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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

FIRSTPORT SOCIAL INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2026

Deadline for applications: Friday 28 August 2026

Firstport Social Innovation Challenge 2026 seeks innovative solutions to the most pressing challenges of our times. It offers a £30,000 grant, along with hands-on support to help launch and implement the winning idea. There are also two runner-up prizes up for grabs of £10,000 each.

This year's Challenge seeks innovative solutions aligned with the following four themes:

- **Eradicating child poverty:** ideas which help the families of children living in deep poverty increase their long-term wellbeing and economic resilience.
- **Growing the economy:** projects providing novel routes to meaningful employment for individuals facing barriers such as disability, stigma, or discrimination.
- **Tackling the climate emergency:** projects proposing new ways of reducing reliance on fossil fuels or delivering regenerative environmental solutions such as increasing biodiversity, improving soil health or addressing water pollution.
- **Ensuring high-quality and sustainable public services:** ideas that alleviate pressure on essential services by offering support to those who need it most, through innovative means.

Can you help solve these issues? The most impactful social enterprise solution will receive £30,000 and tailored support. This year, two runner-up prizes of £10,000 each are also available. [More info here.](#)

[UK GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES £60 MILLION FUND TO TRANSFORM EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT](#)

The UK government has launched a new £60 million fund to support voluntary, public and private sector organisations to develop and test new approaches that help disabled people and those with health conditions access, stay in and progress in employment. [Read more here](#)

[UK GOVERNMENT TAX-FREE APPROVED MILEAGE ALLOWANCE PAYMENT \(AMAP\) GOES UP FROM 45P-PER-MILE TO 55P-PER-MILE](#)

The UK Government has increased the tax-free volunteer mileage rate from 45p to 55p per mile which will make a difference to volunteers who drive in their volunteer role. Read [more from Volunteer Scotland](#).

[MARTYN'S LAW IS COMING IN SPRING 2027](#)

Commonly known as Martyn's Law, the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 is UK legislation designed to ensure the public is better protected from terrorism. It does this by requiring certain public premises and events to be prepared and ready to keep people safe in the event of an attack. Venues that can hold more than 200 people, such as village halls, need to know about it. To help you prepare, Scottish Rural Action has developed a handy information sheet with all the up to date information you need to know about. [Download the sheet here](#).

MARTYN'S LAW (THE TERRORISM (PROTECTION OF PREMISES BILL)



What Village Halls and Community Spaces Need to Know

WHY IS MARTYN'S LAW IMPORTANT?

MARTYN'S LAW IS A NEW UK LAW THAT AIMS TO PROTECT PEOPLE AT PUBLIC VENUES FROM TERRORIST ATTACKS. IT IS NAMED AFTER MARTYN HETT, ONE OF 22 PEOPLE WHO DIED IN THE MANCHESTER ARENA ATTACK.

THE LAW IS BEING INTRODUCED TO ENSURE VENUES LIKE VILLAGE HALLS AND COMMUNITY SPACES TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT STAFF AND THE PUBLIC FROM THE RISK OF TERRORISM.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Martyn's Law applies to events that hold over 200 people. A tiered approach is established under the new Act, with 200 to 799 individuals present in the 'standard tier', requiring simple, low-cost activities to protect and save lives in the event of an attack. Larger events will have further requirements placed upon them.

The person in charge of the premises or event is responsible for making sure these safety procedures are in place. This might be the village hall committee or an event organiser.

HOW WILL THIS LAW BE ENFORCED?

The [Security Industry Authority \(SIA\)](#) is the official regulator of Martyn's Law, to help venues meet the requirements and provide advice. They are currently consulting on their draft guidance, in time for Martyn's Law coming into force in Spring 2027. [Read the guidance](#).

WHERE CAN YOU GET HELP?

Premises and events seeking to prepare for Martyn's Law should access free technical guidance and operational advice on protective security on the [National Protective Security Authority](#) and [ProtectUK](#) websites.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED TO DO?

- When Martyn's Law comes into force (expected Spring 2027), you'll be able to use the SIA's online portal to notify them of your event/venue. The portal is not yet live.
- Public Safety Procedures: You must have procedures in place to protect people in the event of a terrorist attack (refer to the tiered system and SIA guidance). This includes plans for evacuation or lockdown and making sure staff know what to do.
- Training and Preparation: No special equipment is required, but you must train staff and volunteers on the procedures to ensure they know how to respond to a threat.

WHAT ABOUT LARGER EVENTS?

- For venues that host events with 800 or more people, additional steps are needed, such as:
 - Enhanced monitoring, such as bag search policies, CCTV, or vehicle checks.
 - Preparedness: Create a documented plan showing how the venue would reduce harm and manage risks in case of an attack.



QUESTIONS???

VISIT PROTECT UK
WWW.PROTECTUK.POLICE.UK/MARTYNS-LAW

EMAIL NIKKI@SRA.SCOT



TIME TO LIVE GRANT AND CARERS REGISTER (SHETLAND CARE ATTENDANT SCHEME)

A carer is someone that cares for a family member, partner, or friend who cannot manage without their support due to illness, disability, mental health issues, or addiction. Caring activities can range from personal care, emotional support, managing medications, shopping and more.

The Time to Live grant is available for all carers as an individual short break. Carers have used Time to Live funding in a variety of ways to support their wellbeing, take a break from caring, pursue interests, and improve their quality of life. This could be anything from a gym membership to an overnight hotel stay, streaming subscriptions, gardening equipment, classes and more. Please see full details [here](#).

If you are a carer, please consider joining the carers register to receive support, advice and information [here](#).

NHS 24: DON'T FORGET THE THREE P'S THIS SUMMER: PACK, PLAN, PROTECT

NHS 24 has launched the summer phase of its public health campaign and is encouraging the public to 'pack, plan, and protect' during the warmer months. Covering common seasonal conditions, the campaign encourages health preparedness and safe self-management of minor health concerns. NHS 24's summer health tips include:

- Pack - remember to take prescribed medicines with you when travelling away from home - even if it's only for one or two nights.
- Plan - keep remedies at home to help with summer injuries and illnesses such as bites and stings, sunburn, or hay fever.
- Protect - if you become unwell, NHS has useful symptom checkers to help you decide what to do next.

Explore more of NHS 24's summer health tips by visiting nhsinform.scot/summer.

PVG SCHEME UPDATE – CHECK YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Disclosure Scotland is asking all PVG scheme members to ensure their contact details are up to date, particularly their email address.

If you have not yet moved to the new five-year PVG membership, Disclosure Scotland will contact you using the email they have on record. If they do not have your details, they may contact your organisation instead. What you need to do:

Email dsupdate@disclosurescotland.gov.scot with reference "email address update". Include:

- Your name
- Date of birth
- PVG scheme number
- Current email address

If you don't have an email address, you can provide alternative contact details by calling [03000200040](tel:03000200040).



**Are you a practitioner with
knowledge related to women
experiencing homelessness and
problem substance use?**

We would like to invite you
to participate in our survey to
help improve understanding
of the health needs of
women experiencing co-
occurring homelessness and
problem substance use



If you would like to know more, please
contact Chloe Farmer using crf4@stir.ac.uk

Access the survey via this link or QR code

[https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/
s/stirling/mixed-methods-survey-of-
professionals](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/stirling/mixed-methods-survey-of-professionals)



NICR Ethics Approval Number: 26293

SCOTTISH RECOVERY NETWORK - GROWING PEER SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE

Scottish Recovery Network (SRN) is inviting local partners to express interest in becoming one of two areas in Scotland participating in our new Growing Peer Support Collaboratives. This three-year initiative will bring together community organisations, statutory partners and people with lived experience to work together to expand access to mental health peer support and develop a stronger peer workforce.

The Growing Peer Support Collaborative offers a practical opportunity to build on existing local strengths, support prevention and early intervention, and develop more recovery-focused approaches to mental health support and suicide prevention.

Here is a link to a document with more details about the opportunity [Growing Peer Support Collaboratives - Scottish Recovery Network](#)

If this aligns with your local priorities, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please submit brief responses to the questions in the document and send to info@scottishrecovery.net - A member of our team will then be in touch to discuss the opportunity further. Final decisions on areas will be made at the end of July / beginning of August 2026

ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL CONSULTATION EVENTS FOR RURAL AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

Transport Scotland is revising Scotland's Accessible Travel Policy to improve travel experiences for disabled people and remove barriers across the transport network. As part of this work, lived experience is being gathered through surveys and online engagement sessions, with a particular focus on people living in rural and island communities.

[Disability Equality Scotland](#) is hosting five Zoom consultation events between June and September 2026 covering topics including ferry and aviation travel, transport to healthcare, rural transport networks and community transport.

Upcoming sessions:

- 30 July – [Transport Network in Rural Areas](#)
- 2 September – [Community Transport in Rural and Remote Areas](#)
- 7 September – [Transport Network in Island Communities](#)

Disability Equality Scotland is keen to hear from disabled people living in rural, remote and island communities across Scotland, and welcomes support from local organisations in promoting the events.

SCOTTISH FAMILIES COORDINATING POP-UP NALOXONE TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION EVENTS IN SHETLAND AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS MONTH IN AUGUST 2026

Scottish Families will be in Shetland from **Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 August** and are keen to identify **local partners, community organisations, cafés, businesses or public spaces** that may be sympathetic to the cause and suitable for hosting or supporting pop-up events. If you have any suggestions of:

- Local organisations or services that may wish to partner
- Cafés, businesses or venues that might host a pop-up
- Community spaces or outdoor locations that could work

Please email *Nicky Collins*, Alcohol & Drugs Development Assistant - NHS Shetland
Email: Nicky.Collins@nhs.scot, Website: [Shetland Alcohol & Drug Partnership - Home \(shetlandadp.org.uk\)](http://ShetlandAlcohol&DrugPartnership-Home.shetlandadp.org.uk)

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

No Updates

RESOURCES

VOLUNTEER SCOTLAND RESEARCH: THE HIDDEN VALUE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers make a huge contribution to communities across Shetland, but recent research shows the impact goes far beyond the time people give. A study by Volunteer Scotland found that regular volunteering is linked to significantly higher mental wellbeing, with weekly volunteering estimated to provide a wellbeing benefit worth around £1,000 per person each year. On a national scale, the research estimates that volunteers contribute around £2.3 billion in social and economic value to Scotland through both their time and the positive wellbeing associated with volunteering.

Read Volunteer Scotland's article [here](#).

COMMUNITY HALL RETROFIT PLAYBOOK

If your community hall is considering energy efficiency improvements or planning a retrofit project, a new Community Hall Retrofit Playbook, developed by [South of Scotland Enterprise \(SOSE\)](#) is a valuable resource. It provides practical, step-by-step guidance to help committees, trustees and volunteers plan and deliver building improvements that reduce energy costs, cut carbon emissions and create warmer, more sustainable community spaces. [Download the Retrofit Playbook here](#).

NC: COLLECTIVE CIC OFFER PROFESSIONAL, REMOTE ADMIN SERVICES TO CHARITIES, SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND SMES

For those times when you need a task completing but don't have a team member with the skills (or time!) to carry it out. Costings available on a sliding scale. Small charity examples include: Starter website design (max 4 pages) - £300.

Logo design or redesign, brand guidelines and a single marketing material option - £200

Bookkeeping (all major programmes) - £25 per hour

Other services include:

- Data & Administration
- Digital Systems
- Editorial Support
- Business Support
- Design
- Marketing
- Podcast Production

Find out more: info@nccollective.org.uk

FREE TRAINING: HOW TO BE GOOD AT AI

This free training from Acteon Communication covers five essential actions that help anyone get more from AI – safely, effectively, and with confidence. It's delivered in the form of short, TikTok-style video lessons, ready to use on your LMS and comms channels. Together, these actions can help improve performance and reduce risk. They apply to any AI tool, and they show how to lead the technology – not follow it. [Watch the videos and download your copy](#)

[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT](#)

Inclusive communication good practice allows more people to understand others and express themselves easily. Produced for Scottish Government by Communication Inclusion People, Disability Equality Scotland, and people with lived experience of communication exclusion, the kit explains why inclusive communication matters, sets out an updated definition of good practice, and includes step-by-step guides and practical tools. [Check out the toolkit here.](#)

HELPING YOU MEASURE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Want to better understand and evidence the impact your organisation or project has on mental health and wellbeing? [The Scottish Recovery Network's Adaptable Outcome Map](#) provides practical tools to help organisations evaluate and demonstrate the difference they make.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

[READY TO RISE – FREE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME](#)

Support for women and non-binary people exploring social entrepreneurship Firstport's Ready to RISE programme is a free eight-week training and support programme designed for women and non-binary people who are returning to work, changing careers, or interested in exploring social enterprise.

Participants will receive support to build confidence, develop skills, explore business ideas and learn how social enterprise can create flexible employment while making a positive impact in communities. The programme is delivered online via Zoom and participants may also be eligible to apply for up to £1,000 in grant funding to help develop their idea. [Find out more.](#)

SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION [COMMUNITY SPACES NETWORK MEETING: WED, 9 SEP, 12PM - 1:30PM, ONLINE](#)

Communities across Scotland are developing innovative, place-based solutions to support **children and families where access to childcare and family services can be limited**. This online session on 9th September explores how village halls, community hubs and other local spaces are being reimagined as trusted centres for affordable childcare and family support, helping parents access employment while strengthening community resilience. The session will look at how community ownership, local partnerships and flexible use of shared spaces can help address barriers created by distance, transport and limited childcare provision. *Speakers TBA.*

If you missed the May online session '**Connected Hubs - Community Spaces as Vibrant Workspaces**', you can watch the recording here: [Community Spaces as Vibrant Workspaces | Webinar Recording](#). Email nikki@sra.scot for a copy of the session slides. You may also be interested in reading a report by [Connected Hubs Scotland](#), which makes the case for a national network of connected coworking spaces in Scotland: [Connected Hubs Scotland Report](#).

ABILITY SHETLAND PARTNERING UP WITH BRESSAY PARKRUN, SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Parkrun is a 5km route in Bressay which people can run or walk! Details below:

- Saturday 12th September
- 9am ferry for a 9.30am start
- cash or card accepted on the ferry and blue badge holders access the ferry for free
- pop along Speldiburn after for a hot drink and cake

If you would like to help with a volunteer role or have any further questions, please contact abilityshetland@shetland.org. For volunteer roles, you shadow an existing Parkrun volunteer to learn the ropes! Roles available include three marshal points to guide people along the course and cheer them on, timekeepers, barcode scanners, people to give out finish tokens, tailwalkers and giving out sweeties at the end!

For more information on the Bressay Parkrun please see:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/bressay/>

To register for Parkrun to get your barcode, times and proof of volunteering see:

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/?eventName=bressay>



Ability Shetland

parkrun

PARKRUN PARTNERSHIP

RUN, WALK OR VOLUNTEER

Runners - Walkers - Marshals - Timekeepers -
Barcode Scanners - Finish Tokens - Tailwalkers



SATURDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER - 9AM FERRY

For more information contact us at abilityshetland@shetland.org

JUST ENTERPRISE: 2026-27 LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES RECRUITING NOW

ASPIRING LEADERS | 6 DAYS | ONLINE AND CENTRAL GLASGOW

Start date 29 September 2026 and 14 January 2027

This six-day programme is for anyone working in a third-sector organisation who is new to a people management and leadership role. The programme focuses on the kinds of leadership required for changing times and a challenging climate. Sessions will develop core leadership skills including self-awareness, how to motivate and empower others and engage in crucial conversations. The insights gained during the programme will help you to build confidence step up in your leadership role and make a greater contribution to the effective running of your organisation. [Find out more](#)

DEVELOPING A COACHING APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP | 6 DAYS | ONLINE

Start date 18 January 2027

This is a six-day programme for third-sector leaders who are looking to get more out of their teams and to work more collaboratively with stakeholders and partners. A coaching approach has been identified as critical to creating a more empowered and innovative culture, leading to more enterprising and resilient organisations. It is an effective way of retaining and developing staff. Coaching can also enable delegation, reducing pressures on leaders and creating space for innovation. The programme focuses on developing key skills like; active listening, questioning, feedback, having productive conversations, and collaboration as well as cultivating a growth mindset. [Find out more](#)

DEVELOPING SUSTAINABILITY | 6 DAYS | HYBRID DELIVERY EDINBURGH & ONLINE

Start date 27 November 2026

Sustainability is a key concern for third sector organisations and social enterprises. Numerous challenges face the sector, both within their own structure and how they interact in the wider environment. Sustainability is also about how to expand, scale and develop what organisations are doing. This programme explores these themes, looking at what is already working, how to sustain this and identifying what needs to change and how to make this happen. [Find out more.](#)

SENIOR LEADERS | 10 DAYS | HYBRID DELIVERY EDINBURGH & ONLINE

Start date 16 September 2026

This ten-day programme, over five to six months, is for Senior Leaders and Managers within third-sector organisations and social enterprises, who have strategic as well as operational responsibility. It will help to prepare senior leaders for the current opportunities and challenges that their organisations may face. It will also support the growth of ethical and values-led leadership strengthening organisations across the sector. Peer learning from within the group and invited guests provides individuals with opportunities to identify how they share and apply their learning. [Find out more.](#)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS | 10 DAYS | HYBRID DELIVERY GLASGOW & ONLINE

Start date 13 October 2026

This ten-day programme has been designed specifically for CEOs which can often be an isolated and all-consuming role. It offers important space and time to reflect and think on a strategic level, applying theoretical perspectives with support from peers. Using group work, peer coaching and self-reflection, the programme, grounded on recent research into Third Sector leadership, will hone leadership skills in relation to the particular issues and challenges facing CEOs at the cutting edge of the sector. [Find out more.](#)

ONE-TO-ONE LEADERSHIP COACHING | 3 X 60 MINUTE SESSIONS | ONLINE

Accepting applications now

Being a leader and people manager gives you a great opportunity to make a real difference in your organisation. The role of a leader can also be complex with competing priorities and needs, so taking the time to reflect on these challenges as well as goals and aspirations for yourself, your team and your organisation can be hugely beneficial. The Leadership Coaching sessions that we offer give you the opportunity to work on a one-to-one basis, in a confidential space, with an experienced coach and leader to consider the support you or your organisation needs to explore ideas, options and solutions to help you move forward. [Find out more.](#)

FREE WEBINAR: USING AI TO AUTOMATE ADMIN AND UNLOCK CAPACITY

Business in the Community has partnered with leading traffic management company Yunex Traffic to offer a free online AI training webinar for charities, community groups, voluntary organisations and not-for-profits. Whether you're new to AI or already exploring tools like ChatGPT and Claude, this practical session will show you how AI can support everyday tasks, helping your team work more efficiently and spend more time delivering impact. This webinar is free and open to all charities, voluntary organisations, community groups and Councils for Voluntary Service across England, Scotland and Wales.

Part 1: 5 August, 11:00am–12:00pm, Follow-up Webinar: 20 August, 11:00am–12:00pm

The follow up session will provide an opportunity to ask questions and review if the use of AI has made a positive impact for you since session1. Please register for **one** Part1 session **and** the Follow-up webinar. [Register here:](#)

SCVO: MEET THE FUNDER WITH SOCIAL INVESTMENT SCOTLAND (SIS), 1ST SEPTEMBER 2026, 10:00-11:00, ONLINE (FREE)

Join SCVO for an online session with [Social Investment Scotland](#) to find out more about the funding and finance options they offer to support charities, social enterprises and community organisations across Scotland.

SCVO: MEET THE FUNDER WITH POSTCODE LOTTERY, 4TH AUGUST 2026, 10:00-11:00, ONLINE (FREE)

During this webinar held by SCVO, attendees will hear directly from [People's Postcode Trust](#) about their grant funding and how they support charities and good causes across Scotland. Find out how funding raised by players of People's Postcode Lottery helps organisations, projects and community groups to deliver local activity, tackle poverty and inequality, improve wellbeing, and protect the environment.

ADULT LEARNING CLASSES SHETLAND: DIGITAL SUPPORT DROP-INS WITH MARC COYNE

These FREE Digital Support classes do not require booking!

- Every Monday, 1200-1400 at the Shetland Library
- Friday 31st July, 1000-1230 at the Living Well Hub, Brae Community Hall
- Wednesday 5th August, 1400-1500 at the Over 60s Club, Scalloway Youth Centre
- Friday 14th August, 1100-1230 at the Walls Café
- Friday 21st August, 100-1230 at Community Connections, Market House, Lerwick
- Friday 28th August, 1000-1230 at the Living Well Hub, Brae Community Hall

MISSING AWARENESS TRAINING FOR THIRD SECTOR PROFESSIONALS, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, ONLINE

This year, [Missing People](#) have received funding from the Scottish Government to deliver **FREE** training to third sector organisations across Scotland in Missing Awareness to increase knowledge of missing and explore how to build on the good practice in your local area. They are inviting third sector staff across Scotland to join them for a short national online workshop that will cover:

- Identifying indicators someone could be at risk of going missing
- Exploring best practice responses to support someone who has returned from a missing episode and prevention of future missing episodes.
- Awareness raising of the National Missing Persons Framework
- Awareness of Missing People services, including our new SafeCall service for children and young people.

****IN PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITY****

GAMBLING HARM AND HOMELESSNESS – 2HR SESSION, TUESDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER, 10 AM - 12 PM, MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK

A representative from [Simon Community Scotland](#) will be in Shetland to deliver this training session in September. Simon Community Scotland is a charity that provides information, advice, care, support, accommodation and homes for people affected by homelessness or at risk of losing their home.

This training will support professionals to understand gambling harm and its links to homelessness, including risk factors and signs. This training aims to improve the confidence of the workforce to recognise signs and risk factors of gambling harm and know how to respond in a supportive way. We aim to encourage people to ask about gambling and feel confident in responding.

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gambling-harm-and-homelessness-tickets-1993918939222>

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND: GRANTHOLDER SUPPORT PROGRAMME - DEVELOPING SUSTAINABILITY

Programme dates for cohort 4 (online course, 10.00am - 4.00pm)

- Wednesday 9 - Thursday 10 September 2026
- Wednesday 7 - Thursday 8 October 2026

Groups and organisations that receive a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund can benefit from their Grantholder Support Programme. If your organisation has an environmental purpose and/or is running a project with environmental benefits, you can take part in this 'Developing Sustainability' training delivered by Social Enterprise Academy.

You will:

- explore sustainability in terms of finance, culture, community as well as environment
- envision your organisation's future to align with its values
- develop new ways of working to enable positive outcomes for your community
- address both environmental and social justice hand in hand
- strengthen leadership capacity

CLD STANDARDS COUNCIL: REFLECTIVE PRACTICE PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

This training is being run by the CLD Standards Council. It is the professional body for people who work or volunteer in Community Learning and Development. Anyone who works in Community Learning and Development (CLD) can learn how 'Reflective Practice' can help them in their professional work and try out some practical techniques on this course which will be delivered between August – October 2026. There are two course cohorts for participants to choose from [and registration to take part](#) must be completed by 31 July 2026.

Group A

- Wednesday 26 August, 9 September, 23 September and 7 October
- 1.00pm -3.00 pm
- Online

Group B:

- Thursday 27 August, 10 September, 24 September and 8 October
- 6.00pm– 8.00pm
- Online

The course consists of four online workshops with the rest of the work to be done in your own time. By the end you will be able to:

- appreciate the need for and benefit of reflection in professional practice
- explain the main features of Reflective Practice
- use three different practical techniques of reflection

For more information contact: kirsty.gemmell@cldstandardscouncil.org.uk

SCOTTISH FORUM ON ISOLATION AND LONELINESS, WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 1-3PM, ONLINE, ZOOM

Join this Forum with Befriending Networks and connect, share, and discuss practice, policy and research linked to social isolation and loneliness in Scotland. This session will focus on inequalities in loneliness specific to the experiences of children and young people. The event will be a mix of discussion, breakout rooms, and presentations.

LIVING WELL HUB BRAE

The Living Well Hub is currently at the Brae Boating Club

Friday 31st July

This week we have:

- From 11am - 1pm, there will be a drop in session and peer support group meeting on **Long Covid and self management of post viral fatigue**. The support group plans to have monthly peer meetings, for further information or to register for digital peer support meetings contact Richard at pcchelsin@gmail.com
- **Adult Learning SIC** will be on hand to help support you with your **basic digital skills** between **10am and 1230pm**, we can give advice on Internet Security, setting up devices, operating apps and many other IT queries

CLS Living Well Hub@Community Care Social Work livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk
The Hub is contactable Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, 01595744120

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE (HIE) CLIMATE SPRINGBOARD

Social enterprises, community organisations and charities can apply to be part of the Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Climate Springboard delivered by Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI). It offers around 8 -12 hours of free expert-led, guided support to help you understand, plan, and act on climate change.

The programme is suitable for beginners who have been operating for a year and those already on their sustainability journey. By the end participants will have:

- a compliant carbon footprint
- a clear, achievable net zero action plan
- a tailored to-do list of quick wins to lower emissions and costs
- a resource pack containing step-by-step guides
- access to a growing network of over 275 organisations on similar journeys

The next round of the programme begins on Thursday August 2026.

Cohort 7: Thursdays - 27 Aug; 10 and 14 Sept; 1 Oct

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

POLICE SCOTLAND - SPECIAL CONSTABLE OPPORTUNITIES - UPCOMING ONLINE INFORMATION EVENTS

Police Scotland are actively working towards our next Special Constable intake, which is scheduled to take place near the end of 2026. Find out more about becoming a Special Constable at a free online event where we will discuss the Special Constable role, what to expect, how to apply and how it could potentially lead to a fully time career within Police Scotland. (See the attached leaflet, which includes an 'apply now' QR code.)

The online events will discuss this information in more detail and will culminate with a Q+A session with our team on the day. Choose from one of these dates:

- Tuesday 11th August 2026 - from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Thursday 13th August 2026 - from 6:00pm to 8:00pm
- Saturday 15th August 2026 - from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Cycling UK: [Cycling Development Officer – Shetland](#)

Closing date: August 31, 2026

As our Cycling Development Officer, you will manage key relationships in Shetland with stakeholders who have an interest in, or an affiliation to cycling. Our ideal candidate will have a good understanding of the local community to develop and deliver projects which meet local need to address health, social and economic inequalities across Shetland. [Find out more.](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS	
REPORTS	
LEGISLATION	
CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:	
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY JUSTICE: REVIEW OF 2022 STRATEGY Closes 20 Aug 2026 The National Strategy for Community Justice provides the direction for community justice across Scotland, setting out aims, ambitions and priority actions. In addition to delivering justice, a community justice approach seeks to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour, such as drug and alcohol addiction, and put people on a better path that reduces the likelihood of them reoffending in future.	
PROTECTIONS IN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS Closes 31 Aug 2026 This consultation focuses on the potential role that changes to criminal law can play in preventing and addressing violence against women and girls.	
PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM: PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY 2027-28 Closes 14 Aug 2026 The Committee's pre-budget scrutiny inquiry will consider how the 2027/28 Scottish Budget can promote public service reform, including by: • removing barriers to progress • promoting preventative approaches, and • simplifying the delivery of public services.	
PRE-BUDGET SCRUTINY 2027-28: THE AFFORDABILITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF SCOTLAND'S TAX AND SPENDING PLANS Closes 14 Aug 2026 The focus of this year's pre-budget scrutiny inquiry is on the affordability and sustainability of Scotland's tax and spending plans.	