

## Community Resilience Group Weekly Briefing - 13 16 April 2021

### EU Resettlement Scheme

The EU Settlement Scheme Adviser based at Inverness, Badenoch & Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau is trying to reach out to EU, EEA, Swiss nationals and non EEA family members who have not registered with the scheme and to make them aware they must register before the deadline of **30<sup>th</sup> June 2021** if they wish to remain living in the UK. If they do not register they may be unlawfully resident in the UK from **1<sup>st</sup> July 2021**.

A poster in support is attached and please cascade if you work with anyone that this might apply to or share across your communities.

Should any need support or are experiencing difficulties making applications, please contact:

Wilma Verhaere  
EU Support Scheme Specialist Adviser  
Inverness, Badenoch & Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau  
01463 237664  
Mobile: 07393801337

### Scottish Parliament Election

Just a reminder that the deadline for registering to vote is coming up next week. If someone has already received a poll card, then they are registered to vote.

How to register to vote:

- You can register to vote online at: [Register to vote](#) or you can request a paper invitation to register by calling **0800 393 783**
- The deadline to register to vote is: **19 April 2021**

### Community Support Co-ordinators

As mentioned in previous briefings, the Council is just about to start recruiting to 10 Community Support Co-ordinators. Located across Highland, these are full time, temporary posts for 12 months which will work to co-ordinate and deliver humanitarian and resilience support, building community capacity and resilience through active engagement with a range of bodies including community and public sector organisations.

The posts will also support engagement activity related to the implementation of the Community Empowerment Act and the Council's 'Placed Based approach', including

developing local relationships and networks with community bodies, encouraging participation and involvement, with an emphasis on addressing poverty and recovery.

The posts will be part of the Community Support and Ward Management team and although based in one area, will work as part of the wider area-based team to support projects and activity across the broader area.

The posts will shortly be advertised via myjobscotland and once advertised, will be shared with community groups.

[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/highland-council/jobs?type=internal,external](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/highland-council/jobs?type=internal,external)

## **New Priority Service Register website launched**

A new Priority Service Register website has been launched to help customers of Scotland's electricity and water networks know what support is available to them in their area. The website links direct to registration pages to make the registration process easy.

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution, SP Energy Networks (SPEN) and Scottish Water, have each been running their own Priority Services Registers (PSR) for several years, offering free support to customers during a power cut or an interruption to local water supplies.

Customers are eligible to register if they: are deaf or hard of hearing, have a disability, live with children under five, are blind or partially sighted, have a chronic illness, are over 60, depend on electricity or water for home or medical care, or feel they may need additional support, even for a temporary period of time.

The new service will make it easier than ever to raise awareness of the additional support available nationwide, encouraging sign-ups from customers who may be eligible but are not yet registered for priority services.

To learn more about the free help and support that is available in your area and check if you or someone you know may be eligible, visit the new PSR Scotland website at [PSRScotland.com](http://PSRScotland.com).

## **Funding**

### **SSE Resilient Communities Fund – North of Scotland**

Scottish and Southern Energy have announced the launch of a £480,000 fund to build local resilience and protect vulnerable community members.

The aim is to fund local projects that will:

- Protect the welfare of vulnerable community members through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.
- Enhance community facilities, services and communication – particularly to support local response to a significant emergency event

Who can apply:

The fund is targeted at non-profit making organisations, community groups and charities working in the north of Scotland.

The deadline for applications is 10 June

For more details and how to apply please go to: [www.ssen.co.uk/RCF/Scotland/](http://www.ssen.co.uk/RCF/Scotland/)

## **Vaccination Update**

The latest update from NHS on the vaccine can be accessed at the following link: [www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)

## **Food Support for Groups**

We know that a number of you continue to provide support to the most vulnerable in your communities and that most of you already have well defined routes for accessing food to provide this support or are supporting individuals to access their shopping or community fridges/food tables.

If you are struggling to access food to continue support to vulnerable people locally, please do contact us through the policy mailbox and we can look at ways that we can support your group going forward.

Contact: [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## **Resilience Network Contacts**

Should any group not already be involved with these networks, the contact details for each is below.

- Caithness – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Alan Tait at Caithness Voluntary Groups [allan@cvq.org.uk](mailto:allan@cvq.org.uk)
- Sutherland – If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karina Ross at Highland and Islands Enterprise [karina.ross@hient.co.uk](mailto:karina.ross@hient.co.uk)
- East Ross – Helen Ross, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Black Isle - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Asia Cielecka at [communities@black-isle.info](mailto:communities@black-isle.info)

- Wester Ross and Dingwall – Dot Ferguson, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Skye and Raasay - If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Fiona Thomson at Skye Community Response Development Team [fiona@portreeandbraes.org](mailto:fiona@portreeandbraes.org)
- Lochaber – Emma Tayler, Assistant Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- B&S –If any groups aren't involved and wish to be please contact Karen Derrick [enquires@vabs.org.uk](mailto:enquires@vabs.org.uk)
- Inverness City – David Haas, City Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Inverness Rural – Charles Stephen, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network. For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)
- Nairn – Willie Munro, Ward Manager, will facilitate this network For future involvement in this network please contact [policy6@highland.gov.uk](mailto:policy6@highland.gov.uk)

## Helpful Links

Welfare Support Team - [www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/102970/benefit\\_advice](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/102970/benefit_advice)

Self Isolation Support Grant - [www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation\\_support\\_grant](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/940/self-isolation_support_grant)

Fuel Support Fund

[www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/fuelsupportfund)

Energy Advice

[energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org](mailto:energyadvisors@hi.homeenergyscotland.org)

AbilityNet - IT advice or support AbilityNet  
Helpline 0800 048 7642.

Business Support Grants -

[www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic\\_framework\\_business\\_fund](http://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20016/coronavirus/945/strategic_framework_business_fund)

Covid Resilience Grant Support -

[www.highland.gov.uk/directory\\_record/1422811/supporting\\_community\\_resilience/category/155/grants\\_for\\_community\\_groups](http://www.highland.gov.uk/directory_record/1422811/supporting_community_resilience/category/155/grants_for_community_groups)

HTSI Community Group Helpline

Telephone Number 01349 808022

Winter Conditioning reports -

[www.highland.gov.uk/news](http://www.highland.gov.uk/news)