



Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

Putting the Voluntary Sector FIRST

Annual Report 2014-15

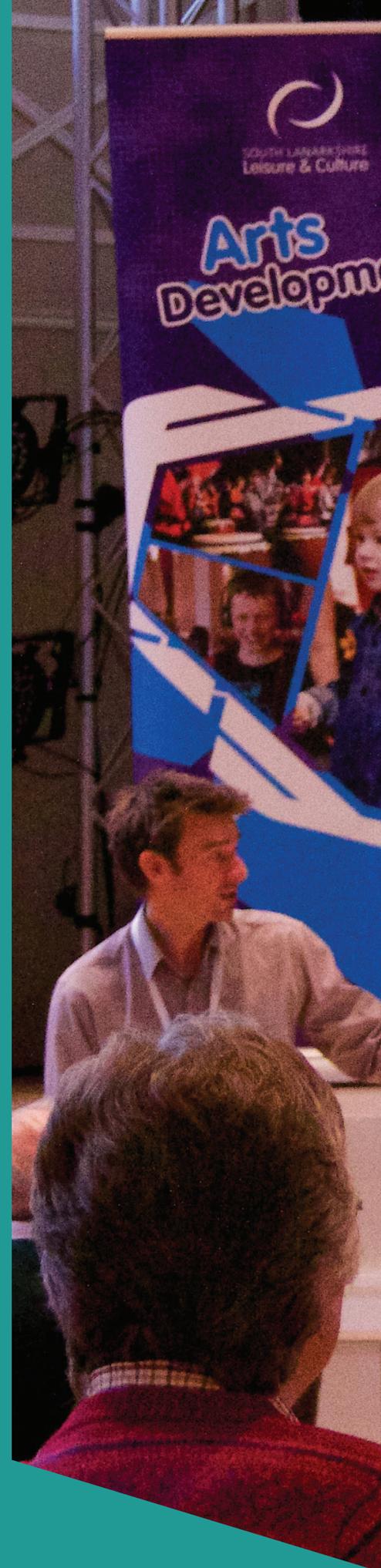


Contents

Chairman's address	3
Chief executive officer's address	4
Meet the team	6
Supporting volunteering	8
Developing the third sector	16
MILO and statistics	24
Reshaping Care for Older People	26
GIRFEC and Early Years	28
Community projects	30
Annual accounts	36
Looking ahead	38



Voluntary Action
South Lanarkshire
Putting the Voluntary Sector FIRST





Chairperson's Address

VASLan is developing into an outward and modern voluntary sector interface.

There are so many aspects to the voluntary sector in South Lanarkshire, but with the limited resources available to VASLan, it is our intention to support good organisational governance at trustee level, collaboration between employees and volunteers, and integrity within decision-making, always allowing for a common respect for equality and diversity. With this comes better working together in our communities and better partnership development, thereby supporting all involved in planning and policy development for our region.

In this report, there is much to celebrate across South Lanarkshire. But a word first for our dedicated staff under the leadership of our CEO Gordon Bennie: they are an excellent team with a conscientious and dedicated leader, often working under pressures that few notice or realise. It is not an easy task being in the place of interaction - for that is an interface - as it works at different levels with consummate flexibility for cohesion and collaboration to happen. Our own trustees are volunteers from the sector too, and have a real passion for local communities. They offer much reflection and are not afraid to make decisions that have impact for the better. We are keen to recruit new members to the Board this year, as we have said farewell to some members and owe a real debt of



gratitude to them for all they have offered VASLan.

In the coming year, we are initiating a locality-based third sector forum which will increase engagement between the sectors. This will bring the challenges of transition, but the aim is always to improve the sector and foster good communication.

VASLan endeavours to offer opportunity and support to volunteers, young and old, as well as offer guidance to local organisations, large and small. Without volunteers there would be no voluntary sector and very little engagement with the real needs of our communities. As you will read, we are setting the blueprint for a modern interface, and lively interested interaction across South Lanarkshire. Come and get involved. A welcome awaits you, and if you do participate, the people of South Lanarkshire will gain the benefit.

Rev. Ian Barcroft
Chairman of the board
Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

Chief Executive Officer's address

This year has seen VASLan continue to act as an example of the proper role a third sector interface should play in our communities, fulfilling our core responsibilities with knowledge, hard work and exemplary service, while at the same time fully engaging as a representative of third sector in appropriate agendas and strategic discussions at the community planning level.

This has not come without significant challenges. The demand for VASLan's input and involvement has continued to increase throughout 2014/15. In particular, our workload has grown significantly around the implementation of Early Years legislation and the Getting it Right for Every Child agenda, efforts to accelerate the process of digital inclusion, and from several areas of the Community Empowerment legislation which has such transformational potential for the sector. As an organisation, we have risen to meet these challenges, relishing our duty to represent the sector as a respected and fully engaged member of strategic partnerships. Our priority now in this area will be to develop new ways of ensuring that the South Lanarkshire third sector has clear and accessible lines of communication that will make the sector's needs and concerns audible when VASLan takes part in these community planning discussions.

We are detecting enormous changes within the sector, from a shift in the profile of volunteers to a sea change in the types of issues organisations come to us with. In particular we have been asked to support the sector more and more in the areas of organisational and financial governance. This has caused pressure for us to maintain a staff profile that is capable of meeting the sector's current needs and requirements, and I am pleased to say that through structural adjustments and consolidation of staff practice and expertise, we have managed to increase operational efficiency between



our staff teams and ensure that we are continuing to hit the targets set out in our core work of supporting volunteers and voluntary organisations, continuing to act as a vital hub of knowledge, support and direction. Inspiring work has taken place within the community projects we co-ordinate and host, and the energy and compassion shown here act as the benchmark for what we hope to achieve as an organisation.

These are tough financial times, with budgets stretched across the sectors. But these are also times where the ingenuity and spirit within the sector are thriving, and, as an organisation, we feel privileged to be able to service this. The successes that you can read about in greater depth within this document are testament to that sense of duty our staff and volunteers feel, and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure the sector has the interface it deserves.

Gordon Bennie
Chief Executive Officer
Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire

Our partners and funders



Meet the team



Current Staff

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Gordon Bennie

TEAM LEADERS

Heather Petrie
Jenny Gemmell

EARLY YEARS COLLABORATIVE STRATEGIC OFFICER

Charlie Duffin

IT SUPPORT OFFICER

Angus Lindsay

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

Audrey Canning
Joyce Pye

DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

Ann Sangster
Fiona Dryburgh
Jen Fleming
Kieran Wardrop
Peter McGhee
Sandra Renicks
Stuart Reilly
Teeda Boyd

ADMINISTRATION

Chloe Frame
David Bett
Sharon Lawson

EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT

Caitlin Barnes
Debbie Williams
Ian McLaughlan
Winnie Brown

MAKING IT WORK KEY WORKERS

Eric Stallard
Judy Muldoon

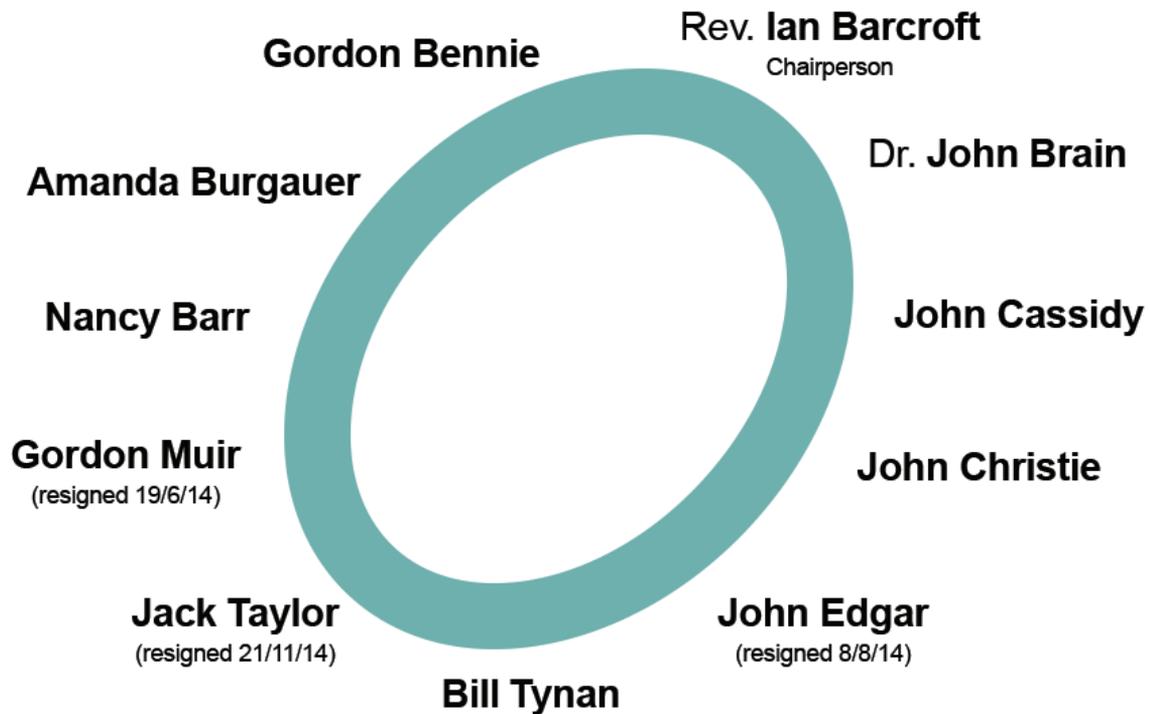
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Matthew McWhinnie

DEPARTED STAFF

Bill Gilroy
Brian Duffy
Chantelle Smith
Christine Simpson
Emma Hodge
Joyce Brownlie
Joe Lamer
Kay Thomson
Mary McFall
Mark Melville
Pia Andres

Board of Directors



Volunteers

Abigail Semple	Fiona Boyle	Jim Young	Margaret Quinn
Alexa Crawford	Gail Brown	Johann Duffy	Michelle Farmer
Andy Goldie	Gail Caldwell	Johnny Wallace	Myra Allan
Billy Gallacher	Gemma O'Reilly	Josh Smith	Norrie Inglis
Bobby Rankin	George Mackie	Karen Cook	Pamela Moyes
Callum McSkimming	Gillian Ventura	Katie Dryburgh	Peter Stephen
Catriona Gibson	Greig McGregor	Kayleigh O'Rourke	Robert Sellar
Cameron Kirkwood	Helen MacKinven	Keith McIntosh	Robert Sweeney
Campbell McEwan	Irene Arton	Khosrow Zanjani	Ryan Carr
Caroline Kneller	Irene McLaughlan	Kirk Grannell	Saga Pardede
Catherine Nugent	Jade Pickering	Laura Donnelly	Shannen Keeney
Chris Clark	Jan Russell	Les Patrick	Stuart Cook
Clare Fyfe	Jane Jack	Linda Campbell	Wendy Stoddart
Donald Jamieson	Jean Evans	Lisa McLaren	William Lenard
Eleanor Dryburgh	Jean Feenie	Logan Cronnie	Yvonne Sutherland
Elizabeth McGowan	Jean Kyle	Margaret McGuire	

Supporting volunteering

We helped people find suitable volunteering opportunities and promoted the contribution volunteers make in our communities



Dunfermline Country Park
Montrose Room

VSSC
Visitor Badge
3
Montrose Room

Volunteering remains central to what we do



We have remained committed to our core aim of maximising volunteering opportunities, continuously promoting the immense value volunteering has to society and relentlessly pursuing new and innovative methods of ensuring that those who wish to volunteer their time and efforts are able to do just that.

The statistics opposite make it clear that a significant appetite to volunteer exists in South Lanarkshire. As the area's TSI, we continue to be that integral link that ensures this demand is met, maintaining and updating a database of over 250 diverse roles which can be accessed digitally or in person depending on the client's

preference.

In order to ensure that those who enquire about volunteering are offered an accessible next step, we have continued to recruit and train new volunteer recruitment advisors who meet clients locally and are fully knowledgeable about what opportunities are available and suitable. We have also developed a close relationship with further education institutions in South Lanarkshire, ensuring that a volunteer representative is present at all relevant South Lanarkshire College events. This will result in a considerable increase in student awareness of volunteering, the work of the



third sector and the TSI's role in facilitating this.

There have been challenges. We are increasingly aware of a significant change in the culture of volunteering, and one which is likely to continue in light of economic circumstances. An increasing number of potential volunteers we support and advise are looking for roles that will enhance their employment potential, which is somewhat at odds with many organisations' perception of the traditional volunteer. It is our duty to maintain our robust links with volunteer-involving organisations, continuing to offer high-quality training opportunities reflecting volunteers' interests, and ensuring they are fully aware of the desires and

needs of the modern volunteer.

Recognising and promoting volunteering is another foundational aspect of VASLan's work. Our staff attended over 40 events this year with the aim of enthusiastically communicating the value of volunteering, whether towards employment, improving health or simply as a worthwhile pursuit in and of itself. We were proud to participate in the national Volunteers' Week celebrations, encouraging others to do so, while youth volunteering received due recognition at our Saltire Awards ceremony for those aged between 12 and 25.



Volunteers' Week 2014

VASLan and others took the opportunity to say "hats off" to South Lanarkshire's fantastic volunteers!

We recognised the contribution of young volunteers through delivering another Saltire Awards ceremony



The contribution of South Lanarkshire's generous young volunteers was given due recognition at our Saltire Awards event in October. People between the age of 12 and 25 who had been volunteering with the

Machan Trust, the Schools Volunteering Project, the Scottish Dragons project, Regen:FX, the Haven, Trinity High School, COVEYbefriending and more received awards at a vibrant and well-attended event.

96 YOUNG PEOPLE

RECEIVED APPROACH AWARDS FOR 10 OR 25 HOURS

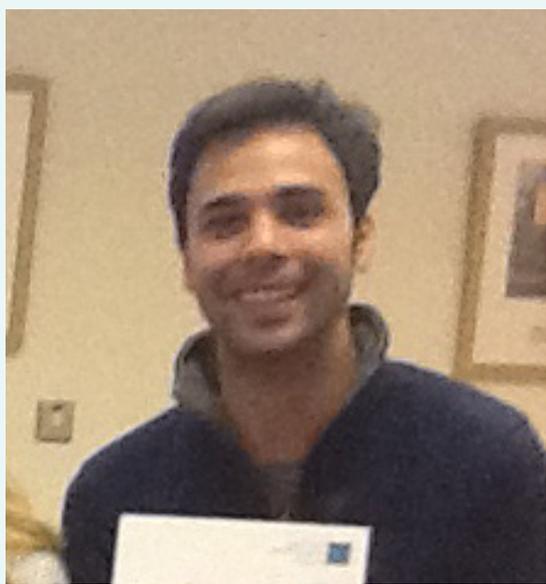
325 YOUNG PEOPLE

RECEIVED ASCENT AWARDS (50, 100, 200 OR 500 HOURS)

22 YOUNG PEOPLE

RECEIVED AWARDS FOR 200 & 500 HOURS

Some of our volunteers' stories



SAGA'S STORY

Saga began volunteering with our mentoring project in April 2014, satisfying a long-held desire to work with young people from vulnerable backgrounds. His role involves helping break down barriers to employment through a process of mentoring and personal development training, something he finds extremely valuable:

“The most enjoyable parts are getting to work with people that care not just about themselves but others too, and getting to help young people empower themselves.”

He advises those considering getting involved to keep an open mind and stresses the positive experiences he has had through getting to meet new people and experience new things.

LISA'S STORY

Lisa came to VASLan in October 2014 and began volunteering with the Chance to Change project as part of her university degree in Community Education. She volunteers between three and five hours per week, taking part in training days and working one-to-one with a young girl to build her confidence and help her along the road to employment. This can be anything from going for a walk, a meal, to the library or the cinema. She is very enthusiastic about the work she does and what she has learned:

“I love working with VASLan, and have learnt more from them than I have in a classroom. They are passionate people who inspire you to try and make a difference, no matter how big or small.”



Developing the third sector

We supported organisations to start up, get constituted,
find funding and provided numerous training opportunities

PIDGEEON TRUST

- REGISTERED CHARITY?
- CREDIBILITY -
- EVIDENCE OF NEED
- COMMUNICATION / MATERIALS -
- RISK ASSESS
- TRUSTEES - OUTCOMES
- LESS CHARITIES -
- LIMITED LIABILITY
- OTHER PROPOSALS -
- SUSTAINABILITY /
- GEOGRAPHICALLY /
- DEMOGRAPHICS



Supporting the sector every step of the way



Work has continued on offering services ensuring that the third sector in South Lanarkshire is well-managed, knowledgeable and well-equipped to offer their services. We have continued to run a varied and extensive training programme, bringing in expert practitioners at discount prices. With funding and recruitment of volunteers, we provided support in these two areas of fundamental importance to third sector organisations, offering assistance with funding applications that secured a combined total of over £1.4million, while we advertised volunteering opportunities on our website, in our e-newsletter and as part of the volunteering directory that we maintain for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer. Other areas

of support were in the start-up process, applying for charitable status and topics relating to governance of organisations more generally.

Another of our key functions is acting as a link for organisations into the community planning process. We worked hard to gather feedback from the sector about the thematic networks that previously provided this link, and having taken these comments on board, we are currently working towards locality-based third sector forums that will link more effectively into the planning groups emerging as part of the formal move towards integrated health and social care.

344

organisations
supported with
development

136

start-up
organisations
supported

62

supported to
become
charities

£1,435,041

of grants helped secured for 32 organisations

28

training courses
run throughout
the year

92

health-checks on
policy, training &
governance

23

local surgeries

We supported seven more organisations to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award



Having become the first organisation in South Lanarkshire to achieve the Volunteer Friendly Award, a nationally-recognised mark of accreditation signifying excellence in how organisations involve and support their volunteers, we have pushed ahead with our long-term goal of helping other groups to achieve this standard.

The sector's response has been very pleasing. **Seven further organisations achieved the Volunteer Friendly Award this year**, with eleven others due to achieve recognition in the next financial year. This has been due in no small part to the sector's enthusiastic

attitude to build on practices which were already meeting a high standard, as well as good uptake of our Involving & Supporting Volunteers training course which was tailored to fit with the Volunteer Friendly criteria.

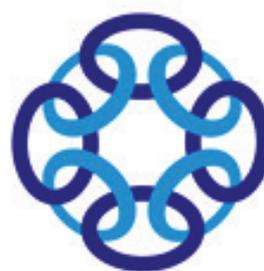
The Award not only ensures best practice and highlights this to potential funders and service users, but also makes organisations more attractive to potential volunteers. This is something that we feel will only improve as more and more organisations are offered the opportunity to work towards the Award and greater recognition of its significance develops.

Organisations officially declared **Volunteer Friendly** this year



HOPE CAFE LANARKSHIRE

A peer-led project offering opportunities to engage in activities proven to support positive mental health.



COMMUNITY LINKS S.L.

An organisation delivering consultation services to partner agencies and service providers to help involve local people in local decisions.



HEALTHY VALLEYS

A community-led health initiative working across rural South Lanarkshire.



BARNARDO'S AXIS LANARKSHIRE

Supporting children and young people affected by substance misuse.



NEW LANARK TRUST

The charity responsible for the preservation of New Lanark World Heritage Site.



THE MACHAN TRUST

A Larkhall charity providing activities, experiences and opportunities aimed at improving the life chances of children and young people.



Volunteer Friendly Award

Social enterprise a key priority



Developing social enterprise remained a priority for us this year. We offered organisations invaluable opportunities to showcase their fantastic products and services, both through our three day Christmas pop-up shop in East Kilbride which attracted 11 organisations, and a trade fair event involving 20. Much work too went into building the capacity of local social enterprises, with us organising a full day workshop, in partnership with the Social Enterprise Academy, aimed at groups looking to develop trading activity. Five further events for social enterprises starting out took place, and we developed a new online social enterprise resource kit which was accessed by over one thousand people in the year. We also took a full and active role in the Social Economy Steering Group, which is aimed at helping transform

communities by broadening social enterprise activity in South Lanarkshire.

Overall **we supported 50 organisations** on funding, project-planning, income generation, finance, marketing and governance, which amounted to **344 interactions** over the year with our Social Enterprise Development Officer. Such a close relationship with this area of the third sector has kept us informed about prevailing issues organisations are having, one example being dilemmas over choosing a legal structure. Maintaining such strong working relationships will remain our focus going forward, and with VASLan supporting **11 new social enterprises** to start up this year, we believe the future is bright.



How we helped...

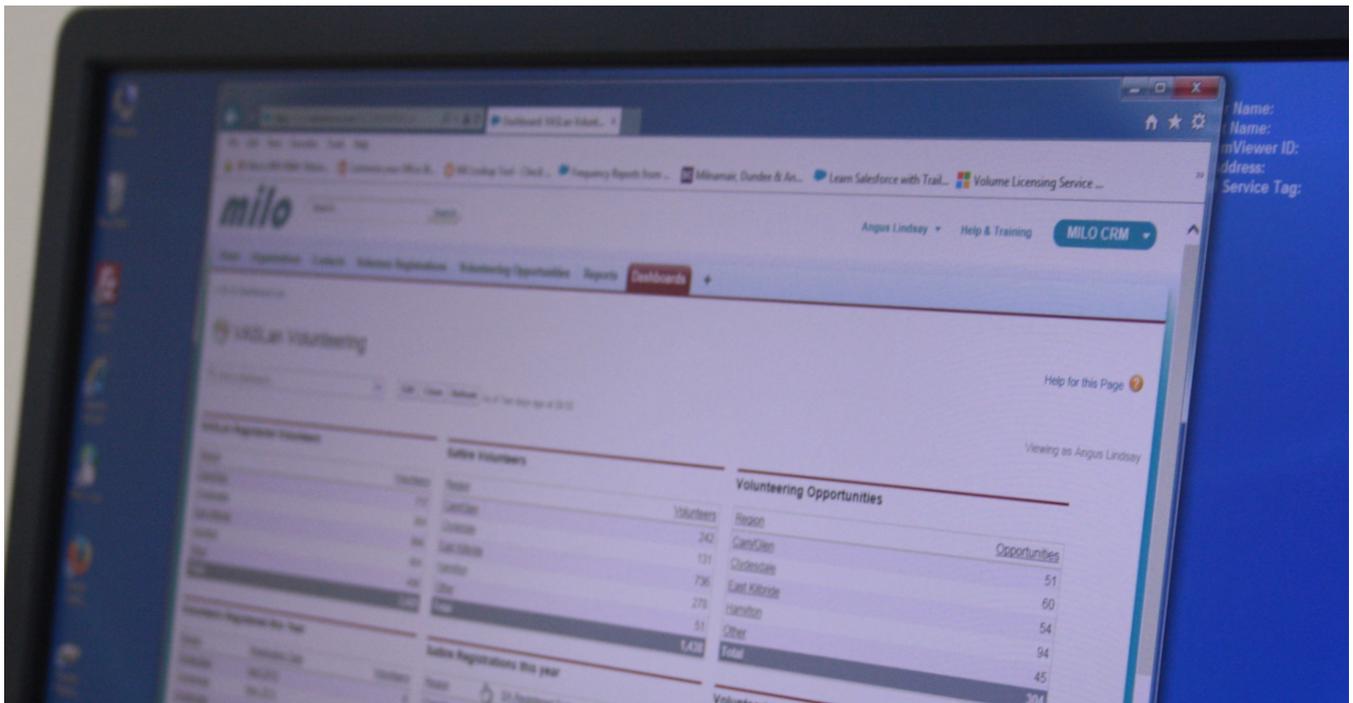
THE RE:ORGANISATION, LANARK

The Re:Organisation is a Community Interest Company that teaches furniture upcycling and craft skills, as well as selling upcycled furniture made by their team. We first become involved with the Re:Organisation when Maggie, who developed the project, contacted our Social Enterprise Team. We helped with her registration as a Community Interest Company (CIC), working through the requirements and responsibilities set out by the regulator. We also offered support in identifying the kind of board members she was looking for, and provided Maggie with a board skills audit template to identify any gaps in the existing board.

We reviewed Maggie's draft business plan, and suggested areas which could be strengthened or expanded upon. We put Maggie in touch with the Scottish Chamber of Commerce's social enterprise business mentoring programme, which resulted in her receiving further support on a one-to-one basis. Maggie also took part in relevant VASLan training opportunities, while VASLan provided further information on taking on employees, payroll services, HR and PAYE.

The company gained its first clients through a service level agreement with a local housing association, teaching young tenants decorating and furniture upcycling as part of an eight-week programme. As well as selling their products, the Re:Organisation are also receiving support from VASLan in developing a prospective partnership with a local furniture initiative and are receiving advice on generating further income through setting up a crowdfunding project.

Setting the blueprint for the modern interface

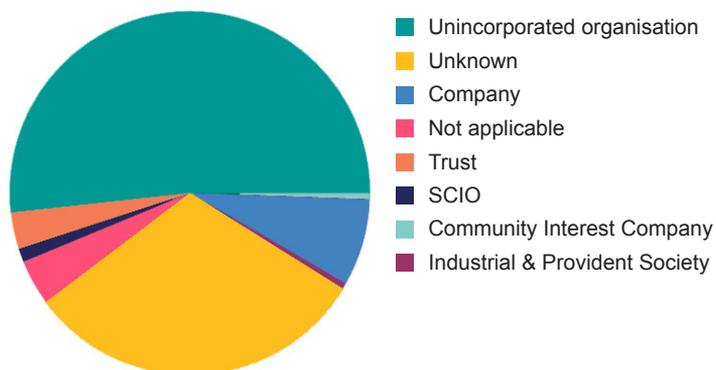


Development of IT systems were a notably positive part of this year's work. We have taken a leading role in the development of the national MILO database, used by all third sector interfaces. MILO keeps accurate, relevant and up-to-date information on the make-up of the sector, making it quick and easy to create reports which can be utilised to inform stakeholders, partners and funders. We recognised early on the enormous potential such technology has for the modern third sector interface and we are proud to have been right at the centre of the national network dedicated to getting the very best out of MILO.

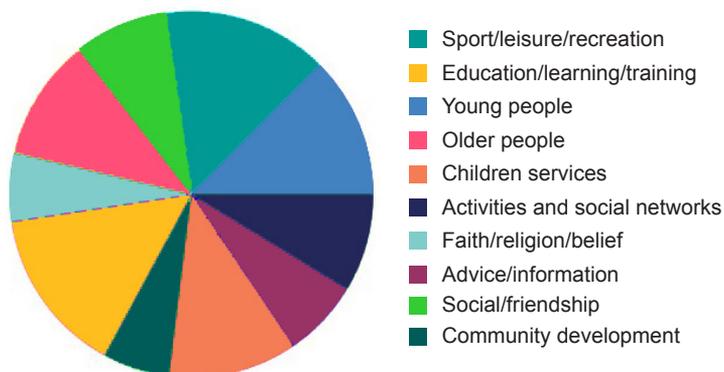
Following an extensive process of mapping and information-gathering by our staff working in line with the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda,

we launched the Locator tool - an accessible online database of third sector activities and services for older people. Locator's staggering popularity, with half a million hits since launch, led to demands for a broader range of information to be accessible in such a way. This year, we added information on third sector services related to financial inclusion (e.g. food banks and credit unions) and we have recently begun integration services for children and families. This combination of technology and grassroots support is the blueprint that third sector interfaces must follow to meet the demands of modern service users, and we are again proud to be at the forefront; this was reinforced when Locator's functionality was purchased by our fellow TSI Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire last summer.

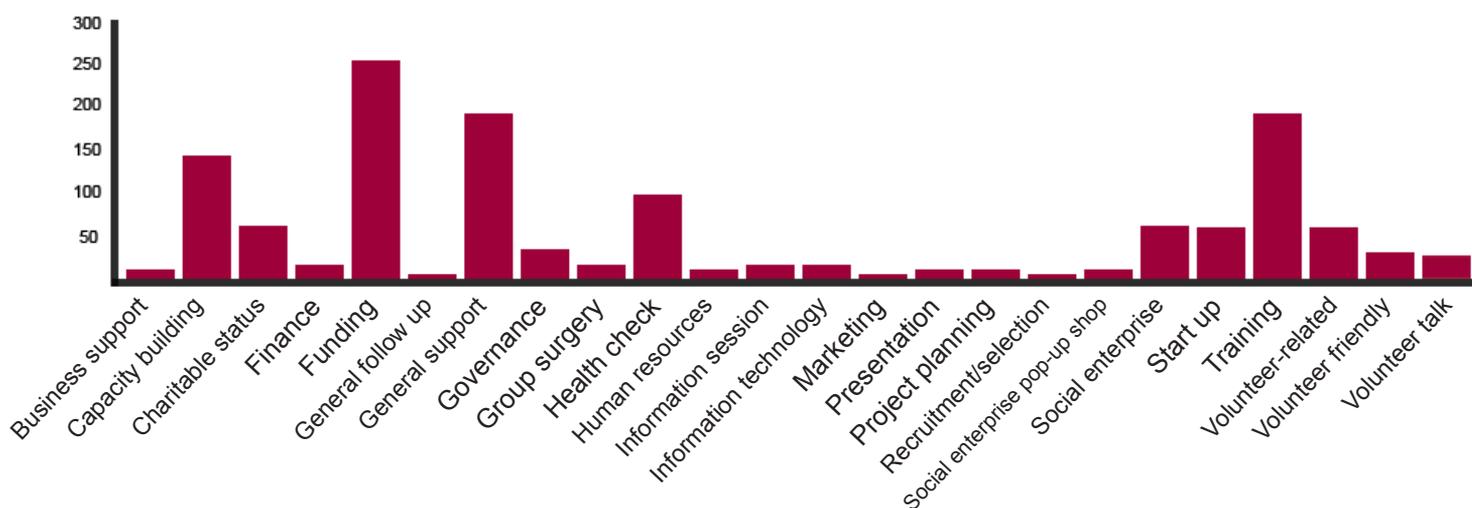
Organisations' Legal Status



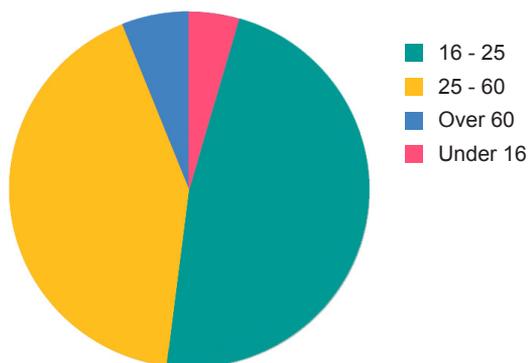
Organisations' Activities



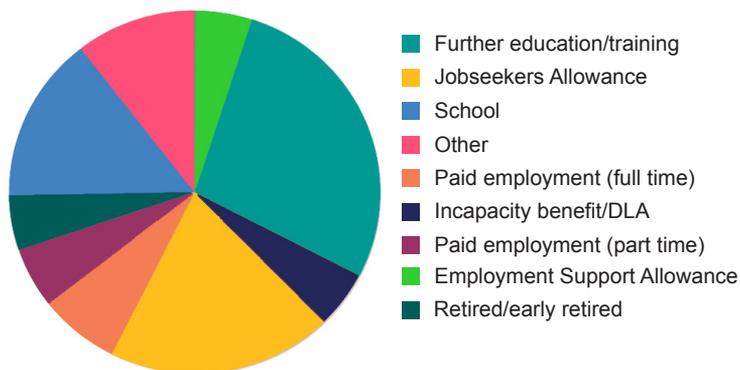
Types of support we provided



Age of volunteers



Volunteers' employment status



We played a significant role in the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda



We continued our active participation in the national Reshaping Care for Older People agenda, which aims to shift the focus of caring for our ageing population away from emergency health services towards more anticipatory and preventative measures. As well as supporting **over 90 groups** to recruit volunteers, increase membership, achieve better governance and find funding, our Locality Officers developed a series of pilot schemes which put into practice innovative ideas about what third sector services for older people could look like in the future.

The Morning Call service, for example, involved older people signing up to receive a call from a volunteer or VASLan staff member each morning to make sure

they were feeling well and to get help if there were any issues. Service users reported that the service made them feel safer, more secure and less isolated in the event of a crisis. With the conclusion of our involvement with the project, our Locality Officers also worked with Larkhall and District Volunteer Group to transfer the service to them so that the **22 service users** would continue to receive that invaluable call.

As well as isolation, mobility issues were targeted as another leading cause of older people's reliance on emergency services. We secured funding from the Big Lottery's 2014 Communities Fund to deliver Strolling Steady, a two part-programme involving a 12-week walking programme that used activity diaries and

Lillis's story

I was a military wife and during WWII we were moved around various bases in the UK as my late husband, Richard, served overseas. Richard died of natural causes shortly after the war and I was left to bring up four children. I retrained as a social worker, including studying in Sweden, and later worked across west central Scotland, settling in Strathaven. Latterly, I was leading a team in Stonehouse and spent my holidays and free time traveling the world, from the Indian subcontinent, Singapore to Europe.

I've never really been one to sit around and let life pass by and have always loved immersing myself in new cultures and environments. Life for me has always been about going out and grasping opportunities. When I heard about the Strolling Steady initiative I wanted to give it a go.

My family have always been very green fingered and I love to tend the garden. I'm feeling really good after almost completing the programme. We once had a small strawberry field in our grounds and I'm determined to



replant that. I've no immediate plans to travel but you can often find that the best adventures are on your doorstep. The Strolling Steady programme has been part of that.

pedometers to help older people feel fitter and more confident on their feet. **73 local people** signed up, while **10 volunteers** were recruited and trained to lead strength and balance sessions for **485 participants**.

We continued to improve our online Locator tool, a widely-used online database of third sector services and activities for older people, incorporating information on accessibility and facilities and allowing users to search by day as well as by location and activity. Locator received over **240,000 hits** in this financial year, taking its total hits since launching to **over half a million**. We also supported 14 organisations to access HealthEngage funding from the People's Health Trust which funds projects that tackle health inequality.

VASLan continued to act as an important link between the third sector and others such as local and national government, the health board and the independent sector. As our involvement in Reshaping Care for Older People draws to an end, we are proud of what we have achieved over the last three years in shaping the third sector's response to the challenges faced in providing adequate services to an ageing population. What is vital now is that the innovative work that has taken place is not ignored and that proper resources are allocated to bolster such strategies in the aftermath of the Change Fund initiative.

Supporting organisations working with children and young people



As South Lanarkshire's TSI, one of our chief responsibilities is ensuring the third sector is kept fully aware of relevant policy developments and what organisations' responsibilities are relating to this. With significant movement due to the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act, raising awareness among third sector organisations working in this area has been an important piece of work, and has helped ensure the sector is able to make smooth transition towards new ways of working.

Getting it Right for Every Child

A series of GIRFEC awareness roadshows have been delivered in all 4 localities in response to the multi- agency inspection of children's services. These

roadshows provide a central point of discussion for organisations working with children and families, on their understanding of the GIRFEC approach and the best way for them to implement this in their various services. A 'process aid' in the form of a flow chart was produced to help guide participants through the GIRFEC process.

Initial feedback from these events has been positive, with organisations stating that the information provided was clear, concise and informative, and gave a much better understanding of what GIRFEC is.

Plans are in place to revisit participating organisations in the near future to ascertain what difference this knowledge has made to the delivery of their service.



The SHANARRI wellbeing indicators outlined by GIRFEC

Briefings

Several briefings have been disseminated throughout the voluntary sector on a variety of topics including Child Protection issues such as trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation as well as information on the lessons to be learned from significant case reviews to enable the voluntary sector to work more collaboratively with other agencies in addressing these areas.

An article about the impact of the new legislation from the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act 2014 was highlighted in a special edition of the VASLan Newsletter to ensure wide dissemination of this important information.

Early Years Collaborative

The Early Years Collaborative (EYC) is a national programme which aims to “make Scotland the best possible place in the world to grow up.” It promotes the use of improvement science methodology to improve outcomes for children in the early years.

Over the past year there has been a great deal of focus on progressing initial tests of change, VASLan has supported the EYC programme in South Lanarkshire by contributing its knowledge of ‘Improvement Science’, Data Driven Improvement and Process mapping.

Community projects

**Our employability and media projects
continued to have a hugely positive impact**

Supporting lone parents into employment



Making it Work is a partnership programme led by Routes to Work South that provides one-to-one support for lone parents, helping them access a range of services enabling them to start training, find a job or move into self-employment. This year we continued to host two key workers covering the Clydesdale and Hamilton/Blantyre localities.

Support offered includes advice on debt and money, information on courses, assistance with childcare and other costs such as travel and buying workwear. **240** took part in the programme during the year, with

36 gaining employment, **215** completing personal development programmes, and **3** moving into volunteering. Some lone parents who have taken part in the programme have used the support to become self-employed as registered childminders.

We will continue to utilise our knowledge of and connections with the third sector in aid of finding positive destinations for clients of this vital project, and our experience of delivering our own employability programmes is also extremely helpful in this regard.

Our volunteer mentoring programmes had a life-changing impact



We continued to see positive results from our employability-focused mentoring projects, in which volunteers are paired with people facing barriers to employment. VASLan and its predecessor organisations have been running such mentoring programmes for over a decade, with our position in the voluntary sector making us ideally placed to find volunteering placements that will lead to added skills, greater confidence and improved employment prospects. The close links we have developed with employers and further education institutions are also very useful in this regard.

The two mentoring projects are Chance to Change and the Enhanced Volunteering Initiative. The schemes provide specialist guidance, training and support to

those needing additional help to find work, with Chance to Change catering specifically to young people between the age of 16 and 25 who have committed multiple low-tariff offences in the past but are looking to change their lives. Participants on both projects are offered a personal development programme to help push back any barriers they may be facing, while attendance on training courses is also encouraged. The involvement of the dedicated volunteer mentor is vital, arranging to meet with the participant regularly and discuss any issues or concerns they may be having that is infringing upon their path to employment. VASLan staff are offering full support to mentors and mentees at all times, and suggesting any volunteering, training, education or employment placements that may prove beneficial.

OF 35 CLIENTS ON THE ENHANCED VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVE IN 2014/15



OF 37 REFERRALS TO CHANCE TO CHANGE IN 2014/15



SCOTT'S STORY WITH CHANCE TO CHANGE

Scott has a background of drug addiction and alcohol abuse and had racked up convictions for shoplifting and assault. Finding himself homeless, he came to the Chance to Change project at a point where he was desperate for change.

Chance to Change introduced him to his mentor, who he met on a weekly basis, and guided him through STEPS to Excellence personal development training. He also completed My World of Work programmes which helped him become more aware of his skills and strengths, and identified careers he may be interested in.

Scott found that meeting with his mentor was helping boost his confidence and self-esteem, and making him think about what he'd like to do in life. He decided he would like to work to support other people. While his previous convictions made working in the care sector problematic, he realised, through working with VASLan's Employability Officer, that he also had a talent for sales that could be put to use in helping others.

Eventually he found employment with a national charity as a paid fundraiser. He is hugely enjoying the role and is delighted to be helping others and making a contribution to society.

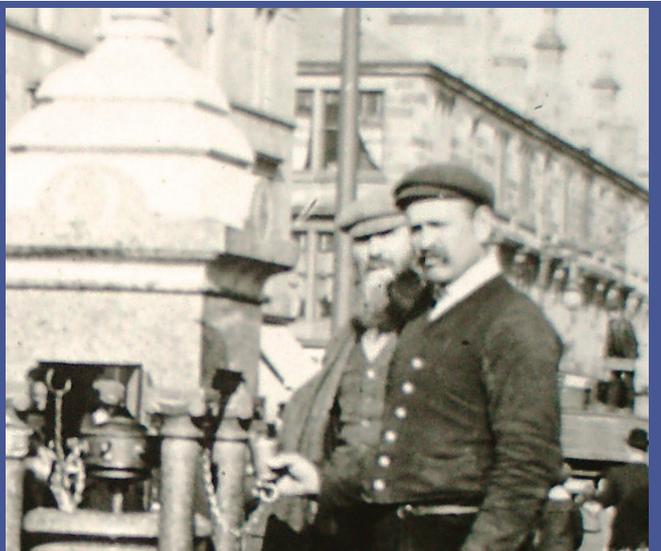
Inspiring young people and passing on skills



It was a busy year for our Media Project, facilitating two volunteer-led projects that engaged and inspired young people and passed on valuable new skills.

The South Lanarkshire Youth Film Festival project engaged with 62 young people, giving them access to quality filmmaking equipment, guiding them through the creative process of scriptwriting, camerawork, directing and acting, and leaving them with a final product to call their own. This culminated in the South Lanarkshire Youth Film Festival event at Hamilton's Vue Cinema, an awards ceremony hosted by actor Paul Brannigan, which put the fruits of the young people's imagination up on the state-of-the-art big screen, with voting for the best film taking place among their peers.

Additionally the Media Project continued work on a new heritage media project named Laughs and Landscapes, working with young volunteers to create a website and traveling exhibition reflecting South Lanarkshire's social and environmental history. The participants researched significant stories in South Lanarkshire's social and cultural history, such as Carluke's fruitmaking heritage and Robert Owen's industrial settlement at New Lanark. Other projects included making short documentaries about historic buildings and monuments, and gathering old photographs and slides which helped illustrate the changes our communities have seen in the recent past.



Laughs and Landscapes

The Laughs and Landscapes exhibition toured South Lanarkshire, spending time at New Lanark, Cambuslang Gate, East Kilbride Arts Centre, East Kilbride Library, Hamilton Low Parks Museum and Chatelherault Country Park. Material can be viewed at www.laughsandlandscapes.org.uk.

Annual accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2015

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.15 Total funds £	31.3.14 Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	500	381	881	540
Incoming resources from charitable activities				
Incoming resources from charitable activities	101,138	1,033,790	1,134,928	1,119,466
Total incoming resources	101,638	1,034,171	1,135,809	1,120,006
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising trading: costs of goods sold and other costs	3,039	-	3,039	31,955
Charitable activities				
Charitable activities	7,224	864,399	871,623	811,156
Governance costs	4,800	-	4,800	4,800
Total resources expended	15,063	864,399	879,462	847,911
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS				
	86,575	169,772	256,347	272,095
Gross transfers between funds	55,968	(55,968)	-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	142,543	113,804	256,347	272,095
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	340,092	305,746	645,838	373,743
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	482,635	419,550	902,185	645,838

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.15 Total funds £	31.3.14 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	13,663	-	13,633	15,934
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	13,166	-	13,166	8,069
Cash at bank and in hand	477,979	419,550	897,529	640,808
	491,145	419,550	910,695	648,877
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year	(22,173)	-	(22,173)	(18,973)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	468,972	419,550	888,522	629,904
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	482,635	419,550	902,185	645,838
NET ASSETS	482,635	419,550	902,185	645,838
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			482,635	340,092
Restricted funds			419,550	305,746
TOTAL FUNDS			902,185	645,838

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Looking ahead

Work will continue to build on this year's successes and achievements. Having restructured internally while consolidating the skills we have in the organisation, we are in a good position to implement further changes that will help the sector feel better-connected, involved and listened to. Primarily, this will take the form of the locality-based third sector forum to be introduced next year, which will provide a rejuvenated platform for the third sector to engage with public sector bodies, extending opportunities to contribute the sector's ideas and experiences to the development of public policy.

We are responding to the changing needs of the sector and listening closely to concerns. Questions about asset transfer have led us to plan a series of events around Asset Transfer, providing support pathways to organisations taking on assets, while queries about legal structures, becoming a charity and digital inclusion have led us to tailor our upcoming training programme to include these topics. We will also continue to improve and expand our online services and introduce monthly funding surgeries to ensure that we are accessible as an organisation, while we will keep a close eye on key national policy developments so that we can keep organisations fully informed about any new responsibilities and requirements.

Through training and targeted approaches, we will continue to roll out the Volunteer Friendly Awards programme, promoting the value of achievement of this mark of recognition, encouraging good practice in how organisations work with volunteers and developing a sector that values the enormous contribution volunteers make.

IT will remain a priority as we look to blaze a trail regarding how a modern TSI should operate. We will continue to take a leading role in supporting the implementation of a new MILO database, while we will work to explore continued funding for the Locator tool and potential for expansion of its functionality.

Our project work remains central to our identity as an organisation, and we will continue the delivery of our life-changing employability projects while actively seeking to secure future involvement.





Voluntary Action
South Lanarkshire
Putting the Voluntary Sector **FIRST**

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire
155 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton
ML3 6LQ

For general enquiries: office@vaslan.org.uk
For volunteering enquiries: volunteer@vaslan.org.uk

**For information on becoming a VASLan member,
please visit www.vaslan.org.uk.**

