

# Newsletter October 2021

## Local news and services

### It's Trustees' Week 2021!



Trustees' Week 2021 runs for the first week of November 1st - 5th and Voluntary Action Orkney will be offering online information, advice and holding a drop in event for trustees in Orkney.

Trustees look after the assets of a charity or a voluntary organisation including property, money and equipment and the board of trustees are responsible for making sure the

organisation aims, objectives and purposes are fulfilled.

It has been a challenging time for trustees and their organisations, normal activities have been cancelled or postponed, fundraising opportunities have been on hold and meetings and events have moved online. VAO hopes to help organisations as they start to recruit to their boards, providing support for existing trustees and helping organisations recruit and train new trustees.

Throughout Trustees' Week we will be providing advice, explaining what VAO can do to help ensure your Board has access to training and support and linking to some great resources.

We will also be at Kirkwall library on Monday 1 November between 1pm-4pm where you can drop by anytime for a chat about being a trustee or about more general volunteering in Orkney.



Trustees work incredibly hard to keep our local community groups and charities going, voluntarily and often behind the scenes. Trustees' Week is a chance to find out more about being a trustee and thank existing trustees for all they do, and we are delighted to be sharing some local trustee stories from The Orkney Foodbank, Stromness Shopping Week, Boy's Brigade, THAW, and the Orkney Arts Society.

Sheila Garson (pictured left) is currently a trustee of Stromness Museum, Shapinsay Church of Scotland and VAO. She says:

*"Over the years I've been a trustee for many organisations and being involved in helping to support and shape an organisation is tremendously fulfilling. You may not feel you have a lot to give, but that interest and a bit of common sense will be a real asset to an organisation. A good organisation will offer their trustees support and training so you can grow into the role."*

Would you like to find out more about becoming a trustee and about our Trustees' Week activities? Contact [Samantha Stringer](#) Volunteer Development Worker (pictured above in the Kirkwall Library) on 872897.

## Welcome Back Orkney – A Community Recovery Fund 2 project

A project aimed at supporting Orkney's community halls and spaces move from Covid lockdown to re-opening the doors is just about to start. Funded by the Scottish Government via Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Welcome Back Orkney will work with Community Associations between now and the end of March 2022 on three key themes:

- Advice and support
- Restarting activities
- Training

Funded by the Scottish Government, via Highlands and Islands Enterprise, our project Coordinators will be getting in touch with all the Community Associations across Orkney in the next couple of weeks to make sure that every community hall and space can benefit from this project.

For further information contact [Clare Gee](#), Community Development Worker on 872897.

## Women's Aid Orkney Open Day

**Tuesday 2 November**

Women's Aid Orkney are holding an open day for professionals and organisations to find out more about the work that they do. Talks and presentations will be given throughout the day to highlight the services offered:

10.15 Women  
10.35 Family  
10.55 Children and Young People  
11.15 Young Women  
11.35 Own My Life  
1.30 Family  
1.50 Own my Life  
2.10 Children and Young People  
2.30 Women  
2.50 Young Women



Please email [info@womensaidorkney.org.uk](mailto:info@womensaidorkney.org.uk) for more information.

## Funding & Finance

### Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

VAO is delighted to confirm that as a part of the TSI Scotland Network, we are currently working towards the launch of this Scottish Government fund designed to support community based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population.

Details about eligibility criteria and how to apply to this grants programme will be published early in November. Applications will be assessed by the VAO team on a rolling basis to enable faster distribution of the funds.

Find out more [here](#).

## Third Sector Emergency Covid-19 Funding – Applications Sought

Following two successful funding rounds of the Third Sector Covid Emergency Fund, we are announcing that the third round is now underway.

VAO is administering the fund on behalf of Orkney Islands Council, and eligible organisations can apply for up to £30,000 with an option to re-apply later in the current financial year depending on their circumstances at the time and the remaining funds available.

We would urge organisations both large and small that are facing significant resource challenges as a direct result of the pandemic to apply. Whilst the maximum that can be applied for is £30,000, we are aware that smaller grants have made a significant difference to our smaller local organisations.

We are holding a webinar at 7.00pm on Thursday 4 November for anyone who wants to learn more about the Fund. To register your interest in the Webinar, or for more information and an application pack please contact [David Campbell](#).

The closing date for applications is 9.00am on Monday 22nd November 2021

**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 October update can be viewed [here](#).**

## Have your say



### Give your views on the public procurement system in Scotland

The Scottish Government has asked Blake Stevenson, a social research company, to gather feedback about recent experiences of the public procurement system in Scotland. The purpose of the research is to gain an understanding of the experiences of third sector organisations and new private businesses (defined as businesses set up fewer than five years ago) of public procurement in Scotland. The research will inform future development of public procurement processes, ensuring that it is as inclusive as possible.

Blake Stevenson will undertake this research in two ways – through interviews with third sector organisations and private businesses, and through a survey of third sector organisations and private businesses.

If you would like to take part in the research, or if you require any more information, please contact Lena at Blake Stevenson at [lena@blakestevenson.co.uk](mailto:lena@blakestevenson.co.uk) or on 0131 667 2919.

### Scottish Parliament Covid-19 Recovery Committee

The Scottish Parliament Covid-19 Recovery Committee is scrutinising the Scottish Government's response to the pandemic and regularly takes evidence from its Ministers.

The Committee would like to know what questions you and/or your members have about the Scottish Government's ongoing response to COVID-19. You can submit questions online [here](#).

Your questions and likes or dislikes will be shared with members of the Committee ahead of each meeting. Your responses may be used to inform the questions the Committee members ask Ministers.

The site will be open to submit questions on an ongoing basis until 2nd December 2021.

If you have any questions about the process, please contact [Ewan Masson](#), Community Participation Specialist, Scottish Parliament.

## Training opportunities

### The Young Person's Guarantee Marketplace

Friday 5 November 11.00-1.00, Albert Hotel, Kirkwall



The Young Person's Guarantee Marketplace will be a chance for employers to learn about some of the support that is available locally to help them create opportunities in their business for young people. A range of providers and support agencies will be on hand to provide information and support and answer any questions employers may have.

Employers can learn about Apprenticeships, Employer Recruitment Incentive (ERI) funding, the Kickstart Scheme and other incentives available to employers who recruit young people. Employers can also find out how these organisations and providers support young people and help to prepare them for the world of work.

All of these initiatives and incentives support the delivery of the Young Person's Guarantee, which aims to give all young people, aged 16-24 years in Scotland, the chance to succeed through the opportunity of a job, apprenticeship, education, training or volunteering.

The Young Person's Guarantee Marketplace takes place at the Albert Hotel, 11am-1pm on Friday 5 November, with employers welcome to drop past at a time that suits them. In order to support track and trace, employers can register their interest in attending on [Eventbrite](#).

You can learn more about the Young Person's Guarantee [here](#): or by contacting Developing the Young Workforce Orkney on [orkneydyw@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:orkneydyw@uhi.ac.uk) or 01886 569 352.

### Community Asset Information Sessions

9 November 2021

Has your community ever wondered: 'if we owned.....we could.....' ?

If yes, join us for an informal introductory discussion about the opportunities and benefits of asset ownership. Hear from communities that have successfully acquired an asset and how they are using it and participate in a Q&A session to learn more about the process and the support available. Representatives from HIE, Community Land Fund and OIC also will be there to provide information and answer questions.

Sessions will be held in Teams on Tuesday 9 November at 2.00-3.00 and 6.30-7.30.

Please contact [Kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:Kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk) or call 872897 to book a place.

### Cyber Resilience training

Cyber Resilience – it sounds scary, but it isn't. Come along to a free session and learn three really simple steps to make sure you are safer online and your organisation's data is more secure.

Delivered via Teams, in a session lasting no more than an hour and a half, this training is being rolled out by the Third Sector Interface Network for voluntary organisations across Scotland. In Orkney it is being delivered by Clare Gee, VAO's Community Development Worker. Email [enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk) with your chosen session and you will be sent a Teams invite. You do not need to have Teams installed to attend.

Wednesday 17 November 2.30pm – 4pm



Saturday 20 November 11am – 12.30pm  
Thursday 25 November 7pm – 8.30pm

If you would like further information before signing up, feel free to contact Clare at [clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:clare.gee@vaorkney.org.uk)

A yellow banner with a black border. On the left is a graphic of a mechanical dial with a needle and a small screen. The text 'CYBER RESILIENCE' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, 'FREE TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE!' is in white, bold, sans-serif letters. At the bottom, 'SMALL CHANGES MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE' is in black, bold, sans-serif letters. On the right side, there are logos for CyberScotland, the Scottish Government (Riaghaltas na h-Alba), and the Scotland Network. Below the logos is the text 'CYBERScotland PARTNERSHIP'.

## Scotland's Census - March 2022 - Information Events

Scotland's next census will be held in March 2022. This census will be a digital first census as many households as possible will be encouraged to complete it online. A number of online events are being delivered to provide information on how the census will be delivered and how you can help get messages and support to those groups you already support in other ways, to ensure they can take part in the census and be counted.

Each online event will last no longer than 30 minutes places can be booked by clicking on the links below.

Wednesday 3 November 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [Black and Minority Ethnic \(BAME\)](#)  
Wednesday 10 November 2021 14:00 – 14:30: [Veterans](#)  
Wednesday 17 November 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [Older people](#)  
Wednesday 24 November 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [Digitally excluded/High deprivation](#)  
Wednesday 1 December 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [Gaelic Speakers](#)  
Wednesday 8 December 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [People with disabilities](#)  
Wednesday 15 December 2021 11:00 – 11:30: [Rural areas and islands](#)  
Wednesday 12 January 2022 11:00 – 11:30: [LGBTI](#)  
Wednesday 19 January 2022 11:00 – 11:30: [Young people not living at home](#)

If you require any additional information, please contact [Scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk](mailto:Scotlandscensus@nrscotland.gov.uk)

## Volunteering opportunities

### RS Orkney looking for Board Members



Relationships Scotland Orkney offer free counselling, family mediation, child contact, play therapy and other support services to adults, children and young people throughout Orkney.

They need local volunteers to join their board. An interest in families and relationships is essential, but no prior experience is required.

To find out more please contact Tamsin Bailey at [tamsin@rsorkney.org.uk](mailto:tamsin@rsorkney.org.uk) or 01856 877750. For more information about the service please visit the RS Orkney [website](#).

## Board members needed at Orkney Islands Property Developments

Orkney Islands Property Developments are looking for new members to join the current Board of Directors.

OIPDL is a private landlord and letting agency company which provide a whole range of housing rentals around Orkney, including extra care/sheltered housing, student accommodation and general lets.

Board meetings are usually held in Kirkwall every 6 weeks, so if you can spare a few hours each month and have an interest in housing matters around Orkney, please contact Anne Whitton for more information. Telephone 881435 or e-mail [anne@oipdl.co.uk](mailto:anne@oipdl.co.uk)

**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)**