

Newsletter October 2020

Local news and services

Bridging the Gap

The Adult Befriending Service and St Andrews Nursery have partnered up to start a new pen pal scheme called “Bridging the Gap”. Prior to lockdown, we had plans in place for a new exciting intergenerational group with St Andrews Nursery. Unfortunately, these plans had to be put on hold as face-to-face visits were no longer possible.



Recently, Kasia, one of our Development Workers, attended an online Generations Working Together training session for intergenerational work. As luck would have it, Helen from St Andrews Nursery was also in attendance. Being partnered up in the training was the perfect opportunity for them to reignite their original plans and brainstorm new ideas. The idea of the pen pal scheme came up and grew from there.

The correspondence is now under way. We have already received some lovely letters and drawings from the children at the nursery, which we will send out to our 11 befriendees. The children are eagerly awaiting their replies!

The nursery has kindly gifted our befriendees crafts packs so they can also make a picture or craft item to send back to the children.

As time goes on, the letters and pictures will be added to a scrapbook, in the hope that one day we are all able to meet up and look back on the memories.

For a number of years, intergenerational work has been an important part of the work that we do at the Adult Befriending Service. It helps bring generations together, promotes respect between generations and helps to build communities that are more cohesive.

Prior to lockdown, our befriendees were very active and sociable, many attending different groups regularly. Covid-19 has taken many of these opportunities away from them. "Bridging the Gap" will give them the opportunity to have fun, keep their brains active and have something to look forward to.



Also in the news

New app to help reduce loneliness and isolation

Glasgow's Golden Generation has released an innovative app to help prevent loneliness and isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The charity has received funding and support through a number of trusts, foundations and partners including Glasgow HSCP, the Scottish Government, SCVO and Glasgow Life to both develop the app and distribute tablet computers to older adults.

Click on the link to read more in [Third Force News](#).

Legislation & Guidance

Trustees' Week 2020

Monday 2 November marks the start of Trustees' Week 2020. We are pleased to share events and guidance from OSCR.

Events

In addition to celebrating the work of charity trustees, OSCR and the [Scottish Governance forum for the Third Sector](#) are hosting a number of free events throughout the week to share best practice. There is a brilliant range of sessions to choose from, hosted by some of the most knowledgeable people working in the sector today. For example:

- [The Future of Governance with Edel Harris](#)
- [Protecting your charity's reputation](#)
- [Governance support and training](#)

Don't worry if you can't make a session, recordings of the sessions will be made available on the OSCR [YouTube channel](#) soon after the week has ended. You can sign up to all of the events [here](#).

Charity trustee guidance and support

Being a charity trustee is not always plain sailing. You can have complex decisions to make or you may have to deal with tricky and novel situations when they arise.

There are many useful resources out there, and visiting the OSCR [website](#) is a good place to start. If you are not sure what guidance is right for your organisation, OSCR has a [new tool](#) to help select the appropriate guidance for you.

Prefer to watch a video? Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to see recordings of recent events and other videos.

If you or your organisation need further support then please check out the OSCR [signposting page](#) to find help from key partners, such as:

- [The Governance Forum and Code](#)
- [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations \(SCVO\)](#)
- [Your local TSI](#)
- [ACOSVO](#)
- [Institute of Fundraising](#)

Funding & Finance



Steel Charitable trust

Grants of between £2500 and £25000 available for charitable purposes that fall into one of the five core categories of arts and heritage, education, environment, health, or social or economic Disadvantage. Click [here](#) for more information.

Creative Freelance Hardship Fund

This fund from Creative Scotland is to support creative freelancers working in Scotland who are experiencing immediate financial hardship due to the loss of income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funds offer a one-off monetary contribution to those who are most deeply impacted and disadvantaged by the cancellation of work as a result of the emergency situation.

Creative Scotland state that they 'trust that those who request these funds are in need of emergency funding at this time. We strongly encourage people to fully consider their needs before making a request to this programme. Funds are finite and we and our partners expect a high level of demand. It is vital that we are able to support those who have the most urgent needs at this time.'

Bursaries can be requested for any sum from £500 - £2000. If you have specific access needs, then you may request more than this.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Open for applications: Self Management Fund

The ALLIANCE Self Management Fund: Resilience, Recovery and Development is open for applications until 18 January 2021.

Administered on behalf of the Scottish Government, the Self Management Fund supports projects that increase the capacity of the people of Scotland to live well with long term conditions. A total of £1.5 million will be made available across Scotland and successful projects will begin on 1 June 2021.

Find out more [here](#).

Social Security Scotland

Social Security Scotland have recently published their latest newsletter which includes information on Scottish Child Payment and Child Winter Heating Assistance payments. Click [here](#) to read.

Community Climate Asset Fund

The Community Climate Asset Fund (CCAF) is a £3.5 million Scottish Government fund, administered by Keep Scotland Beautiful, and provides capital funding for community-based organisations to tackle climate change.

The fund is designed to support communities to reduce usage of petrol and diesel cars, cut waste, grow local food and reduce emissions from community buildings.

The main types of asset that the CCAF can fund can be split under seven main headings:

- Energy efficiency measures in community buildings
- Equipment to support community food growing
- Electric vehicles and charging infrastructure for community-run car clubs, for running existing climate change projects and for delivering services that have been identified as a priority by the community as a result of COVID-19
- Bikes and facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Electric bikes and charging infrastructure for community groups running existing climate change projects
- Equipment to reduce waste in your community
- Equipment to support an established community wood fuel scheme

Further information on the above and the types of asset that are fundable and not fundable, plus an outline of ineligible costs is available on the CCAF website [here](#).

Grants range between a minimum of £1,000 and maximum of £100,000. The deadline for application is 9 November 2020.

Have your say



Out of school activity in Orkney

The Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University have acquired funding from the Scottish Government to map out of school activity and food provisions for families in Orkney Islands.

This work is also being delivered with the support of Orkney Island Council and seeks to:

1. Understand the complex picture of existing provisions
2. Determine the scale and nature of such provisions
3. Determine whether the current provision meet needs of families living in poverty
4. Determine whether the services can work better

To do this, it is vital that the team hear from those currently delivering out of school activity and food provisions in Orkney. If this is you then please spare some time to complete the online mapping exercise.

It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed [here](#).

The survey won't be live for long as the team need to examine the results and send their report to Scottish Government in December.

While Orkney is well recognised as an affluent community and is often regarded as the best place to live and grow up in the UK, it is also a community with wide levels of inequality. Research from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) found that 14% of Orkney children grow up in poverty. This is the equivalent to 508 children or 17 school classes. In areas such as the North Isles, more than 1 in 4 children (27.7%) are living in poverty. Therefore, this work is crucial and the researchers hope that they can obtain a high response rate. Doing so would enable them to deliver a comprehensive database of existing provisions and ensure that they deliver a resource that meets local needs.

Conversation with the People of Scotland

The purpose of this national initiative is to capture people's experience of health services during the pandemic. We want to understand what matters to people, what has worked well and what could be done differently in the future.

There will be an Orkney event hosted jointly by Orkney Health and Care, NHS Orkney and Voluntary Action Orkney, with support from Healthcare Improvement Scotland – Community Engagement.

The Orkney event will provide scope to discuss issues specific to our islands, for example the many challenges relating to our geography. Click on the links below to register.

Wednesday 4 November 12.00pm-1.30pm on [Eventbrite](#)

Wednesday 4 November 6.30pm-8.00pm [Eventbrite](#)

This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of health and social care services, so please do get involved!

For more information please contact rebecca.crawford@vaorkney.org.uk

To take part and register for the national events hosted by the ALLIANCE please click [here](#).

Child Protection Consultation

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland describes the responsibilities and expectations of everyone who works with children, young people and their families in Scotland. It sets out how agencies should work together with children, young people, parents, families and communities to protect children from abuse, neglect and exploitation. The National Guidance should underpin local multi-agency child protection procedures, guidance and training.

The current version of the National Guidance was published in 2014. As a recommendation of the Child Protection Improvement Programme (2016), the guidance is being revised to ensure it is consistent with the legislative and policy framework and current practice developments.

The aim of the consultation is to seek views on the tone, level of detail and approach in the revised guidance, in particular in relation to the description of new or significant aspects, and whether there are any omissions or aspects that have not been adequately addressed.

Consultation responses will be analysed alongside the feedback from online engagement sessions. Views will inform the final content of the revised National Guidance, and future developments in child protection improvement work more generally. The final revised National Guidance will be published online in spring 2021. This will ensure accessibility and allow the National Guidance to be updated regularly to reflect legislative, policy and practice developments.

The consultation will close on 17 January 2021.

Click [here](#) to read the guidance and have your say.

Volunteering opportunities



Restart Orkney

Restart Orkney are looking for a volunteer van driver, to pick up small electrical items from customer's houses every Friday commencing 25th September. The volunteer will need to be over 25 with a full, clean licence to satisfy insurance requirements. This is a great opportunity to make an environmental difference locally, whilst helping those on low incomes. If you are interested, please contact [Rob McGregor](#).

For information on this and other volunteering opportunities, please visit the VAO [website](#).

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