



## North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network: Area Partnership Report.

**Anderston/City/Yorkhill**

**Hillhead**

**Canal**

**Drumchapel/Anniesland**

**Garscadden/Scotstounhill**

**Partick East/Kelvindale**

**Maryhill**

**Victoria Park**

### North West Update

Since March 2020, the network has primarily worked from home, but ensured that members were still supported. Initially, we held weekly network meetings on Zoom, which were very well attended, with members who we didn't have a close relationship with, now attending. Members have reported that the meetings have provided much needed support and an opportunity to share issues, good practice and on a more personal level, a place to gain support as some people felt quite isolated working from home.

The members identified themes they wanted to work on during the meetings; the 1<sup>st</sup> theme was Spaces, one looked at the practical aspects of reopening a centre or hall and the other, the policies and documents that advised on this. Again, members reported that these groups are very beneficial and have helped support the work of planning to reopen safely.

Shortly after lockdown began, members reported that many users of their services were digitally excluded. We all acknowledged that lack of access to PCs, laptops, tablets and access reliable broadband had always been an issue for those in poverty but COVID-19 and the associated lockdown had brought these issues to the fore. The network decided to tackle this issues by starting the IT recycle project, securing some funding from National Lottery Communities Fund. Partnering with Glasgow Clyde College, support from Yoker resource centre and a financial contribution from Drumchapel Life, to date have given away 110 pieces of IT equipment and internet access.

We continued to offer training to members, with an online food hygiene course and a COVID health and safety course.

We also spent a great deal of time advocating with and for our members regarding the Glasgow Communities Fund. Throughout the process we have called for a clear and transparent process, which fully looks at how best to address the requirements of the citizens of North West Glasgow who need to access services. The process and in particular the delays, not all due to COVID-19, caused stress and anxiety for members, The decisions made have affected many organisations in the North West, either by the funding offered not adequate to deliver the services need in the community or by organisations losing funding entirely and having to close. We are beginning to see the effects of this, where local people no longer have the services they need, it is a worrying situation which has the potential to get much worse.

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## Anderston/City/Yorkhill: New Rep pending

The Pyramid at Anderston <https://www.thepyramid.scot/> secured funding from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Resilience fund and provided weekly food and activity packs during lockdown, over 10 weeks they supported local children and their families, around 350 families every week, with activities, fresh fruit, essential toiletries and food, toy and game swap, bike maintenance sessions and access to free reusable face coverings. They also supported approximately 30 older/vulnerable people in our community with deliveries of care packs, food and activities. In June their application to the National Lottery Community Assets fund was approved for an award of £1.1 million to renovate and develop our building, along with a further award of £25k from the Robertson Trust.

The GCC Communities Fund award means we can extend our existing staffing by around 10 hours per post per week for the next 2.5 years and add a new role of Community Builder, although we're not able to fund full time roles (the amount we applied for would have allowed us to do this). **St.Mungos Older Peoples Day centre**, <https://www.facebook.com/StMungosOldFolkCentreForWellbeing/> lack of council funding plus government guidelines in relation to Covid operations of Day Centres for elderly has led to closure of after 57 years. Felt GCF process was a muddled from initial consultation meetings through to adding groups, a real lack of clarity in the process.

**The Garnethill Multicultural Centre**, <http://garnethillmc.co.uk/> has been open during lockdown to provide space for the Central & West Integration Network to provide it's foodbank and office services. Due to GCF decisions they have had to implement staff redundancies and to consider the option to "mothball" the centre.

**Townhead village hall** <https://www.facebook.com/Townhead-Village-Hall-231831620290847/> remain closed but have online presence, having regular chats and competitions for local residents. They also have regular food distribution.

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## Canal Ward: Rep Jill McKay

**Possibilities** <https://www.facebook.com/possibilities/> Through the period of COVID 19 and in particular through the restrictive lockdown period we identified many of our members who struggled to cope. A range of mental health and wellbeing issues arose from fear, anxiety, loneliness, isolation, and lack of physical exercise, increased alcohol consumption and depression. Possibilities delivered 8 social clubs per week pre Covid. Through weekly Zoom Team meetings and a Facebook Staff group we have adapted our social clubs to become virtual. Through a Facebook members group, called "Possibilities Online" and a

### **North United Communities** <http://www.nuonline.co.uk/>

Since the COVID-19 Pandemic have delivered emergency family food support, forming and leading a partnership with 7 frontline organisations - North United Communities, Love Milton, The ARC Steering Group, Colston Milton Parish Church, St Gregory's RC Church, Lambhill Stables and North Glasgow Community Food Initiative. This group came together quickly because we recognised that the crisis was having an immediate impact on these communities, thereby requiring us to provide a rapid and effective response. The communities we delivered to were Maryhill, Wyndford, Ruchill, Milton, Lambhill and Cadder. Some of the organisations also delivered services to other neighbouring areas and these too were serviced through this emergency food programme 4 food



## Drumchapel/Annie'sland: Rep Dougie Taylor

### Covid-19 Response

The following is merely a snapshot of the huge effort expended by the Third Sector during the current health and economic crisis.

**G15 Youth Project** <https://www.facebook.com/g15youth/> went online providing a weekly quiz which attracted 340 local members as well as participants from Canada, USA and Spain. G15 also delivered zoom activity nights, delivered 110 care packs to members, 115 Chinese meals, 108 pizzas and 335 food vouchers.

**3D Drumchapel** <http://3ddrumchapel.org.uk/> delivered hot meals in partnership with 1051 GWR and St Andrew's RC Church, food parcels, food vouchers, arts & craft supplies, wellbeing packs, books and baby resources. 3D also provided telephone support, daily activity ideas, online sessions including play sessions, family discos and bedtime stories, doorstep visits and outdoor play sessions.

**Thriving Places** became actively involved with **NWGVSN's** IT recycling project, which was also supported by **Drumchapel L.I.F.E.**, enabling equipment and internet access for individuals and families that were excluded from a facility that has become vital in maintaining social and academic connectivity.

**Drumchapel L.I.F.E.** <http://www.drumchapellife.co.uk/> also went online to support its participants, and with permission of Glasgow City Council, was able to divert some of its funding to directly support **Men Matter Scotland**, **Drumchapel Foodbank**, **Yoker Community Hub**, **DRC Youth's Food** distribution project.

**Drumchapel Asian Forum North West Glasgow**, through the tireless efforts of Frank and Shereen, provided valuable services and support to the community throughout the coronavirus lockdown, preparing and distributing fresh cooked meals. During the period both contracted Coronavirus, and, sadly, Shereen passed away. She will be badly missed.

**COPE's** <https://www.cope-scotland.org/>

regular *Whit's Happening* magazine and Daily "Your Mental Health Still Matters" piece have been a tremendous support for us all throughout this difficult time.

### Glasgow Communities Fund

It is not possible, at this time, to submit a report without mentioning the impact of the demise of the Integrated Grant Fund and launch of the Glasgow Communities Fund. The result of the first funding round of GCF has left a number of long standing, successful third sector organisations in Drumchapel struggling to survive at the levels of funding on offer. The full impact on the locality may not be fully appreciated for some months yet.

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## Garscadden/Scotstounhill: Reps Tam Munro & Neil Lovelock

### Active Seniors

- Provided emergency food provision in partnership with LINKES and Mismak catering
- Provided regular contact and support to seniors in the local area
- **DRC Generations** <http://www.drcgenerations.org.uk/>
  - Work to adapt premises is near completion
  - 10 weeks of activities to young people completed inc distributing stuff for Halloween zoom part
  - Laughter Yoga 4 week session started for young people and their families delivered by Youth Scotland
  - Planning underway for our Zoom Christmas/festival party for the whole organisation.
  - Street Work is ongoing on a Monday and Wednesday evening with Glasgow Life with additional cover provided as required
  - Family support sessions online as well as telephone support
  - 15 drop ins to office in past 3 weeks with majority referred to Drumchapel Citizens Advice
  - Support for GHA tenants requiring assistance with PIP and other benefits.
  - Arranged support to families requiring data, electricity and to access partner organisations.
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- **DRC Youth Project** <https://drcyouthproject.blogspot.com/> - now set up as a separate organisation
  - Provided emergency provision and support to local people and communities in partnership with Dee Dees Cafe, G13 G14 community hub and others
  - Online support for young people and outdoor street work
  - Pathfinder project providing training and employment support to young people
  - Indoor youth activities slowly re-starting in small groups
  - Established a food pantry and partnership with Fare Share
- **Fare Share Glasgow**
  - open throughout the pandemic and extremely busy providing food to a wide range of organisations in the Ward and further afield
- **Friends of Knightswood Park** <https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Knightswood-Park-555365538308398/>
  - big increase in local people using the park during lockdown
  - encouraging individual/household action ie litter picks, fairy doors, painted stones and held a 'name the swans' competition
- **Glasgow Eco Trust and De'ils on Wheels** <https://www.glasgowecotrust.org.uk/>
  - Office still closed
  - Hosted weekly online call for local voluntary network which expanded to include housing associations, schools, community councils
  - De'ils On Wheels providing bike repairs throughout lockdown inc repairs for key workers and Scotland Cycle Repair Scheme
  - Bike sales and some limited volunteering re-started
  - Hosting worker from **Glasgow Community Food Network** <https://glasgowfood.net/>
- **Heart of Scotstoun Community Centre** <https://heartofscotstoun.org.uk/>
  - Open throughout lockdown providing emergency provision and support to local people and communities
  - Cafe has re-opened and open Mon to Fri 11am to 2pm
  - Some activity classes recently re-started ie children's karate and dance classes
  - Community garden now complete but has suffered some vandalism and anti-social behaviour during lockdown



- **Ignite Theatre** <https://www.ignitetheatreglasgow.org/>
  - Delivering online support to young people during and after lockdown
  - Provided emergency support to asylum seekers and others
  - Some classes re-started at Knightswood Community Centre
- **Kingsway Court Health and Wellbeing Centre** <https://www.kingswayhealth.co.uk/>
  - Centre closed during lockdown
  - Community garden was open to plot holders throughout lockdown
  - Successful summer youth programme delivered outdoors
  - Some classes re-starting
- **Knightswood Community Centre** <https://www.knightswoodcentre.co.uk/>
  - Centre open throughout lockdown as emergency food provision in partnership with LINKES, Active Seniors and Mismak Catering
  - Some classes re-started early Sept ie children's dance classes
- **LINKES** <https://www.links.org.uk/>
  - Provided emergency food and provisions for local people and culturally appropriate food ie halal
  - Online support programme for youth group and other user groups
- **Movement Park** <http://www.movementpark.org.uk/>
  - Closed at start of lockdown
  - Re-opened in Sept and classes are proving very popular
  - Also working with some local primary schools
- **Peterson Park Halls** <https://www.facebook.com/Peterson-Park-Hall-111006333766362/>
  - Unsuccessful with the Glasgow Communities Fund
  - Centre is currently closed and all user groups directed to other community groups
- **Yoker Community Campus** <http://www.yokercampus.org/>
  - Campus has re-opened and Included project delivering services to users
  - Some classes and activities re-started
  - Hosting the NWGVSN IT recycling project
- **Yoker Resource Centre** - <https://www.facebook.com/Yoker-Resource-Centre-131114416955120/>
  - Open throughout lockdown running the G13 G14 community hub providing emergency provision and support to local people and communities

<https://www.facebook.com/YokerCommunityAid/>

#### Ward 12 Victoria Park

Some of the groups that we have been in contact with over the lockdown from Ward 12

- Salvation Army foodbank
- WellFed Scotland CIC
- Friends of Victoria Park
- Victoria Park Community Trust
- Fossil Grove Trust



## Hillhead: Rep Anna Dyer

An immediate result of the Covid Lockdown in the Firhill/Woodside part of the ward was the closure of a number of organizations delivering services to the most needy. However thanks to Scottish Government Funding the NRI/NFS Partnership Project was set up. Its initial purpose was to provide food deliveries particularly to those who were shielding or in need. The main partners- [Community Central Hall \(CCH\)](https://centralhall.org/), [Woodside Community Council](https://www.facebook.com/WoodsideCommunityCouncil/) and [Flourish House](https://www.flourishhouse.org.uk/) opened up their kitchens and their chefs began to produce freshly made nutritious meals. CCH coordinators the Project and also supplied the minibuses and drivers to deliver the food packages. The manager and staff from Older Peoples Services are responsible for befriending and support services and co-ordinating the volunteers who pack and deliver the food. [Queens Cross Housing Association 's](https://www.qcha.org.uk/) call centre take the calls with referrals. At the height of the first wave of Covid they were delivering up to 400 households per week. The service originally was focused on people who were shielding but we received a wide variety of referrals and the need is so great the service is still operating . Plans are in development for a Christmas care package for all households supported over the last six months, assisted by partners and Fareshare and ASDA. Fareshare have enabled us to supply fresh food to our clients as well as the usual groceries. We now hope that the service will continue until March at least.

- The impact of the Covid Crisis has highlighted the depth of the inequalities gap in Glasgow. And especially in our ward. One survey in the Firhill neighbourhood showed accessibility to broadband was only 45%. A digital tree project is starting in CCH. This particularly important with the continued closure of libraries in the area.
- CCH was also the first childcare service to reopen in the area in July.
- A number of organizations who occupy Glasgow Life premises have been badly affected by their continued closure.

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## Maryhill : Reps Sharon Bowers/Melanie Farrow (new sub rep)

**Acre Community Hall** <https://en-gb.facebook.com/AcreCommunityHall/>

Since March they secured funding from the resilience fund STV children's appeal Glasgow city council and Tesco bags for help. They developed our service at 1<sup>st</sup> to provide emergency food provision. They are still providing food parcels each week to vulnerable families/people in our community. They have been delivering food parcels to the over 55s since March as well as puzzle books arts and crafts all kindly donated by Glasgow's golden generation. They are now worried as the pandemic is rising again that our funding is finishing the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December. They have worked with over 400 people during the pandemic. They have supported lonely people, people with mental health issues and people who are in food poverty it has been a learning experience for us. They are extremely grateful to have received funding from the new Glasgow communities fund this will allow us to focus on our employability and learning. Have just started a homework club on a Thursday evening to help our children catch up on their missed work throughout lockdown we have 2 volunteer teachers who are giving their time to help our children. All children will be primary age they will have their designated spot to sit and all their own stationery folders etc.: With such a reduced capacity they are unsure of when it will be safe to open for youth clubs etc. they are doing is via a booking service at the moment.

**Maryhill burgh halls** <https://www.maryhillburghhalls.org.uk/> were part of a network working group, looking at safe ways to open community spaces. They are now gradually opening supporting community groups to access their space, safely. Their community museum was online during lockdown and had several hundred views, illustrating that there is a definite community demand for the museum.

**G20 Youth Festival** <https://www.facebook.com/G20YouthFestival/> delivered hot meals and groceries to local people in Maryhill.

**Maryhill Integration Network** <http://www.maryhillintegration.org.uk/> worked to support their participants virtually working with NWGVSN to get recycled computers and internet access so they could continue to access online learning and support.

**The Women's Centre** <https://www.womenscentreglasgow.org.uk/> continued to support women and their families by telephone speaking with hundreds of woman over lockdown. They were increasingly concerned about the rise in domestic abuse/violence during lockdown and have been advocating for more funding for services to deal with this increase. They also provided mobile phones and data for woman so they could continue to communicate and contact services.

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## Partick East/Kelvindale: Rep Jane Cowie

**Partick Healthy living Annexe** <https://www.facebook.com/annexepartick/>

Right from day one of Lockdown and through lockdown and now with the emerging other needs Partick came together and co-ordinated support. The churches feed and looked out for their people. Partick Housing Association, the Lottery and Councillor Kenny Mclean and Sandra Whites office supported Annexe Communities **and Partick Community Growing Project**

<https://www.facebook.com/PartickCommunityGrowingProject/>

with their food shopping and food deliveries- between them-Annexe Communities PATCH project supported 120 households PCGP-“In the bag” project supported- 58 households-for the first 12-17 weeks. Home schooling , arts and craft boxes and spring flowers were given out to give folk stuff to do , help out with families home schooling and cheers folk up!

Ongoing support is there still for some of these households that are struggling with getting out again for various reasons, but mostly because of fear! Annexe Communities Lockdown video link:- PATCH - Wellbeing on Your Doorstep - YouTube Partick Healthy living Annexe have a new project-Youinity- three years – project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund to support the joining up of all opportunities and resources available to and for the people of Partick and surrounding areas. The Annexe is back up and running and is open again to the public as a “controlled environment” Participatory Budgeting fund of £20,000, Partick & Thornwood Ideas Fund, 32 applications so far, will be voted on by the community. **Hyndland After School club** <https://hyndlandasc.org.uk/> is back operating with 4 bubble groups so if one child has symptoms then only that bubble has to self isolate.

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## Victoria Park: New rep Gordon Keenan

**Glasgow Wood Recycling** <https://glasgowwoodrecycling.org.uk/>

been back operating again for a couple of months with reduced numbers/days.

The issue for them they have increased enquiries for volunteering and job training opportunities but can't meet demand.

**The Whiteinch Centre** <https://www.whiteinchcentre.org.uk/connects-during-covid-19>The Whiteinch Centre's staff and volunteers are providing sustained and meaningful contact with our community in this period of social isolation. Through regular phone calls, video chats, messenger groups and video conferencing we have been able to reach many people that otherwise struggle to connect. Supporting digital literacy in our community has been a key factor in the success of this engagement, and this is something we will focus on increasing in upcoming weeks. They also continue to deliver the One Stop Shop Service, which provides wide-ranging financial advice tailored to the requirements of the many members of the community who need this support, they have supported 170 during lockdown.

The regular creative groups have not been able to meet during lockdown, they have been bringing creativity and connectedness to them. Many of our centre users do not have access to online resources, so we have been sending out around 30 weekly creative packs through the post, 557 in total have ben distributed so far. Over this period we will build up a collection of creative works to be celebrated and exhibited once restrictions are lifted. Alongside this, staff and volunteers at the centre have been sharing videos of what they have been doing to keep busy and active through The Whiteinch Centre YouTube channel, these have included cooking, crafts, storytelling and exercise.

They have appointed a new manager Gordon Keenan, who will take over a rep'

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## North West Sector Partnership : Reps Tam Munro/Martina Johnston-Gray

At the last NW sector partnership meeting, the GCF funding decisions were ratified. Tam Munro made a statement, outlining the concerns network members had about the Glasgow Communities fund. These focused on the fact the process had no input from local people in the process and fund was not themed, which rather than creating a level playing field as stated, left some organisations and themed groups at a disadvantaged. These issues and the delays has resulted in gaps in services that could have wide ranging consequences.

While an objective scoring system is undoubtedly a core element of a strong assessment process, it needs to be coupled with strong, relevant local intelligence, and a realistic, practical funder view of what they wish the fund to achieve.

**Due to the concerns around the fund, both 3rd Sector reps' present at the meeting abstained from the decision.**

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