VISP GENERAL NEWSLETTER
17 NOVEMBER 2026, ISSUE 16

Voluntary and Independent Sector Partnership
Representing the views of the community

The Scottish Government

Voluntary Action Shetland

Funded by Shetland Charitable Trust

CONTENTS:

- THIRD SECTOR NEWS
- NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR
- RESOURCES
- FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS
- CLIMATE /ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
- JOB/VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
- SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS – INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS

THIRD SECTOR NEWS

VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND ARE NOW HEALTH CREATION SCOTLAND!
Their new website is now www.healthcreation.scot, and you can reach them by emailing hello@healthcreation.scot.

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF SOCIAL PRESCRIBING IN SCOTLAND
The Scottish Government is inviting community organisations, third sector organisations and other public services to share their views on social prescribing through an online survey. Your views will build on the findings of their public consultation to further shape the development of a national framework that will support fair and consistent practice. Engagement is open until 26 November, participate here.

KEEPING ME WARM PROJECT
Action for ME and National Energy Action are conducting a joint research project looking at those with ME/CFS or Long Covid and their experiences using different heating methods, comfortability, affordability and the impact on health and wellbeing. To find out more about this project or to participate, visit their website.

HELP TEST THE ACCESSIBILITY OF A NEW DIGITAL HEALTH SERVICE FOR SCOTLAND
Public Services Delivery Scotland is designing a new digital service to help people access their health and care information and want your input. They're looking to test the service with a diverse range of people who experience conditions which affect their mobility/dexterity, hearing, sight, learning or comprehension. Get in touch with nes.userresearch@nhs.scot if you're interested in participating.

NOMINATE YOUR HERO FOR THE NATIONAL YOUTH WORK AWARDS

Celebrating Excellence in Youth Work Across Scotland

YouthLink Scotland invites you to nominate outstanding individuals and teams for the National Youth Work Awards 2027. Whether you're a fellow youth worker, a beneficiary of their efforts, or simply an admirer of their work, your nomination can shine a light on those making a real difference in the lives of young people. **The deadline for nominations is 21st December**.

ERASMUS+ INTERIM REGIONAL HUB

In January 2027 the UK will be reassociating with Erasmus+, and YouthLink Scotland, with support from intermediary members, will be the interim youth sector hub for Scotland working with the British Council. YouthLink Scotland will be offering information sessions, partner finding opportunities, training and more.



NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE KING'S AWARD FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE 2027

The King's Award for Voluntary Service is an opportunity for the public to recognise a **voluntary group** that has made a real impact in their local area. Every day, millions of people across the UK are making a difference by volunteering. Each year, outstanding examples of this work are celebrated through the King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS). Created in 2002 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee and previously known as The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS), the Award has been shining a light on the fantastic work of voluntary groups from all across the UK for many years. Equivalent to an MBE, KAVS is the highest Award given to local voluntary groups in the UK, and they are awarded for life. **Nominations are open until 1 December 2026.**

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

OSCR REPORT: IMPORTANCE OF GOOD FINANCIAL RECORD KEEPING FOR CHARITIES
The report draws on findings from OSCR's regulatory work and outlines common issues that can arise when accounting records are incomplete, inaccessible or not maintained in a way that reflects charity accounting requirements. The report highlights several key lessons for charities - find out what they are.

COMPLETING YOUR ANNUAL RETURN? CHECK YOUR CHARITY TRUSTEE DETAILS!
You must now have your charity trustee details recorded in OSCR Online before you can complete an online annual return. To avoid problems when it's time to submit your return, make sure your charity trustee information is kept up to date throughout the year. Log in to OSCR Online and check that:

- All current trustees are listed
- Their details are accurate
- New trustees have been added
- Trustees who have left are recorded correctly

.
Log in to OSCR Online and check your trustee details.

Need help? Read OSCR'S GUIDANCE ON MANAGING CHARITY TRUSTEE INFORMATION

CONCERNS ABOUT CHARITIES: WHAT OSCR CAN DEAL WITH
As Scotland's charity regulator, OSCR can be contacted when there are serious concerns about how a charity is being run or managed. OSCR'S role is to ensure charities comply with charity law, protect charitable assets and maintain public trust and confidence in charities. We are not a complaints service, ombudsman, mediator or appeal body, and we cannot resolve personal disputes or overturn decisions simply because someone disagrees with them.

Learn more about what OSCR can deal with, and where they cannot usually help.

CHARITIES SORP-MAKING BODY PUBLISH HELPSHEET ON LEASE ACCOUNTING
The Charities SORP-making body have published a helpsheet to support charities and their advisors in understanding the new lease accounting requirements that are applicable to charities producing accruals accounts. The new SORP sets out the new lease accounting requirements as they apply to charities following amendments to UK financial reporting standard (FRS 102) introduced by the Financial Reporting Council.

The lease accounting helpsheet cannot cover all situations or arrangements but is an additional resource provided to aid practical implementation of the new requirements. Charities may need to seek professional advice where required to ensure they comply with the relevant requirements

RESOURCES

SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (SHS) – RESULTS

Volunteer Scotland has published its analysis of the Scottish Household Survey 2025. The findings show that volunteering continues to recover across Scotland. They also highlight the need to create more inclusive, accessible and flexible ways for people to take part.

TFN'S NEW GUIDE TO RUNNING A CHARITY IS OUT NOW

This year's Guide takes a look at the crucial question of what makes good governance in the voluntary sector. How can boards steer vital organisations through troubled waters? How do you recruit the best trustees? How do charities navigate the challenges of the climate crisis, of AI and cyber threats?

THE ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND THRIVE FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

The Royal Bank of Scotland Thrive financial literacy programme is being successfully delivered across Scotland. As well as the full toolkit, there are over 200 individual activities on a wide range of topics on the Thrive website. Anyone can register with the site and download individual sessions free of charge.

Check out the resources: Royal Bank of Scotland Thrive - Resource Hub
Email for more information: gcrosby@youthlink.scot

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF THE CHARITY WORKFORCE LOOK LIKE IN THE AGE OF AI?

This report from Corndel, Zoe Amar Digital and Microsoft looks at what the charity workforce could look like in 2036. It looks at where the sector is now, what changes we might see and the equity dimension of AI and workforce change. It also provides a practical checklist for leaders, trustees and funders to prepare for AI's impact on the workforce.

THRE: THINKING ABOUT AI EMAIL COURSE

Feeling overwhelmed with all the information and news on AI? We have our bite-sized email course on AI to take it back to the basics and cover the key information you need to know to get to grips with AI and some of the key rights and equalities considerations. Once you sign up, you will receive one email per working day in your inbox for a total of six emails. Each email comes with curated further resources for you to deepen your learning.

CARERS SCOTLAND SURVEY REPORT: "STATE OF CARING IN SCOTLAND 2026: HOLDING UP THE SYSTEM, REACHING BREAKING POINT"

The survey explores the impact of caring across every part of carers' lives and highlights the hidden health cost of caring.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH SCOTLAND REPORT: "ON MY WAY: A PICTURE OF CHILDREN'S HEALTH RIGHTS ACROSS SCOTLAND"

The report highlights how children increasingly know their rights, but many are not experiencing them.

THE PATIENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT: "SHAPING INDEPENDENT VOICE IN THE HEALTH BILL: SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR WHAT COMES NEXT"
The report draws on roundtables with patients, carers, and national, local and community organisations and sets out what independent patient voice means.

THIRD SECTOR RESOURCES FOR NAVIGATING INTOLERANCE

Volunteer Scotland and SCVO have created a new bank of resources for third sector organisations facing increasing hostility and intolerance in their work. **"NAVIGATING HOSTILITY AND INTOLERANCE: PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITY GROUPS"** was shaped and reviewed by stakeholders across the sector and will continue to be updated and expanded in the coming months. To find out more about Volunteer Scotland and SCVO's joint response to rising hostility and intolerance, please check out this **blog**.

Within this collection of resources, you'll find top-tips and signposted guidance across six topics:

- **Dialogue & Conflict with Service Users**
- **Expert-led Safety Advice**
- **Internal Conversations & Team Wellbeing**
- **Risk Assessments & Safety Planning**
- **Specialist Communications Guidance**
- **Trauma Informed Support**

HEALTH CREATION SCOTLAND REPORT: FROM RESEARCH TO REALITY: SOCIAL PRESCRIBING IN SCOTLAND REPORT
The report from Health Creation Scotland's May event on social prescribing in partnership with Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) has now been published. It calls for sustainable, long-term funding, better data sharing and guidance for evaluation and a proportionate approach that prioritises reaching those with greatest need. Read the report here.

FREE HEALTHY DIALOGUES TOOLKIT
With support of Impact on Urban Health and NHS South East London Integrated Care Board, this toolkit is built for the adults around young people - helping to notice when something is wrong, start a conversation and know where to turn. It's also been translated in numerous languages. Explore the toolkit here.

NEW CYBER PROJECT BLOG: CAN YOU TRUST THAT BARGAIN? HOW TO SPOT FAKE ONLINE SHOPS
Online shopping offers convenience and choice, but fake online shops can look very convincing. Scammers often copy well-known brands, advertise tempting bargains and use misleading websites to encourage people to hand over their money or personal information.This blog provides practical advice to help people recognise the warning signs and make safer choices before buying online.
It covers:

- How to check website addresses and spot suspicious URLs.
- Why it is important to check seller details and returns policies.
- Warning signs when prices seem too good to be true.
- How to verify a retailer independently.
- What to look out for when making online payments.
- What to do if something about an online shop doesn't seem right.

The blog also signposts readers to further online safety advice and accessible digital inclusion resources from LEAD Scotland.

SCCR MIND WORKS: A USER GUIDE

A new free resource, a booklet published to support professionals, practitioners and volunteers. The *User Guide* introduces SCCR resources and provides activities professionals can use in school, community and family support settings based on these resources.

Available now and free to download from SCCR's website (click here), the guide brings together the four interactive resources SCCR has developed over the past decade: *Monkey Vs Lizard, Keep the Heid, Cranial Cocktail* and *The Three Brains*. In the booklet you'll find activities, discussion prompts and facilitation guidance to support emotional regulation, wellbeing and the de-escalation of conflict.

To learn more about *Mind Works*, click here to read a blog about the booklet.
To dowload the booklet for free via SCCR's website, click here.

SCOTTISH RECOVERY NETWORK: GETTING STARTED: DEVELOPING PEER SUPPORT GROUPS
This new guide brings together practical tips, tools and ideas to help you plan, develop and run a group with lived experience at its heart. Whether you're taking your first steps or looking for fresh ideas, the guide can help you think through what's needed to create a space where people can connect, share experiences and support one another.

CHARITY DIGITAL: DIGITAL INCLUSION FREE ONLINE COURSE
Charity Digital have recently launched a free course to help Scottish charities become digitally inclusive. "Achieving Digital Inclusion" provides guidance on improving access to services and devices while also helping your organisation enhance digital accessibility, develop digital skills, and build digital confidence. Enrol for free here and enter the code "digital inclusion.

DISABILITY EQUALITY SCOTLAND: THE UK EASY READ STANDARDS
The UK Easy Read Standards are official, evidence-based rules for writing and designing accessible information so that people with learning disabilities can read and understand it. Easy Read is a predictable, practical and trusted communication format for people with many different impairments and circumstances. Access the latest Easy Read standards here.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND AND SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION: LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCE: AN OPEN COMMUNITY SPACES DISCUSSION, TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER | 12:00 – 13:00
This will be an open and conversational session designed to encourage discussion between community space operators from across the network. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own experiences, raise questions, and explore common challenges and opportunities with peers.
Drawing on real-world experience and collective discussion, the session will provide space for reflection, shared learning, and practical exchange as communities consider how to strengthen and sustain their own spaces for the future. The session will feature a couple of speakers. One of which being Ford Village Hall who will share their journey of developing a thriving community space that responds to local needs and creates new opportunities for connection. Our second speaker is still TBC.

SCVO DIGITAL SUPPORT

WEBINAR · 26 NOV, DIGISHIFT 97: LEARNING FROM THE BEACON CYBER BREACH (FREE)
The Beacon data breach showed why cyber security matters for every charity, not just IT teams. Join SCVO's Alison Brogan and Lisa Holder of Dad's Rock for a Q&A on the lessons and practical steps to take.

WEBINAR - DIGISHIFT 99: DIGITAL BEHIND WALLS - HOW PEOPLE ARE BEING LOCKED OUT OF SERVICES (FREE), ONLINE 27 JANUARY 2027

FREE SUPPORT, DIGITAL SERVICE DESIGN
Join SCVO on this series of three, two-hour jargon-free sessions where we begin to understand the essential principles of service design. Let's demystify what it all means, how charities can start using it, and look at some of the tools that can support us to create better services today. This three-part series will be delivered on Tuesday 1, Wednesday 2 & Tuesday 8 December. All three sessions must be attended to complete the series. **View the sessions →**

CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS

FUNDRAISING IN ACTION , *LEARN. REFLECT. APPLY*, 23 MARCH 2027 | LONDON

FUNDRAISING SUMMIT, *CHALLENGE. INFLUENCE. LEAD,* 29 JUNE 2027 | LONDON

To make the events as accessible as possible CIOF is offering 5 bursaries per event – find out more here.

HEALTH CREATION SCOTLAND (FORMERLY VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND): ADVANCING GREEN HEALTH – EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR, AND BARRIERS TO, GREEN SOCIAL PRESCRIBING IN PRACTICE, 2 DECEMBER, 10AM - 11:30AM GMT (ONLINE)
This online workshop is geared towards those interested in promoting and advancing green health in Scotland. Led by NatureScot, we'll explore the opportunities for, and barriers to, supporting people to engage with nature for their health and wellbeing through green social prescribing. Sign up here.

SCOTLAND'S HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL DECEMBER 9-13
Led by Human Rights Consortium Scotland, this will be the first national, multi-day festival dedicated to celebrating, explaining and strengthening support for human rights across the country. There are a mix of online, hybrid and in-person events which you can explore here.

FREE WEBINAR EXPLAINING VAT FOR CHARITIES: VAT EXPLAINED: A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS TICKETS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 • 11 AM - 12 PM GMT | EVENTBRITE
Led by Utility Aid and Cubed Tax, this free, hour long webinar on November 26th will cover the basics of VAT for charities. Sign up here.





YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE BY SCANNING THE BARCODE ON THE FLYER OR USING THE EVENTBRITE REGISTRATION LINK:

GAMBLING HARMS TRAINING (SHETLAND)- SIMON COMMUNITY SCOTLAND TICKETS, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2027 • 10 AM - 12 PM GMT | EVENTBRITE

If you have any queries contact Sandy Brill - sandi.brill@simonscotland.org

RURAL SEN: THE RIGHT TO FOOD IN RURAL SCOTLAND, TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2026 | 10:30AM – 12:00PM | ONLINE (FREE)

More than half of people in the South of Scotland worry about affording food, and social enterprises and community groups are often filling the gap. Join this Rural SEN to hear how rural communities and social enterprises are building fairer local food systems. We'll hear from **Louise Nicol of Moray Climate Action Network** on the Moray Good Food Partnership, and **Katie Lyons of Roseisle Market Garden** on growing and selling local food in Moray.

MAP OF HEALTH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE LEARNING PROGRAMME, THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2026, 9.30 AM – 4.30 PM, IN ISLESBURGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

The MAP of Health Behaviour Change Learning Programme is a person-centred behaviour change resource which can be used to support people make positive changes in their lives. MAP stands for Motivation, Action and Prompts. For change in any behaviour to occur and be maintained there needs to be some motivation to make that change, and to take action that will result in change. We also need to be aware of the prompts and cues which can stop or hinder us making that change and to sticking to it.

This learning programme aims to equip health, care and 3rd sector staff with the knowledge, skills and confidence to talk to individuals about behaviour change and support them make positive health and wellbeing changes in a way which suits them best. The video below provides a summary of the MAP of Health Behaviour Change Learning Programme:
The MAP of Health Behaviour Change Animation on Vimeo

Training in the MAP of Health Behaviour Change Learning Programme is available through Healthy Shetland, either in-person or online.

To book a place at the workshop or find out more information please email shet.healthyshetland@nhs.scot or call on 01595 743330.

LEADING IN UNCERTAINTY (VARIOUS DATES, ONLINE, FREE)

If you are a small (income of £500k or less), UK-based charity, community organisation or social enterprise, join a peer-support session to talk openly about challenges, opportunities and connect with peers who understand, guided by IVAR's expert facilitators. Delivered by IVAR, these interactive online sessions, designed for charity and community leaders, or anyone navigating uncertainty in their organisation, are bringing people together to explore today's real challenges and share practical insights with peers. Open conversations, reflection and connection are at the heart of this unique learning opportunity.









DTAS/ COSS [COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP WEBINARS]
Thinking about taking ownership of a local building, land asset or community space? These free webinars from the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) offer practical guidance on community ownership, asset transfer and the steps involved in bringing community-led projects to life.

- **Introduction to Community Asset Transfer** | 27 October 2026, 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Gain an overview to Community Asset Transfer, the legislative process that enables the community ownership and management of publicly owned land and buildings Tuesday, 27th October 2026, 6.30-8.30pm – Thursday 21st January 2027, 10am-12pm – Sign up here

- **Steps to Success in Community Ownership** | 24 November 2026, 6.30pm to 8.30pm
Join this session to discover the key steps to success when setting up a community-controlled organisation and pursuing asset ownership. Tuesday, 24th November 2026, 6.30-8.30pm – Tuesday, 2nd March 2027,10am-12pm - Sign up here

- **Introduction to Community Asset Transfer** | 21 January 2027, 10am to 12pm |
Gain an introductory overview to the legislative processes of Community Right to Buy. Discover how community groups can become eligible Community Bodies and register an interest in or buy local land and buildings in Scotland. Thursday 17th December 2026, 10am-12pm - Wednesday 24th March 2027, 10am-12pm - Sign up here

LIVING WELL HUB

The Living Well Hub is based at the **Brae Youth and Community Centre** and open on Friday's between **10am – 2pm.** Living Well, Advice & Support – Shetland Islands Council please pop along for a cuppa, a chat or to browse the leaflets that we have.

Friday 20th November

- Come along for a cuppa and reminisce about your **sporting memories** with Danny and Jack between **10am and 12 noon**. They will have some old photos and resources to look at – feel free to bring along anything you have, photos, trophies etc. They will also be taking along some fun activities to help us replay and reconnect with our sporting memories! https://www.sportingmemories.uk/

- **ADVICE – INFORMATION – EDUCATION – SUPPORT on Oral Health**
  "Drop in and meet Angela from the NHS Shetland Oral Health team at this week's Living Well Hub. Good oral health is important at every stage of life, and Angela will be available to provide practical advice on daily mouth care, preventing dental disease, and making food and drink choices that support healthy teeth and gums. There will also be information on recognising the early signs of oral cancer, the importance of regular self-checks, and when to seek professional advice. The stand will feature a range of free resources and oral health products to browse, with free resources available for visitors to take away. Everyone is welcome to stop by for a chat and find out more about looking after their oral health."

JUST ENTERPRISE – FREE TRAINING

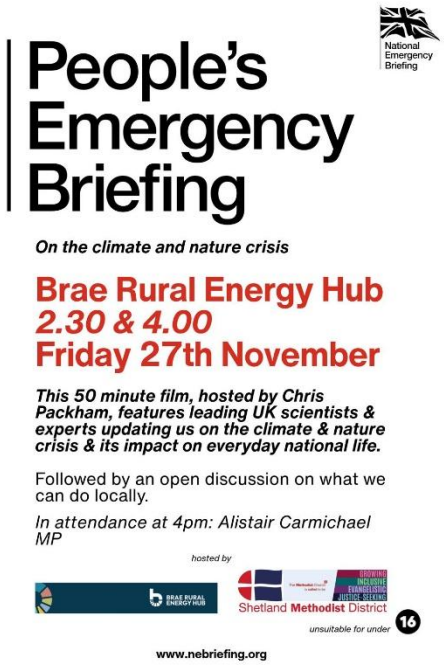
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS, (ONLINE WORKSHOP), NEXT DATE: 23RD NOVEMBER
Get to grips with the financial information that matters to your organisation.
Build your confidence in understanding key figures, monitoring financial performance and using financial information to support effective decision-making.

DIGITAL MARKETING, (ONLINE WORKSHOP), NEXT DATE: 7TH DECEMBER
Learn how to use digital marketing to raise awareness, reach new audiences and promote your products or services more effectively. This practical workshop will introduce key digital marketing channels, content creation techniques and ways to measure what's working, helping you build confidence in your organisation's online presence.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, (ONLINE WORKSHOP), NEXT DATE: 14TH DECEMBER
This workshop will look at why strategic planning is important for an organisation to help set the overall direction, and it will give you some practical tools and techniques that you can use to develop a strategic plan for your organisation.

The Resilient Leader's Toolkit (**Free | Online | Available Now)**
Looking for practical ways to strengthen your resilience, but need the flexibility to learn in your own time? The Resilient Leader's Toolkit is a free, self-guided collection of resources designed to help you reflect on challenges, build personal resilience and develop strategies for navigating uncertainty. Access practical tools and exercises covering personal resilience, managing what you can control and shifting your focus towards positive action. Work through the resources at your own pace and apply what you learn to your own leadership and organisational context

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING





Unfortunately Alistair Carmichael is no longer attending the screening on 5th December. If you wanted to make contact with him, please attend the 4pm screening at the Brae Rural Energy Hub.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES





SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS/GUIDANCE

LEGISLATION

CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE LAUNCH INQUIRY INTO AI-GENERATED IMAGE ABUSE AND DEEPFAKES
Deadline for responses from organisations: 16th November.
Deadline for responses from individuals: 11th January.

The Criminal Justice Committee is undertaking a short inquiry into AI-generated image abuse and deepfake pornography. It will examine the growing use of AI-generated intimate images, the harm caused to victims, and the challenges these offences present for the criminal justice system.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OBLIGATIONS AND DRAFT LARGE LAND HOLDINGS GUIDANCE UNDER THE LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2025
Closes: 26 Jan 2027

The Scottish Government is seeking views on what information should be included in new Land Management Plans, required by the Land Reform Act (2025), and what landowners should do to involve communities in the creation of these plans.

REVISED PRACTITIONER GUIDANCE FOR JOINT INVESTIGATIVE INTERVIEWING OF CHILDREN
Closes: 22 Jan 2027

Joint Investigative Interviewing (JII) is a key part of Scotland's child protection and justice systems. A JII is a forensic interview conducted by specially trained police officers and social workers to gather information for evidential purposes from child victims and witnesses and to assess whether protective action may be required for that child or any other child.