## SEVR2026 Country Profile: Scotland (based on the information available in April 2026)

Scotland's profile demonstrates established conditions designed to facilitate volunteering: the Volunteering Action Plan (2022–2032) provides an adopted strategy, the Saltire Awards and Volunteers' Week anchor recognition, and volunteer.scot serves as the national information platform. There is however "no overarching legal framework that considers volunteers" and the Volunteer Charter is "not statutory and … not enforced"; co-created policy "is not the norm"; volunteer time is not counted as co-financing; volunteering is not yet consistently embedded in education; and there is no specific volunteer insurance, cover being a "case by case decision". Dedicated funding for volunteering is also lacking, and the Action Plan is noted elsewhere as unfunded.

A visible recovery in formal volunteering in Scotland sits atop a deeper structural strain, namely the headline rise coexists with widening inequality and eroding entry pathways. The "cost-of-living" pressure is named explicitly as the force eroding informal and community pathways, grounding the decline in material conditions rather than changing preferences.

| | Indicator | SEVR2026 Country Profile: Scotland |
|---|---|---|
| **Emerging Volunteering Patterns**<br>**Source: Trends section of CFS** | Flexible/short-term/episodic engagement | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Digitalisation/online/e-volunteering | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Rise/dominance of informal volunteering | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Decline/falling volunteer numbers | Decline in overall volunteer numbers, though a visible recovery in formal volunteering sits atop a deeper structural strain. |
| | Ageing/loss of older volunteers | Loss of older volunteers. |
| | Professionalisation/skills-based management | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Widening inequality barriers to access | Widening inequality and eroding entry pathways, with cost-of-living pressure named as the force eroding informal and community pathways. |
| | Corporate / employee / CSR volunteering | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Rising youth/student participation | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Skills/employability-driven motivation | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Crisis-driven engagement | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Recruitment & retention difficulty | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Public-institution partnership/socialisation | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |
| | Formalisation/legal recognition | No evidence of this trend has been recorded. |

| BEV2030 indicators<br><br>1.3.2 Volunteer time that does not replace paid jobs can be used for the co-financing/ co-resourcing of grants. | 1.3.2 Co-financing with volunteer time | **Absent.** Volunteer time is not counted as co-financing. Programmes are covered from core funding rather than grants. |
|---|---|---|
| 1.4.1 Not for profit volunteer centres and platforms receive sufficient public funding. | 1.4.1 Sufficient funding | **Absent.** Infrastructure bodies are funded but there is no dedicated, secure funding for volunteering itself. |
| 1.5.2 The co-creation of public policies becomes the norm and the opportunities offered by participatory decision making processes are fully explored and exploited. | 1.5.2 Co-creation of public policies | **Absent.** Co-created policy is not the norm. A Third Sector Partnership Agreement is committed but not yet statutory. |
| 2.1.4 Suitable and sufficient public support is provided to volunteer infrastructure organisation to have the capacity to support and guide these **new forms** of volunteering. | 2.1.4 Suitable & sufficient support to 5 volunteering contexts: informal groups, local administrations, national public authorities, educational institutions, business sector actors. | **Partial/emerging.**<br>Support is documented for national public authorities, and business (though a 2026 Employer-supported volunteering framework). Support provided to the five contexts is unevenly developed and documented. |
| 2.3.3 Every volunteer has a suitable and accessible point of information or reference point to channel their questions and suggestions. | 2.3.3 Accessible point of information | **Established.** The official platform is volunteer.scot. Local access via volunteer-involving organisations confirmed. |
| 3.1.1 Civic education and Service Learning are introduced more widely into the formal education systems to increase awareness of volunteering and civil society not only for children and young people but also their wider networks of families and friends. | 3.1.1 Education: Civic / Service Learning | **Partial/emerging.** Volunteering in the curriculum is in progress, not delivered in a consistent way across the country. |
| 3.3.2 Suitable volunteering development strategies that are crosscutting and transversal for different policy fields and sectors are developed. | 3.3.2 Strategy | **Established.** The Volunteering Action Plan (2022–2032) is an adopted framework, though noted as unfunded. |
| 3.4.1 Legal frameworks for volunteering are adapted and evolve to take this, and other societal and behavioural changes into account. In this way, in addition to the more formal and structured engagement that legal frameworks are frequently focused on, they will be more suitable to facilitate and enable different forms of voluntary engagement, rather than restrict engagement as can be currently the case, unlocking further potential. | 3.4.1 Legal framework | **Absent.** There is no overarching legal framework that considers volunteers. The Volunteer Charter is not statutory and is not enforced. |
| 4.1.2 Opportunities for public recognition for the action of volunteers, citizens and associations through awards, volunteer weeks and festivals etc. are provided and increased. | 4.1.2 Recognition | **Established.** The Saltire Awards and Volunteers' Week provide established national recognition. |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5.2.1 Volunteering is included as an integral part of the community planning for crisis prevention and response. | 5.2.1 Crisis prevention & response | **Partial/emerging.** Emergency and first-aid volunteering is a small share. There is no documented planned community integration. |
| 5.4.2 Volunteers are provided with the necessary support and protection through suitable accident and third party liability insurance. | 5.4.2 Insurance | **Absent.** There is no specific volunteer insurance provision. Insurance coverage is decided on a case-by-case basis, under organisations' public liability policies. |