



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

**A SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS FOR SUPPORT AND
ADVICE FOR THE THIRD/VOLUNTARY SECTOR**



CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

MAGNUS FLAWS



It has been another busy year at Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS). The Board approved the new VISION Strategy which gives us an agreed agenda for the future, and staff have continued to concentrate on assisting other voluntary organisations in supporting them to run well and achieve their aims and objectives.

The board has been supporting a number of changes in our direct delivery areas of work in the last year, with the OPEN project having now become an independent charity in their own right. The New Shetlander publication is also now being managed out with our offices and we wish both organisations every success in the future.

This leaves us in continuing to support the Befriending Scheme and the Shetland Carers project, both which are in high demand meeting local need thanks to the staff and volunteers that deliver these much needed services.

Without the funding we receive none of the above would be possible, I personally would like to thank all our funders for their continuous investment and much appreciated support in assisting the Third Sector in Shetland.

I would like to thank all the Directors for giving up their valuable time to attend our board meetings and making sure that the decisions we make ensure our dedicated staff have the tools and finance to carry out their duties to help charities and community groups that need support.

I would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work and ensuring that VAS is always there to provide their services/direct delivery projects for others and a final huge thank you to our volunteers who give up their time freely to support individuals in our community. We could not do this without you.

VAS BOARD DIRECTORS 2023/2024

MR MAGNUS FLAWS	CHAIRPERSON
MR LINDSAY TULLOCH	VICE CHAIRPERSON
MR STEVEN LAIDLAW	FINANCIAL DIRECTOR
MRS OLIVE MACLEOD	DIRECTOR
MRS MARILYN STEWART	DIRECTOR
MR ALLISON DUNCAN	DIRECTOR
MRS BRENDA WILCOCK	DIRECTOR



**THE BOARD
APPROVED THE
NEW VISION
STRATEGY**



VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND



Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) is Shetland's Third Sector Interface. They play an important role in the Third Sector landscape. They are a key point of intelligence about local third sector organisations and volunteering. There are 32 Third Sector Interfaces (TSI's) in Scotland with one situated in each local authority area in Scotland.

Following on from funding successfully received through Highlands and Islands Enterprise to support an organisational development piece of work;

The new VISION for Voluntary Action Shetland is: A Strong, Sustainable and Valued Asset for Shetland, playing a leading role in Championing and Supporting Community Needs

The new MISSION is: To Support, Represent and Develop Community and Voluntary Action in Shetland Delivered through CORE activity:

TO BE A CENTRAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

- About the Third Sector Locally.

TO BE THE VOICE

- Ensuring a strong Third Sector Voice at a Strategic Level within Local Planning Structures and Nationally.

TO BUILD CAPACITY

- Developing the capacity of volunteering, community groups, voluntary organisations and social enterprise to achieve positive change.

TO CONNECT

- Providing Leadership, Vision and Co-ordination for the Local Third Sector to better respond to local priorities, including through partnership and collaboration

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SHETLAND PARTNERSHIP PLAN:

PARTICIPATION



PEOPLE



PLACE



MONEY



TO ACHIEVE KEY OUTCOMES:

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND IS RENOWNED AS AN EXAMPLAR MODEL FOR THE SECTOR

A PROACTIVE, RESPECTED BOARD PEOPLE WANT TO JOIN

HIGHLY REGARDED IN THE COMMUNITY AND WITH STAKEHOLDERS

MAKING A TANGIBLE DIFFERENCE TO THE THIRD SECTOR IN SHETLAND

TAKING ACTION TO TARGET EMISSIONS IN LINE WITH NET ZERO

OUR GUIDING VALUES WILL ENSURE WE ARE:

INSPIRING

LEADING

COLLABORATIVE

SUSTAINABLE

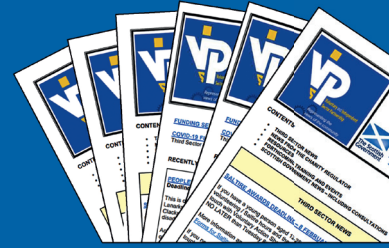
TO BE A CENTRAL SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE

VAS regularly distributes the Voluntary and Independent Sector Partnership (VISP) newsletters within the voluntary sector to charities and community groups.

The **Funding Newsletter** provides up to date information on available funding streams for charities and community groups to apply to.

The **General Newsletter** provides relevant information on Third Sector developments, legislation changes, good practice, consultations and notification of events/resources for groups to utilise/attend to support effective running of their organisation/community group.

The **Climate Newsletter** provides information to groups interested in the Climate agenda to stay up to date with news, training opportunities, new resources, legislation and good practice.



30 FUNDING NEWSLETTERS CIRCULATED

35 GENERAL NEWSLETTERS CIRCULATED

2 CLIMATE NEWSLETTERS CIRCULATED

72 INFORMATION E-BULLETINS

230 PEOPLE REPRESENTING 200 ORGANISATIONS/ GROUPS RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTERS

In a recent community annual survey based on 46 responses:



72%

agreed that by receiving the regular funding and general newsletters they were more informed about relevant training/funding opportunities, legislation and policy.



98%

agreed that VAS is the key point of contact for information and knowledge about the Third Sector Locally



AS OUR MAIN POINT OF CONTACT, THE VAS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE AND HELPFUL AT EVERY TURN. SHE IS A MINE OF INFORMATION AND A GREAT REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR EXCELLENT ORGANISATION. THANK GOODNESS YOU ARE THERE TO ASSIST, VAS!

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

OUR PROJECT HAS ACCESSED VAS SERVICES ON-AND-OFF OVER THE PAST 6 YEARS AND HAVE ALWAYS FOUND VALUE IN THEIR EXPERIENCE

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK



TO BE THE VOICE

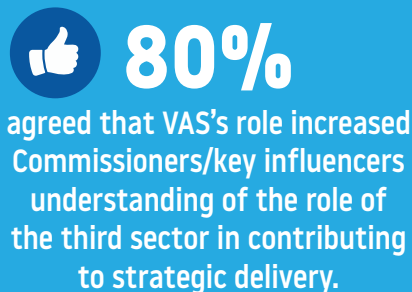
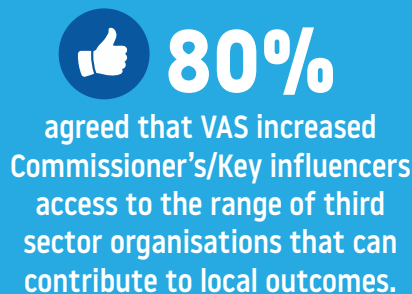
VAS continues to engage in a number of National and Local Strategic Partnerships, forums and working groups to enable voluntary groups and organisations to have a voice and the opportunity to contribute to local and national plans.

Working alongside other Third Sector organisations, Voluntary Action Shetland enabled Third Sector to contribute to:

- Development of the Shetland Childrens Partnership Plan 23-26
- Development of Shetland Community Justice Plan 23-28
- Community and Learning Development Inspection March 24
- A range of Local Partnerships Annual Reports 22/23



In a recent partner annual survey based on 10 responses:



VAS ARE AN EXCELLENT ORGANISATION AND ARE EXTREMELY WELL LED. THEY PROVIDE A VITAL ROLE WITHIN OUR PARTNERSHIP AREA

PARTNER FEEDBACK

VAS PROVIDES A GOOD SERVICE TO THE SHETLAND THIRD SECTOR AND ENSURES THIS SECTOR IS STRONGLY REPRESENTED STRATEGICALLY

PARTNER FEEDBACK



Details of the groups VAS/Third Sector are represented on can be found on the VAS Website:

<https://www.voluntaryactionshetland.com/what/organisations/representation>

TO BUILD CAPACITY

Support

VAS provides tailored and flexible support to build the capacity of as many voluntary organisations in Shetland as possible by responding to queries as they arise, and through targeted support and training. In providing the support, it enables local groups to run well which, in turn, supports them to meet local needs/demands.

**91 ORGANISATIONS/
GROUPS RECEIVED ONE
TO ONE SUPPORT ON A
RANGE OF ISSUES**

**67 PVG'S PROCESSED
FOR COMMUNITY
GROUPS/CHARITIES***

**56 INDEPENDENT
EXAMINATION
OF ACCOUNTS
UNDERTAKEN FOR
GROUPS**

**7 CHARITIES PROVIDED
WITH MONTHLY
PAYROLL AND
ACCOUNTS SUPPORT**

*Due to changes in legislation, VAS no longer acts as an intermediary organisation to process PVG applications on behalf of charities and community groups. This service concluded in November 23. VAS Staff supported 114 Voluntary Groups to enrol directly with Volunteer Scotland Disclosure Services (VSDES) in order for groups to obtain PVG's themselves for their staff and volunteers.

Key Development and Support work with organisations included:

- Identifying appropriate legal structures for third sector organisations and helping groups through the SCIO process and charity registration for both new and existing organisations; Dissolving organisations; Supporting groups to 'reorganise' and amend trust deeds; Supporting groups to establish if subsidiary trading companies are required and support to set up suitable legal structures; Liaising with bodies who have been given devolved powers in Trust Deeds to remove those powers; Liaising with the charity regulator OSCR
- Governance – Modernising constitutions and supporting charitable companies to change their Memorandum and Articles of Associations; Helping groups understand the roles and responsibilities of trustees/directors and recruiting committee members; Advice on establishing policies and procedures (including Equality & Diversity, Data Protection (GDPR), Volunteer Induction; Supporting charities to comply with OSCR regulations (Meeting deadlines for Trustee Annual Reports and Annual Accounts); Keeping charities up to date with new Charity Law and other changes to legislation
- Queries around electricity costs and suppliers, insurance, bank accounts, data protection, financial record keeping, fundraising, health & safety, food hygiene training, licensing laws, gambling licenses, trading, HR, wind up, Insurance and VAT
- Support with funding applications



OUR ORGANISATION VALUES THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY VAS. MARKET HOUSE IS A GREAT PLACE TO BE AND ALL VAS STAFF ARE KIND, CONSIDERATE AND SUPPORTIVE OF OUR NEEDS. THANK YOU

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

IF VAS DID NOT EXIST IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR US TO TRANSITION TO A SCIO

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK

**VAS PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT SERVICE FOR ALL SHETLAND RESIDENTS,
HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE HELPFUL AT ALL TIMES**

SERVICE USER FEEDBACK



Training

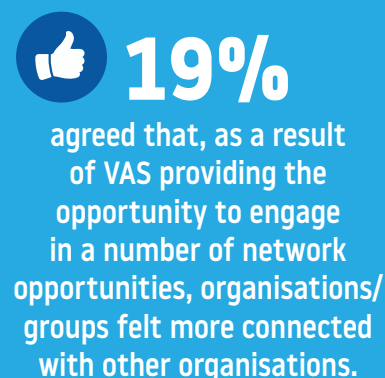
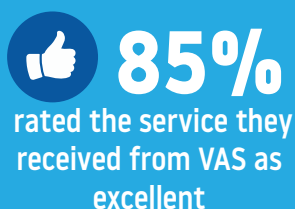
VAS staff provided training to groups and organisations. Topics included:

- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES TRAINING & STRATEGIC PLANNING
- ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES TRAINING
- RISK ASSESSMENT TRAINING
- TREASURER TRAINING
- UNDERSTANDING FINANCES
- CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

Voluntary Action Shetland are also working in partnership with The Skills Network, a training provider that provides access to interactive and engaging learning content, via distance learning. They offer a vast range of courses to support individual learning needs and are fully funded with no cost associated. Further details can be found on the VAS website: <https://voluntaryactionshetland.theskillsnetwork.com/>



In a recent community annual survey based on 46 responses:



Funding

Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Funding for Adults – VAS distributed a third year of the Scottish Government Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Funding for Adults to support community activity until March 2025. Shetland's allocation totalled £71,810.80. The overarching aim of the Fund was to:

Support community based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population (aged 16 or over), with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

18 COMMUNITY GROUPS/ORGANISATIONS RECEIVED FUNDING TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Vaila Fund – The Vaila fund was established in 2009 and is managed by VAS. The fund financially assists disadvantaged young people in Shetland to experience the joy of travel – young people visit exciting new places, and delight in learning about new cultures, history, food, traditions, and activities. The trips increase the confidence and independence of the young people as well as strengthening existing friendships and establishing new ones.

**7 AWARDS GRANTED
TOTALLING £4,025
ENABLED LOCAL YOUNG
PEOPLE TO TRAVEL**

Volunteering – Supporting, Promoting and Celebrating

VAS Volunteering have had a busy year supporting volunteers to find suitable volunteering opportunities and also supported organisations to recruit and reward their volunteers. A highlight was the new VAS Volunteering Awards.

Volunteering has picked up again post pandemic. Enquiries from volunteers and volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) have returned to levels pre COVID 19. VIOs have been reporting that their levels of volunteers were increasing again.

VAS Volunteering staff have been out and about in the community more attending the Living Well Hub and Community Warm Spaces, Jobcentre+ Community Hubs, schools and youth groups. Staff have attended larger events including the Country Shows and Careers Events. National events and forums continue to be attended online.



In a recent volunteering annual survey based on 28 responses:

100%

responded that the service they received from VAS volunteering was good/very good

93%

responded easy/very easy in accessing VAS volunteering services

100%

of responders were volunteering at the moment

100%

felt more involved in their community by volunteering

100%

found at least one or more volunteering opportunity that suited them

Saltire Awards - On Tuesday, 6th June 2023, VAS were delighted to host the annual Saltire Awards Ceremony. The Mareel auditorium was bustling with excitement as 118 young volunteers aged between 12 and 25 were celebrated at the 10th anniversary of the awards.



The **118 young people** received a total of 256 certificates between them recognising the over 11,000 hours of volunteering they had collectively taken part in throughout the past year with 43 different local groups, schools and organisations.

Shetland Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) Michaela Christie opened the event speaking about her own experience volunteering as MSYP and for various sports clubs while highlighting the importance volunteers play in Shetland. Addressing the audience she said: “Communities and clubs would not be able to run if it wasn’t for people like you and you should all be extremely proud of yourselves.”

Throughout the evening, a host of activities young people have taken part in throughout the year were presented. From various sports and youth clubs, over a selection of charities, extracurricular schools activities, social change projects and even providing musical entertainment in care homes, young people were at the heart of it.

Supervisors said their volunteers had developed skills, confidence and built lasting friendships through their time volunteering, with some of them moving into paid employment within the same organisations.

Amber Thomson, who had also provided musical entertainment earlier that night, outlined in her closing speech how she developed her passion in musical theatre through the ALICE Theatre Project, in which she had been a pupil, then a volunteer and finally started paid work at the project. Amber received a 100-hour Saltire award for this in 2021 but due to the pandemic could not attend a ceremony. “Being able to do something I love and get an award for it is one of the most rewarding things that has happened to me, and the same likely goes for everyone else who has achieved a similar thing”, she added.



VAS Volunteering Awards – (VAS VA) were held for the first time in 2023, developed from the success of the Community Spirit Awards held in 2020 and 2021 to recognise the kindness and support happening within communities and from voluntary organisations during COVID and the recovery period. The VAS VA

Awards complement the Saltire Awards which recognise 12 -25 year olds by recognising Adults (26 and over) and Children (11 and under). Extensive research was carried out by the VAS Volunteering team to gauge an appropriate way to recognise and celebrate (to say thank you) to these volunteers.

VAS held a competition to name the two award categories, one for adults and one for children. From the suggestions received the adult award was named ‘Willin Haands Award’ and the children’s award was named ‘Peerie Trows Award’

The Awards were launched on the 16th August 2023. Certificates were given out in September and a celebratory press feature was published in the Shetland Times, with individual stories shared on social media.

There was an excellent response for its first year. 89 nominations received (5 duplicates received so 84 certificates given out) 75 nominations for **70 Willin Haands Awards** and **14 Peerie Trows Awards**, 13 children and 1 school community.



CELEBRATION OF KEY NATIONAL WEEKS

Volunteers' Week 2023

Volunteers Week 2023 - Volunteers' Week is a celebration, held annually on 1-7 June, to recognise the contributions of millions of people across the UK who volunteer in their communities. Alongside hosting the Saltire Awards ceremony in volunteers' week, VAS also had an online Social Media campaign and window display at Market House highlighting the week and celebrating volunteering.

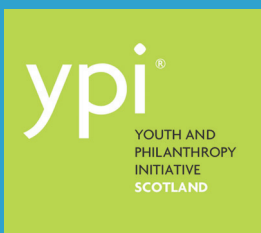
Trustees' Week 2023

Trustees' Week is dedicated to celebrating the achievements of the one million trustees across the UK. It took place from 6th to 10th November 2023. The theme of Trustees' Week 2023 was 'Many voices. Working together'. VAS led an online social media campaign for the whole week recognising people who volunteer in their community in a trustee role/committee member capacity. They also held an information sharing event which updated trustees on new charity law and changes to the OSCR annual reporting process.



Youth and Philanthropy Initiative – New Partnership

In addition to core activities, this year, in partnership with Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) VAS Volunteering staff have been supporting the local delivery of YPI in seven high and junior high schools across Shetland. YPI is managed and principally funded by the Wood Foundation and since it was introduced to Scotland in 2008, it has engaged more than 310,000 young people who have taken responsibility for £6.8m of charitable giving. YPI is the biggest independent initiative being delivered in Scottish education. Each school is responsible for directing a grant of £3000 to a local charity championed by its students through a unique programme of teamwork, research, and competition. VAS are looking forward in continuing their partnership with YPI in the next academic year.



Community Engagement at the Country shows

Last year VAS Staff attend all 5 Country Shows to engage with the local community to promote Voluntary Action Shetland and talk with people about volunteering and find out more about their awareness of the VAS Volunteering Services.

Via the summer show community questionnaire, based on 383 responses:

79% of respondents had volunteered/helped out in their community in the last 4 years

46% of respondents felt the groups they volunteered for needed more volunteers

TO CONNECT

Third Sector Forum

Facilitated by VAS, an independent network of third sector organisations in Shetland that meets bimonthly. The Forum enables members to share information and good practice; identify needs and learn from each other; consult, identify representatives to particular bodies; act as a filter for information to and from the sector; and lobby, both locally and nationally, on issues affecting the sector. There are **30 members** in the forum.

Shetland Trustee Network

This network meets as needs arise to discuss common issues and annually in Trustees week. Last year's event in Trustees Week (Nov 2023) updated trustees on new charity law and changes to the OSCR annual reporting process. **14 people attended, representing 15 organisations**

Climate Change Community Champions

A further tranche of funding was obtained from the Shetland Community Led Local Development Fund to train an additional 30 third sector representatives from across Shetland in climate change solutions. The course delivered by the Scottish Royal Geographical Society plays a key role in supporting the third sector in Shetland to undertake climate change activities to address both adaptation and mitigation. The first tranche last year saw 28 people complete the course and there are currently 20 people completing the course for the second cohort (**a total of 48 people so far**). Course participants met together at the SIC Climate Festival 2023, NCDC Bruckland Festival, and a visit to Da Barn to view an aquaponics system.

Market House

Shetland's Third Sector Hub, which is owned and managed by VAS. It is the office base for **12 Independent Charities** not including VAS and their direct delivery projects. Market House has been undertaking some refurbishment over the last 12 months thanks to a capital grant from Shetland Charitable Trust. In addition to this, Market House have several rooms available for hire. Last year Market House had 3584 visitors and 3647 room bookings (403 external & 3244 resident)

More information on Market House, resident organisations and costs for room bookings can be viewed at: www.voluntaryactionshetland.com

Shetland Community Facilities Network

Facilitated by VAS, which is open to the wide range of community groups which manage a facility – from community halls, boating clubs and youth centres to museums and churches. **84 groups** are represented on the Network, that meets 2-3 times a year and offers peer support, guidance and good practice on common issues from insurance, policies and procedure, net zero strategies, volunteer recruitment, water bills, electricity bills etc.

Shetland Community Climate Action Network

VAS is working in partnership with the SIC, Island Centre for Net Zero, Islands Community Action Network, Highlands and Islands Climate Hub and Uplift to support groups and individuals interested in climate related activity in Shetland. The Network aims to bring together interested parties, co-ordinate activity, resources and sign post where relevant.



VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND PROJECTS

Voluntary Action Shetland currently has two projects that sit under their umbrella. Both projects provide direct delivery services to people in Shetland.



SHETLAND BEFRIENDING SCHEME

The Befriending Scheme has continued to see demand for the service by supporting 38 face to face matches over the last year. 12 group activities have been offered and well attended by those in a match and those waiting to be matched. 10 volunteers have completed their training with another 3 to complete over the coming months.

The 16+ Service continues to enjoy Tea & Cake at Islesburgh on the 3rd Friday of the month. This has been well attended with 102 people attending the 11 sessions. The 16+ development worker has asked partners organisations to come along and promote their service at the sessions which has been appreciated by all.

The scheme secured £111,264 from the National Lottery Community Fund to enable the Dementia section to run for the next 3 years. The scheme was also successful in securing £500 from Tesco and becoming one of the chosen charities for the Co-op Community Fund. Unfortunately due to not securing continuation funding for the 7-18 years ASN Section, this section of service came to a close in June 23.

As a current Quality in Befriending Quality Assurance Award (QiB) holder, staff were asked to share their experience as a service gaining the award with others through a small video. It was broadcast during Befriending week to show their support to volunteers and the support they receive from Befriending Networks. The staff had a great time making this and had many laughs along the way!

Staff, along with volunteers also produced another calendar this year, which proved to be very popular and has helped raise some self-generated income for the scheme.

The Befriending Scheme would like to take this opportunity to thank its current funders: Shetland Island Council, Shetland Charitable Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund, Tesco and Co-op Local Community Fund for their financial support. Staff would also like to thank all their volunteers as without their contribution the scheme would be unable to provide the support it offers throughout Shetland.



Mairi Jamieson, Project Co-ordinator attending Co-op Local Community Fund day at the Lerwick Coop. Photo Elouise Sellers





SHETLAND CARERS

Shetland Carers continue to support and empower unpaid carers in Shetland to manage their caring role and have a life alongside caring.

They currently have 443 carers registered with their service at 31st March 2024.

Short Break grants –Funding was received from Shetland Charitable Trust, and also from Scottish Government’s Short Breaks Funding, which is administered through Shared Care Scotland. During the last 12 months, Shetland Carers awarded 92 Short Break grants to carers, totalling £21,690

Respite Scheme – Shetland Carers have continued to provide breaks to carers through the Respite Scheme. Respite (respite + hospitality) allows Shetland’s hospitality and leisure sector to donate short breaks which Shetland Carers pass onto local unpaid carers so that they may have an opportunity to recharge their batteries and take time for themselves. During the last 12 months, Shetland Carers awarded 58 Respite breaks to carers at an estimated cost to local businesses of £6958.



Amanda Brown of Shetland Carers presented Respite certificates to Busta House Hotel (as left), Brudolff Hotels Ltd (above), Fjara Café Bar, Shetland Jewellery and Aa Fired Up – and posted out certificates to SeabirdsandSeals and Ordaal Cottage in Unst – all in recognition of their support of local carers.

Carers Week- Activities provided during Carers Week in June 2023 included a fitness event offered at Gilbertson Park, a himalayan Sound Therapy session at Staneyhill Hall, a pottery painting event at Aa Fired Up, a free 'cuppa and cake' event at Fjara throughout the week, a photo competition and a week-long 'More4Life' Membership for carers in August 2023.

Carers Rights Day in November 2023- Shetland Carers provided information and advice to carers online, relating to the theme of 'Your rights: today, tomorrow and in the future'. Further information was also provided through their quarterly newsletter.

Young Carers Action Day – In March 2024, Shetland Carers sent out goodie bags to all young carers and young adult carers registered with their service. Within the goodie bag was a gift and a Shetland Arts gift voucher, alongside information about local organisations which can support young people to think about their future – which all related to this year’s theme ‘Fair futures for young carers.’

Groups – The Sibling Group met 14 times throughout the year with many different activities. Family Day sessions were offered 3 times in the year and were very popular. The Lego Group was able to take place and 19 sessions were offered to young people. The Friday Group met 17 times and Parent Group met 6 times for a time out activity. All groups have been very popular and well received by all taking part.

Full details of Shetland Carers support can be found at www.shetlandcarers.org and on Facebook, X and Instagram at **Shetland Carers**.

INDEPENDENT PROJECTS

OPEN PROJECT

OPEN, who have operated as part of VAS since 2014, transitioned last year to become a fully youth-led, independent charity in their own right, following their official launch in November 2023. OPEN has established a board of young people (16-29), that now govern the organisation, and lead its vision and direction. OPEN are the first and only fully youth-led charity in Shetland; aiming to achieve transformative change for young folk across Shetland's communities.

The charity is continuing to operate out of Market House, and will maintain their peer education work with all secondary students in Shetland, as well as their peer mentoring programme, whilst continuing to provide a safe space for young people through Da Café on Mondays and Thursdays, 4pm-6pm, based at the Olive Tree.

OPEN are also pioneering community action peer research in Shetland; having developed systems to employ, support and train young people as peer researchers, to design and carry out evidence-based research and consultation with young folk.

OPEN's vision is to make Shetland a place where young people thrive. The charity aims to address the challenges faced by young people and establish a comprehensive framework for positive change across Shetland's communities.



Picture: Front left Jess OPEN's Organisation Development Lead, Shannon front right OPEN's Peer Research Development Worker with OPEN's trustees.



NEW SHETLANDER

The New Shetlander and its Voluntary Committee have been supported this year to become independent of Voluntary Action Shetland. The New Shetlander printed its final partnership publication under VAS in the summer 2023 - number 301. The magazine has been circulated widely with subscribers throughout the world.

Future enquires and contributions for the publication can now be sent to: newshetlander24@yahoo.com



EXTRACT OF ACCOUNTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT – YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
INCOME				
Charitable income - grants		844,038		1,165,740
Other income		175,516		222,892
		<u>1,019,554</u>		<u>1,388,632</u>
EXPENDITURE				
Charitable activities	1,109,925		1,078,773	
Depreciation	92,743		92,743	
		<u>1,202,668</u>		<u>1,171,516</u>
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS / BEFORE TRANSFERS		(183,114)		217,116
Capital Reserves transfer (to cover depreciation/capital))		91,771		95,161
Capital grant income (allocated to capital funds)		-		(192,140)
(DECREASE)/INCREASE IN INCOME FUNDS		<u>(91,343)</u>		<u>120,137</u>

BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2024

	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets		558,240		650,983
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	135,555		200,510	
Investments: fixed term deposits	161,476		185,761	
Cash at bank and in hand	401,874		493,723	
		<u>698,905</u>		<u>879,994</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors falling due within one year	(36,086)		(59,405)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>662,819</u>		<u>820,589</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,221,059		1,471,572
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES				
Pension liability		(1,463)		(3,131)
NET ASSETS		<u>1,219,596</u>		<u>1,468,441</u>
REPRESENTED BY				
Restricted capital funds		675,735		833,237
Restricted income funds		351,021		486,330
Unrestricted income funds		192,840		148,874
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>1,219,596</u>		<u>1,468,441</u>

The figures contained within the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet shown above were extracted from the company's audited financial statements. These were approved by the board of directors.

A copy of the company's audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 can be obtained from our main office or by writing to the following address: Registrar of Companies, Companies House, 4th Floor, Edinburgh Quay 2, 139 Fountainbridge, Edinburgh EH3 9FF (quoting ref SC165677)

EXECUTIVE OFFICER – REFLECTIONS

I love compiling our annual report (ask anyone in the VAS team!) as it gives me some quiet time to reflect on all the different areas of work that has been going on over the last 12 months, and it's been another really busy year! Market House is bustling with activity, even with people working more flexibly these days, it's busy, and people are engaging with services and connecting more than ever before.

The Cost of Living Crisis is very real, many people have had to make changes to the way they live in order to save money and are wondering when it will come to an end. It's a real challenge.

Charities and Community groups are also being impacted by this, with on-going costs increasing alongside at times having to manage with stand still grants. Groups are having to adapt, make savings where they can, however the forever beauty of the Third Sector is that we can adapt quickly and are flexible to be able to change direction in order to continue to provide much needed services and support to those in our communities who need it.

Last year the VAS board took some time to develop our new Strategy which sets out VAS's new VISION and MISSION with an action plan for me to drive forward. It feels good to have this new plan in place aligning it

with Shetland Partnership Plan in supporting a shared vision of:

“Shetland is a place where everyone is able to thrive; living well in strong, resilient communities; and where people and communities are able to help plan and deliver solutions to future challenges”

I hope you will enjoy reading about the work the team have undertaken in the last year, I am immensely proud of my core team and direct delivery project teams, they work incredibly hard supporting groups in our sector and supporting individuals. Thank you for all that you do.

I would also like to sincerely thank my ever supportive board, and our funders for whom without their financial support, much of this work would not be possible.

And lastly; HUGE thanks to all of you who volunteer, help, support, and give time freely to support others, you are such an asset for Shetland! ♥



VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND

MARKET HOUSE, 14 MARKET STREET, LERWICK, SHETLAND ZE1 0JP

T 01595 743900 E VAS@SHETLAND.ORG

A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND NO. 165677. REGISTERED OFFICE MARKET HOUSE, 14 MARKET STREET, LERWICK, SHETLAND
COMPANY SECRETARY LYNN TULLOCH. RECOGNISED BY THE INLAND REVENUE AS A SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC017286.



WWW.VOLUNTARYACTIONSHETLAND.COM



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
@VSHETLAND



FIND US ON FACEBOOK
VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND VOLUNTEERING



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
VAS_VOLUNTEERING_SHETLAND

Quality Assurance & Good Practice



Funders

VOLUNTARY ACTION SHETLAND WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK THE FOLLOWING FUNDERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED VAS CORE ACTIVITY AND THEIR TWO PROJECTS - SHETLAND BEFRIENDING SCHEME AND SHETLAND CARERS. WITHOUT THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT, MUCH OF THE WORK UNDERTAKEN OVER THE LAST YEAR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE.



**A SINGLE POINT OF ACCESS FOR SUPPORT AND ADVICE
FOR THE THIRD/VOLUNTARY SECTOR**