

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network



YOUR VOICE • YOUR NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

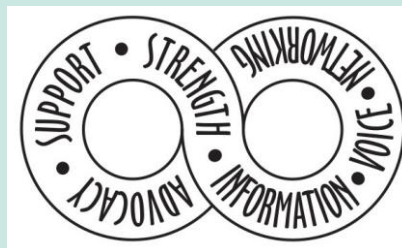
Chairperson's Statement

The last year has been a significant one for the Network. During it we established ourselves across the North West Sector of Glasgow and carried out some seriously important work in the process. Apart from establishing ourselves across a wider area, with very effective use of newsletters, social media and shoe leather, two particular areas of endeavour stand out.

The first is the excellent work of supporting the participatory budgeting pilot in Canal. Working to meet a diverse community's aspirations is never easy, but the meticulous and inclusive process that was followed smoothed the journey to a successful conclusion.

The second was the Network's tremendous endeavour in providing a two-way flow of information between our members and the Community Planning Partnership during the creation of the new Glasgow Communities Fund. Two punchy and relevant surveys resulted in our members' views being conveyed to Glasgow City Council at key moments.

I must commend all the staff for their indefatigable efforts and thank my fellow committee members for their support and commitment. Finally, I would wish all our members good luck for a stressful few months ahead.



Meet the Team

Our Committee: **Tam Munro** -chair Peterson Park Tenants Hall, **Liz Atkinson** -Secretary Drumchapel Community Business and KCEDG, **Joyce Bell** G15 Youth Project, **Sandy Busby** Yoker Resource Centre, **Audrey Edmonds** West Glasgow Childcare Forum, **Gary Gentles** Knightswood Community Centre, **Peter Lavelle** Glasgow Wood Recycling Project, **Mark McRitchie** Community Central Hall, **Jill McKay** North United Communities, **Dougie Taylor** Development and Regeneration Drumchapel Life,

Our Staff This year we welcomed a new staff member, **Rebeka Rodrigo**, who brings a wealth of knowledge on mental health and community development. **Lynn Lovelock** continues to work for the network, providing her considerable knowledge of social media, communications and marketing. Network Manager, **Martina Johnston-Gray** remains in post and focused on facilitation and Participatory Budgeting this year.

What we achieved in 2018-19

What did 2018-19 look like?

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network has been in operation for over 2 years now and has really enjoyed getting to know the members and the communities they serve.

A lot of the last year has focused on funding, which has been on people's minds for some time; Glasgow City Council decided to stop the Integrated Grant Fund and to move to a new way of funding the Third sector and partners. The first meetings and consultations about this in November 2018, appeared promising, as the fund would encourage full cost recovery, be opened to new applicants and would look much more at outcomes and impact. This was welcomed by members, but as the process moved on some concerns were raised; the type and delivery of third sector consultation, the speed at which the new fund was introduced and the main issue - how the third sector felt the new fund was done to them not with them.

The network has always pushed for a transparent and open funding process and it is hoped that this new fund brings opportunities to members and the people they serve in communities.

Training

Over the last year we have provided 251 FREE training places for members.

We value our members and their volunteers and continue to provide free training that helps them provide the best services they can for local people.

All training is decided by members, through surveys and consultations at network meetings and this year we were asked to provide training for member volunteers. We ran two, 12-week Adult Achievement Award courses in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College, in the North and West of the city.

We also continued to provide training for our members, some of the training we provided this year includes; First aid, Food Hygiene, Finance for Non-Finance People, Mindfulness and Self-care for Third Sector Staff, Mental health Awareness and Basic Interventions and Autism Awareness.

This is your network, please continue to let us know what training you need.



Network Meetings

We know the importance of connections, connecting with others can lower anxiety, depression and social isolation. In a work context, connecting with others can help you feel less alone with the challenges you face or meeting up can lead to building new partnerships or sharing good ideas. The network continued to facilitate network bi-monthly meetings this year and when we were told the new fund was being developed, we used two of the meetings to discuss what a new fund would look like. This information, coupled with the surveys where we asked members similar questions, became the basis of a report sent to Glasgow City Council. They informed us they used some of our data to shape the fund.

It's not only network meetings where we meet you all, we are also developing (or in cases where one already exists supporting) 'mini networks'. Ward based networks, where third sector organisations and other local partners get together to discuss operational issues, share ideas and plan events. Rebeka has worked very hard this year to set up a local network in Maryhill, which is very well attended and is now planning community events. Look out for more 'mini networks' popping up near you!

Big thanks to Rebeka who has worked tirelessly to make this happen.

These are your meetings; please tell us what themes or issues you'd like discussed at them.

What we achieved in 2018-19

Participatory Budgeting: 3C Community Choices Canal



The network was asked by Glasgow City Council to design and deliver a Participatory Budgeting (PB) process in Canal ward; the communities of Possilpark, Cadder, Milton, Hamiltonhill, Lambhill, Ruchill & Parkhouse. They asked us to recruit a Citizens Panel, local people who would design and deliver a PB process that would spend £200,000 on the theme of Employability.

In the operational phase, we worked with 8 local people who decided they needed to speak with local people to inform their ideas about what the criteria for applying for the money should be. They spoke to over 200 people and got some great ideas which all centred round, employment and related support for local people.

We also worked closely with Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA) to make sure we heard the voice of people with disabilities, what their ideas were and the barriers they face when accessing employment and related supports.

They felt that with any process like this it would be important to get some additional information and knowledge from people who work in employability to help the panel inform their ideas for application criteria. The network brought together an information & resource group, made up of people who work in volunteering, social enterprise, employability and related fields. The panel met with them, gaining information, testing out ideas and sharing their insights.

The panel then took all the information they gained from the focus groups and the information & resource group, discussed it, deliberated on the best course of action and designed an application process. **They received over 40 applications** and the next step was to put them out there to let the community decide.

To encourage people to vote the panel decided to hold a Fun Day where local people could get the chance to find out more about the projects and vote for the ones that they felt would do the best job. All projects who had applied were there, so voters got a chance to speak to them before they cast their vote! **The event was a great success, with around 300 people attending on the day, over 1000 votes were cast, combining on the day and online voting.**

There were 16 successful organisations and groups who were given funding. At the time of writing the projects are currently delivering the employability support they applied for in the communities of Canal ward.

Newsletters & Social Media

We send out newsletters fortnightly. This year we sent out around 60 newsletters, containing your news & information you want others to know about, job & volunteer vacancies and any updates about the network we want to share with you.

Due to GDPR, we went back to the beginning and built up our subscribers this year we've increased them by over 300%.

Thanks to Lynn our whizz at marketing, promotion and all things social media we've also increased our twitter following, we've trebled our followers since last year, we now have 663. We've also had an impressive number of impressions this year with over 36,000 people seeing our tweets!

Want to follow us on Twitter?
www.twitter.com/NWGVSN

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/NWGVSN

Or look at our website
www.nwgvsn.org.uk

Thanks to Lynn for all her hard work!



GDA made a video of the supports they provided to the organisations that facilitated the PB processes. See the link below to get an insight into the Canal PB process and others.

<http://gda.scot/our-community/video/1823/leaving-no-one-behind>

What we achieved in 2018-19

Community Planning Partnership Meetings

We now have a standing agenda item on 7 of the 8 CPP area partnership meetings. With an average of 4 meetings a year per area, that's around 28 reports a year! Our member reps' work alongside us to compile reports and let their local area partnership meeting know the current issues in that community. Many partners, including elected members have commented on the usefulness of these reports, and the recommendations in them. We have also been much more involved in the North West Sector Partnership this year, being asked to present on Participatory Budgeting and the role of the network. This year we will further develop reports and our input to the meetings, lobbying to be included in them all and to produce a twice-yearly report to the sector partnership.

None of this work would be possible without the reps, who volunteer their time on top of very demanding third sector jobs. A huge thank you to Tam, Dougie, Jill, Grieg, Jane, Adrienne, Neil, Maryanne, Sharon and Anna.



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: NWGVSN is a membership organisation of around 250 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, and staff, plan and steer the direction of the network and use its skills and experience to forward plan.

Some Special Thank Yous

Yoker Resource Centre for continuing to host the network and for the banter, **Yoker Community Campus** for meeting space, ongoing support and all the stories, **Councillor Michael Cullen** for being a good sport and taking it on the chin, **Brian Barnett**, Key link consultancy for ongoing support and for listening and listening and listening.... and Glasgow Community Planning Partnership for our continued funding. To the **3C Community Choices Canal Participatory Budgeting panel** Roy, Sadie, Ann, Robert, Lambert, Rose, Chris & Allan, for all their hard work and putting up with soup and sandwiches for dinner every Tuesday evening. To **Dougie Taylor, David Maxwell, Elizabeth Docherty & Lesley Ross**, who devoted many hours of work to support the Participatory Budgeting panel, 3C Community Choices Canal. **Mismak Catering** for all the great food, though our waistlines may not agree. A special thank you to our **Committee** for all their support, **all our Reps** for giving up their time and energy to attend Area Partnership meetings and **every single member**, who have given us tea, called in for a chat, offered us a room, saw we needed support, attended our meetings or filled out a survey. **We appreciate and value everything you do and hope that we will be able to work with and for you over the coming year.**

We sadly lost a member of the 3C Community Choices Canal panel this year, Roy big thanks for all you did, we'll carry on pushing for change for you.



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