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**THIRD SECTOR NEWS**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO WILD SKIES SHETLAND FOR WINNING THE CREATIVE REGENERATION CATEGORY AT [SURF - SCOTLAND'S REGENERATION FORUM AWARDS](#)**

Creative Regeneration: [Wild Skies Shetland \(Unst, Shetland\)](#). Wild Skies Shetland encourages locals and visitors to appreciate Shetland's ever changing, beautiful, dramatic skies, whilst helping to improve the economic outlook for one of Shetland's poorer island communities.

The SURF Awards are delivered each year by SURF, a regeneration forum with over 300 cross-sector member organisations across Scotland, in partnership for 20 years with the Scottish Government. The purpose is to highlight, celebrate and share the achievements of initiatives that address physical, social and economic challenges in communities across Scotland, which is particularly prevalent given the impacts of the pandemic and the current cost for living crisis.

The five winning projects all demonstrate the value of a long-term approach to regeneration, with dedicated partners working strategically and inclusively to develop comprehensive plans and deliver real and sustainable benefits for all.

Find out more: [25th Anniversary SURF Award Winners Announced - SURF](#)

**LET'S BE HEARD: [SHARING SCOTLAND'S COVID EXPERIENCE IS THE SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY'S LISTENING PROJECT](#)**

**Closes: 20 December 2023**

Let's Be Heard is the main way in which people can contribute to the Inquiry's investigations and help inform its reports and recommendations. Everyone who was in Scotland between 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2022, or was affected by decisions made in Scotland during this time, is being invited to share their experiences of the pandemic with Let's Be Heard.

More than 4,000 people and organisations have already shared their experiences of the pandemic and the lessons they believe should be learned so that Scotland is better prepared in future. Find out the ways that individuals and groups can take part in Let's Be Heard by visiting <https://lbh.covid19inquiry.scot>.

You can also request materials or contact the team by:

- Emailing [LetsBeHeard@covid19inquiry.scot](mailto:LetsBeHeard@covid19inquiry.scot)
- Leaving a voicemail at 0808 175 5555
- Writing to us at Freepost SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

### [IS YOUR ONLINE ANNUAL RETURN DEADLINE COMING UP?](#)

Each year, every registered charity in Scotland must send OSCR a set of accounts, a trustees' annual report and an external scrutiny report. Charities submit this information by completing an online annual return using [OSCR Online](#).

OSCR requires this information within 9 months of a charity's 'year-end' date. For example, when a charity has a financial year-end of 31 March its deadline date is 31 December. A significant number of charities have a deadline between December and January. It is clearly marked on a charity's entry in the [Scottish Charity Register](#) if they have missed their deadline.

### **VIDEO: [TOP TIPS ON WHAT MAKES A GOOD, WELL-MANAGED CHARITY](#)**

In order to have a strong, resilient and well-managed charity, it's really important for trustees to understand their duties and responsibilities, and behave in a way that promotes good governance.

Watch this video on OSCR's top tips on what makes a good, well-managed charity and how trustees can effectively deal with some of the difficulties that often arise when managing a charity.

## RESOURCES

### **THE INDEPENDENT SCOTTISH COVID-19 INQUIRY'S LISTENING PROJECT, [LET'S BE HEARD](#)**

Since Spring 2023, Let's Be Heard has been gathering people's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic across Scotland. Ahead of our closing date (20 December 2023) we have two interesting updates to share with you and a final call to those who may want to share their experiences with the Inquiry: [LETS BE HEARD 1<sup>ST</sup> REPORT](#) and [VIDEO UPDATE](#)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES:**

- [Growing Climate Confidence](#) – a website which helps with aspects of internal climate work, plus a scorecard to identify quick wins.
- [Community Climate Adaptation Routemap](#) – details on how to cope with the changed climate.
- [Green Leases Toolkit](#) – how to negotiate a green lease for your organisation (for renters).
- [Climate Manifesto](#) – how climate change can impact your policy work.

## **SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION VIDEOS**

- [Nurturing Positive Relationships with Billy Burke](#)
- [How to Create More Trauma-Informed Responses in Schools with Gerry Diamond](#)
- [Every Act of Kindness Leaves a Trace! with Kevin Neary](#)
- [Ever Increasing Circles: How Family Support Ripples Out with Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs](#)
- [Mediation: A Success Story? with Alan Jeffrey](#)
- [Off Beat Relationships with Scott McEwen](#)
- [Unwrapping the Power of the Teenage Brain: A Neuroscience Perspective with Professor Judith Pratt](#)

## **[CITIZENS ADVICE SCOTLAND](#) / [SHETLAND ISLANDS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU](#) - WINTER SUPPORT AND ADVICE**

Winter can be a worrying time, with rising energy costs and low temperatures. You may be looking for resources to share with people you support. Citizens Advice Scotland and Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau has a range of resources available and can direct people to specialist services. Visit their website for free online advice, information about grants and benefits to help pay energy bills, their Money Map tool and much more.

## **[LIVED EXPERIENCE EXPERT PANEL AND STAKEHOLDER REGISTER - NOVEMBER MONTHLY BULLETIN](#)**

Bulletin is available in the link above. Please also see attached PDF.

## **[GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN SHETLAND](#)**

The Shetland Islands Council Coastal Communities Fund offers grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 to projects that support the community and economic development of Shetland by investing in infrastructure, community capacity building, developing community assets and encouraging inclusive growth.

**SCOTTISH RECOVERY NETWORK: [FREE PEER CONNECTS CONVERSATION STARTER KIT](#)**

This new mental health Conversation Starter Kit from Scottish Recovery Network is a great way to frame discussions about peer-led learning possibilities at your team meetings or development sessions. The Kit is split into four bitesize conversations. There is a short film to inspire your discussions and a practical resource for organisations and services who want to think differently about how they support mental health recovery.

**FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

# Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

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

**Friday 15th December  
2.30-4pm**

**\* Featuring Christmas nibbles, party games and festive cheer! \***  
**Future Dates:**  
**19th January & 16th February**



**For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964**



**HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS CLIMATE HUB: EVALUATION WORKSHOP, 14TH DECEMBER 2023, 12PM - 2PM**  
**IN PERSON: SCVO OFFICES, FAIRWAYS HOUSE, SLACKBUIE AVE, INVERNESS, IV2 6AA**  
**OR ONLINE VIA ZOOM**

The Highlands and Islands Climate Hub is currently undergoing an independent evaluation and helping to develop a Monitoring and Evaluation CAG framework for other climate hubs in Scotland. The Scottish Government has commissioned [CAG consultants](#) to assist with this research.

Join us in person or online for an engaging evaluation workshop. This 2-hour workshop is intended to collect information on:

- The overall impact of the hub to date
- How the hub is adding value to existing communities
- How the hub is contributing to a shift to low carbon and resilient communities,
- Begin discussing possible recommendations for the future of the programme.

This workshop is not just a platform to share insights; it's an opportunity to actively shape the future of the Scotland's climate hubs programme. Your experience, knowledge, and vision are crucial in this collaborative effort.

To attend the event, in person or online, please register your details [here](#) to confirm your place.

## **SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

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

- [How to have Difficult Conversations - Breakfast Session \(Tuesday, 20 February - 08:30\)](#)
- [Resilience: Bouncing Back - Lunchtime Session \(Wednesday, 28 February - 12noon\)](#)

### **ONLINE EVENTS FOR PARENTS/CARERS**

- [Resilience: Bouncing Back - Evening Session \(Tuesday, 16 January - 19:00\)](#)
- [How to have Difficult Conversations - Evening Session \(Thursday, 25 January - 19:00\)](#)
- [Understanding Anger - Lunchtime Session \(Tuesday, 6 February - 12noon\)](#)

Sessions will be delivered on the online platform Zoom, by the SCCR trainer. If you book on to our events you will be sent the details on how to join nearer the time to the event when bookings have closed and a full PDF document with all the information you need to know will be emailed to you. Sessions are at an introductory level and no prior knowledge of the subject is required.

## **ABILITY SHETLAND - UPCOMING SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

### **Family Christmas Party**

Ability Shetland are holding their Family Christmas Party in Sandveien Neighbourhood Centre on Saturday the 16th of December from 10am-1pm. Bouncy castle, disco room, homebakes, Santa's Grotto and much more. Pop in anytime.

### **Festive Drop In**

Come along and join us on Friday the 29th of December for our Festive Drop in at Quoys Lerwick Baptist Church from 10am-4pm. Drop in anytime for a hot drink and activities. Soup will be served at lunch time. No cost to participate. Activities will be on throughout the day.

### **Active Winter Sessions**

The Active Winter Sessions will be every Friday (with the exception of the 22nd and 29th of December) from 11-1pm in Islesburgh. Activities will be followed by a free hot drink and soup.

### **Rebel Fitness ASN Sensory Christmas Party**

Rebel Fitness have their Christmas Party on Wednesday the 20th of December at Quoys Lerwick Baptist Church 7pm-8.30pm. Come along and join them for dancing and singing to all your favourite Christmas songs. £10 per a person.

### **Secondary Boccia Competition**

The second Secondary Boccia Competition will be held on Thursday the 25th of January in Brae High School Games Hall. Open to anyone aged 12 to 18 years old. This competition is a qualifier for the National Schools Boccia Competition. To register please contact

[charis.scott3@shetland.org](mailto:charis.scott3@shetland.org)

### **Shetland Boccia Club**

The last Shetland Boccia Club before Christmas will now be the 8th of December. The club is on from 4.30pm-5.30pm in Clickimin.

For more information please contact Charis Scott, Sports Development Coordinator- Ability Shetland, email: [Charis.Scott3@shetland.org](mailto:Charis.Scott3@shetland.org), Tel 01595 743929 or 07493528917

## **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 \(Stranraer\)](#)

## **YOUTHVIP ONLINE TRAINING: 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

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

#### [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.