

Community Resilience Briefing – 7 October 2022

Dear Community Resilience Group/Community Council/Colleagues,

Welcome to The Highland Council's fortnightly briefing for groups with an interest in local community resilience.

Winter Vaccination Programme

- Public Health Scotland colleagues have recently translated information on the Covid and Flu vaccinations being offered as part of the Winter Vaccination Programme. This includes 36 community languages and British Sign Language versions, accessible here: [Other languages - winter vaccines | NHS inform](#)

Covid related information

- [Scottish Government Covid-19 Guidance](#)
- [NHS Inform Covid data](#)
- [NHS Inform Covid information and guidance](#)
- [NHS Highland local vaccination information](#) – this includes information on the winter Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Flu vaccination programme which is now underway.

Funding

[SCVO](#) is a key source of funding information for the third sector. Funds that may be of interest include:

- [The Scottish Hydro Electric Community Trust](#)
This trust offers help to customers faced with high charges for an electricity connection within the Scottish Hydro-Electric Distribution area. Applications are considered four times a year.
- [Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Community Asset Ownership](#)
Designed to assist communities purchasing land or other fixed assets. Offers financial assistance with capacity building, start-up assistance with early investigations of proposed purchases, and technical assistance in the pre-acquisition stage and bid preparation. Applications can be made at any time.
- [HISEZ - Fusion Young Enterprise Continuation Fund](#)
provides grants to school groups who have started a school-based business to take it forward as a serious business with the intent of generating income. Apply at any time.
- [Winter Discretionary Payments Scheme](#) - Members of The Highland Council's City of Inverness Area Committee have agreed to continue the Winter Discretionary Payments Scheme for eligible people in the Inverness area for 2022/23.

- [Employability Challenge Funds](#) - Utilising Scottish Government funding in support of No One Left Behind, Highland Council on behalf of the Highland Employability Partnership has launched two challenge funds designed to help people living in the Highlands who could benefit from employability support services.

Welfare, poverty reduction and resilience

- [Help During the Cost of Living Crisis](#) - The Scottish Government have created this webpage to signpost to support available during this cost-of-living crisis. Support is available for:
 - Energy and bills
 - Benefits and income
 - Children and families
 - Debt and money
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Older or disabled people
 - Support for businesses
- [Electrical Safety Fund](#) - The Fund aims to keep people safe in their homes, with a focus on tackling risks associated with electrical products, increasing the public's awareness of electrical safety, and promoting changes in behaviour.

Applicants are invited to apply for up to £5,000 per organisation (potentially up to £10k for joint or larger projects). The grants are available to consumer safety organisations in the community, such as Fire & Rescue Services, Trading Standards teams and charities, to deliver effective electrical safety initiatives at local level aimed at addressing the problems of misuse and/or lack of maintenance of electrical products. Deadline 23 October 2022.

- **Cyber Scotland**
 - CyberFirst Girls Competition - The CyberFirst Girls' Competition (S2) provides a fun but challenging environment to inspire the next generation of young women to consider a career in cyber security. [Registration is open.](#)
 - [Introduction to cyber security for staff](#) - This free online resource provides non-technical advice aimed at individuals looking to improve their cyber security practices.
- [Highland Council Help with the Cost of Living](#) - The Highland Council has created this webpage to provide information and resources to assist with the current cost of living crisis, including mental health and consumer advice.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- [NHS Highland Mental Wellbeing](#) – a collection of resources and signposts to help people of all ages to look after their own mental wellbeing.
- [Cost of living crisis and your mental health](#)
Many people are feeling the strain as the cost of living continues to increase. This [resource](#) provides information on how you can maintain your mental wellbeing at this time, alongside information on how to manage your money as bills rise.

Emergency Planning

- Met Office Weather Warnings <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/uk-warnings#?date=2022-08-11>
- Met Office Weather Ready <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready>
- Floodline Scotland <https://floodlinescotland.org.uk/>
- Ready Scotland – preparing for emergencies <https://ready.scot/>

Other

- **The National Counter Terrorism Security Office** has published The Blue Book, a handy guide offering advice options around the implementation of a personal security plan. The Blue Book signposts to valuable sources of information, guidance, whilst providing advice on how to stay safe at home, on the move and online.

To access you must be registered to the ProtectUK platform.

Read this practical guide and increase your personal security knowledge:
<https://matomo.protectuk.police.uk/434b11>