

CD News

News, updates, information, and sharing success in our communities

Community Empowerment Review



When the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was passed in parliament, it provided a legal framework to promote and encourage community empowerment and participation, by creating new rights for community bodies and placing new duties on public authorities.

Recently the Scottish Government undertook a review, particularly looking in-depth at two parts of the Act; Part 3: Participation Requests and Part 5: Asset Transfers. This has now concluded and three reports have been published focusing on community ownership and control of public assets, and strengthening local decision making to improve outcomes.

The review concludes that there has been significant progress in supporting the empowerment of communities across Scotland. Participation Requests have encouraged greater numbers and types of public service providers to engage with their communities on a range of matters, that help improve service delivery and support public engagement strategies. The Community Asset Transfer legislation has facilitated the transfer of a greater number of assets across multiple public service providers to local community groups. However the reports recognised that more work needs to be done to collate robust asset transfer information to better understand its impact.

The review also considered Community Planning and found that there were areas of excellence where Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) are embedding the principles of the Act, not only in what they are doing but in how they are demonstrating clear commitments to shared leadership.

The report goes on to identify a number of opportunities to strengthen the implementation of the legislation in relation to the sections mentioned.

To read all the reports and the findings, visit the [Scottish Government website](#).

Free Rail Travel

The Scottish Government has launched a pilot scheme that will provide free rail travel for companions of blind and partially sighted people.

The pilot will apply on all ScotRail train journeys across Scotland, starting 01 April 2025 for one year.

Under scheme, individuals holding an eye +1 National Entitlement Card (NEC) will be able to travel with a companion at no additional cost. The scheme aims to make train travel more affordable and accessible for blind and partially sighted passengers

For more information please visit the [website](#).



Spring Into Action



1st April - 24th April 2025

Now that Spring has finally sprung, it is the time to make positive changes to your life. Whatever you're thinking, even small changes can make a big difference.

Over the coming month on social media, Start Up Stirling will be providing information about places to go, and things to see and do, to help to get you 'spring' into action!

As well as feeling better, you can also help them support crisis food for people living in hardship through their -

- **Spring Shopping List**
- **Tesco Food Drive**
- **Chocolate For Change**
- **Take your Smarties for a Saunter**

Find out how to be involved [here](#).

Social Media

As well as Facebook and LinkedIn, they are now on Instagram. Follow them and use their hashtags: #springchicken #springintoaction #localsupportinglocal #easter

Inside this issue:

- Village Halls and Community Centres Network
 - Community Spaces Improvement Grant
 - Vision for Play
 - Local and National Consultations
 - Free Training
- and much more

Young Carers Covenant

Scotland has become the first country in the UK to sign up to a pact to improve the lives of young carers.

The [Young Carers Covenant](#) is a UK-wide commitment to better support carers under the age of 25.

By signing the Covenant, the Scottish government has committed to recognise and listen to young carers, while ensuring none take on caring roles which negatively impact their life opportunities, health and wellbeing.

The Young Carers Covenant is the only initiative in the UK that outlines a pathway towards creating positive change for the lives of all young carers.

It was developed by Carers Trust using the insights of more than 500 young carers and young adult carers, as a way for decision-makers, local authorities, schools, employers and many more to commit to taking action to support young carers.

It does this by clearly setting out ten outcomes, each of which is key to improving the lives of young carers and young adult carers.

Any individual or organisation in a position to help improve young carers' lives can sign the Covenant.

Since its publication on last year's Young Carer's Action Day, the Covenant has been signed by dozens of organisations, schools and politicians across the UK.

There are around 30,000 carers under the age of 18 in Scotland.

If your organisation wants to find out more about the Covenant and sign up visit the [Carers Trust website](#).

CARERS TRUST



Village Halls and Community Centres Network



The Community Development Team ran a second **Stirling Village Halls and Community Centres** Networking event on 20 March 2025 following on from the first successful one back in November when the attendees reported back how much they enjoyed it and found it useful, and called for future events to keep their network alive, active and interactive.

Again the event had a real buzz about it, with lots of conversation and sharing of ideas and issues. The theme this time was funding and participants, from 16 halls, heard more about the soon to be launched UK Shared Prosperity Fund Community Spaces Grant (see page four for further information).



The event was hosted by Kippen Village Hall and Frances Carlaw gave a hugely informative and inspiring talk on this Hall's improvements and fundraising journey so far, and their continued plans for further improvement and further funding to be sought. It was very entertaining and helpful with loads of fundraising tips from Frances, and also nice to spend time in the hall seeing first hand some of the improvements they have made, and finding out about their robot cleaner which generated a lot of interest and laughter too!

Lee Stevenson from Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) told us more about the organisation and the wide range of helpful work and initiatives that they deliver for communities across Stirling.

The Halls network is certainly alive and happening and future events on different themes will be planned. Meantime the halls have created their own WhatsApp group to keep in touch as required, and pose questions and ideas to each other as they arise, and share their common issues, problems and solutions.

And the exciting news was that there is a new hall under construction in the area, at Carron Valley. At the time of the event it was just about two feet high! We look forward to this hall being completed and opened, and serving the community well. Our halls bring so much to our communities – a focal point for great social interaction, and activities and opportunities that improve quality of life, and contribute to thriving, prosperous and healthy communities. We owe a lot to the volunteers who run these halls and the efforts and energy they bring to it.

If you have a community-run hall or centre and would like to join our distribution list for the Village Halls and Community Centres Network, get [in touch](#).

FUNDING

Corra Foundation Small Grants

The Corra Foundation Boost Small Grants programme 2025 is for local community organisations supporting children and families affected by poverty.

Boost Small Grants provides grants of £500-£3,000 to constituted groups and charities with an annual income of £50,000 or less. Unconstituted groups can apply for grants of between £250-£1,500.

For details and deadlines throughout the year visit the [website](#).



The Wesleyan Foundation

The Wesleyan Foundation aim to support those need in to achieve high quality lives through funding community projects and charities.

Their Community Grants programme aims to support grassroots charities to deliver vital community services. This grant supports their goals of:

- Climate Action
- Quality Education
- Reducing Inequalities
- Gender Equality
- Good Health and Wellbeing

Deadlines: Panels open for different areas at various times, the Scotland round will open between **1 September and 4 October**.

For more details on the goals and what is included [visit the website](#).



Stirling Council's Community Grants Programme

This fund is up and running for 2025/26. A flexible small grants programme that will support a wide range of one-off project costs across Stirling area, with grants up to £800. There are several rounds throughout the year.

For full details and deadlines visit the [Council website](#).



Funding Stirling

Funding Stirling is Stirling Council's online funding search tool, provided in partnership with Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

You can search for funding opportunities by location, activity and other features and receive regular bulletins. For more information visit [Funding Stirling](#) on the Stirling Council website.

The Robertson Trust Community Space Funding – revenue funding

This funding aims to support local communities experiencing poverty and trauma in Scotland, registered charities with an annual income of between £30,000 and £500,000 are eligible to apply.

The Robertson Trust can provide **revenue funding** of between £5,000 and £20,000 per year, for up to 3 years, to support the costs of community centres, hubs or anchor organisations who are delivering and/or hosting a range of services and activities to meet the needs of their community.

By community, they mean a geographic community. This could be in an urban or rural area experiencing high rates of poverty and trauma.

Applicants should show how the various services they deliver and/or host relate to preventing or reducing poverty and trauma for local people. They should also show how they reach out to and remove barriers for individuals in their community who are at higher risk of experiencing poverty, such as disabled people or people experiencing racial inequity.

Deadline: You can apply at any time. There is no set closing date for applications.

Full details are [on the website](#).



People's Postcode Trust

People's Postcode Trust supports smaller charities and good causes in Scotland to make a difference to their community for the benefit of people and planet.

Round 1 opened & closed: 24th March – 31st March

Round 2: 24th June – 1st July

Round 3: To be confirmed at a later stage

For full details visit the [website here](#).



The Weir Charitable Trust

The Weir Charitable Trust aims to support Scottish-based community groups and charities to provide services across Scotland to help Scottish communities.

Their funding themes include sport, health, recreational facilities, culture and animal welfare.

Next deadline: 16 May 2025.

Full details at [The Weir Charitable Trust](#)



Community Spaces Improvement Grant

What community spaces need improved in your area?

We know communities need spaces to meet, socialise and take part in all sorts of activities. Without quality spaces communities struggle to be a community.



This is a capital fund for direct capital improvements, including energy efficiency/net zero measures, to community spaces – land and/or buildings. Applications for funding between £2000 and £20,000 are invited from community groups and charities.

The fund is part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is intended to support improvements to community spaces that bring members of a community together for social connections, leisure & sport, recreation, health improvement activities, learning activities, volunteer opportunities and more – activities and opportunities that help to improve the prosperity, health, achievements and resilience of the community as a whole, and the individuals living and working within it.

The deadline to submit applications is **12 noon on Friday 30 May 2025**.

Details with application form and all relevant documentation are on the [Council website](#).



Vision for Play

The Scottish Government has published a vision statement and action plan designed to reflect the vision of play for Scotland for the next five years and the steps we will take within that time to achieve our vision and aim.

Scotland's first Play Strategy was published in 2013 and recognised the importance of children's right to play. However, many changes have taken place since then with Scotland becoming the first country in the United Kingdom to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into its domestic law, and social changes such as pandemic, environmental changes, the cost-of-living crisis, Brexit and ongoing global conflict have all also influenced the wider world that children grow, develop and play in.

Are you raising a disabled or seriously ill child?

Grants available now

Scan me

Check you're eligible and apply online today

What grant item could your family apply for?

Whether you need a fridge, cooker or washing machine; clothing and bedding; sensory or play equipment; technology for your child, or a much-needed family break, we're here to help.

Family Fund

Helping disabled children

www.familyfund.org.uk/apply-now-in-scotland

Scotland's Play Vision Statement and Action Plan 2025 - 2030

The Illustrated Version

The Scottish Government want to make play better

Play

What we want play to look like

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Through our support

Parents will have choice of play spaces for their child and support for play equipment and toys for their child.

People who need extra support will have play equipment and toys for their child.

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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The new Vision Statement and Action Plan aims to respond to the changed wider context in order to support children of all ages and parents to access play, where and when they need it.

To view the statement and action plan including an illustrated version, visit the [Scottish Government website](#).

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Consultations

Community Benefits from Net Zero Energy Developments

This Scottish Government consultation is part of a review of the Good Practice Principles for onshore and offshore renewable energy, which seeks to ensure that government guidance helps communities and developers get the best from community benefits. Community benefits are additional benefits, that are currently voluntary, which developers provide to the “community”, and which sit independently of the planning and consenting system.



To find out more about the Principles and to take part visit the [Scottish Government website](#).



Survey closes 11 April 2025

Reminder - Visitors Levy

As the Council consider a Visitors Levy, they are consulting to make sure the proposals for the scheme meet the needs of Stirling's visitors, residents, and businesses - and make life better for everyone in the region. The results of this engagement will help shape what any visitor levy would look like, and the resulting 'scheme'.

A series of drop-in sessions have also been arranged for businesses, accommodation providers and anyone else who would like to share their views on the scheme. These will take place at the following locations:

- **Callander** Wednesday 9 April 2025, 11am-6pm, Callander Youth Project
- **Drymen** Wednesday 16 April 2025, 11am-6pm, Drymen Village Hall.

Survey closes 4 May 2025

To take part visit the [Council's Engage Site](#).

Community Wealth Building

The Economy and Fair Work Committee wants to hear views on the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill.

Community Wealth Building (CWB) is an approach to economic development that tries to use the power of 'anchor organisations' to grow and retain wealth within a local economy. Anchor organisations can be public, private, or third sector bodies that have a large enough presence in a local area to be able to change economic outcomes.

The purpose of this Bill is to ensure that CWB is implemented consistently across Scotland as an economic development tool.

The call for views closes 23 May 2025.

To take part [visit the website](#).

Volunteer Health Scotland

Volunteer Health Scotland is a national voice, intermediary and network for voluntary health organisations in Scotland. They work with their members and others to address health inequalities, to improve health related policy, and to help people and communities to live healthier and fairer lives

Membership is free.

To find out more about their work and membership if your organisation is involved in health and wellbeing, [visit their website](#).



Engage Stirling is Stirling Council's Online Engagement & Consultation Platform. Sign up to give your views and get involved. Get analysis or reports from the consultations you took part in [Visit here](#).

Reminder - Waste Permits

A garden waste permit is a printed document allowing you to use a brown bin for garden waste as well as food waste. Permits cover a 12-month period starting on **14 April 2025**. If you buy a permit part of the way through a year, it will still expire on 12 April 2026 and cost the same.

To renew or buy a permit visit the [Council website](#).

Free Training

Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE), in partnership with The Skills Network are offering fully funded courses, giving you the opportunity to explore new skills and gain nationally recognised qualifications.

Whether you want to refresh your knowledge, boost your skills, or try something completely new, now is the time to take that step. With up to seven fully funded courses per year, you can learn at your own pace, in your own home, at a time that suits you. The only requirement? You must complete one course before starting another.

Example of available courses are Digital Marketing, Event Planning, Counselling Skills and much more.

Explore the available courses and begin your learning journey by [visiting the website here](#).



Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise



Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise

Chair of the Board

Are you a strategic leader passionate about supporting Stirling's third sector? Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise (SVE) are seeking a **Chair of the Board** to guide them and help shape a thriving network of charities, social enterprises, and community organisations.

SVE is the partnership and development agency for the third sector in Stirling. As the local Third Sector Interface (TSI), they support and empower charities, social enterprises, and volunteer-led groups to create lasting social impact.

For more details please refer to our [Recruitment Pack](#) and send your CV, covering letter and references to info@sventerprise.org.uk by 5pm on 25th April 2025.

If you would like to discuss the role before applying, please contact our current Chair, **Emma MacGregor**, at chair@sventerprise.org.uk.

Urgent Request for Drivers

St John Scotland Patient Transfer

St John Scotland transport renal patients to and from dialysis at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on a regular basis. They are desperately in need of volunteer drivers to maintain the service,

Each patient has to travel three times a week either in the morning (07.30 - 12.00) or in the afternoon (13.30 - 17.30) either Monday Wednesday and Friday or Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. They will do so regularly at the same days and time each week. Drivers pick up patients from their home and deliver them to the Renal Unit and return some 4-5 hours later to return them home. They are desperately in need of more drivers to maintain the service.

It is not necessary for a driver to transport the patient throughout the week. Trips are coordinated so that a driver may only do one journey a week and it is also possible simply to enrol as a stand-by driver in case of illness or holiday.

Drivers are recompensed at the current government rate for mileage on a monthly basis.

If you are interested or know someone who may wish to help please email [Sandy McGill](mailto:Sandy.McGill).



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