

Community Development Alliance Scotland



Why Community Development?

our collective impact



A resource to support anyone working with and for communities

FOREWORD



As a member led, registered Scottish charity, we always welcome suggestions, thoughts and views from our membership organisations as well as our wider stakeholders. In 2007, we produced a booklet 'How Community Development Happens' to support our members and raise awareness of good practice in community development. At our Annual National Conference 2022, as well as other networking events, members advised they would like to see this document refreshed to include more practical information on how community development happens, examples of good practice and how this links to current policy.

We have worked with several of our members and listened to them to shape, develop, and produce this new publication. We are delighted to present to you this updated version with a continued focus on practical information for people on how community development happens and also a resource for those who are interested in increasing their understanding of why community development has such a transformative impact when done well.

We hope you will find it a useful resource to use with communities, groups, policy makers and students alike. We have involved a wide range of our members and subscribers and have captured lots of qualitative impact statements. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our focus group who played an integral role in shaping 'Why Community Development: Our Collective Impact'.

Jewels Lang
Chairperson
Community Development Alliance Scotland



Who are we?

Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS) is a unique Scottish charity that coordinates over 130 national organisations and networks of regional organisations which share core community development principles and approaches, creating a national intermediary and anchor organisation in Scotland and beyond.

This forms a strong coalition to influence change, develop a shared understanding of community development and provide a valuable network of organisations to create a more socially just and equal society.

Described as a “super anchor organisation”, we bring together membership organisations from a very broad range of disciplines with a background in social, economic, environmental, and physical contexts including housing and regeneration, health, learning, social work, education, environment and sustainability and a broad range of academic disciplines.

CDAS has a strong working relationship with experts in the field of community development both nationally and internationally. We continue to strengthen our alliance with a very broad range of our members and subscribers from various parts of Scotland as well as Portugal, Spain, USA, Australia, Ireland, Africa, France, Wales, Latin America, Northern Ireland, England, New Zealand and more.

What is Community Development?

Community development is a practice-based profession and academic discipline. It is defined by its purpose, values and processes that promote participative democracy, sustainable development, human rights, economic opportunity, equality and social justice through the organisation, education and empowerment of people within their communities. These may be of locality, identity or interest, in urban and rural settings. Adhering to these values enables progress on purpose and collective outcomes: namely, positive social and economic change, particularly for communities that experience the greatest levels of inequality and marginalisation.

It builds community capacity and influence by enabling young people, families, adults and communities to develop the confidence, understanding and skills required to influence decision making and service design and delivery.

Community development enables people to work collectively together in a structured and co-ordinated way. We can help bring about positive change to achieve equality, social justice, climate justice and human rights. It is underpinned by a clear set of professional values and ethics.

This long-term process starts with people’s own experience and enables communities to work together to:

- Identify the needs and actions they wish to address. This can be done by communities of place or communities of shared interest or identity.
- Plan and take collective action.
- Build on and strengthen people’s confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Challenge unequal power relationships.
- Promote social justice, equality, and citizen participation.

Community development is a cross cutting, multi-disciplinary practice which includes social, environmental, economic and physical outcomes for communities. This publication demonstrates how community development practice impacts on various strands of the improvement agenda in line with the National Performance Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

#CommunityDevelopment #CommunityEmpowerment #NPF #SDGs

It starts from the belief that everyone should have equal access to health, wellbeing, justice, wealth and economic opportunity. It also recognises that how society and structures are organised means that some people, groups and communities may be excluded and oppressed.

Community development challenges this by:

- supporting communities to use their own skills, knowledge and assets to access resources and support to improve community cohesion, community engagement and community action.
- helping communities, public bodies and other partners to work together to improve how services are delivered and how decisions are made.

Essentially, community development is about making a fairer, just and more inclusive society with strong communities influencing and having agency over discrimination.

The United Nations defines **community development** as “a process where community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems.”

The International Association for Community Development defines community development as “a multi-disciplinary practice based professional intervention that provides educational, organisational and empowering support for disadvantaged communities of place (both urban and rural), interest and identity.”

There are lots of other useful resources which may be helpful including:

Community Development in 60 seconds: www.scdc.org.uk/community-development-in-60-seconds

National Standards for Community Engagement: www.voicescotland.org.uk

National Occupational Standards in Community Development: [National Occupational Standards 2023](#)

Audit Scotland: www.gov.scot/publications/best-value-revised-statutory-guidance-2020

National performance Framework: www.nationalperformance.gov.scot/

Values of CLD Standards: [Values of CLD | CLD Standards Council for Scotland](#)

Competence Framework: [Competent Practitioner Framework | CLD Standards Council for Scotland](#)

How Community Development Happens

A community development approach to strengthening communities is linked to action for social justice. Strengths can be found in communities, but community development support helps to harness community strengths, passions and actions to affect change - especially when economic disadvantage, discrimination, or rapid social, economic and environmental change makes it difficult for communities to have the confidence to take action themselves.

With support from community development agencies and practitioners, stronger communities can help people to affect and achieve change and / or improve their wellbeing. That is how community development can help us all to address global, national and local priorities with, and for, our communities.

Intervention to stimulate and support action is required if communities are to build social and economic capital and benefit on an equal basis from empowerment legislation and policies.

What does it take to develop and support stronger communities?

Community development support is multi-disciplinary, cross-cutting and encompasses environmental, economic, social, demographic, technological, political and other issues by empowering people and communities to work on their own agendas and to be able to influence the policies of public, non-governmental and other agencies to improve the quality of their lives. It has distinct values and commitments from the outset rather than predetermined structures and solutions.

Our core values and principles are:

- Community Empowerment
- Democratic Participation
- Inclusion, Equality and Anti-Discrimination
- Social Justice
- Collective Action
- Self-Determination
- Partnership Working

Being part of a strong community helps people to flourish and increases wellbeing and quality of life. It lies at the core of active citizenship and strengthens local democracy.

Communities that embrace and can influence change are a powerful force to promote equality, inclusion, and social justice, challenging poverty, improving health and promoting sustainable development. They can be more effective advocates for human rights, aid the integration of diverse groups and tackle discrimination or sectarianism.



The role of strong and active communities has been recognised as crucial to delivering many public and non-governmental services in Scotland, including:

- Health and social care integration
- Urban regeneration and rural development
- Planning and making better places
- Tenant participation and housing management
- Renewable energy and tackling climate change
- Community safety
- Lifelong learning
- Curriculum for Excellence
- Community planning



Communities often take action themselves to achieve their objectives, through ownership and control of land and assets or through social enterprise, or through building supportive communities devoted to recovery from addiction, or mutual aid in dealing with health, disability or other issues.

As an approach to social change, community development is often facilitated by people who are experienced and trained in supporting the process:

- Helping people to come together, decide what they want to achieve and find ways of achieving it
- Building personal and collective skills, knowledge and confidence
- Helping people to understand and address social exclusion and division
- Building effective and representative community organisations
- Supporting them as they grow the financial, legal and organisational capacity to achieve results
- Supporting participation and involvement in decision making forums and in transforming services and policies

In Scotland, professionally trained community development workers can be found, both in voluntary and community sectors and in local authorities and other public services, in various settings, including:

- Community based organisations such as Development Trusts and Housing Associations
- Community Learning and Development teams in councils
- Community planning or regeneration partnerships and projects
- Other services, such as social work and the NHS
- Voluntary organisations supporting marginalised groups or the Third Sector as a whole

Communities have great attributes and assets to offer, however, their ability to successfully make full use of these cannot be taken for granted. Community development support helps to unlock potential, build capacity and strengthen community engagement. It also requires trust, a willingness to share power with those often without any power as well as the willingness to try things and have the humility to course correct, learn together, take risks and share responsibility for success. Community development when done well can enrich and change lives, inform and positively influence policy, ultimately making our society fairer, more inclusive and healthier for all.



How to use this resource

Over the past 10 years, community development has become an increasingly diverse field with practitioners working within a very broad range of agencies and organisations. Whilst this development is largely welcomed, there is evidence that there is a need to provide more clarity on what community development is and, equally important, what it is not. Skilled and value-based community development can contribute to the achievement of Scottish Government's policy aspirations on empowerment, social justice, human rights and democratic participation by supporting the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities to be active, engaged and influential in co-producing solutions.

This document can be used by a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations involved in working with and for communities in order to increase knowledge and understanding of community development policy and practice. It is a resource which may be used as a tool in your work practice and highlights resources, support and examples of good practice.

It draws on three main sources:

- Case study examples of community development happening in different contexts around Scotland.
- Impact statements and quotes from our membership organisations given when we asked them about what community development means to them: how they see it as relevant to their work and how their work contributes to it.
- How we work together with all sectors to support and strengthen communities.

All information is correct as of September 2023.

CASE STUDY

Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust
<https://www.healthynhappy.org.uk/>

Aims and objectives:

As a community-owned organisation run by local people, we aim to combat disadvantage and enhance lives and communities in Cambuslang and Rutherglen so they are thriving, resilient and healthy. Our relationship-driven approach prioritises local leadership creating positive change through effective partnerships and community capacity building.

Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust demonstrate their impact on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Democratic Participation



Evidence of impact:

We focus on individual well-being, helping people achieve their goals and improve their lives. One participant struggling with anxiety and isolation sought our support, attending activities after receiving practical assistance. She described her transformation, saying, "I feel like a blockage has been cleared after years of low power mode."

Our participant-led Peer Support Group empowers individuals, enabling one person to take their first holiday in years.

The National Lottery Healthy n Happy has facilitated a £2.6m investment into CamGlen. We engage 290 volunteers annually, offering courses, well-being groups, activities, and community initiatives.

Working with the Springhall Community Resource Group, we revitalised "The Cage" in Springhall with a £500,000 investment, hosting an after-school club and promoting parent engagement, community clean-ups and neighbourhood planning. We combat food poverty by providing food at the club and signpost individuals to other services and volunteering opportunities.

What does community development mean to you?

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Community Development to us is meeting community needs with a strong emphasis on connecting people to policy and partnerships to people. Our board is made up entirely of local residents and listening, responding and empowering is our main focus.

We prioritise mental well-being and provide communities and individuals with the tools and resources they need for self-sufficiency and to thrive.

Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust

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Community Development... A National Priority

There are a number of legislative duties to actively involve communities including The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and The Equality Act (2010). The Scottish Government is pro- actively encouraging local citizens to get involved in influencing decision making through the process of *Democracy Matters*.

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I'm pleased to support this publication. Our diverse communities are the building blocks of our nation. The pandemic saw local people come together to identify and address issues affecting the most vulnerable in our society. The Scottish Government believes that when we trust and resource our communities to take decisions, we see positive change happen. I would encourage communities across the country to get involved in the national Democracy Matters conversation to agree how we can further embed this approach in Scotland.

Mr. Tom Arthur
Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance

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CDAS and its networks are working flat out helping communities to thrive. Their energy and experience will help to ensure the Democracy Matters conversation delivers on the new possibilities it creates for local decision-making in Scotland.

Brian Logan, Scottish Government
(Democracy matters 2)

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Relying on old measures like GDP, top-down regeneration and the concentration of wealth in a few hands has failed to deliver genuine economic success. Community Wealth Building (CWB) promises a more practical, inclusive and sustainable approach to development... a new people-centred approach ... which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people ... This includes more democratic, shared ownership of the economy, with support for the development of SMEs, Social Enterprises, employee ownership, cooperatives, municipal activity and community enterprises.

<https://socialenterprise.scot/building-community-wealth-with-social-enterprise>

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Community Development is a specific field of practice defined by its purpose, values and processes. Adhering to the values is what enables progress on purpose and collective outcomes- namely positive social change, particularly for communities that experience the greatest levels of inequality and marginalisation.

Anna Clarke
International Association for Community
Development (IACD)

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What does community development mean to you?

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Community development is a process that is determined by the needs of any given community. Shaping this process are Community Development practitioners who engage with groups in order to enhance the places where they live and thrive. Community Development practitioners support community groups to build capacity by developing skills, knowledge and resources to organise, deliver, campaign and influence decision makers. Given the life changing responsibilities and accountabilities of Community Development work is therefore essential that practitioners are supported to operate within the framework of Community Learning and Development professional competences, values and code of ethics.

Dr. Marion Allison
CLD Standards Council

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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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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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CASE STUDY

Tiree Community Development Trust
<https://www.tireetrust.org.uk/>

Aims and objectives:

To encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of the Isle of Tiree, with due regard to the unique culture, heritage and environment of the Island.

Tiree Community Development Trust demonstrate their impact on:

- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Economic Regeneration
- Learning and Education



Evidence of impact:

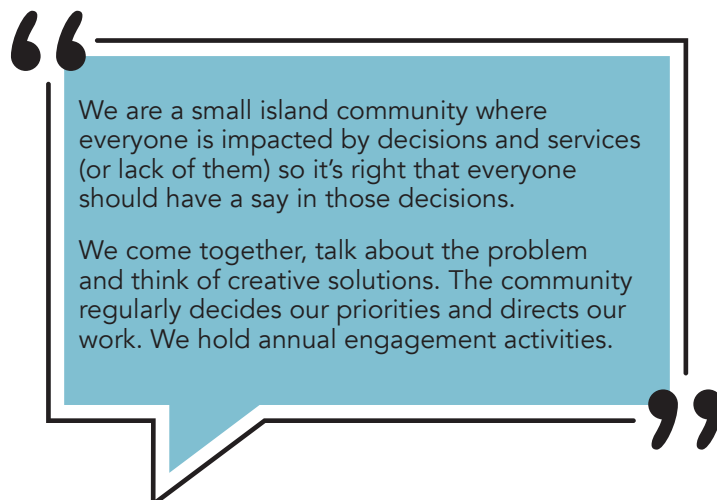
The three main priorities in our last development plan were housing, cost of living and childcare. Current work includes building 12 – 14 houses, exploring self-build options to support home ownership and looking at converting second homes/holiday lets to long term rentals.

Our Cruas Project provides practical advice and seeks to facilitate Tiree residents accessing national/regional support schemes, grants and benefits. The project provided winter fuel support grants funded by our wind turbine in the winter of 2022/23, and seeks to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis.

We are actively exploring options for pre-nursery and wraparound childcare.

We have ongoing youth work, Gaelic language development, a Ranger Service and have subsidiary companies that manage harbours and moorings, a community wind turbine, filling station, community broadband network and are soon to complete light commercial business units.

What does community development mean to you?



CASE STUDY

Ukrainian Community Hub Refugee Project

(Supported by Aberdeen City Council Community Development Team)

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/>

Aims and objectives:

Our aim is to bring an early intervention and prevention focus providing young people and adults with skills for life, learning and work addressing personal and social development, active citizenship, and individual health and wellbeing issues and empowering people, both as individuals and in communities, to make positive changes in their lives. It also focuses on growing community-led groups and services that make communities more cohesive, sustainable, and better able to overcome the challenges they face, as well as working with community groups to support them to be well-run, sustainable and independent.

Ukrainian Community Hub Refugee Project demonstrate their impact on:

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



Evidence of impact:

- A Ukrainian Association was established with support from the lead Community Development Officer which enabled them to access funding and manage and deliver activities (over 30 classes and groups) which support the Ukrainian community. i.e., Mental Health Project for trauma related conditions.
- A Ukrainian Sunday School was established from September 2022 to present. This provided a wide range of well organised programmes every week which enhanced the learning and support to children and families from the Ukrainian community. We know this through observation and feedback.
- Overall Ukrainian Community Centre progress toward housing, jobs, and language needs evidenced partly through a decrease in demand for holistic support services. This was evidenced through feedback and data from services and the Ukrainian Association
- The Ukrainian Association is successfully providing peer support and organising social, cultural and educational activities to support the Ukrainian Community in Aberdeen (over 1800 people)

What does community development mean to you?

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Would concur with the CLD Managers definition which is “Community Development work in CLD focuses on building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with and influencing decision makers”. In addition to the above statement fundamentally Community Development is purposeful and is about ‘working together’ to overcome obstacles and challenges which affect people’s lives.

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CASE STUDY

Crossroads Youth Community Association

<https://www.cyca.org.uk/>



Aims and objectives:

"Everyone should have the 'right to live gloriously'... whatever in society makes this impossible must be attacked: whatever in the individual may make it possible must be nurtured and strengthened."

Crossroads Youth & Community Association demonstrate their impact on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Democratic Participation

Evidence of impact:

There is a strong and close connection between the organisation and its community. This means it is quickly able to gather relevant intelligence and use its network of contacts in formulating a response. This relationship carries forward to the composition of the board of directors, which has always been predominantly composed of residents and service users.

This secures local relevance and accountability in a way that more remotely run local charities do not. Seven decades of innovation and cliff edge grant applications to enable the employment of committed and energetic individuals has placed unrelenting pressure on administration staff and unpaid voluntary managers.

What does community development mean to you?

The cross-cutting elements of community development

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Community Development to me is about meaningfully engaging and empowering communities in agendas that matter to that community.

It's about a co-production approach with equal power for the greater good. It's not tokenism or a tick box exercise with a 'them and us' mentality.

Heather Sloan
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

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Community development for me means community empowerment, working with communities especially those most vulnerable, giving communities a voice and creating a culture where communities can actively participate and thrive in the communities they live.

Naasra Roshan
North West Health Improvement Team, NWHSCP

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Within Scottish Refugee Council, community development drives our ambition to empower individuals and communities so that they can create sustainable groups with the capacity to attract funding, successfully delivering services and interventions which enhance their communities, and play an active role in participative democracy thus demonstrating their positive contribution to society.

Jewels Lang
Scottish Refugee Council

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Our principles are inclusivity – challenging discrimination in all its forms; empowerment – working to increase the abilities of individuals and groups to influence issues; collaboration – recognising that local people have skills, knowledge and experience that can be used to find solutions to issues, and participation - recognising that building social relationships and trust are essential in mobilising communities.

Crossroads Youth Community Association

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Community Development is working with and for the community. It is essential across all community work. The tools and methods provide and create a platform to feel and be part of change.

Pinar Aksu
Maryhill Integration Network

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CASE STUDY

The Spartans Community Foundation
<https://www.spartanscfa.com/>

Aims and objectives:

Since 2008, the Spartans Community Foundation has focused on delivering impactful initiatives in North Edinburgh. Our objectives include increasing participation in sports, providing learning opportunities, improving health and employment, reducing crime, and fostering community cohesion.

We operate as a social enterprise, reinvesting profits back into the community for positive social outcomes.

The Spartans Community Foundation demonstrate their impact on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Democratic Participation
- Economic Regeneration
- Learning and Education



Evidence of impact:

The Spartans Community Foundation aims to enhance the quality of life for the North Edinburgh community using sports and community engagement. We address local challenges in a highly deprived area, collaborating with partners to tackle social needs. Our facility serves as a hub for activities, providing complimentary or low-cost options and safe spaces for young people.

Our priorities are education, youth work, and mental and physical well-being, striving to improve opportunities and prospects for all. We actively work with local schools, reducing the poverty-related attainment gap through targeted programs. We were a key community support hub during the COVID-19 pandemic increasing funding opportunities for refugee-led community groups.

What does community development mean to you?

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SCF embraces community development as a process which empowers community members to address their concerns collectively.

We are redefining the role of a football club by prioritizing community engagement and social impact. Our core values align with community development, emphasizing human rights, social justice, equality, and diversity.

We adhere to the core values, ethics and principles and are always driven by what the local community needs are.

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The cross-cutting elements of community development

Community development has never been so important to delivering economic, social and environmental justice. Its philosophical values are only part of the story with the future of viable services, and the communities that need them, increasingly dependent on workable dialogue between citizens, decision makers and service providers to promote equity of outcomes and real social change or that at least mitigates the effects of our currently disastrous social, economic and environmental policy.

Mick Doyle
Scottish Community Development Centre

Bringing together energy and best practice from community groups.

Michael Costello
Social Enterprise Academy

What Community Development means to me is that it is the key to unlocking the potential inherent in every community to meet the challenges they face, both local and global and to overcome those challenges to create vibrant and creative communities that meets the needs of all who live there.

Colin Campbell
Inspiring Scotland/ Bethany Christian Trust

Empowering communities to support the people within them will always be the best approach because of the understanding and collective strength it offers.

Mark Soanes
Scottish Recovery Network

Community development is a group of people who work for the betterment of their community by developing the community's skills through activities and workshops.

I adhere the core values, ethics and principles because these are the values always helps me to work and serve the community by promoting and practising social justice and Human rights.

Mala Jayhindaran / Shawn Fernadez
Springburn Unity Network

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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CASE STUDY

Making Rights Real

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



Aims and objectives:

Making Rights Real is a small grassroots human rights organisation in Scotland with a big vision - to support marginalised communities to use the power of human rights to mobilise for economic and social change.

We are a growing network of people and communities using human rights in practice in Scotland.

Making Rights Real demonstrate their impact on:

- Human Rights
- Social Justice
- Democratic Participation

Evidence of impact:

In December 2022 we staged the human rights drama SEVEN at the Scottish Parliament. A riveting piece of documentary theatre, SEVEN tells the true stories of seven women who bravely fought for the well-being of women, families, and children around the globe.

We invited women who were human rights activists, or who wanted to become one, to come along and find out more about participating in SEVEN. Many of our cast had never acted or performed on stage before.

Through the rehearsal process, the women shared their own human rights concerns around issues including climate change, homelessness, adult social care, poverty and racism.

Our cast are keen to continue working together after this performance; continuing to perform and speaking to lawmakers and duty bearers about breaches of human rights in their communities.

What does community development mean to you?

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We are a grassroots organisation that believes people must be at the heart of making change happen.

We work alongside communities experiencing human rights issues, supporting them to name and claim their rights.

We organise people to work together on common issues to campaign for economic and social change.

We support communities to develop their own methods to tackle injustice.

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CASE STUDY

Maryhill Integration Network (MIN)

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

Aims and objectives:

Maryhill Integration Network (MIN) was established to bring people seeking asylum, refugees, migrants and the local community of Glasgow together. Since 2001, we have been developing projects which support positive social change by investing in communities and providing a welcoming, safe and inclusive space with opportunities for collaboration and connection.

Maryhill Integration Network demonstrate their impact on:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice
- Democratic Participation
- Learning and Education
- Human Rights
- Participatory Arts

Evidence of impact:

MIN's work is structured around the following three themes:

1. Human Rights & Citizenship
2. Wellbeing & Safety
3. Arts & Culture

MIN's activities include a weekly programme which offers 7 social groups (Family / Men's / Women's Art, Peer-Support & Advocacy Groups, Gardening Club and Community Choir), 7 learning opportunities (3 ESOL and 4 ICT Classes), 2 advice surgeries, a counselling service, and a volunteering programme.

At MIN, we work with just under 40 partners over the course of a year and reach between 500-600 people through our groups and volunteer opportunities, as well as our outreach projects and community events.

Evaluation with MIN members demonstrates that our work improves mental wellbeing; increases confidence and reduces isolation.



What does community development mean to you?

“

MIN's growth and development has been one that is aligned with the direct needs and experiences of those we work with and it has been our ongoing commitment to creating connections – specifically the social connections between people, organisations and communities – which has been the key to rebuilding lives and developing a supportive society in which prejudice and fear are replaced by belonging and acceptance.

”

CASE STUDY

Renfrewshire CLD International Women's Day 2023

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3577/>

Adult-and-Family-Learning



Aims and objectives:

Our Personal and Social Development group completed a women's history course at Southend Action Centre and they wanted to share their knowledge about what they had learned in the group. The women had gained confidence and wanted to celebrate by hosting an event for International Women's Day.

Renfrewshire CLD International Women's Day 2023 demonstrate their impact on:

Every detail of the event was discussed and planned by the learners. "Chat with me, Friends and Tea" was held in March 2023 with learners attending from lots of different groups.

The group based the event on the programme 'Loose Women' to encourage and enable everyone to speak out loud.

Participants were asked to write down a topic which they would like to discuss and it was placed in a tub in order to ensure that the event covered areas of interest throughout the day by everyone involved.

Learners and staff were on the panel and discussed a wide variety of topics including women's history, equality, mental health, childcare, LGBTQI, feelings, life in general, cost of living and appointments. The event ended on a positive note, bringing everyone together to sing and dance to 'Sisters Are Doin' It For Themselves' by Eurythmics and Aretha Franklin.

Evidence of impact:

- Health and wellbeing
- Increased confidence, skills and knowledge
- Democratic participation
- Cost of Living Crisis / Social Justice

What does community development mean to you?

“

Community Development is one of our founding cornerstones; it guides our work and is a key pillar in achieving community & individual wellbeing.

Simply put for us: Democracy and shared solutions. Participation and action. Connections and influence.

Brendan Rooney
Healthy n Happy Community
Development Trust

”

“

Working with a community to deliver services, build trust, collaboration, and worthwhile activities. The core values underpin all of what we do at CHSS.

Chris Docherty
Chest, Heart, Stroke Scotland

”

“

Very interesting approach, women and men struggle for equality so it was great to hear all views. I loved the way the programme was based around Loose Women as people opened up and shared and learned together.

Renfrewshire CLD

”

“

We believe that the key purpose of community development work is to collectively bring about social change and justice.

We must work with communities to continually challenge oppression and tackle inequalities, staying true to our beliefs that community development should always be rooted in values and principles.

Gordon Terris
Scottish Community Development Network

”

“

As someone who has lived in the Western Isles for a majority of my life, I understand the impact of community development in ensuring that vital services are delivered. Community development involves people coming together and working in partnership to improve their area in many different ways. In my role, I help to run Gaelic learning and development programmes as it is important to ensure that people are given the opportunity to learn about leadership, enterprise and other key areas vital for community development in the language in which they feel most comfortable communicating and learning.

Iain Boyd
Social Enterprise Academy

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What does community development mean to you?

“

We seek to engage with community development through methods that are connecting, supporting, learning and collaborating.

Our core values that underpin our work and delivery are to be sustainable, ethical, inclusive and responsive, placing communities and their interests and needs at the heart of what we do and strive to deliver.

NESCAN

”

So what: What does this demonstrate?

Community Development Alliance Scotland is fully committed to driving community development policy and practice by involving our broad range of membership organisations from the voluntary, public, faith and private sectors. This document demonstrates our collective impact on the improvement agenda for various outcomes including health, economic regeneration, human rights and social justice.

These examples of community development action show that building stronger communities can be hard work, and a long-term process requiring skills and the building of trust and confidence. Although we have demonstrated collective, meaningful, partnership working, we also believe we can do so much more to create more equal communities.

“

Community development is the answer because it ensures we have more socially just and equal societies. This is demonstrated throughout the world where extremes are not only detrimental to the less able or less fortunate but evidence suggests extremes also come at the detriment of the more able. For the greater good of all, it is our moral obligation to galvanise collective responses to the creation of more socially just, equal societies.

Colette McGarva
CDAS Coordinator
IACD Global Ambassador Award recipient

”

Common vision, commitment and co-production

Our impact statements and quotations from CDAS membership organisations give a sample of the wide range of people and organisations who support community development and the reasons they have for doing so. CDAS believes that we need to harness this potential through a common commitment, across public, private, faith and voluntary sectors to embed community development as a shared value-based process.

Key elements should include:

- Valuing the strong personalities and collective intentions of community development practitioners, driven by their inherent values, principles, common understanding and wealth of knowledge, experience and shared understanding
- Being clear that communities develop independently and set their own priorities and legislative duties of public services enables them to work in partnership with communities
- Acknowledging the importance of skilled, value-based community development work being done when required
- Clear arrangements for local planning, resource sharing and action to enable community development
- Effective implementation of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act with support to groups and areas that might be marginalised or excluded
- Strong local government, devolving decisions from national levels as close to communities as possible
- Resources set aside to deliver outcomes through community-led action, with a proportion of these going to building up the community capacity for that action
- Expansion of community development training and continual professional development programmes for paid staff across a range of disciplines and for unpaid volunteers and community activists



OUR MEMBERSHIP ORGANISATIONS

- Age Scotland
- Alcohol Focus Scotland
- Alzheimer Scotland
- BEMIS Scotland
- Bethany Christian Trust
- Big Lottery Fund Scotland
- Bipolar Scotland
- Business Improvement Districts Scotland
- Black & Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland
- Brechin Healthcare Group
- Bridgend Inspiring Growth
- British Red Cross
- Building Health Communities
- CADISPA Trust
- Care Inspectorate
- Carnegie UK Trust
- CELCIS Scotland
- CEMVO Scotland
- Circle
- Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland
- Chest, Heart, and Stroke Scotland
- CHEX
- Children in Scotland
- CIH Scotland
- Citizen Participation Network
- Citizens Advice Scotland
- CLD Standards Council Scotland
- CLD Managers Scotland
- Cocoon - families supporting families
- College Development Network
- Comas
- Community Food and Health Scotland
- Community Health Exchange
- Community Resources Network Scotland
- Community Transport Association
- Conforti Institute
- Corra Foundation
- COSLA
- Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations
- Culture Garden
- Democratic Society
- Development Trusts Association Scotland
- Disclosure Scotland
- Eden Communities
- Education Scotland
- Electoral Reform Society
- Equality and Human Rights Commission
- Equality Network
- European Community Development Network
- Evaluation Support Scotland
- Faith in Community Scotland
- Fathers Network Scotland
- Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens
- Forestry Enterprise Scotland
- Foundation Scotland
- Friockheim Community
- Generations Working Together
- Glasgow Science Centre
- Greenspace Scotland
- Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland
- Healthy n Happy
- Highlands and Islands Enterprise
- International Association for Community Development
- Improvement Hub, Healthcare Improvement Scotland
- Improvement Service
- Includem
- Inclusion Scotland
- Inspiring Scotland
- Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services
- International Futures Forum
- Involve
- Learning for Sustainability Scotland
- Learning Link Scotland
- Life Changes Trust
- Lothian Association of Youth Clubs
- Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland
- Making Rights Real
- Marie Curie Scotland
- Media Education
- Midsteeple Quarter
- NESCAN
- NHS Health Scotland
- OSCR
- Oxfam Scotland
- Planning Aid Scotland
- Planning Democracy
- Poverty Alliance
- Resilient Scotland
- Scotland's Learning Partnership
- Scotland's Rural College Rural Society Team
- Scotland's Towns Partnership
- Scottish Churches Housing Action
- Scottish Communities Climate Action Network
- Scottish Communities for Health and Wellbeing
- Scottish Community Development Centre
- Scottish Community Mediation Centre
- Scottish Community Safety Network
- Scottish Co-production Network
- Scottish Council on Deafness
- Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Social Enterprise Scotland
- SOLACE Scotland
- Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs
- Scottish Federation of Housing Associations
- Scottish Government
- Scottish Human Rights Commission
- Scottish Men's Sheds Association
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Recovery Network
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Scottish Rural Network
- Scottish Social Services Council
- Scottish Trades Union Congress
- See Me Scotland
- Social Enterprise Academy
- Scottish Trades Union Congress
- Scottish Regeneration Forum
- Tartan Jigsaw
- Tenants Information Service
- Tenant Participation Advisory Service
- Values Into Action Scotland
- Venture Trust
- VisionPK
- Voluntary Action Scotland
- Voluntary Arts Scotland
- Volunteer Scotland
- WEA Scotland
- Wellbeing Alliance
- Who Cares? Scotland
- The Wise Group
- Working on Wheels
- Xchange Scotland
- Youthlink Scotland
- Youth Scotland

USEFUL LINKS



The Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC), the national body that supports best practice in community development.
<http://www.scdc.org.uk/>

The Scottish Community Development Network (SCDN), a network that individual workers and volunteers can join, supporting people who support communities.
<http://www.scdn.scot/>

The Scottish Government's information on 'Community Empowerment and Engagement'
<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/engage>

Scotland's Citizens' Assembly is a group of 100 citizens from various parts of Scotland coming together to address the question of what kind of country we are seeking to build.
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/research-report-citizens-assembly-scotland/>

The CLD Standards Council Scotland, the professional body for people who work or volunteer in community learning and development in Scotland.
<http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/>

The International Association for Community Development (IACD), a global network for community development practitioners, operationally based in Scotland.
<http://www.iacdglobal.org>

Community Development and Human Rights, Scottish Refugee Council – The Scottish Refugee Council is Scotland's national refugee charity. Every year they support thousands of men, women and children as they rebuild their lives in Scotland.
<https://www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/>

Community Health Exchange (CHEX) - CHEX supports community-led approaches to tackling health inequalities across Scotland.
<https://www.chex.org.uk/>

Community Development & Climate Justice – This fund supports communities in partner developing countries to become more resilient to climate change in a way that acknowledges and tackles embedded inequalities.
<https://www.gov.scot/policies/international-development/climate-justice-fund/>

Audit Scotland - Audit Scotland delivers financial and performance audits on public bodies and the management of public services, policies and major projects.
<https://www.audit-scotland.gov.uk/>

Education Scotland - Education Scotland is a Scottish Government executive agency charged with supporting quality and improvement in Scottish education and thereby securing the delivery of better learning experiences and outcomes for Scottish learners of all ages.
<https://education.gov.scot/>

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) - SCVO is the national membership organisation for the voluntary sector.
www.scvo.scot



JOIN OUR STRONG COALITION

If you are not already a member of CDAS we would love to hear from you!! For more information on how to become a member or subscriber and a wide range of links to information about policy, practice and resources on community development, please visit:

www.communitydevelopmentalliancescotland.org

✉ cdascotland@gmail.com

Scottish Charity Number SC038639



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