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### THIRD SECTOR NEWS

#### **PROVIDING TRUSTEE INFORMATION TO THE CHARITY REGULATOR OSCR**

From summer 2025, it will be mandatory for all charities to [provide trustee information via OSCR Online](#). The exact date for providing trustee information will be announced shortly, however charities are encouraged to start gathering the necessary information now.

Charities will be required to submit the following details for each trustee:

- Full name
- Home address
- Email address
- Telephone number
- Date of birth

This information will support OSCR's regulatory work, and the names of trustees will be published on the Scottish Charity Register from the end of 2025 to promote transparency and strengthen public trust in the sector. This change is part of the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023.

#### **FUNDRAISING REGULATOR PUBLISHES NEW CODE OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE**

A [new Code of Fundraising Practice](#) has been published by the Fundraising Regulator. It has been designed to be clearer, more flexible and better suited to modern fundraising. It's up to charity trustees to make sure that their charity – and anyone fundraising on the charity's behalf – follows the law and uses the kind of fundraising practices that will encourage the public's continued support.

### **NEW CHARITY LOTTERY LAUNCHES - GRASSROOTS SPORT LOTTERY**

Clubs from across Scotland have signed on for a new lottery which aims to raise millions for community sport and fill the funding gap that threatens its viability.

The Grassroots Sport Lottery, which launched on 1 May, is the brainchild of Sported, the UK's community sport charity, which provides grants and support to over 300 local organisations around Scotland who use the power of sport to transform lives and address social issues.

### **YOUNG SCOT SURVEY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAD ACCESS TO THE FREE BUS TRAVEL FOR UNDER 22'S AND HAVE NOW AGED OUT, WEDNESDAY 14TH MAY FROM 5.30 TO 7.30PM, ZOOM (WITH BREAKS)**

There is an online focus group opportunity available for young people living in the highlands and islands aged 22 to 25. This focus group is aimed at learning more about how the free bus travel scheme has affected their travel choices and experiences since aging out of the scheme. Participants will receive a £20 Love2Shop voucher and 200 Young Scot Reward Points for taking part.

Young people need to [complete this sign up form to take part](#). Contact Josie with any questions: [josiea@young.scot](mailto:josiea@young.scot)

### **ALLIANCE: HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING NEEDS SURVEY**

The ALLIANCE is developing new human rights training and have created two training needs assessment surveys to ensure our membership and lived experience networks are involved in identifying training needs and wants. One survey is for people with lived/living experience of human rights, and the other is for people who work or volunteer for a third sector organisation or public body. The surveys take just a few minutes to complete and can be found via the below link. Please share with your networks and complete the surveys by Tuesday 13 May. [Access the surveys here](#).

### **THE DISCLOSURE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2020 IS NOW LIVE!**

**There are big changes for voluntary sector organisations as a result of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020.**

Key updates include:

- Membership of the PVG scheme will be a **legal requirement** from 1st April 2025 for those carrying out a **regulated role**.
- There will be a **3-month grace period from the 1st April, 2025 – 30th June, 2025** to apply for membership of the PVG scheme where required.
- The concept of 'regulated work' has been replaced with 'regulated roles', making it more easily understood. **This includes roles for charity trustees and board or committee members.**

To check out if roles in your organisation/group need to be members of the PVG and for more information, guidance and support please click on the links below for Volunteer Scotland and Disclosure Scotland:

- **Volunteer Scotland:**  
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/news/the-disclosure-scotland-act-2020-disclosure-act-is-now-live>

- **Disclosure Scotland:**  
<https://www.mygov.scot/check-role-needs-pvg>

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

### UPDATED GUIDANCE ON TRUSTEE DISQUALIFICATION

OSCR has published updated guidance on the automatic disqualification of individuals in preparation for legal changes under the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Act 2023. These changes will come into effect in summer 2025.

The revised guidance reflects two significant updates:

- Automatic disqualification will also apply to individuals undertaking a senior management function (as well as charity trustees).
- Extended disqualification criteria to include a wider range of offences.

### OSCR WELCOMES LATEST PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE CHARITY REGULATION

Katriona Carmichael, OSCR's CEO, has welcomed [plans set out by the Scottish Government which will improve charity regulation](#) and help to maintain public trust in the sector and its individual charities. Building on the changes introduced by the Charities Act 2023, the proposals aim to address issues charities face when closing or becoming a SCIO, as well as changes to the audit threshold.

## RESOURCES

### **PEER CONNECTS PROGRAMME**

During Mental Health Awareness Week, [Scottish Recovery Network](#) are launching a new Peer Connects programme of events for 2025/26! Featuring an inspiring range of ways to connect, learn and share ideas, you're invited to be part of nurturing and growing Scotland's peer support community. Booking for these free events will open in a special edition newsletter on Wednesday 14 May. You can sign up for their [newsletter here](#)

### **REPORT: STATUS OF YOUNG WOMEN IN SCOTLAND 2024-25**

This report covers topics such as access to healthcare, justice, equality between young women and young men, threats to our human rights and how young women participate in politics and the barriers to doing so.

## **STEPCHANGE DEBT CHARITY: [FREE, GOVERNMENT-BACKED GUIDE](#) TO HELP PEOPLE IN SCOTLAND DEAL WITH FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY AND DEBT**

The easy-to-follow 24-page print booklet, which is [now available to order](#) in batches of 25, 50 or even 1,000, provides an overview of:

- The warning signs of debt: showing when to take action.
- How to get emergency help: where to find support in crisis.
- Scottish debt solutions (plans to pay off debt) explained: the options to pay off debt.
- Creating a budget: how to make and stick to a budget.
- Maximising income: tips to make the most of your money.

The guide is also available in Urdu, Polish and Punjabi in digital formats.

In addition, a series of five videos has been created covering the above topics, which are [available here](#) to embed on your website and use on your social media channels.

Printed copies of the guide can be ordered at <https://www.stepchange.org/partner-hub/partner-resources/order.aspx>

## **[HERITAGE DEBATE 2024: REFLECTIONS & RESOURCES](#)**

2024's debate, 'Balancing the Books: How should the heritage sector be funded?', saw an expert panel make a case for the benefits and pitfalls of public, private and philanthropic funding models. Access reflections and resources from the event.

## **[BLOG: LOCAL AUTHORITY BUDGETS VS 'COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT'](#)**

In this new blog, Volunteer Scotland Senior Policy Officer Sarah Latto unpacks the question: how do we ensure that community empowerment activity is truly empowering, and not just an easy option to cut services?

## **RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS REPORT: [DIGITAL TOOLS THAT SUPPORT VOLUNTEERING](#)**

This research explores how digital tools are currently supporting volunteering in England, and how their role in sustaining and promoting volunteering in the future could be improved.

## **NEW SUICIDE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN AND WEBSITE FOR SCOTLAND**

Suicide Prevention Scotland has launched a new suicide prevention campaign and [website](#). The campaign is entirely co-produced by people with lived and living experience of suicide, professional and practice experience, and academic insight. It features the voices of four people with lived and living experience of suicide, each of whom share their own deeply personal experiences. The main theme of the campaign is to normalise the idea of having a conversation about suicide and to give people the confidence to ask directly about suicide.

The new [website](#) will provide information and key links to a range of centralised resources to support people experiencing thoughts of suicide, those who are worried for someone else or for those who have been bereaved by suicide. A further section for professionals will be launched as part of the next phase of the website's development.

## **SCOTTISH AI PLAYBOOK**

This free, practical online guide and resource hub helps businesses and third-sector organisations in Scotland understand artificial intelligence and learn how to use it in a safe, ethical and inclusive way.

## **FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

### **DIGITAL WELLBEING CONVERSATION STARTERS: DIGITAL WELLBEING CONVERSATIONS TOOLKIT**

The '[Digital Wellbeing Conversations Toolkit](#)', which was created by the Mental Health Improvement Team at NHS GGC and social work services at Glasgow City HSCP. The toolkit has been created for anyone who works with a child or young person. It outlines eight key building blocks of digital wellbeing in a Digital Wellbeing Wheel (mapped against the SHANARRI indicators) and shares hints and tips for talking about children and young people's online lives

The briefing session will give an overview of the toolkit and how you can use it to support children and young people to have healthier and happier online experiences. The session is being held on **Tuesday 20th May, 10.00 – 11.00 am via MS Teams**. To sign up, please email [ggc.mhead@nhs.scot](mailto:ggc.mhead@nhs.scot).

### **ONLINE SEMINARS - THERAPEUTIC GARDENING 13TH & 14TH MAY – TRELLIS**

#### **GROWTH AND RECOVERY FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE THROUGH GARDENING AND CRAFT, 11:00, TUES 13TH MAY**

Autumn and Emma are sharing research findings from their study of The Natural Dye Garden: Growth and Recovery from Sexual Violence Through Gardening and Craft Birkhill House CIC

#### **WHY, WHAT AND HOW TO MEASURE THE BENEFITS OF STH, 15:00 TUES 13TH MAY**

Alison Marsden will share her MSc research on outcome measurement in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. Why, What and How to measure the benefits of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture.

#### **SUPPORTING THOSE WITH MENTAL HEALTH DIFFICULTIES, 15:00 WEDS 14TH MAY**

Suzanne shares her research findings. She extends a warm welcome to all and especially to those practitioners who took part in the study - please come along and join the discussion! Find out more about the Experiences of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture Practitioners Working to support those with Mental Health Difficulties in Scotland.

Scottish Rural Action

#### **ONLINE WORKSHOP ON LOCAL PLACE PLANS: EXPLORE HOW RURAL COMMUNITIES CAN CREATE LOCAL PLACE PLANS. HEAR EXPERT TIPS, REAL STORIES & FUNDING ADVICE. SRA AGM FOLLOWS THE SESSION, WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 - 1 - 2:30PM**

Local Place Planning can be a powerful tool for rural communities to identify priorities, influence development, and build local resilience. But the process can often feel overwhelming—especially when volunteer capacity is limited, and communities face a wide range of complex challenges.

This online workshop is designed to **demystify the Local Place Plan (LPP) process**, with a clear focus on rural and island contexts.

**WEBINAR: [INSPIREHER: OVERCOMING SELF-SABOTAGE](#), 21 MAY 2025 TIME: 12PM - 1PM BST**

In this webinar, Life Coach Nic will help participants to uncover self-sabotaging patterns and learn how to shift their mindset and behaviours. You can expect honest reflection, potential lightbulb moments, and tools you can use straight away to move forward with purpose and clarity.

**[FREE WEBINAR: CREATE, TEST, INCLUDE - ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS Wednesday, May 14 - 12 - 1pm](#)**

This 60-minute session, which coincides with Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), will dive into how we can make everyday digital documents more accessible and inclusive for everyone, especially colleagues and clients with disabilities.

**THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES**

THRE Online training:

- 20th May 2pm – 4pm: [The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach \(2-days\)](#)
- 28th May 3pm – 5.30pm: [Governance - A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach](#)

Event: 1st May 12.30pm – 1.30pm: [THRE upcoming Lunchtime Webinar. Technology in modern society: How do we tackle digital exclusion?](#)

**THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING - FREE WEBINARS ON THE NEW CODE OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE**

- [Introduction to the new Code of Fundraising Practice](#), 21 May 2025, Online  
An introduction to the new fundraising code of practice
- [How to use the new Code of Fundraising Practice](#), 03 June 2025, Online  
How to use the new Code of Fundraising Practice

**SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION**

**[ONLINE WORKSHOP ON LOCAL PLACE PLANS, FOLLOWED BY SRA'S 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING \(AGM\) ONLINE, 21ST MAY, 13:00 - 14:00 \(& SRA AGM 2025 FROM 14:00 - 14:30\)](#)**

Local Place Planning can be a valuable way to identify and highlight community priorities, helping to shape future development. However, the process can be challenging—especially in rural context where voluntary capacity is often stretched and multiple complex issues need to be navigated. In this session, Chiara Fingland ([Imagine If](#)) and Paul Ede ([Place at the Table](#)) will help demystify the Local Place Planning process, with a specific focus on rural communities. They'll share practical tips and insights based on real-life experience.



## CHARITY DIGITAL WEBINARS

### CHARITY DIGITAL ACADEMY: HOW TO MANAGE CHARITY FINANCES, 20TH MAY 2025, 09.30AM- 13:00PM BST

In this practical session, you'll gain a clear understanding of your charity's finances. We'll break down the essential elements of charity finances, from budgeting and reporting to governance, sustainability, and futureproofing.

### REIMAGINING SERVICE DELIVERY SUMMIT, 12TH JUNE 2025, 09.00AM-5.00PM BST

Join us on the 12th June 2025 for our free online event, to explore collaborative and user-centered service delivery. We will explore how charities can make the most of their resources to deliver the best services. We will also discuss ways to shift perceptions of service delivery, ensuring users remain at the centre of these conversations and much more.

## Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

A free group for adults  
to meet, eat cake, chat  
and make new friends!

Friday 16th May  
2.30–4.00pm

Please note, there  
will not be an  
April meeting

For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964

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### SCVO: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES: VILLAGE HALLS CONFERENCE, THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025

This free, one-day event will give people like you running village and community halls across Scotland the chance to connect, learn, share ideas, and inspire each other. **In person and online**

Missed last year's conference? Visit our website to [learn more about the day and to watch back some of our sessions](#).

### NEW FUTURES - FORMER PLACES OF WORSHIP, FREE WORKSHOPS, APRIL TO JULY, ONLINE

Calling community groups considering taking on a church across Scotland! Join this great series of insightful and informative workshops with Church Advisors, Community Ownership Support Service and guest speakers for enhanced support when taking on a place of worship.

Find out more about each workshop and register via links below:

- [Workshop 1: Place Planning and Engaging with your Community](#)
- [Workshop 2: Community Right to Buy](#)
- [Workshop 3: Churches into Community Ownership – First Steps](#)
- [Workshop 4: Finance and Fundraising](#)
- [Workshop 5: Business Planning](#)

## CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

The Carbon Literacy Project

### **SCHOOL STAFF COURSE TOOLKIT LAUNCH, THU 5 JUN 2025 4:00 PM - 5:15 PM BST ONLINE, ZOOM**

This toolkit has been designed for all school staff, and to support the development of Carbon Literacy in your school setting. Giving confidence to your staff team and supporting your community in their carbon-reduction journey.

### **DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY SECTOR TOOLKIT ONLINE LAUNCH, THU 29 MAY 2025 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM BST ONLINE**

This Toolkit, commissioned by Autotrader in partnership with Manchester Digital, will enable organisations in the sector to focus specifically on the solutions that can be implemented to help generate a low-carbon culture.

### **GLOBAL ELECTRICITY REVIEW 2025**

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of global electricity generation trends, offering valuable insights into the future of energy sources and power sector emissions.

### **HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION (HIEF)**

HIEF is accepting applications for the next round of funding, with an EOI deadline of June 2nd.

Community-led groups aiming to protect and restore nature are encouraged to apply for grants, ranging from £5,000 to £15,000. There are also opportunities to receive match-funding towards a Crowdfunder campaign (more [here](#)). More information on how to apply, and the types of projects we support, can be found on our website [here](#). Any groups interested are encouraged to contact [louis@hief.scot](mailto:louis@hief.scot) for feedback on their proposal prior to applying.

### **HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS CLIMATE HUB**

#### **COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A GREENER FUTURE IN SHETLAND**

On Shetland, Andrea, The Highlands and Islands - Shetland Community Development Officer, brought together community groups and agencies to understand the work of each other, know where support is and feel encouraged by the work communities are doing. Hearing about the impact of [Northmavine Community Development Company](#) was really inspiring.

#### **Past Event Recordings**

[Community Composting Skillshare](#) (March 2025)

[Community Energy Skillshare](#) (February 2025)



[Meet the Funder: Shetland Community Benefit Fund](#) (January 2025)

Training

**Sustainable Spaces**

Transform your community building into a sustainable space with an environmental policy & action plan, supported by the Hub's Team of Development Officers. [Support & training available now.](#)

**Food Hygiene Hero**

Final call for those wishing to undertake our fully funded Level 2 Food Safety & Hygiene for Catering course. Suitable for staff or volunteers involved in the delivery of a food waste project based in the Highlands or Northern Isles. [Apply here.](#)

**BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND TRAINING**

**BE YOUR WORKPLACE'S CPD-CERTIFIED GREEN CHAMPION, 24 JUNE, 10:00AM - 12:30PM, ONLINE, FREE**

Green Champions training webinar is now open for booking. Grab your place and learn all the ways your workplace can reduce its energy, water and raw material use - plus get a certificate of completion to showcase your efforts and enhance your CV.

**THE FUTURE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN SCOTLAND, 25 JUNE, 4:30PM, ONLINE, FREE**

Join an insightful webinar from Energy Saving Trust's Green Heat Installer Engagement Programme exploring the potential of solar energy in Scotland. Whether you're a professional in the field or simply interested in the potential of solar energy, this session will offer valuable knowledge and practical insights.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**

No Updates

**SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS**

**REPORTS**

**LEGISLATION**

**CALLS FOR VIEWS: [THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:](#)**

**DRAFT JUST TRANSITION PLAN FOR TRANSPORT, Deadline: 19 May 2025**

The Scottish Government is consulting on their draft Just Transition Plan for Transport. The Plan identifies the key challenges and opportunities currently facing the transport sector. It highlights the work that is already taking place, while setting out an approach and priorities for the future.

**COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Closes: 23 May 2025**

The [Economy and Fair Work Committee](#) wants to hear your views on the [Community Wealth Building \(Scotland\) Bill](#). The committee would like to know whether the bill will achieve its aim, whether there are potential unintended consequences to the bill and how the bill could benefit local communities and small businesses.