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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

[VIKING COMMUNITY FUND CONSULTATION – INPUT FROM VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS - SURVEY TIME EXTENDED UNTIL 18TH AUGUST](#)

Shetland Community Benefit Fund have been undertaking a consultation on the priorities for use of the funding that will become available when the Viking Wind Farm becomes operational. The consultation is being managed by external consultants, IBP Strategy & Research.

You may have already taken part in earlier exploratory stages of the research but the current stage of the consultation has been looking for broader involvement from individuals, businesses and the voluntary sector. The resident survey element of this has now closed but the **specific survey for Voluntary and Community Groups will now remain open till Friday 18th August**, to give as many organisations and groups as possible the chance to have their input. You can share your views at: <https://ibp.eu.com/vcfconsultation/take-part/>

If you have any queries, please email IBP at: VCF@ibp.eu.com

[SHETLAND AREA LICENSING BOARD CONSULTING ON A NEW 'STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY](#)

Closes: 15 August 2023

The Licensing Policy sets out how the Board regulates the sale of alcohol to the public, and how it deals with licensing applications. Anyone who has an interest in this area – local hall committees, shops and licensees as well as the general public can view and make comments. Please send them to the Board at licensing@shetland.gov.uk.

[HMRC VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANT FUNDING PROGRAMME](#)

The HMRC is looking for voluntary and community sector organisations to support HMRC in helping those customers we currently find hardest to reach, who cannot or will not interact directly with us or need extra support in doing so. HMRC 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 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**.

HMRC is also hosting webinar on 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](#).

[CIRCULAR ECONOMY \(SCOTLAND\) BILL - PUBLIC DISCUSSION](#)

The Bill was introduced by the Scottish Government on Tuesday 13th June 2023 and aims to ensure Scotland makes progress towards a circular economy, which reduces waste and carbon emissions (you can see [here](#) for more background). The main parts in the Circular Economy Bill are: • Additional charges for single use items • New measures around household waste • Recycling targets for local authorities • Disposal of unsold consumer goods • Waste crime – littering from a vehicle

During summer 2023, the Net Zero, Energy and Transport (NZET) Committee would like as many people as possible to share their thoughts and ideas around what is important to them regarding Scotland's circular economy. There is [a site](#) where you can share your ideas with the Committee and answer questions such as:

- Do you agree the Scottish Government should introduce measures to reduce use of single-use items?
- Is littering from vehicles an issue in your area? Do you think this new penalty provides a solution that would reduce littering from vehicles?
- The Bill includes new powers for the Scottish Government to set recycling targets for local authorities. Do you agree with the need for legal targets?

Please register and add your thoughts to [the site](#) and also rate and comment on other ideas.

If you would like to discuss the bill within your organisation and send feedback as an organisation there is a conversation toolkit (see attached).

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

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

RESOURCES

[2023 RURAL & ISLANDS INSIGHTS REPORT](#)

There is a limited evidence base on the makeup and drivers of change in our rural and island communities and economies. This report is the first of an annual series of reports stemming from research funded by the Scottish Government's Strategic Research Programme 2022-27, that aims to provide novel insights on Scotland's rural and island economies and communities.

REPORT: [FAIR WORK IN THE THIRD SECTOR](#)

The [Scottish Centre for Employment Research](#) was commissioned by GCVS to analyse the extent of Fair Work across Scotland's third sector. Over 650 participants, partners and stakeholders took part to identify the opportunities and challenges for delivering [Fair Work](#). While the study demonstrates strong evidence of good practice, charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises face significant barriers to ensuring the best possible working conditions.

[SCVO GUIDE TO GENERATIVE AI FOR SCOTLAND'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR](#)

SCVO have produced a guide on generative AI and some of the practical and ethical issues that arise from using it.

[WATCH SCVO WEBINAR ON AI](#)

Steph Wright, Scottish AI Alliance and Gina Helfrich, Edinburgh Futures Institute join SCVO to take a deeper look at some of the current and longer-term ethical implications of developments in generative AI.

[CLIMATE FRIENDLY PRACTICE – GREEN LEASES \(FOR ORGANISATIONS RENTING SPACE\)](#)

Development Trust Association Scotland ([DTAS](#)) provided lots of helpful advice for non-profits and voluntary groups that rent facilities during GCVS's workshop on 'Green Leases'.

[NHS24 – 5 YEAR STRATEGY](#)

NHS 24 is now delighted to announce the publication of its five year strategy titled 'Our Strategy', which can be viewed [here](#).

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITIES - [TRAINING DATES COMING UP](#)

[Scottish Human Rights Bill: THRE Connectors Webinar](#)

Wednesday 13th September 12pm - 1pm with guest speaker Mhairi Snowden, Director, Human Rights Consortium Scotland

[Climate Change and Human Rights for the Third Sector](#)

Wednesday 20th September 10am – 1pm

SCVO: [MAKING DIGITAL GREENER: DEVICE REUSE AND DIGITAL INCLUSION, 10:00-11:00, 23 AUGUST 2023, ONLINE](#)

Martina Johnston-Gray and Elaine Brown share their experience of scaling up device reuse in different settings, and they'll highlight the benefits of making it easier for people and organisations to reuse and repurpose devices – enabling people to get online while reducing waste to landfill.

Living Well Hub Brae - Brae Youth Centre, Mondays 10am – 2pm and Fridays 10am – 4pm

Friday 11th August

- **Social Security Scotland** will be at the hub, they deliver devolved benefits in Scotland and ensures people receive the right amount of money at the right time. They offer support for people across Scotland on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and help for people to heat their homes. The new Local Delivery service is designed to help people across the country access face-to-face support when applying for our benefits, so you can book an appointment with a Client Support Advisor in a place that suits you – they have venues in local communities, or you can book a video or phone call and our Advisors can also visit people's homes. <https://socialsecurity.gov.scot/>
- **Voluntary Action Shetland Volunteering** will be at the hub 10am – 2pm. This is for anyone interested in finding out more about the benefits of volunteering and support to find a suitable volunteering opportunity. We also help organisations who would like to recruit volunteers. We can offer training to volunteers and volunteer managers. Voluntary Action Shetland Volunteering also administer the Saltire and local volunteering awards. <https://www.voluntaryactionshetland.com/>

Living Well Hub Scalloway – Scalloway Youth & Community Centre, Wednesdays, 9am – 1pm.

Wednesday 16th August

- Joel from Housing will be along 10am – 12 noon. **Housing Officers** can speak with you about a range of Housing related questions. We can speak about your current tenancy and explain your rights & responsibilities as tenants, provide support and advice about your tenancy. We can speak with you about applications and provide advice on these. If you are at risk of homelessness, we can provide advice on this too. Housing as a service have a number of teams which can support with a wide range of things, please come along for a chat and we can point you in the right direction.
- **Social Security Scotland** will be at the hub, they deliver devolved benefits in Scotland and ensures people receive the right amount of money at the right time. They offer support for people across Scotland on low incomes, disabled people, carers, young people entering the workplace and help for people to heat their homes. The new Local Delivery service is designed to help people across the country access face-to-face support when applying for our benefits, so you can book an appointment with a Client Support Advisor in a place that suits you – they have venues in local communities, or you can book a video or phone call and our Advisors can also visit people's homes. <https://socialsecurity.gov.scot/>

Email: livingwellhub@shetland.org Tel: 01595 744120

[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.

[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. 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](#).

[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

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

Cycling

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

- 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 to book.

Peerie Stars, 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.

10th of August Clickimin

17th of August Islesburgh

24th of August Mareel

31st of August Fjara

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](#)

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](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

VOLUNTEER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH VOICEABILITY

- Do you want to support people in your local community to feel empowered?
- Could you offer a few hours a week to help people access benefits and other services?

VoiceAbility provides benefits advocacy across Scotland, supporting people to access Social Security Scotland benefits. This support is for disabled people, and people applying on behalf of family or people they care for. Our advocates explain the process, help people understand the paperwork, and support with applications, appeals and redeterminations.

How you can help

You could support people by raising awareness in your local area, networking and supporting at events. These roles are ideal for people who already have a connection to their community, or would like to build one. Volunteers also support individuals directly, with general advocacy and admin tasks. If you have an interest or background in human rights, or health, care and wellbeing, this would be a good fit for you – but we care more about your values than your knowledge and experience.

You'll receive full training, support from the volunteer team and your local advocates, and paid expenses.

To get involved: visit voiceability.org/volunteering to find out more, and register your interest online. Email volunteering@voiceability.org or call 0300 303 1660

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is free, independent support to help you have your say in decisions about your health, care and wellbeing.

About VoiceAbility

VoiceAbility makes sure people are heard when it matters most. We've been supporting people to have their say in decisions about their health, care and wellbeing for over 40 years. We're an independent charity and one of the UK's largest providers of advocacy and involvement services, with local teams around Scotland and England.

[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 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.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

[CANCER STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND 2023 – 2033](#)

Last year the Scottish Government sought views on the development of a new Cancer Strategy for Scotland through a public consultation and focus groups, and through engagement with national, regional and local networks of clinical and management representatives.

[NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN: IMPLEMENTATION ROUTE MAP 2023](#)

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

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

[SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION AUTHORITY PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING STATUTORY GUIDANCE: CONSULTATION](#)
Closes 27 Oct 2023

The Scottish Government brought together a working group, including partners from across health and social care, to refresh the statutory guidance on strategic plans and annual performance reports. The working group included organisations that represent supported people, carer organisations, provider organisation, those who plan and oversee the delivery of services, and many more partner organisations.

Re-drafts of the guidance have been produced through engagement with the working group. We are seeking to capture further feedback and views on these revised guidance documents. Your feedback will help us further improve the guidance and make it more helpful for integration authorities as they plan services. Your contribution could help improve services in your local area and across the rest of Scotland.

[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.

NATIONAL ISLANDS PLAN REVIEW – CONSULTATION

Closes: 9 October 2023

Scotland's first ever National Islands Plan was published in 2019. It is now being reviewed as required by the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, which may lead to the publication of a new National Islands Plan. The Scottish Government wants to work together with local authorities, island communities and relevant sectors and partners to ensure this process is as thorough and effective as possible, providing vital feedback from those most impacted by the National Islands Plan.

This consultation provides everyone with an interest in Scotland's islands the chance to provide their views and, if required, to shape the next iteration of the National Islands Plan. It takes about 30-40 minutes to complete.