

CD News

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

New Sensory Loss Advice Service Launched

A vital new service for people experiencing sensory loss launched at Forth Valley Sensory Centre. The Forth Valley CAB Sensory Loss Advice Service (SLAS) is a new and innovative approach that extends & increases the ability of CABs to inclusively help people with sensory loss across Forth Valley.



Jacque Winning MBE, Chief Executive of Forth Valley Sensory Centre said – “Delivering welfare advice in person is a game-changer for people with sensory loss. By offering face-to-face support, we’re ensuring everyone is given equal opportunity to navigate a complex benefit system and feel genuinely heard.”

Stirling CAB will employ two Sensory Specialist advice workers, one being a BSL competent worker, to support people with hearing and sight loss with information, advice, casework support, technical advocacy & representation as proposed above. They will work proactively with the FVSC, its satellites and Centre Service Users, and via a wide range of referral partners.

Craig Anderson, CEO of Stirling CAB said “We are delighted to be launching this vital initiative. It will ensure that households experiencing sensory loss will have inclusive access to holistic advice that informs, enables, and empowers”.



To find out more contact Stirling Citizens Advice Bureau through their [Stirling CAB webpages](#) or speak to the [Forth Valley Sensory Centre](#).



Unbound: A new project exploring health and climate

Led jointly by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and Scottish Communities Climate Action Network (SCCAN), Unbound Scotland will work across the country to raise awareness of the power of community action to achieve local solutions that also take on global issues.

Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Unbound will focus on building skills, knowledge and confidence with communities across Scotland. The 3-year project will explore how to improve health and wellbeing, strengthen relationships, celebrate nature, improve air quality, and create warmer homes. They'll be asking: what do communities need to embed practical action around the unfair impact of climate change on health and wellbeing?

[Find out more at the website here.](#)



Governance Support

GovernanceWiki is a free resource for voluntary organisations and social enterprises in Scotland and people working with them.

Developed by Midlothian Community Action, it includes a range of information around key issues related to charity governance, links to sources and further information. Governance is a broad theme encompassing a wide range of topics from leadership and compliance to behaviours, effectiveness and managing risk amongst many other things.

Your group may just be starting out and small, looking to improve or an advisor or consultant working with trustees. This resource will give information on the many topics that will help you to run an organisation effectively with good governance in mind.

To visit the Wiki and find out more [visit the site here.](#)



Inside this issue:

- Wheelchair Curling Club
- Back to School Support
- Challenge Poverty Week
- Funding and consultations
- BBC Finalist in Kippen

and much more

Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club

The Stirling Wheelchair Curling Club meets during the winter months from 12.30 until 2.30 on Wednesdays. It caters for complete beginners up to former curlers who are no longer steady enough to walk on the ice.

The atmosphere is very friendly and inclusive. Some people can't manage to move the stones more than a few metres but they too are able to take part in the games without feeling they are not good enough to join in. Other members have become good enough to play in inter club matches and some even move on to the elite squad and play for Scotland.

The Club play at the Peak, in Stirling, which has an excellent cafe where they can meet before and after the session and cement the friendships started on the ice. If you would like to give wheelchair curling a try and you don't have a wheelchair, the club can lend you one to see if you like it. To qualify, you do not need to be a full-time wheelchair user.

The curling season starts again on September 17 so if you would like to give it a try, contact Jacky on Secwheelcurlstirling@yahoo.com



Back to School - support

As the summer holidays wind down and the school bags come back out of the cupboard, many parents across Stirling are gearing up for the new school term. Whether your child is starting P1 or heading into S6, the return to school can be a mix of excitement, nerves—and let's be honest—a bit of financial pressure too.

Stirling Council offers a range of support to help families make the transition smoother and more affordable.

Free School Meals

If your child is in Primary 1 to Primary 5, they automatically receive free school meals—no need to apply. To find out if you are eligible at other ages, and to apply, visit the Council website.

School Clothing Grants

Uniforms can be pricey, but help is available. Families on low incomes may be entitled to a clothing and footwear grant—up to £130 per child. Applications are open until 31 December 2025, so there's still time to apply.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

If your child is 16–19 years old and staying in full-time education, they could receive £30 a week through the EMA scheme. It's designed to support young people from lower-income households and is paid fortnightly during term time.

You can find all the details and application forms on the [Stirling Council website](#), or contact your child's school for guidance. And if you're unsure whether you qualify, it's always worth checking.

Third Sector Breakfast Club



**Tuesday 26th August
9.30am -11.30am**

The SVE August Breakfast Club will take place at the Mayfield Centre, St Ninians with the topic Ensuring Compliance: Key Updates. Contributors will be:

- Duncan Steele, Compliance Officer at Volunteer Scotland – Disclosure Services, on the recent PVG scheme changes.
- Lee Stevenson from SVE on the latest developments in Charity Law and Trustee verification.
- Kirsty Love from STEP on Employment Law relevant to third sector organisations.

Also information on the upcoming round of the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund.

Pop along for Networking and Tea/Coffee and breakfast pastries.

Third Sector Finance Forum

**Thursday 21st August
10.00am – 12.00pm**

The next Finance Forum will take place at the Mayfield Centre, St Ninians, Stirling. This is a member-led, practical session supporting charities, social enterprises, and community organisations to strengthen their financial resilience and digital security. The session will include:

- An overview of reliable digital tools for bookkeeping, budgeting, and financial reporting.
- Free and affordable software.
- Insights into the key cyber security risks.
- Practical steps to reduce vulnerability and build digital resilience.

Book your place [here](#).

Consultations

STIRLING
VISITOR LEVY



Stirling Council have been consulting to understand whether and how a Visitor Levy should be implemented in the region. In this phase of the consultation they would particularly like to know what people think of the draft Visitor Levy scheme.

The draft scheme was created after analysing and reviewing the results of our early engagement. This is also the formal stage of the consultation so they will ask people again about all aspects of the proposal to introduce a Visitor Levy scheme in the Stirling Council area.

The events include:

- Tuesday 9th September, Albert Halls, Stirling 10am-6pm
- Thursday 11th September, McLintock Hall, Balfron 10am-6pm
- Wednesday 17th September, Drymen Village Hall 10am-6pm
- Tuesday 23rd September, McLaren Hall, Killin 10am-6pm
- Monday 29th September, Callander Youth Hostel 10am-6pm

Deadline: 12 October 2025

To give your views and see the proposed scheme visit the [Council's Engage Platform](#).



Making Complaints about Mental Health Services

A questionnaire has been launched to gather people's experiences of making complaints about Mental Health Services and hear your suggestions to improve the system.



Many people have experienced dissatisfaction making complaints about mental health services in terms of access, process and outcomes. In response VOX Scotland - Scotland's national collective advocacy organisation for mental health - have created a questionnaire, co-designed by one of their members, who is passionate about voices being heard and responded to, and having an effective fair complaints process for people using mental health services. The purpose of this research questionnaire is to explore:

- How people have experienced access, processes and outcomes of complaints related to mental health services.
- People's suggestions for improvements to the complaints system which we can try to use influentially.

They want to hear from you on your experiences, views and suggestions which will all be used anonymously.

To take part [visit the VOX survey here](#).



Taxi/Private Hire Policy Consultation



Stirling Council has drafted a new policy for taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers. Stirling Council has responsibility for licensing taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers within its area. The policy intends to set minimum operating standards to be adhered to in order to improve standards of service and the safety of the general public.

The policy covers: vehicle colours and age; meter requirements; CCTV use in vehicles; driver certifications; driver medical fitness, and; criminal conviction checks.

They are seeking views on the new policy for taxi and private hire vehicles and drivers. The views of all interested parties are being collected, including public, operators, drivers and representative bodies.

Deadline: 24 September 2025

To give your views and see the proposed scheme visit the [Council's Engage Platform](#).

Volunteer Sector Workforce survey

This survey is for people working across the sector, from frontline staff to managers, and seeks to determine how they feel about their work just now: What do you enjoy and value? What is less satisfying? And how could your employer better support you?

The main areas this survey will be looking at are:

- Job (and volunteering) satisfaction
- Health and wellbeing
- Diversity and inclusion
- Management and leadership
- Skills and career progression
- Your future plans

The survey is being conducted by Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), alongside partners.

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



Mentoring for Care Experienced Young People

[MCR Pathways](#) and [Forth Valley College](#) have agreed to work together on a two-year pilot project to support care-experienced and disadvantaged young people moving from school into college, jobs, or further training.

The MCR Pathways Post School Mentoring Pilot is a two-year partnership with Forth Valley College to support students' transition by extending mentoring from school into college.

A total of 82% of care experienced young people receiving mentoring support from MCR Pathways in schools have progressed to positive post-school destinations, compared to the national average of 69%. The two-year pilot aims to harness the power of mentoring to similar effect in reducing College drop-out rates, improve attainment levels and respond to significant increases in young people reporting mental health problems and additional support needs at the College.

Starting in August for the next two years, complementing the College's long-standing 'Time for Me' mentoring programme, led by its Widening Participation team, students attending Stirling, Alloa and Falkirk campuses will continue to meet their trusted mentors from school, to address a range of potential issues which may impact on their abilities to attend and succeed at College.

A full-time MCR Pathways Coordinator (PC) will be based mainly at the FVC Falkirk Campus, helping up to 30 mentor-mentee pairs. Their role includes supporting young people through College transitions, delivering inductions and training, and working closely with FVC staff and partners like Skills Development Scotland.

To find out more [visit the Forth Valley College Website](#).

Challenge Poverty Week 2025

The first Challenge Poverty Week was launched by the Poverty Alliance in 2013. They wanted to highlight the injustice of poverty in Scotland, and to show that collective action based on justice and compassion can create solutions.

This year Challenge Poverty Week takes place on **Monday 6th October - Sunday 12th October** and looking set to be another very busy week!

Events Calendar

For those new to Challenge Poverty Week, the Poverty Alliance hosts an events calendar where you can have a look at some of the plans for the week. You can now add your own event here: [Add your Challenge Poverty Week event](#).

Get Inspired sessions

The Poverty Alliance have Get Inspired sessions scheduled:

[Thursday 21st August, 10am-11am - Get Inspired Session](#) Join their Campaigns Officer, Alyson, as she guides you through the what, why and how of CPW25. Start with an introduction to this year's campaign; updates on the must knows for 2025 including themes for the week and policy asks; showcase some ideas on how you can participate, including examples of how others have took part in the past; and detail the resources available.

[Thursday 28th August, 10am-11am - Values First Training Session](#) Join their Communications Officer for this important training in using framing communications around poverty to tell a new moral story about poverty and effectively campaign for solutions.

Resource Packs

Resource packs are available, [email](#) for details. They have a limited number of packs and would ask that any requests should be made before **Friday 29th August**.

Stirling Council Councillors Surgeries

Stirling Council residents go to local councillor surgeries - regular drop-in sessions where you can speak directly with your local representatives about issues affecting your area.

These surgeries are held across the Stirling Council area, offering a chance to raise concerns, ask questions, or simply get to know your councillors.

Sessions are held in community venues such as village halls, schools, and libraries, with some also offering Zoom **access** for added convenience.

Councillors from all political parties take part, including Conservative, SNP, Labour, Green and independent representatives.

If you're unsure which ward you live in or want to find your councillor, visit the [Stirling Council website](#)

Whether you have a local issue to discuss or want to learn more about council decisions, these surgeries are a great way to stay informed and involved in your community.



FUNDING

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.

McCarthy Stone Foundation - Creating Connections

The Creating Connections Grant Programme will be awarding 20+ grants of up to £7,500 to charities and community groups who are helping to reduce loneliness and isolation for the over 65's. You may be providing direct person-centred interventions such as befriending or group based social activities. They also support Community Transport who assist in bringing together older people.

Deadline: 29th August

To apply [visit their website here](#).



McCARTHY STONE
FOUNDATION

Better Community Business Network - Grant Initiative

BCBN's Grant Initiative aims to provide small third-sector grant awards to empower charities and local community projects.

This initiative will distribute a one-off grant award of up to £3,000 per charity or to small but credible community projects, which are able to demonstrate their positive impact on the communities they aim to serve.

Opens: 8th September - Deadline: 31 October

To apply [visit their website here](#).



B | C Better Community
B | N Business Network

Venue Grants - Doors Open Days 2025

Thanks to generous support from the William Grant Foundation, the Scottish Civic Trust are introducing Accessibility Grants for venues and organisations participating in Doors Open Days 2025.



DOORS
OPEN
DAYS 2025

These grants, ranging from £100 to £500, are designed to help make small but impactful adaptations that address specific accessibility needs at a venue. Some examples of what the grants can cover include:

- Purchasing access ramps or foldable seating
- Creating sensory kits and packs
- Providing tactile signage and materials
- Producing written materials in additional languages or large print

If you're planning to open your doors in 2025, this is a fantastic opportunity to make your venue more welcoming and accessible to everyone. If you would like to learn more, please email dod@scottishcivictrust.org.uk



SCOTTISH
CIVIC
TRUST

The Woodland Trust - Free Tree Packs

The Woodland Trust want to make sure everybody in the UK has the chance to plant a tree. So they're giving away hundreds of thousands of trees to youth and community groups. Applications are now open for tree packs to be delivered in November. Applications will close on 28th August.

To apply visit the [Woodland Trust website here](#).



Entrepreneurial Education Fund

The Fund is now open for applications to support growth and development of the Scottish entrepreneurial education ecosystem by funding high-impact projects for young people.

They are particularly interested in projects that focus on the following areas:

- entrepreneurial skills development
- mentorship and industry engagement
- teacher education and capacity building
- inter-disciplinary development
- research and practical initiatives
- networking and collaboration

To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate good business practices, including Fair Work principles. All grant recipients must also have robust safeguarding policies and procedures in place to protect vulnerable adults and children.

Deadline: 10am on 27 August

To apply visit the [Scottish Government website](#).



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

The Nature Restoration Fund

This Fund is open for Expressions of Interest for Helping Nature and Transforming Nature funding. The Nature Restoration Fund has two streams, Helping Nature, for grants of £25,000 to £250,000 and Transforming Nature for grants of £250,000 upwards, including development projects.

Funding is available to Helping Nature and Transforming Nature Delivery projects for single or multi-year projects. Transforming Nature Development projects should be for no longer than 12 months. Project activities must be completed by 31 March 2028.

Please complete and submit an [Expression of Interest \(EOI\)](#) form to NRF@nature.scot outlining your proposed project. EOIs are a mandatory requirement for applicants. They strongly encourage you to submit your EOI in advance of the deadlines below, so you have time to consider our feedback before progressing to an application, if you are invited to apply.

Deadline: **Monday 8 September 2025 at 12 noon for EOI.**

Full details at: the [Nature Restoration Fund website](#).



Volunteering Support Fund 2025-27

This Fund is being managed by Impact Funding Partners on behalf of The Scottish Government.

The fund supports small to medium-sized third sector organisations across Scotland to recruit additional volunteers for the delivery of a new, or the expansion of an existing, volunteering project.

The aim is to improve how volunteers are supported in their roles. Organisations are encouraged to demonstrate how their project contributes to the Scottish Government's priority of ending Child Poverty.

Deadline **25 August 2025 at 5pm.**

Full details at: [Volunteering Support Fund 2025 - 2027](#)



Creative Communities

The Creative Communities programme has providing funding and support for community-led creative and cultural initiatives across Scotland. The programme seeks to support communities to dismantle the complex physical, social, cultural and economic barriers faced by many, making arts and creativity – and the wellbeing benefits they bring – accessible to all.

Charities can apply for up to £35,000 of grant funding to deliver activities between January – December 2026. Projects will involve hands-on, participatory creative activity in any art form. They will respond to the community's needs by supporting wellbeing and overcoming barriers to participation.

Deadline: **Thursday 18 September 2025.**

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



The ASFT Fund

The Fund has been established to support organisations across Scotland, awarding grants of up to £15,000 for one year.

Fund priorities:

- Educational and learning projects, particularly those that support disabled children or outdoor education
- Creative and performance arts
- Responding to the effects of poor physical and mental health, and poverty
- Older people
- Increasing participation in sport

Who can apply?

- Registered charities
- Constituted voluntary and community organisations
- Community companies e.g. companies limited by guarantee, community benefit societies or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations'
- Community Interest Companies are eligible to apply if they meet the fund's minimum governance standards.

Deadline **7 August 2025**

Full details at: [The ASFT Fund](#)



Better Community Business Network Grant Initiative

BCBN's Grant Initiative aims to provide small third-sector grant awards to empower charities and local community projects. This initiative will distribute a one-off grant award of up to £3,000 per charity or to small but credible community projects, which are able to demonstrate their positive impact on the communities they aim to serve.

Full details at [GRANT INITIATIVE](#)

Highlighting Community Halls and Centres: Kippen Hall - BBC 'Make a Difference' Finalist

Fundraising has been the focus of Frances Carlaw's life for more than ten months and in that short time she has raised £160,000 for the much-needed refurbishment of the village hall in Kippen and is also well on the way to bringing in the remainder of the £250,000 needed.

Thanks to her tireless efforts to help secure the hall's future, she has been chosen as one of the finalists in the fundraiser category of the BBC's Make a Difference Scotland awards.

Frances and her husband moved to Kippen in 2022 and decided it was the perfect place for their retirement and become part of the vibrant community.



Raising the money needed for such an ambitious project in a community of just 1,100 residents was an enormous task but Frances rose to the daunting challenge to improve the hall's facilities.

"Life here is very busy, with lots of groups and useful facilities and we wanted to become a closer part of it all," says Frances. "The village hall had been moth-balled over the covid period with a brave and dedicated small committee determined to see it survive. It has been a central part of life here for over 100 years and is used by all ages from the village and surroundings. After so long a closure and a previous long period where little had been done by way of updating the facilities, the committee asked for new members and that was our chance to see what we could do to help."

"It wasn't long before we had penned the business plan following a public consultation and the results were a resounding positive to keep the hall open and busy, but it needed to be refreshed and updated and all facilities to be renewed," says Frances. "I volunteered to be the fundraiser for the entire £250,000 refurbishment project.

"Thanks to initial crucial help from Stirling Council and the local Kippen Community Trust, we raised a small sum that led to larger grants and further applications until we had raised over £154,000 in just ten months.

"The balance of £30,000-plus is already applied for, which will complete the refurbishment of the entire building.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to be a finalist in the Make a Difference Awards and so proud of everyone who has been involved. I'll continue to work just as hard to attract more funding and hopefully in the next ten months we'll reach the total target to give our lovely village hall a brighter and sustainable future."

Deepness Invites You To The 100/6000 Gathering 2025

Stirling Rugby Club, Bridgehaugh Park, Causewayhead Road, Stirling, FK9 5AP

This year's 100/6000 Gathering is on Thursday, 25th September 2025, registration 9.30am. This year, the focusing is on peer support in a safe open space where people with dementia or cognitive impairment can speak freely, share their experiences, and have their voices heard. Only people living with dementia or cognitive impairment will speak during these sessions, ensuring the conversation belongs to you.

There will also be a dedicated morning meeting for carers, offering support and connection with others in similar roles. Lunch will be from 12:30pm, and the afternoon will run until 4:00pm. At the end of the day, we'll travel together to the Macrobert Theatre for the opening reception of the [3rd Scottish Dementia Arts Festival](#).

If you or someone you know is living with dementia or cognitive impairment, this is your space—your stories, your ideas, your day.

[[Stirling Rugby Club](#) Contact Details]
For further information, drop [Ron Coleman](#) a line.

Contact

Communitydevelopment
@stirling.gov.uk
01786 233076

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