

VISP GENERAL NEWSLETTER 30 April 2025, ISSUE 9





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

CHARITY AUDIT INCOME THRESHOLD WILL RISE FROM £500,000 TO £1 MILLION

The Scottish Government has announced that the charity audit income threshold will rise from £500,000 to £1 million, as part of the revised Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations in autumn 2025. This is the first change to the threshold in 20 years and it will have a real impact—especially for charities operating in the £500k to £1m income bracket.

The main benefit is that many charities will no longer be required to undertake costly statutory audits. Instead, they can opt for independent examinations, which are less intensive and more affordable. That frees up time and money for what matters most - direct service delivery and community impact.

Trustees must ensure that their governing documents don't include clauses requiring audits regardless of regulatory thresholds. They'll also need to check with major funders, some of whom may still expect audited financials.

If you would like support to review your governing documents, please contact Ayesha at Voluntary Action Shetland, email: ayesha.huda@shetland.org

CONSULTATION ON CHARITIES AND THE STATEMENT OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE (SORP)

Deadline: 20 June 2025

The 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('the SORP') ensures consistency and transparency across the sector, making charity accounts comparable, understandable and useful for donors, beneficiaries, and the public alike. It has been updated following an extensive development process informed by the views of engagement partners and a sector specific SORP Committee.

The SORP-making body is now inviting comments on the draft as the feedback will help shape the final version, which is expected to be published in autumn 2025 and effective from January 2026.

The SORP has been updated to reflect changes introduced by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) to FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland – and in particular to reflect changes to how charities will need to recognise certain types of income and certain types of leases in their accounts. The consultation is seeking views on how the revised requirements are explained in the context of charities. Charities are also encouraged to ready themselves for these two changes, the substance of which is already decided.

The <u>SORP consultation - open until 20 June</u> - includes 40 questions and invites feedback on the clarity and proportionality of the proposed changes. It's a valuable opportunity for trustees to shape the rules they'll soon be following.

CHARITABLE COMPANIES SHOULD COMPLY WITH COMPANIES HOUSE IDENTITY VERIFICATION SERVICE

Companies House has opened an <u>identity verification service</u>, which will be a new legal requirement from Autumn 2025. Charities that are also companies will be affected by this change.

FUNDRAISING REGULATOR PUBLISHES NEW CODE OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

Fundraising is a vital part of many charities' work. It allows organisations not only to raise funds, but also raise awareness. Charity fundraising in Scotland and across the UK is governed on a self-regulatory basis. This means that the charity sector itself sets the standards for fundraising, with some laws underpinning the self-regulation.

It's up to charity trustees to make sure that their charity – and anyone fundraising on the charity's behalf – follows the law and uses the kind of fundraising practices that will encourage the public's continued support.

The new <u>Code of Fundraising Practice</u> comes into effect on 1 November 2025. There is a sixmonth transition period, giving fundraising organisations time to review the new code, update internal policies and processes, train staff and volunteers, and seek support if needed.

To support organisations in applying the new code, the <u>Fundraising Regulator</u> is publishing a set of support guides. These cover three key areas: <u>due diligence</u>, <u>documenting fundraising decisions</u>, and <u>monitoring fundraising partnerships</u>. These resources are practical tools designed to help fundraising organisations understand how to meet the code's standards confidently and effectively.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S MOVEMENT: NOMINATIONS FOR 30 UNDER 30 2025

Do you know a young woman in Scotland who is creating change in their life, community or in society? This could be within their job, school, volunteering, or in their day-to-day life. Perhaps they've led a campaign in your local area or a project at school, or are young carers, writers, or musicians. Find out more and nominate someone, or yourself, by 9am on Monday 2nd June 2025.

THE DISCLOSURE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2020 IS NOW LIVE!

There are big changes for voluntary sector organisations as a result of the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020.

Key updates include:

- Membership of the PVG scheme will be a legal requirement from 1st April 2025 for those carrying out a regulated role.
- There will be a 3-month grace period from the 1st April, 2025 30th June,
 2025 to apply for membership of the PVG scheme where required.
- The concept of 'regulated work' has been replaced with 'regulated roles', making it more easily understood. This includes roles for charity trustees and board or committee members.

To check out if roles in your organisation/group need to be members of the PVG and for more information, guidance and support please click on the links below for Volunteer Scotland and Disclosure Scotland:

- Volunteer Scotland:
 - https://www.volunteerscotland.net/news/the-disclosure-scotland-act-2020-disclosure-act-is-now-live
- Disclosure Scotland: https://www.mygov.scot/check-role-needs-pvg

YOUTH MANIFESTO FOR SCOTLAND'S SEAS



Young Sea Changers Scotland is engaging with young people aged between 16 and 25 across Scotland to develop the first Youth Manifesto for Scotland's Seas ahead of the 2026 Parliamentary elections.

We have a <u>short survey</u> and we are hosting <u>workshops</u> (with an online one specifically for Orkney and Shetland on 17th June– flyer attached). This is an important opportunity to ensure decision-makers hear directly from young people on the future of Scotland marine environment ahead of the 2026 parliamentary elections. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at <u>contact@youthforseas.org</u>.

SCVO LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT SURVEY 2025

Help SCVO review and shape the learning and training opportunities we offer to support you, your people and your services. In return SCVO will share a 20% discount for one of our half-day or full-day training courses. It should only take 5-10 minutes to complete and we really appreciate you taking the time to let us know what you think.

The survey will be open from now until Wednesday 30th April 2025.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with us at training@scvo.scot

POTENTIAL CRUISE SHIP LEVY

Deadline: 30 May 2025

The Scottish Government is seeking views on giving local authorities in Scotland the power to introduce a cruise ship levy in all, or part, of their area if they choose to do so.

Link: Citizen Space

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

APPLYING TO DISSOLVE A SOLVENT SCIO: TOP TIPS TO GET IT RIGHT

In supporting charities to have good governance and get things right first time, we have recently noticed a small number of common issues with applications from SCIOs that are solvent but want to dissolve.

We have turned these issues into four top tips to help charity trustees of SCIOs in this situation to follow the correct processes and provide us with the correct information first time so that we can deal with the application as efficiently as possible.

<u>UPDATED SORP: CHARITIES ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO CONSULTATION AND BE READY FOR CHANGE</u>

The joint SORP-making body has today launched a public consultation on the next version of the charities accounting and reporting framework. The 'Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities' ('the SORP') ensures consistency and transparency across the sector, making charity accounts comparable, understandable and useful for donors, beneficiaries, and the public alike.

It has been updated following an extensive development process informed by the views of engagement partners and a sector specific SORP Committee. The SORP-making body is now inviting comments on the draft as the feedback will help shape the final version, which is expected to be published in autumn 2025 and effective from January 2026.

The <u>consultation on the "Exposure Draft of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice:</u> Accounting and Reporting by Charities" will run from 28 March 2025 for 12 weeks.

RESOURCES

FAIR WORK DIGITAL HUB

The Scottish Government has created a Fair Work digital hub to help more employers with advice on best practices, recruitment, and building an inclusive workplace.

SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION REPORT ON COMMUNITY BENEFITS IN THE ENERGY SYSTEM

The Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scottish Rural Action and Community Energy Scotland hosted a roundtable looking at a strategic approach to community benefits, in the context of a just transition. The roundtable participants allowed for a multi-disciplinary approach with expertise in areas including community development, economics, policy, energy sector, and business. This report reflects the points made during the discussion.

PATHWAYS TO SCALE - FEMALE FOUNDER PROGRAMME

Pathways to Scale is a Scottish Enterprise programme that helps women-led businesses get ready to grow. The programme will run from June 2025 to March 2026 and has space for 24 women who lead businesses in Scotland.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SUPPLIER CATALOGUE

Social Enterprise Scotland has recently launched its new Suppliers' Catalogue - a resource to enable connections between businesses and public sector organisations with Scotland's thriving social enterprise community. Learn more and download the catalogue here..

BLOG: <u>VOLUNTEERING IN SCOTLAND TODAY: PUTTING THE PUZZLE PIECES IN PLACE</u>

In 2024, Volunteer Scotland's research pieced together a detailed picture of volunteering in Scotland. Their latest blog and report reveal five key insights, challenges and urgent actions needed.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

THRE - THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES

THRE Online training:

- 20th May 2pm 4pm: <u>The Basics: A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach (2-days)</u>
- 28th May 3pm 5.30pm: Governance A Human Rights and Equalities First Approach

Event: 1st May 12.30pm – 1.30pm: <u>THRE upcoming Lunchtime Webinar. Technology in modern society</u>: How do we tackle digital exclusion?

THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF FUNDRAISING - FREE WEBINARS ON THE NEW CODE OF FUNDRAISING PRACTICE

- Introduction to the new Code of Fundraising Practice, 21 May 2025, Online An introduction to the new fundraising code of practice
- How to use the new Code of Fundraising Practice, 03 June 2025, Online How to use the new Code of Fundraising Practice

LIVING WELL HUB - BRAE - FRIDAY 2ND MAY

- Cari will be along with more samples of her delicious sandwiches which will be on the menu at the New Brae Community Café! Come and sample them and give her some feedback! A small charge will be made to cover costs. Sandwiches with side salad and coleslaw will be available 11-1pm.
- 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.
- Marc from Adult Learning will be along between 10-12 for a Digital Drop In. If you have any queries, suggestions or just want to find out more about Adult Learning, come along to the Living Well Hub for a chat!
- **CLAN** will also be with us from 10-12. CLAN offer emotional support to anyone affected by a cancer diagnosis. Some of the services available are emotional support and counselling, complementary therapies, dedicated children and family service, cancer support groups.

The "Living Well" Hub, 01595 744120

SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION LEARNING EXCHANGE

Are you involved in a cooperative, community benefit society, social or community enterprise or employee-owned business? We are organising a learning exchange on the Isle of Arran in partnership with InspirAlba and Neil McInroy (EDAS/Democracy Collaborative). Over the two days, the programme will include:

- An opportunity to meet others involved in running IDBMs in rural and island Scotland
- Practice-sharing workshops
- Learning from inspiring IDBMs on the Isle of Arran
- Co-creation of a positioning statement for IDBMs in the rural economy to influence future policy

More information can be found here - the event is free and there are travel and accommodation bursary places available! If interested please email Artemis or give her a ring on 0773 059 6842.

SCOTTISH RURAL ACTION

ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION: COLD SPOTS OF COMMUNITY-LED ACTIVITY, Online, 9th May, 12:30 - 13:00

Nick Addington, CEO of William Grant Foundation, will Chair the event and welcome Anthea Coulter, CEO of Clacks Third Sector Interface, and Kate Musgrove, Head of Enterprising Communities at South of Scotland Enterprise, to the panel. This event will delve into recent Cold Spot Research findings and explore strategies to unlock opportunities in cold spot areas.

ONLINE WORKSHOP ON LOCAL PLACE PLANS, FOLLOWED BY SRA'S 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) ONLINE, 21ST MAY, 13:00 - 14:00 (& SRA AGM 2025 FROM 14:00 - 14:30)

Local Place Planning can be a valuable way to identify and highlight community priorities, helping to shape future development. However, the process can be challenging—especially in rural context where voluntary capacity is often stretched and multiple complex issues need to be navigated. In this session, Chiara Fingland (Imagine If) and Paul Ede (Place at the Table) will help demystify the Local Place Planning process, with a specific focus on rural communities. They'll share practical tips and insights based on real-life experience.

BUSINESS GATEWAY COURSES

- Young person's guide to starting a business, 8th May, Time: 10am 12pm
- How to start a business: The basics, 8th May, Time: 6pm 8pm
- Bookkeeping essentials, 9th May, Time: 10am 12pm

Following on from the success of our 2-part InspireHer series with Life Coach Nic, we're excited to announce a new programme of InspireHER webinars designed to build confidence for women in business. We're running 6 sessions over the next few months, including:

- Wed, 7th May, 12pm 1pm Break free from procrastination & perfectionism
- Wed, 21st May, 12pm 1pm Overcoming self-sabotage
- Tues, 3rd June, 12pm 1pm Building habits for success
- Tues, 17th June, 12pm 1pm Finding work-life balance
- Tues, 1st July, 12pm 1pm The importance of self-compassion
- Thurs, 17th July, 12pm 1pm How to rewire your brain for success

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND: <u>EXPLORING SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES</u>, THURSDAY 22 MAY | 13:00 – 14:00, ONLINE (ZOOM)

Join us for an informal and insightful session where we shine a light on some of the lesser-known – but seriously valuable – sources of support and resources available to social enterprises. We'll hear from 3 speakers who will share what their organisations offer and how they're helping social enterprises:

- Cathy Benwell from <u>A Good Thing CIC</u>
- Andrew Murphy from Trustee Connect
- Ross McCulloch from Third Sector Lab

<u>FULLY-FUNDED TICKETS TO THIS YEAR'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WORLD FORUM IN</u> TAIWAN!

The International Social Enterprise Observatory is offering 12 Scottish Government-funded bursaries for social and environmental impact-led entrepreneurs to attend the Social Enterprise World Forum in Taiwan this October. Each bursary includes a SEWF25 main forum ticket, study tour, and £1,000 towards travel and accommodation costs. Apply before the 5th of May at

12.00pm.

Find more information on the application process and eligibility here: <u>Attend SEWF25 with An ISEO Bursary and Connect with Over 1200 Changemakers in Taiwan - ISEO - International Social Enterprise Observatory</u>

FREE WEBINAR: HOW GOING DIGITAL CAN SAVE YOU MONEY: A GUIDE WITH THE DWP, TUESDAY 20 MAY 2025 BETWEEN 1PM TO 1.45PM BST

A free webinar on Tuesday 20 May with AbilityNet's Disability Consultant, Lizi Green, who will highlight cost savings you can make by going digital. Lucy Bowman and John Spraggett from the UK government's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will be joining the webinar to provide guidance about claiming pensioner benefits, and where to find information about these online. Aimed at older people and some of the issues they may commonly face, in the webinar we'll discuss key topics, including:

- Top online cost-saving ideas
- Key digital-related benefit information from DWP
- Benefit Calculators
- Pension Credit
- Where to find useful financial resources online

All registrants will receive the recording, slides and transcript after the event, so do sign up even if you can't attend on the broadcast date.

CHARITY DIGITAL WEBINARS

CHARITY DIGITAL ACADEMY: HOW TO MANAGE CHARITY FINANCES, 20TH MAY 2025, 09.30AM- 13:00PM BST

In this practical session, you'll gain a clear understanding of your charity's finances. We'll break down the essential elements of charity finances, from budgeting and reporting to governance, sustainability, and future proofing.

REIMAGINING SERVICE DELIVERY SUMMIT, 12TH JUNE 2025, 09.00AM-5.00PM BST

Join us on the 12th June 2025 for our free online event, to explore collaborative and user-centered service delivery. We will explore how charities can make the most of their resources to deliver the best services. We will also discuss ways to shift perceptions of service delivery, ensuring users remain at the centre of these conversations and much more.

TRUSSEL TRUST: INVITATION TO WESTMINSTER LOBBY DAY 18TH JUNE

An invitation to join the Trussel Trust for a **Lobby Day in London on Wednesday 18th June** to call on the Government to implement an Essentials Guarantee into Universal Credit, which would ensure everyone has a protected minimum amount to afford the essentials.

Our social security system, like our NHS, should be there for us all when we need it most, but right now it's not even providing enough to cover the cost of life's essentials – it's undoubtedly pushing people in your community to seek emergency food provision.

Our next big campaign moment is the Lobby Day on 18th June - a mass gathering of people who contact their MPs in advance and arrange to meet them at Parliament on the same day about a specific issue. They are a powerful moment of solidarity and action for any campaign. This will be an opportunity for hundreds of people from different backgrounds and organisations to meet their

MPs in Westminster and talk to them directly about the growing levels of hardship in their constituency because Universal Credit isn't covering the cost of the essentials.

To increase pressure on MPs, we need as many people as possible to take part. Together, we will be powerful messengers to talk to our elected reps about the persistent levels of hardship in the constituency you work in because Universal Credit isn't covering the cost of essentials. We know that if a constituent from Shetland makes the long journey to attend, it will be noticed!

We hope you can join us to use this opportunity to tell MPs to act now for a future where everyone can afford the essentials. If you would like to schedule a chat to talk further, just let me know. If you do decide to join us, here is the sign-up form to register



Just Enterprise

INTRODUCING AI IN YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE, (ONLINE WORKSHOP), NEXT DATE: 13TH MAY

Join us for this workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and explore the transformative power of using AI across various elements of social enterprises, revealing new opportunities for growth, efficiency and impact!

FOCUS ON FINANCE: SUPPORT TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS

Strong financial management is essential — and we're here to help. From forecasting and budgeting to business planning and funding strategies, our finance advisers offer free one-to-one support for social enterprises across Scotland. Think you could do with some help?

<u>Apply for fully-funded support now!</u>

FREE E-LEARNING FROM JUST ENTERPRISE

Prefer to learn at a time, place and pace of your own choosing? <u>Just Enterprise eLearning programmes</u> are split into short, focused modules that help you fit essential training into your busy schedule. Choose the courses that are relevant to you and your organisation and learn at your own pace via desktop, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

SCVO: <u>CONNECTING COMMUNITIES</u>: <u>VILLAGE HALLS CONFERENCE</u> SAVE THE DATE - THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025

This free, one-day event will give people like you running village and community halls across Scotland the chance to connect, learn, share ideas, and inspire each other. **In person and online**

- * Connecting communities: village halls conference
- Thursday 29 May 2025 save the date!
- Birnam Arts, Dunkeld

Places for the conference will be limited, so if you'd like to join us, look out for bookings opening on Monday 14 April to secure your place. Don't worry if you won't be able to make it in-person - you'll be able to join us remotely online too.

Missed last year's conference? Visit our website to <u>learn more about the day and to watch back</u> <u>some of our sessions</u>.

NEW FUTURES - FORMER PLACES OF WORSHIP, FREE WORKSHOPS, APRIL TO JULY, ONLINE

Calling community groups considering taking on a church across Scotland! Join this great series of insightful and informative workshops with Church Advisors, Community Ownership Support Service and guest speakers for enhanced support when taking on a place of worship.

Find out more about each workshop and register via links below:

- Workshop 1: Place Planning and Engaging with your Community
- Workshop 2: Community Right to Buy
- Workshop 3: Churches into Community Ownership First Steps
- Workshop 4: Finance and Fundraising
- Workshop 5: Business Planning

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

MAKING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INCLUSIVE IN SCOTLAND

<u>In this position statement</u>, NPC and the Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland review current Scotlish environmental policies and make recommendations for how Scotlish policy can better reflect the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged groups. The recommendations have been developed collaboratively as part of the Everyone's Environment programme and represent the views of a range of Scotlish charities.

STORYTELLING

SCVO's Project partners, Circular Communities Scotland, hosted a fantastic webinar on storytelling recently which is worth a watch if you're needing some ideas and tips for how to tell

the story of what your organisation is doing. You can <u>watch a recording of the Storytelling</u>
<u>Masterclass</u> on Zoom. If prompted to insert a passcode, please use &0YwgxJH ensuring you don't add any blank spaces either side.

THE <u>STATE OF THE SECTOR 2025 PORTAL</u> FROM <u>COMMUNITY ENERGY SCOTLAND</u> IS OPEN

Community Energy Scotland is encouraging organisations to share information about community energy projects that they are involved in or are actively developing. Organisations can update details about existing projects or add new projects at any time. The data provided will be used to help build a strong evidence base for community energy.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

<u>COMMUNITY GROUPS IN SCOTLAND CAN SUBMIT VOLUNTEERING REQUESTS TO SSEN TRANSMISSION</u>

Did you know that <u>SSEN Transmission</u> offers <u>volunteering days</u> to local groups and charities, with a focus on Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Highland, Moray, Orkney, Perthshire, Shetland and the Western Isles?

Employees can help with physical volunteering which includes beach cleans, tree planting or community gardening. There is also skilled volunteering available where the team can lend it's expertise to local initiatives. To request volunteering support, please complete the volunteering nomination form on the SSEN Transmission website

REPORTS LEGISLATION CALLS FOR VIEWS: THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT IS OPEN TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS ON

DRAFT JUST TRANSITION PLAN FOR TRANSPORT, Deadline: 19 May 2025

A RANGE OF TOPICS:

The Scottish Government is consulting on their draft Just Transition Plan for Transport. The Plan identifies the key challenges and opportunities currently facing the transport sector. It highlights the work that is already taking place, while setting out an approach and priorities for the future.

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2015 INQUIRY

Closes: 2 May 2025

The Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee will be considering the impact of the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015. It would like to find out your views on whether the act, the current BSL National Plan and listed authority plans are improving the lives of BSL users; and on what changes could be made in the shorter and longer term to improve the lives of BSL users.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF PUBLIC INQUIRIES

Closes: 9 May 2025

The <u>Finance and Public Administration Committee</u> like to hear your views on the cost-effectiveness of public inquiries. The committee's investigation will include how and why public inquiries are established, whether they deliver value for money and the extent to which spending controls are necessary.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closes: 23 May 2025

The <u>Economy and Fair Work Committee</u> wants to hear your views on the <u>Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill</u>. The committee would like to know whether the bill will achieve its aim, whether there are potential unintended consequences to the bill and how the bill could benefit local communities and small businesses.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL

Closes: 9 May 2025

The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee is looking for your views on the <u>Natural Environment</u> (<u>Scotland</u>) <u>Bill</u> which aims to help restore nature and protect biodiversity in Scotland.