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<b>THIRD SECTOR NEWS</b>
<p><b><u><a href="#">CRISIS RECOVERY BUTTON</a></u></b>            DTAS, Scottish Community Alliance, Community Enterprise and CEiS have launched the <b>Crisis Recovery Button</b>, a new way for community groups, social enterprises and third sector organisations to access support when facing sever challenges and an uncertain future. The service is not new but the process seeks to offer a smarter, quicker and more collaborative way to access the ecosystem of support that already exists.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">APT FEASIBILITY STUDY ON HOW EMPLOYERS ATTRACT, RECRUIT AND RETAIN DISABLED EMPLOYEES</a></u></b>            Apt Public Social Partnership is a group of voluntary organisations working with employers across Scotland to help them improve how they attract, recruit and retain disabled employees. They are asking employers to complete a short survey to find out if Scotland has a market for these services. Any employer in Scotland can take part and complete the survey, which should take 5-10 minutes.</p>
<p><b><u><a href="#">WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND AWARDS</a></u></b>  <b>Closing date: 18 August 2023</b></p> <p>Entries are now open for the Women’s Enterprise Scotland Awards 2023, providing a platform for showcasing the achievements of Scotland’s women-led businesses. There are 10 categories to choose from so if you run a business or know a woman-led business that has achieved great things you can apply or nominate now.</p>

## **SSEN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND CONSULTATION**

**Closes: 13 August 2023**

SSEN Transmission has recently set out plans for its first ever Community Benefit Fund, which will see the company working with communities across the north of Scotland to channel funds into vital local projects.

The Community Benefit Fund will initially see over £10million of funding available for Communities from net zero transmission infrastructure projects across the north of Scotland which have been approved by Ofgem, have an investment value of £100m or more and for which construction has already commenced or will commence between now and 2026.

This Fund will form a core part of SSEN Transmission's social and economic support in the communities and regions they operate in. Input is wanted from all stakeholders, and they are especially interested in views from the Third Sector, voluntary and community organisations as well as the views of community members across the north of Scotland.

The consultation seeks to:

- Inform stakeholders of the intent to develop a fund
- Identify and engage with new and existing SSEN Transmission Stakeholders
- Provide a voice for stakeholders to influence the strategic direction of the fund.

More information on Community Benefit Fund including some FAQs is included here. [Community Benefit Fund - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk)

**Provide feedback via the online form. [Community Benefit Fund Consultation Form - SSEN Transmission \(ssen-transmission.co.uk\)](https://ssen-transmission.co.uk)**

## **VISITOR LEVY BILL**

**Closes: 1 September 2023**

The Scottish Government has proposed a new law which would allow local authorities to introduce an additional charge when someone pays for overnight accommodation. MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's [Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee](#) are looking at the details of the proposals, and want to know what people think about them.

They would like to hear from as wide a range of views as possible, including local residents and third sector organisations that may be impacted or are involved in tourism. Knowing your views will help them think about ways that could improve the proposed law, and whether the draft Bill should be passed into law by the whole Parliament.

- Call for Views - [Share your views with the committee](#)
- Online conversation - [Please submit your views using the digital consultation tool](#)

People are invited to add their ideas and issues to the platform and also rate and comment on other ideas. This will give the committee an indication of the issues relating to the proposed Bill and whether people are in favour or not.

## **HEALTH, SOCIAL CARE & SPORT COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO HEALTHCARE IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS**

**Closes: 11 August**

The Committee is planning an inquiry into healthcare in rural and remote areas. They would like the public and healthcare staff to share ideas and suggestions for topics the Committee should focus on in the inquiry. They are asking:

**What are the most important issues that the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee should look at in its inquiry into healthcare in rural and remote areas?**

There is a site where you can share your ideas with the Committee. Participants are invited to add their ideas and issues to the platform and also rate and comment on other ideas. This will give the committee an indication of the issues relating to healthcare in rural and remote areas that matter most to people, and support wider community engagement with people living in these areas of Scotland.

There is also a [Conversation Guide](#) you can use to host a conversation in your own community and send the views back to us. We also have information and response form available in [Easy Read](#).

If you would like support using the online platform or would like to support a group discussion in your community please email our Participation and Communities Team at [pact@parliament.scot](mailto:pact@parliament.scot)

## **POLICE SCOTLAND'S CONVERSATION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

Police Scotland wants to know and understand the views of Scotland's diverse communities. One of the ways the service listens and understands the views of people living here is the Your Police survey.

[Your Police 2023-24](#) is live on their Engagement Hub and Police Scotland is inviting anyone to take part in the survey here: <https://bit.ly/3mZGF6L>. (An easy read and British Sign Language version of the survey is also available via the link).

The survey is open all year and asks about your experiences of feeling safe in your community and what you think about the police. The survey also aims to help the police understand more about your experiences of interacting with them. The police will make decisions using the insights gathered through the survey to help inform local service delivery. It's about all of us working together to improve safety and wellbeing in communities throughout Scotland.

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW NATIONAL CARE SERVICE**

The Scottish Government is hosting a programme of regional forums that are happening this summer, as part of the development of the National Care Service. These mark the beginning in the next steps of the co-design process.

Sessions planned for Shetland:

- **Shetland, Valuing the Workforce:** 16 August, 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Valuing the workforce Tickets, Wed 16 Aug 2023 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Shetland, Keeping care support Local:** 17 August, 10 am – 12 noon at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Keeping care support local Tickets, Thu 17 Aug 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Shetland, Realising rights and responsibilities:** 17 August, 2pm – 4 pm at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Realising rights and responsibilities Tickets, Thu 17 Aug 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Each forum will also have a drop-in briefing and discussion session, held over lunch time. These will be open to anyone who wants to attend, including stakeholder organisations and elected representatives. There is no need to register for this lunchtime session and the time is indicated next to the date and venue of each forum below.

**Shetland - Thursday 17 August - Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick (lunchtime drop in briefing: 1230-1330)**

In addition to the regional forums there are online forums which are also available on [Eventbrite](#).

The Scottish Government is keen that these sessions will be adaptive to people's needs so if you have any queries or requests please email: [NCSCcommunications@gov.scot](mailto:NCSCcommunications@gov.scot)

**HMRC VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMME**

HMRC is looking for voluntary and community sector organisations to support them in helping customers they currently find hardest to reach, who cannot or will not interact directly with them or need extra support in doing so. It has secured £5.5 million for a three-year programme from April 2024 to March 2027 (£1.835 million per year), to fund voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to help them provide advice and support to customers who need extra help in understanding and complying with their tax obligations and claiming their entitlements, including those who are digitally excluded.

HMRC is inviting bids for funding of between £30,000 and £600,000 per year, with a maximum threshold set at 50% of your organisation's turnover (last audited accounts). The application window **opened on Monday 24 July 2023** and the window **closes at 11.59 pm on Monday 21 August 2023**.

Further information on the application process, including the funding aims and eligibility criteria, can be found on [HMRC's website](#).

HMRC is also hosting webinars on Wednesday 26th July and Tuesday 8th August 2023 to answer queries related to the application process, eligibility criteria, and other important details. Please use Eventbrite to book one of the [Q&A sessions](#).

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

### **CHARITIES (REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

On 28 June this year, the Scottish Parliament voted in favour of the [Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#), a new law that aims to strengthen charity law in Scotland to bring it in line with key aspects of charity regulation elsewhere in the UK. The timetable for introducing these changes is yet to be confirmed but is expected to be announced in the next few months. Visit [oscr.org.uk](https://oscr.org.uk) for information on the changes and how they might affect you

### **[WHAT DO THE CHANGES TO SCOTTISH CHARITY LAW MEAN FOR YOU?](#)**

### **OSCR'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE BY THE SCOTTISH CHARITY PODCAST**

In the first episode of the series, hosts John Fellows (OSCR's Senior Manager Digital & Communications) and Laura Anderson (OSCR's Senior Manager High Risk Cases & Quality Assurance) speak to CEO Maureen Mallon and Chair of the Board Marieke Dwarshuis about the launch of OSCR's new Corporate Strategy. [Listen here](#), or read the full transcript [here](#).

## RESOURCES

### **CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING: [GROWING GIVING HUB](#)**

The Chartered Institute of Fundraising recently launched a new [Growing Giving hub](#) for members to share ideas, read the latest fundraising research, find inspiration and explore fundraising insight and data. CIOF membership is free for small organisations.

### **ARTICLE: [CLIMATE ACTION WITH HOPE - TIME TO CHANGE THE STORY](#)**

Based on the workshop [COPE Scotland](#) recently delivered in partnership with GCVS and [Scottish Community Climate Action Network](#).

### **CLIMATE RESOURCE: [NET ZERO HANDBOOK - GLASGOW WOMEN'S LIBRARY](#)**

Glasgow Women's Library is based in an old listed building, like many other organisations, and have come a long way towards decarbonisation already. Their plan includes changes to building insulation and operating systems such as heating, ventilation and lighting.

### **CHARITY DIGITAL: [ONLINE FUNDRAISING DONOR PLATFORM COMPARISON](#)**

If you are thinking of using a donor platform to make giving quick and easy, Charity Digital offers a useful comparison on their blog '[The best online fundraising platforms for charities](#)'.

### **[GIRFEC REFRESHED POLICY STATEMENT SUMMARY](#)**

The Supporting the Third Sector Project at [Children in Scotland](#) have published a GIRFEC Refreshed Policy Statement Summary. The summary highlights key policy changes and aims to help strengthen practitioner's knowledge and understanding around the GIRFEC principles, aims and objectives.

### **[SCOTLAND'S NEW MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY](#)**

The new strategy details how Scotland can achieve better mental health and wellbeing through a positive and effective mental health system. [Executive Summary](#), [Easy Read Summary](#).

### **[GAMBLING HARMS REPORT](#)**

New research by GamCare, IFF Research and The University of Bristol into women's experience of gambling and gambling harms in the UK. The report builds on existing knowledge around the effects of gambling on women, and how others are impacted as a result of someone else's gambling actions.

### **[CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT: RIGHTS-BASED PRACTICE IN EARLY YEARS SETTINGS](#)**

Access free materials which focus on what children's rights look and feel like in Early Years Settings and how this can affect children and families by considering the '5 Pillars':

- Relationships, Culture and Ethos
- Agency
- Awareness and Understanding of Rights
- Importance of You
- Use of Rights Based Language

### **[SAMH GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS: HOW TO SUPPORT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH](#)**

Scottish Mental Health Charity, SAMH, have published a new guide for parents and carers with advice on how to support children's mental health, while also looking after their own wellbeing.

### **[NET ZERO ACCELERATOR ONLINE DIAGNOSTIC TOOL](#)**

Scottish Enterprise's Net Zero Accelerator is a simple, online diagnostic tool that businesses can use to assess their efforts to achieve net zero carbon emissions and help build their net zero action plan.

### **[GCVS VIDEO: FUNDRAISING QUICK GUIDE - CREATING YOUR CASE FOR SUPPORT](#)**

Inspire people to support your cause by creating a powerful 'case for support'. In this new quick-guide video GCVS introduces key points to consider when creating your case, including some practical examples. This is part of a series of fundraising quick guide videos available on YouTube @GlasgowGVS and on their website.



## **CONVERSATION CAFE TOOLKIT FOR PROMOTING POSITIVE DISCUSSION ON WOMEN'S HEALTH**

The ALLIANCE has launched a Conversation Café toolkit in support of the [Scottish Government Women's Health Plan](#). It brings together resources, recommendations and guidance on hosting independent Conversation Cafes to encourage information sharing and peer support on areas of women's health. It can be used flexibly by organisations, community groups, employee groups or with friends to set up, host and evaluate an independent Café.

## **SNAP 2 - SECOND SCOTTISH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

The United Nations and [other bodies](#) encourage states to create and publish National Action Plans that detail how they intend to put into practice the human rights principles that they have agreed to follow. The general aim of national action plans such as SNAP 2 is to support governments in their implementation of human rights principles.

Following on from SNAP 1, which ran between 2013 and 2017. SNAP 2's purpose is to increase awareness of human rights, coordinate activities between public bodies, civil society organisations and rights bearers (i.e., communities), and advance the realisation of human rights in Scotland.

## **NPC BRIEFING: HOW WILL THE CLIMATE AND NATURE CRISES IMPACT OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE?**

This briefing, published jointly with [Re-engage](#) and [Disability Rights UK](#), reviews the evidence for the impacts of both the climate and nature crises, and environmental policy, upon older people and Disabled people.

## **HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND STRATEGY - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT'S STRATEGIC VISION FOR 2023 – 2028**

The strategic vision sets out how we will enable meaningful engagement across health and care services in Scotland and deliver our part of the overall Healthcare Improvement Scotland strategy.

## **WITH US, FOR US: PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT - RESOURCES**

With Us, For Us provides an opportunity for people living with trauma and/or who have been given a diagnosis of personality disorder to share their experiences of services and their ideas for change. There are lots of free co-produced resources to help you make lived experience a key driver for your project, service, or organisation.

## FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

### [YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND – FREE ONLINE TRAINING - CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN YOUTH WORK – LEVEL 1 INTRODUCTION, 24 AUGUST, 2023, 10:00 - 11:30](#)

This event is for youth work practitioners (paid and voluntary) who want an introductory overview to children’s rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### [YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND – FREE ONLINE TRAINING - EDI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE: SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HATE ON SOCIAL MEDIA 28 AUGUST, 2023, 13:00 - 15:30](#)

This Community of Practice will look at how to engage safely with young people online and the decisions we might need to make in order to keep them safe through our work. We will think about how to support young people with different protected characteristics who are using online spaces and experiencing different levels of negative engagement.

### [CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE THIRD SECTOR, WED, 20 SEP 2023 10:00 - 13:00 BST, ONLINE](#)

This online conference will explore the overlaps of human rights and climate change while contextualising both of these topics for third sector organisations in Scotland. The session will feature guest speakers from environmental rights organisations and third sector sustainability experts.

### [HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CONSULTATION, THURSDAY 27 JULY, 2 - 4PM](#)

The Scottish Government is developing a new law – the Human Rights Bill. SCLD, the Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities, is holding an online event for people with learning disabilities to hear about the new law and share their thoughts.

### [INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY HEAT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND, TUESDAY 29 AUGUST 2PM, ONLINE](#)

This event is free to attend, but please book your space in advance.

Do you have an idea for a climate-friendly way to heat your community?

Join us to find out more about the [Community Heat Development Programme](#). This programme is funded by the Scottish Government through the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) and delivered by us at Local Energy Scotland. The programme aims to learn how communities and groups of householders can work together to make buildings in their communities more environmentally friendly to heat. You won’t need to stay for the whole session – you can pop in to find out more and leave once you’ve had your questions answered.

**Book your space by emailing [info@localenergy.scot](mailto:info@localenergy.scot). Please write ‘August Community Heat Development Programme’ in the subject line of your email.**



## [HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS CLIMATE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER 2023](#)

The theme of the Highland & Islands Climate Festival 2023 is Think Local, Be Local (Eat Local, Travel Local, Grow Local, Share Local, Protect Local). Communities from Shetland to Skye are encouraged to hold events celebrating their local communities culminating in a region wide local picnic celebration on Saturday 30th September, which will coincide with Scottish Governments [Scottish Climate Week](#).

Communities are welcome and encouraged to get involved now by applying to one of the festivals **two small grant funds, the Event Fund and the Big Local Picnic Fund**.

[Details of both are available here](#). Events which celebrate community-led climate action are welcome to be submitted to the website for free promotion across the platforms and within our digital programme of events which in 2022, saw over 150 events take place both in person and online. [See how to submit an event here](#).

## [BE PART OF PEER SUPPORT IN ACTION](#)

Scottish Recovery Network are pulling out all the stops to showcase all the fantastic peer support activity happening in Scotland. Events, live streams, films, and free tools all packed with ideas from people delivering peer activities across the country that will help you to do the same.

A trio of participatory online events to connect, share and learn with people passionate about the power of peer support!

- Event 1: [Peer-led learning and the difference it makes, Thursday 21 September 2023 from 11:00 – 12:30, via Zoom](#)
- Event 2: [Peer support in services and crisis support, Thursday 16 November 2023 from 11:00 – 12.30 via Zoom](#)
- Event 3: [Getting the most out of peer support training, Thursday 8 February 2024 from 11:00 – 12.30, via Zoom](#)

## [LEARN ABOUT EMERGENCY RESILIENCE](#)

Ready Scotland's learning hub provides learning resources to help individuals, community groups and voluntary sector organisations to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a range of emergencies, and to better understand how to work with responder organisations.

## [NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: NATIONAL DISCUSSIONS \(ONLINE EVENT\) TICKETS, TUE 29 AUG 2023 AT 09:30 | EVENTBRITE](#)

Scottish and Local government are offering the opportunity to discuss and influence how the No One Left Behind employability approach develops in coming years.

\*\* We kindly ask that individuals only sign up to one event and limit the number of individuals from each organisation attending to a maximum of two \*\*

## **ABILITY SHETLAND – SUMMER ACTIVITIES UPDATE**

### **All- Terrain Walk – Friday 4 August, 10.30am, Cunningham Way**

Come for a walk with Ability Shetland and RSPB Scotland. All routes are accessible to our All Terrain Wheelchairs. To book a wheelchair and for more information please contact [megan.keppie2@shetland.org](mailto:megan.keppie2@shetland.org)

RSPB Scotland will be joining us to discuss their Species on the Edge project (a partnership project, with RSPB Scotland taking the lead on Shetland, which focuses on the Scottish coast and islands which are often a stronghold for some unusual, unique and often vulnerable species.)

### **Beach Day, Saturday 5 August, 11am to 2pm at St Ninian's Beach and Bigton Hall.**

Activities on offer will be announced closer to the date. Our All Terrain-Wheelchairs will be available, pre-booking the wheelchairs is recommended. Transport from Lerwick can be booked through Ability Shetland.

### **Boccia Fundraiser**

A number of athletes are looking to compete at two competitions this year on the mainland. Josh and Karen Murie are doing a sponsored walk on Saturday the 22nd of July to support travel cost for athletes attending. For more information, including how you can sponsor them, please follow [this link](#).

### **Free Taster Session Bowls, Thursday the 10th of August 2pm-3.15pm**

Lerwick Outdoor Bowls are holding a free taster session in the summer. The Parahandy Wheelchair to use on the green can be booked by contacting [charis.scott3@shetland.org](mailto:charis.scott3@shetland.org)

### **Cycling**

Our adapted cycles will be at these locations on the dates advertised below.

- Monday the 31st of July 11am-3pm at Picnic and Play Brae Astro turf
- Thursday the 3rd of August 11am-3pm at Picnic and Play Whalsay
- Sunday the 20th of August 2pm-4pm at Lerwick Summer Cycle

### **Fishing, Friday 11 August**

Group fishing on our Wootton Lass. Manual wheelchair access and hoist available. Booking is essential. Please contact [charis.scott3@shetland.org](mailto:charis.scott3@shetland.org) to book.

### **Peerie Stars, Friday the 4th of August 10am-11.30am and Monday 14th of August 10am-11.30am**

This is a relaxed group for parents/carers and preschool children with Additional Support Needs. Come along for a cuppa and a play at the Playroom at the Shetland Family Centre.

## **SIC + PARTNERS SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

SIC and partners have created a booklet with a list of activities on offer in Shetland for school aged children.

### **Walk + Roll**

Join SLO for the Walk + Roll group. Walks are 30-40 minutes and are suitable for slow walkers and wheelchair users. After the walk, the group will finish at a café for a cuppa usually at 3pm.

3rd of August Fjara  
10th of August Clickimin  
17th of August Islesburgh  
24th of August Mareel  
31st of August Fjara

### **Wheelchair Basketball, 4 August, 17.30 – 18.30, Clickimin main hall**

Come along and try wheelchair basketball this summer for free. Open to anyone aged 14 years and older. Basketball wheelchairs will be provided and no experience needed.

### **Wheelchair Racing**

The Shetland Wheelchair Racing group will continue to meet over the summer. There are limited number of racing wheelchairs so please contact Charis Scott on [charis.scott3@shetland.org](mailto:charis.scott3@shetland.org) to find out more.

## **THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES - [TRAINING OVER THE SUMMER](#)**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSORTIUM SCOTLAND: [THE SCOTTISH HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CONSULTATION IS OUT NOW](#)**

- [It's All Rights: A Guide to the Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation, Monday 14th August, 2-4pm, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: A Guide to the Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation, Wednesday 23rd August, 10am-12noon, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: The Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation and the Right to Health, Wednesday 30th August, 2-4pm, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: The Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation for UK Organisations, Thursday 7th September, 2-4pm, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: Poverty and the Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation, Monday 11th September 2-4pm, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: Human Rights Bill Consultation with SCVO's Policy Network, Wednesday 13th September 2:30-4pm, Online](#)
- [It's All Rights: Q&A with the Scottish Government Human Rights Bill Team, Thursday 14th September 2-3:30pm, Online](#)

### **[YOUTH WORK PDA – SEPTEMBER 2023 START](#)**

Course is delivered online, with flexibility around study times.

If you would like to work or volunteer in a Youth club this would be an excellent qualification to introduce you to youth work or working with young people. The award could also be utilised for the continuing professional development of staff and volunteers from other professions:

This is a beginner's course for full time or part time Youth Workers and volunteers. The course would suit candidates who may have little or no knowledge or experience of youth work, and also those working in the sector whom may have considerable experience of youth work in a paid or volunteering capacity but who have no formal qualifications in youth work. [Find out more](#)

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### **THE SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) IS SEEKING NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

**Deadline for applications: Monday 21 August 2023**

Do you have the skills and knowledge to take on one of today's most important and exciting public service roles? Would you like to work alongside a dynamic team, improving the safety and wellbeing of people throughout Scotland?

Ministers are looking to appoint Members to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Board. Working alongside the Service's Strategic Leadership Team, you will provide independent scrutiny, insight and support to ensure the best results are achieved. We are particularly looking for individuals with proven experience in, or oversight of, leading change in service delivery. These roles require commitment and energy, offering a unique opportunity to help build a safer, stronger and more resilient Scotland.

The SFRS Board values diversity of thought and applications are welcome from across Scotland; in particular from groups currently under-represented in Scotland's public bodies, such as women, ethnic minorities, disabled and people aged under 50.

Full details can be found on a [dedicated public appointments website](#) and please take a look too at [our website](#). A vlog provides a flavour of the scope and breadth of our work and you can view it [here](#).

For any additional information about the SFRS, please contact the Board Support team on [SFRS.BoardSupport@firescotland.gov.uk](mailto:SFRS.BoardSupport@firescotland.gov.uk) and they can put you in touch with one of our Board Members who will be pleased to talk with you about the role and answer any questions you have.

### **NHS SHETLAND SEEKS NEW NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER**

**Closing date: 14 August, 5pm**

If you are looking for a challenging and worthwhile opportunity, NHS Shetland would like to hear from you. NHS Shetland is searching for a new Non-Executive Board Member with governance experience to join its Board.

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### **MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

A new strategy to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people across Scotland has been published. Published in partnership with the Scottish Government and COSLA, the strategy is built around three pillars of “Promote, Prevent, Provide”.

### **POST-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND SKILLS**

A new national model of public funding for all colleges and universities will be developed as part of widespread reforms across the education and skills sector.

### **CHILDREN (CARE AND JUSTICE) (SCOTLAND) BILL REPORT PUBLISHED**

[The Education, Children and Young People Committee](#) published its [Stage 1 report for the Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 13 June 2023. It welcomed changes that would lead to more young people being referred to the Children's Hearing System, rather than the adult justice system. However, the committee has called for updated, full costings to show how proposed changes will be funded.

### **NEW [CIRCULAR ECONOMY BILL](#) AIMS TO REDUCE WASTE AND GROW GREEN ECONOMY**

The Circular Economy Bill will give Ministers powers to set local recycling targets, set statutory targets for delivery of a circular economy to measure progress in reducing waste and the nation's carbon footprint, ban the disposal of unsold consumer goods, to prevent good products ending up in landfill, place charges on single-use items like coffee cups to encourage the move to reusable alternatives. Local authorities will be given additional enforcement powers, allowing them to crack down on flytipping and littering from cars.

### **NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION ROUTE MAP 2023**

Details how government will deliver on the commitments in the National Islands Plan, over the coming year.

### **FERRY SERVICES REPORT PUBLISHED**

The Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee published its report, [A Modern and Sustainable Ferry Service for Scotland](#).

### **CHARITIES (REGULATION AND ADMINISTRATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

This bill will modify certain aspects of the law relating to the regulation and administration of charities and their assets.

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

### **VICTIMS, WITNESSES AND JUSTICE REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Closes: 8 September 2023**

The [Criminal Justice Committee](#) is seeking your views on a bill which proposes a number of changes to the justice system, including the introduction of a new Victims and Witnesses Commissioner, changes to the size of juries, the abolition of the not proven verdict, a new Sexual Offences Court and a pilot of rape trials conducted by a single judge without a jury. This call for views is also available in [easy read](#) and in [BSL](#).

### **JUST TRANSITION FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND CONSTRUCTION SECTOR: A DISCUSSION PAPER**

This discussion paper is intended to support engagement on a just transition for the built environment and construction sector. Building on this engagement, a draft targeted action plan and route map (late 23/24) will outline the key steps to delivering a fair transition for the sector.

### **VISITOR LEVY BILL**

**Closes: 1 September 2023**

The Scottish Government has proposed a new law which would allow local authorities to introduce an additional charge when someone pays for overnight accommodation. MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's [Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee](#) are looking at the details of the proposals, and want to know what people think about them.

### **PROPOSED COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Closing date: 12 September 2023**

Colin Smyth MSP is looking for your views on his proposal for a bill to establish an independent commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people.

### **HEALTHCARE IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS**

**Closing date: 11 August 2023**

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee wants to hear from members of the public and staff about their experiences of remote and rural healthcare services. They are keen to find out what specific challenges people in these areas face and what can be done to improve services in these areas.

### **A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL FOR SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION**

**Closes: 5 October 2023**

The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform how we will take forward the Human Rights Bill. The Bill will incorporate a range of economic, social and cultural rights into Scots law for the first time, as far as possible within the limits of devolved competence.



**PROPOSED LAND OWNERSHIP AND PUBLIC INTEREST (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Closes: 12 September 2023**

Mercedes Villalba MSP is looking for your views on her [proposal for a bill](#) to limit the amount of land any person can own.

**REGULATION OF LEGAL SERVICES (SCOTLAND) BILL**

**Closing date: 9 August 2023**

The [Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee](#) is looking for your views on a [bill](#), which seeks to update the regulation of legal services in Scotland and provide a modernised regulatory framework.

**POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF THE PROCUREMENT REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014**

**Closing Date: Tuesday, 3rd October**

Nearly ten years on from the passing of the Procurement Reform (Scotland) Act, the Economy and Fair Work Committee has launched an inquiry into whether the reforms brought in by the Act have delivered on their aims. In particular, whether sustainability is at the heart of procurement, and the experience of small businesses, the third sector, and supported businesses in bidding for public procurement contracts.