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THIRD SECTOR NEWS
<p><u>BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS 2025</u> Deadline for nominations: 31 March 2025, 5pm Do you know someone who has made a difference? This is a fantastic chance to nominate someone in your community. and make sure they get the recognition they deserve.</p>
<p><u>ENERGY SAVING TRUST RE-AWARDED CARES CONTRACT</u></p> <p>The Energy Saving Trust has been re-awarded the contract to manage the Scottish Government’s Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) for the next four years. In addition to funding, CARES will support communities through every stage of their renewable energy projects. This includes a range of online resources and access to free, impartial advice and guidance from local development officers and Local Energy Scotland experts.</p>

NEWS FROM THE CHARITY REGULATOR
<p><u>GUIDANCE ON CHARITY TRUSTEE DISQUALIFICATION</u></p> <p>The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) has updated its guidance on the rules that automatically disqualify individuals from serving as charity trustees. The guidance covers the definition of a charity trustee, the current disqualification criteria, when exemptions apply and how exemption decisions are made.</p>

RESOURCES

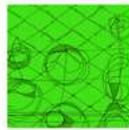
[CARERS SCOTLAND RESEARCH REPORT: 'STATE OF CARING IN SCOTLAND 2024: PAID WORK AND ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT FOR UNPAID CARERS'](#)

This is the first report based on the 2024 State of Caring survey. To mark Carers UK's 60th Anniversary in Scotland in 2025 they are sharing the stories of carers across the nation. Read them [here](#).

[HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE - DIGITAL TOURISM SPECIALIST ADVICE](#)

This service offers up to 3 days of free one-to-one specialist digital advice for small and medium-sized businesses in the tourism sector. You'll get to speak to digital experts from several disciplines who will help you understand your options and develop and exploit digital opportunities for growth.

FORTHCOMING TRAINING AND EVENTS



SHETLAND TEXTILES NETWORK

TEXTILES & THE ENVIRONMENT

AN AFTERNOON OF TALKS & DEMONSTRATIONS with

OLIVER HENRY DONNA SMITH SUE WHITE

ELIZABETH JOHNSTON RACHEL CHALLONER

Saturday 15th March 2.30 – 5.30 pm

Room 12, Islesburgh Community Centre & Online

[email enquiries@shetlandtextilesnetwork.org](mailto:email.enquiries@shetlandtextilesnetwork.org)

to reserve your **free** place



Shetland Befriending Scheme Tea & Cake at Islesburgh

A free group for adults
to meet, eat cake, chat
and make new friends!

Friday 21st March
2.00 – 3.30pm

Featuring a chance to
relax and have a chat

Future Dates:
25th April & 18th May



For more details contact Ian Edwards on 01595 743 964  

NOTICE: SHETLANDPEERIEMAKKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Thursday 27th March, 13:00, Boardroom @ Mareel

Please email info@shetlandpeeriemakers.org to confirm attendance, especially if you have access requirements that we can help you with.

SCVO FREE TRAINING

[DIGISHIFT 88: BUILDING SUCCESSFUL DIGITAL CAMPAIGNS IN CHANGING TIMES, 10:00-11:00, 26 MARCH 2025, ONLINE](#)

In 2025, the social media and wider digital landscape continues to change more rapidly than ever. In this expert-led session, we'll look at how to build successful digital campaigns in 2025, covering the core insights, strategies, and approaches you need to thrive in a rapidly changing environment - in particular recent changes to Meta and X.

THRE – THIRD SECTOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITIES

THRE Training Coming Up Soon:

- Thursday, 20 March: [Governance](#)
- Wednesday, 26 March: [The Basics](#)
- Wednesday, 2 April: [Funding and Fundraising](#)
- Monday, 7 April: [PANEL Workshop](#)
- Wednesday, 16 and 17th April: [The Basics: \(over 2 half days\)](#)

CHILDREN IN NEED BIG SKY GRANTS - INFO SESSIONS

[BBC CHILDREN IN NEED – BIG SKY GRANT FUND](#)

This programme will offer grants of up to £5,000 to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children aged 8-13 living in island and remote rural communities.

Grants are for early support to prevent problems developing at a later stage and could be through things like sports groups, art classes, and youth clubs. This is also part of our commitment to funding grassroots organisations who provide vital positive relationships to support children and young people.

The programme in Scotland is already open to those working in Orkney, Shetland, the Western Isles, Highland and Argyll & Bute. It is now opening to those in Dumfries & Galloway, Aberdeenshire, Perth & Kinross, Moray, Scottish Borders, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Angus and Stirling.

Applications will be by invitation only. BBC CiN Scotland are running information sessions and encourage organisations interested in applying (or curious to learn more!) to join us. The sessions will cover who the fund is for, what types of work it can support and how to apply. There will also be opportunities to ask questions and speak to the BBC CiN Scotland Grant Officers.

Big Sky Information Sessions (online via Teams) Dates:

- Option 1: Thursday 20th March 14.00 - 14.45
- Option 2: Tuesday 1st April 11.00 - 11.45

To register please e-mail cin.scotland@bbc.co.uk with your name, organisation, and the session you would like to attend. If you have any accessibility needs, please let us know.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

[HUMAN LEARNING SYSTEMS AND EMPLOYABILITY, TUESDAY 25 MARCH | 14:00 – 15:00, ONLINE](#)

Online event hosted in partnership by Third Sector Employability Forum (TSEF), the TSI Network and Social Enterprise Scotland. [Human Learning Systems](#) has emerged in recent years as an alternative approach to public management which embraces the complexity of the real world and applies a continuous improvement mindset to how we navigate this. Participants at this workshop will learn about Human Learning Systems theory and methodology as well as exploring practical examples of how it is being applied in Scotland.

[CONSULTATION WEBINAR: COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM NET ZERO ENERGY, THURSDAY 27 MARCH | 14:00 – 15:00, ONLINE](#)

This consultation is part of a Scottish Government review of the Good Practice Principles for onshore and offshore renewable energy, which seeks to ensure that Scottish Government guidance helps communities and developers get the best from community benefits. Whilst we ask would these benefits will look like to social enterprises and our sector.

[TUESDAY 1 APRIL | 17:30 – 20:00, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CROSS-PARTY GROUP MEETING: COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP, IN PERSON AND ONLINE](#)

The next Social Enterprise CPG meeting will be on 1st April 2025 in the Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 2. This will open with our conversation on Community Ownership with 5 speakers and then a Q&A session.

WEDNESDAY 2 APRIL | 11:00 – 12:00. PRACTICAL STEPS TO BECOMING A NEUROINCLUSIVE EMPLOYER: THE WELCOME TO WORK PLEDGE, ONLINE

This webinar – hosted by [Welcome Brain](#), advocates for neurodiversity, inclusion, and the realisation of untapped potential – will explore why neuroinclusive hiring matters and the practical steps you can take—from writing clearer job postings to fairer shortlisting and interview practices.

NATIONAL RURAL MENTAL HEALTH FORUM - ONLINE - MARCH 26TH, 11AM

The next [National Rural Mental Health Forum](#) will be on Wednesday March 26th, 11 am. The topic will be the Suicide Bereavement Service and also SeeMe Scotland on Supporting Workplaces in Rural Scotland to Tackle Mental Health Stigma.

VOLUNTARY HEALTH SCOTLAND: MISSINGNESS IN HEALTHCARE EVENT - MARCH 26TH ONLINE, 10.30AM - 12PM

Exploring missingness in healthcare and the impact on health inequalities. Guest speaker is Professor Andrea Williamson, Professor of General Practice and Inclusion Health at the University of Glasgow.

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.

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.

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 overview 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 [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. Reserve a free place [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](#).

JUST ENTERPRISE TRAINING

[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](#)

[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.

There is also availability to book a more in-depth session for your staff teams if feel that would be beneficial. Please contact dawn.smith@shetland.gov.uk who can put you in touch with Fran at FastForward.



GAMBLING, GAMING AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR COMMUNITIES

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.

There will be resources, information and a space for questions. We will discuss how to recognise signs of harm and where to go for support. Sign up on eventbrite to secure your ticket.

Where:



**IN PERSON AT MARKET HOUSE
LERWICK
SIGN UP HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK
/E/1237146942809?
AFF=ODDTCREATOR](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/E/1237146942809?AFF=ODDTCREATOR)**

When:



**THURSDAY 27TH MARCH 25
10:00-11:30**



**PLEASE CONTACT US FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FAST FORWARDS WORK:
0131 544 4300
sgeh@fastforward.org.uk
www.gamblingeducationhub.fastforward.org.uk**

CLIMATE RELATED NEWS, EVENTS & TRAINING

[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.

CLIMATE OUTREACH

WORKSHOP ON HOW TO EARN TRUST IN A CLIMATE OF DISTRUST

To transition to a low-carbon society, we need to be able to trust the wide range of people and organisations that can help get us there. But trust is at an all-time low. The story we're hearing around the world is of progress stalling, or going into reverse. Despite everyone's best efforts, climate messages aren't always landing as we want. Climate Outreach and The Connectives are excited to bring you a new workshop that will help you inspire hope, credibility, and connection through powerful communication. We currently have two dates with limited spaces; find out more and book below:

📅 22 April, 14:00 - 16:30 UK time - [book here](#)

📅 20 May, 14:00 - 16:30 UK time - [book here](#)

WHAT CLIMATE STORY DO WE NEED TO TELL NOW? [GUIDE](#) : WHAT IS THE CLIMATE STORY IN 2025

What are the most mission critical and real world communications and engagement tasks we need to deliver on climate, energy and nature? And who needs to do them and how? These are some of the questions that, along with our partner Green Alliance, we asked 20 UK experts from academia, journalism, business and campaigning.

THRE CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES

Environmental rights are human rights. Climate change is undoubtedly having an impact on the communities we work with and support from its impacts on food production and water supplies to rising sea levels and increased volatility in weather systems. THRE is producing information to support you in understanding the impacts that climate change is having on the people you work with and support.

INTRODUCTORY GUIDE TO CARBON FOOTPRINTING

Scottish Enterprise's insight guide provides an introduction for businesses to the carbon footprinting process. It discusses what an organisational carbon footprint is, why businesses should calculate theirs and how they should go about doing it.

THE STATE OF THE SECTOR 2025 PORTAL IS OPEN

The [State of the Sector 2025](#) portal from [Community Energy Scotland](#) 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.

LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND

WATCH OUR RECORDING OF '[OPTIMISING YOUR HEAT PUMP](#)' WEBINAR

Learn how to optimise the performance of your heat pump after it has been installed. We'll discuss heat pump maintenance, monitoring performance, common challenges and more. The webinar is targeted towards groups that have installed a heat pump in a community building but will also be of interest to those that plan to have one installed.

HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND'S ONLINE ADVICE HUB

[Home Energy Scotland](#), an energy advice service funded by the Scottish Government, has improved its [online advice hub](#) to make it easier for users to discover ways to reduce their household energy costs and create a warmer home.

The advice hub is free to use and features a range of tools to help householders to start their energy saving journey by giving tailored advice. They can:

- take a home energy check to find out what energy saving improvements might be suitable for their home
- find out what funding is available in their area, including grants and loans from the Scottish Government
- check whether they could be eligible for Warmer Homes Scotland, if they're struggling to heat their home.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES/ VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

[BECOME AN #iWILL AMBASSADOR TODAY AND JOIN A COMMUNITY OF 1000 YOUNG CHANGEMAKERS ACROSS THE UK](#)

Applications for 2025 Scottish #iWill ambassadors are now open!! This may be a great opportunity for the young people (aged 10 - 24) you work with directly or to pass on to colleagues/partners who work directly with young people☺

#iWill is a UK wide national movement working to ensure every young person is equipped and enabled to shape and lead change in their own lives and communities.

Each year, #iWill recruit young people aged 10-24 from all across the UK as #iWill Ambassadors. They come from a variety of backgrounds, but all have one thing in common – a passion to make a difference to communities and society. #iWill ambassadors lead and grow the movement. Their vision is a society where all young people can shape and lead change in their lives and communities. Central to this is inspiring other young people to get involved in social action in their communities. As leaders, #iWill ambassadors use their social action experiences and our platforms to encourage and inspire young people in their communities and to help change the views and perceptions of young people in wider society!

#iWill is a UK wide movement but we're proud to have our own identity as #iWill Scotland. Attached is an application pack with fuller details on the movement, the ambassador role and what to expect.

SEE [#iWILL AMBASSADOR RECRUITMENT](#) FOR HOW TO APPLY!

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT NEWS

REPORTS

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REPORT ON POPULATION POLICIES

The Scottish Government has [published](#) a report on the policy system which characterises Scotland's attempt to foster the geographical balance of population, as set out in the Scottish Government's Population Strategy. The report, published by the independent Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population, explores Scotland's institutional and policy landscape with regards to population.

LEGISLATION

NCS BILL RENAMED CARE REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL AFTER STAGE 2 CONSIDERATION

The National Care Service (Scotland) Bill completed Stage 2 consideration on March 4th and due to a government amendment, the bill will now be referred to as the [Care Reform \(Scotland\) Bill](#). View the [Official Report](#) and [Minutes](#) from the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee's consideration of the bill.

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

A RIGHT TO YOUTH WORK IN SCOTLAND

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.