

Community Briefing – 05.09.25

Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Welcome to the fortnightly Community Briefing delivered in collaboration with the Highland Community Planning Partnership and Highland Council, containing information about funding, training, support, resources, and news for Highland wide and local communities.

If you have anything you want included in a future Briefing, please e-mail: policy6@highland.gov.uk

To join the mailing list complete this short form: <https://forms.office.com/e/rSS3hXbGTa> or scan the QR Code:



FUNDING	NEWS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Robertson Trust provide funding to third-sector organisations that help people and communities in Scotland living with poverty and trauma. Information on who and what they fund, useful links and resources and FAQs can be found here. Business Grants to help Fort William thrive: From events that bring people together to property improvements that enhance our town centre. Register your interest and be the first to hear when applications open. <p>Property Improvement Grant - Levy-paying businesses can apply for funding of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland Community Lottery: Play Highland Community Lottery and support your community with a fundraising lottery. At least 60% from each ticket sold goes to support Highland, and there's a chance to win the £25,000 jackpot every week. Armed Forces Covenant: Education Health and Housing: Highland Council and NHS Highland holistically support our Armed Forces and Veterans community and deliver the Armed Forces Covenant Duty. More information can be found here. Cares Bulletin September 2025: A host of fantastic information in this September

up to £1,200 (including VAT) to enhance the appearance of their shopfronts, signage, and exterior features. The scheme is designed to help improve the visual appeal of Fort William's businesses and promote trade with local services/suppliers.

Events Support Grants - This grant is designed to help local organisers enhance, expand, or trial events that bring people into the town centre and support the local economy. Grants can cover up to 50% of eligible costs, including marketing, infrastructure, and added-value programming.

The scheme is open to local businesses, community groups, and individuals with a viable event plan that benefits Fort William.

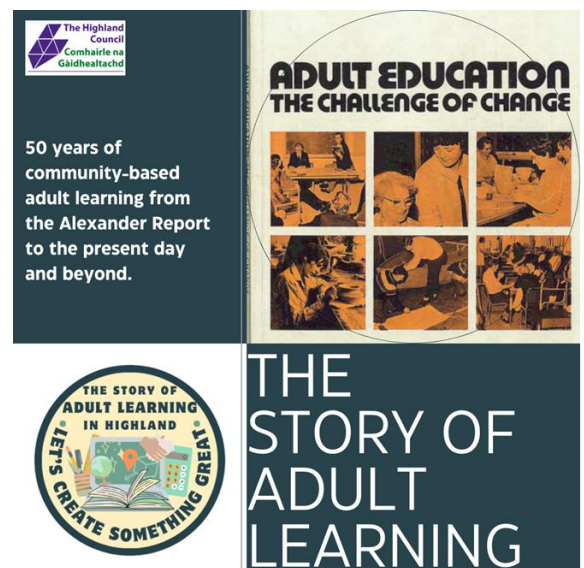
For more information on both of these grants, including guidelines and application form, click [here](#).

- **SSEN Regional Community Benefit Fund:** **SSEN** have opened the second round of their **Regional Community Benefit Fund**, enabling organisations across the north of Scotland to apply for a share of £2m for projects that will aid skills development, support the culture of the region, or help alleviate fuel poverty. For more information or to apply, click [here](#).
- **Community Buildings Fund:** The CARES Community Buildings Fund provides grants to help community organisations reduce their building's energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The fund is open to applications until the end of October 2025, or until funding is fully allocated. Approved projects must be completed and all funding claimed by the end of February 2026. CARES funding is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis once a fully completed application with all required supporting information is received, and any queries resolved.

More information can be found [here](#).

edition of the Cares Bulletin. To read in full, click [here](#).

- **Directories:** The Highland Community Planning Partnership website now has a page dedicated to Directories, here you will find links to ALISS, Highland Directory of Services and Highland Mental Wellbeing. Click [here](#) to find out more.
- **Winter Heating Payments:** Information on the winter heating payments due to benefit over 720,000 pensioners across Scotland. Any pensioner with an income of less than £35,000 will receive these payments. You can find more information [here](#).
- **The Story of Adult Learning:**



2025 marks 50 years since the publication of *The Challenge of Change*, known as the Alexander Report, which marked the bringing together of adult education, youth work and community services.

- **Age Scotland Dementia Guide:** Developed in collaboration with members of the Dementia Lived Experience Forum and the Unpaid Carers Working Group, ensuring that the voices of unpaid carers directly informed the content, tone, and structure of the guide. Designed to help unpaid carers understand their legal rights and access key support. From navigating social care to understanding carer assessments and financial entitlements, the resource offers accessible information

- **HTSI** produce a monthly Funding Bulletin for their [members](#), which details current funding opportunities in Highland. They can provide workshops for staff or volunteers in Highland's third sector, to address some of the challenges they're aware of when it comes to applying for funds. They also distribute funds to third sector organisations on behalf of agencies in the public sector, find out more information here: [HTSI Funding](#).
- The **National Lottery Community Fund** has a number of Funding Programmes available including Awards for All, Community Action Scottish Land Fund, Climate Action Fund and more, many with a focus on Scotland. Find out more information [here](#).
- **Foundation Scotland** manages a number of funds many with a focus on the Highlands. Find out more [here](#).

Fund Name	Area	Grant size
Achlachan Wind Farm Community Fund	Highland	Up to £10,000
Beinneun Student Scholarship Fund	Highland	Up to £1,500
EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Fund (Contin)	Highland	Up to £5,000
EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Fund (Lochbroom)	Highland	Up to £250
EDF Renewables Corriemoillie Wind Farm Community Fund (Marybank, Scatwell & Strathconon)	Highland	Up to £5,000

Plus, many more – use the search function to select Highland.

- **The Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust**

The Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust is an independent charitable trust. The Trust offers help to customers faced with high charges for an electricity connection within the Scottish Hydro-Electric Distribution area. The Trust was established in 1998 with independent

shaped by real-life experience. For more information, click [here](#).

- **Highland Housing Need & Demand Assessment - Household Survey 2025:**

The Highland Council is carrying out research which will help them and other partners to understand the housing circumstances and needs of residents across Highland. This will help the Council plan for new housing and housing services in the future, making sure the needs of all residents across the Highland region are met.

It will take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time to complete the survey, depending upon what you have to say.

All your answers will remain totally confidential and anonymous. Nobody at the Council will know your individual answers without your permission. You do not need to answer any questions you don't want to. If there are any questions you don't want to answer, please just move on to the next one.

You can access the survey [here](#).

- **Highland Repair Directory:** The Highlands and Islands Climate Hub is pleased to welcome the Highland Repair Directory to their list of projects supporting communities in Highland. The Repair Directory is an online resource which makes it easier for people to share or repair items, instead of sending them to landfill and replacing with new. For more information, click [here](#).
- **NHS Key Stakeholder Update:** Information on the launch of the veterans in-service injury network. More information can be found in the newsletter attached.
- **The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme (WFWP),** in partnership with Generations Working Together (GWT), is offering a fully funded support package to help 36 practitioners from 18 Highland organisations develop intergenerational

Trustees appointed to award grants to offset high connection costs in deserving individual domestic cases and for special community projects.

More information [here](#).

Deadline: Wednesday, September 10

projects. Participants will gain access to GWT's national conference, three training courses, one-to-one support, and a UK-wide Community of Practice network. Additional benefits include free GWT membership, access to Highland network meetings, and various online learning events. The initiative aims to build skills, confidence, and relationships across generations, fostering inclusive, cohesive communities through shared learning and care. Each organisation must commit two staff members to attend and engage fully.

Further information can be found in the document attached.

- **MCR Pathways – Share an Hour. Change a Life:** A mentoring charity supporting young people in the Highlands, who face challenges in life, or are finding school difficult to deal with. We're looking for mentors to spend just one hour a week at Nairn Academy, helping young people build confidence and reach their potential. No experience required and all are welcome. To sign up, click [here](#) or email duncan.fraser@mcrpathways.org.
- **Points can Mean Prizes for More Active Travel:** HITRANS are working with BetterPoints on the Hltravel BetterPoints rewards programme to reward people across the Highlands, Argyll and Bute, Moray, Orkney, and the Western Isles for walking, cycling and taking public transport. Anyone who lives, works or studies in those areas can download the free BetterPoints app and each sustainable journey they take earns them points, which they can spend on local businesses or donate to charity. Explore to be in the prize draws, with 4 Scottish Island Passports to be won every week for getting out and active. Download the free BetterPoints app and sign up for a chance to win. To find out more, click [here](#).
- **Planet Youth Highland September Newsletter:** this month's edition is jam-packed with a host of information, including a Highland-wide update, information on risk taking behaviours

amongst adolescents, a talking to young people about suicide guide, and learning opportunities and resources. Please dive in and find out more [here](#).


- **Free Period Products** are available in Highland to everyone who needs them. They can be accessed at our community locations, through a home delivery service and are also available to pupils in schools. For more information and how to access products, click [here](#).
- **Armed Forces Families Highland Newsletter:** MLG Partners have been busy and this issue is packed full as always with news, updates, resources, information and more! You can access the full newsletter [here](#).
- **NHS Highland:** An online platform has been launched to encourage people across Highland, Argyll and Bute to engage directly with NHS Highland. The [NHS Highland Engagement Hub](#) is a one-stop shop for engagement, to let us know about the topics people would like to hear more about, become involved in and stay updated on. At NHS Highland we know we need the insight and experience of people who use our services in order to learn and improve: [Tell us what you think](#).


- **Household Electrical Recycling Collection Service:**

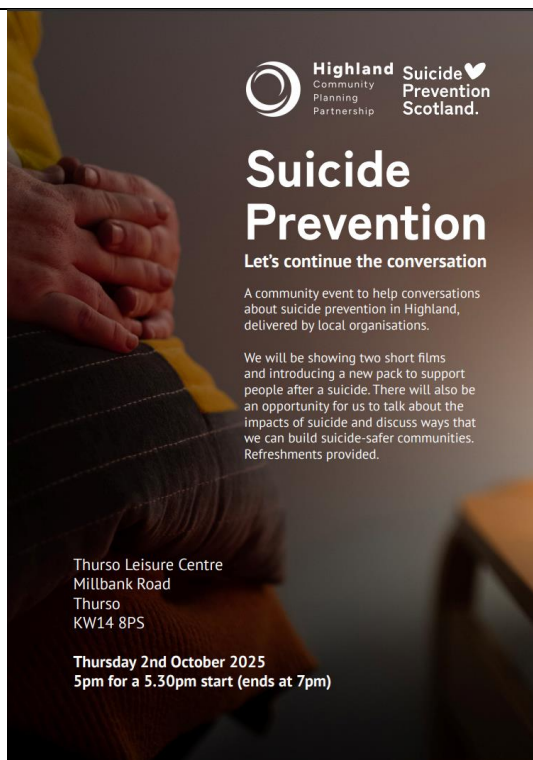
This service, delivered in partnership with Highland Council and funded by the Scottish Government, makes it easier than ever for households to dispose of unwanted electrical items responsibly—whether broken or still working

We accept almost any household electrical item with a plug, cable, or battery, including: Small appliances (toasters, kettles, hairdryers)

- Large appliances (fridges, washing machines – where accessible)
- Electronics (laptops, tablets, radios)
- Power tools (including those with lithium batteries)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chargers, cables, and remotes <p>Not accepted: Vapes or vape batteries.</p> <p>Electrical and electronic waste is the fastest-growing waste stream in the world—and the Highlands produces more e-waste per person than anywhere else in Europe.</p> <p>By using this service, you're helping to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste going to landfill Recover valuable materials and metals Support local jobs and training Strengthen the circular economy in your community <p>All items collected will be responsibly recycled.</p> <p>To check collection locations, dates & times please look here.</p> <p>Look out for our pink van!</p> 
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TRAINING/EVENTS	EMPLOYABILITY/VOLUNTEERING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Highland Community Planning Partnership's Suicide Prevention Steering Group is hosting a Suicide Prevention - Let's continue the conversation event in Thurso on Thursday 2nd October from 5-7PM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Highland Adult Learning Development Group have published their first bulletin. Use this link to access the bulletin: HALDG Newsletter or scan the QR code: 



• Carbon Literacy Training:

- **Alzheimer Scotland – What’s on South Highland September 2025:** Carers Support Group, All Ability Cycling, Active Health/Dynamic Wellbeing and much more happening throughout September. For more information, please see the full list of activities attached.
- **HTSI Annual Assembly:** HTSI Annual Assembly will be held on Monday 22nd September 9.30am-3.30pm in the Dingwall Chambers. The event brings together our vibrant Third Sector community for a day of

- **Employability Forum:** HTSI’s Employability Forum is for anyone in the Third Sector who is involved in, or has an interest in, Employability services. Hear from relevant services, Highland Employability Partnership representatives and have discussions with fellow attendees. Register [here](#).
- **Volunteer Academy:** The Highland Volunteering Academy is dedicated to sparking and nurturing a movement of engagement through volunteering, tailored to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century with our evolving and diverse communities. Find out what volunteering opportunities are available [here](#).
- **MyJobScotland:** for public and third sector [vacancies](#).
- **totaljobs:** for private sector [vacancies](#).
- **Work.Life.Highland:** one-stop support for job seekers, low-income parents & employers in Highland—offering advice, training & employability services. For information on news, events and how to get in touch, click [here](#).
- **HTSI Fellowship Programme:** Designed to advance volunteer practices through targeted learning and collaboration, through grants to undertake study and learning visits. HTSI now four live Fellowships open for application. Full details and application instructions can be found on the Volunteer Academy [website](#).

insightful discussions, networking, and decision-making. This year's Assembly will be opened by Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes, who will share her perspectives on how the Scottish Government envision the role of the third sector in Highland in the coming years. In addition, we will hear from our current representatives, conduct elections for new representatives and hold key debates on topics that are pressing and relevant to both our area and the wider Third Sector landscape.

- **Scottish Intergenerational Conference: Generations Working Together** are delighted to announce the date of their next **Scottish Intergenerational Conference** which will take place on **Tuesday 30th September 2025** at the Glen Mhor Hotel in Inverness. There will be an Information Village of stalls showcasing intergenerational projects and practise. If your group or organisation would be interested in having a stall, please get in touch with moira@gwt.scot.

To book your place, click [here](#).

15 free places are being offered to residents of 5 Inverness wards. For further information, click [here](#).

- **Raigmore Community Event:**



Raigmore Community Event

Bringing services together for a stronger community

Wednesday 10th September

2.00pm - 4.30pm
Raigmore Community Centre,
125 Ashton Road | Inverness | IV2 3UY

Get support and advice for the issues that matter to you.
No booking required.

Services
Speak with agencies about your community including The Highland Council, Housing, Police, NHS and many more.

Logos: The Highland Council, Police, NHS Scotland, Cairn, Home Start, and others.

- **Equality Matters with Castletown Connections:** Let's dive into important conversations about mental health, well-being, and equality at Castletown's event - it's time to make a difference.



EQUALITY MATTERS

Castletown's voices matter in shaping local mental health services and supports
Co-hosted in collaboration with Castletown Connections

GAITHNESS EXPERIENCE MATTERS ADVISORY PANEL

CASTLETOWN CONNECTIONS

Date: Monday, 8th September 2025
Time: 11.00 am to 12.30 am
Location: Castletown Drill Hall, Main Street, KW1 8TU

Breakfast, refreshments and cake provided!

Logos: Gaithness Experience Matters Advisory Panel, Castletown Connections, Spirit Advocacy.

- **Equality Matters with Stepping Out:**



EQUALITY MATTERS

LGBTIQ+ voices matter in shaping local mental health services and supports
Co-hosted in collaboration with Stepping Out

GAITHNESS EXPERIENCE MATTERS ADVISORY PANEL

Stepping Out

Date: Friday 12th September 2025
Time: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm
Location: Pulteney Centre, Wick, KW1 5BA

Lunch, refreshments and cake provided!

Logos: Gaithness Experience Matters Advisory Panel, Stepping Out, Spirit Advocacy.

- **Partnership Conference 2025 – Together we Care** will concentrate on identifying what needs to be done to:

Support local rural and remote communities in Highland deliver local social care resilience.

Allow services to be delivered in diverse ways according to the needs and resources of each community.

Strengthen the voice of rural and remote communities so that meaningful policies and practices are developed with public sector stakeholders for the benefit of all those in need of care across the Highlands. This should include the introduction of how to measure the impact of such services in the delivery of a more efficient and person-centred social care system across the Highlands.

The Conference will be of interest to all third sector organisations working in the Adult Social Care sector and those in the public and private sector who work with them. Booking for the event taking place at WASPS, Inverness will go live at the beginning of September 2025. For expressions of interest or further information please contact Harry Tedstone Community Partnership Officer at Highland Hospice on h.tedstone@highlandhospice.org.uk.

- **Work.Life.Highland Social Care Recruitment Event – Wick:**

Work.Life.Highland
Obair Beatha Gàidhealtachd

Social Care Recruitment Events

Come and join us at the Norseman Hotel
Wick KW1 4NL

Jobs Fair - Meet Employers and Apply for Jobs

Thursday 25th September 2025
Info Session 10.30am - 11.00am
Employers Session 11.00am - 1.45pm

To find out more
visit: www.worklifehighland.co.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

NHS Highland
na Gàidhealtachd

jobcentreplus

Scottish Care

Supported by Scottish Government No One Left Behind and UK Government Shared Prosperity Funding

- **Volunteer and Community Groups Free Child Protection Training:**

Volunteer & Community groups FREE Child Protection Training

This training is designed for volunteers & community groups who have regular contact with children (under 18's) and/or families

delivered online via MSTEams
5.30-7.30pm

Tuesday 23rd September 2025

Thursday 9th October 2025

Tuesday 18th November 2025

This course looks at different types of abuse and neglect, as well as giving participants information about managing disclosures and handling sensitive situations. By the end of this course we hope you will be confident in sharing concerns about children & know your role & responsibilities in relation child protection.

**Scan the QR code to book
or visit www.hcpc.scot/training**






- **NHS Highland Health Improvement Team:** Training Prospectus for 2025. You will find information about all the training that on offer with a combination of e-learning; online and face to face opportunities to build on your CPD.

These courses are available **free of charge** and can be accessed by partners as well as those who work within NHS Highland. Most courses are available to book on Turas Learn in either the Public Health Zone or the Gender Based Violence training opportunities can be found on the Public Protection Zone. The link for the Prospectus can be found [here](#).

Money Counts Training:



Money Counts Courses July – September 2025

Course information

Brief conversations: is aimed at anyone who is in a position to have a brief conversation with individuals around money worries. The course aims to build the confidence of staff to offer income maximisation help and explains how to ask about money worries and where and how to refer for support. **Course length – 45 mins**

Support conversations: aims to increase confidence of staff working with people that may benefit from income maximisation help. It aims to increase staff's understanding of poverty and the importance of asking about money worries, and what support services are available what they can offer. **Course length – 1.5 hrs**

Poverty informed practice: aims to increase understanding of poverty and who it affects and what impact poverty stigma can have on individuals. It aims to support staff and teams explore what changes can be made by individuals and within organisations to ensure that poverty stigma is considered and what actions might be taken to reduce this. **Course length – 2hrs**

Dates & Times:

Brief conversations	Supportive conversations	Poverty informed practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th August 10.00 – 10.45am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25th August 10.00am – 11.30am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4th September 10.00am – 12.00pm

How to apply?

Please note we have moved to a new training platform and if you are out with the NHS, you will need to register on Turas. You will find all the necessary instructions on the following link: [Health Improvement Training \(scot.nhs.uk\)](https://www.scot.nhs.uk/healthimprovementtraining)

- **Citizens Advice Bureau Gambling Support Service:** Free training for those who want to learn more about the effects of gambling harms in local communities across Scotland. The training is delivered by expert training and engagement officers. If interested, contact the email below.

Email:
gamblingsupport@scottishcabs.org.uk

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

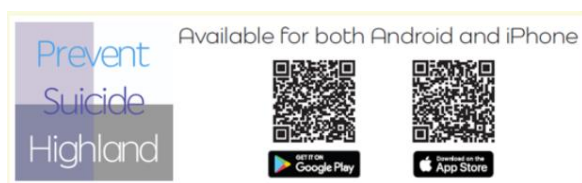
- **Highland Mental Wellbeing** – this website is a list of services, information and training around the subject of mental health and wellbeing. It also provides information about training and resources for community/service volunteers or paid staff, in a ‘helping’ or supporting role.

The Highland Mental Wellbeing website is accessible on desktop and laptop computers, mobile devices and wherever an internet browser is available.

www.highlandmentalwellbeing.scot.nhs.uk



- **Prevent Suicide Highland App** - This easy-to-use app helps should you ever find yourself in distress, feeling hopeless or suicidal in the future. The app is available on Google Play for Android devices and the Apple App Store for iPhone and iPad.



- **Think Health Think Nature** - Taking time to enjoy local outdoor green space could bring you huge health benefits – getting outdoors is good for your physical, mental, and social well-being. Regardless of age and ability, there really is something for everyone.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & RESILIENCE

- **Home Energy Scotland:** Home Energy Scotland’s advisors are true energy saving heroes. They can help you discover practical solutions to reduce your energy consumption, save money, and create a warmer, more comfortable home this year. Whether it’s through energy efficiency tips, grants, or tailored support, their advisors are dedicated to helping you to take control of your energy costs. Don’t let rising bills catch you off guard. Reach out to Home Energy Scotland today for expert advice that puts you and your home first. Call Home Energy Scotland’s free helpline at 0808 808 2282 or visit homeenergyscotland.org
- **ALlenergy:** Support people who live in the Highlands from all tenures who are struggling with fuel poverty with Energy Advice and support. They can help clients with: Energy bills: how you pay for your energy, how much you pay and how often; Advise on changes to the way you deal with your energy payments that may result in saving you money; Advise on heating controls and the way you use your heating to ensure you are using it efficiently and cost effectively; Fuel vouchers for people who have a PPM and have no funds to top up. In some cases, if eligible, they can apply to funded schemes to help with paying for your energy, replacement of white goods, alleviation of fuel debt. (subject to funds being available). Further information is available on their website: ALlenergy.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Met Office Weather Warnings:
Information from the Met Office on weather related matters. |
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