



Annual Report 2012-13



Voluntary Action
South Lanarkshire
Putting the Voluntary Sector FIRST

As South Lanarkshire's Third Sector Interface, VASLan works tirelessly to ensure that the voluntary and community sectors in the region are successful, sustainable and among the best in Scotland.



Chairman's Review

Chairman Ian Barcroft looks back at the year's achievements

When VASLan emerged in 2011 as the new Third Sector Interface for South Lanarkshire, many questioned the rationale and whether such an approach could meet the needs of such a varied sector. Those of us committed to the third (or voluntary) sector realised that we had an opportunity to develop something new and vital whilst retaining the local impact of the four organisations preceding us.

The merger of Hamilton & East Kilbride CVS, SoLVE, Create and LCDT is now well past, and I am delighted to report that we are creating real impetus for the essential involvement of our local

voluntary sector communities in delivering a wide number of support services across the key thematic networks of Health & Care, Older People, Rural, Social Enterprise and Youth.

All this work has depended upon the commitment of our staff, CEO and the Board, to whom I offer my grateful thanks. All at VASLan are trying hard to run a quality organisation dependent on good leadership, collaboration and integrity, whilst at the same time allowing a common respect for both equality and diversity. This, we hope allows organisations and volunteers to see the value necessary for the good of our

sector and the wider community.

VASLan is committed to the involvement of the third sector in South Lanarkshire by creating and developing partnerships. When this happens, organisations then begin to influence public policy and contribute to better community planning. This will only happen when we increase opportunity and enthusiasm for volunteering, enable organisations to recruit, manage and retain volunteers better; develop and grow our social enterprises; and ensure quality service delivery from third sector organisations.

VASLan's Board of Directors

Chairperson
 Ian Barcroft

Vice Chair
 John Cassidy

Company Secretary
 Gordon Bennie

Treasurer
 Jack Taylor

Directors
 John Brain John Christie
 John Edgar Robert Fleming
 William Tynan





Gordon Bennie

Chief Executive Officer

The past year has seen tighter working relationships inside and outside the organisation. This has been the catalyst for fulfilling the main objectives of a third sector interface and inspiring achievements in project work. While continuing our core duties of supporting, developing and representing the third sector, our projects have helped tackle issues which affect life in South Lanarkshire enormously.

Our contribution to the national Reshaping Care for Older

People agenda has included the painstaking mapping of the diverse and numerous older people's services and activities offered by the sector. On the other end of the age spectrum, our Employability Project has helped hard-to-reach young people into training, education and employment, with the recruitment of a full-time Employability Officer providing scope for even greater successes in the future.

The endless commitment and enthusiasm our staff bring to

these projects have made them a cornerstone of the organisation and an example of the ethos we strive for in all areas of our work. This, in large part, has helped us reach a level where teams can come together to produce a TSI Work Plan for the next year that was held up as exemplary by the Scottish Government.

With a defined set of objectives and a unified organisation, we are now in a good position to take the lead in defining what a TSI is and how it should operate.

Our Staff & Volunteers

Chief Executive Officer Gordon Bennie	Development Officers Fiona Gilchrist* Julie Miller* Mary McLeod* Mary Sneddon Susan Lennartson Wendy Russell	Media Project Mark Melville	Facilities Bill Gilroy Christine Simpson Jacqui Gilchrist	Fiona Boyle Fraser McEwan George Mackie Helen McLaughlin Irene McLaughlan Jane Jack Jan Russell Jean Feenie Jim Young Jim Thompson Karen Munro Kate Stewart Keiren Gracie Kevin Mains Linda Campbell Linda Mair	Margaret McGuire Norrie Inglis Pamela Moyes Robert Allan Robert Sweeney Roselyn Drummond Scott Aitken Swedi Bafwa Tracey McCarroll Tracey Yardley William Gallacher
Team Leaders Heather Petrie Janet Low Jenny Gemmell	Locality Officers Angela Lavery* Brian Duffy Fiona Dryburgh Teeda Boyd	Marketing & Communications Officer Matthew McWhinnie	Community Jobs Fund Chantelle Smith Michelle Whyte* Paul Daly* Sharie Boyd Tammy Ducie Zoe Jamieson		
IT Support Officer Angus Lindsay	Employability Project Ian McLaughlan Karen Lennox* Winnie Brown	Infobase Project David Bett Stuart Reilly	Volunteers Andy Goldie Elizabeth Smith		
Senior Finance Officer Mary McFall		Administration Audrey Canning Joyce Brownlie Sharon Lawson			
Finance Administration Joyce Pye					

*Resigned/contract expired



Developing the Third Sector

We offer the best possible support to South Lanarkshire voluntary groups

Over the last year we have been committed to providing the best possible support to the South Lanarkshire third sector. This ranges from small local organisations run by a handful of volunteers to larger organisations employing a number of staff and delivering services throughout the region.

To help continue this range and depth of service, we divided our group work between a Core team and a Growth team. The Core team was responsible for the support and development of third sector organisations, while any organisations requiring help in starting social enterprise

activities were referred to the Growth team for assistance.

We've run information sessions and surgeries that allow those from organisations to meet with

**Over 800
groups helped**

our staff locally and receive advice, guidance and information on a regular basis. 583 organisations have benefitted from help we've offered by telephone and email, while a further 218 received in depth consultancy and one to one support.

Huge steps were made in the mapping of the sector when the new national MILO database was implemented in South Lanarkshire, allowing us to provide a comprehensive, accurate picture of the sector at the touch of a button. This has been invaluable in the production of reports and detailed information on third sector activity.

Another milestone is the relaunch of the VASLan website which offers users online information, advice and support and provides organisations up to date news and details of upcoming events and training.

Blantyre Soccer Academy



We're proud to have supported a sporting success story that continues to develop

Blantyre Soccer Academy is a football club and charitable organisation run solely by volunteers. The Academy works with over 260 young people (including a boys, girls and disabled section) nurturing them in their football development, promoting positive living, nutrition, discipline and exercise.

VASLan's support helped them increase their membership to include girls and work with youngsters all the way up to the

age of 19. We helped them this year to become a registered charity and SCIO and secure funding from the SFA, Awards for All and 2014 Communities.

With ambitions to create a sports facility in Blantyre, we have supported them to work in partnership with other groups helping create the Blantyre Sports Community Trust, and have petitioned South Lanarkshire Council to provide a suitable piece of land.

How we helped organisations

- Provided training, guidelines and sample paperwork
- Advertised volunteering opportunities
- Worked closely to help produce quality volunteering placements, up-to-date policies and practices, support systems, training options and volunteer recognition
- Provided information and advice
- Networking at events
- Held information sessions and surgeries that allowed organisations to meet our staff locally on a regular basis
- Advertised events, jobs and volunteering opportunities through social media and our online newsletter

Supporting Community Planning

Thematic Networks increase third sector influence on community planning

Following the launch of Thematic Networks in 2011, we have continued with regular meetings of the five themed groups (Health and Care, Older People, Rural, Youth and Social Enterprise).

The Strategic Group also met regularly; this is made up of the Chairs of the five Networks, the CEO of VASLan Gordon Bennie and John McCafferty, representing South Lanarkshire Council. They have been working towards better linkage with the Community

Planning Partnership.

Guests have also been invited to the Strategic Group meetings, with the Council's Rural Partnership

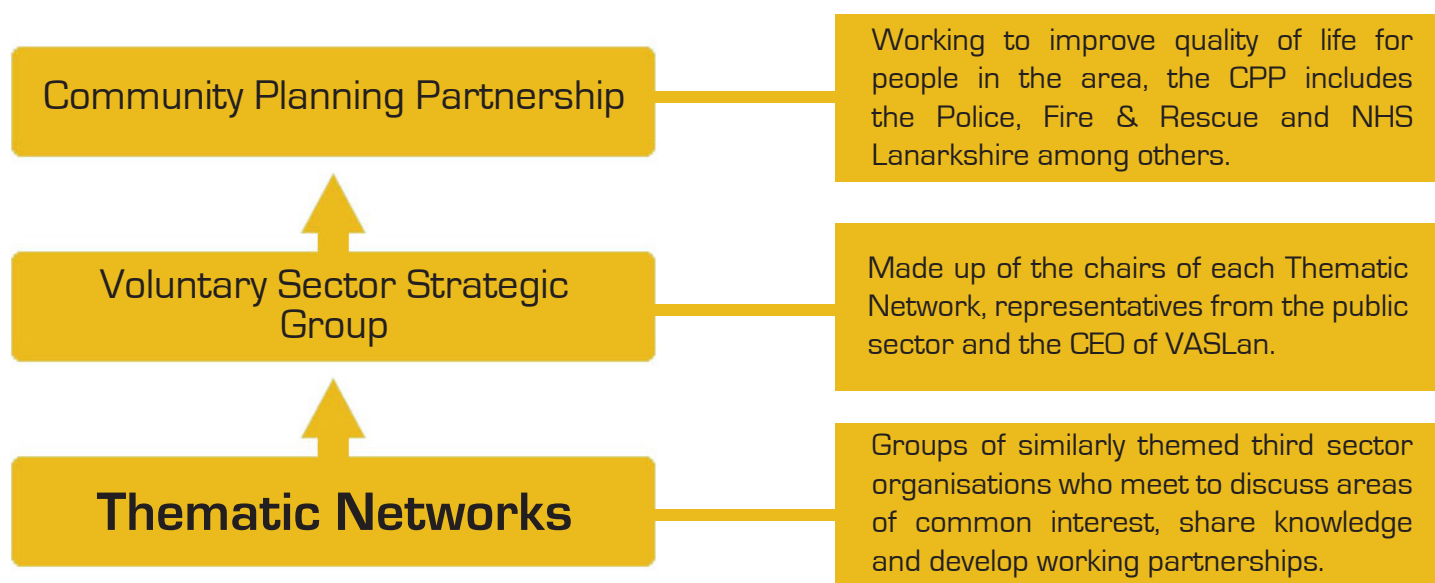


Manager Martin McManus and their Lead in Funding Kenny Lean attending to discuss better ways to link with the voluntary sector.

The Networks have proved to be a diverse and lively forum for organisations to discuss the very different needs across the sector. We will continue to work with members to come up with ambitious and thoughtful ways of making sure the sector's contribution and value is recognised in the process.

How Thematic Networks Work

A breakdown of how participation in the Networks allows the sector's voice to be heard



The Networks

A summary of the activities of each of the individual networks this year

Older People/Health & Care

The Health & Care Network had joint meetings with Older People network as a result of the prolonged poor health of one of the chairs. Over the year this group concentrated on getting to know one another, identifying the priorities of the integration of health and social care and learning about the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda. VASLan's Locality Officers were employed and began to take an active role in the network, regularly providing updates on their work mapping the sector in South Lanarkshire

Rural

The Rural meetings have seen a good turnout this year and their meetings have focussed on a wide range of rural issues, including funding, transport, community benefit, volunteer recruitment and training. The network has also given those attending the chance to receive updates about Reshaping Care for Older People and has been a fantastic opportunity for networking.

Social Enterprise

The Social Enterprise Network has gone from strength to strength. A successful bid to Awards for All allowed the group to focus on a joint marketing plan, enabling it to brand itself as the Social Enterprise Network South Lanarkshire, or SENSL. It created a glossy directory of existing social enterprises in the area as well as organising a networking event to promote the group and its member businesses.

Youth

The Youth Network have continued to meet and their focus over the year has been networking between the groups involved, discussions surrounding the Youth Action Plan, the Scottish Government's Getting it Right for Every Child agenda and the Youth Services Directory. Another priority has been raising the profile of youth services in South Lanarkshire.

Statistics

Taking you through the work carried out this year in numbers

£403,348

Amount of funding secured
for South Lanarkshire's
third sector

60%

Funding success rate

86

Number of social
enterprises supported

122%

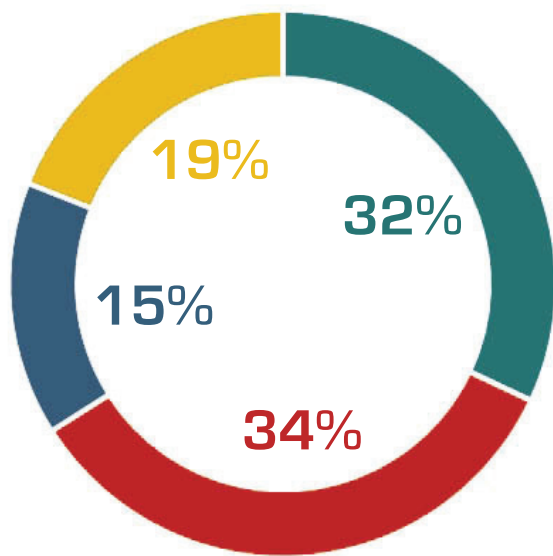
rise in young people
receiving volunteering
awards

2,154

People given volunteering
advice

801

Number of voluntary
organisations and
charities supported



Proportion of Resources Allocated

- Volunteering Development
- Link with Community Planning Partners
- Social Enterprise Development
- Third Sector Development

50%

of young people working with our Employability Team moving on to positive destinations

79

Organisations accessed training & development programmes

31,090

Staff hours committed to the voluntary sector this year

60

Young people took part in the South Lanarkshire Youth Film Festival



Supporting Volunteering

Promoting and facilitating volunteering is central to the work we do

In the last year, VASLan has helped literally thousands of people looking for information about volunteering, be it through telephone or email enquiries or meeting in person.

People volunteer for a number of reasons - to improve their skill set, to build confidence, to make friends or to help their community by doing something worthwhile. The depth and diversity of our volunteering vacancy database ensures that these different demands are met. Our regular volunteering appointments take place across South Lanarkshire at weekly and monthly intervals, and this helps

us fulfill our commitment towards helping anyone who wants to volunteer to get involved.

We have also worked to raise awareness of the value of

We've helped thousands

volunteering through promotional campaigns held in Volunteers' Week and the Volunteer of the Year awards ceremony. We've worked closely with partner agencies, including Jobcentre Plus and Skills Development Scotland, given talks in local schools and colleges, and

publicised opportunities in our weekly online newsletter.

Additionally, we have worked hard to make local employers aware of how they can become involved in volunteering. Two team challenge days involved local companies contributing employees for teambuilding exercises which involved helping out small third sector organisations.

The commitment and compassion of the area's volunteers is fundamental to the running of vital services in the area. We will continue to work hard to ensure their importance is recognised.

Volunteers' Stories

We spoke to South Lanarkshire volunteers about their role and what motivated them to get involved



Jackie volunteers as a secretary for children's play charity Project 31, officially involving typing up the minutes for meetings and circulating them, but she also volunteers at events - a varied role that can see her do anything from manning stalls to painting murals. She enjoys seeing what people get from the service: "It's been fulfilling to see parents and young children leave with a smile on their faces."



Fiona volunteered with LEAP's Make a Difference project, meeting people over the age of 50 and helping them find ways to cut down on their energy bills. She enjoyed working as part of an organisation, gaining experience and learning new things, and was happy to help older people vulnerable to energy companies. She thrived as a volunteer and was subsequently offered a salaried position by LEAP.



Gil volunteers as an Adviser at Clydesdale Citizens Advice Bureau, dealing with clients' issues relating to debt, benefits, housing and consumer issues. She enjoys working for a worthwhile cause, helping people to get themselves out of difficult situations. She also enjoys the social aspect: "there is a great support network in the office. Our volunteers stay a long time."

Saltire Awards

A national programme designed to recognise young volunteers

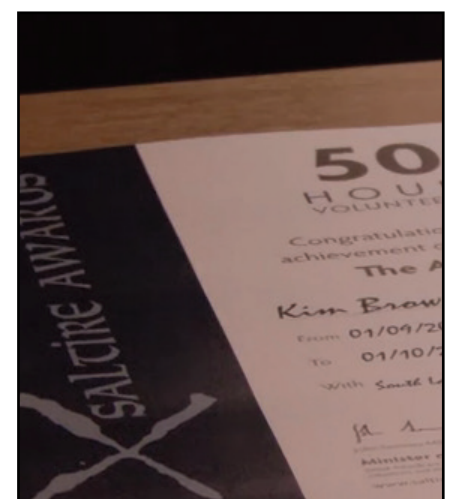
This year, the Saltire Awards replaced the MV Awards as the new way of recognising the contribution of young volunteers.

A national programme, it is geared towards marking the achievements of young volunteers between the ages of 12 and 25.

We held an event to celebrate the contribution made by South Lanarkshire's young

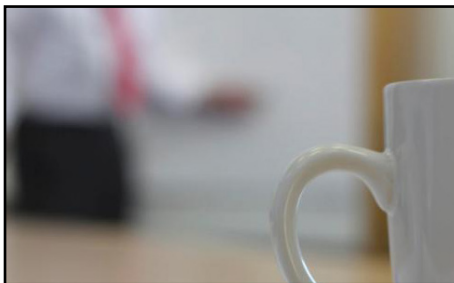
volunteers. 550 young people, who had worked with a number of organisations, registered for the awards. 103 were awarded Ascent Awards (10 or 20 hours of volunteering) and 408 were awarded an Approach Award (for 50, 100, 200 or 500 hours of volunteering).

We will continue to promote these awards and implement them in South Lanarkshire.



Developing Social Enterprise

A social enterprise is a business that trades for a social purpose



This year we continued to build on the foundations of our social enterprise support through a range of specialist training and interventions.

Good working relationships have been formed with partners including the Social Enterprise Academy, Big Lottery, Business Gateway, Ready for Business, Just Enterprise and First Port. This has allowed the organisations we support to access a more comprehensive training calendar and co-ordinated support service for their enterprising activities.

In partnership with the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise

Network, £9,000 in funding was secured to subsidise the cost of training in conjunction with the Social Enterprise Academy. We also held a Social Enterprise event and developed a Social Enterprise

An upturn in interest

Directory for South Lanarkshire. We then carried out a survey of 200 social enterprises in the directory to get an idea of the depth of activity in the area, and the results of this were used to influence how the Network's action plan was further developed.

We have witnessed an upturn in interest in social enterprise, with many new-start organisations choosing income generation over grant funding from day one, and other established third sector organisations shifting their focus to enterprising activities to cover running costs.

We have seen increased demand for more specialised support and staff training has been key to ensuring our teams have the skills and knowledge to respond to this growth area. We have worked with 86 organisations on funding, project planning, income generation, finance, marketing and governance.

The Feufield Trust

Feufield offers an example of a social enterprise that has thrived with our support

The Feufield Trust are a rural smallholding which is open to the public as a visitor's attraction. They became a charity and company in August 2011 and have quickly developed their business with VASLan's support.

We supported them in creating volunteer opportunities which were advertised in our directories. We supported them in registering with Just Enterprise and First Port, from whom they received £2,225

to provide training, health and safety and insurance. We helped them register with Community Jobs Scotland to provide jobs to local young people. We helped too with policies, procedures, handbooks risk assesment and more.

Feufield has gone from strength to strength due to the drive of their founder Kim Adam - who even sings to raise funds for the charity - along with our guidance and support.



Unlocking Ambition

Niall McShannon, chair of the Social Enterprise Network South Lanarkshire takes us through the first year of the network and the progress made

The first year for SENSL has been all about matching practical and strategic support needs to the amazing ambition and energy of our social entrepreneurs.

SENSL undertook a comprehensive consultation with its members and identified several key objectives that will enable sustainable growth for the sector. These include developing a shared marketing plan, promoting the social enterprise brand, generating new business, increasing training and support for start-up

social enterprises and developing a relationship with public partners to help them to access the benefits social enterprises can offer their procurement and commissioning teams.

We worked in partnership with VASLan to access an Awards for All grant from the Big Lottery. This was used to create a joint marketing brochure and information leaflet, deliver a number of training and information events and prepare a paper for a planned compact meeting with CPP partners. On top of this, the

group has been working hard on the boring but necessary governance and membership infrastructure that will enable it to meet its vision for the coming years.

We have enjoyed outstanding support from VASLan and look forward to developing this partnership over the next year so that we can fully exploit the enterprising ethos and drive of our members to achieve the social and community needs that they are determined to meet.

Project Work

As well as our core work with the sector, we carry out a range of projects that benefit the wider community in a number of ways. Here is a summary of the year.



The Locator Tool

Giving instant access to information about older people's services

We are excited to unveil the Locator tool, an online service that makes it quick and easy to find older people's services run by the voluntary sector in South Lanarkshire.

Locator has been built using extensive data gathered by our Locality Officers working in line with the Scottish Government's Reshaping Care for Older People agenda. VASLan is one of the key partners in this alongside NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Council and representatives from the independent sector.

Reshaping Care for Older People is aimed at tackling isolation in

our older people, enabling them to feel secure while maintaining their independence.

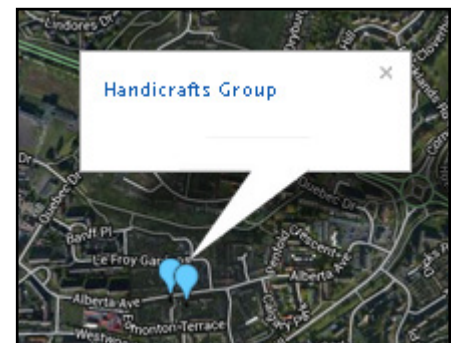
Locator will help keep people informed about the diverse range of older people's services and activities offered by the sector.

Simply by entering their postcode, users will be shown the locations of these services on the map. This can include illness support, line dancing, coffee mornings, lunch clubs, singing groups, arts and crafts groups and much more.

They will also be given contact details and information about when each activity takes place. The aim is that building up

social support networks from maintaining an active routine will prevent isolation setting in with older people and allow them to live safely and independently at home for longer.

You can find Locator at www.vaslan.org.uk/locator.



Media Project

This project gives young people the opportunity to express themselves through film

The last year has seen a wealth of youth filmmaking talent come to the fore during the fourth South Lanarkshire Youth Film Festival programme.

The project inspires young people to be creative, learn new skills and make films, giving them access to professional equipment and tutors, and taking on all major production roles.

The project visited communities across South Lanarkshire,

from Cambuslang to Douglas, Lanark to East Kilbride, with the films touching on diverse issues including young people's mental health, youth crime and the referendum on Scottish independence. There was also plenty to satisfy the horror fan, with flicks featuring witches and zombies.

The project engaged with 58 young volunteer filmmakers who will all receive certificates and awards for their achievements.



Employability

Helping those facing multiple barriers find work, training and education

VASLan's Enhanced Volunteering Initiative provides specialist guidance, training and support for anyone who is unemployed and needs additional help to access the next step in their route to employment.

This year was another successful one, working with over 80 clients throughout South Lanarkshire. It proved popular with clients and referral managers.

The project relies on volunteer mentors offering their time and talents to help our clients

move forward with their lives and this year has been no exception. Towards the end of the year, the project set up a recruitment programme for new mentors,

Another successful year

and this is aimed at bringing in 25 new fully-trained mentors by June 2013.

During the year, we managed to find employment for 12 of our

clients, helped 10 return to education programmes, sourced training facilities for 24 and placed 16 into work experience opportunities. 23 clients were helped to find volunteering opportunities allowing them to develop their work skills and improve their CVs..

A bid is in process for funding from the Reducing Reoffending Change Fund,. If successful, we will be able to broaden the range of clients that this valuable service can reach.

Annual Accounts

This summary of the financial statement of Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire, for year ending 31st March 2013, is in accordance with SORP regulations. Full copies of VASLan's audited accounts are available on request. These accounts have been audited by: The Kelvin Partnership Ltd. Chartered Accountants, The Cooper Building, 505 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 8HN.

			31/3/13	31/3/12
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	1,132	-	1,132	20
Investment income				
Incoming resources from charitable activities	113,387	815,069	928,456	962,850
Total incoming resources	114,519	815,069	929,588	962,870
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Costs of generating funds				
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	-	3,987	3,987	6,030
Charitable activities	41,592	696,757	738,349	805,212
Governance costs	4,800	-	4,800	4,800
Total resources expended	46,392	700,744	747,136	816,042
NET INCOMING RESOURCES BEFORE TRANSFERS				
	68,127	114,325	182,452	146,828
Gross transfers between funds	8,392	(8,392)	-	-
Net incoming (outgoing) resources	76,519	105,933	182,452	146,828
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	133,983	57,308	191,291	44,463
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	210,502	163,241	373,743	191,291



Looking Ahead

Work continues as we strive to build on the progress made this year

This financial year has seen Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire begin to find its feet and make an impact on our wider agenda.

A restructure of the development teams within the organisation brings a new dimension to the core work we aim to deliver in the coming year. We intend to draw on the vast knowledge and experience of our staff to deliver a more effective and streamlined service to the sector.

This year we focused on expanding and developing our project delivery, enabling us to reach a wider audience in the years to come.

We employed four locality officers for the **Reshaping Care for Older People** Change Fund who are working hard on the third sectors response to the challenges of caring for an ageing population.

Listening to the sector's needs

We are also excited to announce that we have been successful in securing two years funding from the **Reducing Reoffending** Change Fund. This will allow us to work alongside our public sector partners to engage with prolific young offenders through volunteer

mentoring projects, steering them towards education, training and employment.

Our **Media Project** has successfully secured Young Start funding to continue the South Lanarkshire Youth Film Festival, empowering young people to develop their voice and skills through film.

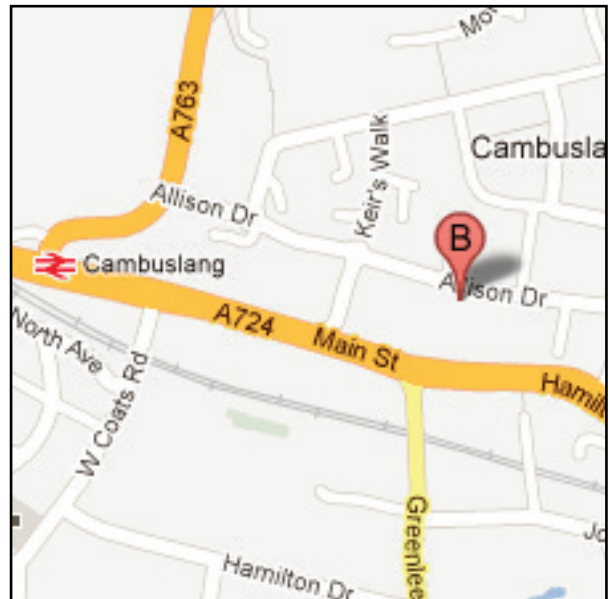
We are committed to listening to the needs of the sector and representing its best interests. Next year will see us launch new services, offer new opportunities and present new ideas for the benefit of the sector and the wider community in South Lanarkshire.

VASLan's mission is to shape, strengthen and serve a strong, vibrant, empowered and inclusive voluntary sector in South Lanarkshire. You can reach us at:



VASLan Hamilton

155 Montrose Crescent
Hamilton
ML3 6LQ
Tel: 01698 300 390



VASLan Cambuslang

25 Main Street
Cambuslang
G72 7EX
Tel: 0141 641 8884

For general enquiries, email **office@vaslan.org.uk**

For volunteering enquiries, email **volunteer@vaslan.org.uk**

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



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

www.vaslan.org.uk



Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire is a registered Scottish Charity (SC037696) and Company Limited by Guarantee (SC309701).