Sector Interface (Voluntary Action NL).

During the same period, 330 voluntary sector organisations listing a main premise in the Wishaw and District area promoted **297 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 **15,000 individuals** from the Wishaw and District 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** (several opportunities based within Wishaw General Hospital and Cleland 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 in Calderhead High School, Clyde Valley High School, St Aidan's High School, and Coltness High School).

SECTORAL PROFILE...

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire research indicates that **330 voluntary sector organisations** listed premises in the Wishaw and District 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 Wishaw and District 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 rural profile of the Wishaw and District area outside the main town of Wishaw provides a fundamental and interesting role for the voluntary sector locally, very much represented by tight-knit communities adopting a grassroots approach. A good example of this can be seen in Shotts, where Getting Better Together Ltd plays a significant role in offering a hub for the community and providing extremely valuable (and arguably essential) services for local and isolated people living in a rural area.

Within the town of Wishaw and its urban areas, the role of the voluntary sector is equally great, helping in many ways to address local issues such as social deprivation relating to health, employability and education. Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire's town centre office base and Community Hub facility offers a key central location for voluntary sector activity to take place. These premises are utilised by a high number of voluntary sector organisations, volunteers and service users on a weekly basis.

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:

- **Wishaw & District Local Area Partnership** – Local strategic community planning table. Key items on the agenda include continued development of Wishaw town centre, estate management, environmental improvements, development of vacant and derelict land, health improvement, and community safety
- **North Lanarkshire Voluntary Sector Partnership Group** – Key strategic group linking the voluntary sector to North Lanarkshire Partnership
- **Wishaw and Shotts 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)
- **Wishaw, Murdostoun and Fortissat Community Forum** – North Lanarkshire Partnership's recognised vehicle for engaging and consulting with citizens of the Wishaw and District community
- **Wishaw and Shotts 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, 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 Wishaw and District area:

- **Getting Better Together Ltd** - Provides a range of healthy living and community services for citizens of the greater Shotts area
- **Motherwell & Wishaw Citizens Advice Bureau** – Provides free, impartial, and confidential advice services for local citizens
- **Made 4U in ML2** – Provides a range of youth work and personal development programmes for young people in the local area
- **Newmains Community Trust** – Received £2.3million Big Lottery Fund investment to develop a Community Hub in Newmains.

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

- **Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust** – Provides volunteer drivers for cancer patients who do not have transport of their own
- **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 Wishaw office
- **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 Wishaw and District area:

- **British Red Cross** – Provides a Care in Home Service from Wishaw General Hospital and Retail Shop in Wishaw town centre
- **Capability Scotland** – Operates the Alexander Anderson Centre in Wishaw, providing care services to disabled children and adults
- **Central Scotland Forest Trust** – Aspires to improve landscape and environment in Scotland, with central office based in Shotts
- **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, **Getting Better Together Ltd** is the lead organisation for the Wishaw and District 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.