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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

BENEFIT CAP SURVEY

The Poverty Alliance are launching a campaign to eradicate the benefit cap and are calling for people to share how they have been affected.

Help to contribute by completing the survey(s):

[Survey One](#) (for organisations)

This survey is open to organisations in Scotland, or the rest of the UK, who work, or have worked, with people affected by the benefit cap.

[Survey Two](#) (for individuals)

This survey is open to anyone who has been personally affected by the benefit cap.

SHETLAND COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING FUND

Don't miss out! This Fund will support initiatives that support adults in the community aged 16 years and above, which promote mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level throughout Shetland. Mental health and wellbeing doesn't have to be the focus, but you do have to clearly benefit the mental wellbeing of people in their community. Applications will be accepted from **19th November 2021** until **21st January 2022**. A maximum of £5,000 can be applied for to support activities until 31st March 2022. For an application pack and for any initial enquiries please e-mail:

vas@shetland.org or telephone: Market House Reception 01595 743900

[**WATCH AN INFORMATION SESSION ON THE FUND**](#)

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

[FESTIVE SEASON OPENING HOURS](#)

[CHARITIES URGED TO SUBMIT ANNUAL RETURN INFORMATION](#)

If your annual return deadline date is 31st December (those who's financial year end is 31st March) please file returns in time for the deadline. OSCR's office will be closed from 12pm on 24 December 2021 until 05 January 2022 and staff will not be available to support those who are having difficulties logging in to OSCR Online.

RESOURCES

[NATIONAL WELLBEING HUB](#)

The hub provides information, resources, and support for all health and social care workers and unpaid carers in Scotland.

Various new resources to help and support everyone working in health and social work/social care services, wherever they work, through the challenging period ahead. The resources are intended to empower and encourage colleagues to look after their own, and their colleague's wellbeing.

REPORT: [SHETLAND ANNUAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT](#)

This report discusses what has been achieved and the steps being taken and will be taken to reduce child poverty. There is a particular emphasis on the impact of Covid-19 and the activities of the Council, NHS Shetland and partners in trying to mitigate this.

REPORT: [THE STATE OF CYBER SECURITY IN THE UK CHARITY SECTOR](#)

[COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP SUPPORT SERVICE – CASE STUDIES](#)

COSS has produced a series of six new case studies giving insight into the process organisations have gone through to take over local assets. Covering a range of different assets and approaches such as turning a former police station into a community hub, these case studies provide valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of asset transfer. They tell the story of each group, how they got going, who helped them along the way and what they achieved as a result of their hard work.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BUY GUIDANCE AND WEBINAR

COSS has launched a new Introduction to Community Right to Buy (CRtB) guidance ([available here](#)). The guidance has been created for community groups that are thinking of going down the 'community buyout route'. It covers the processes for the three main CRtB powers, a comparison between the different options and an overview of how to prepare for using these rights. To accompany the guidance, COSS has also developed a webinar. Two of these have been delivered earlier this month with great turnout at both events.

COSS will be running the free webinar again in the new year. For more details and/or to be placed on the waiting list, please email cooss@dtascot.org.uk.

FREE PARENTING RESOURCES

The Spark, who provide youth and family counselling, have developed online resources for parents focussing on: Early Parenthood, Mental Health, Behaviour, Emotions, Teenagers, Relationships, Further Education, Coronavirus Advice.

BRIEFING: [LEARNING FROM CHANGES TO SOCIAL CARE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC](#)

The Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) have published a briefing on the changes to social care during the pandemic and how we can learn from these changes.

CHARITY DIGITAL ARTICLE: [Why charities are not committing to net zero](#)

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING: SCOTTISH FUNDRAISING CONFERENCE

CIOF are planning an in-person conference in Glasgow on 1 & 2 February 2022. The conference will highlight the latest best practice, insights and successes in fundraising. For early bird discounted tickets, book by 31 December.

BUSINESS GATEWAY

- [Instagram for business - 20th December](#)
- [Bookkeeping & finance: The essentials for business - 20th December](#)
- [Email marketing for business - 20th December](#)

- [Starting a business: Everything you need to know - 29th December](#)
- [Protect your business & data from hackers - 29th December](#)
- [The young person's guide to starting a business - 30th December](#)

CENTRE FOR CHARITY EFFECTIVENESS WEBINARS

- [Charity Talk webinar: 'Change just changed!'](#) Wednesday 26th January, 18:30 – 20:00 (GMT)
- ['Can you rise to the top without losing your soul?'](#) Wednesday 23rd February, 17:30 – 18:30 (GMT)

SAVE THE DATE: FESTIVAL OF CARE IN 2022 18TH FEBRUARY 2022 – 22ND FEBRUARY 2022

The Festival of Care will return on Care Day 2022, 18th of February, and run until the 22nd of February.

'Tending the Light', the Festival of Care 2022 will see Shetland once again open its doors to the rest of the country. There will be a number of ambitious in person events and online events including an exhibition of Home and Belonging, workshops, installations, performances and a book launch.

'Tending the Light' will be a sharing, learning and connection space, with Care Experienced leadership at its heart. Building on the lighthouse theme that has been a staple for the festival, in *'Tending the Light'* we will be thinking of the care, energy and togetherness that lighthouse keepers had to give to ensure that their light kept shining bright all through the night, however dark or wild. This year we are asking 'what does it take to tend the light for Care Experienced children and young people across Scotland?'

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

[NEW MEASURES ANNOUNCED TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS](#)

[COVID-19: STAYING SAFE AND PROTECTING OTHERS](#)

Rules and guidance on how to stay safe and help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Updated 14 December 2021 to reflect the new guidance introduced to stem the flow of transmission, keep businesses and services open, and protect against pressure on health services.

**PENALTIES FOR NOT TELLING HMRC ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
SUPPORT SCHEME OVERPAYMENTS**

GIRFEC PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Scottish Government consultation on the updated GIRFEC guidance is open for public completion. The consultation focuses on the Assessment of Wellbeing and how the eight wellbeing indicators will be used to assess children and young people's wellbeing.

The consultation period closes on 4th February 2022.

Read the refreshed guidance (including Easy Read and BSL versions) [here](#).