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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

UHI SHETLAND SEEKS NEW BOARD OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

UHI Shetland, the tertiary provider of higher and further education in Shetland, is currently recruiting for Non-Executive Directors to sit on its Board of Management. In addition, the position of Chair of the Board is open for applications.

These roles would be ideal for individuals with a passion for education, to guide the strategic direction of Shetland UHI and foster an environment which enables the potential of learners to be maximised. They will bring their expertise and skills and their knowledge of the community to support the management and staff as they continue the development and work of UHI Shetland. Outgoing Chair of the Board, Davie Sandison said:

“The role of non-executive Board Member is pivotal in developing our strategic aims and in ensuring sound stewardship and best practice. We want to provide a high-quality experience for students and learners and ensure the student voice is central to decision making at all levels.”

Interested individuals are encouraged to email board.shetland@uhi.ac.uk

[INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONER TO ADVOCATE FOR THE WELFARE AND SAFETY OF PATIENTS WILL BE APPOINTED FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF A NEW BILL](#)

An independent Commissioner to advocate for the welfare and safety of patients will be appointed following the passing of the Scottish Government's Patient Safety Commissioner Bill. It will help to amplify the voice of patients and drive safety improvements across healthcare. The Bill gives the Commissioner complete freedom to consider or investigate any issue they believe to have a significant bearing on patient safety in healthcare, and they will be able to hear from patients and their families as well as gather information from healthcare providers, to inform their work.

[UPDATES ON NATIONAL CARE SERVICE \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

Maree Todd, MSP, Minister for Social Care, mental Wellbeing and Sport, has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee to provide follow-up information from her evidence to the committee on Tuesday 3 October regarding the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill. The letter covers information on the summer regional co-design events, NCS spend to date, the NCS charter, and palliative care.

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

[OSCR SEEKS PEOPLE TO JOIN ITS CHARITIES REFERENCE GROUP](#)

OSCR is looking for new members to join the Charities Reference Group. We are keen to welcome members from a wide range of charities across the whole of Scotland. No matter the size of your organisation, where you're located, the beneficiary groups you support or the type of activity you undertake, we'd love to hear from you. Both trustees and staff members are welcome to join the CRG.

One of the key tasks for the Group this year will be to work with OSCR on proposed implementation of key measures within the new Charities (Regulation and Administration) Scotland Act, in addition to other key work streams that have an impact upon charities.

How do I join the Charities Reference Group?

The CRG meets three or four times per year to discuss key projects under way at OSCR. The meetings are held online.

Please contact charles.willis@oscr.org.uk for more information or to express your interest in joining. Closing date: Friday 24 November 2023.

RESOURCES

[MAKE YOUR MARK VOLUNTEER ORGANISERS NETWORK](#) RESOURCES

[RECORDING: CREATING A VOLUNTEER PHILOSOPHY](#)

Creating a volunteer philosophy can help you define why and how you involve volunteers in carrying out your mission. Watch a recording of our latest event to hear from HMS Unicorn about how developing their new philosophy helped them attract a diverse range of volunteers.

[RECORDING: VOLUNTEERING AND UK WELFARE BENEFITS](#)

Some volunteers may have concerns about how volunteering will affect their UK welfare benefits. Watch a recording of our August event, where experts from Volunteer Glasgow covered everything you need to know to support volunteers who claim benefits.

UK HERITAGE PULSE: SUMMER REVIEW

Heritage organisations across the UK have responded to a survey on how the summer season had been for their organisation, with a third of respondents indicating they were not able to recruit and train new volunteers.

RECRUITING AND SUPPORTING DYSLEXIC VOLUNTEERS (PDF)

Volunteer Scotland and the National Inclusion in Volunteering Group have compiled top tips to enable and empower people with dyslexia to volunteer.

PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND ALCOHOL POLICY BRIEFING (PDF)

PHS have announced a new policy briefing on alcohol.

REPORT: STRETCHED TO THE LIMIT: SCOTLAND'S THIRD SECTOR AND THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS (PDF)

Health and Social Care ALLIANCE Scotland report. It paints a picture of a sector which is under intense stress on every aspect, including funding, services, staff and volunteers. The ALLIANCE has highlighted a number of recommendations including progressing commitments to fair funding for the third sector and investing in services that reduce demand for acute interventions from the public and third sectors.

HEATHACK – IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY VENUE'S ENERGY EFFICIENCY

HeatHack offer community venues and churches a free programme to help improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort. Visit HeatHack.org or learn about the programme [here](#). Interested in registering your community venue? Contact HeatHack: admin@heathack.org

HeatHack is funded by the Royal Academy of Engineering - Ingenious programme

TRUSTEES WEEK: ESSENTIAL FUNDRAISING RESOURCES

Those voluntary organisations which enjoy fundraising success all have Trustees who are enthusiastic and actively engaged with income generation. They understand the link between fabulous fundraising and the positive difference their organisation exists to make. Some essential reading: [CIOF Handbook](#) and [OSCR Fundraising Guidance for charity trustees](#)

SCVO VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALL HANDBOOK

Village halls are often the heart of a community. They are places for people to gather, learn, access services and have fun. Making sure they are well run and maintained is an important but not always easy role, often fulfilled by committed volunteers and workers. SCVO in collaboration with Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) and Scottish Rural Network have developed a comprehensive handbook to support you as you offer vital spaces to your communities.

Voluntary Action Shetland supports the [Shetland Community Facilities Network](#). If you would like to be part of this local network please email: Ayesha.huda@shetland.org

[MAKING YOUR CASE FOR UNRESTRICTED FUNDING](#)

The [Institute for Voluntary Action Research \(IVAR\)](#) and [Cranfield Trust](#) have come together to create a guide for charities looking or applying for unrestricted funding. The resource pulls together key messages for crafting strong funding applications and ensuring your 'funding ready'.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

FREE, ONLINE MONEY WORRIES TRAINING IS STARTING UP AGAIN THIS WINTER A 1 HOUR ONLINE COURSE DELIVERED ON TEAMS BY NHS SHETLAND, SHETLAND CAB AND ANCHOR SHETLAND.

The cost of living and energy crisis is hitting many households hard. The aim of this training is to make sure as many people as possible have the knowledge and confidence needed to start discussions about money worries, and to point people in the right direction to get the help they need with financial problems

First session is next week – Wed 15 November at 12 on Teams.

To book a place email Workforce.DevelopmentTeam@shetland.gov.uk



The poster features logos for 'citizens advice bureau', 'anchor early action', and 'Healthy Shetland'. The main title 'MONEY WORRIES' is in large green letters. Below it, the text reads 'WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A CHANGE - ARE YOU HELPING PEOPLE GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED?'. A bulleted list of benefits is provided, followed by upcoming dates and a booking link. The bottom section is green with yellow starburst graphics and contains contact information and the organizers' names.

citizens advice bureau

anchor early action

Healthy Shetland

MONEY WORRIES

WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE A CHANGE -
ARE YOU HELPING PEOPLE GET THE SUPPORT THEY NEED?

- Gives you the background knowledge and confidence to start discussions about money worries
- Sessions are 1 hour long
- Online via Teams
- Open to anyone

Upcoming dates:
Wednesday 15th November 2023 - 12:00-13:00
Wednesday 29th November 2023 - 12:00-13:00
Wednesday 13h December 2023 - 12.00 - 13.00

Bookable via Turas
<https://voronline.shetland.gov.uk/>

Anyone outside the Council can email:
workforce.developmentteam@shetland.gov.uk

Run by Shetland CAB, NHS Health Improvement Team & the Anchor Team

HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND - SAVE ON YOUR ENERGY BILLS! THURSDAY 16TH OF NOVEMBER, 2PM – 3PM, ONLINE

This online event will include practical hints and tips on how to reduce energy consumption in your home and provide an opportunity to ask energy specialists questions about energy related matters. In addition, information will be provided on how to seek further financial support to assist in making energy efficiency changes to your home.

The session will be held on-line via TEAMS on Thursday 16th of November at 14:00. The session will be for one hour. The registration form is straightforward to complete.

To register your interest please sign up here: [Save Energy at Home-Voluntary Action Shetland](#)

Home Energy Scotland provide free and impartial energy advice to householders across Scotland.

WEBINAR: CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY-LED ORGANISATIONS, 28 NOVEMBER, 09.00 – 10.30.

Dunhill Medical Trust is partnering with the team at Moore Kingston Smith Non-Profit Advisory and the University of Birmingham's School of Social Policy to deliver high quality training as part of a Capability Development Scheme. The training forms an integral part of the Trust's Academy offering for community-facing organisations. The Academy aims to bring community-facing organisations together with academic and clinical researchers and other experts in the field to improve organisational resilience and effectiveness and help to deliver evidence-informed systemic change.

The programme is aimed particularly at community-facing organisations working to support older people to thrive in safe, healthy and well-connected homes and communities.

Free of charge, it will be delivered principally via a series of webinars:

- Focusing on Impact
- Creating Financial Sustainability
- Research Capacity and Effectiveness
- Re-Imaging Organisations
- Design Thinking.

These will be supplemented by downloadable videos exploring related topics in more detail. All of the material, including the webinar content, will be available via the Academy webpages, allowing you to access it at a time convenient to you.

Our first webinar - which will be on Impact - will take place on November 28th. This webinar will be run by Karl Leathem, from Moore Kingston Smith Non-Profit Advisory who has worked with hundreds of community-facing organisations over twenty-five years, assisting them with evaluating and communicating social impact. For more information click [here](#). Or email sarah.allport@dunhillmedical.org.uk to book a place.

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS WEEK 2023, 20TH NOVEMBER - 24TH NOVEMBER, 2023

It's an opportunity for organisations to come together to raise awareness of important safeguarding issues. The aim is to highlight key safeguarding key issues, start conversations and raise awareness of safeguarding best practice. Each day, we'll be focusing on a different safeguarding theme which relates to how individuals and organisations can safeguard themselves and others.

[NATIONAL RURAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM 29TH NOVEMBER, 11AM - 1PM, ONLINE](#)

The next online meeting of the National Rural Mental Health Forum is on Wednesday the 29th of November from 11 am - 1pm. Attendees will hear about and discuss progress of the new Government Suicide Prevention Strategy and Self Harm Strategy. There will also be an input from University of Edinburgh Generation Scotland, who are needing support from rural areas to improve the life chances of younger generations in their work on loneliness in the digital world and mental health. All welcome, to register interest [click here](#).

WORKSHOP: [CYBER SECURITY FOR ALL, 21 NOVEMBER 2023, 10:00 - 12:30, ONLINE](#)

As well as providing an explanation of what cyber security is and the current threats towards your organisation and you as an individual, the workshop will help you identify NCSC products, tools, advice, and guidance to ensure you are resilient to cyber attacks.

Develop your own action plan split into 3 areas:

- Individual actions you can implement in your personal life
- Operational actions you can implement at work
- Organisational Actions to feed back into your charity via senior leaders or trustees

This workshop will be particularly useful to micro, small, and medium charities - and is appropriate for all levels, professions, and experience.

THE CLOTHWORKERS' FOUNDATION - [DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS WEBINAR, THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER \(10-11AM\)](#)

[The Clothworkers' Foundation](#) has recently expanded the eligibility criteria for our Open Grants Programmes and it may be of interest to the organisations that you support. We now offer capital grants for digital infrastructure projects and will consider applications for products and software (such as websites, databases and apps). You can find full guidance on digital infrastructure applications [here](#).

We are hosting a webinar on this topic on Thursday 7th December (10-11am) and this will include:

- A presentation delivered by The Clothworkers' Foundation grants team.
- A question and answer session.

Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

**A FREE group for adults
to meet, eat cake, chat
and make new friends!**

**Friday 17th November
2.30-4pm**

**A chance to meet
Dorothy from CLAN
followed by cards and
board games**

Future Date: 18th December

For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964



SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT HOUSING PANELS - TENANTS & LANDLORDS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR - INVITATION FOR INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY TO TAKE PART

We are inviting tenants and landlords in the private rented sector to apply take part in two separate lived experience housing panels. The panels will work to share ideas and experiences, and make recommendations to Members of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee who will scrutinise proposals that the Scottish Government is making to change the laws relating to housing. Deadline is Friday 1st of December.

Further information is attached above and to register interest people are invited to complete the short survey below.

The Committee want to hear from different people in different circumstances living in different parts of the country. To inform the selection criteria we have looked at research and data on the characteristics of private renters and landlords in Scotland. Parliament staff will recruit the panels from these responses using selection criteria.

For those who would like to register to take part they can complete the survey by clicking on the link here.

- [Housing Lived Experience Panel \(Tenants\) - Register Your Interest - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#)
- [Housing Lived Experience Panel \(Landlords\) - Register your interest - Scottish Parliament - Citizen Space](#)

For further information or for support to apply you can contact kate.smith@parliament.scot or PACT@parliament.scot

FREE
EXPERT GUEST
SPEAKERS
30 MINUTES DURATION
CONVERSATIONAL
LISTEN IN THE
BACKGROUND
LEARN AS YOU WORK

Police Scotland
Business Crime Prevention Team

We are a friendly approachable team providing crime prevention and resiliency advice to the Scottish business community. Working in collaboration with a wide range of partners across all sectors, we act as a hub, developing and sharing best practice to ensure Scotland remains a safe place to do business.

SIGN UP BY EMAILING
PPCWBUSINESSCRIMEPREVENTION@SCOTLAND.POLICE.UK

**MICRO
LEARNING
SESSION
WEDNESDAY
15TH NOV 2023
1400-1430HRS**

**CCTV Guidance
for Businesses**
Stuart Ward is Police
Scotland's National
Architectural Support &
Development Officer. He
has dedicated his career
to crime prevention
through innovative design
and the use of deterrent
technology. Stuart will
share his knowledge
around CCTV & discuss
why "prevention really
is better than cure"

BUSINESS CRIME PREVENTION - MICRO SESSION CCTV GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES

Join Police Scotland for an informative micro session on CCTV guidance for businesses, aimed at helping you prevent and tackle business-related crime.

This online event will take place on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 14:00.**

To attend please email [here](#):

SCVO: [THE GATHERING EXTRA, 29 NOVEMBER 2023, ONLINE](#)

Organised by SCVO, the Gathering is the largest free voluntary sector event in the UK. This year they've introduced the Gathering Extra as an online opportunity to catch up on the bits you missed from the in-person Gathering from the comfort of your own home or office.

SCVO support and training

Free lunchtime webinars for members of the SCVO Trustee Network before the end of 2023:

- [The rules for long-term investing](#), 15 November with Rathbones Investment Management
- [Trustee roles and responsibilities](#), 6 December with Gillespie Macandrew

[STAYING CONNECTED REPORT LAUNCH, WED 6 DEC 2023 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM GMT, ONLINE, MICROSOFT TEAMS](#)



Families Outside launch Staying Connected report, funded by The Promise, in partnership with Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA).

The report, 'Staying Connected: Care-experienced children and young people with a sibling in prison or secure care', is a joint project by Families Outside and the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA), funded by The Promise Partnership, which explores the topic of care-experienced siblings separated by imprisonment or secure care.

The Promise clearly states that "Relationships between brothers and sisters will be cherished and protected", and legislation in 2021 placed duties on local authorities to maintain relationships between siblings unable to stay together. Sibling separation through children being in care or in custody is often overlooked. This research has set out to address this gap in knowledge and to amplify the voices of the children and young people who are directly affected.

Please join us online for the launch of this report where we will highlight the findings and recommendations as well as facilitate discussions about what this means for children and young people – and those supporting them – going forward.

[AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMUNITY HEAT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER AT 12.30PM, ONLINE](#)

The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) supports communities to engage with, participate in, and benefit from the energy transition to net zero emissions. Do you have an idea for a climate-friendly way to heat your community? At this session you'll hear more about the programme from our local heat development specialist. You'll have plenty of time to ask questions about eligibility, the types of projects we expect to support, applications that have come in to date, and how to apply.

CO-PRODUCTION WEEK: 13 – 17 NOVEMBER 2023

The Scottish Co-production Network is supported by Scottish Government and hosted by Scottish Community Development Centre. Co-production Week Scotland is about bringing people together to share ideas, learning and stories about how co-production puts people and communities at the heart of the support and services they're part of.

This year co-production week is all about sharing examples of co-production and recognising work that might not be badged as 'co-pro' but has been undertaken with a co-productive approach and in line with co-pro values.

SHETLAND WOMEN'S AID INFORMATION & NETWORKING EVENT

Wed 29th November | 2pm-4pm

Room 16, Islesburgh Community Centre

Please join us on Wednesday 29th November as we mark the **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** with an Information & Networking event, suitable for anyone with an interest in the work we do, and anyone responsible for supporting people in our community.

The UN's theme for this year's 16 Days is "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls" and calls for robust responses, including investment in prevention work. The National Violence Against Women Network in Scotland is calling on us to "Imagine a Scotland Without GBV", with a focus on engaging children and young people, particularly in education settings, in response to recent challenges in these areas.

At Shetland Women's Aid, we are using this afternoon to raise awareness of the variety of specialist services we provide in Shetland to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse. Following our presentation, there will be a chance to chat with our team and other organisations present (with plenty of tea, coffee, and fancies!) as we informally explore new ways of working together to prevent gender-based violence. There will be an opportunity to ask any questions, including how to refer someone you are working with to our service.

This event is free to attend. To book a place, or for more information, please email ashlea@shetlandwa.org.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
(25 November - 10 December)

Imagine a Shetland without gender-based violence.

Information & Networking Event


FREE **Room 16, Islesburgh**
Wednesday 29th November (2-4pm)

2pm Presentation from Shetland Women's Aid team with an overview of our specialist domestic abuse services.

3pm Networking opportunity and informal discussion of GBV work in Shetland. Tea and coffee provided.

The 16 Days of Activism is a global campaign to raise awareness and call for change, nationally and locally, to prevent violence against women and girls. Join us as we share information about work that we do, and invite you to imagine what a Shetland without gender-based violence would look like.

To book a free place, please email ashlea@shetlandwa.org

 **Shetland Women's Aid**

DIGITAL INCLUSION IN MENTAL HEALTH AND DIGITAL INCLUSION IN HOUSING: ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Registration is now open for two stakeholder engagement events hosted by the Digital Inclusion Programme. The events will take place in November and will share progress with the programme and continue the conversation on Digital Inclusion in Mental Health and in Housing. We would be very grateful if you could share the event links with your networks in mental health, housing, and digital inclusion to help us reach more people who may be interested to be part of the programme.

We are particularly keen to involve people working in the areas of Mental Health and/or Housing who may be interested in exploring opportunities to embed digital inclusion in their service/organisation.

- Housing Thursday 16th November 13:00-15:00pm – Sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/kH7CAzmyKU>

Due to the number of people at the previous Mental Health event, we are looking to offer 2 dates to accommodate interest:

- Mental Health 15th Wednesday November 13:00-15:00pm– Sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/MaN6q2DpkM>
- Mental Health Wednesday 22nd November 14:00-16:00pm– Sign up: <https://forms.office.com/e/MaN6q2DpkM>

SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

ONLINE EVENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS, PRACTITIONERS, VOLUNTEERS WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

[Cranial Cocktail - Lunchtime session \(Thursday 23 November – 12:00noon\)](#)

[Understanding Anger - Lunchtime session \(Tuesday 5 December – 12noon\)](#)

[Understanding Emotions: Anxious & Afraid - Morning session \(Thursday 7 December – 10:00am\)](#)

[Untangling the Knots \(Online\)](#)

ONLINE EVENTS FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

[Family Conflict Triggers - Evening session \(Tuesday 21 November – 19:00\)](#)

AGE SCOTLAND FREE TRAINING (ON ZOOM)

[DEMENTIA AWARENESS TRAINING: MON 27TH NOVEMBER 2023 14.00 TO 16.00](#)

Do you work or volunteer with a community group or service that supports older people? Our free training can boost your ability to include and support people living with dementia.

[DEMENTIA - MOOD AND WELLBEING: TUE 21 NOV 2023, 10.00 TO 11.30](#)

This workshop looks at some of the many factors that can influence mood for people living with dementia and some ideas to improve it

[AN INTRODUCTION TO RESIDENTIAL CARE COSTS IN SCOTLAND - THU 16 NOV 2023](#)

An Introduction to Residential Care Costs in Scotland.

BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND WEBINAR:

[LEARN HOW TO LIGHT YOUR BUSINESS FOR LESS, DECEMBER 14, 2023, 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM, ONLINE](#)

[NPC AND THE HEALTH FOUNDATION PANEL EVENT: HOW CAN YOU MEANINGFULLY INVOLVE YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR POLICY WORK? 20 NOVEMBER 2023, 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM, ONLINE, ZOOM, \(FREE\)](#)

The event is aimed at organisations wishing to engage young people in policy work. Although it will draw insight from projects focused on the building blocks of health, this event is relevant to all policy work affecting young people.

[SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT SUMMIT TO MARK THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 25 NOVEMBER 2023](#)

The day will be a celebration for all and will include keynote speeches on breaking down social barriers and the fight for equality and human rights. British Sign Language (BSL) interpreting will be provided. The Summit will be hosted by the Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, on behalf of Jeremy Balfour MSP and Pam Duncan-Glancy MSP, the Convener and Deputy Convener of the Cross-Party Group on Disability.

People across Scotland are invited to attend this Summit, which will be taking place in person and online. Find out how to [register to attend on our website](#). However, please note that in-person spaces are limited.

[INTRODUCTION TO SHARED OWNERSHIP, THURSDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2023, 12PM TO 1PM, ON ZOOM](#)

This Local Energy Scotland online event is for community groups and other organisations interested in shared ownership.

[Shared ownership](#) gives community groups the chance to make an investment in a commercially owned renewable energy project. This provides an opportunity for income as well as many other benefits. It's the Scottish Government's ambition that all renewable developments should consider, explore, and offer shared ownership opportunities.

Please email [Christina Hinds](#) to book your space. Please include 'Shared Ownership event – Thursday 16 November in the subject line and remember to include the name of your organisation in your email.

FREE WEBINAR ON SUPPORTING THOSE AROUND US WHO MAY BE EXPERIENCING LONELINESS AND OR SOCIAL ISOLATION

[THE POWER OF ONE WEBINAR – 14TH NOVEMBER AT 10AM - 11AM \(ONLINE\)](#) OR

[THE POWER OF ONE WEBINAR – CHRISTMAS SPECIAL! 8 DECEMBER, 10AM - 11AM \(ONLINE\)](#)

[YOUTHVIP ONLINE TRAINING](#): THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 11AM-12:30PM OR THURSDAY 22 FEBRUARY 9:30-11AM

[Volunteering matters](#), [YouthLink Scotland](#) and [Young Scot](#) are delighted to share new dates for the highly successful Youth VIP training. If you would like to learn more about how to improve youth participation in your organisation or to make it more young people friendly, then come along to a highly immersive and interactive free online workshop with lots of practical takeaways!

GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER (GWT): [SHETLAND ISLES INTERGENERATIONAL NETWORK](#)

The next Shetland Isles Network meeting is to be held in the **Drama Room, Islesburgh Community Centre, King Harald Street, Lerwick on Wednesday 15th November from 1.30pm -3.30pm. [Book here](#):**

JUST ENTERPRISE:

[INTRODUCING STEPS TO NET ZERO](#)

Just Enterprise is partnering with [Growing Climate Confidence](#) to deliver a series of five webinars to help social enterprises and Third Sector organisations on their journey to Net Zero.

Each webinar will cover a different Net Zero topic:

- [Travel](#) (21st November 2023, 14:00 – 15:00)
- [Waste and Reuse](#) (23rd January 2024, 14:00 – 15:00)
- [Energy and Buildings](#) (20th February 2024, 14:00 – 15:00)
- [Buying and Selling](#) (19th March 2024, 14:00 – 15:00)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

No Updates

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS/PUBLICATION

[CULTURE IN COMMUNITIES](#) (PDF)

The Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee have released a new report on culture in communities, which reflects on the importance of volunteers in preserving local heritage and culture.

[SCOTTISH BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY TO 2045](#)

The Scottish Government's new strategy to tackle the nature emergency in Scotland features nature-based volunteering as positive case studies to build upon.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES WINTER PLAN FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The Scottish Government has published its [Health and Social Care Winter Preparedness Plan 2023-24](#), setting out a whole system approach for responding to a surge in demand for health and social care services and outlining the actions to help relieve pressure points across the system. As part of the plan's publication, the government has [announced](#) a £50m funding boost for Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) recruitment and up to £12m to expand Hospital at Home.

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

AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL COMMUNITIES (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closing date: 24 November 2023

The [Rural Affairs and Islands Committee](#) is seeking your views on a bill that represents the Scottish Government's 'vision for agriculture' to transform farming and food production in Scotland and to make it a global leader in sustainable and regenerative agriculture.

ABORTION SERVICES (SAFE ACCESS ZONES) (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closing date: 20 December 2023

[The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#) is seeking views on a bill to establish 'safe access zones' around locations where abortion services are provided.

POST-LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY OF THE SOCIAL CARE (SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2013

Closing date: 5 January 2024

[The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#) is undertaking an inquiry into how the Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 has worked since it came into force. The committee wants to hear from anyone who has a view on or experience of self-directed support.

CONSULTATION LAUNCHED ON PENSION AGE WINTER HEATING PAYMENT

The Scottish Government has launched a [consultation](#) to gather views on the Pension Age Winter Heating Payment, a new benefit to replace the UK Government's Winter Heating Payment.