

Community Resilience Briefing – 16 June 2023

Dear Community Resilience Group/Community Council/Colleagues,

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

Funding

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

- [Essentia Foundation](#)
Financially supports charities and community groups that help improve the health and social welfare of children and young people up to the age of 25 years or increase opportunities for training, enhancing learning, upskilling, and developing career opportunities, supporting young people up to 25 years of age. Next deadline 27 Jun 2023.
- [Creative Scotland - Participatory Arts and Mental Health Fund](#)
Aims to increase and improve the quality of arts and mental health provision in participatory settings at a community level. Supporting groups and organisations to try out new approaches or developing existing work with people with mental health problems. Next deadline 18 July 2023.
- [Scottish Forestry - Forestry Grant Scheme - Harvesting and Processing](#)
Funding is intended to help bring woodlands into management, promoting the economic and sustainable production of timber and timber products, add value and jobs to local economics, and provide support to facilitate and enable diversification. Next deadline 1 August 2023.

[SSEN Resilient Communities Fund 2023](#) – is now open for applications, with a total of £157,000 available to eligible community groups, community councils, and charities in the north of Scotland SSEN Network area. Grants will range from £1,000 to £10,000 for single area projects, although exceptional multi-community applications may be considered up to a maximum of £40,000.

Deadline for applications is 5pm 31 July 2023 and applicants are asked to consider the following criteria for funding, which seeks to support projects falling under these two categories. Full details and documents are attached and available through the above link.

- Resilience for emergency events – to enhance community facilities, services, and communication specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant emergency such as extended power loss.
- Vulnerability – to protect the welfare of vulnerable community members particularly during significant emergency events such as extended power loss, through enhancing their resilience and improving community participation and effectiveness.

Successful applications will be announced in the autumn. SSEN Distribution will be developing and launching a new fund in late autumn 2023. While continuing to support community resilience, this

new fund will seek to include environmental resilience and the adoption of low carbon technologies. Full details will be announced later this year.

Welfare, poverty reduction and resilience

- **[Water Scarcity Report](#)** – This week’s water scarcity report shows the first significant risk this year (around the Loch Maree area), while the Ness area is now at moderate scarcity. It is concerning to reach these stages this early in the summer and the next few months will be challenging for those relying on the water environment to run their businesses. Little rain is forecast for the next few weeks, businesses are being urged to use water wisely and put their water scarcity plans into action now to reduce pressure on the environment and preserve water resources.
- **[Community Council Election Timetable 2023](#)** – Elections for community councils will be held soon. The notice of Election and further guidance will be published 4 September 2023 and the deadline for submitting nomination papers will be 3 October 2023. For the full timetable and further guidance see the [elections webpage](#).
- **ProtectUk Forums** - These forums provide an opportunity for businesses to share views and collaborate on security, counter terrorism and much more. To get more involved visit: <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/forum>
- **MOVEit Transfer Software Critical Vulnerability** – A critical vulnerability has been discovered and exploited by threat actors in MOVEit Transfer software that could lead to potential unauthorised access to the environment. MOVEit Transfer customers should take immediate action to protect themselves while an update is created. See [vendor best practice advice](#) and organisations affected by this vulnerability can [report incidents here](#).
- **[CyberScotland Bulletin June 2023](#)** – This month’s topics include the cloud security guidance from NCSC, new cyber security training, and information about the latest online scams including one targeting Outlook and Hotmail users.
- **[Cost of living support](#)** – Highland Council webpages on support and information to help with the cost of living.
- **[Help during the cost-of-living crisis](#)** – Scottish Government advice and information.
- **Energy Advice** - Inverness Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau offer free, impartial energy advice to householders. We provide advice to help reduce household energy use, save money, and understand energy bills and support householders to manage energy debt. This can be done in person, over the phone or by video call. We can be contacted on 01463 219742 or email energy@invernesscab.org

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. Register for the event by following the link.
- **[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=2022-11-04>
- Met Office Weather Ready <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/weatherready>
- [Scottish Flood Forecasting](#) – Provides up to date information on when and where flooding is expected to occur over a three-day period.
- Floodline Scotland <https://floodlinescotland.org.uk/>
- [Ready Scotland – preparing for emergencies](#) <https://ready.scot/>