

Newsletter August 2015

VAO News & Services

Young People's Befriending Project Update

It is always exciting to see new enthusiastic volunteer befrienders meeting a young person and then going out and enjoying themselves doing anything from crafts to rock climbing. The most recent batch of three volunteers who have completed their training has been no exception. They each brought their own unique skill sets, interests and hobbies which they are passionate about. Now, as they have begun to share their interests with the young people, we get the fun of seeing these young people come out of 'their shells' and grow in their communication and confidence while having fun at the same time.

With 15 other young people on the waiting list, we are still recruiting though. In fact we already have a fair bit of interest for the September 2015 training coming up next month. There's still room though, so we have been reaching out to specific interest groups in an appeal for volunteers. We are excited about this approach because it encourages people who love something to share that very thing with a young person.

So, with new matches being made all the time, we are definitely open for new referrals as well. Choosing the right young person for the volunteer is one of the main keys to seeing a match get on well so having a variety of young people (age 8-18) assessed is actually very important. So, if you know a young person who may benefit from having a befriender, please don't hesitate to fill out a [referral form](#), or contact [John](#) or [Hannah](#) on 872897 to discuss, and we'd be happy to do an assessment, answer any questions, or give a more complete picture of how the process works.

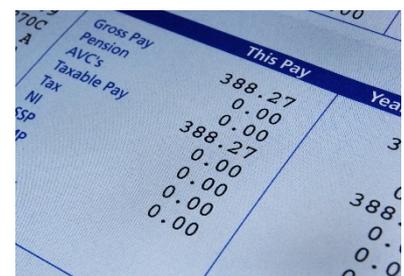


Payroll Services

Voluntary Action Orkney provides a comprehensive Payroll Service for third sector organisations and groups employing staff.

The service includes:

- Bespoke payroll preparation and calculation
- Payslips and payroll documentation sent out to payroll client via post and/or email
- Tax, National Insurance obligations are sent out to clients
- Pension reform and scheme assistance



	This Pay	Year
Gross Pay	388.27	
Pension	0.00	
AVC's	0.00	
Taxable Pay	388.27	
Tax	0.00	
NI	0.00	
SSP	0.00	
SP	0.00	
		388.27
		0.00
		0.00

- HMRC Real Time Information (RTI) online filing in line with current legislation including P46 and P45's
- SSP, SMP, SAP and SPP calculation, advice and recovery where possible
- Clear payroll advice and guidance
- Tax Year-End balancing, P60 printing and online filing

The payroll service is fully computerised and the experienced payroll officer provides full guidance and advice on all aspects of Payroll, Statutory payments and recovery and PAYE and NIC's. All advice given is incorporated in the very competitive rates charged for the service.

For more information please contact [Katie Brass](#) on 872897.

Local Third Sector News



Corporate Gym Membership for the Third Sector in Orkney

A plan is underway to set up a corporate membership scheme for members of the Third Sector at the [Pickaquoy Centre](#). If you are interested in getting 15% off the standard Proactive membership, please contact [Erik Firth](#) for more information.

New address for Advocacy Orkney and Age Concern Orkney

Advocacy Orkney and Age Concern Orkney have recently moved from the Travel Centre and Anchor Buildings to 46 Victoria Street, Kirkwall, KW15 1DN (the old Croys building). Telephone and email contacts remain the same.

Funding & Finance



Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund

The Scottish Government's Fairer Scotland Engagement Fund provides grants of up to £300 (or exceptionally up to £500 for a larger event) to small voluntary organisations and community groups in Scotland to help them run an event or engagement activity with a group of five or more people to gather their thoughts on creating a Fairer Scotland and what matters to them. By 2030, Fairer Scotland aims to create a place where people are healthier, happier and treated with respect, and where opportunities, wealth and power are spread more equally (click [here](#) for more information)

Discussions and engagement should include:

- What are the issues that matter most to people?
- What do people think needs to be done?
- How can people and their community play a role in helping to shape our future?

Discussions and engagement ideally should take place before 16 October 2015. A brief report and evidence of what emerged from the event / engagement must be returned to the Voluntary Action Fund (VAF) no later than Friday 23 October 2015. The report can be in a range of formats such as notes from the discussion, a video clip or photographs from flipchart sheets. The views provided through your event or engagement will then be sent to the Scottish Government on 30 October 2015 as part of a series of events and conversations to help create a fairer Scotland. For more information, please see the [guidance notes](#) and [application form](#).

Legislation, Guidance & Support

Meeting the Charity Test: New Guidance from OSCR



New guidance has been produced by [OSCR](#) on how to interpret and apply the [charity test](#). It explains what they take into consideration when deciding if an organisation can become, or continue to be, a [charity](#) in Scotland.

This guidance will be of interest to charity [trustees](#) to ensure that their charity continues to comply with this part of [Scottish Charity law](#).

Click [here](#) to view the new guidance.

ACAS launches new pay guide

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has launched new material to support employers with employee pay and deductions. The new guidance aims to help employers understand their duties and responsibilities when paying a wage.

Targeted at smaller firms, this guidance will apply to any charity that employs staff too. Highlights include;

- Paying new staff
- Wage slips
- Deductions
- Pay during absences

To access the new guide visit [ACAS' website](#).

Education & Training Opportunities

How do you make a Social Enterprise sustainable? – 10 September

A lunchtime (sandwiches will be provided!) networking event to hear the success story of REBOOT: the first computer recycling project in the north of Scotland. Interested in hearing the ways in which REBOOT have achieved sustainability to continue to provide a much needed service to local communities? Contact [Hannah Ker](#) on 872897 for more information or to sign up.

Information Commissioners Office visit to Orkney – 15 September

The Information Commissioners Office (ICO) is coming to Orkney on September 15 and wants to meet you and answer your questions. As the Regulator for the Data Protection Act 1998, the ICO has a Scotland-wide remit to promote good practice and is keen to engage with organisations large and small to provide updates and awareness raising sessions on any and all aspects of data protection.



Data sharing is a constant hot topic as often organisations are reluctant to share information because they are afraid they will breach the Data Protection Act 1998 and this can mean offering a poorer service to those who need it most. The ICO will be holding two sessions on 15 September which may be of interest to Third Sector groups:

Seminar on Data Protection for Practitioners

9.30–12.30, Kirkwall Community Centre

The seminar will provide information on the latest developments with Data Protection; and what organisations can do to improve how they safely share information? This session is aimed at voluntary organisations that have a service level agreement with OIC, NHS or OHAC.

To book a place please email learn.develop@orkney.gov.uk

Data Protection: What's it all about and how does it affect you?

1.30 - 3.30, Board Room, VAO, Anchor Buildings

The aim of this workshop is to dispel many of the myths surrounding data protection and to raise awareness of what data protection is really all about. The workshop seeks to explore data protection issues through interactive presentation and group work, encouraging you to ask questions and share experiences in a friendly, informal setting. This session is aimed at all voluntary organisations whatever their size, service or activity.

For more information, or if you are interested in attending, please contact [Edwina](#) at VAO on 872897.

Volunteering Opportunities

Internet Radio Station volunteers

The [Connecting Communities Project](#) (VAO) is looking for volunteers to help design and develop an Internet Radio for our local community. If you have any experience in this area or would like to be involved in this new initiative from the beginning, please contact [Kasha Jarosz](#) on 872897.



Voluntary Action Scotland Recruitment – Board Members

Voluntary Action Scotland (VAS) are looking to recruit three new independent board members. They are looking for people from different backgrounds with a commitment and knowledge of the third sector who can support VAS into its next critical phase. For more information, including an application pack, please visit the VAS [website](#).

The five weirdest volunteer roles

We recently came across a great article from [the Guardian Voluntary Sector Network](#) that we just had to share!

The [article](#), published for Volunteer's Week, details the five weirdest volunteer roles which include a Mascot surgeon, a Chicken knitter, a Pudding chaser and Astronaut twins! The fifth role, advertised by the RSPB, is that of a Fiddle playing bird. According to the article the RSPB hoped to enlist a bird loving fiddle player willing to dress as a sea eagle and play a few tunes at their education events. The article didn't specify whether they were successful in their quest, but given Orkney's abundance of fantastic fiddle players and recent sea eagle mania, we're sure they would have found a host of willing volunteers here!



Dates for your Diary

Choose Life campaign kick starts Suicide Prevention Week: 9 – 15 September

If you can read between the lines, you can save lives. That's the message [Choose Life](#) is sending out to people across Scotland to mark national Suicide Prevention Week (9–15 September) as part of a public awareness campaign throughout September.



Last year 762 people died by suicide, the equivalent of around two lives taken each day in Scotland. For each suicide, the impact on those left behind lasts a lifetime. The idea that suicide shouldn't be talked about is a remaining taboo and doesn't help those grieving or the many people who may be feeling suicidal right now.

Choose Life's 'Read Between the Lines' campaign is tackling this stigma and helping to reduce further unnecessary deaths by raising awareness that if you're worried about someone, asking directly about their feelings can help save lives.

The campaign acknowledges that signs of suicide can be ambiguous, but encourages people to be alert to the warning signs and take all signs of distress seriously, even if the person seems to be living a normal life. It also aims to assure people that asking a person about what's troubling them can make a positive difference.

VAO and the Blide Trust will have a window display of information in VAO's window in Anchor Buildings, Bridge Street during that week.

World Suicide Prevention Day is on September 10 and in memory of those who have taken their own lives, the [Blide Trust](#) will be lighting a candle in the Cathedral at 10am on that day.

Learning Together in Orkney – Open Mic session: 22 September

You know what your service delivers, what your statutory department is doing – but do others?

This is a time for members of the Orkney and Learning Guidance Forum (and others!) to tell other members about their service, about their activities and the potential to avoid duplication and develop partnerships!

Presentations from Relationship Scotland Orkney, YPeople, Active Schools, The Learning Link and more....

The session will be held at the Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall on 22 September. For further information or to book to create a table of information for folk to gather, please contact [Edwina](#) on 872897.

Third Sector Forum – 24 September

The next meeting of the Third Sector Forum will be on 24 September in the MacGillivray Room at the Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall. If you would like more information about the Third Sector Forum, please visit the [website](#) or contact [Cecily](#).

Parenting Apart

[Relationships Scotland Orkney](#) are running a number of sessions for parents who are separating, divorcing or living apart. The 3 hour session will help parents understand what they and their child are going through, help their children cope with separation and explore ways that separated parents can work better together and plan for the future.

A number of sessions will be held throughout the autumn, the next dates being the 25 and 28 September.

For more information or to book a place, please [email](#) or call Relationships Scotland Orkney on 877750.

Silver Sunday – 4 October

This year's Silver Sunday, a national day of free events and activities for older people, will be held on 4 October. Are you planning to hold an event? Would you like more information? If so, please visit the Silver Sunday [website](#) or contact [Eva](#) on 020 7641 2423.



SILVER SUNDAY
CELEBRATING OLDER PEOPLE