

Newsletter April 2022

Local news and services

Orkney Youth Awards



The Orkney Youth Awards will be held on Tuesday 31 May at the Pickaquoy Centre! If you know of anyone through your organisation who deserves an award, now is the time to put their names forward!

- Do you have anyone who volunteers and could be eligible for a [Saltire Award](#)?
- Have you completed any awards as a group?
- Do you know someone who has made an outstanding achievement to the local community and is worthy of a [Summit award](#)?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above, or have any questions, get in touch with kirsty.rochford@vaorkney.org.uk for more information.

**** Nominations to be completed by Thursday 5 May 2022 ****

Partnership v Pandemic Webinar



**The Orkney
Partnership**



Partnership versus Pandemic Webinar

12 May
3-5pm and
6.30 -
8.30pm

Join us to hear how
local groups **reached
out and came
together** to support
the community during
and after lockdown

From podcasts
to pop up shops,
from tractors to TV
and from culture to
coffee these sessions
have something of
interest for all

Register now at:
partnershipv.eventbrite.co.uk

Or scan this
code with your
smartphone
camera



As advertised in the last newsletter, the Partnership versus Pandemic webinar is now open for folk to sign up to attend. Across two sessions on 12 May you can hear from people on the ground about how their projects and services changed because of the Pandemic, what worked and what didn't. This is an informal event to celebrate the incredible community spirit and collaborative working that has taken place over the last couple of years to make sure all our residents and communities were supported. Take away a piece of advice from each of the speakers so that we can ensure the best of the learning and the fabulous community spirit shown throughout this unique and challenging period continues on in to the future. Click [here](https://partnershipv.eventbrite.co.uk) to register for the event.

Thursday Companions

Thursday Companions is a new activities group running at Stromness Eventide Club on (you guessed it!) Thursdays from 3.45-4.45pm. The sessions are led by volunteers from Stromness Academy and supported by VAO. It's totally free, and open to anyone – come by and join us for a cuppa, a blether and some fun!



Funding & Finance

The Lunch Club Innovation Grant

We are pleased to announce that VAO have launched the 'Lunch Club Innovation Grant' scheme to support Lunch Clubs across Orkney.

Groups can apply for funding of up to £1000, for activities taking place before March 2023. You can apply for funding for a range of costs, including PPE, venue hire, activity resources and to subsidize food.

We recognise that there are currently high levels of Covid-19 in Orkney. Please be reassured that you will have until March 2023 to spend the funding and activity doesn't need to start until case numbers have dropped. In addition, we will provide ongoing support and advice to ensure your group feels confident to operate safely.

To download the application please click [here](#). For further information please contact our Lunch Club Development Worker, Charlotte Spence on 872897 or charlotte.spence@vaorkney.org.uk

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 April update can be viewed [here](#).

Employment

Relationships Scotland Orkney

RS ORKNEY

counselling, mediation & family support

Relationships Scotland Orkney is a local charity affiliated to Relationships Scotland, the country's largest provider of counselling, mediation and child contact services. They provide a range of services to support individuals, couples, children, young people and families, working to build positive and respectful relationships at the heart of our community. RS Orkney are recruiting for several posts. Please contact enquiries@rsorkney.org.uk for full role descriptions and an application form.

Counsellor

Salary: £27,000 - £29,000 dependent on experience

Location: Kirkwall

Hours: 30 hours per week

Closing date: 25 May

RS Orkney are looking for an experienced, Diploma-qualified counsellor to work as part of their busy team, providing individual counselling for adults. The counsellor should be COSCA/BACP registered and ideally experienced in working both face-to-face and online.

Trainee Play Therapist

Closing date: 25 May

RS Orkney are looking for a professional who is already experienced in working with children/young people to train as a Play Therapist. This involves committing to 2 years of training as a volunteer, with the course fees and associated travel and accommodation costs met by RS Orkney.

Family Support Worker

Salary: £25,000 - £26,000 dependent on experience

Location: Kirkwall

Hours: 18 hours

Closing date: 10 May 2022

RS Orkney are looking for someone experienced in working with children and families to work with parents/separated parents, children/young people and other family members both individually and in groups, including offering early parenting interventions such as Theraplay®.

Young Person's Support Worker

Salary: £25,000 - £26,000 dependent on experience

Location: Kirkwall

Hours: 12 hours per week

Closing date: 10 May 2022

RS Orkney are looking for someone with experience in this area to support children/young people, and their families, with mental health and wellbeing. The post holder will liaise with Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), and other services as required, to provide a network of support around the individual child/young person.

Orkney Blide Trust

Mental Health Support Worker

Salary: £27,000

Location: Kirkwall

Hours: 35 hours

Closing date: 2 May 2022



Orkney Blide Trust is looking for a Mental Health Support Worker to deliver their new project for Care Experienced Young People (age16-25).

For an application pack or more information please call 01856 874874 or email admin@blidetrust.org

North Highlands and Islands Climate Hub

The North Highlands & Islands Climate Hub is funded by the Scottish Government until March 2025, they are a small but dedicated team who work across the region to support community led climate action aspirations and projects. This work ranges from assisting and supporting community engagement within communities to supporting groups and organisations with design, development and delivery of their projects. A key element of their role is delivering training, support, mentoring and being a critical friend to communities to support their aspirations and create a climate action region. The team work both remotely in communities throughout the region with the option for office work in Thurso.



Senior Development Officer

Salary: £28,000 per annum plus 3% pension contribution
Location: Highland Region (home and office working)
Hours: 37.5 hours per week
Closing date: 6 May 2022

The role of the Senior Climate Hub Development Officer will be as a key strategic member of staff to work with the Project Manager in to drive forward and support the delivery of the Hub's core functions. The role will contribute towards the Hub's aims of supporting and empowering community led climate action in communities throughout the North Highlands & Islands region and support initiatives for a climate action Highland and Islands. The role is senior and strategic and as such the postholder will be expected to operate at a management level taking responsibility for staff, initiatives and being a key contact within networks and partnerships.

Membership & Communications Officer

Salary: £26,000 per annum plus 3% pension contribution
Location: Highland Region (home and office working)
Hours: 37.5 hours per week
Closing date: 6 May 2022

The role of the Membership and Communications Officer is a key strategic role as we build membership of the North Highlands & Islands Climate Hub CIC. The purpose is to support and encourage a diverse membership across the region so that the Hub can establish its own governance and be truly reflective of its area of operations in fulfilling its core functions. The Membership and Communications Officer will be a key liaison in building relationships with organisations and individuals throughout the region supporting and empowering those relationships and leading on key relationships onwards within networks and statutory organisations including encouragement of members to respond to governmental and regional policy development. The role will co-ordinate an empowering approach to communicating climate change via our own digital channels, press and communities.

For more information about the roles, please click [here](#).

Have your say



Views sought on new testing service for sexually transmitted infections

The NHS has a national project underway in Scotland to develop a postal testing service for sexually transmitted infections. The service will mean that people can order a test which can be sent to them, they can do the test at home/in private and send it back. It aims to reduce barriers to accessing testing services.

To inform how this service should look and work an independent social research agency, [The Lines Between](#), has been commissioned to speak with members of the public across Scotland to listen to their ideas and views. The research team would like to speak to people aged 18-25. If you work with people in this age group and would like to find out more about the research, please contact derek@thelinesbetween.co.uk or jocelyn.strawson@orkney.nhs.scot

Volunteering News

Volunteers to support refugees

VAO is working with Orkney Islands Council and other partners to make arrangements for refugees who may resettle here from Ukraine or Afghanistan.

We are looking for volunteers that could welcome and help refugees to understand and become comfortable in their new environment.

We would love to hear from you particularly if you:

- Are Ukrainian, Russian or Afghanistan
- Have lived or worked in Ukraine, Russia or Afghanistan or nearby regions
- Can speak Ukrainian, Russian, Dari, Pashto or similar languages

Refugees may face difficult situations when they arrive having suffered trauma as a result of their experiences, having to cope without family members and losing their income, homes and status. They may face practical difficulties, communication issues or barriers to accessing and engaging with local services. Coming to a new place can also be disorientating and confusing.

Volunteering offers a way to help someone feel welcome, get to know their local area, and begin to feel at home. Volunteers would support refugees by providing friendship, orientation, help with accessing services, help to develop their skills and confidence and practical help to establishing their life in Orkney.

If you think you can help us in any way, please contact Sam (contact details below)

Next volunteer drop in

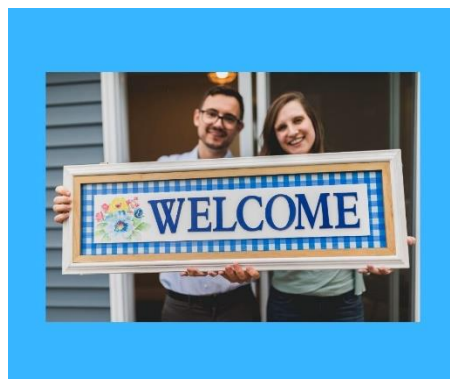
This month we will be at **Kirkwall Library on Thursday 12 May between 11am and 1pm**. No need to book, just pop by for a blether with Sam about anything to do with volunteering in Orkney.

If you can't make the drop in, book a time for a chat with Sam, our Volunteer Development Worker – contact details below.

Volunteer opportunities this month

Want to volunteer in Orkney but not sure where to start? Fill in the [Volunteer Registration form](#) on our website and send this to Sam who will meet you for a chat about how we can help. Also have a look at the VAO [volunteering website pages](#) for ideas of current opportunities in Orkney just now.

Need new volunteers, committee or board members for your organisation but don't know how to find them? Fill in the [Volunteer Opportunities form](#) on our website and send this to Sam who can give you advice and help promote your opportunities.





Bipolar Scotland looking for volunteer group facilitators

Bipolar Scotland facilitates an online self-help group for people in the islands of Scotland that live with bipolar on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6pm. They are looking for new volunteer facilitators who play an integral role in ensuring the group remains a welcoming, safe and productive space for people with bipolar to support each other. Training is scheduled to take place online in May. To find out more please click [here](#) or contact Majam@bipolarscotland.org.uk for more information.

Contact Sam

Sam Stringer - VAO Volunteer Development Worker
01856 872897 extension 311
samantha.stringer@vaorkney.org.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