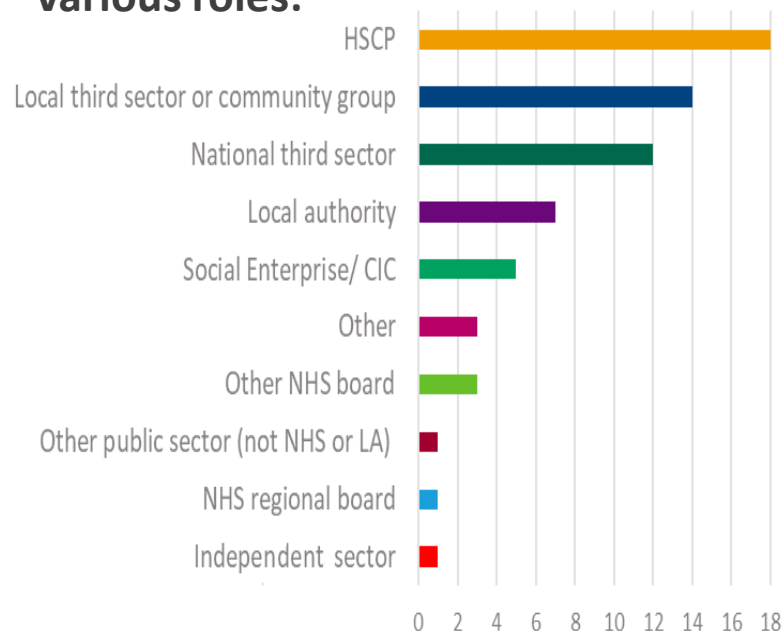


Flash report

Wellbeing: the power in our communities

16th March 2021

148 delegates participated across various roles:



*numbers represent those who completed an in-event survey

Why they came...

"High profile and innovation of the speakers"

"Opportunity to learn from other leading-edge approaches to creating good health and wellbeing"

What they said...

"really inspirational ... and a privilege to hear talks from Katie, Linda and Donna"

"Excellent and inspirational"

There has always been immense power within communities, and this has been particularly evident during COVID-19. This event, run by the Improvement Hub (ihub)'s [Collaborative Communities](#) team, showcased examples of what can be achieved when this power is unleashed. Inspirational leaders reflected experiences from Edinburgh, East Ayrshire and Wigan during [presentations](#) and panel discussion.



The event was opened by Carole Wilkinson, Chair of Healthcare Improvement Scotland. Carole has a background in social work and shared her keen interest in the power of community and her reflections on World Social Work Day.



Diana Hekerem, Head of Transformational Redesign Support at the ihub, chaired the event. Diana reflected on the inspiring leadership provided by this all-women panel and the positive influence that has been achieved through disrupting traditional power dynamics between health and social care and communities.

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🐦 @ihubscot

Edinburgh Wellbeing Pact



Dr Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick, Strategic Programme Manager within the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership.

This work seeks to build thriving communities in Edinburgh and embrace a different type of relationship between the HSCP and local residents, communities and organisations. Dr. Linda Irvine Fitzpatrick described the work as:

"Underpinned by a shared common purpose: to achieve and maximise the wellbeing of all our citizens."

"We won't wait for crisis or emergencies; instead we will act early, consistently build resilience and connections, focusing on what's important to people, what skills and attributes they have, the role of their family, friends and communities and, given all this, what they need to enable them to live as well as possible."

"It's time to get on and do things."

Vibrant Communities

A JOURNEY TO PEOPLE POWERED TRANSFORMATION skills and talents!



Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive – Safer Communities, at East Ayrshire Council

This model for community wellbeing in East Ayrshire Council supports people and community groups as local leaders and strives to take a whole council approach, involving all council services to support community wellbeing.

"We need to listen, listen, listen"

"Focus on the power of the people we serve... unlock [their] potential"

- based on deep local engagement, national and international research, asset-based approaches and co-production
- achieved recurring savings and reduced bureaucracy and red tape
- represents Christie and community empowerment in action
- involved whole system change across our organisation, our communities, our partners
- established in 2013 with 120 employees... now focusing on all 6200 council employees and partners

Participants contributed to discussion through the chat...

"..that was fantastic Linda... lots of food for thought!"

"....Really important to understand that community is something special - not a service, not an organisation. Not limitless, faultless, but essential to social health and daily life of us all...."

"services should be 'on tap... not on top'"

"....Katie...love the scope of the people involved in your conversations"

The Wigan Deal and work by New Local



Professor Donna Hall (CBE), Former Chief Executive of Wigan Council, Chair of the New Local Government Network and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

The Wigan Deal was launched following massive cuts to funding for Wigan Council in 2011, resulting in a new way of working shaped by strengthening relationships between the council and its constituents.

New Local is an independent think tank and network with a mission to transform public services and unlock community power.

“People are not units of need to be fixed”

“How do we measure love, kindness and relationships?” “as a leader.... acknowledging that measurement is not always possible... or desired”



Adapted and abridged from a [resource](#) on community power, produced by New Local.

Participants contributed to discussion through the chat...

“....we need enhanced collective leadership, disregard for sectoral and organisational boundaries and a stronger trust in citizens and communities”

“community development only works when done in partnership - communities are partners. It absolutely shouldn't be 'doing to'”

Participants were asked...

...about the **current** role of community in their local area. Responses included:



...about the role they **would like to see** the community have in their local area. Responses included:



So our question is... how do we get here?

- We are currently collating feedback from participants to identify areas for future work and opportunities to continue this conversation.
- A number of resources were shared during the event, which have been linked on our website in addition to [slides](#) from our presenters.
- During the event, we highlighted our new report on community-led approaches in health and social care. [This report](#) is now available online. Alongside the report is a survey to help identify our next steps alongside you.