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**THIRD SECTOR NEWS**

**We are currently recruiting for new Directors/Trustees to join our board. See below for more information and please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are interested.**



**VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND**  
SCO17286 / Reg 165677

**BOARD DIRECTOR / CHARITY TRUSTEE**

Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) is a charity and company limited by guarantee. Its mission is to support, represent and develop community and voluntary action in Shetland.

VAS are looking for individuals to join their board and become a member of VAS. The role of the board is to provide oversight of the organisation, ensuring that VAS fulfils its duties and delivers on its vision, mission and strategic objectives. The board will work closely with the operational team, who are responsible for achieving board objectives.

The essential criteria is a commitment to positively contributing to the development of Voluntary Action Shetland and to adhere to the principles of honesty, integrity, objectivity and accountability.

This is a voluntary position. The individual must live in Shetland, be able to commit to attending meetings every second month and attend the charity's annual general meeting.

For an application pack and an informal discussion, please contact Executive Officer: Lynn Tulloch, Market House, 14 Market Street, Lerwick, Tel: 01595 743901, E-mail: [lynn.tulloch@shetland.org](mailto:lynn.tulloch@shetland.org)

Closing Date for all applications: **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

### **NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND - NEW STRATEGY**

The National Lottery Community Fund has launched its new strategy. Initial news is the maximum grant for Awards for All will be increased to £20,000 from the Autumn with greater flexibility in grant length. News on other funding opportunities to follow.

### **CARERS SCOTLAND'S STATE OF CARING SURVEY 2023 IS NOW LIVE**

This is the most comprehensive research into the experience of carers in Scotland and across the UK. Carers Scotland use what unpaid carers tell us to shape campaigns and make sure carers' voices are heard by both the Scottish and UK governments.

Carers Scotland wants to hear what carers priorities are for the coming year, the challenges they're facing and what support they need. The survey can be completed at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLLFSJD>

### **HMRC CONSULTATION ON CHARITIES TAX COMPLIANCE**

**Closes: 20 July**

HMRC have published a consultation on charity tax compliance. This consultation will examine some of the charity taxation rules to help tackle non-compliance and protect the integrity of the charity sector without changing the overall purpose of the reliefs. It will ensure the rules continue to be fit for purpose.

### **COMMUNITY HEAT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

#### **DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A CLIMATE-FRIENDLY WAY TO HEAT YOUR COMMUNITY?**

Support is available for communities and groups of householders across Scotland to develop their ideas about collaborative, low carbon heat projects to tackle climate change.

The Community Heat Development Programme, funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Local Energy Scotland, is a learning programme, to help communities and groups of householders to work together to heat homes and other buildings in their communities in a more environmentally friendly way.

Local Energy Scotland has been receiving applications from across Scotland and will be delighted to consider yours. Expert advisors will work with successful applicants to test their ideas and develop feasible options to change the way buildings are heated. The programme won't pay to install energy efficiency measures or renewable technologies such as heat pumps. Successful applicants will also receive advice on next steps, including any potential routes for further funding.

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW NATIONAL CARE SERVICE**

The Scottish Government is hosting a programme of regional forums that are happening this summer, as part of the development of the National Care Service. These mark the beginning in the next steps of the co-design process.

These local forums will take place across Scotland, from June to August, and are an opportunity for people with lived experience of accessing or delivering community health and social care support to take part in the next phase of evidence gathering.

Sessions planned for Shetland:

- **Shetland, Valuing the Workforce:** 16 August, 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Valuing the workforce Tickets, Wed 16 Aug 2023 at 17:30 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Shetland, Keeping care support Local:** 17 August, 10 am – 12 noon at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Keeping care support local Tickets, Thu 17 Aug 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)
- **Shetland, Realising rights and responsibilities:** 17 August, 2pm – 4 pm at Islesburgh, Lerwick. Register at: [Shetland, Realising rights and responsibilities Tickets, Thu 17 Aug 2023 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Each forum will also have a drop-in briefing and discussion session, held over lunch time. These will be open to anyone who wants to attend, including stakeholder organisations and elected representatives. There is no need to register for this lunchtime session and the time is indicated next to the date and venue of each forum below.

Shetland - Thursday 17 August - Islesburgh Community Centre, Lerwick (lunchtime drop in briefing: 1230-1330)

In addition to the regional forums there are online forums which are also available on [Eventbrite](#).

The Scottish Government is keen that these sessions will be adaptive to people's needs so if you have any queries or requests please email: [NCSCcommunications@gov.scot](mailto:NCSCcommunications@gov.scot)

### **NEW LIVING WELL HUB – BRESSAY**

Living Well Hubs that have been set up in Shetland, one in Brae (Monday and Friday) and one in Scalloway (Wednesday mornings) at the youth and community centres. A new hub is being set up in Speldiburn, Bressay school, opening Wednesday 28th June. It will be open on a weekly basis on Wednesdays 2pm – 4pm.

The hubs are a place folk can call along for a chat, whether that be about local groups/activities, looking for support but not sure what may be available. We are hopeful we would be able to assist, whether that is referring for a service, linking someone with a voluntary/community group or just having a listening ear is sometimes enough.

We can also apply for Fuelbank vouchers for people, this is a fund to assist with electrical costs at home.

### **SUSTRANS STATEMENT – ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMUNITIES WORK**

Due to Scottish Government funding reductions, unfortunately Sustrans in Scotland is required to review its delivery programme for 2023/24. Following notification from Transport Scotland that only 50% of our funding request for the Behaviour Change Programme is potentially available, Sustrans has had to make the difficult decision to propose that we step back from the delivery of a number of projects, including **Activate Mentoring** and the **Community Active Travel Support Service**. Sadly, that means the colleagues delivering this work have been placed at risk of redundancy. We need to advise you that we are making plans for winding up our activities mentioned above, doing as much as we can to capture relevant learning and signposting the people we are working with to other sources of support where possible.

## **RAPE CRISIS SCOTLAND: [VICTIMS, WITNESSES, AND JUSTICE REFORM BILL: CALL FOR EVIDENCE](#)**

The Scottish Government's Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Bill proposes really significant changes to the way rape and sexual assault cases are dealt with in the justice system. Rape Crisis Scotland will be submitting written evidence about the impact the bill could have on the experience of survivors accessing the justice system. We're inviting survivors to tell us what they think about the bill so we can include this in the written evidence we send to parliament.

## **SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT - APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW**

Young people aged between 14-25 are encouraged to apply for the SYP elections, to become the democratic voice of Scotland's young people and representatives for positive change. Prospective applicants looking to find out more information can register for [the following information sessions](#):

- Thursday 29th June
- Friday 7th July
- Monday 10th July
- Tuesday 18th July
- Wednesday 26th July

## **EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS**

With third sector organisations and social enterprises facing a range of current challenges from financial viability to governance and organisational dynamics, [Community Enterprise](#) - along with [Development Trust Association Scotland](#), [CEIS](#) and [Scottish Community Alliance](#) - have come together to try and access to emergency support both easier to find and simpler to access.

**A new [Crisis Recovery button](#) has been added to the social enterprise support map which can be accessed here <https://sesupportmap.scot/recovery/>.**

This will lead to a very quick "request for support" form which will be assessed within 24 hours and a support package put in place.

Crucially this is not a new service or programme. It is a smarter, quicker and more collaborative way to access the eco-system of support that already exists.

## **SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT INQUIRY - HEALTHCARE IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS, TUESDAY 25 JULY 2023, 10AM - 11AM**

The Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee have committed to conducting an inquiry into Healthcare in Remote and Rural Areas. In order to inform the focus of that inquiry they are gathering views on what the key issues are.

Ewan Masson from the Parliament's Participation and Communities Team will speak to people in Shetland about the upcoming inquiry, gather views and explain how you can stay involved.

If you would like to attend the meeting please [register at this link](#).

## NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

### [OSCR LAUNCHES NEW INQUIRY POLICY](#)

OSCR has launched a new Inquiry Policy, which updates how it will handle concerns raised about charities in Scotland. In doing so, they want to ensure that people who have concerns can raise their issue quickly with the correct authority, without being passed pillar to post. This will enable OSCR to prioritise their own resources more effectively to deal with the most important issues in charities as quickly as possible.

### [OSCR: A REGULATOR, NOT A MEDIATOR](#)

OSCR's Head of Regulation & Improvement, Martin Tyson, discusses OSCR's role as a regulator when dealing with disputes about the decisions made by charities and their trustees. Our role as a regulator is to ensure that trustees make their decisions in line with their trustee duties and their governing documents, not to police disagreements about the decisions that charities take.

## RESOURCES

### **DATA PROTECTION – GDPR**

The UK government has set out its [plan](#) to take forward a new approach to data protection legislation, responding to the submissions and views it received on proposals set out in a recent consultation. The changes it proposed would mean that the UK will move away in some areas from the current regime in place which is the incorporation of EU data protection legislation (GDPR and PECR) into domestic law.

Proposed changes to the UK's data protection laws should make things slightly easier for fundraising - see more [from the Chartered Institute of Fundraising \(CIOF\)](#).

The [Information Commissioner's Office \(ICO\)](#) recently launched new resources about data protection including some short training videos like this [introduction to data protection](#) on their [YouTube](#) page. Explore more resources [here on their website](#).

### [DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS](#)

Zero Waste Scotland has released a list of frequently asked questions to help answer your queries about Scotland's Deposit Return Scheme. The FAQs include information about the scheme, why Scotland is introducing it and how it works for producers and retailers. The scheme is now planned to go live for consumers in October 2025.

### **SHETLAND PARTNERSHIP NETWORK – LOW INCOME FAMILIES INDICATOR**

The children living in low income families indicator has been updated on the Shetland Partnership website: [Children living in low income families – Shetland Partnership](#); and a news item has been added: [Indicator update: Children living in low income families – Shetland Partnership](#)

### **[NEW BRIEFING ON DISABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)**

This briefing is part of the [Everyone's environment](#) programme, a collaboration of over 40 countrywide social and environmental charities and funders to empower people from different social groups to have their needs reflected in environmental decision making and policy.

Published by the NPC in collaboration with Disability Rights UK and [re-engage](#), a charity which helps older people to feel value and heard, the briefing reviews the evidence for the impacts of both the climate, nature crises and environmental policy, upon older people and Disabled people.

### **[TRELLIS - GARDENING ACTIVITIES FOR HEALTH & WELLBEING](#)**

Trellis supports a network of over 460 therapeutic gardening projects in Scotland so they can share skills, good practice and get connected.

Trellis has created a new web page to display '[Garden Bites](#)' – tabletop gardening activities ideas, videos, and live demos, to inspire people to have a go. They also have a selection of online [webinars](#) (videos available to watch) on a range of gardening activities from growing herbs to creating Simple Summer Baskets

### **[VOLUNTEER SCOTLAND AND YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND JOINT BRIEFING - YOUNG PEOPLE AND VOLUNTEERING](#)**

On [#PowerOfYouth](#) day [Volunteer Scotland](#) and [YouthLink Scotland](#) made recommendations to complement and enhance existing policy commitments on volunteering as part of a joint policy briefing on young people and volunteering.

Some core recommendations, include volunteering becoming a core part of the curriculum, with dedicated resource to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to participate in volunteering and reflect on their personal development benefits.

### **CHARITY DIGITAL ARTICLES:**

#### **[SOCIAL MEDIA FACTS FOR 2023](#)**

The latest facts and stats about social media, looking at consumption trends, general usage, the rise of smaller platforms, the decline of so-called classics, and some key facts about the big hitters such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, and so on

#### **[A CHARITY GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY](#)**

Everything you and your charity need to know about environmental sustainability and technology, including what to look for to reduce the environmental impact of the tech you use

#### **[HOW YOUR DIGITAL STRATEGY CAN HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE](#)**

Our guest blogger, Zoe Amar, explores the role strategy plays in tackling climate change, with advice on building sustainability into tech choices, reviewing supply chains, collaboration, and much more.

### **[AN EMPLOYER'S GUIDE TO EMPLOYEES USING THEIR OWN VEHICLES FOR WORK](#)**

Many employees use their personal vehicles for work-related purposes, such as traveling to off-site meetings, making deliveries, or visiting clients and service users. While this can be convenient for both the employer and the employee, it can also raise a number of legal and safety issues.

### **FAIR WORK TOOL**

The Fair Work Employer Support Tool has been designed to help create new and improved workplace practices. It uses a series of questions and statements to help employers assess and benchmark their workplace practices – and provides guidance and tailored resources based on the results.

### **COMMUNITY LAND LEADERSHIP GROUP**

The Community Land Leadership Group was established to provide a collaborative forum to guide alignment of activity to support the development of community ownership and governance of land and assets.

The scope of the Group's focus includes:

- Development of community land ownership as currently achieved through community rights to buy, asset transfer, and negotiated transactions
- Use of, and potential for, other hybrid governance models that enable community ownership and control
- Sharing experience, ideas, opportunities and lessons learned to inform collective policy and practice
- Development of collaborative and partnership approaches.

### **PEOPLE FIRST (SCOTLAND): LEARNING DISABILITY, AUTISM AND NEURODIVERSITY BILL**

People First (Scotland) are pleased to share [our film](#) about the new Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill. We have been campaigning for a new law for learning disability for over 20 years. In the film we share our key messages and set out what we want to see in the new Bill so that our Human Rights are fully realised and upheld in Scottish Law.

### **CYBER AND FRAUD INCIDENT RESPONSE HELPLINE**

The free Cyber and Fraud Centre Incident Response Helpline (0800 1670 623) is open to all Scottish businesses and organisations. If you suspect your organisation has experienced a cyber or financial fraud attack, experienced incident response experts will help you resume operations. You can also arrange a security assessment or receive guidance on cyber security.

### **HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN: THE REDESIGN REPORT**

The Promise Scotland recently published the Hearings for Children: The Redesign Report. The report follows work carried out by Children's Hearing Scotland, The Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and The Promise Scotland, into the Hearing's system in Scotland, calling for transformational change, where children and families are at the core of all decision making.

### **NOURISH SCOTLAND – A MAP OF THE FOOD POLICY LANDSCAPE**

Agriculture and land use are only part of the food system – and so much more is currently happening in Scotland's food policy landscape. Circular economy, community wealth building, food environment are just some of the areas currently being scrutinised. And the Good Food Nation Act tries to bring all these agendas into greater coherence. This [policy map](#) shows the potential connectivity of food policy initiatives and how to make the most of them.

**WATCH: SOCIAL INVESTMENT SCOTLAND CIRCULAR ECONOMY 360+ PROGRAMME IN CONJUNCTION WITH ZERO WASTE SCOTLAND**

The webinars in this programme explore current circular economy best practice to help you support people, place and planet. They are available free to watch.

- [Circular Economy 360 plus - Partnerships for Impact](#)
- [Circular Economy 360 plus - Retail Trends in Sustainability](#)
- [Circular Economy 360 plus - Adapting to Changing Legislation](#)
- [Circular Economy 360 plus - Business Development & Innovation](#)

**FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**MAKING PEER PRACTICAL - INFORMATION SESSION, TUESDAY 27 JUNE, 11AM-12PM, ONLINE**

Peer support happens when people with similar life experiences offer each other support as they move through challenging or difficult experiences. Making Peer Practical is a free opportunity for individuals, community groups and small organisations in Scotland who want to plan and deliver peer support activities but are not sure where to start..

**FUNDING FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND UNPAID CARERS - DEMENTIA COFFEE CONVERSATION: PEER TO PEER FUND - 6TH JULY 2023 10.30-11.30 (ONLINE)**

About Dementia's Peer-to-Peer grants programme is a funding opportunity for people living with dementia and unpaid carers in Scotland. The fund launched in 2023 with the aim of empowering people with experience of dementia to create their own peer support projects and share their knowledge and experience with others. These personal projects can take many forms, such as written or video resources, peer support groups, pilot research, or creative activities. The programme offers awards between £500 and £10,000 to groups or individuals to deliver their projects, with the main criteria being that the idea is coming directly from people with lived experience of dementia.

**YOUTHLINK SCOTLAND NATIONAL YOUTH WORK CONFERENCE 2023, 1 NOVEMBER 2023, GLASGOW - IMPACT AND INFLUENCE: STATS AND STORIES**

This year's National Youth Work Conference will take place in Glasgow on 1st November and is all about exploring the profound impact and influence of youth work on young people, communities, and society. Want to share your practice? The call for workshop and Link magazine proposals is open until **14th July**.

**CROSS PARTY GROUP ON ISLANDS - FOCUS ON FERRIES, WED, 28 JUN 2023 13:00 - 14:00 BST**

A hybrid meeting of the Cross Party Group on Islands to discuss matters relating to ferry transport in Scotland. The purpose of the Cross Party Group on Islands is to provide a forum for the discussion of issues relevant to Scotland's islands and the residents of island communities, and to improve links between the Scottish Parliament and island communities.

The topic for discussion on 28th June is ferry transport. Agenda and papers will follow. Meetings are hybrid so please reserve an in-person or online ticket.



**[INCLUSION SCOTLAND NATIONAL CARE SERVICE BILL AMENDMENTS WEBINAR - THU, 20 JUL 2023 13:30 - 16:30 BST](#)**

You are invited to a webinar about the changes that Inclusion Scotland would like to see in the National Care Service Bill. The National Care Service Bill is currently at the first stage in Parliament. The parliamentary committee will soon be looking at what changes (amendments) people and organisations want to see in the bill. Come along to this webinar to discuss what you like about Bill and what changes you would like made.

If you have any questions about the event please contact [info@inclusionscotland.org](mailto:info@inclusionscotland.org) or phone 0131 370 6700.

**[DIGISHIFT 70: A DEEPER LOOK AT AI, ONLINE, FREE, 10:00-11:00, 26 JULY 2023](#)**

Two expert speakers to take a deeper look at some of the current and longer-term ethical implications of developments in generative AI. Tools like ChatGPT have made AI visible to many more people in recent months. Behind the hype and headlines, dedicated teams are working to ensure that new AI technologies are developed in a safe and trustworthy way. In this call, we'll take a deeper look at some of the risks and ethical issues that crop up when making use of generative AI.

**[UNDERSTANDING GAMBLING HARMS AND LINKS TO GAMING, 6TH JULY, 10.00AM-12.30PM, ONLINE, FREE](#)**

This training will provide an introduction to gambling and the associated risks and harms, including the increasingly blurred lines between gaming and gambling. It is open to anyone working within youth services, family services or formal education in Scotland.

The session will be delivered by the Scottish Gambling Education Hub, a Fast Forward project. Their mission is to ensure all children, young people and families across Scotland have access to gambling education and prevention resources.

**[SUSTRANS: INTRODUCTION TO FUNDRAISING FOR ACTIVE TRAVEL \(TWO HALF DAYS ON THE 11TH AND 18TH JULY, 10AM – 1PM\)](#)**

Fundraising training for people working or volunteering on walking, wheeling, or cycling projects in community settings in Scotland.

Need to apply for funding for a community-based walking, wheeling or cycling related project in Scotland? This course is for you! Delivered in partnership with SCVO and facilitated by expert fundraiser Pam Judd, this introduction to fundraising will focus on applying for community-based active travel projects in Scotland - that is projects that will in some way encourage people to travel more actively in their daily lives whether that be walking, wheeling, cycling or some other mode.

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

[Training over the summer](#)

**HUMAN RIGHTS CONSORTIUM SCOTLAND: [THE SCOTTISH HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CONSULTATION IS OUT NOW!](#)**

[It's All Rights events series](#)

- A Guide to the Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation: Online: 14th August, 23rd August
- The Right to Health: Online: 30th August

- For UK Organisations: Online: 7th September
- Poverty: Online: 11th September
- Consultation with SCVO Policy Network: 13th September
- Q&A with the Scottish Government Human Rights Bill Team: 14th September

**[BUSINESS GATEWAY HR WEBINAR – RECRUITING, MANAGING AND RETAINING STAFF](#)**  
**29TH JUNE 2023, 13:00 - 15:00, ONLINE**

This webinar will explore the essentials of HR, including hiring, interviewing, payroll, pensions, contracts and remote working. It will also cover topics including productivity, redundancy, restructuring and how best to support staff's mental health.

**[IT'S ALL RIGHTS: THE HUMAN RIGHTS BILL CONSULTATION & THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, 2PM-4PM, WEDNESDAY 30TH AUGUST 2023, ONLINE VIA ZOOM](#)**

This session has been organised by the Human Rights Consortium Scotland in partnership with Voluntary Health Scotland and the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE) and will have a particular focus around the right to health and associated issues in the Human Rights Bill Consultation.

Learn more about why the consultation matters, how it relates to the right to health, and how you might want to respond.

**[THIRD SECTOR LAB - FREE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING FOR THE THIRD SECTOR](#)**

**[DIGITAL STRATEGY, TUE 27TH JUNE, 10.00AM - 11.30AM](#)**

This interactive session will help you develop a clear vision of digital and what it can do for your organisation. We will explore the key elements that underpin a digital strategy as well as looking at themes such as leadership, culture, data, cybersecurity, service design and flexible technology.

**[YOUTH WORK PDA – SEPTEMBER 2023 START](#)**

Course is delivered online, with flexibility around study times.

If you would like to work or volunteer in a Youth club this would be an excellent qualification to introduce you to youth work or working with young people. The award could also be utilised for the continuing professional development of staff and volunteers from other professions:

This is a beginner's course for full time or part time Youth Workers and volunteers. The course would suit candidates who may have little or no knowledge or experience of youth work, and also those working in the sector whom may have considerable experience of youth work in a paid or volunteering capacity but who have no formal qualifications in youth work. [Find out more](#)

**[GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR THE CARES COMMUNITY BUILDINGS FUND? YOU CAN ATTEND A FUNDING SURGERY FOR THE LETS DO NET ZERO COMMUNITY BUILDINGS FUND TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023 AT 10AM OR 2PM](#)**

The Fund helps community organisations to reduce their building energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions by installing renewable technologies such as heat pumps. The fund is open and is planned to run until the end of March 2025, subject to funding availability.

Join a funding surgery to ask your questions about the [Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund](#) and how the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) can help your community in the transition to net zero.

Find out more by reading the [Let's Do Net Zero Community Building Fund guidance](#) and our answers to [frequently asked questions](#). The funding surgeries will be held on Zoom. They are free to attend, but you will need to register in advance.

**HMRC WEBINARS: EXPENSES AND BENEFITS FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES – PHONES, INTERNET AND HOMEWORKING, [TUESDAY 27 JUNE – 11.45AM TO 12.45PM](#)**  
Get information about providing mobile phones, internet connection and more during this webinar.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

No Updates

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

### **CHILDREN (CARE AND JUSTICE) (SCOTLAND) BILL REPORT PUBLISHED**

[The Education, Children and Young People Committee](#) published its [Stage 1 report for the Children \(Care and Justice\) \(Scotland\) Bill](#) on 13 June 2023. It welcomed changes that would lead to more young people being referred to the Children's Hearing System, rather than the adult justice system. However, the committee has called for updated, full costings to show how proposed changes will be funded.

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

#### **[PROPOSED COMMISSIONER FOR OLDER PEOPLE \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)**

**Closing date: 12 September 2023**

Colin Smyth MSP is looking for your views on his proposal for a bill to establish an independent commissioner to promote and safeguard the rights and interests of older people.

### [HEALTHCARE IN REMOTE AND RURAL AREAS](#)

**Closing date: 11 August 2023**

The Health, Social Care and Sport Committee wants to hear from members of the public and staff about their experiences of remote and rural healthcare services. They are keen to find out what specific challenges people in these areas face and what can be done to improve services in these areas.

### [A HUMAN RIGHTS BILL FOR SCOTLAND: CONSULTATION](#)

**Closes: 5 October 2023**

The Scottish Government is gathering views to help inform how we will take forward the Human Rights Bill. The Bill will incorporate a range of economic, social and cultural rights into Scots law for the first time, as far as possible within the limits of devolved competence. Details of how to respond are [here](#).

### [PROPOSED LAND OWNERSHIP AND PUBLIC INTEREST \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

**Closes: 12 September 2023**

Mercedes Villalba MSP is looking for your views on her [proposal for a bill](#) to limit the amount of land any person can own.

### [BANKRUPTCY AND DILIGENCE \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

**Closes: 21 July 2023**

The [Economy and Fair Work Committee](#) wants to know your views about the proposals in a new [bill](#) that aims to change the laws around bankruptcy in Scotland. It particularly wants to hear from people with experience of severe financial difficulties.

### [WINTER PLANNING 2023-24](#)

**Closes: 14 July 2023**

The [Health, Social Care and Sport Committee](#) is undertaking a short inquiry into winter preparedness and planning within health and social care. The committee wants to hear your views on how successful the Scottish Government has been in implementing actions from its eight priorities to support winter resilience across health and care systems

### [REGULATION OF LEGAL SERVICES \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

**Closing date: 9 August 2023**

The [Equalities, Human Rights and Civil Justice Committee](#) is looking for your views on a [bill](#), which seeks to update the regulation of legal services in Scotland and provide a modernised regulatory framework.

### [LOCAL LIVING AND 20 MINUTE NEIGHBOURHOODS: DRAFT PLANNING GUIDANCE](#)

**Deadline: 20 July 2023**

People are being asked for their views on local living and 20-minute neighbourhood planning guidance as part of a consultation launched by the Scottish Government.

To support the implementation of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), draft guidance has been prepared to support people to meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, preferably through active travel or by using public transport.