

Newsletter November 2020

Local news and services

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

The global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence is taking place from 25 November to 10 December. For each of the 16 days, partners will be sharing resources and stories online, including those written by survivors.

More than 13 organisations across the Highlands and Islands are jointly campaigning to raise awareness of domestic abuse & sexual violence and how it affects people in our local communities. Partners include Rape Crisis Centres, Women's Aid, the Police, University of the Highlands and Islands, Domestic Abuse Forums and others will be showing their support for survivors and creating online content to raise awareness and increase community safety.

In Orkney, St Magnus Cathedral will be floodlit orange on the 25 November and blue on Human Rights Day, 10 of December. There will be a display in the Voluntary Action Orkney window in Bridge Street and at the Northlight Gallery in Stromness 28 Nov – 4 Dec.

You will also see #peediebirds on display to illustrate that domestic abuse and sexual violence happens everywhere including rural and remote communities in the North.

Please download the poster and place it somewhere prominent in your workplace or home, share a photo of it on social media using the #changeherstory #peediebirds

Please follow our social media feeds tagging in your services and friends.

ORSAS

<https://orsas.scot>

<https://facebook.com/OrkneyRSAS>

<https://twitter.com/OrkneyRSAS>

<https://www.instagram.com/orkneyrsas>

Women's Aid Orkney

<https://womensaidorkney.org.uk>

<https://www.facebook.com/womensaidorkney>

<https://twitter.com/WAOrkney>

<https://www.instagram.com/womensaidorkney>

For anyone that feels they would like to anonymously share their experience of sexual harassment in rural and remote areas please check out www.changeherstory.co.uk/survivor-stories

Support for survivors is available from ORSAS and Women's Aid Orkney who can be contacted through the links above.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
25TH NOV - 10TH DEC 2020

#peediebirds

#16DAYS #ORSAS #CHANGEHERSTORY #HERETOO #PEEDIEBIRDS

Facebook: @OrkneyRSAS
Twitter: @OrkneyRSAS
Instagram: @orkneyrsas

Email: contact@orsas.scot Website: www.orsas.scot

Orkney Rape and Sexual Assault Service,
26 Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1HR Tel: 01856 872298

VAO's Community Engagement Project

You may have already heard about VAO's new Community Engagement project, funded by Aspiring Communities, but for those who haven't yet one of its main focuses will be consulting with communities to shape the next Community Planning Partnership Locality Plans for Orkney. Communities will also be involved in designing solutions to the issues identified during the consultation and engagement processes. This will ensure that place-based solutions are tailored to address the specific issues identified during the consultation. There will be a focus on encouraging people who would not normally participate in community consultations to get involved and share their views, particularly those who are experiencing disadvantage and inequality.

We are especially keen to hear the experiences of organisations around Orkney in terms of the consultation methods that you find are the most appropriate to engage with the people you work with, particularly those who are the most vulnerable? Some examples of different methods include workshops, events, individual interviews or surveys.

If you would like to provide some feedback on the consultation methods you feel would be most beneficial to the people you work with, or would like to learn more about the project please get in touch with our Community Engagement Worker [Rebecca Crawford](#) who would be happy to tell you more!

Legislation & Guidance

Resources to help charities navigate their response to the coronavirus crisis

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is vast. Charities will need to be resourceful, responsive, collaborative and innovative in order to keep serving those who need them through this crisis and to continue to have an impact well beyond it.

Charities will need to respond and adapt to immense changes in our environment and in need. There will be new challenges tied to the fallout of this crisis which are likely to be the greatest many of us have ever seen. Charities need to be prepared to support the recovery of the sectors they work in and to help build resilience for the future.

For years, NPC (a think tank for the charity sector) has been developing tools and guidance for charities on topics including data and learning, strategy, user involvement, and governance. They have produced a [toolkit](#) which pulls together all the resources they think will be useful in a charity's response to the coronavirus crisis, and puts them all in one place.

Funding & Finance

Scottish Child Payment is now open for applications

Scottish Child Payment is a new payment for families on tax credits or certain benefits to help towards the costs of looking after a child. It's £40 paid every four weeks for each child under six.

The payment starts on Monday 15 February 2021, with first payments made from the end of February onwards, but Social Security Scotland is taking applications now to help manage demand.

Parents can apply if their child will be under six on 15 February 2021.

The qualifying benefits are:

- Child Tax Credit
- Income Support
- Pension Credit

- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

For more information click [here](#).

Social Security Scotland Newsletter

Social Security Scotland's latest newsletter is available to view [here](#). The newsletter includes information on the Child Disability Payment that will be introduced next summer and the Child Winter Heating Assistance available now. Information about all benefits from Social Security Scotland can be found [here](#).

Have your say

Your Cancer in the Time of Covid Story: MacMillan Cancer Support story telling workshops

Our stories are powerful things. They can bring us together and help change our society. MacMillan Cancer Support want to help people affected by cancer share their experiences of COVID-19.

"It has been more than just telling a story. It's given me a gift to myself ; Permission to allow others in." - Genevieve, participant in digital storytelling group

Watch stories [here](#).

This pandemic has touched all our lives, but every person living with cancer has had a unique and personal journey. MacMillan want to help you tell your story, your way so that cancer does not become the 'Forgotten C'.

Whether you've had cancer or know someone who has, you can take part in storytelling workshops with MacMillan Cancer Support. These workshops are a safe and welcome space to try out storytelling within a small group, and be supported with creating your own short, recorded story.

To achieve positive change for people affected by cancer MacMillan's mission is to amplify the voices and stories of people who are seldom heard – get in touch with them and let them support you share your story.

You can keep your story private or share it with our wider community.

Interested to find out more? You can join for a taster session - register your interest [here](#), or email Morag MacLean at WMTYScotland@macmillanorg.uk



Volunteering opportunities

Relationships Scotland Orkney seek Board members

Local charity [Relationships Scotland Orkney](#) (RSO) is looking for volunteers to join its Board. Being a Board member is a great way to contribute to the charity's work and the Board is keen to involve local people with a wide range of skills and experience.

RSO, which is affiliated to the national charity Relationships Scotland, provides specialist support for adults, children, couples and families affected by relationship difficulties and family separation. The services include relationship and individual counselling, family mediation, specialist drug and alcohol counselling, play therapy, intensive individual and family support, and a child contact centre. Over 200 adults and children in Orkney are currently supported by RSO.

If you have experience of, or an interest in, these areas of work and would like to find out more about what being a Board member involves, please contact Service Director [Tamsin Bailey](#)

St Magnus International Festival seeking performers

Though we are still in the midst of this challenging period, the St Magnus International Festival are working away to create work and projects for next year.



For the 2021 Festival they plan to celebrate the writer George Mackay Brown on the 100th anniversary of his birth. As part of this celebration, the festival will be staging virtual and live performances of his early play *The Storm Watchers*.

To bring this to life they need to cast some local female performers.

An intense piece of theatre from the early 1970s, the play has a cast of seven, all women, and the Festival is looking for local performers to rehearse and create this version in two casts.

As the restrictions of Covid-19 continue, the Festival will be asking anyone wishing to audition to provide a short, self-recorded video monologue of up to 5 minutes in length taken from any playscript. The audition can be recorded on computer, tablet or phone and sent to the Festival's Director [Alasdair Nicolson](#) by 14 December 2020.

The play is described as "A play for voices" and this new production will be presented in memory of Kristin Linklater, another world-renowned figure whose life and work revolved around the voice.

Orkney NHS Board Member appointments

If you are looking for a rewarding and worthwhile opportunity, NHS Orkney would like to hear from you.

Applications are invited from a wide range of people who have an interest in public service and are committed to the NHS in Scotland.

NHS Orkney is responsible for meeting the health needs of around 21,500 people living in Orkney, and provides a comprehensive range of primary, community-based and acute hospital services tailored for the whole population.

NHS Orkney is looking for one new member to join its Board. As a non-executive member of the Board, you will be expected to play a central role in guiding the strategies which address the health priorities and health care needs of the resident population. You will be offered the training you'll need to make a strong contribution.

For this position you must be able to demonstrate the following essential criteria:

Ability to demonstrate NHS Scotland's shared values. These are:

- care and compassion;
- dignity and respect;
- openness, honesty and responsibility; and,
- quality and teamwork
- A successful track record in looking carefully at what organisations do and holding them to account
- Ability to influence decision making and challenge constructively
- Ability to contribute to longer term planning by seeing the 'bigger picture'
- Ability to analyse and review complex issues
- Ability to communicate effectively

You do not need to be an expert in health or have previous experience of being on a Board. NHS Orkney are looking for people who have the capacity and commitment to grow into the role, to develop their skills and to learn new skills they may require.

They value very highly the benefits of having different experience and points of view on our Boards. Scottish Ministers particularly welcome applications from people with protected characteristics that are currently under-represented on The Board of NHS Orkney, such as: disabled people, LGBTI+ people, and those from black and minority ethnic communities.

For more specific detail of the particular requirements of the roles, please see the person specification, which forms part of the application pack (circulated with this newsletter). Also included in the pack is more detailed information about NHS Orkney and its role within NHS Scotland.

Remuneration: £8,095 per annum (non-pensionable) is payable. You will also receive reimbursement for all reasonable travel and subsistence costs and any reasonable dependant-carer expenses incurred whilst undertaking Board duties and for support required to help you carry out your duties effectively

Time commitment: The time commitment will vary week to week, but on average the role will take up around 8 hours per week. This time will be a mix of daytime Board meetings, committee meetings, reading documents and attending stakeholder events. You should also demonstrate an adequate degree of flexibility to attend at a greater frequency subject to the Board's ongoing business needs.

Appointment details: The term of appointment will be for up to 4 years. When a term comes to an end, the skills the board requires will be reassessed. If you satisfy the requirements of the new person specification at that time, and there is evidence of your effective performance, Scottish Ministers may consider reappointing you for a further term. A non-executive member's total period of appointment in the same role will not exceed eight years.

Location: The Board is based at the Balfour, in Kirkwall.

Interviews: Interviews will be held on the 6 and 7 January 2021. A decision will be made nearer the time on how these will be conducted, taking in to account up to date Public Health guidance in relation to physical distancing. If it is not safe to meet, other arrangements will be considered, which may include conducting the interviews remotely by video link.

Further information: If you would like to discuss this opportunity in more detail, you are welcome to contact the Chair, Meghan McEwen, by phoning 01856 888271; or by emailing meghan.mcewen@nhs.scot

For full information on the appointments, please read the Application Information Pack accessed via the link below.

The NHS public appointments website allows you to apply online: www.appointed-for-scotland.org. If you experience any difficulties accessing the website, or in the event that you require a word version of the application form, please contact the Public Appointments Team by calling Freephone 0300 244 1898; or by emailing Public.appointments@gov.scot

Completed applications must be received on or before midday on 4 December 2020.

Appointments to Orkney NHS Board are regulated by the Ethical Standards Commissioner.

Appointed on merit; committed to diversity and equality.

Social Action Inquiry Scotland – call for applications for roles of Independent Co-Chairs

Do you believe the best change comes when communities have the power to take action? If you want to help build a Scotland where what communities do can make a real difference, please read on...

The Social Action Inquiry is being set up to find out more about how communities can take action that makes a difference. It will look at what helps, and what gets in the way. It's hoped that it will help influence how Scotland rebuilds after the coronavirus pandemic.

This independent inquiry will be led by people living and working in Scottish communities.

The partners involved in setting up the Inquiry (Carnegie UK Trust, Corra Foundation, the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), The National Lottery Community Fund, and The Robertson Trust) are looking for two people (Co-chairs) to work together to run the Inquiry. In the next few weeks, they will also start recruiting a Social Action Inquiry Panel of up to ten people to help guide, shape and support the Inquiry.

The Co-chairs and Panel will include people with direct, lived experience as part of communities who have felt that they do not hold power over decisions affecting their own lives, but that this has been held by others. This might be, for example, experience of childhood trauma, homelessness, disability, poverty, or coming from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic community.

Click [here](#) to find out more.

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