

**North West Glasgow**  
Voluntary Sector Network



# ANNUAL

# REPORT

## APRIL 2021-MARCH 2022

[www.nwgvsn.org.uk](http://www.nwgvsn.org.uk)

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2021/22

### **Pandemic Recovery / Resilience**

As the members of the network continued to battle on through easing and tightening of restrictions, the network moved to meet the demands of its members. This included the continued emergence and strengthening of the weekly coffee and catch ups ensuring that members continued to feel connected (and they weren't alone facing so many issues). This resulted in extremely effective working groups on a variety of topics which has continued. Thanks to this, the membership grew in numbers. The focus now for the network is the move to being a SCIO.

The IT project also came to the forefront with unprecedented demand for both equipment and wifi. Again, the team went above and beyond to not only source equipment from members and a variety of organisations but to place them, through the members, directly into the community. Thanks to all members and organisations that donated equipment.

Throughout the period the Network continued to provide a full, and often bespoke, programme of capacity building and training for our members. Our Newsletter continued to grow in popularity throughout the year, as did our regular Network meetings and events. Many members continue to face post pandemic social and economic ills, with the now added cost of living crisis. As we thought we had moved out of one crisis, we move to another far-reaching period of uncertainty.

I congratulate and thank Martina and Lynn on their own strength and resilience throughout the year. What has been achieved by the team (both part time) and with a team member down for the majority of time has been phenomenal. We welcome Gordon to the team.

Being a new trustee and chair I also thank all trustees, past and present for their efforts, and the current board for their continued support, guidance, and commitment. I would also thank all our funders for their investment in our work.

Finally, I would extend best wishes to all our members as we enter a period unlike anything we have seen before.

*Melanie Farrow, Chairperson*



## NETWORK MANAGER'S REVIEW

2021-2022 was another year of challenges, the world was still under COVID restrictions, but a few green shoots of recovery were beginning to show. Vaccines became available and as the world learned to live with the virus, small in-person meetings took place. We tentatively started to make plans for the future, looking forward to a time where we could meet in person without worrying.

Looking back is never easy for me, most people who know me, will say I'm always looking to the next thing. However, **the annual report is a great way for me to look at the amazing work our members have done and what we've offered to support them to do it. Below are just some on the ways we've supported our members over the last year or so.**

*Martina Johnston Gray, Network Manager*



### Organisation Development

We continue to offer training to our members offering 100 free training spaces, on Community Engagement, Mental health First aid, Autism Awareness, intro to British Sign Language, Emergency First Aid, Equality, Diversity & Inequalities and Good Governance.

We also supported organisations to develop ideas or complete funding applications including Mental Health & Wellbeing fund, Glasgow Communities, Fund National Lottery etc. Our working groups, network meetings and newsletters helped members to make connections, find solutions to issues and to continue to offer high quality services to local people.



### Communications

Lynn continued to work her magic on the newsletter and produced 42 editions in this period, increased subscribers by 11%.

We now have 2226 followers on twitter and increased our following by 22% with an average impression rate of 15,000 per month (which I'm reliably informed is good). Facebook followers doubled and our reach is up by 217%.

Our website had an increase in page views, up 21% to 750 per month.

We don't count the number of phone calls, texts & WhatsApp's we make throughout the year, where we chat, provide reassurance or help solve problems where we can, but I'm sure it's several hundred.



### SOCIALS





## Representation & Advocacy

We strive to be the voice of our members, responding to their requests to be heard on issues that matter to them. We **heard** from our members around **People Make Glasgow Communities** and their concerns about the process and making sure communities have their opinions heard when buildings & spaces were offered for local ownership. We facilitated a working group of interested members decided what action they wanted to take. We submitted a Participation request on behalf members to ask that an oversight committee look at the community engagement of the process.

We informed our members about the councils new **Open Government agenda**, discussing with members how we could support the council to make it a reality. We welcomed the opportunity to work with citizens panels, get access to more information and influence how local Government works. We look forward to seeing this take shape over the next few years.

Funding is always on the mind of members, and we participated in the review of phase 1 of the **Glasgow Communities Fund**, working with Glasgow Third Sector Interface partners to find out people's opinions after the Ipsos Mori poll. We participated in the listening events & and tried to ensure members voices were heard.

We support **Reps at the 8 Community Planning Area Partnership meetings** of the North West sector, we attended 34 Area and 4 Sector Partnership meetings, again helping to make sure our third sector members were heard and importantly that local issues faced by citizens. We also met regularly with our member reps' who kept us informed of local issues and we helped them compile those issues into a report for the Community Planning Area Partnership meetings.



## Convening Members

One of the parts of the job I like the best, meeting with members. We continued the **Cuppa & Catchup meetings**, an online informal network meeting on Zoom, where members come together and share information, discuss common issues and catch up with the latest news. We have had 22 in this period, we were also delighted to have our first in person meeting in May this year - it felt really special to see so many of you in person.

We continued with our **working groups**, in themes that were important to our members;

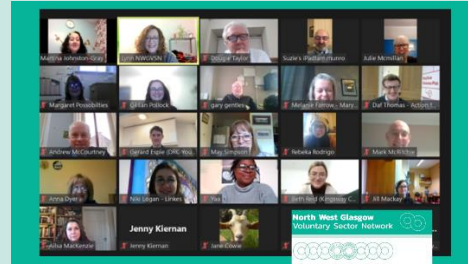
### CUPPA & CATCHUPS & MEETINGS

22

3  
In person meetings



the People Make Glasgow Communities Group, working alongside Scottish Community Development Centre, making sure we were informed and that you could ensure the people you work with and for were heard in the process. We also started a new group, around the theme of Menopause, meeting to discuss how menopause can affect women in the workplace, we aim to develop a policy that we can share with members.



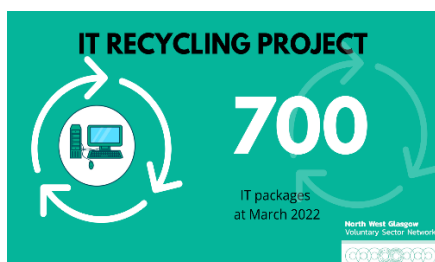
We helped establish the Maryhill **Together local network**, as well as attended local network meetings, including Lambhill, Milton & Cadder; Drumchapel Breakfast & Blether and Dumbarton Road Corridor Network. We're looking forward to the next year and attending more in person meetings and getting out and about to visit your projects and spaces

### IT Recycling Project

The project continued to donate PCs, laptops, tablets & phones, at March 2022 we have given out 700 devices and internet dongles – that's 10,400 kg of e-waste saved from landfill. We handed out 50 phones during that period with at least 6 months calls & text package. We also started to research the idea of Community Broadband, We-g, is still looking at the possibility of offering free /low-cost internet in communities. Our vision is that all citizens, regardless of area and income can have (free or low cost) broadband in their own home.

According to data, Brits are hoarding up to 60 items of old, unused tech per household. By refurbishing devices, we are not only helping those in need to become digitally included but also stopping toxic chemicals & heavy metals from going to landfill & pollute the environment.

As the cost-of-living crisis deepens we are looking at ways to help people to continue to use their devices at home, we plan to start a lending library of PC chargers and well as encouraging our members to offer charging points as part of wider work to support people through the increasing cost of living.



## THANK YOU

Thank you to our executive committee, those members who give up their time to advise and guide the network, Sandy, Dougie, Mark, Audrey, Melanie, Gerard, Yaa, Jill, Gary. A fond farewell to Tam who stepped down as chair this year, the network and wider North West owes a debt of gratitude for all the work you've done over the years. A welcome to Melanie Farrow who's taken the chair role.

Thank you to Lynn, who's creativity, marketing expertise and insightfulness has helped make the network what it is. To Kirsty & Joe who worked on the IT project and Andy who still does so, thanks for making the impossible, possible.

Thank you to our ward reps, who devote so much time to helping make sure the network is aware of the local issues. To Andrew for accounting and all-round sense, to John who has helped to pick up and delivery computers. To DRC Youth project, Glasgow Wood Recycling & anyone else who has lent us a vehicle to pick up PCs. To every single person who has donated a device that can be recycled. To our funders Glasgow City Council, National Lottery & SCVO.

**Lastly and most importantly to you the members, another year of being in awe of the work you do. THANK YOU!**

*Martina*

## .....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 it. THANK YOU!

**We asked members to tell us how the Network has helped them.....  
you'll see the video during the AGM and on our website**



**We also asked members during our first in person meeting after Covid. Did you learn anything during lockdown?**

**Network Meeting 4th May**

**“Did you learn anything in lockdown”**

*Zoom & Teams*

*Real power is in communities*

*We can embrace change with necessity*

*The network was great for us to find out what*

*Links to people is important*

*Learned that covid highlighted inequalities*

*Other people's talent*

*How selfless and creative staff are*

*An opportunity to do and learn new things*

*A lot of funders were flexible from the beginning*

*How selfless and creative staff are*

*Talented & Caring staff—3D were moved out of their premises & staff moved services online including a bedtime stories service*

*The problems we know existed were a lot worse than we thought*

*Isolation is still here*

*Hands on, face-to-face support was key*

*There were a lot of proud people that didn't want to ask for help*

*Learned more about Mental Health & the importance of being more human & caring to staff*

*People are innovative*

*The power of the outdoors for healing*

*You can achieve and do so much with other people's help!*



## 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



## North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network SCIO

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