

# Newsletter August 2021

## Local news and services

### Orkney Youth Awards 2021

The Orkney Youth Awards is an annual event organised through the Youth Workers Forum to celebrate young people in Orkney who are volunteering and helping out their local community.

Voluntary Action Orkney along with Community Learning Development at OIC wanted to make sure that all the hard work and achievements gained by the young people were recognised, but with some government restrictions still in place the decision was made to hold the ceremony online once again.



So, on Thursday 12th August (coinciding nicely with International Youth Day) the awards ceremony was broadcast on VAO's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The evening was hosted by Heather Woodbridge (Councillor for the North Isles), Owen Griffith, Sarah and Shona Firth (Saltire volunteers), along with Gail Anderson (Chief Executive of VAO), James Wylie (Director of Education and Leisure in Orkney), and Sarah Sutherland (Chief reporter at The Orcadian newspaper).

Over 150 awards were presented to young people across the county for volunteering and special accomplishments through programs such as the Saltire Awards, Dynamic Youth, Confidence to Cook, Heritage Heroes, Youth Achievement as well as Confidence to Cook plus many others. This year also featured the first Orcadian Community Awards sponsored by The Orcadian newspaper. Nominations were made to the paper by members of the public with the nominees each receiving their own award.

During the evening we got a look at The Youth Café's recent trip to Edinburgh as well as some of the activities undertaken by the Duke of Edinburgh awardees. In addition there were some great musical performances by Norn and Edie Wootton plus a brilliant presentation by Frankie Gauld on 'Volunteering abroad' which opened our eyes to the possibility of volunteering outside Orkney.





Closing remarks were made by Liam McArthur (MSP) who did a great job summing up what the contributions of these extraordinary youngsters means to our community.

Due to the wonders of modern technology, the whole event was prepared in advance, allowing viewers to see all the award winners, as well as some acceptance speeches making it feel as though we were attending a live event!

All in all, a great night was had by everyone – from the comfort of their own homes!

The ceremony is still available to view on VAO [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).



## Chair making at Connect

The connect project has been working with Kevin Gauld, The Orkney Furniture Maker, again this summer learning the traditional craft of Orkney straw work. In the first of two planned series of workshops three of the Connect trainees have refurbished a chair each, starting by taking the back of an old dining chair, sanding down and re-painting each one. They then learnt how to replace the chair backs using traditional skills. Finishing with re-upholstering the seat with their chosen fabric.



The project was funded by OIC Culture Fund, which was very flexible in how we arranged the workshops, as was Kevin having to work with the young people within the boundaries of the COVID restrictions.



## Time to Talk at the Blide Trust



The Orkney Blide Trust are promoting their Time to Talk counselling service. Sessions are available on Monday and Thursday evenings and on Saturday mornings.

Counselling is open to anyone over 16 years of age and who lives in Orkney. Counselling is a talking therapy that offers a safe and confidential space to explore issues and difficult feelings that are affecting Mental Health. Counselling can help anyone who requires assistance with: anxiety, stress, disordered eating, depression, insomnia, suicidal ideation, trauma, self-harm, bereavement, abuse, transition, anger, addiction and low self-worth.

Funding is available for candidates who live on the outer islands to travel by boat to Kirkwall and to stay overnight in Kirkwall to receive face to face counselling, or they can get telephone or online counselling if preferred.

Please contact Carol Majendie on 874874 or email [receptionist@blidetrust.org](mailto:receptionist@blidetrust.org) for more information.

## Also in the News



### The STTS Project

TSI Covid-19 Learning Project Report: A focus on the roles played by Third Sector Interfaces during Covid-19

A new report has been published by the TSI Scotland Network this week exploring the role of Third Sector Interfaces during the COVID-19 pandemic. Funded by the Scottish Government and created in partnership with Third Sector Interfaces and Evaluation Support Scotland, the report identifies activities undertaken by TSIs during COVID-19, evaluating the effectiveness of different approaches and lessons for future TSIs.

The report also includes five critical recommendations:

1. Celebrate the role of the third sector and volunteers during Covid-19
2. Build awareness locally and nationally of the role and impact of TSIs
3. Invest in the capacity and reach of the third sector in local decision-making
4. Build on the opportunities that have come out of Covid-19
5. Review funding for TSIs.

Click [here](#) to read the report.

### Scottish Recovery Network

The [Scottish Recovery Network](#) promotes and supports mental health recovery. Established in 2004, their mission is to bring people, services and organisations across sectors together to create a mental health system powered by lived experience which supports everyone's recovery journey.

Their latest [newsletter](#) can be viewed online and will be of interest to services and individuals working in mental health.

## Funding & Finance



### Tesco Community Grants

Did you know Tesco Community Grants is always open for applications from charities and community organisations to bid for up to £1,500? Projects are voted on by Tesco customers in stores across the UK, with projects changing every three months.

We're currently looking for applications from charities and community groups who deliver projects that help to tackle food insecurity and poverty in their communities. This might include, for example, breakfast clubs, community growing, cookery skills and food banks. If you fit the bill or know a local group who does, then please visit the Tesco Community Grants website for further details!

greenspace scotland's team of friendly Community Enablers can support you to apply or answer any questions. To find out more or to apply, please visit the Tesco Community Grants [page](#).

## Community Capacity & Resilience Fund

The Community Capacity and Resilience Fund (CCRF) from Scottish Government aims to support local, community-based organisations with small grants of up to £8,000 to deliver activities that help people mitigate the impact of welfare reform. To be eligible for a grant, organisations must have had an income of less than £200,000 in their last financial year. Grants can be spent over 12 months and the aim is to deliver a simple way to support organisations to trial new ideas and build capacity, so they can be more ready to access larger funding pots from elsewhere or develop fruitful local partnerships or initiatives.

Applications should be able to demonstrate:

- How they will help bring organisations together in partnership to support people
- How they will develop people's ability to prevent themselves from reaching crisis point
- Who will be supported by the activity
- What impact the activity will have on people locally in mitigating welfare reform, and on the way in which the organisation operates

Full details can be found [here](#), including some examples of possible project ideas. SCVO would be happy to talk through ideas prior to submission also. The fund is open until 10 September.

**Did you know that VAO produces a monthly Training & Funding Update? It contains useful information and links about current training and funding opportunities as well as enterprise and governance advice. To sign up, email: [enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk) and let us know you would like to be added to the mailing list. The August update can be viewed [here](#).**

## Have your say



### Child Poverty Survey

The Orkney Partnership is asking for the views of families with experience of hardship and disadvantage. The Child Poverty Working Group have compiled a survey which can be accessed [here](#).

For those wishing to complete a paper copy of the survey, pre-paid envelopes are available from, and all completed forms should be returned to Anna Whelan, Strategy Manager, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, KW15 1NY. Please contact [Anna](#) for further information.

### Third Sector Tracker

The Scottish Government is supporting the development of Scotland's Third Sector Tracker, a new panel survey initiative which will give us regular insights into the experiences, views, and concerns of third sector organisations across Scotland. SCVO is leading the development of the Tracker with support from the Scottish Government, the William Grant Foundation, and the National Lottery Community Fund. The Tracker is being run by an independent research company called DJS Research.

SCVO and DJS research are looking for experienced staff working in charities, community organisations and social enterprises operating in Scotland to share their experiences by becoming a member of the Scottish Third Sector Tracker.

VAO has been asked to provide support by promoting the opportunity to participate in the Tracker. It is really important that the Tracker represents the different sizes, locations, and specialisms of organisations across Scotland's third sector, so that the results will be as representative and informative as possible. It would be great to have the views and experiences of Orkney's third sector included.

What will it involve?

Every three months for the next 18 months, members of the Tracker will submit a small amount of information about their organisation's current situation via an online survey. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete. These details will be anonymised and then aggregated alongside the responses from all the other Scottish Third Sector Tracker members. The data will provide clear and up-to-date picture of the health of the third sector in Scotland. Results will be published and shared across the sector, ensuring that this is a resource that can be accessed and used by all.

How to get involved:

Organisations that are interested in becoming a member of the Scottish Third Sector Tracker can click the 'Register interest' button below. They will be asked to give a few organisational details, and then a DJS researcher will contact them for a welcome call.

Click [here](#) to register your interest.

Further details about the Tracker can be found on the [SCVO website](#) or the [DJS Research website](#), including some FAQs.

If you have any questions about the Scottish Third Sector Tracker, please email the DJS Research team at [STSTracker@djsresearch.com](mailto:STSTracker@djsresearch.com) and they will be very happy to provide you with more detail.

## National Care Service for Scotland Consultation

This consultation sets out Scottish Government proposals to improve the way social care is delivered in Scotland.

Social care includes support for people with physical disability, learning disabilities or mental health conditions, older people and those with dementia, people with or recovering from alcohol or drug addictions, those who are, have been or are at risk of being homeless, and children and families who may need additional support, or where children are unable to live with their own families.

Click [here](#) to read more and have your say on social care in Scotland. The consultation closes on 2 November 2021.

## Training opportunities



### Children's Rights online course

Children in Scotland have teamed up with the Third Sector Interface Network to offer online workshops around Children's Rights and UNCRC. As part of that they offered an e-module as introductory learning. The module received positive feedback. Now they have rolled this free training opportunity out to the wider community.

If you're interested, click [here](#) to go to Children in Scotland's eLearning Hub and follow the registration process. The Hub also includes a range of online programmes in collaboration with organisations/services across Scotland's children's sector.

Click [here](#) for the user guide.

### Community Asset Transfer training

COSS are running a new round of Assets for People and Place webinar series for community groups interested in Community Asset Transfer.

The six-webinar series begins on Tuesday 14 September with Module 1. People are very welcome to attend the whole programme or just the ones they're interested in. Attendance is free. Details of the webinars are as follows:

Module 1 - Introduction to Community Asset Transfer [Info and register here](#)

Module 2 - Feasibility [Info and register here](#)

Module 3 - Business Planning [Info and register here](#)

Module 4 - Financial Planning [Info and register here](#)

Module 5 - Governance and People [Info and register here](#)

Module 6 - Asset Management (Facilities Management Lite) [Info and register here](#)

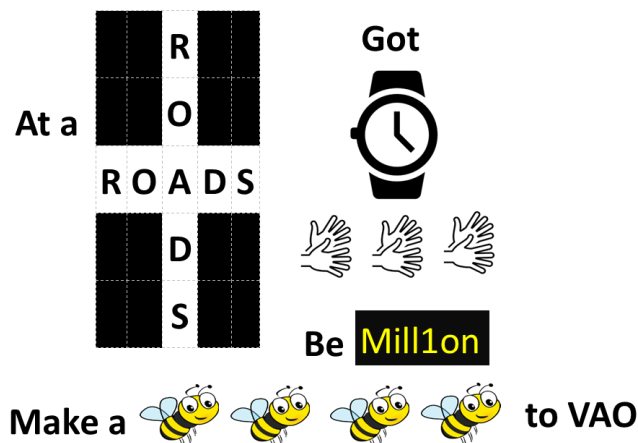
## Volunteering opportunities

### Volunteering in Orkney

Volunteering in Orkney can help you

- learn new skills
- meet new people
- help you apply for study or work
- protect your physical and mental health
- increase your sense of wellbeing
- improve life for other people
- make a difference to your community
- Most of all it is FUN!
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Voluntary Action Orkney can help find a volunteer role to suit you, the time you have and your location. We can also help if you need support when you start – just get in touch with [Sam Stringer](#) - Volunteer Development Worker - on 01856 872897



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](mailto:Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk)