

Newsletter March 2016

VAO News & Services

Youth and Philanthropy Initiative

Around 25 charities attended the launch of the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative at KGS and Stromness Academy during March.

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) is an active citizenship programme (supported by the Wood Family Trust) that raises awareness among young people about philanthropy.



Participating students will work in small teams and learn how to study the charities management, budget, strategy and staffing arrangements.

Students will aim to build relationships with representatives from their chosen charity while being taught in school about investigating, teamwork, public speaking and presentation of findings. The group judged to have made the most compelling and thorough presentation wins a £3000 grant to award to their charity.

Good luck to all the young people and charities involved – we look forward to seeing how the project develops over the coming months.



Local Third Sector News

Who's behind the Blue Door?



| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Smiddybrae Activities Association | 28 March – 2 April |
| YPeople | 4 April – 9 April |
| Marengo Centre | 11 April – 16 April |
| Evie Link Centre | 18 April – 23 April |
| Orkney Pony Club | 25 April – 30 April |

Freebies

Do you need folders? If so, please pop into VAO and grab some for free!



Focus on.....Crossroads Orkney

'I would hope most folk in Orkney ken what we do', says Olivia Tait, manager of Crossroads Orkney, 'but I don't think they ken the extent of what we do'. The main aim of Crossroads Orkney is to provide information and practical and emotional support to unpaid carers. While easy to sum up in a single sentence, the remit of Crossroads Orkney is enormous, as we found out when we met with Olivia in the fifth of our interviews with members.

Unpaid carers are the biggest workforce in Britain, explains Olivia, yet they get the least for it. Being a carer is something that can happen to anyone, and it's a job that most people don't choose. *'Your life's not your own', says Olivia, 'the caring role can be incredibly demanding and socially, very isolating'. The services provided by Crossroads, which as you will see are many, go some way to help reduce this isolation, providing carers with vital support and some essential time for themselves.*

The forty two Care Attendants employed by Crossroads Orkney provide respite care, allowing unpaid carers to have some time off. Carers can receive up to 4 hours of respite per week, depending on their circumstances. Olivia explains that carers use the service in different ways, some receive just occasional cover while others (over 100 at present) receive regular respite each week. Last year Crossroads provided about 15,500 hours of respite care. *'It's essential that the service remain flexible', explains Olivia, especially for folk on the outer isles where a hospital appointment or trip to the shops can mean an entire day away from their dependant. Given that some of the smaller islands have no day care facilities or residential homes, the Care Attendants provide a lifeline. The service provided by Crossroads is person centred, so the Care Attendants work around what people want to do, whether that's staying in the home or popping out to a café for a cup of tea. 'So it's not only giving the carer respite, we're doing something for the person we're looking after as well', says Olivia.*

The Carers Centre is, Olivia explains, the other side of the business, providing information, advice and support to over 250 carers in Orkney. Along with a regular newsletter and information leaflets, Olivia and colleagues provide tailored advice and information on the numerous issues associated with the carers' role, from aids and adaptations to Power of Attorney. A carer's assessment is carried out to look at everything the carer does, what support they receive to do this and crucially what support and

benefits could make their role easier. The Carers Centre facilitates a carers' support group which, Olivia explains, has a core group of members who meet regularly. In addition, The Centre is there to provide emotional support to people whenever they need it. *'Very often folk come in for emotional support',* says Olivia. *'Often carers are in that situation not by choice and while most folk are happy to be doing it, some folk are not. They can come to us sometimes quite upset and we're able to sit with them for as long as necessary providing much needed emotional support.'*

While Crossroads mainly work with carers and their adult dependents, they also provide a children's service. Olivia explains that Crossroads has to source additional funding for this service as, given that parents get respite when their children are at school, it's not covered by their core funding. One of the funding sources, from Children in Need, is sadly just finishing - Olivia is busy compiling the final report at present. Olivia explains that *'the service is for taking bairns with additional needs out to activities in the community, helping with social skills and promoting independence and confidence. The other benefit of the service is that it while we take the bairns out to socialise, it gives the parent a bit of respite.'*

Crossroads also run a support service for carers under the age of 18. The Young Carers Support Service, headed by Kara Leslie, provides one-to-one support for young carers in Orkney, alongside organising group activities and events. They also work to raise awareness in schools and other agencies.

Another strand of Crossroads is the Independent Living Support Service, which, Olivia explains *'empowers folk with disabilities to be employers and employ their own staff to provide their care'*. The service, headed by Sarah Sanders, helps with all the responsibilities of being an employer, offering a payroll service, providing information about pensions, etc.

Alongside these core activities, Crossroads also work to raise awareness and represent the views of carers. Olivia sits on a number of different groups and committees including OHAC's Carers Strategy Group, the Orkney Partnership Board's Positive Ageing Group, the Third Sector Forum and the Third Sector Working Group. Crossroads is currently working with the Positive Ageing Group to help determine what support carers in Orkney would like and need (a questionnaire has recently been sent out to all those on the Crossroads database).

As with most Third Sector groups, Crossroads rely on several different funding sources. One of the smaller funds available is the Time to Live Fund, a small pot of money that Crossroads give to people directly. Olivia explains that *'folk can use the money for something just for them, whether it's a weekend south, a club membership at Picky, alternative therapy, etc. The money is available for unpaid carers who are doing a significant amount of caring and it really is super, people are so appreciative.'* Olivia tells us that the recent money from the Change Fund made a huge difference to the work of Crossroads, *'having the Change Fund money was brilliant and allowed us to say 'yes' instead of 'sorry' to folk'*. Crossroads used some of the money to provide additional hours of respite to people supporting folk with dementia. *'People really need that time',* says Olivia, *'it's going to be difficult to pull back from that, but there will be ways that we can try and look at it. If there's one thing I've learnt from working here, it's that if you don't ask you don't get. You've got to keep promoting and asking and going for things. You can't sit back because it won't happen, you've got to be proactive'*.



Olivia tells us that the Scottish Government need to recognise carers as more of a priority and wishes that they would *'look at Orkney as a whole to see what we're up against here. I understand that there have to be cutbacks, but we can't care for folk in the community if there's no money coming into it. They should be making carers a priority because by keeping folk out of hospital and care homes they save the UK economy £119 billion a year! But carers get so little for themselves, they're getting worn out. If the Government support us more, we can support them more.'*

Olivia Tait, pictured at the recent Youth and Philanthropy Initiative event

The funding sources aren't enough to cover the services provided by Crossroads and so fundraising is essential, especially now, Olivia explains, with the loss of the Change Fund money. The Friends of Crossroads take the lead on fundraising and are always looking for folk to help out. If you would like to find out more, or are interested in joining the Board, Olivia would love to hear from you.

Crossroads has been operating in Orkney since 1994 and Olivia has been part of the team since the beginning. Formerly a nurse, she joined Crossroads as a Care Attendant when returning to work after having her family. Following roles as the Assistant Manager and head of the Independent Living Support Service (then Independent Living Project) she became the Manager in 2009. *'While it can be challenging at times, I do really enjoy it. I enjoy the direct contact with the carers the most...going in, meeting them, seeing what we can do to help and getting that help in place. The commitment of carers never ceases to amaze me and I take my hat off to all of them. It's great that we're able to make a real difference, just giving folk a break.'*



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Also in the News

Five real people who inspired the UK's most famous charities

An interesting article in this month's Third Force News looks at the lives of five people behind some of the UK's most famous charities. Click [here](#) if you would like to read more about Sue Ryder, Thomas John Barnardo, Douglas Macmillan, Marie Curie and Leonard Cheshire.



Funding & Finance

The National Living Wage will be introduced on 1 April

On 1 April 2016 a new [National Living Wage](#) (NLW) rate of £7.20 for eligible workers aged 25 and over will take effect. The new rate will be payable from the first pay reference period after this date. Until that date the current National Minimum Wage rates will continue to apply.

ACAS reports that employers need to prepare for the changes and ensure they are paying the new rates. Employees will also expect to know how their pay is changing. They also warn that failure to pay the correct rate could lead to a penalty charge of up to £20,000 for each member of staff underpaid.

Find out [more](#) about the National Living Wage and what you need to do now.

ACAS has a National Living Wage [training course](#) designed to help employers and managers understand the changes.

Cash back for Communities



Some of the country's most disadvantaged young people will benefit from £17 million seized from criminals, Justice Secretary Michael Matheson announced recently.

The money will be used to provide activities and opportunities as part of the next phase of CashBack for Communities which will run from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2020 - with applications for funding opening early in the summer.

Mr Matheson made the announcement while visiting Granton Youth Centre where he met some of the young people already benefitting from the scheme. He said *'I am extremely pleased to be able to announce a further £17 million of funding for the unique CashBack for Communities programme. This substantial amount will go a long way to changing the lives of our young people and it seems only fitting that this money seized from the criminals who seek to peddle misery in some of our most disadvantaged communities is reinvested back in to those same areas.'*

Please click [here](#) for more information.

Legislation, Guidance & Support

Get ready – charity reporting is changing!

Don't forget – your submissions and the information OSCR display changed on 29 March.

You may have seen OSCR's news items announcing [Targeted Regulation](#) and the changes it brings.

- [A revised Annual Return form](#)
- [Charity accounts published on the Register](#)
- [A new 'notifiable events' requirement for charities](#)

The logo for the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) consists of the letters 'OSCR' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'r' is stylized with a green vertical bar on its right side.

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

The changes are straightforward for most charities:

- You'll be completing [an Annual Return form](#) that has some different questions. Most charities will find they're answering fewer questions than before.
- If your charity is a SCIO or has an income at or over £25,000 [OSCR will begin publishing your accounts on the Register](#), as they are received.
- If a ['notifiable event'](#) has taken place in your charity, there's a new requirement for you to tell OSCR about it.
- They have also set out [the types of charities they'll be looking at more closely in the future](#).

If you need help preparing your accounts, you can download OSCR [guidance](#), the [example accounts](#) and, for receipts and payments accounts, their [workpacks](#). Please contact [VAO](#) if you have any questions.

Community Planning under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 – Consultation on Guidance and Draft Regulations

The Scottish Government has today published a consultation on guidance and draft regulation for community planning under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. Part 2 of the Act imposes duties on community planning partnerships and community planning partners around the planning and delivery of improved local outcomes, and the involvement of community bodies at all stages of community planning. Tackling inequalities will be a specific focus, and CPPs will produce "locality plans" at a more local level for areas experiencing particular disadvantage.

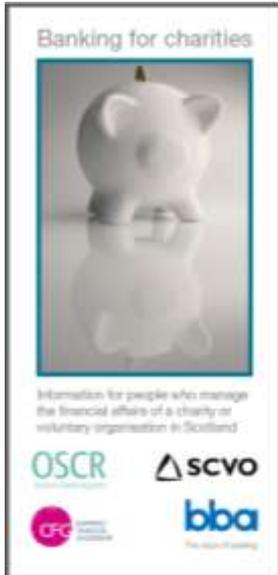
This consultation seeks views on guidance and the draft regulation on localities. It also explains the requirements of the Act and provides pointers to best practice. It is expected that final regulations will be laid before the Scottish Parliament in September 2016.

The consultation paper is available on the Scottish Government consultation hub [here](#). The closing date for responses is 13 June 2016.

This is one of several consultations being issued this month on different aspects of the Community Empowerment Act. They are all available through the [consultation hub](#). Further information and contacts on the various parts of the Act are available on the Scottish Government [website](#).

If you have any questions please contact CommunityPlanningGuidance@gov.scot. You can also follow them on Twitter, @CommEmpower.

Banking for Charities – New Guidance



Scotland's charity regulator has worked with the [British Bankers' Association](#) (BBA), the [Charity Finance Group](#) (CFG) and other voluntary sector partners to produce guidance aimed at supporting charities and other voluntary organisations with their banking arrangements.

The new guidance, [Banking for charities](#), has a specifically Scottish focus and is aimed at charity trustees and managers. It provides key information on banking, including choosing and opening the right bank account, understanding banking charges and fees, and how to switch accounts. The document – which builds on an existing BBA leaflet applicable to England and Wales - also sets out key questions to ask banks, and options to help charities navigate the banking environment.

The guidance has been produced to better inform an estimated 40,000 Scottish community and voluntary organisations about the banking landscape and to help them to make informed banking decisions.

OSCR's Chief Executive, David Robb, welcomed the new guidance and pointed out that making the right decisions in this area supported effective financial management in charities, as well as the wider responsibilities of charity trustees. *'We're very pleased to have responded to concerns raised with us by charity trustees and to have worked with our partners in producing this updated guidance,'* he said. *'Charity banking has been a growing issue of concern in recent years and it's therefore timely that those governing charities have access to clear and effective guidance to help them make the right decisions. It's a two-way process, of course, and we have also been working on educating financial institutions about the charity sector. We'll shortly be publishing new material to help with that.'*

Anthony Browne, BBA Chief Executive, said: *'People give their hard-earned cash to charities and they expect it to be well managed. This new guidance will help those managing the finances of Scottish charities and voluntary organisations to make an informed decision about what arrangements are best for them.'*

The updated guidance is aimed at organisations of all sizes in the Scottish voluntary sector, but is particularly helpful for smaller organisations and is supported by the [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#), the [Scottish Government](#), the [Network of International Development Organisations in Scotland](#) (NIDOS), [Voluntary Action Orkney](#), the Scottish Charity Finance Group and [Bobath Scotland](#).

Launch of the UK's First Drowning Prevention Strategy

On Monday 29 February 2016 the UK National Drowning Prevention Strategy was launched at the House of Commons. You can read the Government letter of support [here](#) and press notice [here](#).

The strategy aims to reduce accidental drowning fatalities in the UK by 50% by 2026, and reduce risk amongst the highest risk populations, groups and communities. The priority targets for the next 3 years are:

- Every child should have the opportunity to learn to swim and receive water safety education at primary school.



- Every community with water risks should have a community-level risk assessment and water safety plan
- To better understand water-related self-harm
- Increase awareness of everyday risks in, on and around the water
- All recreational activity organisations should have a clear strategic risk assessment and plans that address key risks

In order to achieve this aim, groups are asked to [sign up](#) and make a pledge to drowning prevention. Please click [here](#) for more information.

European Union referendum guidance for Scottish charities



Scotland's charity regulator has this month published guidance for charity trustees on complying with charity law during the EU referendum campaign. Click [here](#) to read the guidance.

Reflecting the Regulator's well-received guidance for charities during the Scottish independence referendum, the new guidance sets out for those running the country's 24,000 charities what they must consider if they intend to campaign or make public statement in the run-up to the poll on 23 June.

OSCR's Chief Executive, David Robb, said: *'Our independence referendum guidance was prepared in consultation with the charity sector and helped ensure that charities were able to play a significant part in the process, legitimately within the requirements of Scots charity law. Charities have a recognised and important role in our society, and for many campaigning is a legitimate part of their work. Charities in Scotland will want to consider the possible implications of the EU referendum, and some may wish to make their voice heard during the EU referendum process. We hope that our new guidance will be a useful reference.'*

This new guidance explains a charity registered in Scotland can take part in the EU referendum debate if it can show that:

- doing so is advancing the charitable purposes
- its governing document does not prohibit such activity
- the charity is not advancing a political party, and
- that the charity's trustees are acting in the charity's interests, and with due care and diligence.

Recognise and unlock potential: a manifesto for family recovery

This month Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs (Scottish Families) issued a call to all MSPs standing in the upcoming election to commit to a [manifesto](#) recognising the benefit of support for families and communities.



Evidence shows that when supported in their own right, families and communities can be instrumental in the recovery process to reduce substance related harm and improve the life chances for children, young people and families across Scotland.

Scottish Families' is a membership organisation and hub of a national network of family support groups across Scotland providing information and support through: National Helpline - 08080 10 10 11; National Telehealth programme; Bereavement support service; Website & web-chat facility, www.sfad.org.uk; Direct support through regional/local family support groups.

For further information please contact [Christine Duncan](#) on 0141 221 0544.

Creating a Healthier Scotland

In August 2015 The Scottish Government launched a national conversation on the future of health and social care services in Scotland.

This report is now available on the Scottish Government [website](#).

PQASSO- what is it?

Designed as a work-pack, PQASSO is simple and straightforward to use, offering a flexible and staged approach to implementing quality. PQASSO is used by all voluntary sector organisations from small community groups focused on voluntary action, to very large charities or social enterprises delivering government contracts.

Organisations are using PQASSO to improve their performance and they report:

- clearer outcome planning and delivery
- greater credibility and legitimacy with funders
- more efficient systems
- higher quality, user-centred services
- better leadership and governance
- more creative thinking, enabling new ways of working

'PQASSO has helped us secure funding and we have been commissioned for a new 5 year contract' - Carers' Centre Bath and North East Somerset

Want to know more? Contact [Edwina Lloyd](#) on 872897.

Have your say!



Feedback wanted to improve services for unpaid carers

Molly Malone, a fourth year Orkney College UHI Business and Management Student, is appealing to all unpaid carers in Orkney to provide feedback on the service they receive.

Molly is working in partnership with the Orkney Partnership Board's Positive Ageing Delivery Group to undertake her final year dissertation entitled 'Aiding the business strategy for the Positive Ageing Group to enable Orkney's older people to remain active and independent'.

The project will allow both statutory and voluntary organisations to build on and improve the services they currently provide to unpaid carers across Orkney through the feedback that Molly will receive as part of her dissertation data gathering process.

A questionnaire has been sent out to over 200 unpaid carers which aims to identify where unpaid carers feel they may not be fully supported, or where additional support may be required that can benefit unpaid carers in their daily lives. These views will help inform the Positive Ageing Delivery Group to identify gaps and work with a range of partners to improve their services to Carers.

Gail Anderson, Chairperson, Positive Ageing Delivery Group said: *'The Orkney Partnership through their Positive Ageing Delivery Group recognise and appreciate the essential role of unpaid carers and is keen to find out what might need to be improved or introduced to ensure they receive all the support they need in their caring role.'*

Olivia Tait, Manager of the Orkney Carers Centre added: *'This is a great opportunity for unpaid carers, who are the country's largest workforce, to let us know what they need to support them in their caring role and if you have received a questionnaire and have not yet completed it, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.'*

Completed questionnaires should be returned to Olivia Tait at the Orkney Carers Centre by Friday, 8th April. If you are an unpaid carer who hasn't received a questionnaire, but would like one, please contact the Orkney Carers Centre on West Castle Street in Kirkwall or by telephoning 870500.

Help decide upon the future of fundraising regulation in Scotland

With the current UK-wide system of self-regulation about to change, Scottish charities need to design a system to make sure that the public can have trust and confidence in the work they do, and take action when things go wrong.

The consultation is being led by a working group chaired by Enable Scotland chief executive, Theresa Shearer, on behalf of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

She said, *'The working group's vision is a fundraising regulatory system in Scotland that: Commands confidence in charity fundraising, inspires public trust and promotes good fundraising. This is a crucially important issue for the whole of the charitable sector in Scotland. We need to come together to decide the best system of regulation for our donors and the people we support.'*

The consultation invites charities to consider three possible models for regulation: a UK-wide option, a Scottish option or a hybrid.

Charities can contribute to the consultation by visiting the SCVO website and following the links to an online [survey](#). Longer submissions are encouraged and should be sent by [email](#).

'Unexpected ageing – changing the view' – A Photo Competition

The Orkney Board's Positive Ageing Delivery Group together with Orkney Voices call all photo enthusiasts to take part in 'Unexpected ageing – changing the view' photo competition.

From 20 March till 20 April 2016 they will be waiting for photographs of young and older people engaging in activities showing something unexpected and positive about ageing. As a participant you are free to use your creativity and all the entries will be judged not only on the quality but also on an imaginative approach to the theme of the competition. Competition judges will choose 12 best pictures (from 2 age categories – under 16 and 16 +) and everyone will have a chance to vote for the best one (voting will start on 25 April and end on 30 April).



Of course there will be great prizes for the winners in both categories, but all 12 photographs will be exhibited throughout Orkney, they will be included in a calendar and used in other promotional materials.

Please contact [Kasha](#) on 872897 for more information or visit the Orkney Voices [website](#).

Prizes and fame are waiting for you, so don't hesitate and start taking pictures now!

Perception of age survey

What is your perception of older people – Is it negative? Is it positive? Similarly what is your perception of young people? Help us to find out and to stimulate debate in Orkney by completing a short questionnaire.

We understand a stereotype as an often unfair and untrue belief that many people have about all people or things with a particular characteristic (in this instance 'age').

The Positive Ageing Delivery Group (The Orkney Partnership) and Orkney Voices would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete a short [questionnaire](#) about age related negative stereotypes.

The questionnaire is anonymous and its results will be used to stimulate further discussions on this important theme.

If you prefer to work with a Word document, please contact [Kasha](#) on 872897.

PVG change in legislation – what do you think?

The Scottish Government has launched a consultation to determine whether or not there should be a requirement to change the legislation relating to when an offence is committed when employing a barred individual. Do you think the legislation should change? Please click [here](#) for more information on the legislation and consultation.

Third Sector job opportunities

Orkney Amateur Football Association (OFA) – Secretary

The Orkney Amateur Football Association require a secretary for the 2016 summer season (April - September) and hopefully for future years thereafter.

The position is a paid position, currently £1,500 per season and does not require an interest or knowledge of football, it is purely an administrative role.

For further information about the role and application process, please contact [Hannah Ker](#) at VAO on 872897.



Third Sector Forum

The Third Sector Forum met this month and discussed, among many other topics, the Integrated Children's Service Plan, the Information Sharing Protocol and received an update on the inter-agency Working Group on Refugees. If you would like to join the Third Sector Forum or would like more information, please contact [Cecily](#) on 873937 or visit the VAO [website](#).

The next meeting of the Third Sector Forum will be on 19 May 2016.

Education & Training Opportunities

Measuring Social Impact – 14 April 2016

A one day workshop for individuals and organisations who are interested in making a difference. You can learn more about social impact and how to demonstrate the impact of the work your organisations makes. Please click [here](#) for more information and a booking form.

Thinkuknow Internet Safety Training

There are still places available on the Thinkuknow internet safety training on 15 of April. The course at 1pm at Kirkwall Grammar School, lasting 2 ½ - 3 hours. This course is for professionals working with children and will be held at KSG from 1.00-4.00. It is a CEOP course delivered locally by Pete Nicol. Please click [here](#) for more details or to book your place.

Scottish Mental Health First Aid

Scottish Mental Health First Aid for Young People – 28 April 2016

This one day course, delivered by Graeme Ramage (OIC) and Angelina Gould (Connect Project, VAO), is particularly relevant for those who are likely to come into contact with young people at risk of mental health problems. This includes teachers, youth workers, sports/dance/drama coaches, social workers, parents and others assisting young people across a variety of settings. The course structure is flexible and is delivered through a blended learning approach – 7 hours of face-to-face training with self-study modules before and after. Participants will receive a certificate of completion and a copy of the SMHFA:YP manual.

safeTALK – 12 May 2016

This half day course, delivered by Suzy Hopkins (Orkney Blide Trust) is intended as "suicide alertness" training. safeTALK teaches you to recognise persons with thoughts of suicide and to connect them to suicide intervention resources. It is designed for communities or organisations that already have [ASIST](#) trained helpers in place to maximise intervention as the main suicide prevention focus.

safeTALK complements ASIST and other intervention training courses. Participants learn how to provide practical help to persons with thoughts of suicide.

To book a place on either course, please contact [VAO](#) on 872897.

One Digital – 3 and 4 May 2016

- 1 in 5 people in Scotland lack basic digital skills
- 50% of all charities in Scotland lack basic digital skills

The One Digital Project is offering two **free** training opportunities for organisations who want to help change these statistics.



Making Digital Work - is designed to help organisations change the way they use digital to become more efficient and effective.

Making Digital Everyday - will help organisations to pass basic digital skills on to their end users.

Both courses include the opportunity to become an accredited Digital Champion and join a growing digital network across Scotland.

'One Digital is a great opportunity for Orkney's third sector organisations to improve the way they use digital in achieving their goals or to support those they help in the community to use digital to improve their day-to-day lives. The free One Digital sessions are tailored to our participants, ensuring they get what they need from the day and the ongoing support aims to help them achieve their digital journey. We've had lots of positive feedback from our sessions to date and we're looking forward to delivering One Digital in Orkney in May.' – Eilidh Little, One Digital Development Officer, SCVO.

'We enjoyed taking part in the workshop, it was very motivational and informative. With the information given on the day and the online support offered, we should be more than able to [support] our volunteers.' - Jennifer Watson, Volunteer Co-ordinator, Jewish Care Scotland.

'It was great to hear how technology can help to improve efficiency and connectivity for small Third Sector organisations and to find out that not everything is costly. The session certainly motivated me to think about how I could do things differently and reduce my time and effort at the same time.' - Fran Thow, Regional Manager, The Food Train

The one day training courses will be held in the St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall and will offer participants face-to-face training, online learning and ongoing support from SCVO.

Please contact [VAO](#) on 872897 for more information and check out the One Digital [website](#).



A Duty of Educational Care

An offer of a university place will be made available for young people with care experience in Scotland, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has confirmed.

It follows the publication of a report from the Commission on Widening Access which set out a range of actions to ensure a student's background is not a barrier to their education.

The Scottish Government will work with universities to ensure an offer of a university place will be made to young people with care experience who meet the minimum entry standards and want to go to university from 2017/18. Please click [here](#) for more details.