



Training and Funding Update

July 2014

The funders are coming!

The Robertson Trust

8th September

BIG Lottery Fund

24th September

Venue and times to be confirmed – register your interest with meghan.mcewen@vaorkney.org.uk

VAO TRAINING CALENDAR

July

Monday 21st VAO Board Room 6.00pm – 7.30pm	Want to start a group?	FREE session. Thinking of a cause, have a hobby? Want to start a group with fellow thinkers? Not sure how to start? Unsure of the legal structure required, if any? Come along and find out more. enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk
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August

Wednesday 13th VAO Board Room 5.00pm – 7.00pm	Learning about social enterprise	Learn about business plans, budgeting and how to do business with a difference! enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk
Friday 15th VAO Boardroom 2.00pm – 4.00pm	Business Planning for third sector organisations	Do you have a business plan? Are you planning on applying for a grant and they require one? Come along and learn about how your business plan can be a tool for your organisation as well as your funders! enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk
Saturday 16th St Colm's Day Centre, Kirkwall 10.00am – 4.00pm	Shrub Propagation Course	Experienced gardener and landscaper, Dave Sneesby, will lead you through this very practical hands on course, showing methods for taking cuttings and for successful rooting and growth. Cost £40 (£36 for Scottish Crofting Federation members)
Sunday 24th The Links Centre, Evie 10.00am – 5.00pm	Crofting for Wildlife	If you have, or want, anything from a smallholding to a large garden and are interested in creating habitat or managing your land for wildlife then this day course is for you. The day will cover target species, invasive species threats, finances, grassland, wetland and bird cover crops. Refreshments and lunch provided. Includes a field trip to ten acre private nature reserve. Cost £40 (£36 for Scottish Crofting Federation members) enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk

September

Saturday 13th The Lighthouse, Rendall 10.00am – 4.00pm	Drystone Dyking	Run on behalf of the Scottish Crofting Federation, this course will look at the repair and new build of cottage garden walls. A fee will apply – contact us for more information.
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20th and 21st
St Magnus Centre,
Kirkwall

**Entry Level
Crofting Induction
course**

This highly acclaimed classroom based course is designed for new, aspirant crofters, or anyone else interested in the traditional way of life and will get you up to speed with all things croft related from CAP reform to animal welfare, diversification and much more.

2 day course run in collaboration with the Scottish Crofting Federation.

A fee will apply. Contact us for more details.

Are you on a hall committee? There will be sessions on using technology to help your hall, learning about what other halls are doing, and understanding ways to make your hall the best it can be.

Saturday 20th
St Andrew's
Community Hall
10.30am – 4.00pm

**Annual Community
Halls meeting**

PQASSO, the Practical Quality Assurance System for Small Organisations, is a tool that third sector organisations can use to identify what they do well and improve areas of their work such as managing money, communications and service delivery. We will be running a course on implementing PQASSO if numbers allow, please contact us to find out more.

LOCAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

COSCA Certificate in Counselling Skills, UHI Orkney College, August 2014

One night a week over 2014/15 with 4 weekend sessions.

For an application form and draft timetable, tel 01856 56900 or email orkney.college@uhi.ac.uk

ILA funding available.

Orkney Alcohol and Drug Partnership upcoming training

11 th September	Alcohol Brief Interventions
18 th September	Legally High? New psychoactive substances training
1 st or 2 nd October	Resolv: Solvent Abuse, still a problem?
5 th November	Legally High? New psychoactive substances training
18 th November	Alcohol Brief Interventions
2 nd & 3 rd December	STRADA: Children and Families affected by parental substance misuse

For more information or to book a place contact sharlenemcalister@nhs.net or debbie.lewsley@nhs.net

Fuel Poverty & Awareness Training, 16th September, Kirkwall, FREE course

This course is aimed at front line staff who look after the health, wellbeing and social welfare of vulnerable clients. The course aims to:

- Improve understanding of domestic energy efficiency and the impact of fuel poverty on vulnerable, low income households
- Raise awareness of schemes/grants and other support mechanisms for energy efficiency improvements, creating an effective means for linking those in need with the help that's available.

To book a place contact Rose Ann Porteous at Energy Action Scotland

Tel: 0141 226 3064, Email: rose-ann.porteous@eas.org.uk

TRAINING SOUTH

Safer Communities Scotland has a number of training events that may be of interest to local organisations or individuals as well as further events. More info can be found at <http://www.safercommunitiesscotland.org/>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTERPRISE

Investment Readiness Workshop

At Social Investment Scotland, being a social enterprise and a charity ourselves, we understand the concern of third sector organisations when it comes to raising finance. We therefore work with organisations to support their understanding so that they are able to make fully informed decisions which best suit their mission and objectives. We have teamed up with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to hold a workshop in Orkney on Tuesday 2 September 2014.

The workshop will provide:

- a space for reflection to overcome real or perceived barriers relating to moving away from grant dependency to a mix of financial income
- the chance to explore any ingrained and strongly held beliefs that may be hindering your ability to look proactively at taking on loan finance.
- an overview of investment finance
- a conduit for one to one business and financial support if required by participants

To apply for a place or register your interest in attending this workshop, please contact Sue Walker sue@socialinvestmentscotland.com. There is no charge for attending.

The Social Growth Fund from Social Investment Scotland

The Social Growth Fund represents a major funding boost for Scotland's social enterprises and third sector organisations as a result of significant new investments from both the Scottish Government and Big Society Capital, the UK wide, independent organisation that has been set up to grow the size of the social investment marketplace.

Over the next three years, Social Investment Scotland will have access to up to £16m of new investment. As well as an expansion of existing activity, this significant new funding will launch a new, impact led, risk capital fund. This fund has been developed in consultation with our customers and is aligned to widely identified gaps in the Scottish social investment marketplace. Key developments are as follows:

- new risk capital product to the Scottish social investment marketplace, providing long term finance from £100,000 up to £1m with repayment tailored to each organisation's needs. Around £10m will be available for investments of this type.
- core loan products from as little at £10,000, suitable for a range of purposes including everything from property purchase to working capital; as well as our popular bridging loan product
- the maximum investment amount of £250,000 will be removed and for the first time we will be able to offer flexible finance packages from £10,000 to £1m, tailored to individual business plans.

In tandem with this new funding, Social Investment Scotland is also announcing the roll-out of a new investment readiness programme, designed to increase the knowledge, awareness and confidence of

organisations looking to take on investment. In addition, we are adopting a new outcomes matrix to measure and report the social impact of our activity.

Further information is available [here](#) and any initial fund enquiries can be emailed to sgf@socialinvestmentscotland.com or you can submit your details

CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES

Orkney School Bus transport contract opportunity

Provision of local bus and school transport services throughout Orkney. The successful contractor(s) will be required to commence operations on 5 January 2015. Contract(s) will expire on 31 March 2020. There are quite a few associated documents and specifications associated with this tender, please follow this [link](#) to find out more.

Orkney Energy Audit

To research, write and produce a quantitative study of Orkney's recent and foreseeable energy landscape.

SCOPE - To quantify existing energy sources and energy uses; updating and refreshing previous audits.

To indicate the potential suitability and value of converting uses of imported energy into indigenous, electrically-derived demand.

BACKGROUND - Limits within the electrical distribution network both around Orkney and to the UK national grid are restricting the productive use of renewable resources.

In parallel with attempts to improve export capacity, renewables generators and other interested parties want to establish fully the sources and uses of energy across transport, heating and power by the domestic, private and public sectors.

The Orkney Energy Audit will also identify opportunities to displace imported energy with locally sourced alternatives that provide better value to people in Orkney. For more information or to register your interest, follow this [link](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Scottish Green Bus Fund

Community transport operators in Scotland have until 1 August 2014 to apply for funding from the fifth round. Transport Scotland is providing £4.75 million, the largest amount yet allocated to the Fund, for Round five.

The Scottish Green Bus Fund aims to support the wider roll out of low carbon buses across Scotland. The fund has been established to accelerate the deployment of low carbon buses onto Scotland's roads to combat the rising CO2 emissions from buses and coaches (45% increase since 1970) and contribute to the target set in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2020.

Bids should relate to buses which will be used on routes in Scotland. Bids relating to routes which cross the boundary into England will be considered, provided they start or finish in Scotland and operate substantially in Scotland. In addition, buses must be used on at least one local bus service. Bids will be accepted from applicants who have previously received funding under the scheme, however, they will be required to confirm that the buses they are seeking funding for under this round are additional to those which were previously funded.

Bids can be made for grants to help buy new LCVs. This includes both double-decker and single-decker buses and midibuses (but not minibuses). Funding can only be used to help meet the upfront cost of buying one or more new low carbon buses.

Grants will be offered to successful bidders for up to 80% of the price differential between a low carbon vehicle (LCV) and its diesel equivalent. No more than £1.5 million will be offered to any one bidder (though joint bids can be submitted for more than £1 million). The maximum grant per bus is 80% of the difference between the cost of the low carbon bus and the cost of its standard diesel equivalent as set out in the bid.

Bids are invited from the following:

- Bus operators, including community transport operators.
- Local authorities (LAs).
- Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs).
- Companies leasing/renting buses to the above bodies in Scotland.

Bidders may submit joint bids (eg two or more local authorities, two or more bus companies, a joint local authority/operator bid). However, they will need to make clear how they would work together if their bid was accepted. **The deadline for applications is 1 August 2014.** Full details can be found on the Transport Scotland [website](#)

The Robertson Trust

The Robertson Trust are an independent grant-maker and are willing to take risks and support new ideas; however, they will also fund ongoing work which can show it makes a difference. Donations can take the form of core funding including salaries and general running costs, project grants or capital grants for building or equipment.

The Trust's seven priority areas are Care, Health, Education & Training, Community Arts, Community Sport, Alcohol Misuse and Criminal Justice.

Further categories for support include: the preservation of the environment, the strengthening of local communities, heritage, culture and science, animal welfare and the saving of lives.

For more info visit <http://www.therobertsontrust.org.uk/>

The People's Postcode Trust has re-opened its Small Grants Programme to applications from not-for-profit organisations in Scotland and Wales for its Third Quarter funding round.

The Trust has announced a key change for this quarter. Because of an increasing demand for funding, the Trust will only accept applications for projects that advance citizenship or community development. Advancing community development involves creating opportunities for the community to learn new skills and, by enabling people to act together, helps further social inclusion and equality.

The Trust is looking for projects that engage local communities and leaves a positive long term impact beyond the duration of funding. Priority will be given to projects that are focused on improving life for disadvantaged groups and encouraging their inclusion within society.

Projects that have a focus on sport, health, reducing poverty, environmental improvement or the advancement of human rights are still eligible for funding as long as they are strong in meeting the above community development criterion.

Grants of between £500 and £20,000 are available for projects in Scotland lasting up to 12 months. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects in Wales lasting up to six months. Registered charities, SCIOs, constituted voluntary and community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, not-for-profit organisations and sports clubs are eligible to apply.

The deadline for Third Quarter applications is 22 August 2014.