

Community Briefing – 03.10.25


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"> Get Active Highland Fund - High Life Highland is committed to enhancing the well-being of communities across the Highlands by supporting the development and delivery of sport and physical activity initiatives. By working in partnership with local sports clubs and organisations to reduce barriers to participation, foster more active communities, and support the creation of new community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>It will take no more than 10-15 minutes of your time to complete the survey, depending upon what you have to say.</p>

The Get Active Highland Fund, supported by the London Marathon Foundation and **sportscotland** will help enable these efforts by providing financial assistance of up to £5,000 to clubs and community groups. Whether enhancing existing sports projects or launching innovative new initiatives, our aim is to make physical activity accessible, inclusive, and meaningful for all. Find out more here: [Get Active Highland Fund - Sport](#)

- **SSEN Regional Community Benefit Fund: Now accepting applications!** 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](#). Application deadline: 12pm (noon), 19th November 2025.
- **Changing Places Toilets Scotland Fund - Inspiring Scotland:** now open for applications. Access to toilet facilities is a fundamental human right. However, for some people with additional access needs, this right is not always met or met with dignity. Changing Places Toilets are larger accessible toilets designed to meet the needs of disabled people who need carer support and specialist equipment to use the facilities and have their personal care needs met, fulfilling this basic human right for them. The Scottish Government is committed to extending the provision of these facilities across Scotland's communities and, through its Changing Places Toilets Scotland Fund, will provide grant investment of £10 million in the financial years 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 to support this. Inspiring Scotland is delivering the fund on behalf of the Scottish Government, with expert support from Promoting A More Inclusive Society (PAMIS). A co-founder and Chair of the UK Changing Places Toilet Consortium, PAMIS has played a central role in the development of this fund, reflecting their long-standing commitment to improving accessibility for people with additional support needs across Scotland. Closing

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: researchresource.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/18n2jv

- **Your Police Survey 2025/26** – understanding your concerns helps to shape the way Police Scotland police in your community. The survey is a platform for you to tell them your views and experience of your police service. Responses are analysed weekly to help shape how we do things. It's a way for them to listen to the needs of their diverse communities. The survey is completely anonymous. You will not be personally identified through the information you provide. Click this link to complete the survey: [Your Police 2025-2026 - Police Scotland - Citizen Space](#)
- **Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL)** is asking passengers who use any of its 11 airports to complete an online survey. The responses will help HIAL understand how people use its airports and to identify where improvements can be made to the services and facilities currently provided.

The survey, which will run throughout October, will also offer the chance for participants to be entered into a draw for a flight for two on the Loganair network.

HIAL airports are located at Barra, Benbecula, Campbeltown, Dundee, Inverness, Islay, Kirkwall, Sumburgh, Stornoway, Tiree and Wick John O'Groats.

Survey link: [HIAL Customer Survey October 2025](#)

- Two new Councillors have been elected to join The Highland Council – [Connie Ramsay](#) will represent Ward 7 Tain and

date: 20th October. Find out more information here: [Changing Places Toilets Scotland Fund - Inspiring Scotland](#)

- **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](#).
- **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](#).
- **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](#).

Easter Ross and [Sammy Cameron](#) will represent Ward 11 Caol & Mallaig.

- **Inverness and Cromarty Firth Green Freeport (ICFGF)** has reached a historic milestone in establishing the Highlands as a major international hub for the offshore wind and renewable energy sector. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) creating a formal framework for co-operation and responsibilities has been signed between ICFGF, the UK and Scottish governments, and the Highland Council. [Read more here](#)
- **NHS Highland Stakeholder Update:** Friday 26th September 2025, please see attached.
- [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](#).
- **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.
- **SEPA's Engagement Survey:** Seeking views on how to contact and engage with services, so they can be more customer-focused, accessible, and inclusive for everyone who works with us or needs to use our services. The feedback from this survey will shape how they work with people, communities, and organisations across Scotland, including the development of their customer service approach, accessibility strategy, and

- **S4GI Community Benefit Fund:** S4GI partner Cellnex UK has grants of up to £2,000 available to support initiatives focused on digital projects, community wellbeing, learning & development and more. The fund will prioritise projects located near any of the 55 S4GI mobile masts.

Communities and organisations interested in applying can find further information about eligibility criteria and a link to the application process on Cellnex's website: [S4GI Community Fund Additional LP - Cellnex](#).

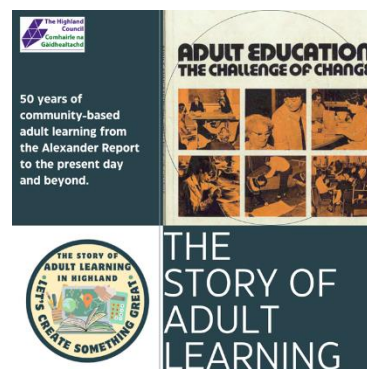
Equality Outcomes. This short survey is an opportunity for people to tell them:

- How well SEPA works for them and their community
- How easy it is to contact us or find the information they need
- Whether they feel we listen, act reasonably, and include everyone
- What we could do to make it easier to engage with us.

To fill in the survey, click [here](#). The deadline for submissions is 12th October 2025.

- **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 shaped by real-life experience. For more information, click [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](#).
- **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. They'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.
- **SLCVO Directory:**
Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) has launched the *Skye and Lochalsh Wellbeing and Community Support Directory*, listing over 130 support services for all ages, including local charities, volunteer groups, national helplines, and statutory services. Developed through the HWWS Collaboration Project, the directory addresses the need for better access to information and improved partnership working. It supports professionals like GPs and Community Link Workers and complements existing resources such as ALISS and the Highland TSI Directory. Available to download [here](#).
- **Free Period Products** are available in Highland to everyone who needs them. They can be accessed at 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](#).

- **ILM Highland – Affordable, Essential Refurbished Appliances:**



- **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); Chargers, cables, and remotes


Not accepted: Vapes or vape batteries.

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.

By using this service, you’re helping to:

- Reduce waste going to landfill
- Recover valuable materials and metals
- Support local jobs and training

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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"> • Community Networking Events: Badenoch & Strathspey Community Partnership and Mid Ross Community Partnership – please see the attached and below flyers for full details. <div data-bbox="183 1305 746 1697">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlands & Islands Climate Hub Conference: Place; People; Power; Partnerships seeks to bring together people from all sectors across the Highlands who are working towards a sustainable, thriving Highland Region. <p>Wednesday 8th October 2025 Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness, IV2 3LP 10am - 4:45pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security Scotland: September Stakeholder Newsletter please use this link to access the newsletter: Social Security Scotland - Stakeholder Newsletter - September 2025 • Connecting Carers: a Highland based Charity that provides support to unpaid carers (Carers) – people who look after a loved one, friend, or neighbour due to illness, disability, mental health conditions, or age-related needs. Please see attached flyer and poster for further information. • Looking for Work Locally Drop-in Sessions:

Find out more here and book tickets:

[Highland Climate Conference — Highlands & Islands Climate Hub](#)

- Are you curious about job opportunities in your area? Come along to our **Family Engagement Event** at The Seaboard Centre, Balintore on Tuesday, 15th October from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM



Find out more here: [Family Engagement Event - Balintore - Work.Life.Highland](#)

- **Cromarty Youth Café 20th Birthday Celebrations!** Our participants have decided they would like a week of fun and exciting activities, followed by an opening event of the CYC and its new Snug Area. The programme will run from Mon 13th Oct – Thurs 16th and will follow soon. We have an official opening date of Tuesday 21st October 11am - 1pm, where tea, coffee, cakes and refreshments will be served. For more information, please see the flyer attached.
- **Community Partnership Conference - Together We Care:**



Wednesday 5th November 2025, WASPS Inverness



Looking for work locally?

Local Services Drop-in Sessions available in your community



- 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:



- **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](#).

This is your second biannual Community Partnership Conference. With the working title Together We Care, the purpose of the conference is:

- To share practical examples of community-led social care and how taking a collaborative approach has led to success
- For delegates to identify how they can support each other to develop their capability, capacity and confidence; and
- To put the question to delegates, “What more can we do together to strengthen community-led social care in Highland?”

To join the waiting list for tickets click here:

[Community Partnership Conference 2025 - Together We Care Tickets, Wed 5 Nov 2025 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

- **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

- **Scottish Mental Health Festival in Highland:** Please see below and attached for further information.

- **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](#).

SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS FESTIVAL HIGHLAND

"Disturb & Comfort" Art Exhibitions
29th September – 24th October 2025
at Eden Court (2nd floor)
and at The Bike Shed (Merkinch)

10 November – 9 January 2026
at Thurso Art Gallery

This year's festival programme includes:

- September sessions: Mask Making and Exploring Identity at the Discovery College in Wick and Inverness
- Saturday 11th October at 2pm: Walk a Mile in Inverness & refreshments at the Discovery College
- Sunday 12th October from 3pm – 5pm: Short Films at Eden Court Theatre & Cinema
- Wednesday Walks in October: Tongue Walking Group
- Saturday 18th October: Highland Mindfulness Group meditation day in Inverness
- Tuesday 21st October from 7pm – 8.30pm: Mixed media art session on Zoom with Green Tree Arts Studio
- Thursday 6th November from 10.30am – 12.30pm: Nature in Contrast - Mixed media workshop by Arts in Nature at the Discovery College, Inverness

See full programme of events on:
www.smhafhighland.co.uk
www.facebook.com/SMHAFHighland
Contact: SMHAFHighland@gmail.com

The Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival Highland is grateful to have received funding from the Highland Third Sector Interface Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund for Adults

WALK A MILE IN THEIR SHOES
Saturday 11th October 2025 at 2pm

Please join with Mikeysline, N4H, Discovery College and other local groups for the 11th annual Walk a Mile along the River Ness and through Inverness City Centre

This event is family friendly and open to participants of all ages. Feel free to bring any banners or signs to show your support.

Promote mental wellbeing

Challenge mental health stigma

The meeting point is on the grass near the Fishermen's Hut beside Bought Park on the corner by Ballifeary Care Home on Ness Walk.

The walk route takes us along by the riverside to Ness Bridge, up Bridge Street and High Street, before heading down Inglis Street to finish at Falcon Square.

You are then welcome to join us for teas & coffees at the Discovery College in the Eastgate Centre.

The walk starts at 2pm so please try to arrive at least 5 minutes beforehand.

Contact
Email: SMHAFHighland@gmail.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SMHAFHighland

SCOTTISH MENTAL HEALTH ARTS FESTIVAL HIGHLAND

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

- **Mental Health Delivery Group Development Workshop:** You are warmly invited to attend the upcoming workshop



Tuesday 11th November



1:00pm – 4:30pm



Culloden-Balloch Baptist Church

This workshop is an opportunity to:

- Reflect on progress and celebrate successes.
- Explore what has helped or hindered the MHDG's work over the past 3 years.
- Review current priorities and actions.
- Shape refreshed outcomes and goals for the next 3 years.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & RESILIENCE

- **Communities advised to stay safe and prepare for potential impacts from Storm Amy**

The Met Office has issued an Amber weather Warning (Friday 3 October and Saturday 4 October), which is forecast to bring a spell of damaging winds, initially in western areas during Friday evening before gradually transferring north eastwards through the night and into early Saturday.

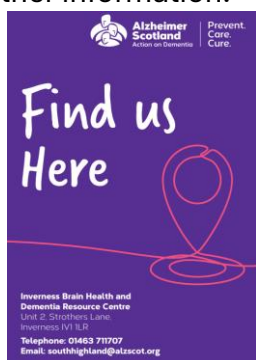
Highland Council roads operatives and teams will be on stand-by this weekend to respond where necessary.

To confirm your attendance please use the [Booking form](#), or see the flyer attached for more details.

Marketplace event: From 1-2 pm, there will be marketplace stalls to provide an opportunity to share information about current services and initiatives. If you are interested in taking part, please **also** complete the [Expression of interest form](#).

For more information, please see the attached flyer.

- **Alzheimer Scotland:** Please see attached flyers for further information.



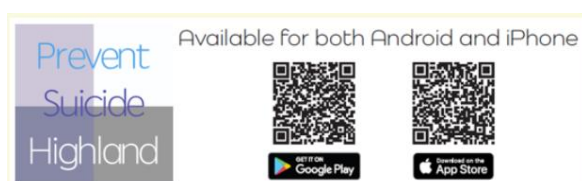
- **Highland Mental Wellbeing** – this website is a list of services, information and training around the subject of mental health and wellbeing. It also provides information about training and resources for community/service volunteers or paid staff, in a ‘helping’ or supporting role.

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.



You can find handy information about reporting issues at this [webpage](#).

During Storm Amy for any tree related enquiries in Highland Council area please email: Tree.Enquiries@highland.gov.uk

Advice on preparing for severe weather can be found on the [Ready Scotland website](#)

You can visit the following page to check out the latest [Met Office weather warning](#).

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) issues flood alerts and warnings for Scotland. View the [latest updates](#).

Register for SEPA’s free Floodline message service by calling 0345 988 1188 or visiting <https://myfloodline.sepa.scot/register>

Check the [three-day Scottish Flood Forecast](#).

Updates on [ScotRail services](#) and Trunk [road conditions](#) are available online.

- **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
- **AlIenergy:** 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;

- **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.

- **Suicide Intervention and Prevention Programme:** This course is available to those who work within the Highland area only. Various dates available.

Who this is for: staff who have patient, client, service user, or public contact and who have had no previous suicide awareness training or last training was more than three years ago.

Course delivery: Please note this course is delivered over two separate 2 hour sessions and you are required to attend both to complete the course. The sessions are usually run a week apart so please check the calendar below to make sure you can attend both Week 1 and Week 2 before booking your place.

Learning aims:

- The aim of this course is to improve awareness of suicidal thinking and to increase their confidence to ask someone if they are feeling suicidal, and to support them to seek further help.

Learning outcomes:

- By the end of this course, you should be able to:
- To recognise a person at risk of suicide
- To ask about suicide including the essential listening and questioning skills
- Describe the impact of attitudes to suicide Identify local services available to help with suicide prevention.

Bookable course : [Turas | My Turas | Home](#)

- **Mental health and wellbeing: self-harm awareness - understanding and supporting people who self-harm** (various dates available).

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](#).

- **Met Office Weather Warnings:** Information from the Met Office on weather related matters.

Who this course is for: This session is aimed at anyone who works with or provides support to people who self-harm or at risk of self-harm. 3hr online session

Learning aims:

- This session is designed to provide a deeper understanding of self-harm and give more in-depth information on how we can support someone who self-harms.

Learning outcomes:.

At the end of the session participants will:

- Understand what self-harm is and who is at risk.
- Understand how people self-harm and the functions of self-harm
- Know how to start the conversation about self-harm
- Learn about the cycle of self-harm
- Learn about Time Space Compassion principles
- Discuss and understand harm minimisation
- Know about resources and support available and how to access them

Bookable course: [Turas | My Turas | Home](#)

- **Money Counts Courses:** please see attached flyer for updated dates for upcoming Money Counts courses.