



# Newsletter December 2022

## Local News and services

### Intergenerational fun for Papdale pupils

The Adult Befriending Team's new intergenerational group with P7M from Papdale Primary School continues to go from strength to strength. The group have now hosted three different groups of pupils who come for three weeks in a row. The evaluation at the end of the three weeks also continues to reveal that stereotypical views are changing. Here are the thoughts of one pupil:

- What is old?
  - Before coming to the group: *'nice, loves books, humble, wise, scary, grey hair, old stuff'*
  - After coming to the group: *'helpful, funny, fun, smart'*
- Describe an older person:
  - Before coming to the group: *'glasses, in charge, bossy'*
  - After coming to the group: *'nice style, cool, knows a lot, very funny'*

The main aims of the project are inclusion, building relationships and developing communication skills. The emphasis is on shared learning, rather than seeing older people as a group who need to be entertained.



*Learning how to play Scrabble and Quirkle!*

Both parties appear to be enjoying the time spent together playing a variety of board games. What is becoming clear is that this environment is certainly bringing out the best in the pupils. They are an absolute delight to work with.

On Monday 5 December the whole class came to the Life Centre to sing Christmas carols and play their instruments. We then had the chance to have a cuppa and a yarn with the pupils and



their parents. It was fantastic! Thank you so much to Jenny Keldie, their music teacher, who accompanied them on piano and thank you to the school staff for organising this.

P7M have also invited our group to visit Papdale Primary on 20 December to watch their very own 'Strictly Come Dancing' performance. What a kind invitation! We are sure it will be fantastic! We look forward to continuing our intergenerational project with Papdale Primary School in January 2023.



*Learning how to play some new card games*

Lorraine George from Generations Working Together held a day's training on Intergenerational Practice on Tuesday 1 November at the Life Centre. Twelve people from different sectors around Orkney attended this course including staff from the Adult and Young People's Befriending Services.

Alison Clyde, Chief Executive, 'Generations Working Together' has chosen four areas in Scotland to focus on over the next few years, Orkney being one of them. There will be an intergenerational development worker based in Glasgow whose remit will be to come to Orkney to promote new intergenerational projects. GWT will be developing a set of standards to work with and evaluate projects against. This is an exciting development and it will be great for Orkney to be part of this.





## Youth and Philanthropy Initiative underway

This year's YPI (Youth and Philanthropy Initiative) is underway. Pupils at Stromness Academy had a chance to meet with representatives from local charities at the Academy Charities Fair. VAO partner with the Wood Foundation to bring this annual project to secondary schools in Orkney, in which S3 pupils research social issues and make presentations on local charities. The team who make the biggest impression on judges with their presentation are awarded £3000 for their chosen charity. The Stromness programme will conclude in March 2023, with KGS launching at around the same time.



## Reminder to take up free bus travel for Under 22s

Orkney Islands Council is reminding local families and young people that anyone aged under 22 is eligible to travel for free on buses in Orkney - and right across Scotland - if they have an up-to-date National Entitlement Card or Young Scot Card with the free travel included on their card.

The Scottish Government recently launched a new website [www.freebus.scot](http://www.freebus.scot) to help guide young people and their families through the process of applying for the free travel.

Also, the new 'Transport Scot Pass Collect' app launched by the Scottish Government enables young people aged 16+ to 'add' the free travel component to their existing Young Scot card themselves.

Parents and guardians of any young folk aged 5-15 years who already have an NEC or Young Scot card will need to apply for a new card – this can be done via the [www.getyournec.scot](http://www.getyournec.scot) website.

Cheryl Rafferty is Youth Services Team Leader with OIC's Community Learning and Development service: *'Free bus travel for young people is a great way to enjoy family outings - and for older children it can be a really useful opportunity for them to travel in a safe way to meet up with friends and attend activities and start building on their independence and confidence skills.'*

*So, we're really keen to see all young people in Orkney take advantage of a Young Scot National Entitlement Card - it is available free of charge to everyone aged 11-25 living in Scotland.*

*Aside from free bus travel for Under 22s, a Young Scot card can also be used to claim Young Scot discounts and special offers at over 1,800 places across Scotland, with some local discounts – and it is an accepted proof of age.*

*It can also be used for the cashless catering system at both Kirkwall Grammar School and Stromness Academy.'*

There are a range of application routes to suit everyone and ensure that all 5 - 21-year-olds can benefit from the scheme – including for those without digital access or photo ID.

You can apply for a new NEC/Young Scot card online at [www.getyournec.scot](http://www.getyournec.scot) or find out more information at [www.freebus.scot](http://www.freebus.scot)

Additionally, the [Transport Scotland website](http://Transport Scotland website) provides all the information needed to apply.

If you do not have the proofs required or are unable to apply online and would like an application form and further information, contact Orkney Islands Council who can accept a wider range of proofs on 01856 873535 or by email as follows:

Age 11-18 years inclusive: [young.scot@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:young.scot@orkney.gov.uk)

Age 5-10 years; and 16+ (not in school): [transport@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:transport@orkney.gov.uk)

If you are a parent, guardian or carer of a 5–15-year-old, then you must apply on their behalf. This will allow you to continue to exercise responsibility over their wellbeing and safety. By applying on their behalf, you are agreeing for them to receive an NEC or Young Scot NEC that allows them to travel for free on any registered bus service in Scotland, as well as a limited number of local cross border services into northern England. Children under 5 years old already travel for free on commercial bus services and do not need a card.

## **Apprenticeships Scotland**

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is looking for support to promote the [apprenticeships.scot](http://apprenticeships.scot) website to individuals and employers by highlighting the features and benefits of using the site as well as stressing the value apprentices bring to organisations.

Apprenticeships.scot is the place to go for everything apprenticeship related in Scotland.

- provides individuals with the ability to get access to hundreds of apprenticeship vacancies across Scotland, set up job alerts, find out information about the reality of apprenticeships from actual apprentices.
- allows employers to find and recruit apprentices quickly and easily, save recruitment costs by using the free recruitment tool, and receive a variety of information, funding and support around apprenticeships.

SDS have produced a toolkit which includes background information on apprenticeships.scot as well as key messages, a variety of suggested social media posts, hashtags and links to all their social media channels. Click [here](#) for more information and to access the toolkit.

## **VAO Christmas Closure**

VAO will close on Thursday 22 December and reopen on Wednesday 4 January. We hope everyone has Merry Christmas.

# Legislation & Guidance



## OSCR Annual return deadline

Just over one third of Scottish charities have an OSCR annual return deadline of 31 December. The OSCR office will be open for [limited hours](#) during the holidays to answer urgent queries relating solely to annual returns.

Click [here](#) for guidance on submitting your annual return and [here](#) for a short video.

# Funding & Finance



## The Lunch Club Innovation Grant

The deadline date for applications for the Lunch Club Innovation Grant has been extended to Monday 30 January 2023. The scheme, launched in April 2022, aims to provide groups with funding and support to explore new ways of working following the challenges of Covid-19.

Due to the cost of living crisis and a need for supporting communities we have revised our criteria so more groups can benefit from playing an essential role in tackling social isolation, malnutrition and food insecurity.

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

So far, six groups in Orkney have been successfully awarded money for their projects.

We encourage groups to get in contact as soon as possible to discuss your ideas, and we can support and advise you.

To download the application visit [www.vaorkney.org.uk/lunch-clubs](http://www.vaorkney.org.uk/lunch-clubs) or if you wish to discuss please contact our Lunch Club Development Worker, [Charlotte Spence](#) on 872897.

**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. Click [here](#) to view the latest update.**

# Have your say



## The Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill

The Social Justice and Social Security Committee are looking for written views on the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill.

The Committee wants to understand what impact the changes in the Bill might have. To make this as easy as possible for all charities to respond, no matter their size, the Committee is inviting people to share their views either through a detailed consultation, or a short survey

The deadline for responses for both the consultation and the survey is Friday 3 February 2023.

Under the proposals in the Charities (Regulation and Administration) (Scotland) Bill, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), would have wider powers to investigate charities and charity trustees. Rules around who can be a charity trustee or senior office holder in a charity would also be tightened.

The proposed changes to the law were developed following suggestions from OSCR. Some of the changes are intended to ensure Scottish legislation is in line with updated legislation in England and Wales.

You can access more information about the Bill [here](#).

There are two options for those wishing to participate in this public consultation:

#### [Detailed Consultation](#)

This includes general questions about the Bill, questions about the Financial Memorandum and the option to provide more detailed comments on individual sections of the Bill.

#### [Digital Survey](#)

The digital survey offers an opportunity for a charity to give their views on the bill without the time and resource required to complete the detailed consultation.

Both the Call for Views and the digital survey will close on Friday 3 February 2023. If you have any questions or queries about the detailed consultation or the digital survey, please contact the Social Justice and Social Security clerking team by emailing [SJSS.Committee@parliament.scot](mailto:SJSS.Committee@parliament.scot)

## **OSCR want to hear from you**

OSCR are looking at ways to improve their communication with people and organisations and would love to hear from you to better understand how they can help.

They would be grateful if you could take a couple of minutes to complete a [short survey](#).

## **Local Police Plans 2023-2026**

Local Police Plans explain how Police Scotland will deliver on priorities in local areas over the next three years. They are currently developing plans for 2023-26.

The plans are shaped by a range of views, data, and assessment, including public feedback. Local policing teams have been out and about across Scotland over several months. They have also reviewed feedback from the Your Police survey, as well as partner and stakeholder feedback.

Click [here](#) for more information and to give your views.

## **Workplace Health Needs Survey**

NHS Orkney's Public Health Team would like to invite you to take part in the Workplace Health Needs Survey. This survey has been developed to help them better understand the health needs of the workforce in Orkney to support future planning of work and services relating to workplace health.

The survey has 14 questions and should take around 5 minutes to complete. The team would like to carry out follow up interviews and there is a section at the end of the survey to put in your details, however this is non obligatory.

The survey is open until Mon 9 January 2023 and can be accessed [here](#).



# Education & Training



## Careers, work, and employment resource for people with communication difficulties.

[Talking Mats](#) is a social enterprise whose vision is to improve the lives of people with communication difficulties by increasing their capacity to think about and communicate effectively about things that matter to them. They have developed a new resource aimed at anyone considering their future in terms of employment whether they are school leavers, work returners or someone considering a change.

The resource will launch on 11 January 2023 with a 60-minute seminar. Please click [here](#) for more information about the resource and [here](#) to book your place on the seminar.

**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)**