

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



8

Wards in NW
Glasgow



MEMBERS



180

Member & Partner
Organisations

300

Individual Members

IT RECYCLING PROJECT



350

IT packages
since April 2020

CUPPA & CATCHUPS

45

Since April
2020



WEBSITE

631 340

Pageviews
average per
month

Users
average per
month



MEMBER WORKING GROUPS



5

- Spaces - Opening safely
- Policy - Opening safely
- Mental Health
- Volunteering
- People Make Glasgow Communities

NEWSLETTERS



Subscribers



341

SOCIALS



1,849

Followers

+37%

Average impressions
per month

30,000



195

Page likes - grown +250%
since last year

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Clearly 2020/21 was dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic, which damaged the core services of many of our members with lockdown rules closing buildings and stopping organisations from meeting with their service users. Our members however, true to the traditional strength of the third sector, responded magnificently to the challenge by adapting their services to support people online or outdoors. Indeed, many organisations developed and delivered new services designed specifically to support vulnerable and isolated people through the crisis, often delivering groceries and prescribed medicines door to door. Funding organisations, local and national, are to be congratulated on the flexibility they allowed, which facilitated these innovations.

NWGVSN was no exception, and throughout the period our "Coffee and Catch Up" online members' meetings became increasingly popular, offering a valued forum for discussion and emotional support. Online spin off working groups came and went in response to issues of concern for our members, such as the People Make Glasgow Communities Agenda, and the practicalities of opening premises as Covid-19 restrictions eased, to name but two. Our fortnightly newsletter has also been very well received, and not just by our members, but also attracting readership from across the city and reaching into the public sector too.

Something that I found particularly exciting was that, working with our members, NWGVSN developed an IT recycling project. Working initially with Clyde College EE & Remade we were able to receive, sanitise, and PAT test 350 + PCs, which have been distributed, with 6 months free internet, through our members to isolated people. Our Network Manager, Martina, takes great credit for this brilliant initiative.

And so it is that I congratulate and thank Martina and her team for their sterling efforts throughout the year and thank my fellow trustees for their continued support and commitment. Finally, I would extend best wishes to all our members as we enter a period in which the challenges are likely to remain daunting

NETWORK MANAGER'S REVIEW of 2020/21

This last year has been one of the most challenging years members have ever faced. COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown placed so many challenges on everyone, though as usual, members more than rose to that challenge.

The local community-based organisations came into their own, working with local volunteers to provide much needed provisions. Not just the practical stuff, but a listening ear, fun activities on line and care.

This was real community action, the third sector led the charge to beat this COVID-19 enemy and local people, retired people, the young, people on furlough, elected members and the third sector all came together to help and support vulnerable community members.

Our members often put their own health and wellbeing second to make sure they could serve locally. I saw people run ragged, exhausted mentally and physically worrying about the people they serve, and not once did I see anyone give up. Organisations were so generous with each other too; sharing resources, information, and time.

The network played a small part in supporting you all; many of you came to us early on and told us that so many of the people you work with did not have IT equipment and internet to participate in online activities. We responded by starting the IT recycling project, working initially

with Glasgow Clyde College, learning to refurbish donated equipment, and laterally partnering with Remade. The project also had an unintended consequence that we got to know some of our members much better and gained some new ones too.

We also took our network meetings on to Zoom, offering a space for members to meet, share issues and work through what COVID-19 meant for us as a sector. Many members felt the meetings were really useful to fund up to date information and also made people feel less isolated. Our newsletter changed too. Instead of promoting members' in-person events and activities, we collated all the COVID-19 information, policies, and legislation into the newsletter and on to our website. We also recognised that for groups distributing meals for the first time or for those who were expanding their provision, Food hygiene training would be need. We worked with Glasgow Clyde College to run the first completely virtual REHIS food hygiene course for members. When it looked like they may be able to open spaces again, we supported working groups to look at how that could be done safely, following COVID guidelines.

I am in awe of every single one of you that stepped up, whether it was hands on support, virtual, working whilst doing home learning with your kids, (It was hard), caring for older family or just getting on with the day to day during a global pandemic.

Martina Johnston Gray

THANK YOU

To our executive committee, Audrey, Dougie, Gary, Jill, Joyce, Liz, Mark, Peter, Sandy, Tam, for their guidance and support. Special mention must go to Dougie Taylor who volunteers to manage the network manager, apparently the MBE is in the post.

To the staff, Martina, Amanda & Lynn who have worked hard to keep the network functioning during COVID.

To our community partnership reps, for giving up their time and energy to attend area partnership meetings representing their wards areas and the network, Anna, Neil, Jill, Tam, Sharon, Melanie, Gordon, Dougie, Julie and Jane.

A special thank you to Yoker Resource Centre for continuing to host the network and for making sure we were safe during COVID, Yoker Community Campus for space, ongoing support and help whenever we need it. To the Community Planning Area Partnerships for funding for the IT recycling project, and the local elected members who have listened and supported the network and our members. To our funders Glasgow City Council, Scottish Government & National Lottery Communities fund. To Glasgow Clyde College, Remade, EE and all those who donated devices to be refurbished. To Mismak Catering for continuing to provide us with delicious lunches, delivered to members' homes.

To the members a huge THANK YOU for everything you do, for your resilience, hard work, dedication & heart. It is real honour to play a small part in supporting your work.

.....OVER TO OUR MEMBERS.....

We have watched our members in awe over the last year. The hard work, flexibility, commitment to their communities, personal sacrifice and care they have shown. We, the network, are honoured to be part of it. THANK YOU!

Anderston/City/Yorkhill:

The Pyramid at Anderston is proud to be part of the NWGVSN – we've been supported at a community level by the Recycle project, which helped some of our most vulnerable people, and professionally by the advice, training and support of the Network's staff. The Network has done brilliantly at keeping us connected with our peers and colleagues during COVID times – thank you!

Drumchapel Anniesland

"The virtual network meetings and newsletters are an invaluable source of information which I have been able to cascade to all my colleagues." Gillian Pollock, DCAB

Maryhill

Just a few words I wanted to send you about the support you and the North West Network have offered and provided to myself and the Shakespeare street youth club. As you may well know our club was under threat of closure due to our GCF grant being cut; with the help and support given to us by the network we have been able to make the necessary changes and improvements to help strengthen the club and for signposting us to the help we needed to survive the situation we found ourselves in and helping us to create a stronger better future for the club.

The support I have had over the last year has been fantastic and I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of the Shakespeare street youth club to all that helped us through a very difficult time in the club's history and long may the network continue to help its community.
Julie McMillan Shakespeare Youth Club

Garscadden/Scotstounhill

We received some PCs and Wi-Fi for people we work with through the Recycle Project. The application process was straightforward and the team at North West Glasgow VSN were so helpful and accommodating with setting up the PCs. The people we have distributed to so far are delighted with their PCs and free Wi-Fi, we know it will make a big difference to their lives. It's a great project - thank you. Ingrid, Linkes

Victoria Park

I would like to thank you so much for the PCs! The guys are delighted with them.
Cat, Crossreach

Hillhead

NWGVSN has continued to be a brilliant, dependable source of information, cross sector connectivity and crucially, internet support for Licketyspit and our Children & Families Network this year.

We can always rely on Martina and the team to respond quickly and help where they can and frankly on the internet support front, they set an example we could do with seeing rolled out more widely.

I'm very grateful to be a part of an umbrella organisation that really understand the needs of our families and the way small organisations like ours work.
All the best Ruby, Licketyspit

Partick East Kelvindale

Love your IT recycling project, it is a brilliant local resource, to date we have, 15 computers with free Wifi, given out to individual and groups for all different purposes. And saving landfill, win/win!

Network zoom meetings have been a great way to get to know each other and keep us all up to date with each other's work, sharing ideas and inspiring each other.

Support for area partnerships meetings has made me feel part of something bigger than just our Ward. Great to read the Third Sector reports from North West.

Thanks for the support, energy, expertise and encouragement you guys bring to the table. It is much appreciated! Thank you. Jane Partick Healthy Living Annexe

Canal

I could write a book on the positive outcomes of our service users who received laptops, computers & internet. Three people are in full-time, long-term work which is outstanding in the middle of a pandemic. All thanks to you and your team's organisation, support and generosity. Beyond grateful! Ann-Marie, Young People's Futures

North West

I have been involved in applying for and delivering refurbished computer packages to Jobs & Business Glasgow clients.

These devices and access to the internet have been vital in supporting our customers. This enables them to job search, thus fulfilling the requirements of claiming Universal Credit and removing the threat of their benefit being sanctioned.

As many support services are still online, this equipment and internet gives access to mental health support, many GPs are only seeing people online, they can order repeat prescriptions etc. As I was personally delivering this equipment, I could see what a difference it made to clients and they were very grateful. Some were emotional that they were being given this equipment and internet access as there was no way they could afford it on their benefit.

It is a fantastic service and many thanks to the staff and volunteers who keep this going.
Helen, Employability



OUR MISSION:

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network has three main objectives:

- To be a collective coherent voice for voluntary sector members in North West of Glasgow
- To provide advice, information, and support to voluntary organisations in the North West
- To facilitate the input of the voluntary sector voice into the Community Planning Process in eight wards in North West Glasgow

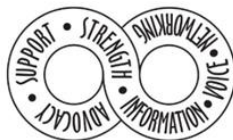
OUR GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT:

The Network is A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, (SCIO) managed by an Executive Committee of nine 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. Dougie Taylor kindly offers his time to manage the network manager

MEMBERSHIP:

NWGVSN is a membership organisation of around 180 voluntary sector and partnership organisations in North West Glasgow. Our membership is open to all voluntary sector organisations that deliver services and/or support local people in that area and partner networks and organisations in the North West



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