

CASE STUDY

Scottish Refugee Council

<https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/>



Aims and objectives:

- More small, refugee-led and refugee-assisting groups will deliver projects to the benefit of their communities and integration across Scotland.
- Refugee representatives will gain knowledge of funding processes, experience of assessing funding applications and working alongside a funder.
- Funding officers will gain insight into the challenges faced by small refugee-led and refugee-assisting groups in applying for funding.

Scottish Refugee Council demonstrate their impact on:

- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Democratic Participation

Evidence of impact:

Our participative funding project empowers refugees by involving them in funding decisions, enhancing community and funder understanding. Lived experience volunteers, supported by SRC and The National Lottery Community Fund, designed a funding stream for grassroots organisations, reducing barriers through eligibility criteria and streamlined processes. Volunteers collaborated with fund officers to assess applications and make joint decisions.

Over £1.4 million funded 48 projects supporting refugee integration in Scotland, spanning ESOL, employability, arts, sports, and more. This participative approach gained interest from other UK funders. Volunteers gained knowledge to share, increasing funding opportunities for refugee-led community groups.

What does community development mean to you?

The cross-cutting elements of community development

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Empowerment for community members, local people and workers to be the drivers of change that is meaningful, positive and sustainable.

Strengthen resilience in communities to protect against poverty and other inequalities and promote access to good health and health care.

Mhairi Shepherd
Health and Social Care Partnership

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There are few subjects and disciplines that have engaged me as much on a theoretical and practical level. At its core, good community development is about helping people to make the world a better place, which is something I strongly believe in.

Jonathan Pickering
Glasgow City Council

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As a lecturer, activist, and practitioner in community development, the field has increasingly become - for me - about direct involvement in local and national (and, where relevant, international) life. It's explicitly political, but social and emotional as well, whilst, again, for me, it should be centred in direct action beyond state-facilitated mechanism (i.e., voting, referenda, and consultancy). Premised on notions of justice (social, legal, or otherwise), direct democracy, consensus and radical social progress are core to our work.

Luke Ray Di Marco Campbell
University of Glasgow

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The participative funding project was managed using a community development approach. Refugee-led organisations identified that they were less likely to receive grant funding than larger, less-grassroots organisations.

In collaboration with The National Lottery Community Fund, the project actively encourages inclusive applications through extensive outreach across the country and puts the voices of lived experience front and centre of the funding process.

Scottish Refugee Council

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Involving people in a meaningful way in co-designing and co-producing services which are meant to improve their lives, circumstances and conditions. sharing power so that all participants learn from each other and the service and ways of working improve as a result.

Brenda Rooney
Chest, Heart & Stroke Scotland

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Working with a community to deliver services with them, rather than to them.

Chris Docherty
Chest Heart and
Stroke Scotland

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