

Voluntary Action Orkney

with you, for you

Sept 13

Please Tell us what you think



We've recently sent out our six-monthly survey to all our members. The survey will give you the chance to say how you rate our services and if they meet your needs.

The findings from this survey will be reported back to the Scottish Government and are also used to help us plan and identify services for the future.

We would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete the survey using the link below. If you have any problems accessing the link or have any questions about the survey please let us know.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Z8D66KY> - the deadline for replies is Friday 4th October.



Call for nominations

Voluntary Action Orkney invite organisations who work with young volunteers (aged 12-25) to recognise someone who has made an outstanding contribution to volunteering.

The Saltire Summit Award is intended for a maximum of 6 recipients each year, and will be presented to young volunteers who have exceeded expectations, or consistently gone above and beyond in their efforts.

The recipients will be chosen by a panel of young people and be presented at an Awards ceremony on Thursday 14th November 2013. Official invites will be sent mid-October.

If you are aware of any young volunteers who would be deserving of such an accolade, please contact Laura on the details below for a nomination form.

laura.leonard@vaorkney.org.uk or call 872897.

Friday Friends



Alice Scott, Thorfinn Moffat, Isla Tait and Megan Foubister recently received Saltire Awards for their involvement with Friday Friends at Eunson Kloss.

The intergenerational group meet every Friday to deliver activities for residents. Activities have included Bingo, cake decorating, and board games along with lots of yapping! Everyone involved in the group has showed commitment and enthusiasm. Friendships have been formed and continue to grow.

Megan Foubister deserves a special mention as she is leaving the group to study in Edinburgh. She received her 200 hour Saltire Award for being involved with various voluntary organisations including Friday Friends, Clan, Teens Plus, and NHS. I would like to wish Megan Good luck and say a big Thank You.

NHS Orkney, Patients Champion

The Board of NHS Orkney has recently appointed a number of Non-Executive Director Champions to work within the organisation to encourage and develop various key initiatives in the Corporate Plan.

This reflects NHS Orkneys' commitment to the Scottish Government's Quality Strategy, an important part of which is the promise to Patients to improve individual experiences of care and to ensure NHSO services, and care provision, are "person centred, safe and effective."

Jeremy Richardson, the NHSO Patients Champion, would like to hear the stories of people who use the services of NHS Orkney, both good and bad. The aim is to improve the Quality of Care and Service Provision by listening to patients and helping the organisation meet the high standards it has set itself in the provision of care for the people of Orkney.

Voluntary Organisations are asked to raise awareness of the Patients Champion amongst their clients, and are invited to raise issues directly with Jeremy.

Those who use the services of NHS Orkney are also invited to discuss experiences, both positive and negative, with Jeremy to help inform and improve future patient experience whilst, at the same time, recognising the high quality of care which all staff aim to achieve.

You can contact Jeremy at jeremyrichardson@nhs.net

Epilepsy Helpline

Free and Confidential, we now talk to you in over 170 languages.

Phone 0808 800 2200 or text 07786 209 501 or visit www.epilepsyscotland.org.uk for more information.

Dates for your Diaries

Effective Receptionist Training – are you new to the role, do you work or volunteer as a receptionist and need a helping hand? 15th October 2 - 4pm at VAO, a fee will apply.

Make a Difference Day – King Street Halls 26th October 10am – 3pm. Organisations involved in Health & Care will be showcasing the difference they make to our communities and their lives. Lunches available from our Connect project.

Thinking Outside the Box – are you looking for ways to earn more money? Come along to a session with the Scottish Social Enterprise Academy to find out how you can turn what you already have into new opportunities to earn money. Contact Meghan on 872897 for more information.

Autism Diagnosis Training – free ADOS 2 Autism Diagnosis Training from 7 – 11th October in Kirkwall. If you want to attend contact tom.mcguire@orkney.gov.uk

Budget Highlights

John Swinney's spending plans for the next two years were outlined at the Scottish Parliament on in the Draft Scottish Budget for 2014-15. They include an extra £2.5m to build the voluntary sector and communities to help others. This funding is designed to build the voluntary sector's capacity at a local community level to mitigate the impact of welfare reform. The delivery mechanism for this fund has not yet been decided and the sector will be consulted in order to agree an effective method.

- £33m in 2014/15 and 2015/16 to maintain the Scottish Welfare Fund
- £20m this financial year to alleviate bedroom tax
- 2014/15 Change Funds funded and extended. Funding of £100m will be allocated through Health Boards in 2015-16 to support the shift to prevention, and an additional £20m will be used to support national initiatives via a partnership resource open to local authorities, working with health boards, the third sector and others, as new arrangements for integration are put in place.
- An extra £40m to affordable housing over the next three years
- £120m for a help-to-buy Scotland scheme (for housing)
- Sustainable action fund continued; working with the private sector to tackle fuel poverty;
- Public service reform - agreement on joint funding published alongside budget with clear expectations placed on the public sector
- Additional £20m to active travel, for example cycling

To view the spending plan visit: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-scotland-politics-24040310>

Leader+ Research - survey responses sought

The Scottish Government are currently undertaking a research project to ascertain the key economic and social impacts that funding under Leader+ (2000-2006) has made to the projects and the wider communities which participated in the programme.

As part of this research, there is a short survey, which they would like as many projects as possible which received funding under Leader+ to complete. The closing date for the survey is **Friday 18th October 2013**.

For more information and a link to the survey visit: <http://www.ruralgateway.org.uk/en/node/8244>

New Guidance from HSE

The Health and Safety Executive has launched new guidance to help make it easier for organisations and businesses to understand how to manage Health and Safety.

The completely refreshed and enhanced 'Managing for Health and Safety' guidance (also known as HSG65) aims to help business leaders, owners, directors, trustees and line-managers.

The new guidance moves away from using the Policy, Organising, Planning, Measuring performance, Auditing and Review (POP-MAR) model of managing Health and Safety to a 'Plan, Do, Check, Act' approach.

The move towards 'Plan, Do, Check, Act', hopes to treat Health and Safety management as an integral part of good management generally, rather than as a stand-alone system.

To download the new 'Managing for Health and Safety' guidance visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/press/2013/hse-new-hs-guidance.htm?eban=govdel-press-release&cr=01-Aug-2013>