

CASE STUDY

SURF (Scotland's Regeneration Forum)

<https://surf.scot/>

Aims and objectives:

SURF's overall objective is to improve the lives and opportunities of residents in Scotland's disadvantaged communities.

A charity and membership network, SURF brings more than 300 organisations together to share their knowledge and experience on 'what works' in community regeneration. We use this to inform improvements in policy and practice.

SURF demonstrate their impact on:

- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Economic Regeneration

Evidence of impact:

The SURF network is the primary arena for debate on community led regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation, and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes research, publications, seminars, conferences, international policy exchanges, study visits, a national awards programme, and the distribution of information and comment in a variety of formats.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge, with which to positively influence the development of successful policy and practice in community empowerment and place-based regeneration.

What does community development mean to you?



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Since its inception, SURF has operated from two basic principles:

The people who are the intended beneficiaries of any regeneration effort must be meaningfully involved in the process if it is to be successful in planning, implementation and maintenance.

Successful and sustainable regeneration is only achievable when physical, social, economic and cultural aspects are addressed in a holistic approach.

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The cross-cutting elements of community development

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From SURF's perspective in seeking additional support for the regeneration of poorer places, community development is an essential driver.

It has the potential to bring local people together to identify needs and priorities, and work towards positive change based on sustainable longer-term visions, ultimately creating better places and communities.”

Derek Rankine
SURF - Scotland's Regeneration Forum

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It gives the community the opportunity to be involved in decisions that have an impact on them rather than having things done to them.

Barbara Conner
The Ayrshire Community Trust

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Community development is a democratic process that is committed to empowerment, social justice, participation and community-led social change.

Andie Reynolds
University of Edinburgh/CDAS

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People are the most important and potentially most influential resource in Scotland. There is an urgent need to find the community led approaches which will harness this energy and use it to improve quality of life and reduce inequalities across Scotland.

John Cassidy
Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing

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Community development means empowering people from a diversity of backgrounds, interests and expertise to ensure they can make decisions about their livelihoods, their interests and their places.

Catriona Mallows
Scottish Rural Action

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