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**THIRD SECTOR NEWS**

**VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND VOLUNTEERING AWARDS 2024**

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO VOLUNTEERS OR HELPS OUT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**

- Are they an adult and 26 years or older?
- Do they quietly help other folk?
- Do they continuously help in their community?
- Do they deserve a big thank you?
- Do they volunteer with an organisation helping others, their community, the environment?  
**Nominate them for a WILLIN HAANDS AWARD**
- Are they a child under 12?
- Have they started their volunteering journey
- already (e.g. by helping at Sunday teas, litter picking or other ways of helping out)?  
**Nominate them for a PEERIE TROWS AWARD.**

VAS want to celebrate individuals of all ages who volunteer in Shetland and recognise their valuable contribution to our communities. Both formal and informal volunteering are recognised in the awards with the latter often being overlooked, even by the volunteers themselves. Informal volunteering can be a host of tasks such as providing home-bakes for fundraisers/teas, helping a neighbour in need, litter picking or other ways of supporting the community without formally being involved with an organisation.

The VAS Volunteering Awards (VAS-VAs) are nomination-based, anyone can nominate someone (whether they are an individual or an organisation), adult or child who volunteers or has volunteered. Please read the nomination guidelines before nominating someone for the awards.

## **Nominations close September 15th.**

To nominate, folk can fill in the online form <https://form.jotform.com/232133046427044> or contact VAS Volunteering [vasvolunteering@shetland.org](mailto:vasvolunteering@shetland.org) for a paper format.

Awardees will receive a certificate and their volunteering stories will be celebrated on the Voluntary Action Shetland social media channels and in a press release to the local news.

## **HIGHLANDS & ISLAND ENTERPRISE: THE VOICE OF COMMUNITIES SURVEY**

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are interested in your experiences of Community Wealth Building - a people-centred approach to local economic development, involving redirecting wealth back into the local community to ensure local people benefit.

HIE is inviting community organisations across the Highlands and Islands to share their aspirations, plans, and challenges in our survey. Your voice is crucial in shaping the future of local development and community wealth building.

### **Why your input matters**

We've commissioned this research to gain a deeper understanding of how communities across the Highlands and Islands can maximise opportunities through Community Wealth Building (CWB). CWB is a people-centred approach to economic development, focusing on redirecting wealth back into local areas to benefit those who live there. By understanding your future ambitions and capacity to seize these opportunities, we can better target our support to help you achieve positive outcomes and strengthen place-based development.

### **Who should take part?**

If your group has a social purpose, benefits a geographic community, operates on a non-profit basis, and is controlled by local residents, we want to hear from you. For clarity, this includes community councils.

We're also keen to hear from those who already own community assets like land or infrastructure, as well as those exploring these opportunities – all your insights are invaluable.

**Eligibility:** Community groups and organisations within the Highlands and Islands Regional Economic Partnership area, including Highland, Moray, Argyll and Bute, Orkney, Shetland, Na h-Eileanan Siar, and parts of North Ayrshire (Arran and the Cumbraes).

### **What the survey covers**

This survey is designed to capture the unique experiences and perspectives of community groups. It explores a range of topics, including:

- Motivations and drivers: What inspires your work?
- Volunteer and employee contributions: The role of people in your organisation.
- Engagement with the local community: How you connect with those you serve.
- Language, culture, and heritage: The importance of preserving local identity.
- Assets and income sources: Understanding your resources.
- Aspirations and support needs: What's next for your community?

### **About the study**

The study, carried out by independent research consultants the [Diffley Partnership](#), will inform how we and partners can better support communities in achieving their goals. The survey is open from mid-August until the end of September 2024, with results expected to be published early in 2025. [TAKE PART IN THE SURVEY HERE](#)

## **BE PART OF THE BIG SCOTTISH PEER SUPPORT SURVEY!**

Are you or do you know a group, service or activity that hosts one-to-one or group mental health peer support? Scottish Recovery Network (SRN) want to work with you to make sure mental health peer support gets the positive recognition it deserves.

Scottish Government and COSLA Mental Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan includes a commitment to champion peer support. To feed into this and to inform our work we would like to get a fuller picture of what peer support looks like in Scotland – where it's happening, who's doing it and what's needed to help it grow.

## **TAKE PART IN THE 2024 SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CENSUS**

**Deadline: Friday 6 September**

The Social Enterprise Census is the Scottish Government's regular and comprehensive account of social enterprise activity in Scotland, including the scale, reach and contribution of the sector.

If your organisation has social or environmental goals and generates income through contracts or fees of any kind, then we want to hear from you. This could include things like running a business in your community generating energy, providing arts activities, running a hotel which provides housing, or delivering social care services.

Join thousands of others contributing to this important source of knowledge about the sector. Take part here: [Social Enterprise Census 2024 Survey \(research.net\)](https://www.research.net/s/social-enterprise-census-2024)'



*Research Study Needs Volunteers...*

## **SHARE YOUR STORY**

**HAVE YOU, OR A RELATIVE OR FRIEND STRUGGLED FINANCIALLY WHILE LIVING WITH A SERIOUS ADVANCED ILLNESS?**

We are looking for volunteers aged 18 years and above to be interviewed about their experiences. If you are living with a serious advanced illness and struggling to make ends meet OR caring for someone who is, we would like to hear from you.

You would be invited to participate in a one-off interview either face-to-face, by phone or over the internet. The interview would take about 30-60 minutes of your time.

You would be asked to talk about your experiences, any support you received, and what more could have helped you or your family.

*Volunteers will receive a £25 high street voucher for their time.*

### **NEXT STEPS**

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact:  
Dr Sam Quinn; 07484 006217  
Sam.Quinn@Glasgow.ac.uk



## **UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW'S END OF LIFE STUDIES GROUP**

The University of Glasgow's End of Life Studies Group is conducting a study that seeks to understand the experiences of people living in rural and island communities who are managing a serious advanced illness, as well as their carers.

We are looking to recruit participants for one-off 30-minute interviews, for which they will be compensated £25. The insights gained from this study will be invaluable in shaping future support and policies for rural, coastal and island communities.

More detailed information about our project can be found here:  
<https://bit.ly/4aNYicu>

For more information please contact Sam Quinn, [Sam.Quinn@Glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Sam.Quinn@Glasgow.ac.uk) or call me at 07484 006217 if you need any additional information or have any questions.

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

No Updates

## RESOURCES

### AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORT: [TACKLING DIGITAL EXCLUSION](#)

Audit Scotland have today published their report which set out to investigate the question: how well are public bodies tackling digital exclusion? It shows that while government aims to save money through digital services, the burden of supporting people to use them often falls to local community organisations and charities, without resource or recognition. It also points to weak leadership within Government and absence of a clear action plan as a major barrier to progress.

### [SCVO DIGITAL CHECKUP SERVICE](#)

Discover your organisation's digital strengths and weaknesses and get help to build your digital roadmap. Take a simple Digital checkup to assess your current digital capability. The checkup will take about 10 minutes to complete, and you will see your result straight away. You'll get a link so you can share it with your team, too. You can book a free support call to review your result and help you plan your next steps.

### THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES COURSES & RESOURCES

#### [DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES: IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES PERSON CENTRED DESIGN: WHAT, WHY, HOW?](#)

Digital technology and tools are an ever-growing part of our work and the services we use and provide. With the rapid developments of AI and the ever-present influence of algorithms and chatbots in day-to-day life, our course is for everyone interested in how these technologies can support, or undermine, our essential human rights, and those of the people we work with. Delivered as a six-lesson email course, each lesson is designed to be a quick read giving you the key things you need to know and signposting for further information.

#### THRE GUIDE: BEYOND PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS: THE EQUALITY ACT (2010) IN PRACTICE. TO [DOWNLOAD](#) OR [BROWSE](#)

#### THRE GUIDE: THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT [DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

#### E-LEARNING: GETTING IT RIGHT FOR EVERY CHILD (GIRFEC)

New e-learning module from Children in Scotland, in collaboration with the STTS Project and THRE. Access the module by creating a free account [here](#)

#### YOUNG CARER MENTAL HEALTH TOOLKIT

Free Tools: Carers Trust Scotland have created a toolkit for professional youth workers working with young carers. It includes Mental Health, Dealing with emotions and Wellness tools. View the resources at [carers.org](#).

## FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

### JUST FAIR - ONLINE EVENTS

**[EVERYDAY RIGHTS: JUSTICE FOR PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT](#) 17TH SEPTEMBER, 2PM – 4PM. WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS CENTRE FOR SCOTLAND (ERCS)**

**[EVERYDAY RIGHTS REVIEW - GET INVOLVED IN THE REVIEW OF THE UK BY THE UN CESCR](#) 18TH SEPTEMBER, 2PM – 3PM**

**[INTRODUCTION TO 'THE RIGHT TO HEALTH' IN THE UK: AN INTERACTIVE SESSION](#) 30TH SEPTEMBER, 4PM – 5.30PM**

**[EVERYDAY RIGHTS CONVERSATION: FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE - THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING](#) 15TH OCTOBER, 2PM – 4PM**

### **GETTING ON BOARD: [FESTIVAL OF TRUSTEESHIP 2024 – 4TH – 8TH NOVEMBER, ONLINE](#)**

The Festival of Trusteeship 2024 will be happening from Monday 4th November to Friday 8th November 2024. Getting on Board has a week of online events to help you consider, become and be brilliant and effective trustees. The full price for the weekly pass will be £25. You can secure your weekly pass now for just £15. The weekly pass will give you access to all events during the week, as well as access to the recordings and accompanying session information.

### **[METROPOLITAN POLICE CYBER PROTECT: HOW WE CAN HELP YOUR CHARITY,](#) [WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2024, 12PM TO 1.20PM, ONLINE](#)**

The award winning Cyber Protect Team, made up of police officers from the Metropolitan Police Service, was set up to help protect small to medium size charities and businesses from the ever-growing threat of cyber crime. In this webinar DC James Oskiera will share the basic cyber-hygiene principles that can help to mitigate cyber attacks, shown through real-life examples. Register here: [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://gotowebinar.com)

### **[TACKLING DEPOPULATION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES - FREE ONLINE EVENT](#)**

Join InspirAlba's Rural SEN online event on **17 September from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM** for an in-depth discussion on tackling depopulation in rural areas. Key speakers will share their expertise and innovative solutions to help sustain and revitalise our rural communities. Sign up [here](#).

### **[NATIONAL RURAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM MEETING - 25TH SEPTEMBER, 11AM - FREE ONLINE FORUM](#)**

Sign up [here](#) for an informative forum meeting looking at tackling the cost-of-living crisis with the Money and Pension Service, and also addressing Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) with the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

### **SCOTTISH COMMUNITY SAFETY NETWORK - DISCUSSION ON ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, 10 SEPTEMBER, 1PM-2.30PM**

The Scottish Community Safety Network invites third-sector partners to discuss antisocial behaviour in Scotland, including possible solutions. Your experiences and views will be gathered for a working group reporting to the government. Please email [Ania Nesser](mailto:Ania.Nesser) to join the discussion.

## YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND EVENTS

### **BUILDING RESILIENCE: EMPOWERING YOURSELF AND SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE, 24TH SEPTEMBER – 2PM-4PM, ONLINE**

This training will introduce practical models, tools and strategies that can be used to support you to bounce back from challenges, manage pressure, navigate changes, and look ahead to the future.

### **SMOKING, VAPING, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING, 24TH SEPTEMBER – 6PM-8PM, ONLINE**

Improve your knowledge and confidence when it comes to discussing tobacco, vaping and their impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

### **QUALITY STANDARDS IN VOLUNTEERING, 27TH SEPTEMBER – 2PM-4PM, ONLINE**

This session is an opportunity to discuss what quality standards are available to support you and your volunteer programme.

## **VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND TRAINING: ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE / TRUSTEES**

Increase your knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of a management committee and the legal duties of a charity trustee. By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- understand the key roles of committee members including Chair, Treasurer and Secretary
- understand the key principles of good governance
- have a knowledge of the duties of a 'charity trustee'
- be aware of the forthcoming changes to charity law as a result of the [Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#)

Choose from one of two dates:

- **THURSDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024, 6PM – 8.30PM, MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK**
- **SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 10.30AM - 1PM, MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK**

## **NATIONAL CARE SERVICES - ISLAND COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS**

**18TH SEPTEMBER 2024 – 15.00-16.00PM OR 19TH SEPTEMBER 2024 12.00-13.00PM – ONLINE MEETINGS LOG IN DETAILS BELOW**

The Scottish Government is introducing a National Care Service (NCS) to improve community health, social work and social care support in Scotland. We are shaping the NCS with organisations and people who have experience of accessing and delivering services.

We are updating the NCS Island Community Impact Assessment (ICIA) to fully understand the impact of the NCS on island communities. An ICIA gives islanders a platform to voice their opinions, concerns and suggestions. It makes sure that islands and their communities are considered throughout the development and delivery of the NCS.

This engagement event is for people who live on Scottish islands to share their views on how the NCS may impact island communities. We are looking to understand the benefits to health and wellbeing of living on an island, barriers in accessing community health and social care and how we can ensure the NCS meets the needs of island communities.

During this event, Scottish Government officials will provide an overview of the NCS and there will be an opportunity for attendees to provide their views on how the NCS may affect island areas.

Please contact [Debbie.Maguire@gov.scot](mailto:Debbie.Maguire@gov.scot) or [Diane.Eadie@gov.scot](mailto:Diane.Eadie@gov.scot) with any questions.

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**18th September 2024 15.00-16.00pm**, [Join the meeting now](#), Meeting ID: 317 855 950 595, Passcode: WBox5J

OR

Dial in by phone, [+44 131 376 2847,856397476#](tel:+441313762847856397476) United Kingdom, Edinburgh, Phone conference ID: 856 397 476#

OR

**19th September 2024 12.00-13.00pm**, [Join the meeting now](#), Meeting ID: 386 261 919 56, Passcode: 5udXBw

OR

Dial in by phone, [+44 131 376 2847,859209642#](tel:+441313762847859209642) United Kingdom, Edinburgh, Phone conference ID: 859 209 642#

## **[2024 DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING COURSE FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS](#)**

The [Raspberry Pi Foundation](#) is a UK-based charity with the mission to enable young people to realise their full potential through the power of computing and digital technologies. Since 2020, they have partnered with over 100 youth and community organisations in the UK to develop programmes that increase opportunities for young people experiencing educational disadvantage to engage and create with digital technology.

In September and October they'll be running a series of free training workshops for youth organisations in underserved communities in the UK and Ireland, designed to equip their staff with the necessary skills to run free, regular coding clubs for young people in their centres. The training course will consist of two 90 minute online workshops, followed by an in-person training day with the Raspberry Pi Foundation's team of experienced educators.

These are the provisional dates for the training:

- 18th September – session 1 (online)
- 25th September – session 2 (online)
- 23rd October – (in person)

**[YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN TRAINING CAN REGISTER THEIR INTEREST VIA THIS FORM.](#)**

## **VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND EVENTS**

**[CROSS PARTY GROUP ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES: SEPTEMBER 2024, 6PM- 7.30PM, TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024, HYBRID](#)**

Topic: Third Sector and Health Inequalities. Join us on the 11 September at 6pm, either in person or online, for our next meeting of the Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities. The meeting will be chaired by co-convenor Emma Harper MSP. [Book here.](#)

**[VHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024: SCOTLAND'S VITAL HEALTH SECTOR, WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2024, DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH](#)**

VHS are delighted to announce that our annual conference is back for a very special 20th Anniversary event. Please contact [Lauren Blair](#) if you have any questions.

## CLIMATE NEWS

### HIGHLANDS & ISLAND CLIMATE HUB

**[OUR SHARED FUTURE: COMMUNITY TOURISM & TRANSPORT DISCUSSION, TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2024, 19:00 20:30, ONLINE](#)**

The [National Lottery Climate Action Fund: Our Shared Future](#) is currently open to applications and following discussions with several partners we feel that there may be an opportunity for communities in Highland, Orkney and Shetland to collaborate with us on a bid to the fund along the theme of sustainable community tourism and transport.

**NPC BRIEFING: [HOW WILL THE CLIMATE AND NATURE CRISES IMPACT HOUSING?](#)**

[This briefing](#) explores the links between housing and the environmental crises. Decarbonising housing is going to be critical to achieve the UK's commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. As temperatures rise, UK housing will need to adapt to withstand extreme weather conditions, and ensure that the most vulnerable in society are not disproportionately affected.

**[REDUCING FOOD WASTE AT HOME: THE 'BITESIZE' COURSE FOR BUSY PEOPLE](#)**

There's a new tool available to help people in Scotland tackle food waste - and it's designed with time-poor modern households in mind. The [Reducing Food Waste at Home](#) bitesize course from Zero Waste Scotland is designed to give users a comprehensive understanding of food waste and why it matters in as little as 15 minutes. Find the course [here](#).

### CLIMATE OUTREACH

**[WATCH CLIMATE OUTREACH WEBINAR RECORDING: THE NEW PARLIAMENT'S CLIMATE STORY](#)**

**NEW RESOURCE: [THE NEW PARLIAMENT'S CLIMATE STORY'](#)**

The Climate Outreach webinar insights can be found in our new short guide ' [The new parliament's climate story'](#). Whether you work in government, private or non-profit sectors, this guide can help you talk about climate change with your audiences

**[VALUES 101: CREATING THE CULTURAL CONDITIONS FOR CHANGE, TUE 13 AUG 2024 9:00 AM - TUE 10 SEP 2024 11:00 AM BST, ONLINE, ZOOM](#)**



Common Cause Foundation run the workshop series [Values 101: Creating the Cultural Conditions for Change](#) starting Tue 13th Aug. It is free for unpaid activists and volunteers attending as part of a larger organisation.

Common Cause invites you to join the Values 101 workshop series, taking place between 9am - 11am BST every Tuesday between 13th August and 10th September. If you're frustrated by the pace and scale of social and environmental transformation, this 5-week programme outlines an alternative approach to change, rooted in an understanding of values and what motivates people to care about injustice in all of its many forms. We'll explore how we can collectively elevate different values in our mainstream culture - values of care, equality, creativity and togetherness, instead of power, wealth and individual success - in order to achieve durable, systemic change

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SCOTLAND - [CLIMATE JUSTICE RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE](#)**

**[BBC ARTICLE - HOW GLOBAL WARMING IS CHANGING THE OLYMPICS](#)**

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY**

**HEARING AID SUPPORT WORKER**

**RNID**

Provide support to NHS hearing aid users at our hearing aid maintenance clinics, helping with basic maintenance and support of hearing aids.

hearing aid support volunteer role includes:

- undertake basic maintenance on hearing aids, cleaning or changing tubing and replacing batteries
- offer practical support to optimise hearing aids

Full training will be provided by NHS Shetland audiology dept, with ongoing support provided by locally based project co-ordinator.

**RN I:D**



### HEARING AID SUPPORT WORKER, RNID

Volunteers are required throughout Shetland (particularly **UNST, YELL and WHALSAY**)

#### ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY:

Provide support to NHS hearing aid users at our hearing aid maintenance clinics, helping with basic maintenance and support of hearing aids. As a hearing aid support volunteer, you will:

- undertake basic maintenance on hearing aids, cleaning or changing tubing and replacing batteries
- offer practical support to optimise hearing aids
- signpost other agencies that may be beneficial to the service user
- monitor the number of visits to drop-in service and feedback to the Project Co-ordinator
- Meet with other RNID volunteers and staff to discuss the project and suggest any improvements.

Full training will be provided by NHS Shetland audiology dept, with ongoing support provided by locally based project co-ordinator.

Contact us for more information or to express an interest volunteering with the RNID Hearing Aid Support Worker opportunity. Email: [Vasvolunteering@shetland.org](mailto:Vasvolunteering@shetland.org), Tel: 01595 743910

### **CORRA SEEKS DECISION-MAKING PANEL MEMBERS FOR THE INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS FUND FOR SCOTLAND**

Corra is looking for people to work as part of the panel which will make decisions on which applications to the Fund's open call are awarded grants. They are particularly interested to hear from people who bring certain perspectives because reporting and consultation on human rights tells us that certain groups of people are among those whose rights are furthest from being met or whose rights are most at risk or frequently violated in Scotland.

They are therefore particularly looking for panel members who are (in no order of preference) from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, Gypsy/Traveller communities, disabled people, including those with learning disabilities and the Deaf/deaf community, women and girls, migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, LGBTQ+ people, care experienced people, carers, people affected by imprisonment (including of family members), people affected by alcohol and drug use, people who have been trafficked or victims of torture, people affected by homelessness, older people, and people living in remote/rural areas.

They are also looking for children and young people and expect that at least two panel members would bring these perspectives.

Panel members would be paid for their time at the Corra rate of £114 per day for approximately 3 to 4 days work in total, and all travel expenses would be reimbursed. Corra will also provide any necessary support to enable members to contribute and participate fully in their panel role.

See full details of how to apply in the attached document.

## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS**

### **REPORTS**

### **LEGISLATION**

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

### **[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT: CLIMATE CHANGE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY SURVEY](#)**

**Deadline: 31 August 2024**

The Scottish Government is currently seeking views on the Climate Change Public Engagement Strategy as part of a midpoint review process. We are keen to hear your candid reflections on what aspects of the strategy you think are working well so far and how we can improve delivery against the strategy for the remainder of the strategy's implementation.

### **IMPACT OF THE CHILD POVERTY ACT**

The [Social Justice and Social Security Committee](#) has opened a consultation to consider the impact of the [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#), in particular the difference that has been made by having the framework for reducing child poverty set in law. In addition to interested individuals or groups, it would like to hear from local authorities, health boards, academics with expertise in this area and private and third sector organisations that are working to reduce child poverty.

**Closing date: 13 September 2024**