

CASE STUDY

Circle

<https://circle.scot/>



Aims and objectives:

Circle is a charity supporting disadvantaged families in central Scotland. We address social injustice, poverty, and health inequalities tied to addiction, neglect, family breakdown, imprisonment and physical and mental health problems. Emphasising a Whole Family Approach, Circle empowers individuals, enhances family resilience, and promotes positive change in our families, community, finances and lifestyle.

Circle demonstrate their impact on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Economic Regeneration

Evidence of impact:

Circle conducted research on lived and learned experiences and systems change around addictions. The findings show a desire for people with lived experience to have a voice and be taken seriously, while professionals struggle to challenge the status quo.

The research suggests that we need to explore barriers and enablers to system change through safe spaces and multi-agency collaboration. We need to co-design with equal power among lived experience, staff experience, managers, and power holders. The next stage aims to prioritise staff well-being alongside families and advocate for a paradigm shift. The goal is to build communities for healing and promote family-inclusive practices.

What does community development mean to you?

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To ensure that children and families are at the centre of all we do, we create opportunities for families to participate in the development of policies, values, and services. We believe that to properly support families to find their own solutions, it is necessary to give voice to their thoughts, concerns, and aspiration.

Circle

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Recovery & healing from trauma, both personal & systemic occurs in groups / village / community. Power is shared and active involvement along with taking a rights & values approach builds trust & respect enabling the virtuous circle of recovery & healing to occur.

Douglas Guest
Circle

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EVERYTHING

Chris Woodness
CLDMS/CDAS
Board member

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Community development is working collectively with the community at heart and soul of change. Offering solutions and providing tools to the community to take ownership to improve their health inequalities and create healthy thriving communities.

Tayyibah Ahmed
Chest, Heart & Stroke

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To me, community development is finding local solutions led by local people. I adhere to the core values, ethics and principles as I believe in the power of collective self-determination; community growth and emancipatory practice.

Nicola Sykes
Education Scotland

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