

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network



YOUR VOICE • YOUR NETWORK

Annual Report 2017-18

Chairperson's Remarks

At this time, I wish to take some time to reflect on the work of the organisation over the past eighteen months or so, and look to the future. In the year and a half just passed North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network has experienced a period of rapid change and restructure.

We moved from serving only the West of Glasgow to serving the whole of the North West Sector of the City, an area with a population of 197,375, broadly equal to the population of Aberdeen City and greater than that of Perth and Dundee combined. This was a huge task to take on and great strides have been made in engaging with our members across that large area.

This work has included our twice-yearly training programmes tailored to the declared needs of our members, and our mentoring pilot, which, at the time of writing, has been completed and is being evaluated.

Given the changing landscape within which we all work, and the continuing financial restrictions we face, it is gratifying to be reporting on a healthy, stable organisation that continues to contribute significantly to the development of its membership.

I wish to thank our members for their commitment. I also wish to thank my fellow committee members for their contribution to the life of the organisation, Glasgow Community Planning Partnership for their recognition and support for our work, our auditors Alexander Sloan for their services, and last, but not least, our small staff team for their tremendous efforts.

As I look forward to the coming year, it is clear that the organisation will need to capitalise on the experience and expertise of our staff and committee, and expand its income base. This will ensure that North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network continues to make an important contribution to existing and emerging priorities for our members. Key themes for the year ahead will include Glasgow City Council's review of its Integrated Grant Fund, and the development of the participatory budgeting process across the City.

Tam Munro, Chair of North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network



Our Mission

The network works to provide a coherent and collective voice for the voluntary sector in North West Glasgow and to assure the best interests of the communities we work with and for.

Membership

160

NWGVSN is a membership **MEMBERS** organisation of around 160 voluntary sector organisations in North West Glasgow. It is open to all voluntary sector organisations that deliver services and or support local people in that area.



Governance and Management

The Network is a registered charity, managed by an Executive Committee of 9 individuals who are experienced voluntary sector workers who share their knowledge and wisdom with the network to help it progress and grow. The Committee meets regularly to support and advise the network manager, plan and steer the direction of the network and use its skills and experience to forward plan.

The Committee members are:

Liz Atkinson -Secretary, Drumchapel Community Business and KCEDG

Joyce Bell, G15 Youth Project

Audrey Edmonds, West Glasgow Childcare Forum

Peter Lavelle, Glasgow Wood Recycling Project

Mark McRitchie, Community Central Halls

Gary Gentles, Knightswood Community Centre

Dougie Taylor, Development and Regeneration Drumchapel Life

Tam Munro -chair, Peterson Park Tenants Hall

Sandy Busby, Yoker Resource Centre

During the year the Network had 4, part time employees and 1 sessional worker, Martina Johnston-Gray, Alastair Smith, Grace Craigon, Lynn Lovelock & Dawn Edmiston.

What we achieved in 2017-18

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network has been in operation for a year now, striving to make sure the voices of our members are heard at all levels, locally, at a sector level, at a city level and sometimes nationwide. We continue to provide opportunities for members to meet, with regular network meetings. We keep members up to date with news and new initiatives by providing a regular newsletter and up to date information on social media. We provide opportunities to train and learn through our regular educational programme. We also provided support to members through our mentor project, sharing skills, experience and knowledge between members.

Training

The network knows how valuable our members are, we want to support them to develop, grow and to help them provide the services they want to the people they work with and for.

126

TRAINING PLACES

We run two training programmes a year, providing good quality free training to our members. We consult with our members on these courses to make sure they are responsive to the skills and knowledge they say they need.

To date we have provided 126 training spaces, on topics such as 1st aid, Outdoor play, GDPR, Fire warden, Good Governance. We have also worked in partnership with our members providing small pots of funding to support training that wasn't on our timetable helping members to build capacity and upskill staff.

Network meetings

NWGVSN know the importance of meeting up, creating opportunities to meet up with colleagues from different areas, exchange ideas, hear and share news and learn about new initiatives. It's also a chance for members to show case their premises and projects, over the last year we've held meetings all over the North West, including Ruchill, Scotstoun and Knightswood to name but a few. The network also recognises the social aspect of the meetings. The quick catch up that happens before the meetings can be a great way to connect and we have tried to facilitate this by providing lunch before the meeting starts. We're responsive to what our members want to discuss, theming the meetings round your issues and ideas.

Communication

58

NEWS LETTERS

During the period we issued 58 newsletters. We currently have 283 followers on twitter, which increases every month. In 1 month alone we had 12.7k impressions, which means that over 12, 000 people have seen our tweets!

The network continued to provide information to the members, through the newsletter and social media, keeping everyone up to date with what's happening locally, across the city and nationally. The newsletter was also an opportunity for members to share their news, updates and events. Job adverts have been a popular addition, where members can advertise any vacancies they have free of charge. We have slowly grown our readership over the last year with at least half of the members receiving the newsletter reading at least 1 article. Over the next year, with our members help, we hope to increase this further.

What we achieved in 2017-18

Community Planning Area Partnership Reps'

The network continued to be a conduit between the community planning partnership in the North West of the City, supporting the voluntary sector reps' to fully participate in the Community Planning area partnership meetings. We have increased support to reps' providing an induction package, re introduced regular rep' meetings, and have begun community engagement exercises in the ward areas to make sure we have local intelligence from our members to feed in to the meeting.

We have been aware that although the voluntary sector are members of the meeting, there has been no place on the agenda to feedback. Through the hard work of the reps and consistent lobbying from the network, we have secured a voluntary sector standing agenda item and will be working with the rep's to make the most of this opportunity over the coming year.



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Mentor Project

There is a wealth of knowledge, experience and skill within the network, in recognition of this, we created a mentor project to provide an opportunity for members to receive or provide support for their member colleagues.

5
MENTORS

We recruited 5 members who felt they were able to reflect on their work and could support people to reach identified goals. We provided training and a set of paper work to help mentors provide appropriate support.

We then recruited a group of 6 participants who had felt they could benefit from a mentor relationship. We matched up the mentors and participants supporting the relationships as they progressed.

6
PARTICIPANTS

At the time of writing evaluation of the project is ongoing, but initial findings are very positive where participants have made great progress with most reaching their agreed goals. Mentors have also reported they have learned a lot from the experience, gaining skills that they will take into their wider work.

Participatory Budgeting: 3C Community Choices Canal

The Network Manager was approached by Glasgow City Council to support the development of a citizen's panel in Canal Ward, as part of a wider Participatory Budgeting initiative that will see £1 million allocated to 4 geographical areas and 1 community

of interest, for citizens to make decisions about how a council budget is spent.

The network saw this a good opportunity to engage with more members in the North of the city as well as be part of this new council initiative. During the Summer months the network had a presence at local gala day and fun days in Canal ward meeting with local people to let them know about more about Participatory budgeting and how they could get involved. We also visited projects and worked with our existing members to make sure those people who don't usually get the chance to be heard got the opportunity to get involved.

In total we engaged with 750 people and now have a panel of 14 people who will undertake training and lead the next stage of the process.

ENGAGED WITH **750** PEOPLE. RECRUITED **14** PANEL MEMBERS

What we achieved in 2017-18

Partnership working

The network recognises the value of partnerships and we have worked with our health and social care partnership colleagues to co-host an event for people who use or provide services for people with disabilities. This was an opportunity to connect people to services and hear about the benefit of services for those who use them. Feedback from the event was very positive, and there was a call to have more events in the future.



We also worked with Glasgow Community Planning Partnership's local Development Officer to raise awareness of the small area grants fund in Victoria Park and Partick East & Kelvin-dale wards. We undertook an engagement exercise in each area to increase awareness of the area partnerships, the small grants and the benefits of joining the network. We then co-hosted events in both wards, talking people through the application process and encouraging people to submit applications. We have increased our membership as a consequence of the work and hope to see an increase in applications to the fund.



Future plans

We have really enjoyed our first full year as the North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network and getting to know you, our members.

Our plans for next year include:

- ◆ Creating 'mini networks' in each ward area to ensure the flow of local information to and from the area partnership meetings.
- ◆ Aiming to seek funding for our Mentor project to offer more opportunities to be a mentor or get the support of one.
- ◆ Keeping a close eye on the review of the Integrated Grant Fund, to ensure that our members are able to influence the outcome as much as possible.

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