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### THIRD SECTOR NEWS

#### [BUY SOCIAL SCOTLAND CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN](#)

The Buy Social Scotland Christmas Gift Guide 2023 was launched during national Social Enterprise Day on 16<sup>th</sup> November and features loads of great presents with a purpose from social enterprises all over Scotland. So whether you're looking for stocking fillers, gifts for him, for her, for they/them, for foodies, adventurers or those with a creative flair, there's something for everyone and for every budget. [Browse the Buy Social Scotland Gift Directory.](#)

### NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

#### [UK CHARITY REGULATORS WRITE TO BANKS OVER CHARITY BANKING](#)

The Chief Executive Officers of the UK Charity Regulators have jointly penned an open letter directed at the UK's main high street banks. This letter, a collaborative effort representing the collective concerns of charity regulators, highlights pressing issues faced by charitable organisations in their interactions with banking services.

The CEOs urgently call upon banks to take specific actions:

- Simplify the process for setting up a charity bank account, recognising that it is in all our interests to safeguard donated funds and to support charities to prioritise meeting the needs of their beneficiaries.

- Develop comprehensive training materials for bank staff that enhance their understanding of charity structures and governance mechanisms to prevent avoidable delay driven by misunderstanding.

This collective appeal by the charity regulators emphasises the crucial role played by banks in supporting the charitable sector.

[A copy of the letter is available to view here.](#)

## RESOURCES

### **PUBLIC HEALTH SCOTLAND: CHILD POVERTY ONLINE LEARNING HUB**

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has launched a new online learning hub focused on Child Poverty. The hub is aimed at those working in local authorities, the NHS, HSCPs and the third sector, and anyone interested in reducing child poverty in Scotland. The hub is free to access and was developed to:

- Provide an overview of child poverty in Scotland
- Raise awareness of the drivers of child poverty and the population groups at higher risk
- Describe the impact of child poverty
- Outline key actions to address child poverty

You can find further information and how to enrol and access the learning resources [here](#).

### **VODAFONE SCOTTISH PUBLIC SECTOR REDUCED PRICE PLANS**

Scottish Procurement has established a single supplier framework agreement with Vodafone Ltd for the provision of mobile voice and data services. Call-off contracts will be awarded via direct award, issued by Scottish public sector organisations through the framework. It is available for third sector organisations, local authorities, universities and colleges.

Some of the main benefits: Tariff pricing, benchmarked annually and offering value for money options available to Scottish public sector bodies regardless of size or geographical location free of charge device wiping, disposal, recycling service. See the Vodafone Pricelist [here](#).

### **HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND'S GUIDE ON HOW TO GET YOUR HOME READY FOR WINTER**

As temperatures drop there are a few potential challenges when it comes to saving energy, saving money and keeping warm. Find out how to can save money and by making some quick changes to how you heat your home.

### **YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND'S NEW LEARNING ZONE: DIGITAL YOUTH WORK RESOURCES**

An online hub full of easily accessible resources and information to help youth workers introduce more digital tools in their work with young people.

### **NEW TACKLING POVERTY LOCAL DELIVERY DIRECTORY**

Glasgow Caledonian University has launched a new national database to showcase ground-breaking anti-poverty projects across Scotland. [The Tackling Poverty Locally Directory](#) is a free online resource designed to highlight innovative practice and provide guidance on how similar initiatives can be adopted elsewhere in the country.

The resource is free to use and includes projects from small community groups, NHS boards, local government and Third Sector organisations.

### **THE REVISED SCOTTISH GOVERNANCE CODE FOR THE THIRD SECTOR**

The Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector sets out the core principles of good governance for the boards of charities, voluntary organisations, and social enterprises in Scotland. This code has been created by the third sector, for the third sector. It has been updated recently and available now.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSORTIUM SCOTLAND: 2 NEW REPORTS AND 13 CALLS TO ACTION**

Make Human Rights Justice a Reality – report  
Lived Expertise in Access to Justice – parallel report  
Read them, or listen to the executive summaries, [here](#)

### **SCVO: MAKING DIGITAL INCLUSION EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY: A ROADMAP FOR SCOTLAND**

SCVO's framework for action consists of five specific challenges, the core elements required to achieve digital inclusion, supported by the three broader enablers which need to be in place to support them.

A framework of challenges:

- Motivation - to be part of the digital world, free from any personal barriers; and
- Access to the right device – the ability to afford an internet enabled device that is suitable for your needs and the task in hand; and
- Affordable connectivity – so that you can connect your device to the internet; and
- Skills and confidence – to navigate the internet, keeping yourself safe, doing the things you want to do; and
- Inclusive design – when you get online, spaces are well designed so that everyone can use them.

### **THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES: HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT ASSESSMENT RESOURCES**

A new resource from the Third Sector Human Rights & Equalities (THRE) team shares advice on Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments. The downloadable guide takes you through the rationale for undertaking an Impact Assessment and some simple steps to help you start the process within your organisation.

### **PANEL WORKSHOP: A HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES FIRST APPROACH IN PRACTICE, MONDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 1PM – 3PM**

## ABILITY SHETLAND: ACTIVE WINTER SESSIONS DECEMBER 2023 – MARCH 2024

Sessions are on every Friday (with the exception of the 22nd of December) from 11am-1pm. We will be offering a taster activity between 11-12pm followed by free soup, sandwiches and a hot drink from 12pm-1pm. All sessions are free of charge and will be at Islesburgh.

These sessions start on Friday the 1st of December with Shetland Dancing.

Save the date: On Friday the 29th of December we are going to be offering the Active Winter Sessions at a different venue as Islesburgh is closed for the festive period.



## SCOTTISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: [SPOTLIGHT FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS](#)

SHCR evidence gathering highlights the following issues of particular human rights concern in rural areas of Scotland:

- Lack of affordable and quality housing
- Limited access to sufficient and nutritious food
- Inaccessible health care services
- Fuel poverty
- Access to technology or poor internet connectivity
- Poverty related attainment gap in education
- Transport connectivity to essential public services and supplies

## **[SELF MANAGEMENT WEEK - RECORDED EVENTS](#)**

Recordings are available on the ALLIANCE YouTube Channel:

- The Benefits of Nature Connection for Wellbeing
- Courage, confidence and collaboration: supporting self management in health professionals' practice

## **[CARERS SCOTLAND - BEING HEARD GUIDE](#)**

Being Heard is Carers Scotland's self-advocacy guide for carers. It's about getting your voice heard and effectively communicating your own interests. Their guide has been designed to help you communicate your needs with professionals, understand your rights and look after your wellbeing.

## **HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT SCOTLAND (HIS) RESOURCES**

### **[NEW GUIDELINE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS](#)**

Our guideline on 'Assessment, diagnosis, care and support for people with dementia and their carers', is the first guideline for dementia in nearly 20 years. It provides recommendations that apply to all settings including home, care homes and hospitals.

### **[THE HEALTHCARE IMPROVEMENT PODCAST – IMPROVING CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS](#)**

Our latest podcast looks at the first guideline to be published in nearly 20 years (as referred to above) that provides recommendations on the assessment, treatment and support of adults living with dementia.

### **[NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS FOR ALL PROGRAMME HAS INCREASED THE MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT FOR COMMUNITY-LED PROJECTS TO £20,000 OVER TWO YEARS](#)**

- Awards For All supports projects that aim to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. Priorities are: bringing communities together, improving places that matter to communities, enabling people to fulfil their potential and supporting people, communities and organisations facing more demand due to cost of living crisis.
- Funding for Community led projects: Awards for All can provide between £300 and £20,000 and can support projects for up to two years.
- Funding for arts and sports projects: Awards for All can provide between £300 and £10,000 and can support projects for up to 12 months.

## **BLOG: OPEN PROJECT'S YOUTH-LED RESEARCH DIARY**

Between 2021-2023 with funding from the [Ideas Fund](#), young people from the [OPEN Project](#) in Shetland were matched with professional researchers to support them to conduct research firstly on a space for young people and then the impact of alcohol and other drugs. In this blog series, one of the peer researchers for the project Shannon Boston is sharing their research journey, what they've learned, what tools they've used and what support they received along the way.

**READ THE BLOGS HERE: [PART 1](#), [PART 2](#), [PART 3](#), [PART 4](#)**

**SCVO: [MAKING DIGITAL INCLUSION EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY: A ROADMAP FOR SCOTLAND](#)'.**

The unfortunate reality is that digital exclusion cannot be eradicated without eradicating poverty. But every organisation that delivers services online - or has a desire to reduce inequality - has a responsibility to act to combat digital exclusion. As a minimum, we must avoid making things worse for people who are already vulnerable. By doing more, digital inclusion can be the key to unlocking life changing opportunities.

- [Download the summary \(PDF\)](#)
- [Download the full roadmap \(PDF\)](#)

**[NET ZERO CHECKLIST FOR BUSINESSES](#)**

This online guide introduces the concept of net zero, the benefits of embracing net zero and the challenges businesses may face when trying to reduce their carbon emissions. It includes a 10-step checklist to consider when developing a net zero plan for your business.

**[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](mailto:Ayesha.huda@shetland.org)**

**[WORKING HEALTH SERVICES SCOTLAND](#)**

Working Health Services Scotland provides free and confidential advice and health support for staff working in companies with fewer than 250 employees, as well as self-employed people. Services include quick access to counselling, physiotherapy, and occupational therapy.

**FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**[REFRESH YOUR CYBER SECURITY, WEDNESDAY, 6 DECEMBER, AT 10 AM](#)**

It's important to keep your personal cyber security up to date, especially since this is an area that is always changing and evolving. Gain up-to-date advice and guidance, and learn how cybercriminals are using Artificial Intelligence in a new online course.

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ACADEMY TRAINING**

## DEVELOPING SUSTAINABILITY, 11 JANUARY 2024, FUNDED BY SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

This is a 6-day hybrid [Just Enterprise](#) programme spread over three months to give managers the leadership skills to develop operational and economic sustainability in their organisation. [Louise@socialenterprise.academy](mailto:Louise@socialenterprise.academy) for more information.

## ASPIRING NEW LEADERS, STARTS JANUARY 17 2024

This 6 day in person [Just Enterprise](#) programme is for people in the enterprising third sector who are at the early stages of their leadership journey. It will help you to gain greater self awareness, consider how to motivate and support others and understand more about teams and managing change. [Louise@socialenterprise.academy](mailto:Louise@socialenterprise.academy) for more information.

## **LEADERSHIP RESIDENTIALS**

- 04-07 March 2024 (Stranraer)
- 18-21 March 2024 (Isle of Skye)
- Funded by Scottish Government & [Scottish Enterprise](#)

Accelerate your leadership journey in rural Scotland with our bespoke fully-funded residentials, designed for aspiring leaders in community-focused organisations, offering essential skills and networks for enterprising and innovative leadership.

- [Find out more \(Isle of Skye\)](#)
- [Find out more \(Stranraer\)](#)

**Three Southend drop in events  
find out more about our new small scale  
Adult social support service**



**drop along or call 01595 745093**

**Wednesday 29th November - Cunningsburgh Hall- 2pm - 6pm**

**Friday 1st December - Carnegie Hall- 12pm - 2pm**

**Tuesday 5th December - Hymhus - 11 - 2pm**

**FILM SCREENING (ONLINE): CLIMATE ACTION HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS, THURSDAY 14TH DECEMBER 6PM - 7PM**

A chance to see the Climate Action: Highlands & Islands in a special online screening. See a trailer here: [Climate Action: Highlands and Islands – Film Trailer](#)

**BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND WEBINAR: [LEARN HOW TO LIGHT YOUR BUSINESS FOR LESS, 14 DECEMBER, 3.45PM – 4.30PM, ONLINE](#)**

**BUSINESS GATEWAY WEBINAR: [HOW TO BUILD A CULTURE OF INCLUSION, 6 DECEMBER 2023 TIME: 12PM - 13:30PM](#)**

In this webinar from Business Gateway, Disability Inclusion Consultant, Luis Canto E Castro, will outline how businesses can make their workplaces inclusive for all staff. He'll also highlight ways they can improve how they engage with disabled clients/customers and drive change.

**[DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS TRAINING](#)**

Disclosure Scotland offers free online training to businesses and organisations who use the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme and/or are looking to employ someone with past convictions. The PVG Scheme is a membership scheme for people who work with children or protected adults.

**[CARE INSPECTORATE WEBINARS - SAFE STAFFING PROGRAMME ADULTS WEBINAR SERIES](#)**

New legislation on safe staffing in health and care will affect some third sector orgs/social enterprises. To support the adults care sector to get ready for the enactment, we are delivering a series of webinars over the next few months. If you need more information please email: [safestaffingproject@careinspectorate.gov.scot](mailto:safestaffingproject@careinspectorate.gov.scot)

**[CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND EVENTS](#)**

Children in Scotland have a range of training and events available to organisations working with children and young people. The following events are free to registered Children in Scotland members:

- [Right to Education](#) - Friday 1st December
- [UNCRC Training](#) - Tuesday 30th December

**[FREE ONLINE TRAINING FROM HEALTHY WORKING LIVES](#)**

Healthy Working Lives provides free resources and online training courses to help employers improve the occupational health, safety, and wellbeing of their staff.

**BUSINESS GATEWAY: [SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGY GUIDE](#)**

Learn how to develop your social media strategy with Business Gateway's free guide. It covers all aspects of social strategy, from setting objectives and defining your target audience to social media platform selection, content planning, and reporting.



## **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.

### **EXCEL'S NEWER FEATURES, 5 DECEMBER, 11.00AM - 12.30PM**

There have been a huge number of changes and new functions introduced to Excel in the last few years. This session aims to provide you with the highlights of the most universally useful new features.

## **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.

## **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!

## **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:

- 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

### OPPORTUNITIES TO JOIN THE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY COMMISSION

Deadline Monday 11 December 5pm

Are you interested in getting personally involved in driving the changes required to tackle the inequalities in Scotland? Join the [Poverty and Inequality Commission](#) as a Chair or a Commissioner to be part of providing independent and expert advice and scrutiny to Scottish Ministers on poverty and inequality. Explore the roles below.

#### **Chair - Part-time (four days per month), Salary £306 per day**

The Chair leads the Commission, overseeing its running, governance, adherence to the Commission's [Code of Conduct](#) and the development of the Commission's strategic documents, to set its vision and priorities. Find full details and apply [here](#).

#### **Commissioner - Part-time (one day per month), Salary £225 per day**

Commissioners work together to develop advice for Scottish Ministers on the steps that could be taken to reduce poverty and inequality in Scotland and monitor the progress being made in this area. Find full details and apply [here](#).

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### REPORTS/PUBLICATION

#### **UK GOVERNMENT: COMMUNITY BENEFITS FOR ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

The UK Government has [published its response](#) to its consultation which aimed to ensure communities can directly benefit from hosting electricity transmission network infrastructure. There will be several online webinars throughout December for industry and community representatives to learn more and ask questions about its response.

#### **TRUSTS AND SUCCESSION (SCOTLAND) BILL – STAGE 2 COMPLETED ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

This bill seeks to change the law in relation to trusts (how they are administered and managed) and succession (who has the right to inherit and in what order).

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

#### **HOUSING (CLADDING REMEDIATION) (SCOTLAND) BILL: CALL FOR VIEWS**

**Closes: 8 December 2023**

The Scottish Government Bill is being introduced to reduce the risk to life from unsafe cladding on people's homes. The Bill gives powers to Scottish Ministers to assess and remediate certain types of buildings with unsafe cladding. Scottish Ministers will need to record these assessments

and any remediation works completed in a register. Remediate means to take action towards fixing problems. The Bill also allows Scottish Ministers to create a responsible developers scheme.

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 you think about them.

### **POLICE (ETHICS, CONDUCT AND SCRUTINY) (SCOTLAND) BILL - CALL FOR VIEWS**

**Closes: 8 December 2023**

The Scottish Government is proposing a new law which would require the police to have a statutory code of ethics, make changes relating to the handling of police conduct, increase the functions of the Police Investigations and Review Commissioner (the PIRC) and introduce an advisory board for the Commissioner.

The Bill was developed in response to recommendations made by [an independent review of complaints handling, investigations and misconduct in relation to policing](#), led by Lady Elish Angiolini. The review's purpose was to make recommendations that would ensure the complaints handling systems and investigations into misconduct are fair, transparent, accountable and proportionate. Its overarching aim was to strengthen public confidence in policing in Scotland. MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's Criminal Justice Committee are looking at the proposals in the Police (Ethics, Conduct and Scrutiny) (Scotland) Bill.

### **SOCIAL SECURITY (AMENDMENT) (SCOTLAND) BILL: CALL FOR VIEWS**

**Closes: 12 January 2024**

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee has launched a call for views inviting people and organisations across Scotland to share their views on the Social Security (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill.

Social security legislation was devolved to the Scottish Government in 2016 and a legal framework to the Scottish Social Security system was introduced in 2018. This devolved 11 existing social security benefits from the Department of Work and Pensions to a new Scottish body, Social Security Scotland.

This new Bill proposes a range of changes, including creating a framework to introduce new social security benefits for children and care experienced people, changing rules about how people can challenge decisions made about social security assistance and repealing COVID measures that allowed people to make late applications.

### **NATIONAL SPECIFICATION FOR THE CARE AND TREATMENT OF EATING DISORDERS IN SCOTLAND**

**Closes: 24 January 2024**

The Scottish Government is looking for your views on eating disorder services across Scotland.

### **CONSULTATION LAUNCHED ON PENSION AGE WINTER HEATING PAYMENT**

**Closes: 15 January 2024**

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.

**[DELIVERING NET ZERO FOR SCOTLAND'S BUILDINGS - HEAT IN BUILDINGS BILL: CONSULTATION](#)**

**Closes: 8 March 2024**

The Scottish Government is seeking your views on proposals for greener and warmer buildings in Scotland. [The Heat in Buildings Bill: consultation](#) is open for responses until Friday 8 March 2024.

Clean heating systems will replace polluting heating systems in Scotland's homes and buildings by 2045 under proposals [published by the Scottish Government](#).

Under legislation to be introduced in 2025, those buying new homes or buildings would be asked to move to a "clean" heating system, such as a heat pump or connection to a heat network, within a fixed period of time following that purchase. Minimum energy efficiency standards for Scotland's homes could also be introduced to make them warmer and less expensive to heat.

**[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.