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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE PVG FEE WAIVER FOR VOLUNTEERS](#)

Good news! The Scottish Government will continue to provide free Disclosure Scotland Protecting Vulnerable Group (PVG) scheme membership to volunteers following a public consultation on fee waivers and discounts in 2024.

This decision by Scottish Ministers recognises the vital role volunteers play in Scotland's society with roles in care, health, sports, community and children's recreational activities.

Membership of the PVG scheme provides assurance to employers and the public that a person can work safely with children and protected adults. By continuing with the fee waiver, volunteers and charities can continue to consider new opportunities by accessing PVG membership without encountering any financial barriers in doing so.

[RELATIONSHIPS SCOTLAND - SHETLAND COMMUNITY SURVEY](#)

Relationships Scotland – Shetland is conducting a survey to better understand the needs of local people. You are invited to share whether or not you have experienced conflict in your community. If you have, what types of issues you've faced, how it has impacted you, and whether or not you've sought support from organisations to resolve the situation. Whether your experiences have been positive or negative, the information gathered will help us get a clearer picture of the support needs in our local communities.

Everyone's voice matters, and we would greatly appreciate your participation.

To complete the survey - [SIMPLY CLICK HERE](#). Thank you for your time and support in making our communities stronger.

HMRC ASSISTANCE ON VAT FROM AZETS

HMRC has initiated a process of writing to some smaller charities (up to £2m turnover) to raise awareness of the requirement to restrict recovery of input VAT where that VAT relates in part or in full to non-business activities.

Unfortunately, non-business is one of the trickiest areas of VAT, and one that lots of people find a challenge. [SCVO's VAT and tax service](#) partner, Azets, has a significant amount of experience in this area and has assisted many charities and voluntary organisations around the country to confirm their VAT recovery position and resolve HMRC enquiries and challenges. [Please contact Azets](#) if you'd like more information on the recovery of VAT or if you are affected by this HMRC campaign.

PURCHASE POWER PROGRAMME 2025 - APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!

Deadline to apply: 11th February

Social Investment Scotland and [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) have joined forces to bring you the Purchase Power Programme. Purchase Power is an exciting opportunity for social enterprises selling products, services and experiences to connect with a number of major corporates and public bodies seeking to develop their social and environmental impact.

The programme supports you in becoming “purchase ready”. From honing your skills and storytelling to refining operational excellence, you'll be equipped with the tools and insights needed to win business and scale your impact.

Taking place between 25th and 27th of February, the 4 sessions will culminate in an exciting buyer matchmaking event, providing a fantastic opportunity to meet potential corporate buyers, have an informal conversation and showcase your offerings!

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO DISCLOSURE SERVICES/ CHANGES TO THE PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS (PVG) SCHEME

From 1st April 2025 the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme becomes a legal requirement in Scotland. It will be a legal requirement for individuals to be a member of the PVG Scheme when carrying out a regulated role with children, protected adults, or both. Organisations must ensure that individuals who are to carry out a regulated role (paid or voluntary) have PVG scheme membership from 1st April 2025 onwards.

From this date, ‘regulated work’ will be replaced by ‘regulated roles’. Disclosure Scotland expect that roles which are currently included under regulated work, will also be regulated roles. However, the introduction of ‘regulated roles’ will bring new roles into the PVG scheme that are currently not regulated work. Examples include, football agents, talent scouts, hypnotherapists and certain hospital or hospice-based roles that do not currently qualify for the PVG scheme.

Make Sure You're Ready!

The Disclosure Act will improve the disclosure system in Scotland by removing unnecessary barriers for people with convictions as they seek employment or other opportunities and enhance the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme. Upcoming changes will be introduced in 1 April 2025 and charities, particularly those who work with vulnerable adults or children, should be aware of what's changing.

For more details [visit the Disclosure Scotland website](#), read more on the [Volunteer Scotland website](#) or subscribe to the [VSDS Newsletter](#).

VOLUNTEER SCOTLAND IS HOLDING FREE ONLINE SESSIONS TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THESE CHANGES

Several dates are available and sessions start from Tuesday 7 January 2025. More information on [Training sessions can be found here](#).

NEW LERWICK GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Shetland Bereavement Support Service has launched a new Lerwick support group 'Life After Loss' based at Market House in Lerwick, Mondays 11.30am – 12.30pm. It runs on a fortnightly basis. This is a new informal support group, where individuals can talk about their loss and feelings or just chat to others knowing they have experienced grief too. Sessions are FREE and offered fortnightly on Mondays 11.30-12.30 at Market House, Lerwick. Sessions are drop in – no need to book in advance, no waiting list. Further details and dates of sessions can be [found here](#).

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

OSCR INFORMATION

You can check on the status of any Scottish charity at the [OSCR notices and alerts webpage](#). Here you'll find an up to date list of new and removed charities, charities at risk of removal from the Scottish Charity Register, and applications for SCIO dissolutions.

You can also read all published enquiry reports and search the Record of Removed Persons to help you carry out due diligence on any prospective new trustees you may recruit.

RESOURCES

PVG FEES AND DISCOUNTS CONSULTATION ANALYSIS REPORT (PDF)

An analysis report published in December highlights that the proposed introduction of a discounted PVG fee for volunteers in Qualifying Voluntary Organisations (QVOs) would be widely unpopular and detrimental for Scotland's third sector and the people it supports

MAKING GREAT FUNDRAISING VIDEOS WITH YOUR PHONE

Chartered Institute of Fundraising (CIOF), in partnership with The Saltways, offers guidance for small charities to develop practical and ethical storytelling films and videos, regardless of their size. They offer free, practical, online workshops on making compelling fundraising content, particularly using a mobile phone. [Find upcoming workshops](#)

ASSOCIATION OF CHAIRS: [GUIDE \(PDF\)](#) TO EQUIP CHAIRS AND BOARDS TO FOCUS ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (EDI).

THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

Climate change is often discussed as a separate issue to human rights and equalities. But, it is clear that those who are most affected by inequality within society are also those likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change. THRE's latest resource explores some of the ways in which climate change impacts marginalised groups in specific and often, more severe ways, and gives third sector organisations the information it needs to understand this developing issue. This guidance was developed in partnership with GCVS's Climate Friendly Practice Team.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES FIRST APPROACH: THE BASICS

This course is based on our popular online Zoom training. Using real life examples and interactive learning the course helps you to build an understanding of what is meant by human rights and equalities, introduces key concepts and ideas, and shows you how to bring these into your everyday work and place them at the centre of what your organisation does and how you do it. The course is modular so you can complete it at your own pace, with an estimated 1-2 hours needed to finish the whole course.

PANEL PRINCIPLES: HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES IN PRACTICE

A new interactive toolkit that supports you to use the PANEL principles to apply a Human Rights and Equalities First Approach in your work and your organisational decision making. It was developed by THRE with permission from the Scottish Human Rights Commission and is based on their original guidance.

THE CENTRE FOR YOUTH VOICE: YOUTH VOICE OBSERVATORY

This brings together information about Youth Voice practices across the UK.

LISTENING FUND

The Listening Fund was an England-wide initiative which ran from 2018 – 2024. Working with young people, funders and delivery organisations, the Fund's ambition was to make the youth sector more accountable to those it serves. The fund has closed down but their [resources](#) are still available to view.

MY LIFE MY SAY : 'THE SQUAD'

The Squad is a dynamic WhatsApp channel and network designed for young people who are passionate about making a difference. Take a look [here](#).

SCOTTISH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (SCVO) TRAINING

See the full list of events and training offered by SCVO.

SCVO BLOG - CYBER SECURITY

Almost one in three charities experienced some form of cyber security breach or attack in the past year and only 18% of UK charities have some form of staff training in place to help organisations stay safe online.

Take a look at our recent [cyber security blog](#) on all things passwords, with lots of hints, tips and links to free online guidance. Want to further your understanding of cyber? Check out the free events that will be taking place during [Cyber Scotland Week \(24 February - 2 March 2025\)](#).

SHIFTING SANDS - A NEW PLANNING RESOURCE FROM SCVO

As a voluntary sector organisation, planning for the future can be incredibly tough.

How do you predict how much money you'll have? Will you need to recruit staff or volunteers? What opportunities are out there and is there another shock looming over the horizon?

The brand new guide - [Shifting Sands](#) - offers an overview of the state of the sector, and the different issues that are impacting right now, or that might start to impact in coming months. The resource is structured around six sets of factors that make up the voluntary sector's operating environment: politics, the economy, society, technology, the law, and the environment.

As you go through Shifting Sands, you'll be given insights, food for thought, suggestions and signposting to further helpful resources. [Learn more about Shifting Sands on the SCVO website.](#)

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The Leadership Academy run by Scottish Enterprise will help you improve your business productivity and better engage with your employees. Workshops and masterclasses will focus on improving leadership skills. (Fee applies)

JUST ENTERPRISE: FREE ONE-TO-ONE IMPACT MEASUREMENT SUPPORT

Adviser Emma Liddell can also offer free one-to-one support as part of the Just Enterprise programme. Support can include any of the following:

- A review of your current evaluation practices
- Identifying the 'problem you're solving'
- Identifying key beneficiaries and stakeholders
- Building a logic model that links the problem/needs you address to activities, social, environmental and community outcomes,
- Alignment to the local, national and international policy environments
- Creating an evaluation plan
- Using your impact measurement practice to inform strategy and communication
- Managing and analysing your data

If you are interested in finding out more and securing some support for your organisation, you can contact Emma directly at emma@socialvaluelab.org.uk or [here](#).

SAFER SOONER DA NETWORK SUMMARY REPORT FOR 16 DAYS 2024 (PLEASE SEE REPORT ATTACHED TO EMAIL)

The Safer Sooner DA Network has released an event summary for 16 Days 2024 including the latest statistics and reflection on VAWG in the UK today. Please see the report attached for invaluable reflections on 2024 and prospects for the year ahead. See some of the figures available in the report attached.

- Violence against women and girls has been declared a national emergency by the UK government.
- In Scotland, 63,867 incidents of domestic abuse¹ were recorded in 2023/24 - a 3% increase from the previous year. Of these, 83% of the victims were female.
- Last year, five women in Scotland were killed² by a partner or ex-partner.
- 14,602 sexual crimes³ were recorded in 2022-23, with 94% of rape and attempted rape victims and 86% of sexual assault victims being women or girls.
- The number of women and girls killed by men in the UK remains consistent and shocking.

BUSINESS GATEWAY: [A GUIDE TO SEO FOR SMALL BUSINESSES](#)

This free guide from Business Gateway helps small businesses improve their **search engine optimisation**. It features 10 top tips on how to create helpful content, write in natural language, edit meta tags, and use keywords, link building and more.

[ACCESS TO WORK MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICE](#)

This service offers free, long-term, confidential mental health support to employers, employees, apprentices, and the self-employed in Scotland. The support can help you overcome work-related mental health challenges such as stress, anxiety, burnout and depression.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**SCOTTISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS EVENT IN LERWICK ON THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY**

The event will highlight recent work on economic, social and cultural rights in the highlands and islands. If you would like to find out more, you can do so here: [Commission revisits Highlands and Islands](#)

Sign up to attend the event here: [Human Rights Defenders Community Empowerment Events Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

[GROWING PEER SUPPORT IN SCOTLAND COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLES - PLACES AVAILABLE - THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2025, 10AM – 12PM ONLINE](#)

The roundtables, hosted by Habitus Collective on behalf of Scottish Recovery Network will bring together lived experience, third sector, government and public sector decision-makers to explore the opportunities, challenges and strategies for embedding and expanding peer support across sectors and Scotland.

Now is the right time to explore how we can grow sustainable mental health peer support in Scotland. There are so many examples of great peer support across Scotland and increasing interest in and demand for mental health peer support. This is recognised in the Scottish Government and COSLA Mental Health and Wellbeing Delivery Plan which contains a strategic action to champion peer support and peer working in services and communities.

We need the experience, insights and learning of people involved in mental health peer support, interested in developing and sustaining peer support or driving health and social care policy. So join us at one of our community roundtables.

VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND: [CROSS PARTY GROUP ON HEALTH INEQUALITIES](#), WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19TH, 6 PM - 7.30 PM - ONLINE

Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Health Inequalities, chaired by Co-convenor Emma Harper, MSP on the topic is Human Rights and Health Inequalities. Guest speaker is Charlie McMillan, Interim Director, [Human Rights Consortium Scotland](#)

Book a place here: [Health inequalities CPG 19 February 6pm-7.30pm Online on Zoom](#)

VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND: [CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ON THE POPULATION HEALTH FRAMEWORK THURSDAY MARCH 20TH, 10 AM - 12 PM](#) - ONLINE

Join VHS for the next step in shaping Scotland's Population Health Framework. This event follows on from the two discussion events we hosted in November. Together, we'll explore how to ensure that the voices of third-sector organisations remain central to the Framework's development and implementation.

With the anticipated next stage of the Population Health Framework due to be published shortly, this session will delve deeper into key themes raised previously, including the vital role of the third sector in prevention, funding challenges, and the need for a coordinated, whole-system approach to population health. [Book here.](#)

VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND: [APPLYING A 'MISSINGNESS LENS' TO HEALTH INEQUALITIES WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH, 10.30 - 12 PM](#) - ONLINE

The event topic is *missingness in healthcare and the impact on health inequalities* with guest speaker Professor Andrea Williamson, Professor of General Practice and Inclusion Health at the University of Glasgow. This event will look to explore the root causes of missingness and how early interventions, like outreach programs in Scotland's Deep End GP practices, show promise in re-engaging missing patients. [Book here.](#)

ONLINE SEMINAR: [THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE AUSTRALIA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH 2025, 3 - 4PM](#) (ONLINE)

A presentation from Tanya Bearup, Vice President, Therapeutic Horticulture Australia, talking about therapeutic horticulture and mental health from an Australian perspective. And also including her own work on "gardening as experiential learning" to enhance therapeutic outcomes. Drawing on Carl Rogers' person-centred approach, utilising the transformative potential of metaphors in the gardening process to foster growth, resilience, and self-awareness through hands-on experiences.

ADULT SUPPORT & PROTECTION LEVEL 3 - BLENDED LEARNING

New dates have been set for Adult Support & Protection Level 3 - Blended Learning and are available for booking in Vor Online, Course code for searching is WD1380. Please take a moment to read the following before sharing with staff eligible for this course as detailed below.

DATES:

- 13 February – 09:30 to 12:30
- 20 February – 09.30 – 12.30
- 03 March – 09.30 – 12.30
- 04 March – 14.00 to 17:00

This half day course builds on the knowledge gained by completing the Level 3 eLearning prior to attending the course. It uses case studies and discussion to raise awareness and knowledge. It will cover situations where allegations of harm are made about staff and look at the links with other legislation.

This is a higher-level course designed for GPs, Charge Nurses. Promoted Health staff who have responsibility for services, Senior Social Care and Team Leaders in SIC care services. Social Workers Managers and Coordinators in Third Sector providers

PRE-COURSE REQUIREMENT INFO:

All attendees must complete the following pre-course eLearning prior to attending one of the above dates:

eLearning course 'Adult Support & Protection Level 3'

SIC staff can access this via iLearn - <https://ilearn.bridgeapp.com>

NHS staff can access this via Turas/LearnPro.

Third sector attendees contact Public Protection Team on 74 4411 for access.

Trainers can turn away anyone who is booked on the blended learning course but has not completed the above.

HOW TO ACCESS VOR ONLINE:

Vor Online can be accessed via this link [Shetland Islands Council Training - VOR Online](#)

SIC staff – please use your SIC log in details to access if asked to do so

All other staff – If you have accessed Vor Online before, your username is your email. Please use forgot password option if you cannot remember the password you have set. If you are new to Vor Online, you can register for an account by clicking on “register an account here” on the Vor Online log in screen

If you have any problems please email workforce.developmentteam@shetland.gov.uk

THE DA FRONTLINE EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE (FREE TO ATTEND, LINK BELOW), 26 MARCH 2025, ONLINE

On the 26 March 2025, we're hosting The DA Frontline Excellence Conference, focusing on policy, practice and people. This free online conference will provide you with actionable insight, practical takeaways and everything you'll need to thrive in your role, including:

- Translating the latest policy into real-world action.
- Developing knowledge, practical skills, and professional confidence.
- Celebrating all that DA frontliners do, and helping you preserve your own wellbeing while you do it.
- Encouraging collaboration and meaningful conversations – no matter how hard.

Link to book : [The DA Frontline Excellence Conference \(DAFEC\)](#)

TRANSFORM YOUR RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION PRACTICES – WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 9AM - 12PM, SHETLAND MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES, LERWICK

The Shetland Local Employability Partnership are hosting a Business Development Seminar, 09:00am – 12:00pm on Wednesday 19th February 2025 at the Shetland Museum and Archives, Lerwick. Three one-hour sessions, facilitated by COSLA and the Improvement Service, offering you a unique opportunity to learn from industry leaders in Supported Employment, Flexibility Work Practices and Workforce Development.

Book now to secure your place by scanning the QR code on the poster attached, or by contacting the Youth & employability Service on employability@shetland.gov.uk. Please include “business Engagement Event” in the subject line.

ESMÉE FAIRBAIRN FOUNDATION: Q&A WEBINAR, 3 FEBRUARY FROM 2.00PM TO 3.00PM. [REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#).

Esmée Fairbairn are hosting a pre-application Q&A webinar on 3 February 2025 for organisations interested in applying to Esmée for support who have questions about our application process or guidance. The Esmée team will talk through the long-term outcomes we're looking to support, as well as what we won't support. They'll also outline the application process and what we consider when making decisions. However, we plan to spend most of the time answering as many questions as we can.

[Pre-application Q&A Webinar: 3 February 2025 | Esmée Fairbairn Foundation](#)

[FREE RESOURCES – JOIN PLAYLIST FOR LIFE'S HELP POINT NETWORK](#)

[Playlist for Life](#) is a music and dementia charity that promotes the benefits of personal music for people living with dementia, their carers and families. In fact, listening to music that is personally meaningful has many psychological benefits, meaning anyone can benefit from a playlist. Personalised playlists can reduce anxiety, improve mood, make difficult tasks more manageable and help us to evoke memories and connect with the people around us.

SOCIAL INVESTMENT SCOTLAND: IMPACT IN PRACTICE SESSIONS (4 FEB - 11 MARCH)

Join Social Investment Scotland's Head of Impact, Lindsay Wake, who will take you through the nuts and bolts of delivering and tracking your organisation's impact. With Lindsay's expert guidance you will be able to define, manage and articulate your impact using best practice tools and framework. The next Impact in Practice session is taking place the 4th of February, with a final session on 11th of March. Find out more here: [Upcoming Events and Webinars | Social Investment Scotland](#)

JUST ENTERPRISE: [MEASURING SOCIAL IMPACT](#) (FREE TRAINING)

Increasingly social enterprises have been required to demonstrate evidence that their business is making a positive social or environmental difference. Learn how with this course. Limited - first come, first served! This online course combines 6 step-by-step workshops with one-to-one support that will enable you to effectively evidence the difference your organisation makes to the people and communities you work with.

Through online interactive workshops that will run once a week for 6 weeks, you will gain the skills to create and implement an impact measurement plan for your organisation. This will cover the fundamentals covering areas such as:

- establishing a clear problem statement;
- writing SMART outcomes and performance indicators; and
- identifying appropriate data collection methods.

Your facilitator is available in between workshops for additional support and each participant will have a follow up one to one session to ensure all plans are fit for purpose and ready to implement.

[CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND, HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS MEMBER FORUM, ONLINE, THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025, 10.30AM – 12PM](#)

For those organisations operating in the Scottish Islands and more remote areas of Scotland. The event will enable these projects and organisations to network with each other on issues that matter to them.

Other members, charities, social enterprises and community groups that are carrying out circular activities on the Islands are also welcome to attend and input into discussions. We will have our popular Spotlight on Members session as well as a short presentation from The Pebble Trust on the support they are providing through their internship programme, specifically for organisations in this region.

The programme can be viewed [here](#) – and to register please do so using this [registration link](#).

SCVO FINANCIAL RESILIENCE WEBINAR: [FURTHERING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF INVESTMENTS, 18 MARCH - BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW.](#)

At an upcoming webinar, our SCVO Trustee Network partner, [CCLA](#), will be exploring how charities of all shapes and sizes can optimise their assets to support greater financial resilience. This could be a review of how cash is managed, seeking to ensure that any short-term reserves or funding is earning good interest. For others it could be a consideration of when longer term investments might be appropriate, what key risks need to be considered, and how charities could start investing.

[SWA SAFER INTERNET DAY: ONLINE MISOGYNY & YOUNG PEOPLE, TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY. 1PM-3PM. ONLINE \(MS TEAMS\)](#)

Join Shetland Women's Aid on Safer Internet Day 2025 as we delve into the online "manosphere" and how it can affect young people in Shetland. You will receive an introduction to the incel movement and related subcultures, and an overview of the key figures, influencers, and platforms promoting misogyny online. Finally, we share some tips on how we can keep young people safe both online and in the real world, through early intervention and instigating meaningful conversations.

Suitable for anyone responsible for supporting young people in Shetland - parents, guardians, youth workers, teachers, social workers, care, etc. are all very welcome to attend. There will be a chance for discussion throughout the presentation. If you would like to ask a question in advance, or if you have any comments or concerns, please email Ashlea at ashlea@shetlandwa.org.

About the trainer:

Ashlea Tulloch (she/her) has worked for Shetland Women's Aid since 2022, delivering specialist Gender-Based Violence (GBV) training to a variety of schools and organisations in order to prevent domestic abuse and other forms of GBV in Shetland. Equipping both professionals and members of the public with the tools required to recognise and respond effectively to GBV, Ashlea works to dismantle harmful attitudes, expectations, and gender stereotypes in society while promoting equality through an intersectional feminist lens. She has a special interest in incel culture and the eradication of so-called "toxic masculinity".



CHARITY DIGITAL ONLINE TRAINING

CHARITY DIGITAL ACADEMY: HOW TO MANAGE CHARITY FINANCES, 11TH FEBRUARY 2025, 10:00AM-13:00PM GMT

This course aims, in just three hours, to help you make sense of your finances. It provides a simple, straightforward, plain-English introduction, covering budgeting, reporting, governance, sustainability, futureproofing, and so much more. The course is perfect for any charity professionals interested in finances or looking to improve their financial planning and reporting skills. You don't have to be a finance expert to join us.

CHARITY DIGITAL ACADEMY: SUPERCHARGE YOUR USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, 18TH FEBRUARY 2025, 10.00AM-13:00PM GMT

This three-hour course will help you maximise your charity's social media impact. You'll learn how to choose the right platforms, decide where to invest or divest, boost engagement, expand your reach, and target key demographics effectively. The course is perfect for charity professionals involved in the use of social media or responsible for improving social media. You don't have to be an expert to join

WEBINAR: GETTING YOUR BOARD ON BOARD – HOW TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT AI, 20TH FEBRUARY 2025, 13.00AM-14:00PM GMT

Join Ha Cole, Chief AI Officer at Microsoft Tech for Social Impact EMEA, and Lev Malinin, Head of AI at The Salvation Army UK & Ireland, for a fireside chat on communicating AI's value to stakeholders.

PROCUREMENT: BUY SOCIAL PURCHASE POWER PROGRAMME 2025 - APPLICATIONS OPEN

Social Investment Scotland are excited to share their Social Purchase Power Programme 2025! As part of the programme, they will be hosting free online sessions that are designed to equip you with enhanced skills and confidence in procurement and contracting. Sessions will take place between 25th – 27th February and are in collaboration with Social Enterprise Scotland. Learn more

JUST ENTERPRISE TRAINING

[AN INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INVESTMENT, ONLINE WORKSHOP, 4TH FEBRUARY](#)

Investment can be a great tool to help you grow and increase your impact. The session will talk about what social investment is, who provides investment finance, where to find further information and where it fits with other sources of finance.

[ESTABLISHING A TRADING SUBSIDIARY, ONLINE WORKSHOP, NEXT DATE: 11TH FEBRUARY](#)

If you are considering setting up a trading subsidiary for your charity, it is essential that you understand the different options for legal structures and choose the most appropriate one for your situation. This workshop will look at the benefits of setting up a trading subsidiary, explore the various legal structures available, and look at the process of setting up and running a trading subsidiary, including any legal requirements and how to manage the relationship between the charity and its trading subsidiary.

[DIGITAL MARKETING, ONLINE WORKSHOP, NEXT DATE: 13TH FEBRUARY](#)

Digital marketing can be a cheap (or even free!) way of reaching new customers to promote what you offer and raise awareness of your business. But it can be confusing to know where to start. In this introductory level course, we will look at the different channels available, how to use them, how to create content, and how to analyse what reach you are getting.

FREE E-LEARNING FROM JUST ENTERPRISE

Prefer to learn at a time, place and pace of your own choosing? [Just Enterprise eLearning programmes](#) are split into short, focused modules that help you fit essential training into your busy schedule. Choose the courses that are relevant to you and your organisation and learn at your own pace via desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY CERTIFICATE TRAINING, 13TH FEBRUARY 2025, THU 13 FEB 2025 AT 10:00 | EVENTBRITE](#)

The [Participative Democracy Certificate \(PDC\)](#) is a youth award developed by YouthLink Scotland aimed at young people involved in decision making processes. The award is worth two credits at SCQF Level 5. The PDC recognises young people's role in decision making processes, acknowledging and developing their communication, negotiation and decision-making skills in the context of democratic engagement.

We're running a FREE online training session from 10am to 12pm on 13th February to provide more details about the award and how it can be used in different contexts and situations. The session will be useful if you've never run the PDC before or if you want a refresher as it's been a while

[TRAUMA SKILLED APPROACH, 18TH FEBRUARY, 9.30AM-4.30PM, ONLINE](#)

The Transforming Trauma National Training Framework sets out 4 levels of training for different parts of the workforce. This training sits at the Trauma Skilled Practice level for those with direct and frequent contact with people who may be survivors of trauma.

[SCOTLAND'S NEW NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 · 11AM - 12:30PM GMT \(NB OTHER DATES AVAILABLE\), ONLINE](#)

The Scottish Government's Islands Team is inviting islanders, community groups & stakeholders to join the National Islands Plan conversation

These online sessions offer a chance to explore the results of the public consultation carried out to inform a review of the [first ever National Islands Plan](#) and understand how they are now guiding the development of the new document. It's also an opportunity to learn more about the proposed priorities and themes for the new Plan, allowing you to share your thoughts and shape its content.

The Plan will set out the actions and investments that the Scottish Government intends to put in place to further improve outcomes for Scotland's permanently inhabited islands, as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.

TIME TO TALK DAY - 6 FEBRUARY 2025

Time to Talk Day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation. Taking place on Thursday 6th February, it is a day that friends, families, communities, and workplaces come together to talk, listen and change lives.

The theme for this year's campaign is "get comfortable and start talking about mental health". Talking openly and honestly can be the first step towards better mental health for everyone. It can reduce stigma and help people feel comfortable enough to seek help when they need it.

SELF MANAGEMENT NETWORK SCOTLAND UPDATE

OPTIMISING FUTURE HEALTH – WOMEN'S HEALTH WEBINAR, 13 FEBRUARY 2025, 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Join us for a webinar in our women's health series, on post-menopausal health and healthy aging across the life course.

SCVO EVENTS

FURTHERING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF INVESTMENTS, 18 MARCH, 13.00 - 14.00, ONLINE, FREE

We'll be exploring how charities of all shapes and sizes can optimise their assets to support greater financial resilience. This could be a review of how cash is managed, seeking to ensure that any short-term reserves or funding is earning good interest. For others it could be a consideration of when longer term investments might be appropriate, what key risks need to be considered, and how charities could start investing.

SCVO WEBINAR RECORDING: NEW LAWS ON DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY, 6PM, ONLINE, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CROSS-PARTY GROUP MEETING

Join us in-person at the Scottish Parliament or online for the next CPG meeting. We'll be joined by co-convenors Arianne Burgess MSP and Emma Roddick MSP to talk about Social Enterprise business support.

THURSDAY 6 MARCH, 2PM, ONLINE, THEMATIC WORKSHOP: HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EMPLOYABILITY

Human trafficking is one of the most misunderstood and yet prevalent crimes in Scotland. This short online, introductory session will bust myths, challenge thinking and strengthen knowledge about human trafficking.

NATIONAL RURAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM - JANUARY 29TH 2025, 11AM, ONLINE

Some of the topics covered are the anniversary of [NHS 24 Breathing Space](#), a session on what is best practice for early intervention and prevention in mental health and mental illness in rural Scotland, and [VOX Scotland](#) will share the findings of their lived experience report, Your Views: Psychiatrists in Scotland.

UHI CHILDHOOD, YOUTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ONLINE OPEN DAYS

In these sessions UHI will offer information including an overview of the following programmes

- [BA \(Hons\) Child and Youth Studies](#)
- [BA \(Hons\) Child and Youth Studies with Community Learning and Development](#)
- [BA \(Hons\) Childhood Practice](#)
- [Masters in Children and Young People's Participation and Leadership](#)
- [Building Resilience: Understanding the Impact of ACEs \(SCQF level 11\) CPD Award](#)
- How to select the right programme for the individual
- Explanation of fully online delivery and how this supports successful study

The open days are taking place on:

- Thursday 6th March 2025 18:30-19:30
- Thursday 1st May 2025 18:30-19:30
- Thursday 7th August 2025 18:30-19:30
- Thursday 2nd October 2025 18:30-19:30

To register and book please follow the links here:

[Study with us - Open days and information sessions - come and see us!](#)

If you would like any specific information, please contact the following:

- Dr Mei-Li Roberts BA (Hons) Child and Youth Studies and BA (Hons) Child and Youth Studies with Community Learning and Development Programme Leader Mei-Li.Roberts.perth@uhi.ac.uk
- Debbie Corbett BA (Hons) Childhood Practice Programme Leader, Debbie.Corbett.perth@uhi.ac.uk
- Katrina MacIntyre MA Children and Young People's Participation and Leadership Programme Leader Katrina.MacIntyre.perth@uhi.ac.uk

UNDERSTANDING FINANCES, SAT, FEB 22, 2025 AT 10:00AM - 12.30PM, MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK

This **FREE** course is for anyone who is involved with a committee/ has a treasurer role who would like to understand more about finances. The workshop, designed for voluntary groups, will help you develop the knowledge and confidence to understand, monitor and question financial information and to use this to contribute to Board decisions regarding financial planning and expenditure.

CLIMATE NEWS

[RESOLVING THE ENERGY TRILEMMA ACROSS SCOTTISH ISLANDS](#)

Researchers have created a policy report exploring energy challenges on Scottish Islands and provided recommendations for future progress which benefits communities. The findings were compiled from a workshop series during summer 2024. The report proposes building islands skills, decentralizing the grid and community benefits among others. More in the [brief](#) or [report](#).

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND

[SCOTTISH ISLANDS MEMBERS FORUM, THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2025, 10.30AM – 12NOON \(ZOOM\)](#)

Members based in all Scottish Islands are invited to this exclusive member forum. The event will enable our more remote projects and organisations to network with each other on issues that matter to them.

[MEMBERS POLICY FORUM, THURSDAY 6 MARCH 2025, 10.00AM – 11.30AM \(ZOOM\)](#)

With Scotland's policy landscape remaining full of possibility and potential for Scotland's reuse sector, we invite you to join us for a discussion around the latest updates on important legislation, including Scotland's Circular Economy Act, the Circular Economy and Waste Route Map and other policy updates relevant to our sector.

HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS CLIMATE HUB NEWS

PAST EVENT RECORDINGS:

- [Meet the Funder: Shetland Community Benefit Fund](#) (January 2025)
- [Tool Library Skillshare](#) (November 2024)
- [Sustainable Spaces Launch](#) (October 2024)
- [Challenging Poverty through Climate Action: Challenge Poverty Week 2024](#) (October 2024)

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.](#)

[SUSTAINABLE SPACES](#)

Back for 2024-25, the Hub's Sustainable Spaces programme is now open to support community building's transitions to becoming sustainable. Our Development Officers are on hand to identify opportunities, source sustainable solutions & help secure funding.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, WILD SKIES SHETLAND

Part time, £30,500 pro-rata

Hybrid: Shetland

Closing 10th February 2025

Are you passionate about the creative and economic development of Unst? Wild Skies Shetland, a unique and award-winning small charity, is looking to recruit a Project Development Officer to help us take further steps towards long term financial sustainability.

This is a fully funded, fixed-term, part-time (0.6 FTE) contract for 36 months. It can be freelance (£20 per hour), or salaried (£30,500 FTE) for the right candidate. This position could be a job share.

Find out more: [Project Development Officer with Wild Skies Shetland – Goodmoves](#)

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS

REPORT ON SALMON FARMING

The [Rural Affairs and Islands Committee](#) has published its [report](#) on salmon farming in Scotland, calling for urgent action to address concerns over the long-term viability of the industry.

NEW BSL PLAN

The [BSL Plan](#) is available on our website as a series of BSL videos or as a downloadable PDF. We've also published a report with details of the feedback we received from the BSL Plan consultation activities and how this shaped the 20 actions. Again, this is available in BSL or as a PDF. If you have any questions, please get in touch with our BSL Communities Officer by emailing BSL@parliament.scot

NB A British Sign Language eBulletin summary is posted on the Scottish Parliament's [BSL Facebook group](#) normally twice a month. Here is the latest issue.

LEGISLATION

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

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN LEAVING AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

Closing date: 20 February 2025

The [Social Justice and Social Security Committee](#) is looking for your views about the financial

pressures women face when leaving an abusive relationship.

PROPOSED YOUTH WORK (SCOTLAND) BILL

Deadline: 21 February 2025

This legislation aims to embed youth work as a statutory service, ensuring equitable provision for all young people and addressing longstanding disparities in access and support. If enacted, the legislation would establish a legal right for all young people aged 11 to 25 to access high-quality youth work services, setting a new standard for equitable provision across Scotland.

FUTURE OF FOSTER CARE CONSULTATION

Closes: 6 Feb 2025