

Community Development Alliance Scotland



**Annual National
Conference 2023
Evaluation Report**

Why Community Development?
Exploring our collective impact



#WhyCD2023

Our conference explored the cross-cutting impact of community development, highlighting examples of good practice in Scotland and Internationally.

By involving our membership organisations, we produced a new publication *Why Community Development? Our Collective Impact*, which was launched at our conference by the Minister, Mr. Tom Arthur. This new publication may be used as a useful resource to support anyone working with and for communities.

Opening Ceremony

Our conference chair, Jewels lang welcomed everyone to **#WhyCD2023** and our opening ceremony was truly joyous with the amazing Joyous Choir, Maryhill Integration Network who also joined in for the rest of our conference.



Keynote Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Sabir Zazai . CEO Scottish Refugee Council, Honorary Doctor [@UofGlasg](#) We are delighted to be welcoming Sabir who has a wealth of knowledge and experience in community development, human rights and inclusion and diversity. Sabir spoke passionately about the need for equality and inclusion, respecting the rights and needs of others within our communities.

Keynote Speaker: Clare MacGillivray, Director, Making Rights Real/ International Association for Community Development. Clare has 20 years experience of community development policy and practice and is a great Global Ambassador for community development in Scotland. Clare provided an inspirational speech exploring “are you a human rights activist?” highlighting the need to be involved in the Human Rights Bill and the Implementation Bill. More [HERE](#)

Keynote speaker, Mr. Tom Arthur, [@ThomasCArthur](#) Minister for Community Wealth & Public Finance. We are delighted to welcome Tom back to speak at our conference and to be involved in the launch of our new publication, **Why Community Development? Our Collective Impact**. Mr Arthur spoke of the commitment from the Scottish Government to work together with CDAS and our members, highlighting the opportunity to being involved in decision making processes through Democracy Matters 2. More [HERE](#)

Anastasia Crickley, All Ireland Endorsement Body Standards. Anastasia thanked CDAS and said the conference had been a great opportunity to forge alliances with CDAS members.



Workshops

We offered the opportunity for all attendees to be involved in 3 workshops from a choice of 5. Feedback from participants on current opportunities, challenges and solution focused approaches to remedying challenges included the following:

Input from Scottish Recovery Network, International Association for Community Development, CLDMS, Scottish Refugee Council, Scottish Community Development Network, Circle, Maryhill Integration Network, Scottish Community Development Centre, CLD Standards Council and more!!

Workshop A: Empowering Communities: Democracy Matters: Involving communities in decision making processes.

Laura MacDonald, Scottish Community Development Centre & Brian Logan, Scottish Government

More information about Democracy Matters (including the video we showed) can be found on the Scottish Government's website: [Democracy Matters - local governance review: phase 2 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/democracy-matters-local-governance-review-phase-2/pages/introduction.aspx).

This includes the discussion documents in [English](#), [Easy Read](#) and [Gaelic](#).

The consultation itself is available online until 28th February 2024- [Democracy Matters - Scottish Government consultations - Citizen Space](#)

We also spoke about the funding that communities can apply for to help them hold conversations - [Democracy Matters Community Engagement Fund - Impact Funding Partners](#) Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS) which will allow practitioners or communities to hear from some of the communities who have participated in conversations and to get some facilitation tips and guidance. This will be held on the 9th November – More details at [DTAS](#) and [SCDC](#) websites.

Workshop B: Cost of Living Crisis: Where is the social justice?

Douglas Guest, Circle & Gordon Terris, Scottish Community Development Network

- Shortage of good leaders and role models
- More family support needed
- Blame culture- addiction is a response to pain
- Need to build upon good practice of partnership working

Workshop C: Human rights: Inclusion, diversity & rights

Petrit Shala, Scottish Refugee Council & Pinar Aksu, Maryhill Integration Network

Opportunities

Using music, arts etc in community involvement

Organising walks, recognition of the importance of the arts

Be a part of something bigger, various activities help people's healing

Use music as a means of empowering people by coming together. Helps people feel less isolated

CLD has a role to play to engage people and give them a voice

Building on different alliances and networks

Recognising skills and building capacity a lot of learning

Challenges

People have no voice in planning and decision making

People in hotels ...difficult experiences

Local authorities informing the community in advance when hotels are being used



People being isolated, structural problems

It takes time for change to happen

Systematic issues

Solution focused approaches

Use community empowerment to help people make change- think critically

Value networks of people who come together to discuss issues- New Scots Connect

Empower ...to think critically about the solutions

Consultation with the people to identify what is needed

Workshop D: CD Policy & Practice: National & International Standards in Community Development

Kirsty Gemmel, CLD Standards Council & Anna Clarke, International Association for Community Development

Towards Shared Standards for Community Development Practice: Summary Guide in the main body of Why CD publication.

All 3 sessions informed participants on the 3 key standards for community work across UK and Ireland.

1. [All Ireland Standards for Community Work](#)
2. [Community Development National Occupational Standards](#)
3. [IACD International Standards for Community Development Practice](#)

Discussions were had around navigation between documents, how they are implemented differently across the UK and Ireland, clarity and synchronisation of the 3 standards, and how they have clear articulation connected to values.

There was explanations of the 3 differing definitions of community development from these documents and how they align well.

Questions posed by participants from the 3 workshops which created further discussions including:

- Legislation v Policy. What's the difference in this context, and what influences what. How can we support communities to understand.

- Who can influence policy, who is accountable for development. How can organisations, communities and individuals challenge, shape and inform from grassroots levels. Discussions were had about practitioners being accountable on differing levels, to inform individuals and communities they support as well as to work with bodies such as the CLD Standards Council and CDAS to help inform and shape policy and legislation from an evidence-based platform.
- Climate change and legislation. The role of CD/CLD organisations and should this be clearer in policy. Discussion were around how climate change is linked to so much community work, at its core and how important it is for practitioners and organisations to ensure individuals, communities and organisations understand the connections/links and we make it as transparent and upfront as possible.
- Importance of understanding the underpinning CD values and how they shape what we do: Practice of using values as outcomes. Key to using competences in practice, such as S&S, project/community development and when supporting groups/volunteers/communities of practice.
- The importance of workers/organisations abilities regarding contextualising standards in areas of CLD work. (similar conversations as above regarding accountability and transparency)
- Importance of meaningful community engagement regarding CD policy and standards. Those consulted need to see their voice and the change that follows, connecting their input throughout processes: Consultation Fatigue in communities. Critical to champion and show positively even when we are not feeling it.

Workshop E:

Having a Voice in our Community Health and Wellbeing

Mark Soanes, Scottish Recovery Network & Brendan Rooney, Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust

This workshop focused on communities having a bigger more powerful voice in helping to shape services and resources. This had a particular focus on mental health.

Some of the challenges around this were discussed;

- With more restricted budgets and greater pressure on services there is a tendency for services and decision makers to be insular in their approach
- Not enough understanding of the benefits of non clinical interventions around mental health
- Lack of willingness to look at evidence both in Scotland and overseas of the power of lived experience, eg Peer support
- Apparent lack of willingness to engage meaningfully from public sector

Opportunities

- People are wanting to play a part in decisions around health and wellbeing within their communities.
- Peer support approach around mental health is well evidenced and would reduce pressures on over stretched clinical services
- People would feel part of their communities if consulted on and listened to around wellbeing
- New ideas would be created by the people, for the people that are affected by decisions

Market Place

Our marketplace enabled participants to share, learn and network with some of our members including:

- Crossroads
- Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust
- Community Development Alliance Scotland
- Maryhill Integration Network
- Generations Working Together
- Scottish Refugee Council
- CLD Standards Council
- Social Enterprise Academy
- Springburn Unity Network

Reverse Panel Discussions

Reverse Panel Discussions gave our members the opportunity to pose questions to senior policy makers and influencers in order to affect change. Our programme included input from reverse panel. Contributors from various national perspectives presented key challenges to the audience for roundtable discussions and responses. Our reverse panel included:

- Clare MacGillivray, Making Rights Real
- Gordon Terris, Scottish Community Development Network
- Susan Paxton, Scottish Community Development Centre
- Brian Logan, Scottish Government
- Michael Costello, Social Enterprise Academy
- Anna Clarke, International Association for Community Development
- Dr. Marion Allison, CLD Standards Council
- Mark Soanes, Scottish Recovery Network
- Pauline Smith, Development Trust Associations Scotland

Maryhill Community Transport

Transport was made available for participant to travel from Glasgow city centre to Maryhill Burgh Halls and to take participants back to train stations.

Download the evaluation form and share your views about our conference:

<http://communitydevelopmentalliancescotland.org/s/CDAS-Conference-evaluation-2023-aims.docx>

Feedback from our participants

Well done on a superb event! It went brilliantly from my perspective, and I appreciate the hard work that went in, in the months leading up, and on the day.

Really enjoyed the conference, thank you for putting it all together, it was clear how much work had gone into it!

Natasha
Healthy n Happy Community Development Trust

You did so well.
Brilliant to catch up in person

Clare
Making Rights Real



it was a fabulous day. Thanks
for all your hard work!

Andie

A very well done again on leading
such a successful conference.

It was a fabulous day, with so many
connections made.

Nicola



Thank you for organising a great conference last Wednesday it was fruitful meeting everyone from across the CD spectrum.

I took away a few actions from the event in terms of promoting the Democracy Matters Funding and a call for a final push on the Human Rights Bill which has now led to ACC finalising their response.

Hamish
Aberdeen City Council



Well done to the team.
Very interesting and stimulating

It was a great event, but takes so much organising.

Kirsty
CLD Standards Council



Powerful opening to @cdascotland #WhyCD2023 Conference. Feeling very nostalgic being at @maryhill_halls

It was a very successful event from a participants' point of view.
Beverley
Chest, Heart, Stroke



THANK YOU!!!

It was such a fabulous day. I think we did so much better than previous years regards supporting the signups for workshops etc, and getting people to take a note

Vikki
CLD Standards Council



Another fantastic opportunity to discuss – Why Community Development

Sinead
University of Glasgow



How fantastic!!

Holly,
International Association for
Community Development (IACD)

Great to have an overview of the Scottish Governments approach to community development from Minister Tom Arthur

Helen
International Association for
Community Development

Thank you once more for an amazing day at the conference!

We had a fabulous time and the atmosphere was just great. You worked very hard and everyone is very proud of you.

Ruth, NC



An excellent day at the @cdascotland conference with keynote speaker @ThomasCArthur.

Thoughtful contributions on the future of local democracy at our Democracy Matters workshops
Chris Robb
Scottish Government

We are delighted that our Director Clare is keynote speaker at #WhyCD2023 @cdascotland national conference, making a case for rights based community development
Making Rights Real



Great conference- so many vital conversations

Anna
International Association for
Community Development (IACD)



Great questions and discussions with the panel at @cdascotland Annual Conference

Kelly Giudici

Delighted to have the chance to join @cdascotland's excellent conference today.

Much that was motivational and feel especially inspired by Clare MacGillivray's speech on using human, economic and social rights to bring about decisive shifts for communities

Scottish Community Action Network

Strengthening alliances with community development educators and standards bodies in Scotland at @cdascotland conference while exploring the collective impact of CD.

All Ireland Endorsement Body Standards

About to start @cdascotland conference #WhyCD2023.

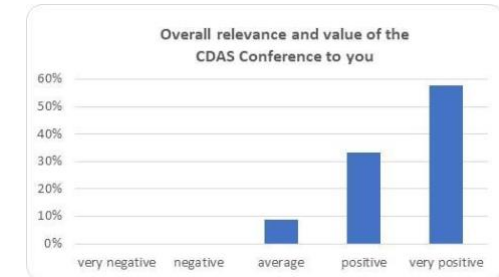
Great to see our case study in their new publication Why Community Development: Our Collective Impact
Circle



1. Overall relevance and value of CDAS Conference to you:

The highest percentage of attendees rated the overall relevance and value of the CDAS conference as positive or very positive.

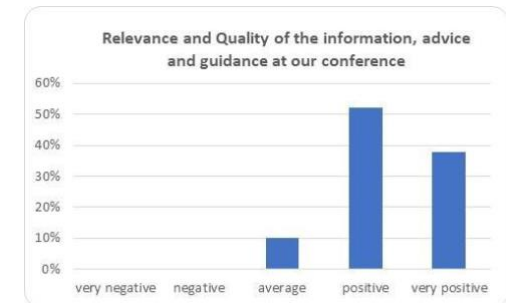
No-one provided it a negative rating.



2. Relevance and quality of the information, advice and guidance at our conference:

The majority of attendees rated the relevance and quality of information, advice and guidance as positive or very positive.

No-one provided a negative rating.



3. Please rate the benefits to you of attending our conference and workshops

All attendees were very positive about the benefits from attending the conference. Networking and discussions rated the highest followed by Opportunity to share knowledge, experience and expertise in community development policy and practice.

There was no negative feedback from attendees.

