

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/23



North West Glasgow
Voluntary Sector Network



www.nwgvsn.org.uk

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2022/23

Post Pandemic Recovery / Resilience/ Cost of Living Crisis

As the members of the network continued to battle on through the post pandemic world and now meet the demands of their communities in light of the cost-of-living crisis, the network moved to support its members, who were also facing similar and some very different issues in their communities. This included the continued strengthening of the Coffee and Catchups, ensuring that members continued to feel connected and did not feel alone in facing a number of new issues. In supporting the members, this included the restart of in-person meetings. Online meetings still were in place and were extremely effective for the working groups on a variety of topics. Through a combination of several initiatives, the membership continued to grow. The focus now for the network is to finalise the move to being a SCIO.

The IT project also had continuing 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 also placing equipment, through the members, directly into the community. Thanks to all members and organisations that donated and continue to donate equipment. The fantastic work that has gone into this project in the couple of years it has been running, from both the network and indeed the Network Manager has been recognised citywide and nationally with Martina being asked to speak on the project at a number of forums and conferences.

Throughout the period the Network continued to provide a full, and often bespoke, programme of capacity building and training for the members. The network continues to develop and support ward specific meetings, providing specific and targeted assistance for those individual wards. The Newsletter continued to grow in popularity, as did the regular Network meetings and events. Many members continue to face post pandemic social and economic ills, with the now added cost-of-living crisis, which continues further into another far-reaching period of uncertainty.

I congratulate and thank Martina, Lynn and Gordon on their own strength and resilience throughout the year. What has been achieved by the team (who are all part time) has been absolutely staggering. We would also like to recognise and thank all those who worked on the IT project whether paid or voluntary as this would not be able to proceed apace without them. An additional congratulations goes to Martina on winning the Women in Charity Award as part of the Circle of Inspiration Awards run by Business Women Connections, demonstrating her tireless and ongoing commitment to the Network and huge variety and number of projects, she and the network supports.

I would also like to thank all trustees, past and present for their efforts, and the current board for their continued support, guidance, and commitment. A big thanks must also go to all our funders and supporters for their investment in our work.

Finally, I would extend best wishes to all our members as we enter a period of uncertainty again, as the cost-of-living crisis continues and appears to have no end.

Melanie Farrow,
Chairperson



NETWORK MANAGER'S REVIEW

Community Engagement

Each year I get the opportunity to reflect on what the network has achieved and think about any highlights or themes. A theme that kept coming up for me was **Community Engagement** - how we engage with members, communities & other organisations. Below you will read about our Engagement activities over the past year.

Martina Johnston Gray,
Network Manager

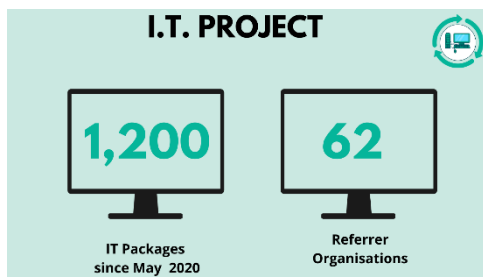
Engagement with members through the IT Project

We are fortunate that our IT recycling project is still running. This is one of the most immediate ways we engage with members and friends of the network. Since May 2020, we have given out **1200 devices and engaged with 62 referrer organisations**. The project offers plenty of opportunities to engage with organisations that are keen to join.

As austerity increases, the people our members work with are making ever more difficult decisions with the little money they have. By giving a device and WIFI, we can at least reduce one stress in their life.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated a device, made a referral, or spread the word about the project.

SCVO have asked us to share our learning re device refurbishment and how we are able to take donations and give them to people who are digitally excluded. We hope we can inspire others to reuse and refurbish IT equipment.



Engagement with our members around funding

The Glasgow Communities Fund is the single largest fund that Glasgow City Council distributes to the third sector. Throughout phase 1 and 2 of the fund, members have reported issues with the GCF process, funding decisions and lack of feedback after the decisions were made.

At all times members have emphasised the needs of the citizens they serve as their focus, and many feel the distribution of funding will have a detrimental effect on them. We supported members to set up a Working Group to discuss the issues and how they could avert the worst effects of reductions or loss of funding.

The network had a series of 3 Glasgow Community Fund Engagement events and were pleased that elected members and community council reps joined us to share their views and suggestions. Importantly everyone felt listened to and that their views were taken seriously.

We will be working with the council with a view to agreeing on what local and city-wide priorities need to be addressed for the next funding round.



Engagement with and listening to our members

Listening and responding to members is our main focus and we provide a variety of ways for them to engage and be part of the network.

The network hosts monthly virtual **Cuppa & Catchups**, where members can come and share their news, issues, and ideas. Staff respond to calls for information and often invite guest speakers to our meetings. There are now four **in-person Network Meetings**, where we share lunch and exchange information and ideas.

Members also form **Working Groups**, where a group of members identify a common issue they want to find a solution to. This past year, we have had working groups looking at Glasgow Communities Fund phase 2 and Menopause & Women's Health.

We have also **supported Local Networks** in areas that have existing meetings. We participate in meetings in Dumbarton Road Corridor, Lambhill, Milton and Cadder and Drumchapel and support the continued development of the Maryhill Together network, set up by the network in partnership with local organisations.



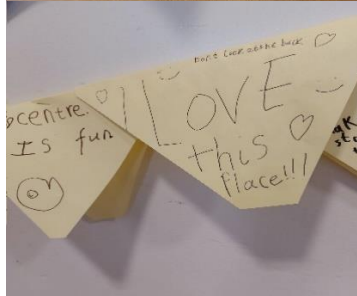
Engagement with a particular Community to identify needs

The network was asked by Whiteinch & Scotstoun Housing association to conduct a community engagement exercise to find out what local people think about the Whiteinch Centre.

Due to lack of funding the centre was in danger of closing and the housing association stepped in to keep the centre open. They planned to work with the community to find out what groups and activities they wanted to see in the centre and to help them raise funds to keep it open.

We created a survey, held focus groups, and had a family event that was attended by 350 people, to gather ideas, suggestions, and comments about the centre.

The team were delighted to use our engagement skills to help the community have their voice heard and to help the housing association work out a plan to shape the centre's future. We look forward to seeing the plans come to fruition.



Engagement and Communications



Our communications database continues to grow. Almost 50 editions of Network News and other communications were sent with the average open rate increasing to 43%, up on last year and the net number of subscribers increased by 14%.



We now have 2544 followers on twitter and increased our following by 14% with an average impression rate of 14,000 per month (which I am reliably informed is good). Facebook followers have also increased in this period. Our website had an increase in page engagements, to 1327 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 am sure it is several hundred.

THANK YOU

As usual this year's work would not be possible without our members. **We would like to thank all of you for continuing to work with us, for sharing your issues, ideas and work so generously.**

Thank you to our Board Members, Dougie Taylor, Melanie Farrow, Mark McRitchie, Gary Gentles, Gillian Pollock, Jill McKay, Yaa Nipah, Sandy Busby and Gerard Espie.

Thanks to Yoker Resource Centre, who continue to host us and to Andrew McCartney for doing our finances. To Gordon & Lynn, who work so hard to make the network a success.

To our Reps Melanie, Sharon, Jill, Marina, Jane, Julie, Dougie, Lainy, Anna, and Susie, who represent their areas on the Community Planning Partnership Area meetings – Thank You!

To Lionel, Sharon, Elizabeth and Ellen, dedicated Community Council members who gave their time & expertise to the GCF fund review panel. To Joe, who came back on his university holidays to work in the IT Project – Thank You!

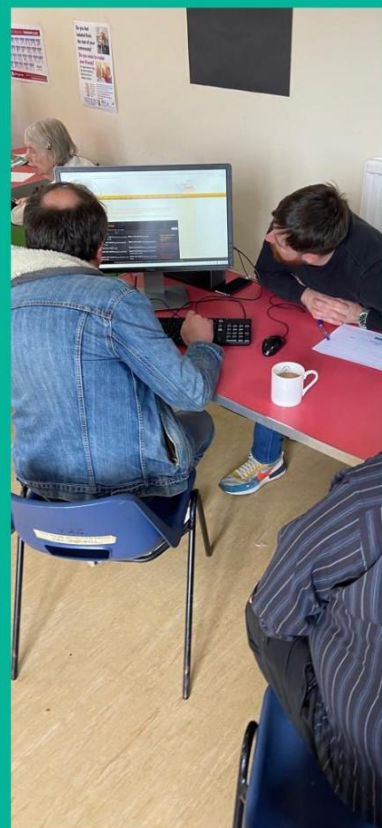
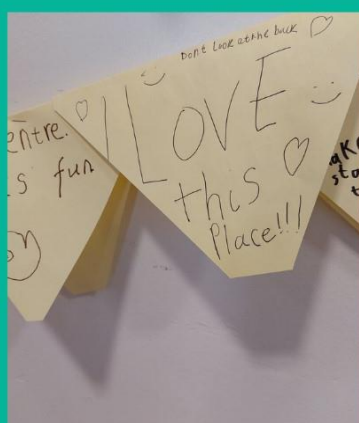
Thanks also to our Glasgow City Council colleagues, who like us, want the best for Glasgow's citizens. To Whiteinch & Scotstoun Housing association & Love Milton for trusting us to carry out your community engagement work. To SCVO & GCVS for allowing us to spread the word about digital inclusion and for your ongoing support. **THANK YOU!**

Martina

Network's Year at a Glance



Network's Year at a Glance



Network's Year at a Glance

North West Glasgow
Voluntary Sector Network

8

Wards in NW
Glasgow



MEMBERS & PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



199

REPRESENTATION & ADVOCACY



32

Area Partnership Meetings

2

Sector Partnership Meetings



CONVENING MEMBERS

10

Cuppa & Catchups



4

Network Meetings



I.T. PROJECT



1,200

IT Packages
since May 2020

62

Referrer
Organisations

ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT FREE TRAINING

7

Courses

84

Training Places



COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTERS



Subscribers



429

+14%

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIALS & WEB



2,544

Followers

+14%

Average impressions
per month

14,000



500

Followers

+28%



1,327

Page engagements
av per month

+60%



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

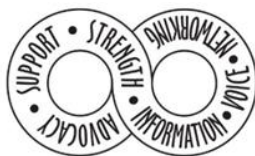
Our Governance & Management

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 200 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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