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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

[MARTYN'S LAW CONSULTATION](#)

Closes: 18 March 2024

A public consultation for Martyn's Law is now open. This Bill aims to introduce improved event security and preparedness during a terrorist attack. Community and voluntary organisations may be affected if they have a capacity of 100+ in their facilities. Those responsible for premises are encouraged to participate in the consultation which seeks to make sure the new requirements do not place undue burdens on smaller businesses, while still protecting the public.

See also GCVS Blog: [Martyn's Law and What it Means for the Third Sector](#)

[HEAT IN BUILDINGS CONSULTATION EVENT FOR THE ORKNEY ISLANDS AND SHETLAND ISLANDS, 5 MARCH, ONLINE](#)

The Scottish Government is proposing to make new laws around the heating systems that can be used in homes and places of work, which will help Scotland reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reach its legal binding 'net zero' targets. A number of online and in-person events have been organised across Scotland for people to learn what is being proposed in the [Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Bill](#) and to share their opinions through facilitated discussions. The sessions are being delivered by environmental charity Keep Scotland Beautiful, on behalf of the Scottish Government.

A session is being held online on 5 March for the Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands. Find out more about the session and register to attend on [Eventbrite](#).

WWF Scotland has produced this [handy guide](#) that explains the proposals, how they can be improved and how you can take part in the consultation.

CIRCULAR COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND'S [#SHAREREPAIRAWARE CAMPAIGN](#)

The #ShareRepairAware Campaign encourages the public, members and supporting organisations to pledge to be #ShareRepairAware in 2024, to learn more about sharing and repairing projects and behaviours, and to promote sharing and repairing as alternatives to buying new.

[INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT](#)

Closes: 3 March 2024

The Scottish Government has commissioned an independent review of Community Learning & Development (CLD) Learning, to find out what people think is working well, and what could be done better. This will inform education reform plans. The review wants to hear from many different voices and learners about their experiences with CLD learning, and from those who might want to do CLD learning now or in the future.

If you are a learner or someone who wants to learn, help the review by completing 12 questions in a survey. The easiest way to do this is to [answer the questions online at Citizen Space](#).

CLD workers and volunteers, third sector organisations, local government decision-makers or budget-holders, or other service providers such as employability support, benefits or money advice, educators, mental health support workers should complete [CLD practitioners/stakeholders survey on Citizen Space](#).

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

[OSCR REMOVES ANOTHER 48 CHARITIES FROM THE SCOTTISH CHARITY REGISTER](#)

This month, the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has removed a further 48 charities from the Scottish Charity Register. Since September 2023, a dedicated project team at OSCR has identified over 100 charities which are suitable to be removed from the register.

The organisations, including the latest batch of 48 charities, have been identified for removal as they no longer meet the charity test. This usually means OSCR cannot find any evidence suggesting that the charity is still operating and The charity has failed to engage with communications from OSCR.

RESOURCES

[FAIR FUNDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR](#)

SCVO has set out the principles of Fair Funding they've developed with Scotland's voluntary sector. This version of the principles includes asks of Scottish Government and can be read in conjunction with asks for local government and other actors developed by the TSI Scotland Network based on the Fair Funding principles.

[EMBODY TO EMPOWER: A NEW RESOURCE FOR YOUNG WOMEN ABOUT ACCESSING HEALTHCARE IN SCOTLAND](#)

From registering with a medical centre, doctor, or dentist, to making appointments, to talking to healthcare practitioners and having treatments, accessing healthcare is a journey.

The EmBody to EmPower project consists of a group of young women who co-designed three digital and physical resources to help create a more inclusive understanding of what a positive experience of accessing healthcare is, and how young women can build the skills and confidence to self-advocate within healthcare settings.

The resources contain information about knowing your body, accessing healthcare, preparing for your appointment, and what a positive experience of accessing healthcare can be like. It also includes guidance about how to push for the healthcare you deserve when you are still not feeling right, support information, plus further reading, resources, and signposting.

[CYBERSCOTLAND WEEK: KEEPING EVERYONE CYBER AWARE AND RESILIENT, 26TH FEBRUARY - 3RD MARCH 2024](#)

CyberScotland Week brings people and organisations across Scotland together to raise cyber security awareness and build cyber resilience.

This week of events is for everyone, regardless of age. Cyber threats can impact our personal and professional lives as we increasingly live more of our lives online. We all need to understand cyber risks and take steps to protect ourselves, our families, and our businesses as the digital world continues to expand. CyberScotland Week offers something for individuals who want to be safer online, as well as for organisations looking to develop robust cyber defences

[SCVO CYBER SECURITY GUIDANCE](#)

Risk management is an important part of good governance and the threat from cyber-attacks on charities continues. Check out SCVO's recently refreshed [Cyber Security guidance](#) and sign up for the upcoming [Cyber Resilience for the Third Sector Conference](#) on 28 February 2024, as part of CyberScotland Week.

If you're interested in upskilling in the field of cybersecurity at no cost, there's support available for [cyber skills training](#) of technical employees within the voluntary sector from the [Public Sector Cyber Upskilling Fund](#).

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

BUSINESS GATEWAY EVENTS

MAKE IT HAPPEN DAY – THURSDAY, 29TH FEBRUARY 2024

Create Highland/UHI are delivering a 1-day fully funded workshop at the Scalloway Campus, UHI. The workshop is aimed at previous entrants of their business competition as well as students and members of the community who are interested in taking the next step to start up their business or want to get their business idea back on track. You can attend for the full or day or are welcome to attend for individual sessions, choose from the following:

- 11.00 - Royal Bank of Scotland Business Banking
- 11.30 - Impact Hub Inverness on social enterprise and funding
- 13.15 - Business Gateway Shetland
- 13.45 - Tuminds Social Media
- 14.30 - Business Model Canvas interactive session

Please email create.ic@uhi.ac.uk to book your place or advise which sessions you'd like attend. The Make it Happen Day is supported by the Scottish Ecosystem Fund 2023-24 thanks to [Scottish Enterprise](#) and [The Scottish Government](#).

[SCOTTISH ISLANDS DEAL – INFORMATION AND SUPPLY CHAIN ENGAGEMENT WEBINAR – TUESDAY, 5TH MARCH 2024](#)

The Islands Growth Deal is a 10-year package of investment that will seek to drive economic growth and the creation of sustainable jobs across Shetland, Orkney, and the Outer Hebrides. The Growth Deal will see investment in sixteen projects and programmes (island specific and cross-island) built around three strategic themes of: low carbon, supporting growth and future industries, and thriving sustainable communities.

Through the projects, the Islands Growth Deal has multiple aims, which include: improving economic productivity, delivering up to 1,300 jobs by 2032, supporting the islands to become one of the first areas in the UK to achieve net zero, building innovation-focused recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the islands' demographic challenges, as well as encouraging inclusive and sustainable growth across the island communities.

You are invited to join a free webinar, hosted in partnership with the [Supplier Development Programme](#), to learn more about the Islands Growth Deal, its projects, and potential opportunities.

The webinar discusses projects in each of the Council areas, with insights from a number of speakers, including:

Charlene Macmillan, Strategy Officer, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Inga Burton, Service Manager Sustainable Regeneration, Orkney Islands Council
Neil Grant, Development Director, Shetland Islands Council

VILLAGE HALLS WEEK – 18 -24 MARCH 2024

Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament is joining with ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) to celebrate Village Halls Week, which runs from 18th to 24th March 2024. You can find out more on [ACRE's website](#) and we'll be adding more to the [SRA website](#) soon on how to get involved!

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

The Social Enterprise Cross Party Group (CPG) meeting on economic transformation (In person event), Tuesday 5 March | 18:00

Join us at the Scottish Parliament as we discuss the key role social enterprise plays in economic transformation.

COOPERATIVES AND THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY, WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH | 11:00, ONLINE EVENT

Hear from Cooperatives UK, the UK Law Commission, media co-op and Cooperative Development Scotland as we explore the cooperative movement in Scotland and how we might see more partnership working between coops and other social enterprises.

Watch previous webinars at SES's [YouTube channel](#).

EDI COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE – WHAT WORKS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS, 7 MARCH, 2024, 10:00 - 13:00, FREE, ONLINE

Join YouthLink Scotland and Zero Tolerance for a Community of Practice looking at what works to prevent violence against women and girls. We will be discussing what gender equal practice looks like and considering what young people learn from social norms displayed by the adults around them. This session will include a mix of input and group discussion.

THE FUTURE IS PEER ONLINE EVENT, WED, 20 MAR 2024 11:00 - 16:00 GMT

Scottish Recovery Network are hosting an online event live from their studio for The Future is Peer, sharing ideas on how to bring peer support to more people and places. Highlights will include an online workshop, first access to two films, and organizations from around the country sharing info about their peer support work. This event is ideal for those involved in developing, managing and delivering peer support including peer workers and volunteers. This online event will coincide with their sold-out in-person event and is completely free.

MET OFFICE TRAINING (ONLINE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE COURSES FOR PEOPLE WHO WORK OR VOLUNTEER IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE THEM MORE RESILIENT TO SEVERE WEATHER EVENTS)

Community responders and the voluntary sector play a crucial role in the resilience of the UK. This training prospectus is aimed at those who work or volunteer in the local community to make them more resilient to severe weather events. The Met Office have a key role under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to provide information to Category 1 and 2 responders but also to warn and inform the public around severe weather. The courses contained in this prospectus will provide an opportunity for community responders and the voluntary sector who work closely with local responders to increase their knowledge and find sources of information to assist them as they respond to severe weather. (See attached PDF for more information)

SIC COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WINTER POP-INS

Held on Wednesdays, from 10 January until 20 March: 10 am – 12 noon

Pop along for hot drinks, board games, wellbeing activities & crafts and good company. Starting 10 January at the Lerwick Jubilee Flower Park Pavillion.

Held on Thursdays, from 11 January until 28 March: 3 pm – 5. 30 pm

Pop along for hot drinks, board games, after school snacks and good company. Starting 11 January 2024 in St Ringans Hub, Lower Hillhead, Lerwick.

If you would like support to attend the above pop-ins, or would like more information about each of these, please contact Joanne.Fraser3@shetland.gov.uk or telephone 01595 743889.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

No Updates

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

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

[THE SCOTTISH ELECTIONS \(REPRESENTATION AND REFORM\) BILL](#)

Deadline: Wednesday 6th March

The Scottish Elections (Representation and Reform) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 23 January 2024. The Committee has been designated as lead committee on the Bill. The Bill makes a number of changes to the law affecting Scottish Parliament and Scottish local government elections known as Scottish elections.

The Committee would like to hear views on whether the proposed legislation will help to increase participation by extending the right to stand as a candidate in the Scottish Parliament and local government elections in Scotland.

[FAIR WORK FIRST - BUSINESS & REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SURVEY](#)

Deadline: 12 March 2024

Scottish Government is carrying out a Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment (BRIA) on the mandatory Fair Work First Conditionality that was added to public sector grants awarded from 1 July 2023 - payment of the real Living Wage and provision of mechanisms of Effective Voice. The [FWF BRIA SURVEY](#) aims to capture views on the impact of the requirements, which will inform Minister's policy position on conditionality going forward. We are seeking input from organisations that have experience of applying for or awarding public sector grants.

[LEARNING DISABILITIES, AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE \(LDAN\) BILL](#)

Closes: 21 April 2024

Views are being sought on proposals to better protect, respect and champion the rights of people with learning disabilities, autistic and neurodivergent people. There is an explanation of how to respond and the consultation paper is provided in alternative formats, including: Easy Read, audio, British Sign Language, child-friendly version with an accompanying adult's guide, and a summary version. You can also request paper copies. You can also submit a response in writing, audio, video, or BSL video by sending via email to LDAN.Bill@gov.scot.

[JUDICIAL FACTORS \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

Closes date: 15 March 2024

The [Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee](#) is seeking your views on the Judicial Factors (Scotland) Bill. A judicial factor is an individual appointed by the court to manage the property of those who, for whatever reason, are unable or unwilling to do so.

[SCOTLAND'S COMMISSIONER LANDSCAPE: A STRATEGIC APPROACH](#)

Closing date: 11 March 2024

The [Finance and Public Administration Committee](#) is looking for your views on Scotland's approach to commissioners. The committee would like to hear whether a more coherent, strategic approach is needed for creating any future commissioners.

[DELIVERING NET ZERO FOR SCOTLAND'S BUILDINGS - HEAT IN BUILDINGS BILL: CONSULTATION](#)

Closes: 8 March 2024

The Scottish Government is seeking your views on proposals for greener and warmer buildings in Scotland. [The Heat in Buildings Bill: consultation](#) is open for responses until Friday 8 March 2024.

Clean heating systems will replace polluting heating systems in Scotland's homes and buildings by 2045 under proposals [published by the Scottish Government](#).

Under legislation to be introduced in 2025, those buying new homes or buildings would be asked to move to a "clean" heating system, such as a heat pump or connection to a heat network, within a fixed period of time following that purchase. Minimum energy efficiency standards for Scotland's homes could also be introduced to make them warmer and less expensive to heat.