

Launch  
Issue

# SCDN

Winter  
2004-5

## Scottish Community Development Network

*'Supporting People who Support Communities in Scotland'*



### Our Woman in Havana: Community Development in Cuba

Statue of Jose Marti, 19th century poet, scholar and revolutionary.

*'I set off for Cuba with optimism and a little fear. I had always imagined Cuba to be almost utopian in terms of its egalitarian methods, and I was slightly fearful that I would be disappointed...'*

Fiona Ballantyne, SCDN Chairperson, describes a Community Development Study Tour to Cuba

*Full story pages 6 and 7*

#### Inside this issue:

News	2
Conference Report	4
'Our Woman in Havana'	6
Website Resources	8
Viewpoint	10
Policy Briefing	12
Membership / Profiles	14

## Welcome to the SCDN Newsletter.

**W**elcome to the first Newsletter from the Scottish Community Development Network.

SCDN is the membership organisation for Community Development practitioners in Scotland.

Community Development

practitioners may be paid or unpaid workers in a variety of statutory, community, voluntary and even private sector organisations.

Wherever you work, and whatever issues you are working on, we hope our newsletter and website will be a useful resource for you and, ultimately, the communities you

work with.

As you will see from this issue: we feature information on our activities and members, as well as news and views on current topics of interest to Community development practitioners.

*Fiona Ballantyne*

**Chairperson, Oct**

Published by **Scottish Community Development Network**,  
P.O. Box, 26792, Glasgow, G4 7AF

## In Brief

### Big Lottery Fund

The Lottery funded Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund have been merged to form 'The Big Lottery Fund'.

They are considering their future priorities for what they fund and community groups are encouraged to give their views using a questionnaire at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation/](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/consultation/)

### Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

The website has now been launched, and contains a variety of data available for small and user defined areas.

[www.sns.gov.uk/](http://www.sns.gov.uk/)

### Standards for Community Engagement.

Standards are being developed and piloted by **Scottish Community Development Centre** on behalf of **Communities Scotland**.

The draft Standards are currently being piloted in a number of areas across Scotland.

Links to download the Draft Standards and latest update are available at [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk) on the **Tools and Resources** Page

## Community Voices Fund

### Support for Community Engagement in Community Regeneration in Scotland

A new Fund has been announced by the Communities Minister, which is designed

*"To help people living in the most disadvantaged communities to influence and engage in the planning and delivery of services and other regeneration activity in their neighbourhoods."*

Although this fund is preceded by the Empowering Communities Fund, the new fund is not targeted at community structures within Social Inclusion Partnerships.

### Aims of the Fund

Specific Aims of the fund include:

- Assist Communities to monitor the Regeneration Outcome

Agreements

- Target community representatives and residents in the 15% most disadvantaged communities - all people living in disadvantaged areas, not just community representatives.
- Utilise National Standards for Community engagement

### Administering the fund

Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) have been asked to consider the most appropriate method of managing the fund to reflect local circumstances.

To find out more about the fund check out our website or get in touch with the Community Planning contact for your Local Authority area.

## SCDN View

### Community Voices Fund

Community Development Practitioners can bring valuable knowledge of communities and participation, which could assist in the development of processes which would help achieve the Fund's specific aims.

## Members

*Give us your views on this funding scheme, and how it can best work to promote community development, and local community influence.*

Use the **Contact Us** facility at [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

## Community Voices Network

People active in their communities will have the chance to be involved in a new Scotland-wide network being developed by SCVO for Communities Scotland.

The Community Voices Network aims to support local people to have their views heard, and to

learn from each other in relation to what works in community regeneration.

The Network will focus on people who are active on an unpaid basis in regenerating the most disadvantaged communities in Scotland.

Community represen-

tatives, management committee members of voluntary organisations, and other volunteers and residents who would like to be included on the Network database, should contact Nicola Wilson, Development Officer, on 0141 225 8028, email: [Nicola.Wilson@scvo.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.Wilson@scvo.org.uk)

*"By investing in Social Economy Organisations we are helping communities improve the quality of their own lives."*

Margaret Curran  
MSP

## Futurebuilders 'Social Economy' Plan published

A new £18 million **Futurebuilders Scotland** programme has been announced this week, to help voluntary and community organisations which deliver goods or services in a commercial way to develop and expand.

Futurebuilders is the name given to the long-awaited Social Economy Action Plan.

The investment will be aimed at helping organisations move to become self-sufficient businesses, with their own sustainable income stream, freeing up future investment to help further organisations develop.

Communities Minister Margaret Curran said:

"Social economy organisations are 'more

than profit' organisations. They are run like businesses but invest their profits back in the communities they serve. By investing in these types of business, we are providing better public services whilst helping people gain confidence and helping communities improve the quality of their own lives."

### Roots & Route: Key Points

- 'Post-Qualifying' Framework required
- Would a CD framework cover all of 'Community Learning & Development'?
- Professional Training may not be what activists need.

**Roots & Routes** was a series of conferences looking at a Qualifications Framework for Community Development.

The Scottish event took place on May 14th 2004 and was Chaired by Fiona Ballantyne from SCDN.

Discussions highlighted the need for qualifications at a number of levels.

Reports from the Scottish, and subsequent UK wide events are on [www.sdcn.org.uk](http://www.sdcn.org.uk).

The events were organised by the **Federation of Community Development Learning (FCDL)**, who hold their AGM and **Conference** on 12th and 13th February 2005 in Liverpool.

Janice Marks from FCDL said:

*"The conference will enable participants to share and celebrate the wealth of good practice and progress within community development learning, reflect on what we already have and what we need to develop, and help make sense of the often confusing and contradictory context in which we all work."*

**For more information** contact Sam Gibbs on 0114 273 9391 or email [samantha@fcdl.org.uk](mailto:samantha@fcdl.org.uk)

## Funding Tenant Involvement

Communities Scotland recently launched the **Registered Tenants Organisation Grants Scheme**.

As the name suggests will the scheme will fund RTOs to carry out a variety of projects that encourage, improve and develop tenant participation.

Grants range from £1,000 to £10,000.

Announcing the scheme earlier this year Mary Mulligan, then Deputy Communities Minister said

"Grants will stimulate fresh ideas from tenants themselves to get more people involved".

"Good ideas and practice will be able to be passed from community to community. It will generate a greater understanding of what works, and improves tenant participation throughout Scotland from our inner cities to the most rural of locations."

*"Grants will stimulate fresh ideas from tenants themselves to get more people involved."*  
Mary Mulligan  
MSP

## SCDN Committee

The **Scottish Community Development Network** is organised by a Committee comprising Community Development Practitioners elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee elected at the 2004 AGM includes members working in a range of Local Authority Departments, as well as the Voluntary Sector.

*“The new Committee cover a wide geographical area including: North Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Falkirk, Renfrew, Inverclyde and carry out a variety of jobs in voluntary and statutory organisations.”*

## SCDN Conference & AGM 2004

Sometimes in life difficult choices have to be made and in March this year Fiona Ballantyne had to choose between chairing the **Scottish Community Development Network** A.G.M in Glasgow, or a going on a field trip to Havana, Cuba.

A difficult choice? Not with Vice Chair Susan Paxton agreeing to chair in her absence.

The Annual General Meeting was held in Nye Bevan House, Glasgow, on Thursday 11th March 2004, and was attended by Community Development practitioners from community, voluntary and public sector organisations across Scotland.

### Business Plan

The AGM was an ideal opportunity to circulate for consultation a draft of our Business Plan'

The Business Plan sets out the role, remit and context and aims of SCDN. It goes on to strategically map out how we as a network propose to provide support to CD Practitioners in Scotland.

Members were briefly taken through the document and encouraged to participate in a discussion. Subsequently it was agreed

to extend the consultation period by one month after which a sub-group would be set up to collate responses and to take this task to fruition. Just the job for the new committee.

### Out with the old and in with the new.

Sincere thanks were extended to the outgoing committee. The election of office bearers and committee members took place with Colin Ross (founder member, now with Communities Scotland) presiding.

Those elected onto the new committee cover a wide geographical area including: Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, Glasgow, Renfrew, Inverclyde and also carry out a wide variety of jobs in both voluntary and statutory organisations.

With the new committee identified it was agreed that the first meeting would convene straight after the A.G.M. Which can only say one thing: these guys mean business.

The formal part of the AGM was followed by discussions using the Open Space Technology (see next page).

**All in all a productive A.G.M!**

### Our Objectives for 2004-5

Our Business Plan outlines our key objectives for 2004-5. These include:

- To further increase and broaden our membership base.
- To develop regular newsletters and bulletins.
- To encourage members to contribute articles which highlight practice.
- To strengthen links with other appropriate networks.
- To develop a website and link to other appropriate websites.
- To organise a seminar / event to enable discussion / debate on current practice issues.

## AGM 2005

**Our 2005 Annual General Meeting and Conference will take place on Friday 11th March 2005.**

**Location to be confirmed.**

## Open Space for Practitioners

### Neighbourhood Community Development

- There is a huge unmet need for Community development at neighbourhood level.
- Responsibility for neighbourhood work falls between agencies
- Need to focus on 'priority' neighbourhoods.
- Agencies with a stake in community involvement need to share responsibility for community development at neighbourhood level.

*A full report from this workshop is available on the **Viewpoint** page of our website.*

### 'Everyone says they do Community Development...'

- A number of organisations now 'work with communities' but how many really develop and empower communities?
- Managers of Community Development need to promote their services and genuine CD approaches.
- SCDN and other organisations should be lobbying government at all levels

*Community Development Practitioners shared their key practice issues at our 2004 AGM and Conference on March 11<sup>th</sup> in Nye Bevan House, Glasgow.*

**The event was organised using the Open Space Technology model where participants have the opportunity to host discussions on a topic that interests them, or simply move in and out of the discussions in their own time.**

**Topics on the day included:**

- **Neighbourhood Based Community Development**
- **Community Development and Social Justice**
- **Support Networks for Practitioners**
- **Implications of 'Community Learning & Development' for Community Development**
- **'Everyone says they do Community Development'**

**Key issues from these are identified in adjacent columns.**

### Support Networks for Practitioners

- Need for CD practitioner networks at local and national level
- Need to gather and share info on existing networks
- Students thought Colleges and Universities a good contact point for encouraging members

### Community Development and Social Justice

- Need for clear definitions of Social Justice and Community Development
- Need for multi-layered strategies from the national overarching priorities to local thematic plans
- Will Community Planning address this?

### 'Community Learning & Development'

This workshop considered the implications of recent Guidance on '**Community Learning and Development**' for Community Development

- Concern that relocation of CD services into Community Learning services will lead to loss of focus and skills
- Gap between rhetoric and reality: high profile for work with communities, but how much is really community development?
- Erosions of qualification requirements: certain posts should require CD qualification.
- Need for strong CD practitioners network

*"In some instances, CW has been diluted, fragmented, and less of a priority within CL&D agenda than Adult Education and Youth Work."*

Workshop Participant

## 'Our Woman in Havana': Community Development in Cuba

**I** set off for Cuba with optimism and a little fear.

I had always imagined Cuba to be almost utopian in terms of its egalitarian methods, and I was slightly fearful that I would be disappointed. However I found that while it is not materially wealthy, Cuba is rich in its people, its political integrity, its will to 'right the wrongs' of previous ex-



Fiona in front of the Jose Martí Museum, Havana.

exploitative governments and its warmth, generosity and commitment to socialism.

The synergy created by politicisation through the communist party, the action of the women's movement and the energy of the student's movement appeared to result in a recipe for success. A

strong mobilisation of the masses, fuelled by many years of oppression and colonisation by the Spanish and Americans, has led to complete independence and self-determination.

### Planning for real?

One of the visits on the tour was to GRUPO, an amazing organisation set up by Fidel Castro to take forward the integrated development of the city. It undertakes a type of 'town planning' role, but with the fundamental difference of working with and for local neighbourhoods.

In contrast to our own 'regeneration' programmes, the starting points for GRUPO are the neighbourhoods themselves. Planning is undertaken by the whole neighbourhood, including children and young people. These plans are then passed on to the Neighbourhood Teams, who include sociologists and psychologists alongside planners and architects, and who continue to work with local people in taking the plans forward.

These plans include new homes, play parks, schools, recreational grounds and community houses. The collective approach includes build-

ing for neighbours who are less able to undertake the building works themselves. Another amazing approach (difficult to imagine happening in Britain) is that when one side of



Revolution Square, Havana

a street is being improved or renewed, the residents move in with their neighbours across the street.

In Britain, community development practitioners often have the almost impossible task of reconciling social planning to the needs and aspirations of local people. The striking thing in Havana was the recognition of the importance of neighbourhoods controlling their own destiny, within the principle of collective rather than individual interests. It was interesting to speculate whether there would be any need for community development with these approaches and attitudes. For those of us with a social conscience, this seemed like utopia.

(Continued on page 7)

**Fiona Ballantyne, Chairperson of SCDN, describes a Community Development Study Tour to Cuba.**

*"In contrast to our own 'regeneration' programmes, planning is undertaken by the whole neighbourhood, including children and young people."*

## 'Our Woman in Havana': Community Development in Cuba

(Continued from page 6)

### Leave no child behind

We also visited a special school, part of a campus set in what had been the Batista Government Army barracks. Transforming the barracks into a school campus had been one of the early actions of the Castro post-revolution government.

The most striking thing about the school was the atmosphere of nurturing and real caring for the children. The philosophy of Castro is "leave no child behind", a startling contrast to our own competitive approaches to education.

All schools are available for use by adults, and there are programmes available on TV and PC which adults can access when and where is suitable. The socialist government inherited an illiteracy rate of over 37%, which has now been reduced to 3%. This illustrates that when governments have the political will to really tackle any 'deficits' within a society in a way that is real and meaningful for its citizens, then success is more likely to be achieved.

### Just hanging out

Arriving in Havana in

darkness, we saw a vibrant city with many groups of young people 'hanging out' along the coast wall. But there was no sense that these young people were considered a nuisance or threat; rather they added to the liveliness and energy of the city.

70% of young people in Cuba receive University education, which is free. This compares to about 30% in Britain. It is hardly surprising, therefore, that young people are not viewed as a nuisance but are valued as the future generation. No wonder they seem so happy and laid back in comparison to our own young people, who are hounded and devalued.

### Warm and joyful

We visited the Muralendo Community Arts Project where local people are involved in visual art, dance, making music and reading poetry. None of the 'workers' were paid, all of them lived in the area and it was evident that it was truly community led and owned. Children as young as four contributed to the murals. There was a deep sense of pride in the area and the people were warm and joyful.

The aspiration of the

neighbourhood was to create a more pleasing environment which offered the opportunity for all members to contribute and experience cultural activities. There were a large number of murals and sculptures made from recycled materials, and all the artwork reflected Cuban culture.

### Keep dreaming

What Cuba has achieved over a relatively short space of time – they were celebrating their 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revolution – is a tribute to the people and their leadership. For those of us with socialist values, it gives us hope. We have seen socialism work. We have seen the great leaps made in health and education, housing and environment, and in the empowerment of people, including children and young people.

We have also seen that the people have great love and respect for their political leaders and heroes of the revolution, which has clearly been earned.

What would Britain be like, if we took the brave leap into a more egalitarian approach, if we dealt in real change for disadvantaged people rather than rhetoric, if we had political lead-

ers who illustrated real caring for the people and operated with integrity and political commitment?

We can always dream.

**Fiona Ballantyne,**  
**SCDN**



The 'Six Point Tower', Jose Marti Museum, Havana.

### Acknowledgements

The study tour was organised by the **Cuba Solidarity Campaign** in association with the **International Association for Community Development** and the **Community Development Journal**.

Fiona was part-funded to participate by the **Community Development Exchange**, who also first published this article.

## Website is Resource for Practitioners



*"We hope the website will not only promote the work of SCDN, but also act as a portal for CD practitioners to access a range of resources through downloadable content and useful links".*

Graham Johnstone,  
SCDN Website/  
Newsletter Editor

*The SCDN website offers a variety of resources for Community Development Practitioners, which are identified below.*

### Website Page by Page

#### About Us

Who are we, what do we do?

Our values, aims, and strategic priorities

#### Contact Us

Facility to send us an instant message, and make comment on a range of issues.

#### Recent and Upcoming Events

News of and reports from SCDN related events.

News of other Community development events

Events organised by members and facility for members to submit their own events online.

#### Getting involved

Identifies ways members can get involved, and contribute to the work of SCDN. For full details see page 14.

#### Members Page

Facility to join online in minutes.

Items submitted by members

Submit news items.

Submit member and organisation profiles.

#### Newsletter

Brief news items.

Download current and past Newsletters

#### Viewpoint

This page will give our perspective on current Community Development Issues.

#### Policy Briefing

This section will contain briefings on policy developments relevant to Community Development or topics around which Community Development takes place.

The main focus will be on Scotland, but will cover significant developments

This will include all items featured in the Newsletter, plus web links to related documents, and new items will be posted on the site as they are ready.

#### Links

An extensive range of links are included, and detailed on page 9.

### Website Launch at CDX Conference

The SCDN Website was launched on 8th October 2004 at the **Community Development Exchange** Conference in Milton Keynes.

The Annual Conference of the UK wide membership organisation for CD Practitioners was the ideal place to launch the website of the Scottish Network.

Details of the website are given on this and the facing page.

### Workwithus.org

Workwithus host SCDN's website, and provide technical support, as well as running Scotland's Voluntary Sector Portal, at [www.workwithus.org](http://www.workwithus.org)

### Join Online

#### Join Online

Our website offers the facility to join online in minutes at [www.scdn.org.uk/members\\_form.html](http://www.scdn.org.uk/members_form.html)

Individual members join free until 31st March 2005, so there's no reason not to join.

## Website Overview

- Facility to join online
- News of recent and Upcoming events
- Information about SCDN
- Downloadable content, including back issues of the newsletter
- Links to relevant reports and documents
- Policy Briefings and Analysis
- Links to Community development tools
- Links to information sources
- Links to CD Websites
- Facility for members to contribute comments, news and briefings online.

*“A number of key resources for Community Development Practitioners are available to download directly from our website”.*

## Access to Community Development Resources

A number of key resources for Community Development Practitioners are available to download directly from our website, including:

### Strategic Framework for Community Development.

Developed by the Community Development Exchange (CDX), previously known as The Standing Conference on Community Development.

### Occupational Standards for Community Development Work

Standards adopted by the UK wide Sector Skills Council

### Standards for Community Engagement

Standards are being developed and piloted by **Scottish Community Development Centre** on behalf of **Communities Scotland**

### Community Development News story search.

Link to search for stories on any topic

on the *Work With Us* news pages.

### Participation Works!

Link to download compendium of Participation Techniques Compiled by *New Economics Foundation*.

### Tools to Support Participatory Urban Decision-Making

UN Publication.

### Asset Based Community Development

takes the assets and strengths within communities as the starting point for community development. ABCD Institute has materials online and publications for sale.

### Measures Of Community

Summary of Report by **Community Development Foundation**.

### Open Space Technology

Open Space Technology (OST) is a large group process where the participants identify the topics. The OST website offers a variety of tools and resources to make this work effectively.

## Links Pages on SCDN website.

### Other Community Development Organisations

### Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Support Organisations

### Government Reports and Websites.

- *Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities.*
- *Better Communities in Scotland: Closing the Gap.*
- *Working for Democracy -Review of Community Education Training*

### Education and Training for Community Development.

### Information Resources

- Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- SCVO Almanac

### Jargon Buster

Definitions of key terms in relation to Community Development, and links to other Jargon Busters and Glossaries.

## Viewpoint



**This section gives SCDN's view on current issues for Community Development.**

*Views expressed are not necessarily those of individual members, or their employers.*

*"We would encourage Community Planning Partners to see themselves as major stakeholders in the Community Development process and have a joined-up approach to this."*

Scottish  
Community  
Development  
Network

## Community Planning, Community Engagement and Community Development

**The Scottish Community Development Network welcomes the increased focus on Community Planning and the commitment to Community Engagement within its legislation and guidance.**

### Community Engagement.

*"The effective and genuine engagement of communities is at the heart of Community Planning"* (Scottish Executive Guidance on Community Planning)

We welcome the move to introduce written **Standards for Community Engagement**. The Standards in their present (draft) form offer a template for identifying commitments and good practice indicators, which can be utilised by Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) at Local Authority Level.

We believe that **meaningful Community Engagement** can only take place if it is based on a solid foundation of effective **Community Development**.

The concept of Community Engagement focuses on the interface between communities and Statutory Agencies such as Local Authorities and Health Boards. The participation of Statutory Agencies in this engagement process is supported by a whole infrastructure of planning, policy, research,

internal communication and decision-making. Communities and their representatives also need infrastructure to support their engagement.

### The Need for Community Development

Whilst there is general consensus on the need for community infrastructure and networks, there remains limited understanding of underlying community development issues, such as: how communities organise; and the nature of representation. Scottish Executive Guidance on Community Planning emphasises the importance of rooting community representation "*within general community activity*" and recognises that "*[the] most effective representation is undertaken by autonomous, democratic and accountable community organisa-*

*"[the] most effective representation is undertaken by autonomous, democratic and accountable community organisations".*

*tions".*

However, there remains a gulf between these aspirations and the reality 'on the ground'. Our experience has shown an increasing trend of agencies developing 'community' structures to feed into service and programme planning rather than working with the

communities' own structures.

A reflection of the above trend is the increased targeting of support to community structures, which focus on specific agendas, such as Health, Housing, Environment, Regeneration, etc.

Whilst this approach has merit in terms of influencing specific programmes or services, it should be 'complementary' to, rather than a replacement for, generic grass roots Community Development, which assists communities to organise around the issues and aspirations which the communities themselves identify.

Without this investment in grass roots community activity and organisation, any Community Engagement will lack solid foundations.

### Strategic planning for effective community development

There is a need for skilled CD practitioners, with a remit to develop effective community engagement at all levels:

- *To generate community activity at grass roots level (neighbourhood or community of interest)*
- *To support the development of skills, knowledge, confidence and organisation within communities*
- *To support the effec-*

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)  
tive representation of  
communities' views  
and aspirations.*

We would encourage Community Planning Partners to see themselves as major stakeholders in the Community Development process and have a joined-up approach to this.

### Impartial Professional Community Development Support

The Community Engagement Standards identify the need for 'impartial professional community development support'.

We would encourage CPPs to carry out or commission (from an agency that understands CD) a thoughtful analysis of their communities' support needs, and an honest evaluation of the capacity (skills, resources, experience, training, etc) of existing resources to fulfil these needs. It would be better to take a realistic appraisal of the shortfall and need to develop partners' capacity, and then look at what can be done, than to simply pretend it is all going to work.

In assessing the 'impartiality' of community development support, stated and demonstrated commitment to the values and principles of Community Development should be more important than the agency in which staff are located.

The 'professional' aspect emphasises that the competencies required are those of Community development (a number of documents offer guid-

ance), which may not be available within all partner agencies.

We would encourage CPPs to develop these elements into a strategic framework for Community Development. This would provide a solid foundation for meaningful and sustainable Community Engagement.

### Community Learning and Development Partnerships

The Scottish Executive proposes that **Community Learning and Development Partnerships** (CLDPs) should have a key role in the development of effective community engagement and that community learning and development approaches are used to generate the 'capacity of communities' to engage.

If CLDPs are to fulfil this role then, the CPPs will need to look carefully at the membership, leadership and development needs of the CLDPs, as well as their component parts.

The Term **Community Learning & Development** is seen by the Scottish Executive as encompassing the three distinct fields of **Community Work, Youth Work** and **Adult Education/Learning**. Whilst there may be some overlap (in terms of competences and policy frameworks) we believe it is important to recognise and acknowledge the particular skills and approaches required to assist in the development of community engagement (i.e. **Community Work**). To do this, CPPs could encour-

age a structuring of CLDPs in such a way as to enable the expertise within each of the fields to identify and develop their specific contribution to the Community Planning agenda.

An example of this approach has been tested in Inverclyde with quite positive results. Community Development expertise has been utilised to develop a framework for Community Engagement and Adult Education expertise has been utilised to develop the aspirations and programmes which contribute to the Lifelong Learning agenda.

### Conclusions

The aspirations around Community Engagement in Community Planning provide the opportunity to significantly improve public services and participation in democratic processes.

However to achieve this we feel a number of key actions are required, and these are detailed in the box to the right.

### SCDN

*"We would encourage CPPs to carry out a thoughtful analysis of their communities' support needs, and an honest evaluation of the capacity of existing resources to fulfil these needs."*

### Key Actions

*We believe the following actions will provide a solid foundation for effective Community Engagement*

#### The engagement of communities should be:

- Properly supported by skilled CD practice, which is rooted in values and principles.
- Undertaken by autonomous, democratic and accountable community organisations who have the capacity to effectively represent the views and aspirations of the wider community.
- Rooted in wider community activity.

#### Planning for CD support should recognise:

- The specific skills and approaches required to effectively 'develop communities'.
- The importance of providing a strategic framework for CD within Community Learning and Development Partnerships.

#### Community Planning partners should:

- Evaluate the capacity of CL&D partnerships to deliver on community engagement.
- Become stakeholders in the development of support for community engagement.
- Be open to learn.



**Policy Briefing**  
Editor Martha  
Wardrop

*“Disadvantaged communities have the opportunity to influence decisions on spend within their local authority area.”*

*“CD practitioners have a key role in supporting local work to ensure community cohesion and social inclusion programmes are meeting the needs of diverse groups.”*



## Community Regeneration Fund

### Source

Scottish Parliament / Executive

### Summary

Establishment of £104 million Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) to bring improvements to Scotland's most deprived areas and help individuals and families escape poverty. CRF replaces **Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) Fund** and **Better Neighbourhood Services Fund (BNSF)** programmes.

In addition to 5 Specific priorities, there is a central theme of Community Engagement, which emphasises the engagement of dis-

advantaged communities

### Implications for Community Development

CD practitioners will have a key role to play in facilitating the effective engagement of disadvantaged communities in the decision making processes around the development of Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA)

### Who does it affect?

Disadvantaged communities have the opportunity to influence decisions on spend within their local authority

area. However, the timescale is extremely tight - ROAs have to be submitted by December, 04.

### Comment & Analysis

Links with broader aspirations of **Community Engagement in Community Planning** (see national Standards for Community Engagement) and link with Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities (Guidance on Community Learning and Development)

**Submitted by:**

**Fiona Ballantyne, SCDN**

## Fairness for All: A New Commission for Equality and Human Rights

### Source:

UK Government

### Summary

The Commission for Equality and Human Rights will replace the existing equality commissions and take on age, religion and belief, sexual orientation and human rights. The benefits for a Commission for Equality and Human Rights cited in the white paper include: having a strong and authoritative champion on human rights and equality of opportunity across the board, and benefits to organisations and individuals of a single commission with a comprehensive, cross-cutting approach which recognises multiple identities and multiple discrimination.

### Implications for Community Development

CD practitioners work across a spectrum of discrimination and exclusion and have expertise in the fields of equality and human rights.

Within the Scottish context, CD practitioners have a key role in supporting local work to ensure community cohesion and social inclusion programmes are meeting the needs of diverse groups. Promotion of networking between CD practitioners concerned with equality and human rights is needed to encourage informed debate on this policy initiative.

### Who does it affect?

A diverse range of individuals (recognised within the broad range of equality grounds identified in Schedule 5 of the Scotland Act 1998) and specific organisations working in the fields of Equality and Human Rights

(Commission for Racial Equality, Disability Rights Commission, Equal Opportunities Commission and Scottish Human Rights Commission).

### Comment

The UK Government established a Task Force of equality, human rights and public policy organisations to advise on the role, functions, priorities and activities of the proposed Commission and in preparation of the White Paper. The Task Force included one representative from Scotland. The closing date for responses to the White Paper was 6th August 2004.

**Submitted by**  
**Martha Wardrop**  
**Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector**

## Charity Law Reform in Scotland

### Source

Scottish Parliament

### Summary

In the short period since the publication of the Draft Charities and Investment (Scotland) Bill, the issue of whether the new charity Act should contain explicit criteria of public benefit has already emerged as a key focus for debate.

The consultation draft provides that OSCR may register an organisation as a Scottish charity only if it considers that the applicant meets the charity test (sec.5. (1) 1 p.3). A body meets the charity test if its purposes consist only of one or more of thirteen listed charitable purposes, and it provides public benefit in Scotland or elsewhere, and its constitution prohibits it from using any of its property for a non-charitable purpose (sec.7 (1-4), pp (3/4). OSCR is required following consultation to issue guidance on how it will determine whether a body meets the charity test (sec 8, p 4).

In proposing this approach the Scottish Executive is aligning itself with the approach proposed by the Home Office for the English and Welsh Act. The English Bill restricts itself to requiring the regulator to apply a public benefit test consistent with English case law.

In its policy memorandum for the Scottish draft the Scottish Executive offers three reasons for

not including criteria in the Scottish Act criteria might conflict with the already well developed case law; if the English Act follows the Home Office proposal there would be a possibility of divergence between the two systems; and providing a legislative definition of public benefit would limit the flexibility of the regulator to adjust charity definitions to changing circumstances and norms (Consultation doc., pp 10/11).

This policy briefing outlines why explicit public benefit criteria should be included in the Scottish Charity Law Reform Bill.

### Implications for Community Development

A framework is being implemented by Scottish Charity Law Reform Bill to reinforce public confidence in the charities and to ensure a robust framework for the continued development of the charitable sector is put in place. It is important for the proposed Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act to strengthen the 'ethos' of charity in the mind of the Scottish public and provide a foundation for an effective system of accountability. This can be achieved within the Act by adopting a policy to provide clear and strong criteria on what consti-

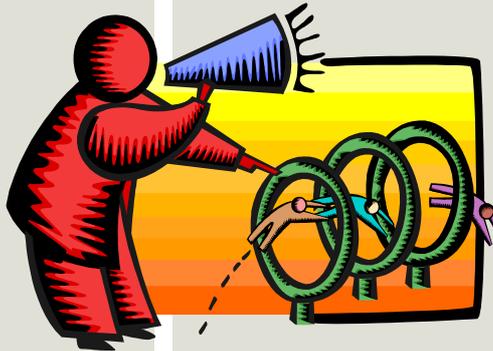
tutes the public benefit which qualifies an organisation for charitable status.

### Who Does it Affect?

Existing charities and organisations wishing to apply for charitable status.

### Comment

Concern has been expressed about the effect of any divergence between the public benefit tests used in England and Scotland. The Westminster Committee has examined



the English proposals and expressed concern about the effect of omitting criteria of public benefit from the English Act. It is recognised that if the two Acts were to diverge, with the Scottish Act containing explicit criteria and the English Act omitted them, the direct effect would be limited to a small number of Scottish charities (mainly fee-paying schools). Public confidence from the application of a strong public test of public benefit would be enhanced for the long-term.

**Submitted by: Martha Wardrop  
Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector**

*The Policy Section of our website contains links to the main documents referred to.*

### Further Info

#### Fairness for All

Web address for info and analysis

<http://www.equalities.org/cehr-tf.htm>

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/equalities>

Useful websites for information are:

#### Forum on Discrimination

<http://www.forumondiscrimination.org.uk>

#### Inclusion Scotland

<http://www.inclusionScotland.org>

#### Equality Network

<http://www.equality-network.org>

Background information is available from SCVO at <http://www.scvo.org.uk/equalities>

#### Charity Law Download Document

<http://www.scvo.org.uk/policy>

#### Further Info

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultationS>

## Getting Involved

*"There has never been greater need for a network bringing together Community Development practitioners across agencies and sectors".*

Fiona Ballantyne,  
Chair of SCDN

Email us on [info@scdn.org.uk](mailto:info@scdn.org.uk) or use the *Contact Us* facility on [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

There are a number of ways you can become involved with SCDN. For example:

### Become a member.

You can join SCDN online (we prefer this), or by using the form below.

### Attend our events.

We will be organising a number of networking events and conferences for members and which are often open to other CD practitioners.

### Work with us to organise a local event in your area.

We may be able to work with you or contribute to relevant events in your area, or for your field of Community Development.

### Tell us about Community Development events in your area.

If you are involved in, or simply know about, an event relevant to our members please let us know, and we can include it on the site.

### Promote SCDN and it's events and campaigns in your area.

**Submit news items or articles.** Tell us what's happening in your area. We will include relevant items on the site.

**Recommend the site** to colleagues and community members who may find it useful.

**Contact Us** on [info@scdn.org.uk](mailto:info@scdn.org.uk) or go to [www.scdn.org.uk/contact.html](http://www.scdn.org.uk/contact.html)

## Join the Network!

Sign up for:

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Small Organisation    | Price   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large Organisation    | £5.00*  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | £10.00* |
|  | Free*   |

*'I / we practice Community Development , live and/or operate in Scotland, and agree with SCDN's Values and Aims'*

Online payments at [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk) are preferred, but we can accept cheques, or invoice you (organisations only!) if necessary.

Name

Address

Phone

Signature

- Send an Invoice       Cheque

# SCDN

Scottish Community Development Network

PO Box 26792, Glasgow, G4 7AF  
**Web** [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)  
**Email** [info@scdn.org.uk](mailto:info@scdn.org.uk)

# JOIN!



### Special Offer

*\* As an **introductory offer**, Individual Membership is free until March 31st 2005. After this all rates are subject to increase so check [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk) or contact us!*

# SCDN

Scottish Community  
Development Network

PO Box 26792, Glasgow, G4 7AF  
**Email:** [info@scdn.org.uk](mailto:info@scdn.org.uk)  
**Web:** [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

## Members Profiles

This page will be feature profiles of SCDN members and their organisations.

We hope that this will build up a picture of the range of ways and settings in which people are practising Community Development in Scotland.

Check for more Profiles on the Members section of [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

## Organisation Profile

### Community Work: Glasgow City Council

#### Community Development Role

Social Work Services employs 37 dedicated Community Work staff, with additional posts to work with specific remits.

Community Development Principles inform the overall work of and are reflected in key plans and policies for Social Work Services.

#### Current priorities

Development of cross nationality organisations for Refugees and **Asylum Seekers**

Development of networks for users of **Community Care** services who can influence planning and service delivery in general, and feed into Community Health Partnerships.

Work with **Children and Families** staff to develop roles for Community Work staff in this agenda.

Development of Anti-**Poverty** work, including links with Welfare Rights Officers and local Information and Advice Projects.

#### Additional Information

We have recently introduced staff development and Induction Programmes for Community Work Staff, and a Planning and Evaluation Framework adapted from the L.E. A.P. model.

## Practitioner Profile

### Susan Paxton, Senior Community Learning & Development Worker, Wingham

Community Services, North Lanarkshire Council

#### What is Your Job?

I manage a team providing a range of lifelong learning, youth work and community capacity building services to the local community.

I also providing direct community development support to a diverse range of local groups.

#### What is the Community Development Aspect of It?

Mainly under the banner of community capacity building, we provide support to new and existing groups organising around locally defined needs and issues. Activities include training, provision of information, access to resources, sourcing fund-

ing, influencing decision-makers and basically anything the group requires to carry out their aims and objectives!

#### Tell us about something you are currently working on.

I am currently supporting a steering group comprising local adults and young people whose aim is to secure support and funding for a local skate park. I'm currently assisting them with organising their Inaugural Meeting which will launch the group and hopefully draw support from local people, decision-makers and politicians. They're expecting over 250 people to attend so it will be a nerve-racking experience for all involved. Of course this is just the first step and the real work will be in helping the group to secure the funding and thereafter manage the project. Skate parks in Scotland are usually funded by Councils and so it will be interesting to

see if the group are successful at drawing in the large sums of money needed.

#### Any particular interests within the field of Community Development?

My interest, or rather what I most enjoy within Community Development, is working with some form of campaigning group. It's great to work with community groups who are fired up about an issue because they're very motivated and the confidence they gain when achieving positive change rubs off on you! There's also less of a need to chase funding and to get bogged down with being a service provider. Basically it can be cheap, fun and a great learning curve!

#### Is there anything you want to say about current issues in CD?

Yes! I'm concerned that the Community Learning & Development agenda

and the promotion of generic working is having a detrimental effect on Community Development. Of the three main disciplines, community development (or community capacity building) is the most likely to be neglected under this agenda because priority is given to the other two, particularly youth work (politically & financially). We need to ensure that CD principles and practice have a high profile and underpins all of the work we do. Although we can raise this within our own organisations, it's important that we have a collective voice as well, especially given the increasingly fragmented nature of CD practitioners.

### Susan Paxton

[Paxtons@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:Paxtons@northlan.gov.uk)  
01698 386886

Contact me if you like!

# SCDN

## Scottish Community Development Network

PO Box 26792, Glasgow, G4 7AF

Email: [info@scdn.org.uk](mailto:info@scdn.org.uk)

Web: [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

*'Supporting people who support Communities in Scotland'*

## Join the Network!

You can join online at

[www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

(this saves us administration!) or use the form on page 14. Individuals join free until end March 2005

## Community Development

'Community Development is about building active and sustainable communities based on social justice and mutual respect.

It is about changing power structures to remove the barriers that prevent people from participating in the issues that affect their lives'.

SCDN promotes the *Values of Community Development* as detailed in the *Strategic Framework for Community Development*.

These are:

- Social Justice
- Participation
- Equality
- Learning
- Co-operation

More detail about what these mean is given on our website [www.scdn.org.uk](http://www.scdn.org.uk)

## About the Network

### Who are we?

Scottish Community Development Network is a member led organisation, for community workers / community development workers, paid or unpaid, full or part time, from the community, voluntary or public sectors, who support the principles and practice of community development.

We were formed in 1999, and are a constituted group.

### What do we do?

We support our members through:

- the organisation of seminars,
- production of information,
- opportunities to comment on consultations and
- forums for discussion and debate on practice issues

## Strategic Priorities

- 1. To strengthen the collective voice for Community Development in Scotland*
- 2. To provide a forum for Community Development practitioners to share information on good practice*
- 3. To provide opportunities for Community Development practitioners to discuss and debate issues of common interest*
- 4. To promote practice which effectively empowers communities*
- 5. To identify and disseminate to our members, relevant policy frameworks and priorities, highlighting implications / opportunities for practice development*