



## VAO News & Services



Groups - remember Volunteers Week falls from the 1st to the 7th of June, and is the annual celebration of the contribution volunteers make over the UK. This is your opportunity to thank all your volunteers for all their hard work and support that they have given during the past 12 months.

How will you celebrate Volunteers Week 2015? We'd love to hear how.

### Kirkwall Grammar and Stromness Academy S6 celebration

Volunteers from Kirkwall Grammar and Stromness Academy assembled recently to celebrate and recognise the achievements of their outgoing S6 pupils. Along with various Saltire Certificates, cheques for over £1200 were presented for local charities as a result of young volunteers' fundraising efforts.

### VAO AGM Invitation

Our AGM will take place on Monday **15th June 2015** at **7pm**, in the Grainbank Room at the **Pickaquooy Centre**. This year the formal business will be followed by the launch of our new image and a presentation from our Connect Project on their recent Money for Life Challenge Award. All members and interested parties are invited to join us to hear about the young people's experiences.

This year we have two retiring directors and so encourage our members to consider joining our Board. It is important that our Board reflects the diversity of our membership. If you are interested, a Director's nomination form should be completed and returned by 5th June. If you'd like an informal chat about what being a VAO director involves, or would like a nomination form, please contact [Gail Anderson](#) on 872897.

We look forward to welcoming you to the AGM.



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## Legislation, Guidance & Support

### Community Growing Resource Pack

A new Community Growing Resource Pack specifically for Scotland has been published. Based on our popular Community Garden Starter pack, this fully revised and updated pack is a comprehensive introduction to setting up, developing and sustaining a community-managed farm, garden or related community growing space. For further details or to download click [here](#).

### Research into disabled learners' progression through college

Lead Scotland was recently commissioned to carry out research to find out why disabled college learners are not progressing through learning levels as well as non-disabled learners. They carried out 2 separate surveys with learners and parents, as well as some follow-up interviews, and found that:

- 40% of learners didn't move up to the next SCQF level when moving between learning levels
- the majority of learners (43%) didn't progress to the next level for reasons relating to their impairment
- the majority of learners (65%) who left college early did so for reasons relating to their impairment

You can read the full report and recommendations for both colleges and the government [here](#).



### Changes to My World of Work

[My World of Work](#) is Skills Development Scotland's (SDS) award-winning careers information and advice web service. It recently won the UK Career Development Award for Best Practice in the Use of Technology in Career Development.

SDS will be launching the next generation of My World of Work in August 2015 which will have new and improved tools, improved user journeys, improved usability, accessibility and deeper levels of personalisation.

SDS will keep in touch with users and work with them to ensure a smooth transition process, keeping them up to date with the progress of developments and seeking feedback on the new features.

For further information please contact [myworldof-work@sds.co.uk](mailto:myworldof-work@sds.co.uk)

## Funding & Finance

### £100m for mental health



The Scottish Government

An extra £85 million will be invested in improving mental health services over the next five years.

The money is on top of the existing £15 million fund for mental health innovation, announced last year, making a total additional investment of £100 million over the next five years.

The fund will partly be used to further improve child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services, and bring down waiting times. It will also be targeted at improving access to services, in particular psychological therapies, improve responses to mental health in primary care, promote wellbeing through physical activity, and improve patient rights.

Third sector service providers will be key to delivering new services, and there will be a focus on innovation and providing services in community settings.

Click [here](#) to read more.

## VAO's Funding Advice

One of our most used services is help with funding and Hannah Ker has taken over the funding advisory role in Meghan's absence on maternity leave. So please contact Hannah if you have any queries about funding sources, need help with funding applications or just to mull over your idea for a project.

[Hannah](#) will of course continue to deliver the specialist HR Service so do contact her with your staffing queries also on 872897.

## Volunteering Opportunities

### Home-Start Orkney Board of Trustees

Home-Start is the leading family support charity in the UK, working with over 34,000 families and 70,000 children each year. Home-Start Orkney has been supporting local families for 13 years.

Home-Start Orkney are looking for individuals to join their Board of Trustees and would welcome enquiries from people with a background in the following: PR and marketing; Management; Personnel Management; IT; Fundraising.

Their Trustees are responsible for the governance and strate-

## Have your say....

### Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environmental Committee Meeting

**8 June 6-9pm, Kirkwall Grammar School Theatre**

The Committee will be discussing land reform with a panel of invited witnesses as well as taking questions directly from members of the audience. The Committee will begin its work on the Scottish Government's proposals for land reform and will be asking:

- Who should own Scotland's land?
- How should Scotland's land be owned and managed to benefit us all?
- Should some land use take priority over others?

Prior to the meeting there will be an opportunity to meet with the Committee and discuss issues relating to the Committee's remit, including agriculture, fisheries, rural development, climate change, the environment and food.

Tickets for this event are free and available [here](#):

If you're unable to attend the meeting you can:

- Send your questions on land reform to [racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk)
- Follow live tweets of the meeting at [@SP\\_RuralClimate](#)
- Join in by tweeting your comments and questions using [#PDOrkney](#)

gic direction of the scheme and have an interest in promoting the welfare of local families and children in our community.

They are seeking enthusiastic and committed Trustees as they enter a phase of growth and development.

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee or would like more information please contact [Erika Copland](#), Senior Co-

ordinator on 870770

Home-Start Orkney's AGM will be held on 9 June. For more information please contact [Erika](#).

**Home  
START**  
Support and friendship  
for families

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