



CONTENTS:

- **THIRD SECTOR NEWS**
- **NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR**
- **RESOURCES**
- **FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**
- **CLIMATE /ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**
- **JOB/VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES**
- **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS – INCLUDING CONSULTATIONS**

THIRD SECTOR NEWS
<p><u>HELP IMPROVE CHARITY BANKING ACROSS THE UK - 2026 BANKING SURVEY</u> Charity Finance Group (CFG) has launched the 2026 charity banking survey to explore your experiences of banking services. Your responses will provide powerful evidence to drive change with banks, regulators and government. The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete and all data will be anonymised. The findings will shape CFG's policy work and practical resources to better support charities across the UK. Complete the survey here.</p>
<p><u>GRANT-MAKING TRUST AND FOUNDATION SURVEY 2026</u> The Charity Excellence Framework has launched their 2026 grant-making trust and foundation survey. They are keen to hear about your experiences and which funders are your favourites. Complete the survey here.</p>
<p><u>VOLUNTARY SECTOR LEADERS OPPOSE 'EARNED SETTLEMENT' PROPOSALS</u> The Home Office is consulting on earned settlement, which would link volunteering to permanent residence in the UK. Volunteer Scotland warn that this would compromise volunteering's voluntary nature and strain voluntary organisations.</p>
<p><u>2026: THE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER YEAR (IVY)</u> The United Nations has declared 2026 as the International Year of Volunteers for Sustainable Development. It's a call to governments, organisations and communities worldwide to champion volunteerism in all its forms.</p>

THE COMPASS CENTRE - COMMUNITY SURVEY

[HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE WORK! TAKE PART IN OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TO SHARE YOUR VIEWS AND INFORM OUR UPCOMING STRATEGY](#)

The Compass Centre is developing our new strategy and recognise the importance of making sure priorities are shaped by the community we serve. Sexual violence affects individuals, families, and communities, and we believe meaningful change happens when a wide range of voices are heard. By sharing your views in this survey, you're helping us understand the issues that matter most here in Shetland, what kind of support is most needed, and how our organisation can best support survivors of sexual violence, along with driving positive behaviour change in our community.

Everyone is welcome to complete this survey, regardless of personal experience. Your answers will remain anonymous and there's no expectation for you to share any personal details or anything that feels difficult. **Complete the survey [here](#)**. Closes to responses at midnight this Sunday 15th Feb.

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)

[WEBINAR – GETTING YOUR CHARITY ACCOUNTS RIGHT: A GUIDE FOR SMALLER CHARITIES, TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2026, TIME: 1PM-2PM, ONLINE](#)

Every year, each charity registered in Scotland must send OSCR an online annual return, along with annual accounts, a Trustees' Annual Report and an external scrutiny report. This is a legal requirement, and charities must send this information to us within 9 months of their financial year-end date. To help smaller charities get this right, we're hosting a webinar led by OSCR's accounting experts. We'll explain what to include (and what not to include) in your accounts, with clear examples tailored for small charities.

RESOURCES

[SCOTLAND'S RURAL VOICE REPORT](#)

Diffley Partnership has released a report based on responses from over 3,000 people across rural Scotland. It offers insights into the needs and perspectives of these communities, helping organisations that involve volunteers in rural areas better understand and support them. Read the report: [Rural Survey - VFINAL - 251203](#)

RACIAL INEQUALITY IN SCOTLAND: STATE OF THE NATION

The Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights has published a robust evidence base to inform policy and practice from an anti-racist perspective. This is key reading for all volunteer organisers looking to build anti-racist volunteer programmes. Read the report: [State of the Nation 2025 - Vol 1](#)

PARENTAL EMPLOYABILITY AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT CAMPAIGN

[Parent Club](#) have launched a new campaign to help families who are struggling and feel overwhelmed by the pressures brought on by the current economic crisis. The campaign reassures parents that they are not alone, builds confidence that support is available, and encourages them to take a first step towards improving their family's financial situation. It also helps raise awareness of the support that is available to families on [the Parent Club website](#).

UK GOVERNMENT SKILLS BURSARIES

These grants provide of up to £1,000 for people seeking to grow their expertise in **community heritage work**. Open to applicants at any stage of their personal or professional journey, these bursaries can be used for training, mentoring, attending workshops, or other professional development activities related to heritage and community engagement to be determined by you. Offered on a rolling basis, Skills Bursaries are designed to be accessible and responsive, helping to build confidence and capacity across the sector—particularly among those who may not have had access to such opportunities before. **Closing date 03/07/27**

INTRODUCING THE SCOTTISH PEACE PLATFORM

The Scottish Peace Platform (SPP) is a new initiative, supported by the Scottish Government, that brings together people and organisations working for peace in Scotland. The network aims to connect, support, and strengthen Scotland's peace sector, helping members have a bigger impact both at home and abroad. SPP members include a mix of groups and individuals, from universities and charities to international organisations and communities, all working on peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The platform is run by **Beyond Borders Scotland** and **Edinburgh Law School**.

CHARITY INSURANCE GUIDE: HOW TO GET THE BEST DEAL - ETHICAL PROPERTY FOUNDATION

The guide is designed to help trustees and managers understand what their insurance really covers, avoid common mistakes, and make sure their charity is properly protected – without paying more than necessary. It includes practical questions charities should ask about their policies, typical gaps in cover, and how changes to buildings, assets, or activities can affect risk.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND FORTHCOMING TRAINING

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES, WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 6PM - 8PM, IN PERSON AT MARKET HOUSE

This course highlights the importance of risk assessment and how it can be implemented and reviewed within a community facility.

LEGAL STRUCTURES, MONDAY 2ND MARCH, 6PM – 8PM, IN PERSON AT MARKET HOUSE

This course will discuss common structures for third sector and voluntary organisations and help you choose the right structure for your organisation.

See the full list of training at: [Voluntary Action Shetland Training](#)

VOLUNTEER SCOTLAND DISCLOSURE SERVICES (VSDS): FREE ONLINE OR IN-PERSON TRAINING!

Free, regularly scheduled training sessions, both online and in person, for all VSDS enrolled organisations.

[PVG – YOUR ROLE AS A SIGNATORY](#) : [BOOK HERE](#).

A session designed to support all Lead and Additional signatories, whether you are new to the role, about to step into the role or are interested in finding out more about what the role of being a signatory involves. All of our online sessions are hosted via MS Teams and last for 2hours (times vary). Next available dates are:

- Tue, 24th Feb, 2pm - 4pm
- Tue, 10th March, 10am - 12pm
- Tue, 24th March, 2pm - 4pm

[REGULATED ROLES](#) : [BOOK HERE](#)

The Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 introduces 'regulated roles' to define whether PVG scheme membership is required when working with children and/or protected adults. This replaces and expands on the previous definition of regulated work. The session covers regulated roles with children and protected adults – who can join the scheme?, your legal requirements, regulated roles and exceptions, key changes and more.

All of our online sessions are hosted via MS Teams and last for 2hours (times vary). Next available dates are:

- Wed, 25th Feb, 2pm - 4pm
- Wed, 11th March, 10am - 12pm
- Wed, 25th March, 2pm - 4pm

[RECRUITMENT AND REFERRALS](#) : [BOOK HERE](#)

An information session looking at your organisations recruitment process which includes PVG scheme applications and your legal requirement to submit referrals to Disclosure Scotland if the criteria are met. All of our online sessions are hosted via MS Teams and last for 2hours (times vary). Next available dates are:

- Thu, 26th Feb, 2pm - 4pm
- Thu, 12th March, 10am - 12pm
- Thu, 26th March, 2pm - 4pm

[EQUALLY SAFE IN PRACTICE](#) (ESIP) ARE HOSTING A NEW LEARNING SERIES: FRESH PERSPECTIVES

All the information about the series, including upcoming webinars, is included in the attached document.

- Making the Links – Women Affected by Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Thursday 11th March 2026, 12 - 1.30pm, [Book your place here](#)
- A Journey Towards Change – Housing, VAWG and Strengthening Practice, Monday 16th March 2026, 1 – 2.15 pm, [Book your place here](#)
- Addressing Men's Violence Against Women and Girls Through Primary Prevention: Engaging Young Men, [Book your place here](#)

ETHICAL PROPERTY FOUNDATION WEBINAR: [HOW TO CONDUCT A RISK ASSESSMENT, THURSDAY 19TH MARCH 2026, 12:00 – 1:00PM, \(ZOOM\)](#)

A free session from the Ethical Property Foundation on how to conduct a risk assessment of your charity building. Learn how to identify and reduce risks, understand your legal responsibilities, and take practical steps to keep your premises safe for everyone who uses them. This webinar is ideal for trustees, managers, and anyone responsible for a charity building or community space.

THE ALLIANCE: [SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH HUSTINGS, 09/03/2026 AT 1:00PM - 2:30PM, ONLINE](#)

The event will bring together Scotland's political leaders to discuss their vision for mental health ahead of the Scottish Parliament election. This would be of interest to individuals with lived experience, people working across health and social care, and organisations involved in policy, practice and advocacy.

RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NETWORK: [AI & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY, TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2026, 14:00–15:30](#)

Learn about how digital technology and AI can help your social enterprise save time and do more for your community. We'll be covering some practical tips and examples, plus more details on the expert support available.

[SCVO - MEET THE FUNDER WITH CREATIVE SCOTLAND, 10:00-11:00, 3 MARCH 2026, ONLINE](#)

Meet the Funder session with Creative Scotland to learn about their open funding programmes and how they support culture and creativity across Scotland. Attendees will gain an overview of Creative Scotland's main funding opportunities and how these can support creative projects and organisations across Scotland. The session will highlight the types of activity that can be funded and provide practical advice on making strong applications.

[SCVO: MEET THE FUNDER WITH ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CAPITAL, 11:00-12:00, 7 APRIL 2026, ONLINE, FREE](#)

Meet the Funder webinar with Tracy Thomson Loan Officer from Social and Community Capital - a charity funded by the Royal Bank of Scotland that supports social enterprises, charities and community organisations who can't access mainstream finance. Tracy will introduce Social and Community Capital's range of loan options designed to meet different organisational needs, including:

- Property Purchase Loan - for buying or renovating a property
- Flexible Growth Funding - for organisations looking to grow and increase their impact
- Working Capital Loan - to smooth cashflow and cover essential running costs
- Bridging Loan - to help manage VAT payments or overheads before grant funding is received

[SCOTLAND'S MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES STRATEGY SYMPOSIUM 2026 \(IN PERSON OR ONLINE\), 4 MARCH, 2026 9:00AM – 5PM, FREE](#)

This event is open to all those who volunteer, work in, and collaborate with Scotland's museums and galleries. It offers an excellent opportunity to learn about sector initiatives, engage with topical discussions, and network with colleagues. Attendees can look forward to a programme packed with panel sessions, knowledge-sharing opportunities, and workshops designed to provide inspiration and practical advice across the priority areas of [the Strategy for Scotland's Museums and Galleries](#).

Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

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

Friday 20th February
2.30–4.00pm

Featuring a chance to
chat and to try Boccia

Future Dates:
20th March &
17th April



For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964

A project supported by Voluntary Action Shetland Charitable Company limited by guarantee SC165677 Scottish Charity no. SC017286



Improvement Service, NHS Education for Scotland and COSLA

BUILDING CAPABILITIES, STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES: THE ADDED VALUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. A FREE HUMAN RIGHTS CAPABILITY BUILDING CONFERENCE, 13 MARCH, 9.30AM-4PM

Register to attend online or in person at COSLA Conference Centre Edinburgh

CYBER SCOTLAND WEEK 2026

Lead Scotland is hosting five free, accessible online webinars as part of Cyber Scotland Week, running from 23–27 February 2026.

Join us every day at 11am for simple, practical steps you can take to stay safe online, whether you're looking for a refresher or learning the basics for the first time. Designed for disabled people, suitable for everyone:

- 6 things to do for staying safe online, Monday 23 February 11:00-12:00
- Staying safe from phishing, Tuesday 24 February 11:00-12:00
- Staying safe on social media, Wednesday 25 February 11:00-12:00
- Staying safe from sextortion scams, Thursday 26 February 11:00-12:00
- Staying safe while shopping online, Friday 27 February 11:00-12:00
- Stay ahead of the game and keep yourself safe by signing up to our webinars.

[Register](#) to secure your free place and let us know about any accessibility requirements

See the full range of events here: [CyberScotland Week - Cyber Scotland](#)

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)

[MASTERCLASS - BOOST YOUR CUSTOMER BASE- STRENGTHEN YOUR COMPETITIVE EDGE WITH PRACTICAL AI, 4TH MARCH, 9AM – 1PM, ISLESBURGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, FREE](#)

This hands-on workshop is ideal for anyone who wants to use AI to understand their competitors, deepen customer insight, and make smarter strategic decisions that drive real growth.

TOURISM SUSTAINABILITY STARTS HERE WEBINAR: THURSDAY 19 AND TUESDAY 24 FEB – ONLINE

Tourism sustainability starts here: turning your ambition into action

Sustainability is both a growing opportunity and an increasing responsibility for tourism businesses across the Highlands and Islands. To help you take practical, achievable steps, we're offering an online sustainability webinar delivered by Green Business UK.

Join us for a friendly, hands-on session focused on areas relevant to your business, quick wins and local case studies. There are two dates to offer maximum flexibility.

[Tourism sustainability starts here webinar 1 | HIE, 10.30am - 12.30pm, Thursday 19th February](#)

[Tourism sustainability starts here webinar 2 | HIE, Tuesday 24th February 2.30pm – 4.30pm](#)

Business Gateway

[AN INTRODUCTION TO AI AND ITS OPPORTUNITIES - ONLINE EXECUTIVE BRIEFING, WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026 FROM 10AM TO 11AM \(FREE\)](#)

This one-hour online briefing helps business leaders understand what artificial intelligence (AI) is, how it could benefit their organisation, and what steps they can take next.

It offers executives a clear overview of the AI landscape, including practical examples and guidance on identifying opportunities within a small or medium-sized business (SME).

[WELLBEING FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, FEB 24 FROM 10AM TO 11:30AM GMT, FREE, ONLINE](#)

A well-being workshop designed for you for the start of 2026, focusing on self-support strategies for both good and challenging times.

Join us for this engaging session tailored for rural Scottish small business owners, where we'll explore ways to enhance well-being and build resilience. This session will be presented by GrowBiz Mentoring Coordinator Shareon Gordon who also runs her own business in health and wellbeing.

[SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND: HOW TO USE LINKEDIN TO GROW INCOME | FREE WEBINAR, 25 FEBRUARY, 12PM -1PM](#)

In this one-hour free webinar from Social Enterprise Scotland, Michelle Benson will show how social enterprises can use LinkedIn strategically to increase visibility and attract the right attention - opening income opportunities without salesy posts, cold messages, or constant posting.

SCVO WEBINAR: [CHARITY TAX AND VAT, 13:00-14:00, 3 MARCH 2026, ONLINE](#)

Join SCVO and AZETS on this interactive webinar where you'll hear the latest updates and insights on VAT and tax developments for charities, and get hints and tips on VAT reliefs and recovery.

RURAL SOCIAL ENTERPRISE HUB

ENGAGING YOUNG VOLUNTEERS: TURNING INTEREST INTO IMPACT, WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2026, 10:30AM - 12:00PM

Learn how to recruit, retain, and support young volunteers (aged 14–25). This session will be packed with practical advice shaped by the real-life experiences of young people. Whether you are just starting out or want to improve your current setup, this session will be helpful for you.

FAIR WORK FESTIVAL 16TH TO 20TH MARCH 2026

The festival features a week-long programme of sessions designed to promote and support the increasing adoption of Fair Work practices by employers across Scotland.

Join Scottish Union of Supported Employment (SUSE) for [Fair Work in Action: Practical Steps through Supported Employment. Wednesday 18th March 10-11am, online \(Free\)](#). Discover how inclusive hiring through Supported Employment can boost your business, strengthen workplace culture, and deliver on Fair Work principles.

SCOTTISH COMMUNITY MEDIATION CENTRE - NEW TRAINING CALENDAR LAUNCHED FOR 2026

The Scottish Community Mediation Centre are pleased to announce the launch of our training calendar. For 2026 we have some exciting new workshops to offer, plus our popular and well-respected courses in mediation, conflict resolution and restorative skills. Below are a few highlights of the coming year.

MEDIATION ‘TASTER’ WORKSHOP (1.25 HOURS), DATES: 22ND APRIL, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 8TH DECEMBER

Heard of mediation but not sure what it means? This short workshop explores some of the principles of mediation and outlines the process.

INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE SKILLS (1.25 HOURS), DATES: 29TH APRIL, 16TH SEPTEMBER

This ‘taster’ workshop provides a short introduction to the definitions used in the restorative world, together with some of the practical skills that restorative practitioners need.

INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE PRACTICE (1 DAY), DATES: 20TH MAY, 21ST OCTOBER

Based on our well-respected and accredited six-day Restorative Skills course, this workshop provides managers, team leaders and workers an understanding of:

- the restorative process
- restorative skills required of a facilitator
- an outline of the restorative meeting

For more information on any of these courses and how to book a place, [visit our calendar now!](#)

DIGITAL CONFIDENCE PROGRAMME: FREE!

Won Connect are running a FREE 4-month course on digital skills, fully funded by the People's Postcode Trust, starting March 2026. This programme will cover digital skills such as online security, finances, professional communication, universal credit access, and a practical introduction to AI. The course offers structured weekly classes and hands-on weekly drop-in sessions. This programme is completely **FREE** and fully funded by the [People's Postcode Trust](#). You can sign up for the full programme or just the specific sessions that interest you. Check the form below

BRAINSTORM YOUR BRAND COMMS: A FREE PROBLEM-SOLVING Q&A WORKSHOP FOR SOCIAL IMPACT ORGANISATIONS IN SCOTLAND, THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY, 9.15AM - 12PM, ZOOM, PARTICIPANT NUMBERS: UP TO 6 PLACES AVAILABLE (FREE)

This workshop, delivered by Brand Developer & Designer, Adam Piggot, has been specially created for social impact organisations – charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary associations. Structured around questions that **you** bring to the session, the workshop is designed to generate ideas and suggestions that will help you address key issues around the communication of your brand.

SCOTTISH ADHD COALITION CONFERENCE IN SHETLAND

The Scottish Coalition was established in 2017. The mission of the coalition is

- To raise awareness of ADHD and of the voluntary support groups available to parents and people with ADHD across Scotland;
- To build the capacity of leaders of voluntary ADHD groups to run effective, sustainable support in their local areas by sharing ideas, resources, and encouragement between groups;
- To represent the views of our member groups and the people they support and provide a platform for joint campaigning to improve diagnosis and support for people with ADHD and their families across Scottish public services, including the NHS, education, local authorities, police and the criminal justice system. We will do this in partnership with other organisations wherever possible and appropriate.

Bill, Alison and Lorna are taking the time to come to Shetland in person to deliver these short sessions. They will also be attending the Third Sector Forum as part of their visit, to inform the forum of their aims and objectives, and also to spend time with Ability Shetland to provide support and information to begin setting up local ADHD support groups.

If you would like to book a space on the conference, then please email abilityshetland@shetland.org.



Scottish ADHD Coalition

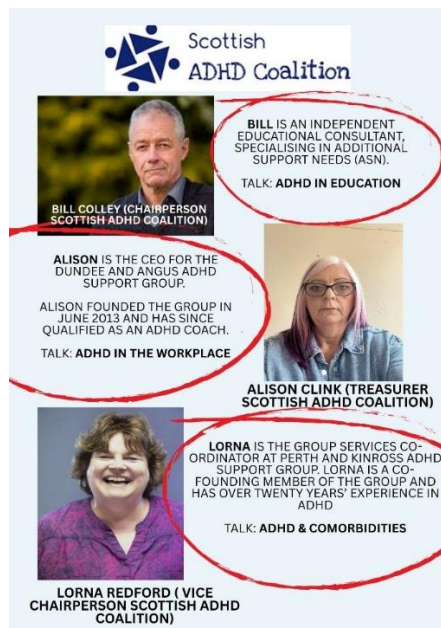
Ability Shetland - working together

ADHD CONFERENCE SHETLAND

MARKET HOUSE, LERWICK

5TH MARCH 2025 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

- 10:15 - 11:15 ADHD in the Workplace
- 11:15 - 12:15 ADHD in Education
- 12:15 - 1PM LUNCH
- 1 - 2PM ADHD & Comorbidities
- 2 - 2.30PM Networking



Scottish ADHD Coalition

BILL COLLEY (CHAIRPERSON SCOTTISH ADHD COALITION)
BILL IS AN INDEPENDENT EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT, SPECIALISING IN ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS (ASN).
TALK: ADHD IN EDUCATION

ALISON CLINK (TREASURER SCOTTISH ADHD COALITION)
ALISON IS THE CEO FOR THE DUNDEE AND ANGUS ADHD SUPPORT GROUP.
ALISON FOUNDED THE GROUP IN JUNE 2013 AND HAS SINCE QUALIFIED AS AN ADHD COACH.
TALK: ADHD IN THE WORKPLACE

LORNA REDFORD (VICE CHAIRPERSON SCOTTISH ADHD COALITION)
LORNA IS THE GROUP SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR AT PERTH AND KINROSS ADHD SUPPORT GROUP. LORNA IS A CO-FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE GROUP AND HAS OVER TWENTY YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN ADHD.
TALK: ADHD & COMORBIDITIES

SCOTTISH PERSONAL LICENCE HOLDER COURSE AND REFRESHER, SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026, TIME: 9.30-3.30PM, CUNNINGSBURGH HALL

This course covers all aspects of Licensing and includes the formal Examination Price of the course –Personal Licence Holder Course - £90 + £18 Reg and Cert per person. Refresher Course £68 + £18 Reg and Cert. For more information contact: Donna Maver on 01569 785696 or email info@dmtraining.org

**FREE
TRAINING**



ASIST

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training

**North
Mainland**

ASIST is a 2 day face-to-face workshop that provides participants with practical skills and knowledge to effectively recognise those who may be at risk of suicide and conduct a suicide intervention

WHEN: Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th February 2026

WHERE: Voe Public Hall

TIME: 9 - 5pm (both days)

BOOKING: Contact Health Improvement Team:
Phone: 01595 74 3330
Email: shet.healthyshetland@nhs.scot



We are delivering ASIST training in local communities, for local communities. This training is open to anyone - whether it is for your personal interest & skills or in a work capacity.

This free training has been made possible by the generous donations made by the Shetland community.



1-DAY HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEALTH INEQUALITIES AWARENESS WORKSHOP (WITH MAT STANDARDS) (FREE)

Friday, February 13th, MS Teams, 10am-3pm (45min lunch), 15 participants per workshop
Or

Wednesday, March 18th, MS Teams, 10am-3pm (45min lunch), 15 participants per workshop

This workshop helps participants understand the way that human rights, advocacy, and health inequalities relate to their workplace and lives. We will cover the MAT standards, and other relevant standards, guidelines, and legislation. Participants will leave with an improved understanding of how to embed a human rights-based approach, with tools and frameworks for improving local service delivery.

Suitable for: Staff across the health and social care workforce including frontline staff, community groups, statutory services, third-sector organisations, those with lived/living experience, family members, and decision makers

Individuals can secure a place by emailing Nicky.Collins@nhs.scot

TRAINING COURSES FROM [PLANNING AID SCOTLAND](#)

A new programme of free training funded by [the Scottish Government](#) through the [National Planning Hub](#)

All the courses are currently operating a waiting list. However, people signing up should have access to the recording of the training.

The training is free and open to anyone across Scotland. It provides a clear introduction to engaging with the planning system, with a particular focus on renewable energy, community engagement and place-based planning. The sessions are available to any community or individuals across Scotland who want to engage more confidently in decisions that affect their places. The programme includes the following sessions:

- [How to engage your community: A practical introduction](#)
- [Understanding renewable energy and planning: Part 1](#)
- [Understanding renewable energy and planning: Part 2](#)
- [Local Place Plans: Knowing the essentials](#)
- [Ask Away: Local Place Plans](#)
- [Beyond the survey: Creative approaches to community engagement](#)
- [Where water meets land: Offshore wind & how it connects to the grid](#)
- [Understanding the electricity network & how power line routes are chosen](#)
- [How to create your project management plan](#)
- [Online & engaged: Learn how to use Placecheck](#)
- [How to analyse community feedback](#)
- [How to benefit from a renewable energy as a community](#)

Planning Aid Scotland

This is a one-off programme of sessions and will not be repeated, so we encourage early booking. All sessions will be delivered in early 2026 and will be recorded – WATCH HERE: [Planning Aid Scotland's YouTube channel](#) (available to rewatch for three months after delivery).

If you have any questions or accessibility requirements, please contact our Planning & Projects Officer Anne Kripler at anne@pas.org.uk


#VILLAGEHALLSWEEK2026 RUNS 16–22 MARCH 2026!


Celebrate the vital role your hall plays in your community's health and wellbeing. This UK-wide campaign is run by [ACRE](#), in partnership with [Scottish Rural Action](#) and [WCVA](#). Highlights of the week:

- Thematic events: [Scottish Rural Action](#) and [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) will run two events for Community Spaces Network members. Sign up to the network and receive registration details: [Thematic Social Enterprise Networks - Register your Interest](#).
- Resources: SRA and partners will release useful resources including the latest [Village Halls Handbook](#) edition, with guidance on governance, facilities, funding, net zero, and more.

[SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID \(SMHFA\) COURSES ARE RETURNING TO SHETLAND IN JUNE 2026 - \(LIMITED EARLY BIRD OFFER AVAILABLE UNTIL 13 FEBRUARY\)](#)

Early bird prices (until 13 February)

 £175 per person (full price £210)

 £800 for 5 places (full price £950)

Course dates

- 18 & 19 June 2026 - Islesburgh
- 20 & 21 June 2026 - Clickimin

✎ Discount codes to use at booking:

- **EBPLACE** – single place
 - **EBGROUP** – 5 place group booking
- book at: www.chrisgrantgla.com/courses
Invoicing also available

I'll be delivering two courses to offer flexibility - one weekday and one weekend course.

Both courses require 2 days attendance

If you'd like to discuss group bookings, **would prefer an invoice** or have any questions before committing, feel free to get in touch - **Chris Grant**, contact@chrisgrantgla.com

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

[TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY | 1.30PM, THEMATIC WORKSHOP: LIVED EXPERIENCE PANELS](#)

Lived Experience Panels can make a big difference to how we plan and deliver public and community services. And that, in turn, can truly transform people's experience of accessing these services. This thematic workshop will provide a safe space to explore top tips from experienced Lived Experience Panel participants and hosts, helping you avoid common mistakes and get off to a good start, or rebuild a flagging group.

THRE TRAINING COMING UP SOON:

[VOLUNTEERING - A HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES FIRST APPROACH](#), 16 FEBRUARY, 1PM-4PM, ONLINE ON ZOOM

[LUNCHTIME WEBINAR: DEMANDING BETTER IN 2026](#), 17 FEBRUARY, 12.30PM – 1.30PM, ONLINE ON ZOOM

**[PANEL WORKSHOP: A HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES FIRST APPROACH](#)
18 FEBRUARY, 10AM-1PM, ONLINE ON ZOOM**

CYRENIANS SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION: FREE ONLINE EVENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS AND PRACTITIONERS

[UNDERSTANDING EMOTIONS AND ANGER, WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY, 8.30AM, ONLINE](#)

'Understanding Emotions and Anger' will introduce you to primary and secondary emotions, emotions we present and emotions we feel. It demonstrates how the process of anger works, its trigger, escalation, release, de-escalation and resolve.

[HOW TO HAVE THAT DIFFICULT CONVERSATION, TUESDAY, 3 MARCH, 12PM, ONLINE](#)

Join our free online session to build confidence, resilience, and compassion while strengthening relationships and improving communication.

[THE CRANIAL COCKTAIL, TUESDAY, 19 MARCH, 12PM, ONLINE](#)

Participants will learn how physical feelings and neurochemicals influence emotional states and mental and physical health, with joining details provided by email before the event.

**LIVING WELL HUB BRESSAY, SPELDIBURN, WEDNESDAY MORNING 9.15AM – 11.15AM
AND LIVING WELL HUB SCALLOWAY - WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON 2-4PM**

Due to current restraints these Living Well Hubs will be suspended for the rest of 2025.

**LIVING WELL HUB, BRAE COMMUNITY HALL, CLUB ROOM, FRIDAY 10AM – 4PM
Brae Community Hall, in the Club Room between 10am – 4pm on Friday's.**

The Living Well Hub is based at the **Brae Community Hall, in the Club Room** and open on Friday's between **10am – 2pm**. [Living Well, Advice & Support – Shetland Islands Council](#) please pop along for a cuppa, a chat or to browse the leaflets that we hold.

The community cupboard is currently located in the side porch at the hall, please pop along if you are needing any food supplies.

Friday 20th February

- **SIC Adult Learning** will be on hand to help support you with your basic digital skills between 10am and 1230pm. They can give advice on Internet Security, setting up devices, operating apps and many other IT queries
- 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/>

CLS Living Well Hub@Community Care Social Work livingwellhub@shetland.gov.uk
The Hub is contactable Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, 01595744120

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Through **writing a story about climate change**, you can help shape new research at the University of Glasgow into what people in Scotland think and feel about the changing climate and whether this has an impact on their mental health or emotional wellbeing. You don't need to have previous writing experience or be an expert on climate change – just an interest in sharing your perspective through creative writing.

- ✓ Stories can be up to 1,000 words
- ✓ Fiction or nonfiction welcome
- ✓ Open to anyone aged 18+ currently living in Scotland
- 📅 Deadline: 28 February 2026

👉 Learn more about the research and submit your story: www.climatestories.co.uk

[NATIONAL CLIMATE AND NATURE HUSTINGS, 24TH FEBRUARY, 6:00PM ARRIVAL FOR 6:30PM START, 8PM FINISH, IN PERSON AND ONLINE. REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL.](#)

Join Stop Climate Chaos Scotland on Tuesday, 24th February — the National Climate and Nature Hustings ahead of the 2026 Scottish elections. This event gives the chance to hear from and quiz representatives of the main political parties on the climate and nature action they would take if elected.

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

A hustings is a pre-election event which often has a particular focus, in this case nature and climate, and they feature leading representatives or local candidates of political parties. Everyone can participate in a hustings. Signing up is worthwhile even if you don't have a specific question but want to find out more about the positions of parties or candidates on a particular issue.

Five of Scotland's diverse campaigning networks, representing hundreds of organisations, are teaming up to host the National Climate and Nature Hustings ahead of the 2026 Scottish elections: [Stop Climate Chaos Scotland](#), [Our Seas Coalition](#), [Scottish Environment LINK](#), [Scottish Food Coalition](#), and [Scottish Rewilding Alliance](#)

[ONLINE TRAINING FROM TRANSITION TURRIEFIELD](#)

Seven online sessions which can be booked separately or as a block – for info and booking go to: <https://www.turriefieldveg.co.uk/events/>**

1. **Getting Started** 7pm, Wednesday 18th February 2026 - Choosing where to grow; the difference between containers/pots, raised beds and ground level plots. Understanding soil, soil health and improvement. Buying seeds and transplants.
2. **Making it Work** 7pm, Wednesday 25th February 2026 - How plants grow and develop. Crop rotation, bed preparation, seed sowing and transplanting. When to harvest.
3. **Growing Undercover** 7pm, Wednesday 4th March 2026 - The impact of the polycrub/tunnel or greenhouse environment on plant growth and health. Watering, ventilation. problems and solutions
4. **Composting** 7pm, Wednesday 11th March 2026 - A little bit of science behind making compost. Choosing your container and site. What/what not to compost. Problems and solutions
5. **Organic Growing and Using No Dig** 7pm, Wednesday 18th March 2026 - Simple organic principles and how to apply them in practice. No Dig, what is it and how to get started. Alternatives to bulk green waste compost
6. **Pests, Diseases and Weeds** 7pm, Wednesday 25th March 2026 - Identification and the best way to deal with them to have healthy productive crops
7. **Extending the Season** 7pm, Wednesday 1st July 2026 - Choosing crops, planning and timings for growing through the winter, to have edibles available all year. This workshop is run when growers should be thinking of sowing for crops for winter and spring harvest.

Support from Highlands and Islands Enterprise

[CLIMATE SPRINGBOARD: FREE NET ZERO SUPPORT](#)

Join HIE's free six-week online programme to kick-start your net zero journey. Climate Springboard helps SMEs, social enterprises and community organisations across the Highlands and Islands measure carbon emissions, create a compliant footprint, and build a practical action plan. You'll gain expert guidance, quick-win tips to cut costs, and access to a growing network of like-minded organisations. [Find out more.](#)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

SHETLAND ISLANDS CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

WELFARE RIGHTS ADVISER

Fixed-term contract to end March 2029 (extension subject to funding)

Salary £35,325 - £38,661 per annum

There's never been a more important time to work for Shetland Islands CAB. We are looking for an enthusiastic and highly motivated individual with experience of providing advice and supporting vulnerable people to join us as a Welfare Rights Adviser. The post has a particular focus on the provision of benefits advice, with the aim of supporting vulnerable clients. If you are interested in helping those most in need within the Shetland community, we'd like to hear from you.

For full details and to apply see: www.shetlandcab.org.uk/careers

Please note that CVs will not be accepted.

For an informal discussion call Della Armstrong, Bureau Manager, on 01595 743981.

Closing date: **Noon on Monday 2nd March 2026**

Interviews: Will be held on Wednesday 4th March 2026

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS

LEGISLATION

[Community Wealth Building \(Scotland\) Bill](#) – stage 3 proceedings scheduled for 10 February 2026

This bill would require Ministers to publish a community wealth building statement, which would set out the measures they intend to take in relation to community wealth building. It also proposes that each local authority would need to work with certain public bodies (such as health boards) in their areas to publish a community wealth building action plan for that area.

[Children \(Care, Care Experience and Services Planning\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) – stage 2 to be completed by 20 February 2026

This bill seeks to make changes in the law in relation to the children's care system and to change who is responsible for the planning of children's services.

[Natural Environment \(Scotland\) Bill](#) – passed on 29 January 2026

This bill introduces measures to protect the natural environment. These include the introduction of targets to improve biodiversity; updates to the way national parks are run; and measures relating to the management of deer.

CALLS FOR VIEWS: [THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON A RANGE OF TOPICS:](#)

[CONSULTATION: WATER SERVICES: INVESTING IN AND PAYING FROM 2027V](#)

Closes 30 March 2026

Scottish Water supplies clean water to 97% of households and businesses in Scotland and provides wastewater services to 93%. Scottish Water is a public corporation accountable to the Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament. It is regulated to ensure services are efficient, meet mandatory standards and operate in an environmentally sustainable way. Customers fund these services and ongoing investment through charges collected alongside council tax. Plans for water and wastewater services are set in six-year regulatory cycles. This consultation focuses on planning for the next cycle (2027–2033).

[Read the consultation paper](#). The consultation paper contains full background information for this consultation. You may find it useful to read or refer to while responding.

[EXTENSION OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION IN \(SCOTLAND\) ACTS 2002 \(FOISA\) TO PRIVATE AND THIRD SECTOR PROVIDERS OF CARE HOME AND 'CARE AT HOME' SERVICES](#)

Closes: 30 Mar 2026

The Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) gives people important rights to ask for and receive information from government and public services in Scotland. In doing so it places clear obligations on Scottish public authorities to provide people with information about their work. Currently, FOISA applies to public authorities with a role in arranging or providing care services, such as local authorities and NHS Boards, but not to private or voluntary organisations delivering social care.

This consultation explores whether extending FOISA obligations to these providers would improve transparency and accountability. It also seeks views on the best approach to any extension of FOISA to ensure that this does not create an excessive burden on providers.