



## 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

### UPDATE FROM DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND

#### **Note on fees**

There will be no additional cost related to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) scheme five-year membership change on 1 April 2026 or the separate renewal process. You will continue to be charged per disclosure application for individuals in paid roles, as you are currently. Volunteer disclosure applications will continue to be fee waived. [Read more here.](#)

#### **Renewal process will be separate from PVG scheme application process**

Renewing your PVG scheme membership will not be the same as applying for a disclosure, these processes will be separate. Renewals will be made through your online account - with an offline process in place for anyone who is unable to use the digital service. Every five years, you will have to renew your PVG scheme membership. You can [read more here.](#)

#### **No change to current application process**

The 1 April 2026 update does not impact your current application processes. Please do not apply for a PVG scheme application earlier than you would usually or change how often you would apply. You should continue to submit your applications as you normally would.

#### **1 April 2026 and moving existing PVG scheme members to a five-year membership**

From 1 April 2026, applications made to the PVG scheme will move individuals over to a five-year membership, ending their lifetime membership. Those who do not make an application will be moved to a five-year membership by Disclosure Scotland. You do not need to do anything, and Disclosure Scotland will contact scheme members before they intend to move you. Disclosure Scotland's email notifications will be updated to reflect the five-year membership period

## **RESEARCH SURVEY CALL OUT – DISABLED, NEURODIVERSE, BLIND OR VISUALLY IMPAIRED, D/DEAF PARTICIPANTS**

**Closes 31 March 2026**

Lead Scotland are looking for disabled people, neurodiverse people, blind or visually impaired people, D/deaf people or people who have long term physical or mental health conditions to complete a short survey, telling us about their experiences with cyber crime and online safety.

- The survey has 22 questions, and will take about 15 minutes to complete.
- You DO NOT have to have had an experience with cyber crime to complete the survey.

Complete the survey here: <https://www.lead.org.uk/2026/03/10/cyber-research/>

## **JOIN THE SCOTTISH THIRD SECTOR TRACKER COMMUNITY**

The Scottish Third Sector Tracker is a growing community of voluntary sector organisations from across Scotland who regularly share their insights, challenges, and support needs through a short survey twice a year. By taking part, your organisation helps build a powerful, collective picture of the sector – one that directly informs national decision making and ensures the voices of charities, community groups, and social enterprises are heard.

SCVO in collaboration with DJS Research, are now recruiting new organisations to join the Tracker community. To learn more about the project – including FAQs, previous findings, and how your participation makes a difference – please [visit SCVO's website](#).

**Register your interest today by [completing this short form](#).**

## **SHETLAND ENERGY RESEARCH WORKSHOPS, 27 & 28 MARCH 2026 IN LERWICK FROM 1:00 PM TO 5:30 PM**

A research team from the University of Bath and Cardiff University is currently recruiting participants for a research workshop exploring community perspectives on hydrogen and ammonia technologies and wider energy developments in the Shetland Islands. The workshops aim to understand Shetlanders' views on these developments and their expectations regarding community benefits, local value creation, and the broader energy transition.

The workshop will take place on **27 & 28 March 2026 in Lerwick from 1:00 PM to 5:30 PM**. It will bring together around **14 to 15 Shetland residents** to discuss how emerging energy developments may shape the future of their communities.

Participants will take part in facilitated discussions and will receive an **honarium payment of £60 for attending**.

We are contacting community organisations and local groups to help spread the word about this opportunity. If possible, we would be very grateful if you could share the attached pamphlet or the following registration link with people in your network who may be interested and who live in Shetland.

**Registration link:** <https://forms.office.com/e/19huiPzJ5W>

For more information contact: Dr M. Usman Siddiqi [muas21@bath.ac.uk](mailto:muas21@bath.ac.uk)

## **DEAFBLIND UK AND DEAFBLIND SCOTLAND LAUNCH NATIONAL USHER SYNDROME HELPLINE**

Deafblind UK and Deafblind Scotland announce the launch of a new Usher Syndrome Helpline, a dedicated national support service for people living with Usher syndrome and for families, carers and professionals supporting them. The free helpline is the first of its kind in the UK and has been created in response to demand for specialist, condition-specific support for people living with the combined impact of sight and hearing loss.

The helpline will operate Monday to Friday, 10AM – 1PM (excluding bank holidays) and will be available in both English and British Sign Language (BSL). The phone line is free to call and will act as a first point of contact for anyone affected by Usher syndrome – whether they have questions, need information and guidance, or simply want to talk to someone who understands.

Call free: 01733 973 500      Text: 07800 008 088

## **[YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND SURVEY - YOUTH WORK AND ONLINE LIVES](#)**

What do you think about a social media ban for under 16s? What will be the impact for young people and what are the issues that the youth work sector needs to engage with right now? Are there alternative approaches? This survey is for those who work with children and young people in Scotland. All responses will be anonymised. [Take the survey](#)

The UK Government is currently consulting on children and young people's social media use and exploring what further legislation is required and what further action they will take in this area. **This [survey](#) will be open until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Please make sure you also complete the [UK Government Consultation](#) as well as this survey by 26th May and encourage young people also to fill out the UK Government Consultation, they have a specific survey for young people aged 10-to-21.

## **[HELP IMPROVE CHARITY BANKING ACROSS THE UK - 2026 BANKING SURVEY](#)**

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](#).

## **NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR (OSCR)**

### **[CHANGES TO THE INFORMATION PUBLISHED ON THE OSCR WEBSITE FROM 9 MARCH 2026](#)**

On 9 March 2026, OSCR introduced some important changes to the information we publish about charities on the Scottish Charity Register. This will be the final set of changes resulting from the [Charities \(Regulation and Administration\) \(Scotland\) Act 2023](#), which aims to strengthen oversight and public trust in the charity sector.

From **9 March 2026**:

- The **first and last names** of charity trustees are now displayed on the charity's Register entry.
- **Every accounts document** submitted to OSCR from 9 March 2026 as part of a charity's online annual return will be published in full, without any redactions, on the Scottish Charity Register. Trustees will now be responsible for redacting sensitive information.

OSCR's session on key legislative changes to charity law is available to [watch on YouTube](#)

**WEBINAR: [ASK OSCAR WITH ICO, WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026, 1PM - 2PM, ONLINE](#)**

OSCR's next *Ask OSCAR* webinar will take place on **Wednesday 25 March at 1:00pm**, in partnership with the **Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)**. During this free online event, you'll hear from the ICO, who will provide an overview of data protection law, including the new marketing rules and where to find resources to support your organisation. The ICO will also cover key data protection principles, such as retention policies and privacy notices, individuals' information rights, and how to respond to a data breach. [Register here](#).

## RESOURCES

### **THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT HUMAN RIGHTS TRACKER**

The Scottish Government has launched a human rights tracker tool. Find out more here: [Human Rights Tracker](#)

### **[IMPACT WOMEN PROGRAMME](#)**

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) Impact Women programme offers free support to help female-led businesses in Scotland grow. This includes expert mentoring, online training and a final pitch event to practice your skills. [Find out more](#).

### **[GRANTNEST | FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CICS ALL IN ONE PLACE!](#)**

GrantNest are a small UK project that helps Community Interest Companies find funding opportunities they can actually apply for. Each month, they publish a free Grant Pack that highlights verified UK grants open to CICs. The grants are sourced directly from official funder websites and brought together in one place to make them easier to find.

### **[CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING \(CIOF\): SMALL CHARITIES COLLECTION](#)**

If you're fundraising for a small charity or voluntary organisation, access a wide range of CIOF fundraising resources for free. Their collection includes guides, templates, and practical tools to make fundraising easier and more effective. Also, consider CIOF organisational membership for access to additional resources and discounts. Learn more at [ciof.org.uk/library](http://ciof.org.uk/library)

### **CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION: [YOUR GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE RIGHT CHARITY BANKING PARTNER](#) (PDF)**

Using expert insights and practical tools, CAF Bank has put together this guide to help you find a banking partner that understands your unique needs.

### **[RNIB LAUNCH NEW SIGHT LOSS DATA TOOL](#)**

RNIB have launched a Sight Loss Data Tool to help people understand eye health and sight loss at a local level. This new data tool includes:

- Estimates for the number of people living with sight loss and specific eye conditions
- Health and social care activity data
- Local area data and risk factors that may influence an increased risk of eye health problems.

You can explore this data by nation, region, local authority or health board. These insights can then be printed, saved or shared with colleagues.

### **[UPDATED POLYPHARMACY GUIDANCE LAUNCHED TO SUPPORT SAFER, PERSON CENTRED CARE](#)**

Scotland's updated polypharmacy guidance has been published, strengthening national efforts to ensure people with multiple long-term conditions receive safe, effective and person-centred care. As populations age and multimorbidity becomes more common, many individuals are prescribed increasingly complex combinations of medicines. This can lead to poorer health outcomes, rising costs, and avoidable environmental impact; challenges that fall most heavily on those already facing disadvantage.

### **[SCVO REPORT: AI AND EVERYTHING ELSE](#)**

AI and everything else from the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) outlines what digital confidence looks like for Scotland's voluntary sector in 2026 and beyond. The report focuses on the practical foundations organisations need to get right and includes real examples and practical guidance.

### **[TOGETHER – SCOTTISH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS: STATE OF CHILDRENS RIGHTS REPORT 2026](#)**

This year's report is dedicated to exploring case studies of organisations across Scotland taking forward aspects of a children's human rights approach in their work, in the hope of sharing learning and ideas.

### **[A YOUNG WOMEN'S GUIDE TO MISINFORMATION - THE YOUNG WOMEN'S MOVEMENT](#)**

Do you know the difference between misinformation and disinformation? Do you know how to spot them? As the election draws closer, identifying mis- and disinformation are going to be important skills for those of us trying to sort the fact from the fiction. Learn how to feel confident in identifying misinformation and look after your wellbeing when doing so in this guide.

### **[CHARITIES AGAINST HATE | HOW TO RESPOND TO RACISM](#)**

The Directory of Social Change (DSC) has published a handbook called Charities Against Hate, offering advice to organisations on how to respond to racism and xenophobia. This resource aims to provide practical actions that charities can take to ensure their own safety and continued operation, to help them re-evaluate their strategic planning, and to join in solidarity with others to push back against racism and bigotry. Find the handbook [here](#)

## TRAINING AND EVENTS

### **DISABLED PEOPLE'S HUSTINGS WATCH PARTY, ISLESBURGH, ROOM 12, WEDNESDAY, MAR 25 FROM 6 PM TO 9 PM**

Shetland Community Connections and Ability Shetland are hosting a local “watch party” for **disabled people and their carers in Shetland**. This will be a satellite session for an event taking place in Edinburgh which is being run by Inclusion Scotland.

The main event will feature candidates from Scotland’s five main political parties and will be livestreamed on YouTube with captions and BSL interpretation. Can you please share this information with anyone you feel would be interested in attending? This is the link to book [Disabled People's Hustings Watch Party Tickets, Wednesday, Mar 25 from 6 pm to 9 pm | Eventbrite](#)

To enquire about transport please contact - [abilityshetland@shetland.org](mailto:abilityshetland@shetland.org) / 01595 743922

### **WEBINAR: [DEVELOPING COMMUNITY BUSINESS INCOME STREAMS, APRIL 8, 2026](#) 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM, FREE, ONLINE**

School for Social Entrepreneurs are hosting a webinar on community business trading models and a range of traded income streams - from products and services to memberships, events, space hire and partnerships. You’ll learn from real examples and what they have in common, like building on existing skills, facilities and local connections.

### **Social Enterprise Scotland**

#### **Upcoming Learning Exchange**

#### **[FLEXIBLE CHILDCARE SERVICES SCOTLAND \(FCSS\), THURSDAY 16 APRIL | 10AM - 3PM](#)**

An informal and interactive learning exchange to FCSS in Dundee. Working across the North East, FCSS create access to flexible, affordable and responsive childcare, education, services and wraparound support. A fantastic opportunity to connect, share learning and experiences.

**Funding is available to cover travel and accommodation costs for social/community enterprises. [Book here](#).**

#### **Supplying with Impact**

#### **[UNDERSTANDING NHS PROCUREMENT, WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL | 10.30 - 11.30AM, ONLINE](#)**

This webinar will provide social enterprises with a practical introduction to NHS procurement in Scotland. There will be a particular focus on how social enterprises can engage, compete and create value within the NHS supply landscape. [Book here](#).

#### **Sport and Activity**

#### **[MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS, TUESDAY 28 APRIL | 11AM - 12PM, ONLINE](#)**

Explore meaningful conversation and Appreciative Inquiry techniques in small breakout groups, giving everyone the opportunity to contribute, listen and reflect. [Book here](#).

#### **Employability:**

#### **[TACKLING MIGRANT POVERTY IN SCOTLAND, THURSDAY 30 APRIL | 2PM - 3.30PM, ONLINE](#)**

Migrants and their families are disproportionately affected by financial disadvantage and high rates of child poverty. We'll be joined by Migration Policy Scotland, Citizens Advice Edinburgh and Passion4Fusion to explore tools and resources to help address this. [Book here](#).

**Employability:**

**[DESIGNING VOLUNTEERING THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE, THURSDAY 14 MAY | 11AM - 12PM, ONLINE](#)**

Exploring how volunteering can be intentionally designed as an employability pathway featuring speakers from Volunteering Matters and Green Hive (Nairn). We'll share practical ideas and examples, with space to share your own experiences about how volunteering can be used to create meaningful supported routes to work. [Book here](#).

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

Join SCVO for this 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. Discover what makes a strong application and the support available throughout the process.

**GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER - FIRST-EVER HYBRID ONE-DAY INTERGENERATIONAL TRAINING COURSE IN LERWICK ON THURSDAY 30TH APRIL 2026**

This will be a fantastic opportunity for practitioners, volunteers, and organisations across the isles to come together and build skills, confidence, and ideas for intergenerational work.

📍 **Format:** Hybrid - online and in person at the Islesburgh Community Centre, Kind Harald St, Lerwick.

- **In person:** Alison Clyde (in Shetland)
- **Online:** Corrina or Lorraine

This blended model is a first for GWT, helping us include as many people as possible while keeping the session interactive and practical. In case you are considering training here are a couple of reasons this training is worth considering:

**1. To build practical skills you can use immediately**

You'll explore tools, resources, and approaches to design high-quality intergenerational projects that reduce ageism, strengthen community connection, and improve wellbeing across all ages.

**2. To connect locally and get personalised support**

The course gives you space to talk through ideas, challenges, and opportunities with GWT staff and local peers — helping you strengthen intergenerational work across Shetland's unique settings.

For more details and to register please [click here](#).

**THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES TRAINING**

[The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach \(2-days\)](#), 17 and 18 March, 2pm-4 pm, online on Zoom

[PANEL Workshop: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach in Practice](#), 31 March, 1 pm-4 pm, online on Zoom

[The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach](#), 8 April, 10am-3pm, online on Zoom

## LINKING LIVES - FREE GOOD CONVERSATIONS TRAINING FOR VOLUNTEERS

FREE



"The training was interesting, helpful and gets you thinking of different approaches. I am more aware of boundaries and feel better equipped in my volunteering role"

Training for volunteers hosting conversations in community settings such as community cafes, lunch clubs, befriending and community social gatherings.



### The 2 Hour Online Training includes

- How to open and maintain beneficial conversations
- Keeping guests, volunteers and organisations safe
- Active listening skills
- Understanding boundaries
- Managing expectations and risk



LINKING LIVES UK



[www.linkinglives.uk](http://www.linkinglives.uk) Scottish Charity: SC053855 England & Wales Charity: 1170325

## UHI | SHETLAND

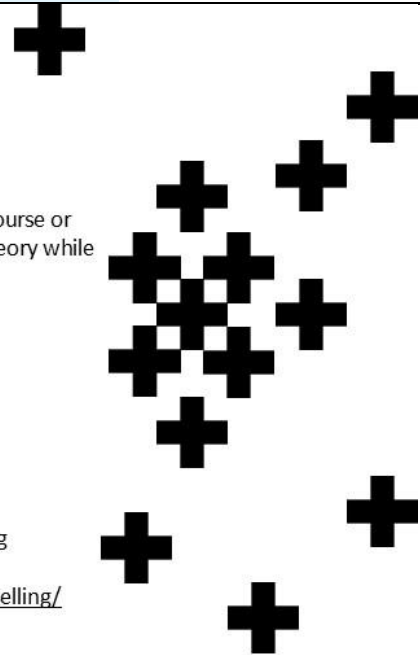
Ready to take the next step in counselling?

Build on your existing knowledge with the **HNC Counselling** at UHI Shetland. Designed for students who have already completed an introductory counselling course or COSCA Certificate, this programme deepens your understanding of counselling theory while developing essential listening, communication and reflective skills.

- Strengthen your self-awareness
- Develop practical counselling skills
- Explore key counselling theories and real-life issues
- September 2026 – June 2027
- Classes: Wednesdays & Thursdays
- Cost: £1285 — SAAS funding available for eligible students

Take your training further and move closer to a career in counselling or the helping professions.

Find out more and apply: <https://www.shetland.uhi.ac.uk/courses/hnc-counselling/>  
Email: [Study.Shetland@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Study.Shetland@uhi.ac.uk)



## **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: 22<sup>ND</sup> APRIL, 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 8<sup>TH</sup> 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: 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 16<sup>TH</sup> 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: 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 21<sup>ST</sup> 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!](#)

## **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](mailto:anne@pas.org.uk)

## **SCOTLAND'S MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (SMHFA) COURSES ARE RETURNING TO SHETLAND IN JUNE 2026**

### **Early bird prices (until 13 February)**

 £175 per person (*full price £210*)

 £800 for 5 places (*full price £950*)

### **Discount codes to use at booking:**

• **EBPLACE** – single place

• **EBGROUP** – 5 place group booking

book at: [www.chrisgrantgla.com/courses](http://www.chrisgrantgla.com/courses)

Invoicing also available

### **Course dates**

• 18 & 19 June 2026 - Islesburgh

• 20 & 21 June 2026 - Clickimin

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](mailto:contact@chrisgrantgla.com)

## **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 27<sup>th</sup> March**

- Come along for a cuppa and reminisce about your sporting memories with Danny and Jack between 10am and 12 noon. They will have some old photos and resources to look at – feel free to bring along anything you have, photos, trophies etc. They will also be taking along some fun activities to help us replay and reconnect with our sporting memories! <https://www.sportingmemories.uk/>
- Citizens Advice Bureau will be in attendance to provide holistic support and practical advice for members of the public on a range of topics, we will also be able to refer clients on and book further appointments if needed. <https://www.shetlandcab.org.uk/>
- From 11am - 1pm, there will be a drop in session and peer support group meeting on Long Covid and self management of post viral fatigue. The support group plans to have monthly peer meetings, for further information or to register for digital peer support meetings contact Richard at [pcchelsin@gmail.com](mailto:pcchelsin@gmail.com)

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

## CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

### [HARNESS SOCIAL MEDIA FOR CLIMATE ACTION, TUESDAY 24TH MARCH FROM 6:30-7:30PM, ONLINE](#)

EMEN are hosting a free webinar for individuals to learn how to use social media to benefit environmental campaigns. During this webinar, you will hear from 3 inspiring climate activists who use the powers of communication and social media to work towards a liveable planet for all.

### **BUSINESS ENERGY SCOTLAND RESOURCES**

[Understanding Climate Change and Carbon - Start Your Action Plan Recording Click here](#)

#### [Step by Step Carbon Reduction Resources](#)

Includes:

1. Introduction to Climate Change
2. Business Opportunities from Carbon Reduction
3. Sources of Carbon in Your Business
4. Measuring Carbon & Your Carbon Footprint
5. Setting Targets
6. Taking Action and where to go for help

### [ONLINE TRAINING FROM TRANSITION TURRIEFIELD](#)

Online sessions - for info and booking go to: <https://www.turriefieldveg.co.uk/events/>\*\*

1. **Pests, Diseases and Weeds** 7pm, Wednesday 25th March 2026 - Identification and the best way to deal with them to have healthy productive crops
2. **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.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

### [ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCE VOLUNTEER?](#)

People's Experience Volunteers (PEVs) provide views, experience and opinions and challenge on issues that HIS has identified as priorities or areas of focus important to health and care in Scotland.

PEVs may be involved in both regional and national projects, depending on the scope of the activity. You may be invited to share your views on various topics, review materials to ensure they are clear and accessible, or use your local knowledge to help shape engagement strategies.

[Find out more here.](#)

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### REPORTS

### LEGISLATION

**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 2027](#)**

**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.