

Newsletter February 2021

Local news and services

Have your say and influence the future of your local community

If you live in the West Mainland or in Kirkwall, then Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO) wants to hear from you!

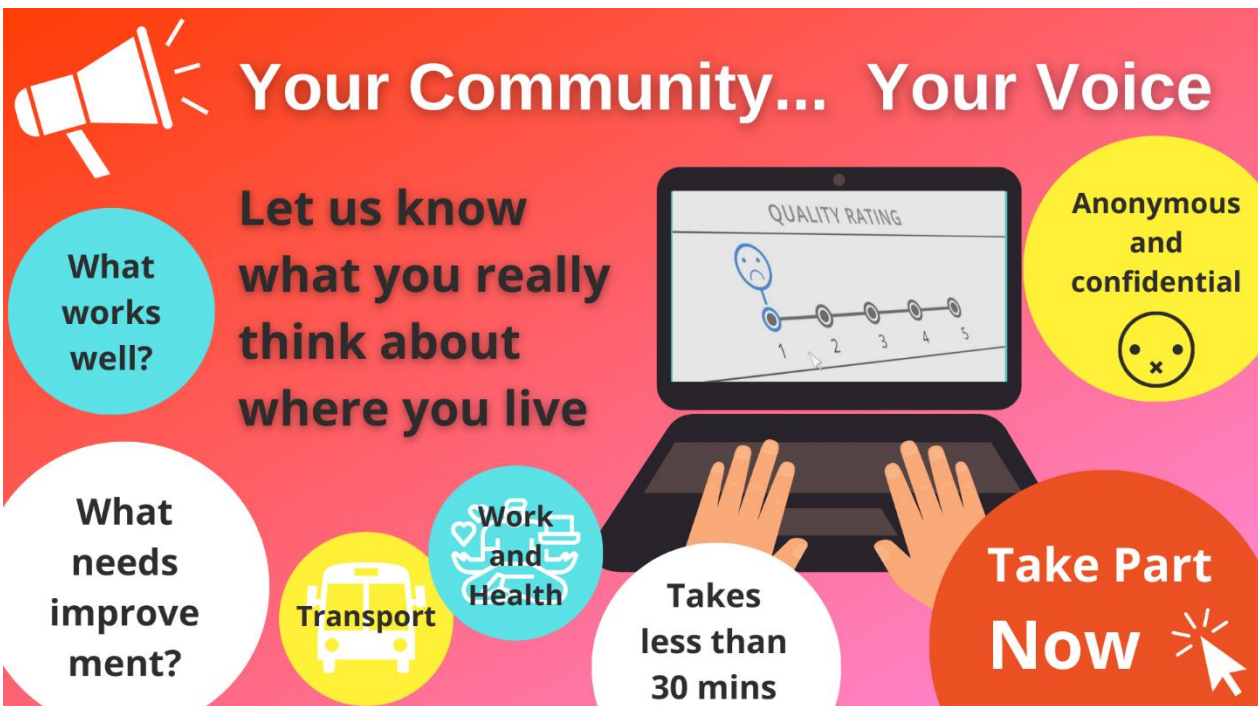
The Your Community, Your Voice consultation will be running from 22 of February to 21 of March.

It is an opportunity to help shape your local community by telling us what you really think of where you live. This is to ensure that as many people as possible have a say in planning future services as we recover from COVID 19. We want to know what is currently working well in your community, and what areas you would like to see some improvement in.

The feedback from this consultation will be used to inform decision making in your local area. We want to make sure that any future work in community planning has the opinions of the local community at its heart and we encourage everyone of all ages to take part! The views gathered will contribute directly to community planning objectives which are a key focus of future activity for the Orkney Partnership.

To take part simply fill in this [online survey](#), it should only take around 15-20 minutes to complete.

The survey is completely anonymous and confidential meaning you can tell us exactly what you think, good or bad! It covers a range of different categories, such as public transport, work and health and wellbeing, to build up a picture of your local area as a whole. Ideally, we would like to hear your opinion on all of the categories, however you can fill out as much or as little of the survey



Your Community... Your Voice

Let us know what you really think about where you live

What works well?

What needs improve ment?

Transport

Work and Health

Takes less than 30 mins

Anonymous and confidential

Take Part Now

as you wish. You will be asked to give each category a rating and there will also be a comment box for more detailed feedback if you want to tell us more.

We are running this consultation largely online due to the current COVID 19 restrictions that are in place, however we want to make sure that taking part is as accessible and inclusive as possible. Therefore, you can request a paper copy of the survey with a pre-paid return envelope, by contacting us using the details below. If there are any other accessibility needs that would help you to complete the survey, please contact us to let us know and we will do our best to help. The survey can either be filled out by an individual, or you can fill it in as a group.

The results of this consultation will be published in a report and available widely, including on the VAO website. You will have the option at the end of the survey to request a copy of the report to be emailed to you when it is ready. Going forward any issues identified from the results of this consultation will be discussed with communities and with local partners to develop innovative solutions focussed on reducing inequalities and improving your local area for everyone.

If you would like to find out more about the consultation or request a paper copy of the survey, then please contact VAOs Community Engagement Worker on Rebecca.crawford@vaorkney.org.uk or 01856 872897

This consultation is part of VAOs wider Community Engagement Project, in collaboration with the Orkney Partnership and is funded by Aspiring Communities.

Legislation & Guidance



Fair Work Employer Support Tool

Scottish Enterprise, on behalf of the Scottish Government, has launched a [Fair Work Employer Support tool](#) providing practical support and advice to help companies navigate through change and importantly, build employee voice into their future decisions.

This tool will help companies understand the benefits of adopting fairer work practice, highlight what good practice looks like, help them identify where they are in their own journey and provide practical advice on how to improve their own working practices.

Funding & Finance



The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland Virtual funding events – 3 and 11 March

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland are running two webinars about their funding in Scotland – on Wednesday 3 March and Thursday 11 March, both at 10.30am. The sessions will provide an overview of their funds, some tips, and a chance to ask questions.

For more information or to book your place, please click [here](#).

The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland Communities Can conference – 24 March

One year on from the first impacts of the pandemic on our life, the The National Lottery Community Fund Scotland will be hosting a national (virtual) conference – Communities Can. The event will

bring together learning and insight from the past year, projects they have funded, and sector leaders to explore how the Fund can continue to support communities across the UK.

Click [here](#) for more information or to book your place.

For a wealth of funding opportunities, please see our latest Training and Funding update [here](#).

Job opportunities



Community Development Manager at the North Ronaldsay Trust

Variable hours per week • salary £18,000

The North Ronaldsay Trust (NRT) is looking to appoint a Community Development Manager (CDM), to take over from the current CDM. The CDM position is to support the NRT in taking forward specific community projects. This post will start at 10 hours per week, increasing to 17.5 hours over the first three months. The position is due to run to March 2022.

This role will include promoting projects identified by the North Ronaldsay Trust and the local community which develop the use of assets or provide services which have the potential to generate income, in accordance with priorities identified in the Island Development Plan. This role will also involve identifying and sourcing funding for potential projects including funding for the CDM role post March 2022.

The successful applicant will be flexible, computer literate, have excellent communication skills and preferably have experience in project management. You will have a strong interest in the community of North Ronaldsay and will have the ability to use your own initiative. It would be preferred if the candidate lived in North Ronaldsay.

Application packs are available by emailing enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk (CVs not accepted).

If you would like further information on the role, please contact [Rosalind Aitken](#).

The closing date for applications is Friday 6 March. Interviews will be held in the week of 15 March. The successful candidate would be expected to commence the role from April 2021.

This post is funded by the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. NRT is a company limited by guarantee, Registered in Scotland, Company Number SC211065. A Scottish Charity, Charity number SCO50545

Volunteering opportunities



Could you be a young person's befriender?

The Young People's Befriending Project has been continuing to support young people throughout the Coronavirus pandemic. As we look forward to 2021 we are keen to expand our Befriending Team so that we can support more young people going forward. Everyone needs positive connections in their lives, but not all young people have many or any - that's where Befriending comes in. Befriending is a really rewarding way to make a difference to someone else's life, and also an opportunity to take part in lots of different activities and hobbies and meet lots of like-minded people in the Befriending Team. We will be running our training course in March and would really

encourage interested people to get in touch with us to find out more about how just a couple of hours a fortnight can make a real difference to a young person!

Magnus is a volunteer with The Young People's Befriending Project, and has been matched to his young person for over 2 years. They have a fantastic friendship and Magnus is making a really positive impact on his young person's life. Here's what Magnus has to say about his time with the Project:

- Can you describe Befriending in three words? *1. Fun 2. Rewarding 3. Improving*
- What do you get out of being a Befriender? *Befriending is a very rewarding experience that allows you to connect with a young person and participate in fun activities one on one or in a group.*
- What is your favourite part of Befriending? *My favourite part of befriending is making a difference in a young person's life and having fun with them.*
- Have you seen any changes in your Young Person, since befriending them? *Definitely. My young person has opened up and realised there's so much fun to be had and is a lot more confident now.*
- Has Befriending had an impact on your life? *Yes!! I love doing it. It's so much fun and rewarding and I feel me and my young person are a team improving both our lives for the better.*
- Would you recommend volunteering as a Befriender? *Yes, it's brilliant and I only wish I'd started it earlier.*
- Anything else you would like to add: *I think it's one of the most enjoyable things you can do and it's amazing how just a few hours can impact on someone who might be having a tough time - to let them escape and have fun.*



If you would like to find out more about the Project and about the difference you can make from just giving 2-3 hours a fortnight, then get in touch with [Hannah](#) and [Katherine](#), the Project Co-ordinators or visit our [website](#).

Adult Befriending Service

Do you have a spare hour a week to visit or phone an older person?

The Adult Befriending Service aims to reduce loneliness and isolation among older people living in their own homes. They are currently looking for One to One Befrienders and Telephone Befrienders

No previous experience required and full training will be provided.

If you are interested in making a difference in a lonely and isolated person's life, please contact the team on 07748905127 or 07552600658 to find out more.

Training opportunities



Children and Young People: Rights and meaningful participation

4 March 2021, 10.30-1.30

How can you ensure your service delivery is respectful of children's rights?
How can you effectively co-develop service with CYP?

Delivered by Ellie Hutchinson this training will provide you with insights into UNICEF's framework for a child rights-based approach, and will highlight the importance of children and young people's inclusion and participation in the development of your service. We will also give you tools to enable CYP participation.

Learning Outcomes:

- Enhance knowledge on children's rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Develop an understanding of children's rights in the context of domestic abuse
- Identify ways to take a child rights approach in practice

Please contact [Michelle Ward](#) at Women's Aid Orkney to book a place.

Third Sector Child Protection Seminar - 9.30 - 12.30 Wednesday 17 March 2021

We are pleased to invite you to attend a seminar on Child Protection Procedures led by Jim Lyon, Chief Social Work Officer, Head of Children and Families and Community Justice, Orkney Health and Care. The online session will include information about inter-agency child protection guidelines (attached), procedures and processes; there will be time for questions and if technology allows, we will break into small discussion groups to reflect on what we have heard.

This seminar presents a very good opportunity to learn about some of the changes that have been made to child protection procedures locally, ask questions, raise concerns and discuss the implications for your organisation.

If you would like to attend, please contact cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk by Friday 5 March to book your place.

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