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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

[NEW VAS VOLUNTEERING AWARDS](#)

Deadline: 15 September 2023

Do you know someone who deserves a thank you for helping out in their community or volunteering with an organisation?

Voluntary Action Shetland are delighted to announce the launch of two new awards for volunteering. The aim of the new awards is to recognise all kinds of volunteering, which includes both formal and informal volunteering. The awards consist of two categories and will be complementing the national Saltire Awards scheme (which VAS deliver annually to recognise young people aged 12 to 25).

WILLIN HAANDS AWARD: For Adults aged 26 and over.

PEERIE TROWS AWARD: For children aged 11 and under

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

Similar to VAS' Community Spirit Award, which ran during the Covid pandemic, the VAS Volunteering Awards (VAS-VAs) are nomination-based, anyone can nominate (whether

they are an individual or an organisation) someone, adult or child who volunteers or has volunteered. Please read the nomination guidelines before nominating someone for the awards.

To nominate, folk can fill in the [online form](#) or contact VAS Volunteering for a paper format.

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

Please feel free to print and display the attached poster and share with friends and colleagues. If you have any queries please contact Kathleen Williamson and Lavinia Schmidt, Volunteer Development Workers. Tel: 01595 743910 (direct line).
Email: VASVolunteering@shetland.org

BENEFACT GROUP – MOVEMENT FOR GOOD AWARDS

Nominate the charity of your choice to win £1,000

Deadline is Wednesday 6 September, midnight

The Movement for Good Awards is the Benefact Group's annual programme of giving. This year we'll be giving over £1million to charities and good causes – with your help. You can nominate a registered charity, not-for-profit organisation or community interest company in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man for a £1,000 award.

You can nominate as many charities as you like – it's one nomination per charity, per person. The more nominations a charity gets, the greater their chances of winning, so [spread the word!](#)

PERIOD PRODUCTS - NOW ACCESSIBLE ONLINE

Free period products can now be accessed both online and at local pick-up points for anyone who needs them.

People who may find it difficult to access free products at local pick-up points, perhaps due to location, lack of transport, or a health condition, can now have their product of choice – reusable or disposable - delivered directly to their door via the online service [Shetland Home Packs - Hey Girls](#) This is a 6 month online pilot, in order for us to gauge demand and cost.

Local Shetland venues have been supplied with free period products since August 2021, including Health Centres, Leisure Centres, Council-owned public buildings and community halls with period products for anyone to access freely. We plan to continue providing products in local communities, and hope that Health Centres across Shetland can continue to support this. There is a new online form for Health Centres / community stockists to reorder products – you can find that at [Free Period Products Order Form for Public and Community Venues](#).

Reusable products will also now be available to order online, including menstrual cups, reusable pads and period pants.

NEW PROJECTS AT RELATIONSHIP SCOTLAND SHETLAND

(See attached PDFs for more information)

Parenting Apart

Run on a monthly basis via Zoom. For all parents who have separated and would like to explore the best way to parent while living apart. This programme is open to all parents and step parents.

In the Middle peer support

A new programme aims to support young people aged 14 – 18 who have experienced family separation. We will offer young people a supported and safe environment to explore thoughts and feeling around recent or past separations. Sessions will run weekly for 8 weeks Fridays @3pm.

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

No Updates

RESOURCES

[FAIR WORK RESEARCH](#)

Commissioned by GCVS, The Scottish Centre for Employment Research carried out research into the extent of Fair Work across Scotland's third sector. Research aimed to identify the opportunities and challenges in delivering fair work.

[CHILD-FRIENDLY FEEDBACK PORTAL - CHILDREN'S HEARING SCOTLAND](#)

Children's Hearings Scotland have launched a new online, portal to make logging information and providing feedback easier for children. This new way of providing feedback will help to ensure children have their voice heard at every stage of a hearings process.

[CHILD-FRIENDLY HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION GUIDE](#)

Closing date: 5th October 2023

The Scottish Government is seeking the views of children and young people on the Human Rights Bill. 'Together' has produced a child-friendly resource and facilitator guide to help both young people and adults to share/gather views.

GUIDE: NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS SCAMS TEAM ABOUT COERCIVE CONTROL AND THE LINKS WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE AND FRAUD AND SCAMS; ITS IMPACTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE (See attached PDF)

Although the guide is written in England which means the Legal Acts they quote may be different in Scotland. The information however is useful and provides key highlights for an adult social care audience – adapting domestic abuse frameworks, adopting common language, the impact of financial abuse on individuals and the sector, ending with practical suggestions.

[NATIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION NETWORK – A NATIONAL DATABANK](#) – FREE MOBILE DATA, TEXTS AND CALLS TO PEOPLE IN NEED

The National Databank provides free mobile data, texts and calls to people in need via Good Things Foundation’s [network of local community partners](#). Think of it like a ‘food bank’ but for internet connectivity data. Community organisations can apply to access the databank, enabling them to provide data to people in their communities who need it.

Applications are open for charities and voluntary organisations to join the National Digital Inclusion Network. Community organisations can apply to access the databank, enabling them to provide data to people in their communities who need it. They also offer lots of free resources, training, peer support and funding.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

[IMPROVING GENDER BALANCE AND EQUALITIES IN CLD: INTRODUCTION TO THE TOOLKIT TICKETS, TUE 19 SEP 2023 AT 14:00 | EVENTBRITE](#)

This toolkit aims to support self-evaluation in the Community Learning and Development sector. Aligned to HGIOCLD4, the toolkit will be of particular interest to CLD leaders, who can influence change at all levels in the system.

This session will provide:

- An overview of why gender equality is becoming increasingly important in all aspects of life
- A chance to explore the value that developing a better understanding of gender equality data can bring to CLD planning and evaluation.
- An introduction to the data guide, self-evaluation framework and supporting documents
- Highlights from the learning and impacts from pilot sites
- An outline of support available to CLD providers wishing to engage with the toolkit
- An opportunity to consider how your CLD provision might use the toolkit

The toolkit is available here [Improving Gender Balance and Equalities in Community Learning and Development | Resources | Education Scotland](#)

To find out more please contact Oonagh McGarry at oonagh.mcgarry@educationscotland.gov.scot . A further introductory session is being planned for the morning of 30th Nov.

JUST ENTERPRISE: AN INTRODUCTION TO DIVERSITY, EQUALITY & INCLUSION, FREE ONLINE WORKSHOP

Participants attending this online workshop will:

- Co-create a safe space so that everyone feels comfortable to engage in the sessions.
- Understand the importance of engaging with Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) from a moral, legal and business perspective.
- Recognise the barriers that can prevent people from successfully promoting DEI.
- Hear first-hand experience from a specialist agency and/ or Scottish social enterprise of equality and diversity experiences.
- Learn from others in the workshop about their diversity and equality journeys.
- Start to develop approaches to measuring and reporting diversity and equality data in relation to their organisations.
- Be signposted to further information including other agencies who provide specialist support

Choice of ONLINE Workshop Dates & Times:

Wednesday 30th August – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Tuesday 5th September – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Wednesday 25th October – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm
Wednesday 1st November – 1.30 pm – 4.30 pm

For more information on the individual speakers and to book your place on the workshop of your choice [click here](#).

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

UNLOCKING PROCUREMENT: SCOTLAND'S NEW PUBLIC PROCUREMENT STRATEGY, TUESDAY 29 AUGUST (11AM) | ONLINE

Scottish Government procurement officials as well as Just Enterprise at this webinar. Public sector procurement is a hot topic for social enterprises and there are many new important developments

HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WEBINAR | THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER (11AM) | 40 MINUTE SESSION | ONLINE

The Scottish Government has committed to introducing a new Human Rights Bill incorporating international human rights standards into domestic law in Scotland. Join our webinar with Scottish Government human rights officials.

DEMOCRATIC FINANCE: 40 MINUTE FINANCE FOCUS, WEDNESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2023 11:00 -11:40, ONLINE

The democratic finance programme seeks to directly link available money in communities to local organisations seeking finance, whether that is to buy land, renovate a building or expand an existing enterprise.

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND POLICY FORUM – CONVERSATIONS AROUND SCOTLAND’S CIRCULAR ECONOMY BILL, TUESDAY 29 AUGUST 2023, 10AM – 11.30AM

Join Circular Communities Scotland for a discussion around the proposed Circular Economy Bill and its implications for our sector. We'll discuss why the Bill is important, what it contains, it's connection to our sector, its potential impact, and what happens next. You can view the agenda [here](#) and to register please click [here](#).

ABILITY SHETLAND ACTIVITIES

ALL ABILITY RUGBY

Shetland RFC will be starting their All Ability Rugby back on Wednesday the 30th of August 5pm-6pm in Clickimin Main Hall. These sessions are open to anyone primary to secondary school aged. No experience required and non-contact options are available.

ASM SENSORY SESSIONS

Rebel Fitness will be delivering ASN Sensory Sessions in Islesburgh Community Centre from 6.30pm-7.30pm on the dates below. Sessions are £4.50. Everyone is welcome.

- 23rd of August
- 30th of August
- 13th of September
- 20th of September
- 11th of October
- 18th of October
- 25th of October

SUMMER CYCLE 2023

Lerwick's Summer Cycle is back! Registration to attend is now open and can be found following the link below. It is on the 20th of August 2pm-4pm at King George V Play Park. Adapted bikes will be available to use on the day next to Islesburgh. [Summer Cycle – Shetland Islands Council](#)

WHEELCHAIR RACING

Wheelchair Racing will be starting back in September every Wednesday. For more information please contact charis.scott3@shetland.org directly. Limited racing wheelchairs are available to use.

SHETLAND



BASKETBALL

FRIDAY

17.30-18.30

@Clickimin Main Hall

18TH AUG
1ST SEPT
15TH SEPT
29TH SEPT

WHEELCHAIR
AND
RUNNING
BASKETBALL

BASKETBALL
WHEELCHAIRS PROVIDED

OPEN TO
ANYONE AGED
14+

NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED

For more information please
contact
charis.scott3@shetland.org or
01595 743 929.



Shetland Boccia
Club

All are welcome to join
Shetland Boccia Club
sessions.

Open to all ages and
abilities. No prior
experience needed.

No cost to participate.

WHERE?

@Clickimin Main Hall

CONTACT

Contact charis.scott3@shetland.org for more information.

WHEN?

Friday 4.30pm-5.30pm
on these dates:

August
18th, 25th
September
1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
October
6th



ALL ABILITY RUGBY

A game for
everyone!

FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL AGED
CHILDREN. ALL ABILITIES ARE WELCOME.

WEDNESDAY 5PM-6PM

30th Aug
13th Sept
27th Sept

@Clickimin Main
Hall

For more information contact charis.scott3@shetland.org



ASN SENSORY SESSION

ISLESBURGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

WED 23RD & 30TH AUGUST
WED 13TH & 20TH SEPTEMBER
WED 11TH, 18TH & 25TH OCTOBER

6.30PM-7.30PM - £4.50

Come along for an hour of sensory fun!
We have the lights, music & flashing tamborines!

You will dance along to music you love!
Simple to follow routines. Seated or standing,
the choice is yours!

If you want some fun, we want to see you!

ALL WELCOME!

REBEL FITNESS

REBEL FITNESS



NPC RESEARCH BRIEFING: WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE WANT YOU TO DO ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES, 25 SEPTEMBER 2023, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM, ONLINE

NPC share findings from the [Everyone's Environment](#) programme's engagement with young people to explore their priorities in tackling the climate and nature crises. In collaboration with Groundwork, Barnardo's and Woodcraft Folk, we have spoken with those affected about [how the environmental crises and related policy impact young people](#).

NPC RESEARCH BRIEFING: WHAT OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE WANT YOU TO DO ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, ONLINE

NPC share findings from the [Everyone's Environment](#) programme's engagement with older people and Disabled people to explore their priorities in tackling the climate and nature crises. In collaboration with Disability Rights UK and Re-engage , we have spoken with those affected about [how the environmental crises and related policy impact older people and disabled people](#).

LIVING WELL HUB SCALLOWAY, SCALLOWAY YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE, WEDNESDAYS 9AM - 1PM

Wednesday 23rd August

Alzheimer Scotland Team will be at The Living Well Hub 10am - 12 noon to offer advice and chat to you about any concerns you might have about a loved one, a neighbour or a friend who is worried about dementia. <https://www.alzscot.org/>

Lesley from Sport & Leisure will be along with sportswear "kit for all" boxes, anybody can come along and take what they need or make donations should they wish too. This is pre loved sportswear for all ages. <https://sportscotland.org.uk/kit-for-all/>

Rita and Theresa, The "Living Well" Hub, 01595744120

EXPLORING GAMBLING AND THE HIDDEN LINKS TO POVERTY : FAMILY WORKERS- WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-12PM (Zoom)

This webinar is open to anyone working within youth services, family services or formal education in Scotland and will be delivered by the Scottish Gambling Education Hub, a Fast Forward project.

It will explore how gambling and poverty are connected, and how inequality is linked to the experience of harm; It will also discuss how to tackle gambling harm in your work, and how to make the connection between gambling and other circumstances the people you support might be experiencing (such as financial difficulty, unemployment, homelessness, etc.); Share some free resources with links to specialist support concerning gambling harm.

SCOTTISH GAMBLING EDUCATION NETWORK MEETING - WEBINAR TICKETS, THU 31 AUG 2023 AT 10:00 | EVENTBRITE

The Scottish Gambling Education Network (SGEN) exists to bring together practitioners and organisations from a variety of education and health settings, with the aim to share best practices, provide support and help establish, sustain and improve gambling education and prevention provision across Scotland. The theme for this event will be 'Gambling and Crime.' Presentations will include new research from the Commission on Crime and Gambling Related Harms, perspectives from people with lived experience, and insights from practitioners

Recent reports that we have an estimated 600 problem gamblers in Shetland, with approx 3,600 other people in Shetland, including partners, children, wider family and friends, who are affected by the actions of those problem gamblers (source: Citizen's Advice Scotland Gambling Support Service).

JUST TRANSITION - CONSTRUCTION AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

The transition to Net Zero has the potential to impact many aspects of daily living in Scotland. In particular, consideration will need to be given to the impact on the type of jobs available, the training and skills required amongst the workforce and potential for new and exciting economic opportunities.

-Do you work in the Agriculture & Land Use, Transport or Construction & Built Environment sectors and have views on how the transition to Net Zero should be achieved?

-Would you like the opportunity to help shape government policy making as priorities around the transition to net zero are identified and addressed in these sectors?

If so, then this is your opportunity to feed into the policy making process.

The Scottish Government has commissioned Deciding Matters to host a number of workshops for those in the built environment and construction sectors. The sessions will be an opportunity for businesses and workers to get involved in the early stages of the Scottish Government's just transition planning approach,

THE CURVE: FREE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE THIRD SECTOR

The Curve is a series of free, 90-minute workshops for third sector organisations. These online workshops aim to build knowledge around best digital practices, raise awareness of digital tools and ultimately help increase impact with digital. Workshops are open to anyone working or volunteering with a third sector organisation in the UK.

CLOUD ESSENTIALS 101, TUE 29 AUGUST, 11.00AM - 12.30PM, ONLINE

This session will provide a helicopter overview of the Cloud and introduction to some of the standard jargon used as well as the headline pros and cons.

HARNESSING THE CLOUD IN THE THIRD SECTOR, TUE 5 SEPTEMBER, 11.00AM - 12.30PM, ONLINE

Building on session 1, this session will look at real life examples and addresses more detailed concepts that should be considered when getting the most out of opportunities provided by Cloud computing.

[CHOOSING BETWEEN CLOUD SERVICES, TUE 12 SEPTEMBER, 11.00AM - 12.30PM, ONLINE](#)

In this session, we'll explore the different Cloud platforms that are available and what you should consider when choosing a Cloud platform on behalf of your organisation.

CRANFIELD TRUST – FREE ONLINE WEBINARS

[ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES, HOW TO CREATE VALUE THROUGH BRANDING \(PART 1\), 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM](#)

Aimed at CEOs, managers, fundraisers, and trustees, in this one-hour webinar, Chris Cherrill will explore the concept of branding within a charity. We will discuss what a brand is, why branding is important, and how your brand goes much deeper than your logo or website. We will also look at how you can build a charity brand with limited resources and some quick wins!

[ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES, UNDERSTAND MARKETING AND ITS IMPORTANCE \(PART 2\), 28 SEPTEMBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM](#)

Aimed at CEO's, marketing managers, fundraisers, and trustees, this one-hour webinar will discuss the importance of marketing and what it is within a charity context. We will look at how, through developing a simple one page marketing plan, you can help grow a charity's online community, raise awareness and increase donations.

[ESSENTIALS TO EXCELLENCE: CHARITIES - WHY BOTHER WITH PROCESS IMPROVEMENT? 12 OCTOBER 2023 FROM 12:00PM TO 1:00PM](#)

100% of your charity's performance is a result of how well your people design, operate and continuously improve your processes. So if you know you need to make a step-change in performance, you will only be able to do that by changing your processes and this webinar can help.

[NATIONAL CARE SERVICE NATIONAL FORUM 2023, MON, 30 OCT 2023 10:30 - 15:30, IN PERSON \(GLASGOW\) AND ONLINE](#)

The National Care Service Forum is an opportunity for stakeholders, people who access social care support, the social care workforce, carers and unpaid carers to share their thoughts about the National Care Service. The forum will talk about what the National Care Service is all about, why it matters so much we make it happen together, and how we will do that. This event is open to everyone with experience or views they'd like to share on social care support and community healthcare.

Those unable to attend in-person can still attend online. Please click on the [link to register for the National Care Service Forum online](#).

Travel and expenses

If you are attending as a member of the public the National Care Service may cover agreed costs for travel, accommodation and replacement care, to enable you to attend. We can also book travel and accommodation for you. Please contact the National Care Service Communications mailbox once you have booked your space but before booking any travel or accommodation to discuss: NCSCcommunications@gov.scot.

[INNOVATION FUNDING WEBINAR: ENERGY SYSTEMS, GRIDS, STORAGE AND GENERATION, MON, 21 AUG 2023 10:00 - 11:30AM, ONLINE](#)

Discover the latest innovation funding opportunities for energy systems, grids, storage, and generation projects. The webinar, run by the Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC), Scottish Enterprise Innovation Collaboration and Funding team and Innovate UK, will provide an overview of current and future opportunities in these areas.

You'll learn about everything from grants and support for single SME's applications, to large-scale international collaborative projects.

You'll benefit from this webinar will be if your job involves supporting and developing innovative products and services, as a business owner, a researcher, or a public sector employee.

[PEER CONNECTS: PEER-LED LEARNING AND THE DIFFERENCE IT MAKES TICKETS, THU 21 SEP 2023 AT 11:00 | EVENTBRITE](#)

A Peer Connects online event from Scottish Recovery Network

This participatory online event is a chance to connect, share and learn with people passionate about the power of peer support! It's an opportunity to look at some of the different ways people use to enhance their confidence, skills, and experience through learning in the community. A chance to explore what difference it makes if the opportunities are peer-led?

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

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.

[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.

[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 **

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

No Updates

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

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.

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.

LET'S BE HEARD ON COVID LESSONS

The Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry has launched its listening project, Let's Be Heard, inviting the public to share their experiences of the pandemic and any lessons they believe should be learned. Find out how individuals and groups can participate by visiting bh.covid19inquiry.scot. The project is asking for experiences to be submitted by 31 October 2023