

Newsletter September 2021

Local news and services

Your Community Your Voice Consultation Report is now available!

The Your Community, Your Voice Consultation was carried out across West Mainland communities in February and March this year. The survey generated 328 responses and 1,982 comments across a range of categories including Traffic and Parking, Care and Maintenance, Natural Space, and Facilities and Amenities.

The full consultation report is now available on the [VAO website](#) and contains a snapshot of the comments gathered from the survey including how people feel about their local area and their priorities in terms of future community planning.

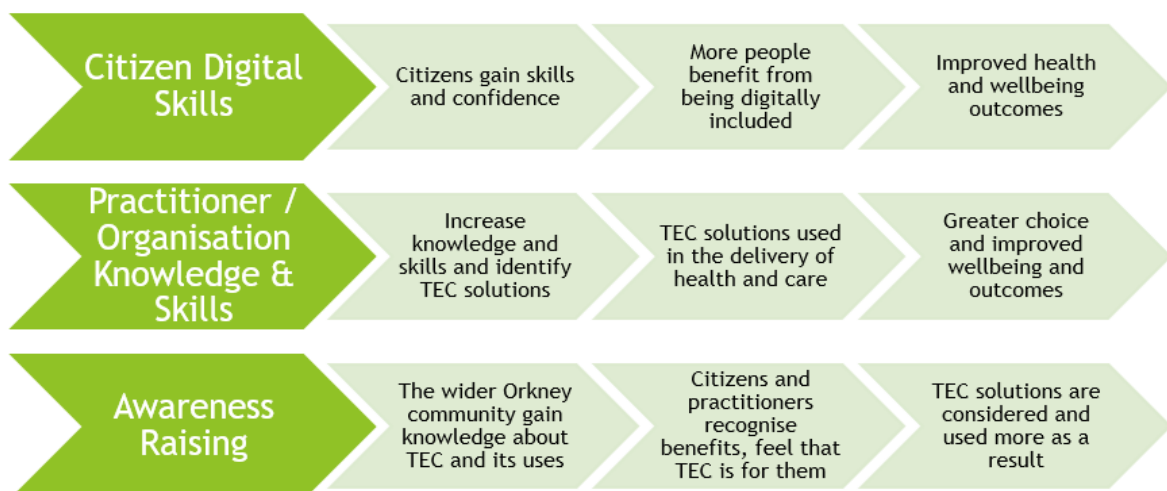
We would like to thank everyone who took part in the survey and look forward to working with communities to begin to help address some of the priority issues identified.

If you would like further information about the report, please contact [Rebecca Crawford](#).

Tech Peer Mentor Project - update

As the Tech Peer Mentor project reaches the mid-way point, we are pleased to provide an update on progress.

The project identified three pathways to increase the use of Technology Enabled Care (TEC) in Orkney and an update is provided on each:



Citizen Digital Skills: Since the project launched in May there have been 15 referrals for work with members of the public. These have been split evenly between digital skills support, help with TEC,

and trials of the Komp one button computer. There has been particular interest in the Komp and this has been out to families for trial almost continuously since the project purchased it. Two of the families who trialled the Komp have gone on to purchase it. The people referred have had a range of health and care needs, many with multiple needs

Practitioner/Organisation Knowledge and Skills: There have been various activities undertaken with practitioners and staff teams to increase knowledge and skills in relation to TEC. Pete McAndrew, Tech Peer Mentor, has spoken with several staff teams about the project, his role and engaged in general discussion with those groups about technology and health and care. This has included everything from demonstrating devices to discussing apps and digital skills support. There have been discussions locally about setting up a Digital Champions network and an absolutely amazing response to the upcoming Digital Champion training, with 20 volunteers and workers from across a range of local statutory and third sector organisations signing up to train as Digital Champions. As a result of the work with No Isolation, the company behind the Komp device, OHAC are about to start trialling the Komp Pro platform with local service users and staff.

Awareness Raising: The work of the project has been promoted in local media, on BBC Radio Orkney, social media and The Orcadian. There have also been leaflets and posters distributed, particularly in relation to the TEC Library. The TEC Library has been up and running in the foyer of Kirkwall Library for the last couple of months and is now available for members of the public to borrow equipment. This has been a great opportunity to speak with members of the public about the different ways that technology can support health, reduce isolation and support carers. The TEC Library catalogue is also now available with information on all the devices in the TEC Library. Thanks very much to local business Orkney Tech for kindly making and printing the posters for the TEC Library!

In addition to these activities, Pete has completed the PDA in TEC with Bon Accord Care and is currently undertaking the Digital Participation Pathways course. He has also been working with the Home First project in relation to looking at the ways that technology could be beneficial to the service users that they support through the 'discharge to assess' model.

The project is also hoping to recruit a volunteer Digital Champion to help with the TEC Library and digital skills support - see Volunteering Opportunities section below for more information.

For more information about the project, please contact [Pete](#).

Worrying about money

A new leaflet was launched in Orkney this month to help people experiencing financial insecurity and those supporting them to easily identify and access appropriate financial support and advice. Based on learning from Scotland's A Menu for Change project, the 'Worrying about Money?' leaflet is a step-by-step guide that:

- starts with the financial problems someone might be facing (Step 1)
- explains the options available (Step 2)
- includes contact information for who can help someone in each situation (Step 3)



Supported by



The aim of this resource is to reduce the need for emergency food aid by helping people access any existing financial entitlements and advice on income maximisation.

Click on the links to view the [leaflet](#), the [poster](#) or to [request printed copies](#) for your organisation.

Funding & Finance

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 and let us know you would like to be added to the mailing list. The September 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.

National Care Service for Scotland Consultation – Local Events

This consultation sets out Scottish Government proposals to improve the way social care is delivered in Scotland. The proposals set out in the consultation document are far reaching and could lead to significant changes in the way care is delivered locally. It is very important that the views of the local third sector and wider communities contribute to the debate and to the consultation therefore two sessions are being offered:

- 10.00-11.30 Thursday 7 October in Teams
- 2.00-3.30 Thursday 7 October in Teams
- 11.00-12.30 Monday 11 October in Teams
- 2.00-3.30 Monday 11 October in Teams

If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please contact [Kerry Wilson](#) on 872897.

The consultation document is available [here](#)

Training opportunities

Reboarding your Board!



It's Trustees' Week between 1-4th November 2021 and VAO will be sharing information, training ideas and resources for anyone who is a trustee or would like to be one. It has been a challenging time to be a member of a board with activities on hold, meetings online and the introduction of [The Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector](#). VAO can offer guidance and support as your board reboards into our

'new normal' world so keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages during Trustee's Week to find out more.

As part of Trustees Week this year, Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) are running a free online webinar on Wednesday 3 November 2021 from 5-6pm to discuss board recruitment and diversity. This webinar will explore the benefits and barriers of bringing new perspectives onto your board and recruiting trustees with lived experience to help with decision making and good governance. If you would like to book a place, go to the SCVO [website](#).



Meantime, VAO would love to hear from you if you are a trustee in Orkney. If you would like to share your experiences as a trustee, have any burning trustee questions or if you are an organisation needing to recruit new trustees, get in touch. Contact VAO Volunteer Development Worker [Samantha Stringer](#) on 01856 872897.

Developing the Young Workforce Scotland Webinars

Developing the Young Workforce Scotland are offering a programme of free training webinars to employers across Scotland.

The purpose of these sessions is to support employers in informing, inspiring and hiring young people. The sessions have been developed in response to industry need and include the following topics:

- Inspiring Young Minds
- Delivering Meaningful Work Placements
- Remotely Onboarding Young People
- Mentoring Young People
- Steps to Inspiring Young People with Additional Support Needs (in partnership with Enable)
- Inclusive Workplaces; Ensuring you're not missing out (in partnership with Forth Perspectives)

Further information about these sessions can be found on the DYW Orkney website, [here](#).

If you are interested in attending any of these webinars, please email orkneydyw@uhi.ac.uk to reserve your space. Please include your name, your business/organisation's name and the name and date of the webinar you wish to attend.

Social Security Scotland: Child Disability Payment Stakeholder Events

Following the pilot of Child Disability Payment in Dundee, Perth & Kinross and the Western Isles, Social Security Scotland will be launching Child Disability Payment nationally this Autumn.

Child Disability Payment will replace Disability Living Allowance for Children, which is currently delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions. It has been designed to provide extra money to help with the costs of caring for a child with a disability or ill-health condition.

Social Security Scotland want to make sure people have all the relevant information they need about Child Disability Payment before it opens for applications nationally. Social Security Scotland's National Engagement Team invite you to attend one of their online Child Disability Payment events that will provide information on the end to end journey for clients applying for Child Disability Payment as well as sessions on specific aspects of Child Disability Payment such as Special Rules for Terminal Illness and Supporting Information for Public and Third sector employees.

Please click [here](#) for more information and dates.

Own My Life Course - Taster Session for professionals.

3 November, 11.00-12.00

Women's Aid Orkney are currently running the Own My Life course, which is an innovative, creative, educational 12-week course, with a 6-week follow-on course, for women impacted by domestic abuse.

The course enables women to regain ownership of their lives after experiencing abuse, through short videos, structured discussions, group and individual activities, supported by a comprehensive learning journal. Using multi-media content complex concepts, such as trauma, traumatic attachment, coercion and misogyny, are explained in easy to understand terms. The Own My Story journal provides participants with all the ideas, key concepts and content from the course with space for personal reflection and notes.



Do you think this course might help someone you know, a client, colleague, friend or family member? Would you like to understand what the course entails and how to explain it to others? Are you interested in how to enable women to join the course?

Then please join Women's Aid Orkney for a 1 hour taster session for professionals. The session will be held on Teams and you can book your place [here](#).

"Own My Life has given me an opportunity to have something that is my own again, a safe place and source of stable comfort each week. What began as a journey of my own and despite the title signalling it is about one's self the course is much more than that, it has become a group of women that each week I look forward to spending time with, chatting and where there is no judgement or pressure. Own My life has begun my new, better life." – participant in Women's Aid Orkney's 'Own My Life' course

For further information please contact Women's Aid Orkney at info@womensaidorkney.org.uk

Volunteering opportunities

TEC Library – Seeking a Digital Champion Volunteer

The Tech Peer Mentor Project is looking for a Digital Champion volunteer to help people with health or care needs to develop their digital skills and use Technology Enabled Care (TEC).

You will help Tech Peer Mentor Pete McAndrew with a weekly 'TEC Library' stand at Kirkwall Library, providing information to members of the public and demonstrating technology such as smart speakers and linked devices. The role could expand to organising short loans, supporting people with digital skills and undertaking Digital Champions training and qualifications. Find out more here and for further information contact [Pete](#) 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