

Flash report

Community Led Approaches – COVID-19 Health and Social Care Learning in Scotland

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✉ info@ihub.scot

🐦 @ihubscot

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the key role of communities in supporting health and wellbeing. This raises many questions about how we recognise, resource and sustain activity as we transition into recovery. The ihub is keen to explore how to use the learning from community responses during COVID-19 to inform the future of health and social care in Scotland.

This first session focused on sharing insights from the Scottish Government and national community development organisations. The panel discussion centred on the opportunity to influence the national agenda for health and social care.

Speakers

Karen Geekie, *Self-directed Support Policy Lead, Scottish Government*

- The Scottish Government Adult Social Care Reform programme recognises the need to do things differently and the valued role of community. The programme includes a 'Communities, Care and Support' work stream.
- What can be done nationally to support communities and where do the Scottish Government need to "get out the way"?

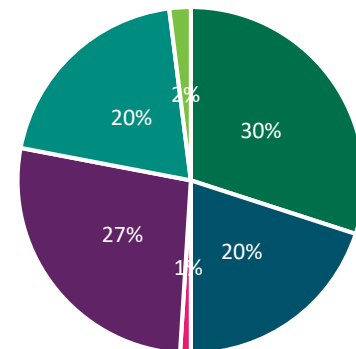
Anne Connor, *Chief Executive, Outside the Box*

- The role of community in health and social care is not new.
- Communities offer a broad spectrum of support from formal services to people looking out for each other.
- How do we develop trust in our community organisations to ensure they are properly valued and supported?

Lindsay Chalmers, *Development Manager, Community Land Scotland*

- A large number of community land owners have responded during COVID-19 to supporting health and wellbeing of communities.
- They have a rich experience of working in complex communities and understand local need.
- How do we sustain activity that has developed in recent months?

A total of 165 people attended the online discussion session from a range of organisations



■ Local: public sector ■ Local: third sector
■ Local: community organisation ■ National: public sector
■ National: third sector ■ Other

Panel Discussion

Communities have shown that they are capable of delivering safe, quality services to people at an uncertain time and under a great amount of pressure. How can their contribution be recognised and sustained?

- Needs a culture shift away from assuming that community groups will fit around HSCP processes and ways of working – community groups need a stronger, more assertive voice.
- National and local decision makers being more proactive in engaging with, and hearing the needs of community groups.
- Ensuring sustainability of funding for third sector and community organisations
- Important role of Third Sector Interfaces to influence HSCP recovery plans and to build a commitment to community resilience and flexibility.

How do we shift to commissioning outcomes and allow organisations themselves to respond and deliver for communities?

- Building a strong evidence base to capture all the work being done in communities now.
- Raise awareness of community groups and their contribution as part of a wider, mixed package of support; examples of community groups and cooperatives acting as brokers to help a person find out what is happening locally and understand what is possible.



COMMUNITY*
LAND SCOTLAND



Insights from participants

A number of points were raised and discussed through the chat function, including:

- how quick and effectively community groups responded, on their own initiative, to the challenges of COVID-19
- the challenge of ensuring that community groups retain the flexibility they have had during the pandemic
- the role of funding in ensuring sustainability for community groups and third sector organisations, and
- the value of investing in community groups to have the skills and capacity to evaluate and report on their work in a way that can support planning and collaboration with the public sector.

What are your reflections on the workshop?



What next?

The next ihub sessions are:

- Collaboration: Planning and commissioning for the health and wellbeing of communities (14 July 10-11am)
- Inclusion: The impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness (28 July 1-2pm)

In addition further sessions are planned focusing on developing the role of community in future planning of health and social care. Details will be shared in the coming weeks.

Useful Links

The speakers and participants shared a lot of interesting links with good examples of community work (both as a response to COVID-19 and more generally), interesting articles and resources.

Links shared by the panel

Reforming adult social care support <https://www.gov.scot/policies/social-care/reforming-adult-social-care/>

More stories can be found on Community Land Scotland's website <https://www.communitylandscotland.org.uk/whats-new/community-coronavirus-responses/>
new report also highlights community landowners' responses to the COVID-19 Crisis [Built-in Resilience: Community Landowners' Responses to the Covid19 Crisis](#)

Bringing Care Services and Communities Together <https://otbds.org/community-care/>

Examples of community groups/collaborations:

TSI Moray community database: <https://www.tsimoray.org.uk/community-database>

Video examples of groups in Moray: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnE7Gr8f3oU&t=26s>

COVID-19 specific examples of community responses (DTAS): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nnE7Gr8f3oU&t=26s>

Example of a peer led approach to recovery: <https://www.scottishrecovery.net/friends-family/>

Resources:

Nesta, People Powered Health Programme: <https://www.nesta.org.uk/project/people-powered-health/>

Nesta, People Powered Commissioning: embedding innovation in practice https://media.nesta.org.uk/documents/people_powered_commissioning.pdf

Tool-kit for communities to support people at the end of life: https://www.goodlifedeathgrief.org.uk/content/toolkit_homepage/

Interesting reads:

The Local Area Co-ordination approach looks for natural networks of supports available for people in the communities: <https://lacnetwork.org/local-area-coordination/>

Nesta, Innovation in the Public Sector report <https://www.nesta.org.uk/report/innovation-in-the-public-sector/>