

# Newsletter June 2022

## Local news and services

### Improving gender equality at work

Orkney Rape and Sexual Assault Service ([ORSAS](#)) are sharing a suite of resources developed for business and third sector organisations to help improve gender equality. This online self-assessment tool is for small and medium businesses and third sector organisations who want to find out how their business can benefit from improved gender equality.

The [Think Business, Think Equality](#) tool: assesses your current employment practice, gives tailored feedback, and provides a tailored action plan for your organisation.

There are eight topics in the tool which will enable you to assess how your employment practice measures up ranging across flexible working, workplace culture, pay and reward, progression and promotion, women's jobs, men's jobs, pregnancy and maternity, domestic abuse, and sexual harassment. Each test should take around five minutes to complete. At the end of the test, you'll get tailored feedback and actions for your organisation.

ORSAS provides support for survivors of sexual harassment in our community including those who have experienced it in their workplace. Employers already have a duty to protect employees. This will soon extend to a duty relating to third party situations with service users, clients and customers. Most commonly these situations arise in service, retail, hospitality and care settings. Please check out the easily accessible tools to assist with your HR responsibilities.

Think Business, Think Equality is developed by [Close the Gap](#), Scotland's women and labour market expert. Four [local authorities](#) gained their Bronze "Equally Safe at Work" awards last March as part of the pilot. This is the first accreditation programme to be run in the country which focusses on gender equality at work and the prevention of violence against women.

### Car sharing – making a difference to your pocket and the planet

During our consultation work at VAO, people often highlight transport and access as areas that need improving. With fuel costs increasing this is increasingly important.

Have you (personally or through work) considered car sharing? Are you aware that a website exists to help people find others to share a car with?

[Liftshare.com](#) helps you to find a lift or offer a lift for regular journeys or a one off, making a difference both to your pocket and the planet. Click [here](#) to see how much money you could save.

If you already use this service or have any ideas to improve this locally, please drop [mark.bailey@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:mark.bailey@vaorkney.org.uk) an email.

## Orkney Disability Forum and Dial a Bus service

Dial a Bus, operated by local charity Orkney Disability Forum, is Orkney's leading community transport provider offering a demand responsive service. They keen to share information across Orkney to make sure all who may need the service are aware of support available.

People of all ages with disabilities are encouraged to become a member to enjoy the benefits of the service. Membership is also open to anyone aged 60 and over and the following:

- people with mobility problems, whether temporary or permanent (e.g., a footballer with a broken leg or an elderly person awaiting a knee joint).
- people with mental health problems
- people with other conditions like arthritis, heart condition, failing eyesight, etc.

Eligible members are entitled to 3 free return social or leisure-based trips on Dial-A-Bus per calendar month. Membership costs £20 per year (£15 for residents on the Outer Isles or additional family household member).

Another service offered by Orkney Disability Forum is Shopmobility Orkney which provides a hire service of manual and electric wheelchairs, scooters, overbed tables, rollators and much more. Equipment can be hired on short term loan for use in the client's own home or whilst they are on holiday in Orkney. The maximum period for this type of hire is normally 2 weeks but can be longer if required. Equipment hire is available to members and non-members.

For more information, please pop along to the Orkney Disability Forum at 18 Junction Road, Kirkwall, call 871515, or visit the website [here](#).

## Funding & Finance



### VAO Small Grants Award scheme

We are pleased to announce that the VAO Small Grants Award scheme supported by Repsol Sinopec and Liam McArthur MSP is now open to receive applications.

Community and voluntary community organisations with charitable objectives can apply for a grant of up to £500 to help with their projects and activities. This year there is a focus on:

- Projects or activities that support recovery and renewal eg reopening services or premises or addressing wellbeing issues for members/beneficiaries
- Projects and activities that aim to address inequalities
- Organisations that have not previously received an award

For more information, view our leaflet and download a copy of the application form by visiting our [website](#).

Applications must be submitted before Friday 8 July 2022 to be considered by the VAO Board. The completed form should be emailed to [kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto:kerry.wilson@vaorkney.org.uk)

### Cashback for Communities fund

Cashback for Communities is a Scottish Government programme which takes funds recovered from the proceeds of crime and invests them into free activities and programmes for young people across Scotland. The fund supports the Scottish Government's Vision For Justice, helping to build a just, safe and resilient Scotland. The fund focuses on young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and the communities most affected by crime. The next deadline for funding is 12 August. Please click [here](#) for more information.

## TWA Digitisation Grant

The TWA Digitisation Grant help UK heritage institutions to digitise and digitally preserve their collections. It can be used to fund digitisation of bound books, 35mm slides, photographs, microfilm, microfiche, index cards, maps, plans, posters/artwork, registers, and other two dimensional materials. The next deadline is 29 July. For more information click [here](#).

## Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund

The new Let's Do Net Zero Community Buildings Fund from CARES will help community organisations reduce their building energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The fund is now open and is planned to run until the end of March 2025, subject to funding availability.

Funding is available for many types of self-managed community buildings, including:

- village halls
- community centres
- community hubs
- sports facilities
- faith buildings

Grant funding is available for up to 80% of eligible costs, up to a maximum of £80,000. Funding Guidance and how to apply can be found [here](#).

## Funding to help charities tackle the climate crisis

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) received £33,164 from Scottish walking charity, Paths for All as part of its Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Cop26 Legacy Fund - a programme designed to help tackle climate change by encouraging more walking, wheeling, cycling and using sustainable transport.

This comes as a result of an SCVO survey that found charities and voluntary organisations need support to engage with the climate crisis – and many didn't know how to take action.

SCVO will use the funding to host a programme of free education and awareness raising activities to address what the voluntary sector can do to play its part in combating the climate crisis.

Please click [here](#) to read the full article in Third Force News.

## Easy Fundraising while shopping online

The newly updated easyfundraising app enables people to easily raise money for their chosen voluntary organisation when they shop on their phone or tablet. Get money back when shopping with over 6,000 online retailers including ASDA, Amazon, B&Q, Argos, Sainsbury's, eBay, Just Eat, and many more. The app is trusted by thousands of voluntary organisations already. Set up a free easyfundraising account to take advantage of this free funding [here](#).

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

# Have your say



## Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Scotland

Scottish Government is seeking views on what a new Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Scotland should look like. They are asking a series of questions, and your answers to these will help them to write the final Strategy. Please click [here](#) for more information.

# Dates for your diary



## Social Security Scotland information sessions

Social Security Scotland will be holding information drop-in sessions over the next few weeks.

These are informal drop-in sessions where client support advisors will be on-hand to provide information and support regarding the full range of Social Security Scotland's benefits and the local delivery service offered in Orkney. Advisors won't be able to complete applications at the sessions at present, however future application appointments can be booked by calling 0800 182 2222.

Monday 4 July 10.00 - 4.00 Archie Bevan Room, Stromness Library

Tuesday 5 July 12.00 – 4.00: Marwick Room, Orkney Library and Archive, Kirkwall

Wednesday 6 July 9.00 – 12.30 Milestone Church, Dounby

Thursday 14 July 12.30 – 4.00 Orphir and Stenness Church, Orphir

If you would like Social Security Scotland to provide an information session for your service and/or service users, please contact [megan.mcwilliams@socialsecurity.gov.scot](mailto:megan.mcwilliams@socialsecurity.gov.scot)

# Employment



## Youth Development Worker (Maternity Leave Cover) - VAO

Hours: 14 per week, fixed term end of June 2023 hours

Salary: £24,863 plus DIA and contribution to a personal pension pro rata

Closing Date: 9am 4 July 2022

We are looking for a person to provide maternity cover up to the end of June 2023.

The post will be responsible for promoting, supporting and developing an inclusive culture of youth volunteering in Orkney, identifying and creating volunteering opportunities for young people, and promoting the Saltire Award.

Applicants will understand the voluntary sector and volunteering. They will have experience of working with young people and demonstrate knowledge of and empathy with the issues that affect young people. They should have excellent written and oral communication skills, experience of partnership working and be educated to degree level or have equivalent experience.

This post requires PVG Scheme Membership in relation to regulated work with children.

Please click [here](#) for more information and an application pack. For further information please contact [Rosalind Aitken](#) on 01856 872897.

# Training opportunities

## Health and Social Care upskilling short courses at Robert Gordon University



Robert Gordon University and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) offer the Careers and Workforce Development in Health and Social Care in the North East of Scotland project. The project offers upskilling short courses and the creation of a regional career

development pathway. The project is funded by the North East Economic Recovery and Skills Fund (NEERSF) and gives people the opportunity to study fully funded, credit bearing short courses. If you currently work in the Health and Social Care sector in the North East region with a desire to upskill or are looking to enter the sector with some of the right skills and knowledge, these short courses might be of interest to you. The short courses have been co-designed with key stakeholders, with practitioners and people who use services in mind.

Engaging with these short courses is easy and flexible. From a simple 5-minute application through to content which can be studied in your own time, at any time, and a robust support offer designed to meet your needs, the University are there to support you throughout the whole process

The five courses available focus on enhancing practice in Health and Social Care:

1. Personal and Professional Development

Develop knowledge, skills and behaviours expected of professional practice in health and social care.

2. Digital Skills in Health and Social Care

Develop understanding of digital skills in health and social care practice

3. Concepts of Health and Wellbeing

Develop an understanding in health and wellbeing concepts, health promotion and the influencing factors on health and wellbeing and enablement

4. Health through the Lifespan

Develop an understanding of basic anatomy and physiology throughout the lifespan and in relation to common health conditions.

5. Quality Improvement in Practice

Develop knowledge of quality improvement approaches and effective decision making to promote quality improvement standards within the workplace.

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

# Volunteering News

## That's wrap on Volunteers' Week 2022

Organisations around the county celebrated Volunteers' Week 2022 between 1-7 June – a chance to say thank you to their volunteers for giving their time, sharing their talents and being generally





fabulous. Orkney's Got volunteering Talent that's for sure!. This UK wide celebration saw organisations thanking their volunteers at tea parties and barbecues, and organisations promoted volunteer roles such as gardeners, befrienders, shop helpers, dog walkers, and committee members. If you missed the celebration, it's never too late to thank your volunteers or share your volunteer opportunities - we have the information and resources to help you do just that. Find out more [here](#).

## Volunteering drop-in events coming soon

Come along to one of our drop-in events over the next few weeks if you would like to find out about volunteering in Orkney or are an organisation needing new volunteers. We can provide information, advice and support. Drop by to see how we can help.



Thursday 7 July 11am-1pm – Stromness library  
Wednesday 27 July 12-2pm – Kirkwall library  
Monday 15 August 1pm-3pm – Kirkwall library

If you have a possible venue and would like us to run a drop-in event, please get in touch. If you have groups that would like a talk about volunteering in Orkney or you are organising an event we could come along to, do contact us too.

## Want to volunteer?

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 volunteers?

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.

## Contact Sam

Sam Stringer - VAO Volunteer Development Worker  
01856 872897 extension 311  
[samantha.stringer@vaorkney.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Cecily.cromby@vaorkney.org.uk)**