

Newsletter September 2020

Local news and services

Local Service Information available from VAO

As we gradually move out of 'lockdown' Orkney Islands Council, which has a statutory duty to lead on Orkney's post-Covid recovery, has begun to plan for the future. Three groups have been established to identify actions that will support the recovery and renewal of our economy, our communities and the services that our people need.

To ensure that all sectors and sections of our community can contribute to the debate about what we need, a Third Sector Recovery and Renewal Sub Group now exists to provide a dedicated space for information sharing, discussion and idea generation which will inform and influence the work of the three Recovery and Renewal Groups.

The group are highly aware that at least one impact of Covid-19 and the lockdown measures in place, is that people who may not previously have required support from local services, now do or will do in the near future. Therefore, the group wishes to raise awareness of the services available.

As the local Third Sector Interface, VAO holds information on local third sector and statutory services.

If you have access to the internet this information can be accessed through the Information Hub on the VAO website <https://www.vaorkney.org.uk/information-hub/> or you can email staff directly at enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk

Alternatively, the VAO telephones are staffed each weekday from 9am to 5pm: 01856 872897.

Y-Change – a new service at YPeople

YPeople Orkney have recently launched their new service, Y-Change. Y-Change is a free, confidential service available throughout Orkney which offers specialist support for anyone aged 16+ who have found themselves at risk of, or involved in, offending or antisocial behaviour as a result substance or alcohol use.

The service offers face to face sessions as well as online or telephone meetings. For more information about the service please contact orkney@ypeople.org.uk or visit www.ypeople.org.uk

New postal address for Women's Aid Orkney

Women's Aid Orkney have a new postal address:
Women's Aid Orkney
PO Box 6231
Kirkwall
KW15 9BP

For more information about the service please contact info@womensaidorkney.org.uk

Christmas Charities Bazaar – Cancelled

In light of the continuing covid-19 situation, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's VAO Charities Christmas Bazaar. Whilst we know this is disappointing, we hope you can understand the steps we are taking to help keep everyone safe.

Funding & Finance



Community & Third Sector Recovery Programme

The Community & Third Sector Recovery Programme aims to support charities, community groups, social enterprises and voluntary organisations that are supporting people and communities through the shift from lockdown to recovery. As well as providing ongoing crisis support, they will be planning and implementing changes to adapt and thrive in a very different social and economic climate. Click for more information on the [Adapt and Thrive Fund](#) and the [Communities Recovery Fund](#).

Robertson Trust new funding options

The Robertson Trust has this week opened up new funding options. Please see below a description of three funds with links to additional information.

The Robertson Trust offer both revenue and capital funding for registered charities and constituted community groups that help people and communities in Scotland who are living with poverty and trauma.

Click [here](#) for more details of the kind of work they fund. There are no set closing dates, so you can apply anytime.

Here is an overview of current funds:

[Wee Grants](#) - For constituted community groups and charities with an annual income of less than £25,000. Funding of up to £2,000 for one year only.

[Small Grants](#) - For registered charities with an annual income of between £25,000 and £100,000 Revenue funding of between £2,000 and £15,000 for up to five years.

[Large Grants](#) - For registered charities with an annual income of between £100,000 and £2 million Revenue funding of between £15,000 and £50,000 for up to five years.

The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation

The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation trustees have now re-opened for general applications. The Foundation supports a wide range of causes across the North of Scotland. The application deadline for the November funding round is 9 October 2020. Click [here](#) for more information.

The Love Your Network Grant for Community Groups in Scotland

The Love Your Network grant, funded by Transport Scotland and delivered by Sustrans Scotland, seeks to empower communities to learn more about their local routes and implement physical improvements which make journeys on the National Cycle Network more attractive and enjoyable. Equipment and training 'bundles' are available to community groups for projects which benefit people or wildlife across traffic-free National Cycle Network routes in Scotland.

Love Your Network support will be available to constituted community groups, registered charities and other social enterprises. Individuals and profit-making companies are not eligible to apply. Local authorities may apply for funding on behalf of a community group that is not currently constituted.

Read more and apply [here](#).

Have your say



Local Government and Communities Committee – views on participation requests and asset transfers

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government and Communities Committee is doing some work on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 to explore what impact it has had on improving community wellbeing. As part of this, it is specifically looking at how well parts 3 and 5 of the Act, participation requests and asset transfers, are working in practice.

The Committee would like to hear directly from bodies about their views and experiences of submitting participation requests or engaging with asset transfer requests with their local authority, or other public bodies. If you have not experienced this type of engagement and you are part of a community organisation which has views on how services or assets could be better run in your area, then we would also be keen to hear your views.

If this is something you would like to be involved, in the Committee has prepared the below survey to allow you to submit your views. Closing date 23 October.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UJ3R4L/>

This survey should take no more than half an hour to complete. If you would like your response to be anonymous, you will have the opportunity to tell us so. However, if you are interested in speaking to the Committee about your community and the projects you are engaged in, please email Greig or Jason (see below) with your details and we will be in touch over the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about the survey, and how your response will be used, please contact either [Greig Liddell](#) (Scottish Parliament Information Centre) or [Jason Nairn](#) (Assistant Clerk to the Local Government and Communities Committee). More information on how the information from this questionnaire will be used, please see the [Parliament's Privacy Notice](#).

Training opportunities



Equity Week

The North Alliance Improvement Collaborative and Education Scotland are hosting the Equity Week this week (28 September – 2 October). There are numerous resources and presentations which might be useful for the third sector. There are also opportunities to network. Click [here](#) for more information.

Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit being introduced by the Scottish Government to tackle child poverty. It is for low income families already in receipt of qualifying benefits. To start with, Scottish Child Payment will be available to families with children under six years of age only. Social Security Scotland remain committed to rolling out this benefit to families with children under 16 years of age by the end of 2022.

Scottish Child Payment will open for applications in November 2020, with first payments being made from the end of February 2021. Low-income families with a child under six will be able to apply for £10 per child, per week - equivalent to £520 per year. There are no limits on the number of eligible children supported by Scottish Child Payment.

Social Security Scotland will be running a series of virtual roadshow events throughout October 2020. You can sign up to one of the events by following the links below.

The roadshows are aimed at people who work with and support families who may be entitled to claim Scottish Child Payment. They will provide information about the eligibility criteria and how clients can apply for the Scottish Child Payment.

The virtual roadshow events are free. Tickets will be available on a first come first served basis. Click on the links below for more information and to book.

[Tuesday 6th October 2020; 10:30am – 12:00pm](#)

[Wednesday 7th October 2020; 10:30am – 12:00pm](#)

[Thursday 8th October 2020; 13:30pm – 15:00pm](#)

[Friday 9th October 2020; 10:30am – 12:00pm](#)

[Monday 12th October; 13:30pm – 15:00pm](#)

[Wednesday 14th October; 10:30am – 12:00pm](#)

[Wednesday 14th October; 13:30pm – 15:00pm](#)

Thursday 15th October; 10:30am – 12:00pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scottish-child-payment-teleconference-tickets-121360411257>

For more information contact NationalEngagementandPartnershipTeam@socialsecurity.gov.scot

Third Sector job opportunities



Child Contact Centre Co-ordinator at Relationships Scotland Orkney

Hours: 12 hours/week including evening and weekends

Closing date: 8 October 2020

Interviews: Week beginning 12 October 2020

Relationships Scotland Orkney are recruiting a Child Contact Centre Co-ordinator.

Are you committed to helping families and children adapt to changing circumstances? Would you like to help parents maintain relationships with children they do not live with? If yes, then please contact enquiries@rsorkney.org.uk to find out more about the position.

Volunteering opportunities

VAO Young People's Befriending Project

The Young People's Befriending Project supports young people between 8-18 who are struggling through a difficult season, a challenging situation, social isolation, poor mental ill health or other personal difficulties. The Project's volunteers are currently offering support through a mixture of in-person and virtual support sessions, designed to encourage and support, and foster connection, while adhering to current and developing Covid-19 guidelines.

The Project is looking to expand the volunteering Team amid this uncertain time, in order to increase their support of local young people.



If you would like to find out more about joining the team and taking part in the training that will be being offered later this autumn, please get in touch with either of the Project Co-ordinators by email to Katherine.rendall@vaorkney.org.uk or Hannah.rendall@vaorkney.org.uk

ITCanHelp Volunteer

Abilitynet is looking for IT volunteers to support older people and people with disabilities with their tech at home. For more information on the role please click [here](#).

Are you interested in this exciting opportunity? If so, apply now to start the process of becoming a volunteer. As you will often be working one-to-one with clients in their homes Abilitynet will conduct a basic disclosure check and an interview will be conducted with the volunteer coordinator in your region.

If you would like to have a chat about the role please contact local volunteer [Si Brodie](#) .

Women's Aid Orkney are Looking for New Board Members



Women's Aid Orkney are looking to recruit new board members.

Women's Aid Orkney provide free and confidential support to women and children affected by domestic abuse. They are currently looking to increase the size and diversity of their board of directors/trustees. They are looking for feminist,

creative and innovative women with a broad range of skills and experience and in particular with an interest in fundraising.

The board meets monthly for about 2 hours on an evening and you will also spend some time on fundraising activities.

If you are interested in knowing more about becoming a board member with Women's Aid Orkney please contact [Rob McGregor](mailto:Rob.McGregor@vaorkney.org.uk) at VAO on 872897 or contact Orkney Women's Aid on 877900 or at: info@womensaidorkney.org.uk

Orkney Pubwatch Chair

Pubwatch is the licensed trade's equivalent of a Neighbourhood Watch. It is a group of local licensees coming together to set acceptable standards of behaviour for people using their premises and to agree common policies on dealing with the minority that ignore the standards set.

The aim of Orkney Pubwatch is to maintain and improve on the atmosphere in and around licenced premises in Orkney by demonstrating a well organised, systematic and unified approach to protecting people both working and socialising. If this aim is achieved then an improvement in the safety, security and wellbeing of staff and customers will almost certainly follow.



Orkney Pubwatch are looking for someone to take on the role of Chair for their partnership. Orkney Pubwatch has recently gone through a significant rejuvenation and are looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated person to take it to the next level.

The role will have you working closely with the local members and the local Police. You will have full autonomy to take Orkney Pubwatch in the direction you feel appropriate providing it fits with the constitution and policy documents.

This is a perfect development opportunity for those whom are looking to develop themselves as a manager. You will be required to demonstrate your entrepreneurial organisational and communication skills. You will also be required to represent Orkney Pubwatch at the local licencing board.

For more information please click [here](#) or email enquiries@orkneypubwatch.co.uk

If you would like to promote your organisation, an activity or project or have an interesting story to share, please contact Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk