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THIRD SECTOR NEWS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: [SFRS STRATEGY 2025-2028 | SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE \(SFRS\)](#)

CLOSING DATE: 2 APRIL 2025

SFRS has begun a public consultation on how SFRS will operate over the next three years. The draft SFRS Strategy 2025-28 outlines the Board and Chief Officer's priorities which will be reflected through a number of key objectives for our service. Each objective includes a desired outcome, what we define as success, and our plan to achieve these goals.

This strategy marks the first step in an ongoing journey to be a leading, sustainable and modern fire and rescue service for Scotland.

Your input is crucial in shaping our decision-making. Please voice your opinions about the services we provide here: [SFRS Strategy 2025-2028 | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service](#)

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR

[GET READY FOR NEW CHARITY REGULATIONS COMING THIS YEAR](#)

From summer, charities will need to provide **trustees' details to OSCR** and at the end of 2025, charity accounts will begin to be publicly available on the Scottish Charity Register.

RESOURCES

CHANGES TO DISCLOSURE: YOUR ROLE. THEIR SAFETY. REGULATED ROLES AND THE PVG SCHEME - DISCLOSURE SCOTLAND

Disclosure Scotland have released a new guide which details the changes that are happening when the Disclosure (Scotland) Act 2020 comes into effect from 1 April 2025 and the Protecting Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme becomes a legal requirement (see attached PDF).

WATCH: WORK OF COMMUNITY LINK WORKERS IN SCOTLAND

[Voluntary Health Scotland](#) and the [Scottish Community Link Worker Network](#) (SCLWN) have launched some short films which celebrate and showcase the vital work of community link workers in Scotland. There are 4 films – one each from the perspective of CLWs, patients and GPs – and an overview film which explores the current context of community link working in Scotland and the role of the SCLWN. A big thanks to everyone who took part in the filming.

Watch Now:

- [The Power of Community Link Workers](#): hear from 3 CLWs about their role and what it means to them
- [Community Link Workers-Patient Stories](#): hear from patients who have directly benefited from the service
- [GP interviews-Community Link Workers' role in primary care](#): hear GPs talk about their experience of working with CLWs and their role in primary care
- [Overview of Social Prescribing and the SCLWN](#): learn more about the current context for social prescribing in Scotland and the role of the SCLWN

VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS: GUIDE TO SURVEYS

This guide from ACRE explains the different types of surveys that anyone managing a village hall may need to commission. It also aims to assist surveyors to understand a little about the complexities that may be faced when undertaking such a survey. Although it refers to 'village halls' the guidance can also be applied to many other similar community-use buildings.

The guidance takes a hall committee through the benefits of obtaining a survey, explains different types of surveys and how to go about engaging a surveyor. Surveys are important because they help ensure your hall is kept in a good condition and that alteration and improvement work is appropriate and beneficial. They don't just describe the existing situation; they can also be used to identify improvement works and assess and evaluate recommendations.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS

[THRIVING VILLAGE HALLS: INSPIRING INCOME IDEAS WORKSHOP TICKETS, THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025 AT 1:00 PM](#)

A FREE online event, which is being held as part of [Village Halls Week 2025](#). On 20th March 1-2pm, Scottish Rural Action (SRA) is partnering with [Social Enterprise Scotland \(SES\)](#) and three very inspiring speakers, to celebrate our wonderful village halls, and the people who run them.

Our speakers - Colintrave Village Hall (Argyll), Brodick Community Hall (Isle of Arran), and an urban speaker from SES (TBC) - will offer examples of the diverse and interesting activities taking place in village halls, how they involve their communities, and the challenges and stresses encountered along the way. These will be real, honest accounts of community spaces in action, with an opportunity to network, share stories, experiences, and learn from one another. Stay tuned for an exciting announcement from SES, which will conclude our session.

To sign up, please visit Eventbrite: [Thriving Village Halls: Inspiring Income Ideas Workshop Tickets, Thu, Mar 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#). This event is open to anyone who would like to attend, therefore feel free to share with your network. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your access or participation requirements, please email Nikki nikki@sra.scot or phone 07799137779.

[CYRENIANS SCOTTISH CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION \(SCCR\), DIGITAL ONLINE CONFERENCE OF FREE EVENTS THIS MARCH!](#)

'Can't not 'won't – is there a choice? Or is there a barrier?' features talks, workshops and Q&A's hosted by highly regarded speakers in their field who will talk from their heart with great knowledge and experience.

Recovering from Violence: A professional and lived experience perspective - 13th March at 10:00

This event is with James Docherty, Project Manager at Scottish Violence Reduction Unit. James will give professional insight and experience in what it takes to overcome adversity. The event will be followed by a Q&A. Reserve a free place at James' online event by clicking [here](#).

Status Quo or Status No: Rethinking Mental Health in Education – 13th March 16:00

This event is with Billy Burke, Head of Service, SAMH. We are in the midst of a mental health crisis, and status quo is not good enough for Scotland's young people. This event will explore and discuss what needs to change and how can the education system help. The event will be followed by a Q&A. Reserve a free place at Billy's online event by clicking [here](#).

Young Carers: Give me a Break – 18th March 11:00

This event is with Lorna Gibson, Young Carer Network Coordinator at Carers Trust Scotland. This event will give an oversight of who young carers are and the challenges they may face. You will also hear about some of the National work, legislation and support available for young carers and their families. The event will be followed by a Q&A. Reserve a free place at Lorna's online event [here](#).

It Takes all Kind of Minds (Neurodiversity Workshop) – 20th March 15:00

This event is with Nelly Whaley, Training Manager at Salvesen Mindroom Centre. In this virtual workshop, we will explore how you can begin to take a more holistic, strengths-based approach to supporting neurodivergent individuals. You will expand your knowledge and understanding of neurodiversity and be encouraged to reflect on how your practice can promote inclusion and

acceptance. The event will be followed by a Q&A. You can reserve a free place at Nelly's online event by clicking [here](#).

Flipping the Script – 25th March 10:00

This event is with SCCR's Aimee McDonald, Emotional Health and Wellbeing Lead and Katie Walker, Learning Facilitator. Join us for a session designed to equip both parents and professionals with the tools to foster positive interactions, manage challenging behaviours, and create an environment of growth and understanding. The event will be followed by a Q&A. You can reserve a free place at Aimee and Katie's online event by clicking [here](#).

Balancing Screen Time – 26th March 10:00

This event is with Sheena Peckham, Content Lead at Internet Matters. Understanding children's and young people's relationship with digital is key to finding common ground when it comes to managing screen time. In this session, we'll explore the digital landscape, what 'screen time' actually means and what balanced screen time looks like along with tools to support children and young people's wellbeing when it comes to screens. The event will be followed by a Q&A. You can reserve a free place at Sheena's online event by clicking [here](#).

CYBER SECURITY FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISES, WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 12:30-1:30PM

Join [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) for an insightful session on cyber security tailored for social enterprises. Learn about the fundamentals of cyber security, cost-saving measures, free tools, how to building a strong cyber culture, and incident planning—giving you the confidence that your organisation is protected.

FREE GAMBLING/GAMING HARM THIRD SECTOR EVENT - THURS 27TH MARCH 2024 - 10AM TO 11.30AM - MARKET HOUSE TRAINING ROOM FACE TO FACE SESSION

Fast Forward is a charity working in prevention and education of gambling and gaming harm in Scotland. We will be working with children, young people, families, communities and practitioners across Shetland. We are holding an event Thursday 27th March 25 at the Market House to raise awareness of gambling, gaming and its impact on our communities. We are inviting the third sector along to this interactive workshop with lots of space for discussion.

JUST ENTERPRISE TRAINING

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS & TRUSTEES, (ONLINE WORKSHOP), 11TH MARCH, 10.30AM - 12PM

Join us for a deep dive into the roles and responsibilities of directors and trustees. This workshop is essential for anyone looking to gain clarity on governance, leadership and decision-making.

FUNDING BUSINESS GROWTH, ONLINE WORKSHOP, 18TH MARCH, 10.30AM - 12PM

There are many ways to fund the growth of your business. This online workshop will provide an overview of these and when it is best to use different forms of finance and look at what you need to know when looking and applying for grant funding for your social enterprise.

PRICING YOUR SERVICES, ONLINE WORKSHOP, NEXT DATE: 14TH MARCH

One of the hardest parts of running your own social enterprise is deciding how much to charge. This workshop will help you understand the factors to consider when setting a price for your services, along with understanding the profit on what you sell

BUDGETING FOR YOUR ORGANISATION, ONLINE WORKSHOP, NEXT DATE: 31ST MARCH

In enterprise it's critical to know how to manage money, in fact budgeting is the cornerstone of any organisation's financial planning and reporting. This practical workshop will set you on the path to budgeting with confidence.

FREE E-LEARNING FROM JUST ENTERPRISE

Prefer to learn at a time, place and pace of your own choosing? [Just Enterprise eLearning programmes](#) 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.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

SCVO

FURTHERING FINANCIAL RESILIENCE AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF INVESTMENTS, 18 MARCH, 13.00 - 14.00, ONLINE, FREE

SCVO will explore how charities of all shapes and sizes can optimise their assets to support greater financial resilience.

SCVO WEBINAR RECORDING: NEW LAWS ON DISCLOSURE AND PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

HIGHLANDS AND ISLAND CLIMATE HUB

Funding Masterclass, Mon 31st March - 10am - 2.30pm

Improve or refresh your funding finding and application writing skills with our interactive training workshop. [Register here](#)

Community action for a greener future, Sat 29th March - 11am - 2.30pm

Supporting community led climate action in Shetland and encouraging collaboration. [Register here](#)

Sustainable Spaces

Transform your community building into a sustainable space with an environmental policy & action plan, supported by the Hub's Team of Development Officers. [Support & training available now.](#)

Food Hygiene Hero

Final call for those wishing to undertake our fully funded Level 2 Food Safety & Hygiene for Catering course. Suitable for staff or volunteers involved in the delivery of a food waste project based in the Highlands or Northern Isles. [Apply here.](#)

Funding Finder

Read our latest Funding Guide for our members, which totals funds over £2.6 million. [Find it here.](#)

COMMUNITY ACTION FOR A GREENER FUTURE, SATURDAY THE 29TH OF MARCH, SCALLOWAY HALL FROM 11 – 2.30PM

The event is aimed at community organizations who are involved or want to get involved in climate action. We will have a good range of agencies working locally with communities and climate related initiatives in the same room. The agencies are:

- Highlands and Islands Climate Hub
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE)
- Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS)
- SIC Community Planning and Development
- Island Centre for Net Zero (ICNZ)
- Community Energy Scotland (CES)
- Local Energy Scotland
- SIC Climate Team

We will also have community groups telling us about their experience with climate related projects. Food and drink will be provided, please let us know if you have any dietary requirements. Please sign up to the event here: [Community action for a greener future Tickets, Sat, Mar 29, 2025 at 11:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

This event is put on by Highlands and Islands Climate Hub, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Shetland Islands Council. If you've got any questions, contact andrea@hiclimatehub.co.uk or frances.browne@shetland.gov.uk, t: 01595745717.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

VACANCY - [SICAB FINANCE & RESOURCE MANAGER \(PERMANENT CONTRACT\)](#)

Closing date: 14th March 2025

Location: Market House, 14 Market Street, Lerwick, Shetland Islands ZE1 0JP

Salary range: £40,698 - £43,742 per annum

A new and diverse role (Finance & Resource Manager) within the Shetland Islands Citizens Advice Bureau (SICAB) Team. This role is a permanent contract.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS

LEGISLATION

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

SURVEY ON DEVELOPING THE RURAL DELIVERY PLAN

Closes: 17 March 2025

Scottish Government have launched a survey to give everyone who has interest in rural Scotland a chance to share their views and to help shape the Rural Delivery Plan. For more details and to complete the survey click [here](#).

A RIGHT TO YOUTH WORK IN SCOTLAND

The deadline for responses has been extended to 31st March

Scottish Labour MSP Martin Whitfield has launched a public consultation on the proposed Youth Work (Scotland) Bill, and he has created two short surveys to make it quick and easy for you to respond! One survey is for young people to share their views.

The other is for everyone who cares about youth work—youth workers, parents, educators, and supporters.

Each survey takes just 5 minutes, so this is your chance to make your voice heard on the future of youth work in Scotland.

- [For young people](#).
- [For everyone else who cares about youth work](#).

[TERTIARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING \(FUNDING AND GOVERNANCE\) \(SCOTLAND\) BILL](#)

Closes: 11 April 2025

The [Education, Children and Young People Committee](#) is looking at the Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill and wants to hear your views. [This bill](#) seeks to simplify the funding landscape for post-school education and training.