

**2022-2023**



**WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT**  
We provide a single point of access of support and advice for the third sector organisations in South Lanarkshire

**OUR SUPPORT SERVICES**  
Organisational  
Social Enterprise  
Volunteering  
Funding  
Strategic Engagement

# IMPACT REPORT



# CONTENTS

---

**03**  
**FOREWORD FROM THE CEO**

---

**04**  
**ABOUT VASLAN**

---

**06**  
**STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT**

---

**07**  
**ENGAGEMENT**

---

**13**  
**MANAGED FUNDS**

---

**17**  
**LOCALITIES**

---

**23**  
**VOLUNTEERING**

---

**28**  
**DEVELOPMENT/ADMIN**

---

**32**  
**LOOKING FORWARD**



# FOREWORD FROM THE CEO

As the single point of access for support and advice for and about the Third Sector in South Lanarkshire, it has undoubtedly been a demanding, challenging, but productive 12 months at VASLan. Our activities within the financial year have continued to see us build upon capacity needs, enabling voices to be heard, connecting partners through leadership, vision, and coordination, and being a source of local intelligence.

The evidence of outputs, outcomes, case studies and impacts shows a picture of a successful first year of our new strategy, 'Moving to Action'. You will see that we have looked to reprioritise volunteering, enhancing support for volunteer-involving organisations and undertaking strategic volunteer development work with our Community Planning Partners.

The volume of capacity building for organisations through our engagement work demonstrates a far more proactive approach to organisational support. Our Locality Networks are now more sector-led, fostering improved collaboration at a local level. We have raised the visibility of the excellent work within volunteering, community organisations and Social Enterprises.

We are excited to share this progress with you in this report as we continue to learn, improve and build on our successful track record in 2023/24.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Sweeney".

**STEVEN SWEENEY**  
CEO





# ABOUT VASLAN

VASLan is the Third Sector Interface (TSI) organisation for South Lanarkshire.

Our work is varied, supporting the Third Sector and working with our partners, including the Scottish Government, South Lanarkshire Council, NHS Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, Police Scotland and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Scottish Government requires Third Sector Interfaces across Scotland to operate within four core areas of activity:

- Volunteering development.
- Social Enterprise development.
- Supporting and developing a strong Third Sector.
- Building the Third Sector relationship with community planning.

We participate in several strategic partnership boards, groups and networks representing the Third Sector at all engagement levels covering the four core areas.

## Nancy Barr, VASLan Chairperson stepped down



After an exceptional nine years, Nancy Barr stepped down as the Chairperson of our Board of Trustees in November 2022.

We would like to thank Nancy for her fantastic commitment, contribution, and values-based leadership – supporting the growth and success of both VASLan and the local Third Sector

## John Cassidy shines as Interim Chairperson



John Cassidy was appointed interim Chair of VASLan at our AGM in September 2022.

John has an academic background, previously a student of Chemistry and Education, he achieved a PHD in Evaluation of Community Action Programmes. His studies introduced him to the world of Social Enterprises and “How Communities Work” which is something he is still interested in.

John is extremely passionate about South Lanarkshire and not only lives in Rutherglen, he is a director of several charities and knows how dedicated everyone is to ensure that people living in the sector thrive and develop.

# STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

As the TSI for South Lanarkshire, VASLan works in partnership with our member organisations to advocate across all policy areas for the Third Sector locally. Whilst this presents both challenges and opportunities as an honest broker for the Third Sector, it does mean that VASLan occupies a unique and vital place in engaging with South Lanarkshire's communities, along with statutory and community planning partners.

With the costs crisis swiftly following on from the pandemic, much of our strategic engagement this year focused on community resilience, public protection, and the Warm Welcome Initiative which played a part in supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. An emerging trend you will notice in this report is VASLan as a grantmaker, playing a dual role as capacity builder and managing funds.



MANAGEMENT TEAM

We are learning and improving our practices as a grantmaker, we are proud to share evidence of tangible success locally in directing limited resources to grassroots groups, playing a part in sustaining our vibrant Third Sector.

October saw the highlight of the year for Community Planning Partners, with the launch of the new Community Plan and Volunteering Strategy. You can read more about the Volunteering Strategy later in this report, which is widely recognised as a key enabler of realising the ambitions of the new community plan.

# ENGAGEMENT

## External Funding (Sustainability)

The cost-of-living crisis proved challenging for the sector over the fiscal period, and it was reflected in the number of funding applications VASLan supported organisations with during this time.

A total of 260 applications to a range of funders were successful, meaning £4,017,339 was distributed throughout the sector - an increase of £270,732 from the previous year. The funding allowed the sector to continue vital services and meet the needs and demands of the communities they serve at this challenging time.



ENGAGEMENT TEAM

“

*We contacted VASLan last year to enquire about becoming a registered charity. They assisted us in navigating our way through the OSCR process of becoming a charity.*

*They continued supporting and guiding us through the funding process while networking with other organisations and providing valuable contacts and resources. VASLan, have been an invaluable part of our journey as a charity, and we are immensely grateful for the support and guidance."*

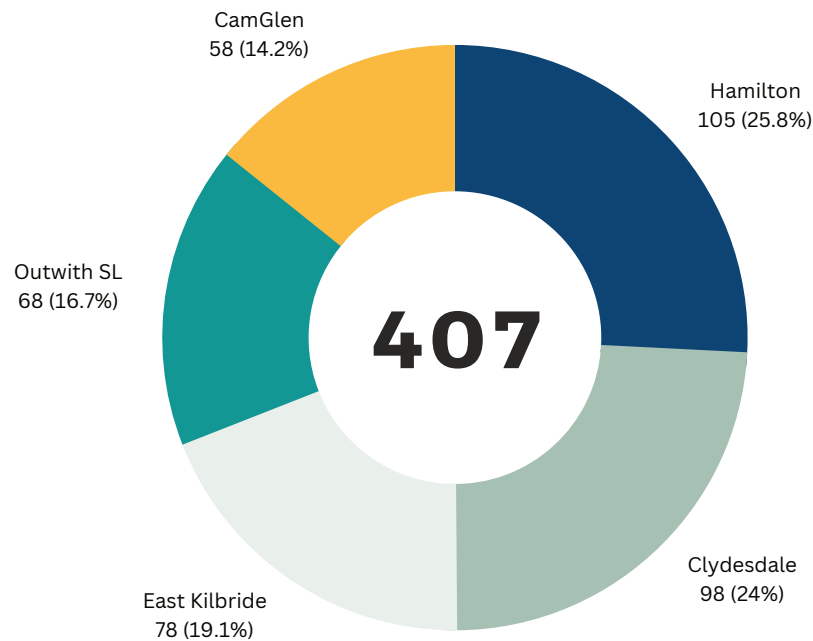
**Amanda Miller - The Holding Space**

## Capacity Building and Case Study

The primary functions of our Engagement Team are to provide organisational support, training opportunities and advice to Third Sector organisations, enabling them to deliver high-quality services. The varied nature of this work enabled Engagement Officers to quickly identify gaps and respond to the sector's needs.

This year, multiple organisations identified concerns with their financial recording and reporting processes, which was a theme throughout the sector. To combat this, the team created and delivered tailored training modules with positive results and feedback.

### Number of Organisations Supported





## CASE STUDY

### THE OHANA CLUB

VASLan first contacted The Ohana Club in June 2022 to offer general support. The group had concerns about doing their OSCR returns as it was their first year of operation. VASLan's Engagement Officer for the CamGlen locality met with the group and explained that the group would need to get their accounts independently examined.

It was clear from that first meeting that the Trustees needed more confidence but had followed a reasonably robust system to record their accounting practices. The group was supported in preparing their documents for the independent examination.

Although the group had kept track of their funds, they had only sometimes retained a paper trail of cash transactions, though they had kept records of who had received funds.

The group were supported to rectify this by asking recipients of funds to sign receipts retrospectively – a learning curve in processes!

The main message was that had these processes been completed at the time, the group would have been able to provide their accounting documents promptly and would not have been late in submitting their annual returns to OSCR.

However, the accounts were eventually ready for examination and subsequent submission to OSCR, and the Trustees' confidence has increased ten-fold as they now have a clear understanding of how the system, they are using works and why they are recording what they do.

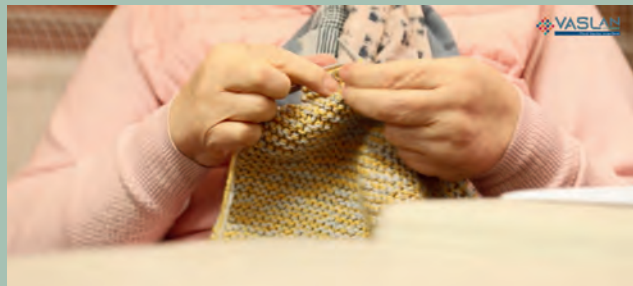
“

*I am writing to inform you about VASLan's substantial contribution to our wee charity. We have been struggling to get through our first annual report. The VASLan team spent time with us, explaining everything to ensure we understood. They helped us prepare our books and helped us source someone to check them for us. We wouldn't have done the job without VASLan's support, and many families depend on us. VASLan has been reliable, helpful, and down to earth. They also helped me with my confidence to attend local meetings.*

*Chatty Crafters in Eastfield Community Centre is thankful to VASLan for supporting our group. The team helped me with the paperwork for our application to Awards for All, which was successful for our indoor projects for crafting. VASLan also recently awarded us some funding for our garden project. We could buy wood to build five raised beds to grow herbs, vegetables and fruits and create a sensory garden.*

*We also used some of the budget for materials and good-quality soil. Having the support and funds has been beneficial to our group in terms of lifting people's spirits and creating a bond that has led to lasting friendships. The garden project is suitable for people's mental health and wellbeing. We have folks who travel near and far to take part in either the crafting or the gardening. We cannot thank you all enough."*

### **Chatty Crafters, Rutherglen**



## Membership

We aim to continually strengthen the voluntary sector by offering free membership, allowing organisations to take advantage of our various resources and expertise.

The voluntary sector faced a significant lack of funding opportunities during 22/23 – making it difficult to respond to the cost-of-living crisis.

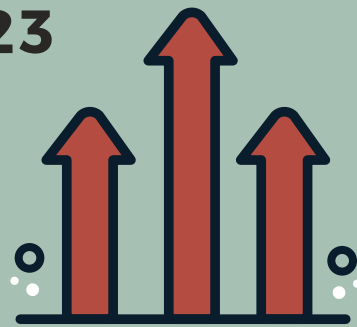
This year, we welcomed 97 new members who had exclusive access to our various managed funds and a range of promotional and marketing resources.

This combination allowed us to financially support our member organisations and showcase their achievements despite the challenges they faced.

**BY MARCH 2023**

VASLan membership  
has increased to

**399**



## Trustees Event

To commemorate Trustees' Week and highlight the essential contribution trustees make to organisations, VASLan hosted an event that allowed trustees to share experiences and build new networks of support.

The event gave VASLan a platform to showcase the diversity of experience within our own board and how they have utilised different skills to help guide VASLan on its current path.

A focus on the roles and responsibilities of trustees has resulted in this information becoming part of the resource library. It has since been incorporated into the governance training modules developed and delivered by the Engagement Team.



## VASLan THIRD SECTOR AWARDS 2022

The VASLan Third Sector Awards took place on the evening of Thursday 17th November 2022.

A glittering virtual ceremony, hosted by VASLan, was presented on ZOOM to showcase the achievements of organisations and volunteers in South Lanarkshire.

We are proud of the work done to support our communities through seriously challenging times and were pleased to be able to celebrate them in this way.

Winners were announced across eight categories at the awards, and a great night was had by all involved.



“*I'm chuffed to absolute bits, and it's not just for me but all of us. Everybody works so hard, and feeling valued and recognised is the best thing.*

*I'm really pleased. It's going to be great for the charity to be recognised and to be given respect. It feels great for people to know that you're doing a good job."*

**Lesley Davidson of Loaves and Fishes Foodbank in East Kilbride** – *The winner of Volunteer of the Year*



# MANAGED FUNDS

## Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing

In February 2021, an additional £120 million was announced for a Recovery and Renewal Fund to ensure delivery of the commitments in the Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan. This funding came in response to the mental health need arising from the pandemic and is also intended to benefit the full agenda for mental health and wellbeing in line with the four areas of key need set out in the Plan.

From this funding, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a new Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for adults on 15 October 2021, with £15 million being made available in 2021/22. In February 2022, an additional £6 million was provided for 2021/2022 to the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to meet the demand for local mental health and wellbeing projects, bringing total funding made available in 2021/22 to £21 million.

A further £15 million for Year 2 of the Fund was announced on 7 May 2022.

This meant that

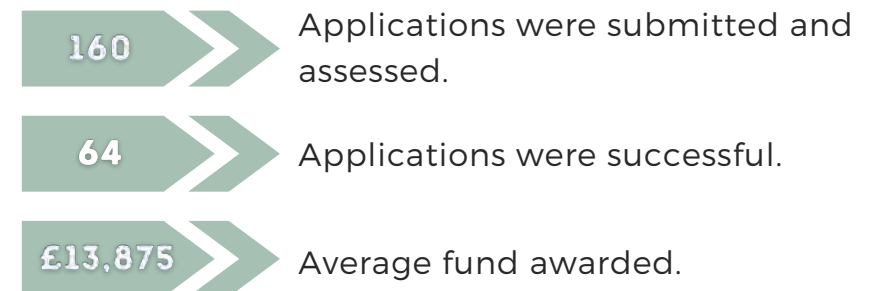
# £888,000

of funding was available

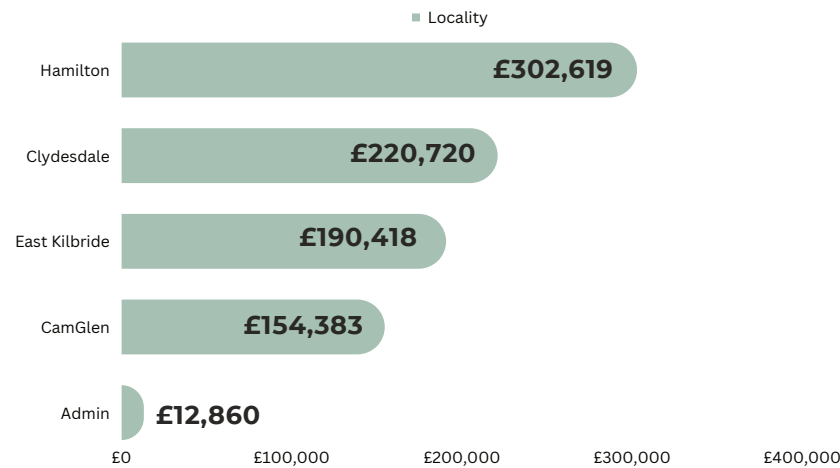
VASLan created a tiered structure to allow organisations to apply for larger funding grants:



Micro Grants were introduced, specifically for grassroots organisations, to avoid overcomplicating the application process. The Engagement team provided detailed supporting documents and peer support, increasing successful grants from smaller or less experienced organisations.



As a grantmaker we are learning and improving how to utilise our capacity building expertise to provide a more equitable split of funds in future years. The breakdown of applications per locality is demonstrated below:



“

*I got lots of great feedback, everyone said they had a fun time. Many people said an afternoon out really lifted everyone's spirits and they felt less lonely. Lots of people were able to meet new and old friends and everyone got a plate piled high with good food. It was a terrific afternoon and all free thanks to VASLan funding."*

**Geraldine Baird, Peoples Past Peoples Future –**  
*Awarded CMHWF funding to deliver an event for elderly residents in Rutherglen to encourage social interaction and reduce loneliness.*

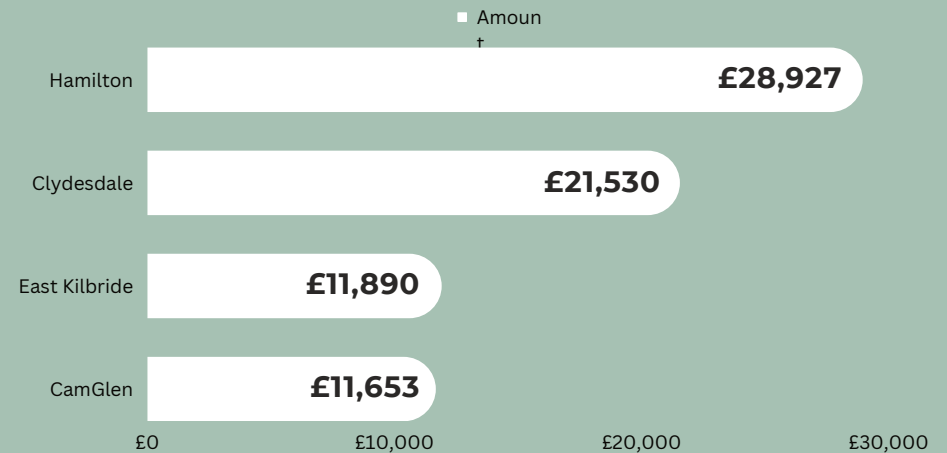


## Building and Celebrating Communities

The Building and Celebrating Communities (BCC) Fund was based on Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) principles.

It challenged the traditional approaches that try to solve urban and rural development challenges and instead focused on individual, and community needs and deficiencies.

The outcomes demonstrated that people, local assets, and individual strengths are foundational to ensuring sustainable community development and that people are able to choose the futures of their communities.



“

*I just wanted to say how much I've benefited from your Tuesday yoga class. I feel so much more flexible in my body and that's a wonderful feeling.*

*The gentle stretches have helped me move better and feel more confident in my body. But the best thing is the difference it's made to my blood pressure.*

*I feel so much healthier. What a difference your class has made. Thank you."*

**Yvonne, Free Fitness Fridays at The Village Centre** – *The Village Centre East Kilbride, awarded BCC funding to eliminate the charge for the Yoga class to make it more accessible.*



## Corra Fund

The Corra Foundation ringfenced £7,500 to specifically benefit the area of Fernhill. Local organisations within the community submitted six applications securing £4,093. Projects for all age groups were funded with a remaining £3,407 available for further projects.

The fund created an opportunity to work closely with small local organisations, build relationships and partnerships as well as identify areas where further support can be provided.

“

*The fund has made a massive difference to our group.*

*Prices have risen so much that our trip to Largs would have been unaffordable as our members all have very limited incomes and could not have been able to fund this ourselves. The trip is the highlight of our year."*

**Fernhill Senior Citizens Men's Club** – *Awarded Corra funding to strengthen existing relationships between friends.*

## VASLan Cost of Living Support

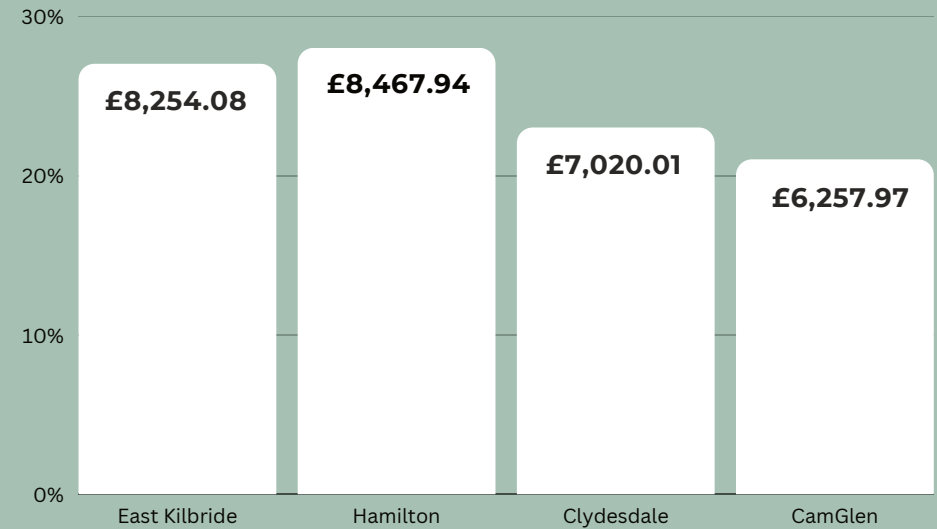
The continuing cost of living crisis had a damaging impact on community and Third Sector organisations in South Lanarkshire. To this end, the Board of Directors injected £30,000 of VASLan’s unrestricted reserves into the sector to meet the community’s needs. The fund was established to support increased running costs and develop Warm Hubs and Winter Warmer packs.

“  
 Making meals with our young people means they can take the food home, which will take pressure away from the financial struggles we know our families are facing. This was even worse when young people and children were home throughout Christmas.”

**Ginem Anderson, Hyper Cyber** – Awarded £1,000 from the Cost-of-Living Grants to provide food provisions for young people attending their activities during the winter months.



Below is the visualisation of how we distributed Cost of Living Support funding across South Lanarkshire:





# LOCALITIES

## Social Enterprise

VASLan has been focused on building social enterprises' capability and quality across South Lanarkshire to support health and social care. Part of our role was the creation of the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Network (SL SLEN). Several consultation events were delivered through a productive collaborative relationship with SLC's Economic Development Officer, and a survey was produced.

This consultation helped to shape the SLEN, with the Network formally launched in November. Following the launch event, the SLEN convened on a further two occasions during the financial year, with social enterprises in East Kilbride and Rutherglen hosting. To date, the SLEN has over 30 members

A common need that was identified through scoping the social enterprise landscape in 2021/22 was for opportunities to network with each other. This was particularly important given the role that they played in supporting health and social care during the pandemic.



**LOCALITIES TEAM**

We continue to communicate the social enterprise message and promote the launch of the SL SEN and business gateway workshops.

We assisted with promoting the South Lanarkshire Social Enterprise Accelerator delivered by Inspirent (formerly LESL). It was an overall success, 24 expressed interest, and 15 were interviewed and recruited.



“

*VASLan has been instrumental in the development of our project. Since assuming the post, they have supported us in making connections across South Lanarkshire, allowing us to partner with other key organisations and signposts more effectively. This has increasingly positively impacted the sector, community wealth and those we serve.*

*Furthermore, VASLan continuously highlights training and development opportunities for our team, resulting in our Engagement and Development Officer completing the Inspirent and South Lanarkshire Council Social Enterprise Accelerator programme. This course allowed us to work with industry specialists to learn and develop across several practices and to create a bespoke and effective action plan, driving our enterprise forwards."*

### **Ashley Abercromby at MorphFit Gentle Movement in Hamilton**



## Locality Networks

Following an application process open to all South Lanarkshire Third-Sector organisations, the new Third Sector Locality Networks were launched in September under the leadership of locality-based partnerships. The new events replaced the previous Third Sector Forum (TSF) structure, with the ambition of forming a distinct, sector-led network in each of South Lanarkshire's four localities to better showcase the depth of the sector, share best practices, access peer support and identify locality specific challenges, as well as opportunities for collaborative working.

Since launching, ten Locality Network events have taken place with a combined attendance of over 450 individuals. The sector intelligence generated via the events has identified several needs, allowing VASLan to advocate strategically and better target capacity-building supports. Thank you to Clydesdale Community Initiatives, Healthy Valleys, Connected East Kilbride, David Livingstone Trust, and Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health for your support.



Third Sector Locality Network Partnerships are:

### CLYDESDALE



### EAST KILBRIDE AND STRATHAVEN



### HAMILTON, LARKHALL, AND BLANTYRE



“  
The event has been amazing. Not only have I had the chance to listen to what's available and all the great talks, but I've been able to network. I've listened to what other organisations do, told them about what we do and had amazing conversations. I've linked with many different organisations that we can refer to if we can benefit from what they do.”

**Alan McMaster, Charity Trustee, Survivors Supporting Survivors**

## Social Prescribing East Kilbride

VASLan has built excellent relationships with partners Healthy and Active, Kilbryde Hospice and Citizens Advice Bureau, who form the anchor organisation, Connected East Kilbride. Strong links have been created with NHS Community Link Workers, community integrated support, older and adult mental health, primary care mental health, addictions, and South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture. To date, VASLan has met with and identified over 80 community-based assets, with the information and best practice being shared amongst everyone involved to encourage partnership working.



Calderwood was the chosen neighbourhood to deliver the Test of Change pilot project. Connected East Kilbride was successfully awarded a partnership bid from CMHWF with Moncreiff Parish Church and Calderwood Baptist Church to deliver the “Connected Calderwood” Test of Change.

The project aims to build on capacity, identify gaps in provision and, from there, introduce services to meet the community's needs. VASLan will be integral in making the supply end of social prescribing with the framework.

VASLan recently met with the new Improving Cancer Journey Coordinator and has begun to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Through Third Locality Network meetings, VASLan is at the heart of encouraging engagement and partnership between all community-based assets.

At present, VASLan is gauging the appetite for more frequent informal information-sharing sessions to broaden the knowledge of each group.

## Resettlement/Equalities

VASLan has been working closely with public, private, and Third-Sector partners to investigate the needs of refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons in South Lanarkshire.

In collaboration with Mears, VASLan has supported the asylum seekers living in East Kilbride by signposting them towards organisations and arranging meetings with external partners. Furthermore, VASLan has been working closely with the NHS to investigate the health needs of this population group and to scope Third-Sector support.

In 2023/24, VASLan will focus on improving Third-Sector support for asylum seekers, refugees, and displaced people by creating networking opportunities for organisations interested in responding to the needs of New Scots, and supporting organisations in developing and shaping existing services.



## Green Health Volunteering

The Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership works to connect health and social care with the outdoors. Four Green Health Events were held across South Lanarkshire; in Bothwell Road Park, Hamilton, Calderglen Country Park, East Kilbride, Castlebank Park, Lanark and Overtoun Park, Rutherglen, in partnership with the local NHS Health Improvement Teams. These events were open to the public with people gathering to participate in various activities, including storytelling, nature-based art and walks.

Through a partnership project with the South Lanarkshire Countryside Rangers, funded by Smarter Choices Smarter Places, we delivered 120 nature connection activities including play sessions, art, and walks with over 1800 participants on ten local nature reserves. Through this project 26 walks were uploaded to the Go Jauntly App, with nearly 400 people completing a walk using the app.



We worked with Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN) and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL) to set up the Pan Lanarkshire Community Climate Action Network.

This network includes 21 organisations from South Lanarkshire, all of whom contribute to building resilience in their local communities in the face of a changing climate.

The work to develop this network will continue into 2023-24, supported by the Lanarkshire SCCAN Coordinator.



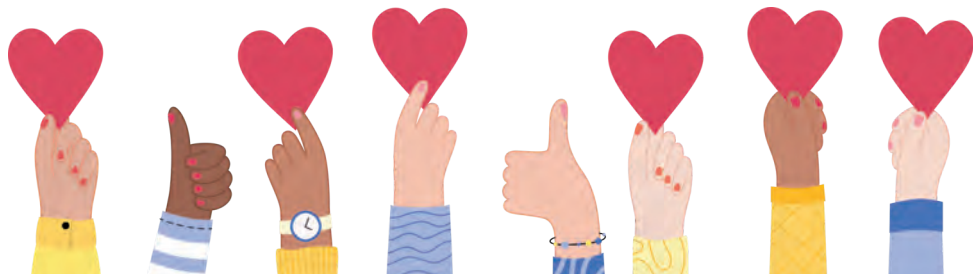
# VOLUNTEERING

## Volunteer Support

Working with partners and referral agencies, VASLan has focused on removing barriers to volunteering as part of the National No-one Left Behind (NOLB) Delivery Plan. The VASLan volunteering team aids those who need help finding and sustaining a volunteering role.

This year saw the launch of our offer to enhance volunteering through the provision of support to those facing barriers to volunteering. Barriers are removed through building on a range of soft skills required for a successful volunteering placement.

The number of people supported through this programme exceeded our expectations, with three times more than initially estimated receiving support and progressing into volunteering or onward referral pathways.



**VOLUNTEERING TEAM**

Working with partners and the Third Sector to create more flexible, inclusive, and diverse volunteering opportunities has also been an essential part of our work over the last year.

It has resulted in twice as many new and varied opportunities for potential volunteers.

We continue to promote and administer the National Saltire Awards scheme to recognise the achievements of young volunteers.



## Valuing Volunteers Initiative

As a member of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP), VASLan has taken on a lead role in creating The South Lanarkshire Volunteering Strategy. The strategy, developed with CPP and Third Sector partners, recognises the benefit of a collaborative approach to volunteering. The process was launched in October 2022 and endorsed by all CPP partners via an unprecedented Volunteering Pledge. Supporting our partners, alongside local voluntary organisations, to develop and maintain good volunteering practice remains one of our main priorities.

By working in partnership with national organisations such as Volunteer Scotland, we continue to promote the Quality Standards Pipeline and support organisations to sign the Volunteer Charter so that they can achieve Volunteer Friendly or Investing in Volunteers accreditation. We are on track to achieve our ambitious two-year target of supporting 100 voluntary organisations to complete one of these standards.

14

Community Planning Partnership members sign Volunteering Pledge.

24

Organisations are working towards a Quality Standard, with 20 indicating interest.

## Our Volunteering Pledge

- **We will create and connect** to a South Lanarkshire wide network of support, opportunities, and recognition; increasing the number and diversity of volunteering opportunities available within our organisations.
- **We will positively engage** with stakeholders across a range of provision; sharing resources and developing shared practice to enhance community recovery.
- **We will enable volunteering** across all sections of our organisations and the wider community through increased accessibility and a flexible approach to volunteering; bringing diversity to our collective team and sharing wider perspectives from which we can all learn and improve.
- **We will cultivate a sense of community;** championing our collective activities within our community and celebrating volunteers for their contribution to our collective cause in a meaningful way.





**1,525**

**VOLUNTEERING  
PLACEMENTS  
FACILITATED**

**97**

**NEW  
VOLUNTEERING  
OPPORTUNITIES  
CREATED**

**17,299**

**SALTIRE  
HOURS  
LOGGED**

**364**

**NEW SALTIRE  
VOLUNTEER  
REGISTRATIONS**

**614**

**NEW  
VOLUNTEERS  
REGISTERED**

**75**

**VOLUNTEERS GIVEN  
TAILORED  
PRE-VOLUNTEERING  
SUPPORT**

**9**

**SALTIRE GROUP  
ADMINISTRATORS  
APPROVED**

**355**

**SALTIRE  
CERTIFICATES  
ISSUED**



## CASE STUDY

“

St. Mary's is a lovely place to volunteer, and I enjoy my time here. Meeting new people and interacting with the community made me feel a part of the community.

St Mary's offers an opportunity to connect with people with different cultural and religious backgrounds. This is worth dedicating my time at St Mary's because this has helped me strengthen my knowledge and social skills.

Volunteering is the best way to make a positive difference in people's life, and it makes a massive difference in yours. Life feels more purposeful and contented. Even helping a little and providing a listening ear is satisfying and rewarding.

Volunteering is the best way to escape from daily work and restore our energy.

It feels so good to listen and listen to other people's lives experiences, which is helping me improve my problem-solving skills".



### **FATIMA AFZAL**

**She was supported by VASLan to find a volunteer role at St. Mary's for All as a receptionist.**



## Home From Hospital



Home from Hospital is a free service that works closely with NHS colleagues to reduce delays in discharges and social readmissions, ensuring patients return home **Promptly, Safely** and **Supported**, bridging the gap between clinical and community. Home From Hospital provides:



### Planning Transport

Reducing lengthy wait.



### Medication Pick Up

If this will be dispensed later than discharge.



### Back-to-Home Box

If your patient is worried about an empty fridge when they return home.



### Wellbeing Calls

For up to 72 hours after discharge, building a patient-led referral pathway if requested.

**SUCCESS  
TO DATE**

**Recruited  
and trained  
14 volunteers**

**Delivered 9  
patient  
transport**

**Delivered 8  
prescription  
tasks**

**Delivered 5  
wellbeing  
calls**

**Provided 2  
food boxes**

Expectations for 2023/2024 are to secure additional funding, recruit ten more volunteers, open service to all South Lanarkshire hospitals, and successful transfer of service to the sector.

“

*Distance is never a problem! We've discovered that Hairmyres covers a vast area with multiple conditions.*

*Take for example the two trips I've done to Stranraer, Kilmarnock, Ardrossan, and Ayr. All of these would have 'blocked' from that bed for at least one or two days. We need to provide the service as envisaged. Making the beds available is key."*

**John O'Meara, HFHS Volunteer Driver**



# DEVELOPMENT AND ADMIN

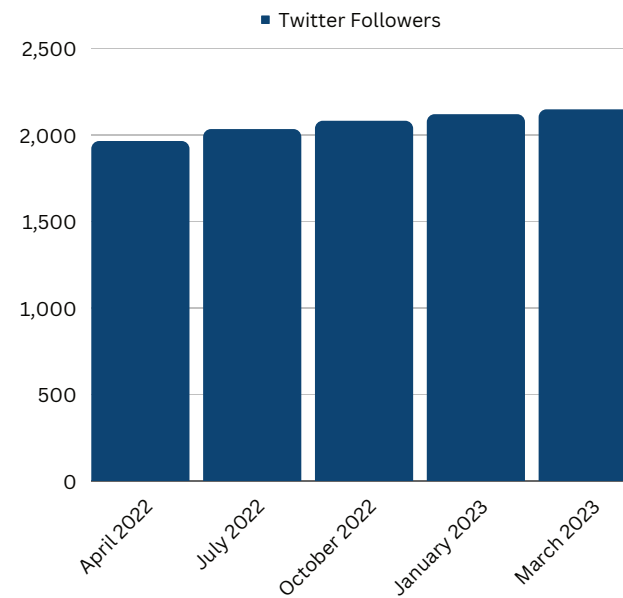
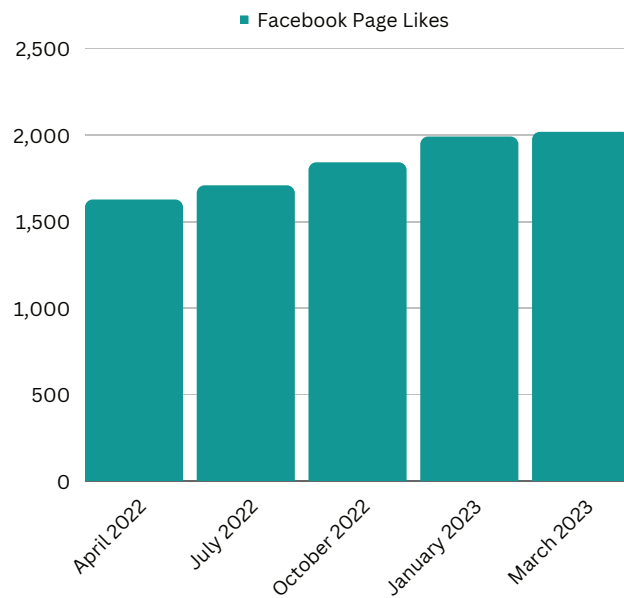
## Social Media and Newsletter: Updates, and Impact

Social media platforms and newsletters have become integral components of our communications strategy – shaping how we interact, share information, and stay connected to communities across South Lanarkshire.

The data below represents our digital growth over the past year.



## COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM



## Organisation Spotlights

The VASLan spotlight video has quickly emerged as a powerful and essential tool for Third-Sector organisations in South Lanarkshire, such as charities and social enterprises. These videos are pivotal in magnifying their voice and extending their reach.

Through visual storytelling, organisations can effectively communicate the heartwarming success stories of beneficiaries, showcase their projects and campaigns, and shed light on the critical issues they tackle.

Between 2022 and 2023,  
VASLan has produced a total

# 112 VIDEOS

With more than 30 organisations participating.



Video spotlights have proven invaluable assets in an era where online engagement and social media presence are paramount.

Video spotlights have become vital for third-sector organisations who are seeking to create meaningful societal change. Through emotive storytelling, extensive reach, and fundraising prowess, these videos enable organisations to amplify their mission, drive public engagement, and mobilise support.

Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre is one of many organisations who featured in our monthly newsletter and VASLan supported them in creating their own. The team also provided promotional materials, including a fully produced video and photographs to promote their services as well as an event held on International Women's Day.

“

*Working with VASLan has been a wonderful experience. The team is so helpful and considerate.*

*There has been no request too much. Thanks so much for all your help."*

**Jennifer Blair, Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre**

## Internal Systems Update

As a source of knowledge within the sector, it's important that we can showcase a high standard of operations. To achieve this, we have been focusing on upgrading our internal systems.

By utilising Salesforce, a leading Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, we have been able to create a centralised database of essential, and easily accessible, information.

Our own version is named Engage, Promote, and Involve (EPI) and has enabled us to build and maintain stronger relationships with our members and the wider Third Sector. We also have access to essential analytics and reporting tools, alongside request forms that automatically populate data in the system.

This has not only supported our team to work more efficiently but has been helping other Third Sector Interfaces to thrive.

Alongside this, we have maximised our office space to encourage collaboration and ensure that all team members can work from the office, or remotely, in a flexible hybrid basis.

## Training Platform

We purchased Training Portal along with the content creation package. We will create suitable and beneficial content that the sector wants and needs.

We will also create a learning path to help develop end users' skills and knowledge in line with a specific role or department of work and general overall training about the third sector.

Overall, we are confident with managing and developing this platform. We are looking forward to being able to share and promote this resource with the wider sector, alongside ensuring our staff have the tools to utilise the platform for their own development.



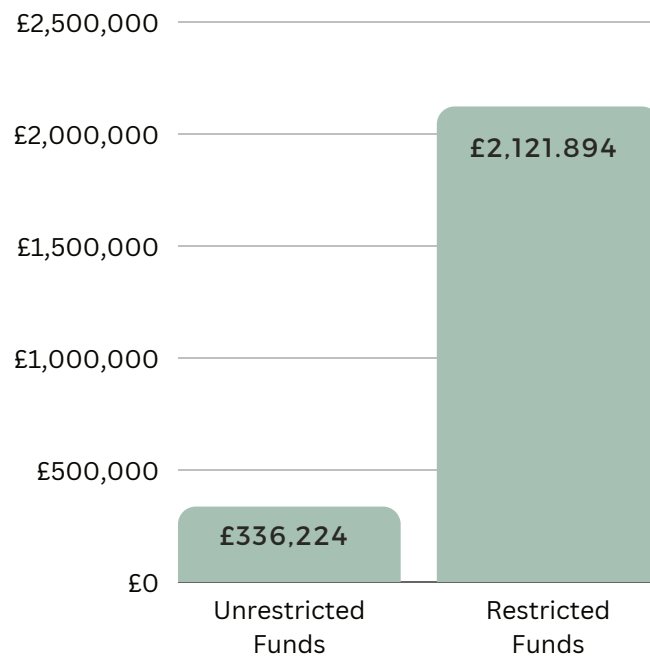
## Financial Report

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023. As a result of the income and expenditure figures, VASLan made a deficit for 2022 - 2023, totalling £66,543. This income and expenditure picture presents a strong financial performance, with planned unrestricted funds investment in delivering upon our vision and mission.

Total income of

# £2,458,118

which is made up of:

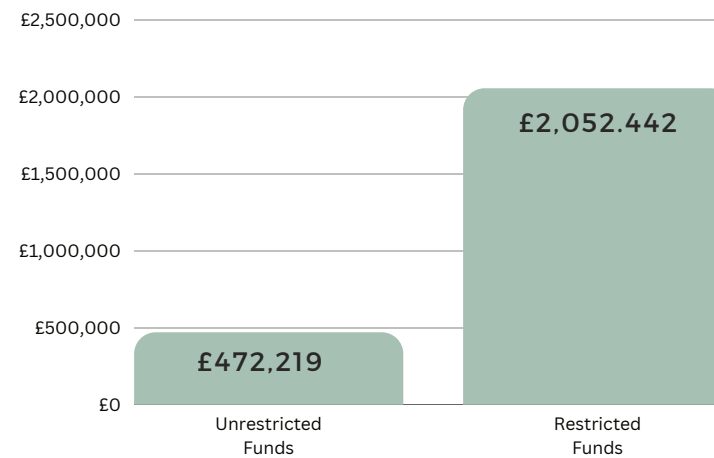


**FINANCE AND ADMIN TEAM**

Total expenditure of

# £2,524,661

which is made up of:



# LOOKING FORWARD

## Macmillan Cancer Care Journey

Macmillan Improving the Cancer Journey (ICJ) is funded and supported by the Scottish Government and the Macmillan Cancer Support (Scotland).

The Improving Cancer Journey (ICJ) Lanarkshire Programme is a partnership between Macmillan Cancer Support and the North and South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnerships. It will contribute to the delivery of the critical objectives of the Scottish Cancer Plan and other Scottish Government strategies.

The programme aims to improve the support provided to cancer-affected people significantly.



## A welcome for Lauren McKechnie as the new Chairperson



Lauren McKechnie was appointed the new Chairperson of VASLan in March 2023.

Originally from South Lanarkshire, Lauren is now the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Bolton Community and Voluntary Services and trustee of RSPCA Warrington, Halton and St Helens.

With a BA in Sports and an MSc in Public Health, Lauren is interested in person-centred health, wellbeing and physical activity.





## Blantyre Care Hub

In partnership with South Lanarkshire Health and Social Care Partnership, we identified a need and demand from the local community for a complementary investment in providing community support within the Blantyre LIFE facility.

A collaborative funding bid resulted in a Health and Wellbeing Hub Development Officer being appointed in April-2023 to lead the development of community engagement at the facility.

Central to the role is the coproduction of health and wellbeing programming with communities and organisations across the four localities, alongside community and volunteer engagement.



## Multiply

Multiply is an initiative funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Its main aim is to bring adult numeracy training to our local communities and workplaces, delivering directly to people where they live and work.

To achieve this goal, VASLan will distribute and manage the Multiply fund with local partners.

The provision will target parents and carers to enhance skills in their workforce. Working with our Community Planning Partnership colleagues, we hope to provide complimentary support in addition to what the education system and Community Learning and Development (CLD) offer.

We will utilise existing Third Sector networks, memberships, and activity to access cohorts already engaged in community activity and learning provision.



## Employability Network

In response to a growing need within the sector, we recognised a call for an Employability Network. Through the network, we hope to provide capacity building, training, and support to Third Sector organisations across South Lanarkshire who are supporting people on their employability journey. Our main aims are as follows:

1. Create a new Network which builds on the Locality and Social Enterprise Networks, specifically with regards to the theme of Employability. Creating opportunities for collaborative working, peer support and sharing best practices.
2. Launch and manage the Employability Fund. The fund will be accessible to organisations supporting the employability pipeline.



The Employability Network is still in the early stages of development, with our research starting in March 2023. Through mapping exercises alongside interviews, desktop research, and surveys, we are hoping to identify organisations with employability provisions and understand where the gaps are.

We will be collating and presenting this information at our Employability Platform Launch event in July 2023. This will be the first of a series of networking events which aim to introduce partners and organisations willing to collaborate.

Our in-depth research and launch event aim to listen to the sector and identify the distinct needs and challenges – ensuring that we can tailor the ENP and create the most helpful network.



## Community Wealth Building

South Lanarkshire is one of the pilot areas in Scotland for the Community Wealth Building approach, ahead of the Bill Consultation later in 2023.

VASLan has focused on working with our communities to raise awareness of what Community Wealth Building is, showcase good practice that already exists locally within the Third Sector, and connect with partners regarding how to get involved.

We held engagement events with NHS Lanarkshire around their responsibilities as an anchor institution, influencing the development of their new Our Health Together strategy.

We are currently working with South Lanarkshire Council on their community engagement around this agenda, which will lead to the co-production of a Community Wealth Building Charter in 2023/24.



## Third Sector Chief Officers Group

VASLan facilitate a monthly meeting for Third Sector leaders – creating a space to come together, provide peer support, and encourage strategic thinking to influence change.

In 2022/23, VASLan's board took the progressive step to invest £75,000 of unrestricted reserves into the development of the group, underlining the value and importance of bringing Third Sector leaders together in the best interests of the wider sector.

The Third Sector Chief Officers Group and VASLan are collaborating with Community Enterprise through the Accelerate Programme to establish the operating and governance models to set us up for success moving forward.



# CONTACT DETAILS

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