

Scottish Community Development Network

'Supporting People who Support Communities in Scotland'



Main Features

- Conference Report: *Everywhere and Nowhere*
- SCDN Funded for Practitioner Research
- Jargon Buster: *Community Groups*

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A Community Development Vision for Scotland:

SCDN has embarked on the process of producing a Community Development Manifesto for Scotland. The Manifesto represents a holistic and integrated way of thinking and acting for Community Development.

"We are seeking views to inform the information gathering and creation of a Strategy for Community Development in Scotland.

It is presented as a contribution to facilitate and promote on-going debate and discussion. The need for continuing dialogue is fully recognised and positively encouraged.

It is acknowledged that gaps do exist and your active contribution in adding proposals into the developing Manifesto is sought and welcomed by SCDN.

This final draft is offered through the Community Development field to the people of Scotland, to Politicians and Policymakers, Academics and Educators and across all Sectors and generations as a way of stimulating awareness-raising, understanding and a democratic dialogue on the collective, mutual and equitable benefits of the Community Development process and approach for all people in Scotland. Please continue to send your contributions to SCDN".

SCDN Committee

'The Community Development Challenge'

The CD Challenge is the title of an important report from the UK Government. While it has no formal status in Scotland, it may be useful for CD policy-makers and practitioners in Scotland.

The report has been prepared by the Community Development Foundation with other UK CD organisations, for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

The report identifies the 'hidden contribution' of Community Development, and describes what a locality without CD would tend to look like.

The report goes on to make a number of recommendations, including:

- A strategic approach to community development should operate across each local area, with strengthened regional networks and appropriate national links.
- Community development funding should be adequate to achieve and maintain a major step change in the level of community strengths.
- CD should be promoted as a nationally recognised occupation with a clear basis in values, methods and outcomes.

Better Community Engagement

Scottish Community Development Centre, on behalf of Learning Connections have developed a Learning Framework for people such as managers and planners and professionals, who want to engage effectively with communities.

The Framework avoids prescribing a set curriculum, and instead identifies a number of elements of Community Engagement Practice, that can be used to develop learning programmes tailored for different staff and circumstances.

Publications In Brief

Inside Policy

Learning Connections have published an updated edition of their overview of Scottish Executive policy and how this relates to Community Learning and Development (CLD). As before, it has thematic sections around Regeneration, Community Planning, etc, and adds 'discussion points' about the actual or potential connections with CLD.

Same Difference

Learning Connections have produced a resource pack on Equalities in relation to Community Learning and Development.

Same Difference is available to download on a section by section basis from the Learning Connections Website

Workforce Survey

Learning Connections have also recently published the results of their Community Learning and Development Workforce Survey.

This aimed to count and find out more about the numbers of staff doing Community Work/ Capacity Building (CCB), Adult Learning, Youth Work, or a 'generic' role across these.

Issues were identified around identification of staff as 'CLD workers' and reaching the range of employing organisations.

Almost 300 Community Capacity Builders were

identified, with almost twice that figure for each of the other two strands.

There are fewer vacant CCB post despite a greater percentage of posts requiring a specific qualification.

Delivering Change

Is a guide to the Outcomes of Community Learning and Development.

It identifies typical Outcomes of Community Capacity Building, as well as personal development work in communities. It presents a menu of Outcomes that workers and communities can use to plan work in response to relevant priorities. The document can also be used to explain to others what difference community development makes, including how it contributes to wider change for communities.

It has been developed and published by Learning Connections at Communities Scotland, with the involvement of a range of stakeholders, including SCDN.

All of the above can be downloaded via the Learning Connections Website: www.lc.communitiescotland.gov.uk

LEAP for CLD

The Scottish Community Development Centre has been commissioned by Communities Scotland to revise 'LEAP for Community Learning & Development', which was first published in 1999.

SCDN was invited to attend a stakeholders meeting to contribute towards the revised version which will be published early next year. The new version will link with 'Delivering Change – understanding the outcomes for community learning and development' which is the CLD outcomes framework being developed and published by Communities Scotland.

Community Work Skills Manual

A new edition of this is being developed by the Federation for Community Development Learning. As well as covering a range of aspects of Community Development, the new edition will have an additional focus on CD around green and environmental issues.

The editors are looking for contributions on a range of identified topics.

More info from:

<http://www.fcdl.org.uk/projects/CWSkillsManual/index.htm>

or

skills-manual@phonecoop.coop

Civicus World Assembly: Glasgow 2007

Glasgow is again host city for the 7th World Assembly of CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, from 23 to 27 May 2007.

Civicus is a forum for international civil society representatives to get together, exchange ideas, experiences and build strategies for a just world.

Civicus is an international alliance of an estimated 1000 members in about 100 countries that has worked for over a decade to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world, especially in areas where participatory democracy and citizens' freedom of association are threatened. Originally based in Washington, DC, USA, CIVICUS has now established its global headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The main theme for the 2007 World Assembly is "Acting Together for a Just World". This theme will be explored through a central focus theme: Accountability: Delivering Results.

"Transparency and accountability are essential to good governance and the achievement of a just world."

Finn Heinrich, Assistant Secretary General, Programmes, CIVICUS

More details at: www.civicusassembly.org

Partners in Regeneration Pledge

SCDN has joined some of Scotland's leading professional institutions and networks in a joint pledge of their commitment to regeneration.

Twenty-six organisations with interests ranging from housing to health, employability and sustainable development have committed to working together and sharing their experiences.

They will do this as part of their involvement in Partners in Regeneration, a Scotland-wide network which brings together different interests to help them co-ordinate their activity and exchange their experiences to support more joined up approaches to regeneration.

Events!

SCDN Manifesto Launch

SCDN is holding an event to finalise and sign off our Community Development Vision for Scotland.

The event is on 19th April in the Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh.

SCDN Members and others with an interest in CD are encouraged to come along. See our website for more details.

'Strengthening Communities' Conference

A major Conference in Aberdeen will explore effective community development practice 'in the policy context of community planning and community regeneration'.

The event has been organised by Community Learning and Development Managers Scotland (CLDMS), together with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire CLD Services, and runs from 30th May to 1st June 2007.

SCDN has contributed to developing the programme for the event, which will include keynote speakers, and a wide range of workshops.

More details at:

www.scdn.org.uk

Conference Report: *Everywhere and Nowhere?*



This was the question posed by a conference organised by SCDN and CDX, which took place in Edinburgh in March 2006.

The theme of the conference emerged in recognition of concerns expressed by community development practitioners in Scotland and other parts of the UK about a growing gap between social policy and community development, and the need to make links between the two. These concerns were clearly expressed by participants at the 2005 SCDN Conference, and this event was designed to build on those discussions.

Following the 2005 SCDN Conference, a partnership with CDX emerged to address these issues by organising the March 2006 Conference.

Key questions underlying the conference included.

- *If in relation to social policy, community development is implicit in everything but explicit in nothing, have we 'won' the*

argument or has it been lost in translation from policy to practice?

- *People at grassroots, both paid and unpaid, still express the view that they are ignored by decision makers regardless of the stated aims of participation and empowerment.*
- *Is the solution, concentrating on promoting good Community Development practice based on sound theory? Can related processes such as Community Engagement, Community Capacity building and the implementation of National Standards be highlighted as part of a wider ranging Community Development Approach to social change.*
- *Policy has increasingly been utilising the language of Community Development and may have deflected us from focusing on the power imbalance in communities.*

“If in relation to social policy community development is implicit in everything but explicit in nothing, have we ‘won’ the argument or has it been lost in translation from policy to practice?”

The Keynote Speakers addressed these issues between policy and practice which were further explored in Workshops.

Akwugo Emejulu, of Strathclyde University, argued that in a new environment of results focused, monitored and evaluated work, Community Development techniques

(Continued on page 5)

Conference Report: *Everywhere and Nowhere?*

(Continued from page 4)

have been adopted by various agencies without reference to the underlying values. This together with Political and Economic changes away from the idea of a strong state towards market based solutions has led to uncertainty about the effectiveness of Community Development work today.

She went on to argue that for Community Development to remain relevant, we need to update our theory, politics and practice and return to community organising to build support for Social Justice.

Akwugo argued that that a depoliticised profession is a death sentence for Community Development as its politics is where its power lies.

Selwyn Williams, Joint Coordinator of the University of Wales, Community Development Unit, presented an initial draft of "A Political

Manifesto for Community Development". It proposes the setting up of a new independent organisation to lead a movement of radical Community Development across Britain and Ireland.

This "alternative community vision" and philosophy would aim to develop a social conscience and political awareness of communities and individuals, and politically transform communities in line with the principles and values of Community Development.

"Community Development techniques have been adopted by various agencies without reference to the underlying values".

Mae Shaw, lecturer at Edinburgh University and editor of 'Concept' argued against a clear definition of Community Development. On the ba-

sis that the more clearly it is defined the narrower its scope, with the more difficult questions and complications that keep it alive able to slip through the net.



She argues for the validity of Community Development lying in a marriage between the 'how' and 'why' of the

community Development cannot happen through consultation that addresses a managerial agenda; it must respond to emerging grassroots issues.

Radical Community Development is a myth: it has constantly dampened challenges to policy and more so in the present environment where Community Development has moved from a marginal position to a new central position in policy.

Community Development Values have been hijacked for the wrong purposes and related to jargon familiar to practitioners in a way which limits communities' ability to meaningfully express their real issues. Subsequently we should distance ourselves from this disempowering language.

proach. An obsession with process, such as Capacity building which ignores why communities need their capacities built is not Community Development. Com-

(Continued on page 6)

CD Jargon Buster latest

Many SCDN members and others contributed through the formal consultation.

The comments proved helpful and as a result we have further developed the document, and re-organised into thematic sections, around 'groups' 'communities' and 'communities relating to public bodies' and so on.

As well as relevant definitions, each section contains a narrative offering an explanation of the terms, their relationship to each other, and their implications for not only communities and CD practitioners, but also policy makers and planners.

SCDN believes that we need a shared language, to say, for example, that Community Engagement, is the result of a process called Community Development, that helps communities organise and around the issues that really concern them, and engage in ways that meet communities needs and not just those of public bodies.

The final document will be published in the summer, funded by Communities Scotland.

Everywhere and Nowhere?

(Continued from page 5)

Key points from Plenary Discussion

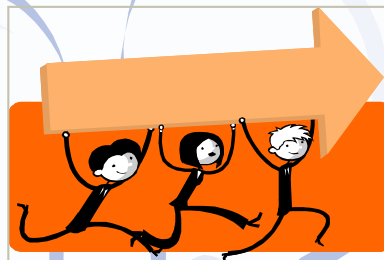
The discussion expressed a mixture of optimism and concerns. Delegates felt that delivering on policy was a barrier to radical grassroots work.

“An obsession with process, such as Capacity Building which ignores why communities need their capacities built is not Community Development”.

Mae Sham, at Everywhere and Nowhere Conference

- Delegates expressed concerns about how to practically engage in more radical bottom-up work when they feel under so much pressure to deliver policy-focused outputs and outcomes.

- Mae saw opportunities to politically engage in social change while Akwugo proposed that we are embarking on a process that will lead to mass participation, and Sel argued for contributing to change.



- The speakers encouraged delegates to engage with partnerships utilising the rhetoric of policy in a real and meaningful way.

- Delegates expressed concerns that pushing an agenda for social change could eclipse the grassroots views. Akwugo acknowledged the conflict Community Workers potentially have with both policy makers and Communities, particularly in terms

of Values (racism, sexism etc).

- Mae said a neutral position is a political position, and if Community Workers imposed their agenda on Communities we would have seen more change. She argued for Workers to be clear about their position in order to empower people in communities to make choices.

- Sel argued that community workers have to keep their values and survive in a hostile environment, and that people have been doing this in various roles for centuries. We shouldn't get into moralising positions, because we all have to survive as workers. The key is to turn the conflict into something creative, not to ignore it.

Full report available at www.scdn.org.uk or www.cdx.org.uk

CD Practitioners Support Needs

SCDN Research Project – Practitioners Support Needs

Previous evaluations of SCDN events and other forms of feedback have expressed the value members get in having opportunities to interact with other practitioners so that practice can be improved through a process of peer support, exchange of information and experience, and the chance to debate the relationship between policy and practice.

However, the recent report commissioned by Communities Scotland on community capacity building recognises that CCB is not as efficient as, and lacks priority against, the other two national priorities of adult education and youth work. The report recommends, alongside a series of recommendations, the setting up of a practitioners' network to contribute towards

addressing these concerns.

It also states that further research should be taken to investigate the support needs of practitioners and how they can be met. In response to this



SCDN will be undertaking a piece of research over the coming year, which will focus on how community development practitioners can be better supported by a range of local and/or national organisations.

This makes sense in that SCDN is already established as the only members led practitioners' network for CD, however we recognise that further research is required to identify where and how

practitioners are currently supported, and where the subsequent gaps are. This should allow a range of national organisations and agencies to respond to the issues raised and hopefully result in future support being provided in a more coordinated, and perhaps more holistic way.

Communities Scotland has agreed to fund the Project which will be overseen and managed by SCDN.

Part of the research will be to gather the views of practitioners as to what support would best meet their needs and we hope that members will contribute towards what could result in a significant shift in how national organisations work together. We will be in touch with further details as to how you can get involved in due course.

Contact

info@scdn.org.uk

Our Other Activities

In addition to the Conference, Manifesto, and Jargon Buster mentioned in these pages, SCDN has been involved in a range of other activities:

- **Partners in Regeneration:** signing up to the Regeneration Pledge
- Facilitating Workshops for the **'Social Work: A Profession Worth Fighting For'** Conference
- Making a response to the **Youth Work Strategy Consultation**, (with the involvement of Glasgow City Council Community Development Staff)
- Participation in the Reference Group for the revised **LEAP for CLD** Planning and Evaluation Framework
- Contributing to the development of the programme for Community Learning and Development Managers, conference on **'Strengthening Communities'**

Viewpoint



This issue's Viewpoint takes the form of a Manifesto, or Community Development Vision for Scotland, with which SCDN aims to stimulate debate and influence politicians.

The key points are drawn from the views of our members and others at our events over recent years.

You are invited to an event to discuss and finalise the Manifesto on 19th April.

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Manifesto

Title: **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT VISION FOR SCOTLAND**

Introduction

The Community Development Network has a key role in the promotion of effective CD practice and uses the definitions and frameworks developed by the Community Development Exchange, which states that

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

SCDN believes that the key purpose of community development work is collectively to bring about social change and justice, by working with communities to:

- Identify their needs, opportunities, rights and responsibilities
- Plan, organise and take action
- Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the action all in ways which challenge oppression and tackle inequalities

Rooting Community Development practice firmly within universally recognised values, principles and approaches is crucial to achieving effective CD work.

A report, on research commissioned by the Community Empowerment division of the Department for Communities (UK) (*Community Development Challenge*) places community development at the heart of Government policy and practice.

We call on the future government in Scotland to implement a series of recommendations that will deliver real change for local communities.

These recommendations sit within the context of UK (*Together We Can*) and European policy (*Budapest Declaration* adopted by the Scottish Parliament which seeks to strengthen civic society.)

Manifesto

1. Scottish Context

The importance of the position of Minister for Communities, Community Planning and Community Engagement is recognised, valued and supported.

2. A Strategic Approach to Community Development

2.1 Adoption of National Strategy for Community Development

The Scottish Executive will develop and adopt a National strategy for Community Development by 2010 in consultation with all key internal and external stakeholders. This would provide a framework for effective community development practice across all public, private and voluntary sectors at national, regional and local levels. Implementation should include commitment to a "centre of excellence" for Community Development

"Government and other stakeholders should recognise CD as an integral component in the delivery of good public services and local governance" ¹

2.2 Local Community Development Strategies

Guidance should be produced on the Development of community Development Strategies at Local Authority level.

2.3 Understanding Community Development

National and Local CD Strategies will promote an understanding of what Community Development is and what it is not so that When public, voluntary and private sector bodies speak about community development, that they do so in a way that demonstrates their understanding and commitment to the values, principles and approaches that are unique to Community Development.

Contribute!

Forward your comments to us at:

**Scottish
Community
Development
Network**

PO Box 26792
Glasgow, G4 7AF
www.scdn.org.uk

Manifesto References

1 *The Community Development Challenge*

<http://www.cdx.org.uk/news/odds/communitydevelopmentchallenge.pdf>

2 *The Budapest Declaration*

<http://www.iacdglobel.org/documents/general/BudapestDeclaration4683D.pdf>

Election 2007

Vote on the 3rd of May

There will be two elections in Scotland – one to elect Members of the Scottish Parliament and another to elect councillors for our 32 Local Authorities. The parliamentary elections will take place using the Additional Member System (AMS) and the council elections will use the Single Transferable Vote (STV) for the first time.

Additional Member System (AMS)

AMS is a hybrid voting system. It is part First Past the Post (FPTP) and part closed party list. The party list element is added on to increase proportional representation. Under AMS, each voter gets two votes – one for a constituency candidate, and one for a regional list candidate.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) for Local Councils

The size of existing council wards will be increased and either three or four Councillors will be elected to each ward. When voting, you will now be asked to rank Candidates in order of preference (marking the ballot paper from 1, 2, 3, 4, etc) rather than make a single choice with a cross.

(Continued on page 11 sidebar)

Manifesto

3. Community Planning

3.1 Community Planning Partnerships

Within the context of developing a Local CD Strategy, Community Planning Partnerships should be encouraged to see themselves as major stakeholders in the Community Development process. CPPs should therefore carry out or commission (from an agency that understands CD) a thoughtful analysis of the support needs of their communities and an honest evaluation of the capacity of existing resources to fulfil these needs.

3.2 Community Engagement

National Community Engagement Standard 2 creates a commitment to ensuring that *“impartial professional Community Development support is available for groups involved in community engagement”*

National and Local CD strategies should recognise the importance of investing in the development of grass roots community activity and organisation as the foundation of effective community engagement. They should include commitment to adequate funding for Community Development to *achieve and maintain a major step change in the level of community strengths and empowerment especially in disadvantaged areas.”*¹

4. Professional Standards

4.1 Recognise our distinctive Professional standards

Community Development workers to have acknowledged they are responsible and accountable for providing the means of empowering communities to contribute to the benefit of all society.

4.2 Recognise our distinctive professional values, methods and outcomes

Community Development should be promoted as a nationally recognised occupation with a clear basis in values, methods and outcomes. ¹

Community Development should be managed and delivered to the highest standards.

Manifesto

4. Professional Standards (cont.)

4.3 Resourcing of Community Development Practitioners networks

The complexities of demands and opportunities for communities, places increasing demands on those practitioners, who's primary function is to work with communities to develop their skills, confidence, knowledge and influence. There is, therefore, an increasing need to provide and resource an infrastructure which enables community work / development practitioners to share information, experience, skills and practice issues.

4.4 Community Learning - different from Community Development

Recognise that, whilst Community Learning has a valuable contribution to make to the development of civil society, it is not Community Development. The main focus of Community Learning is learning for individuals to help them achieve positive changes in their personal (rather than collective community) life.

4.5 Community capacity building (only one element of Community Development)

Recognise that Community Capacity building is one part of Community Development that focuses on working directly with community groups and organisations.

Community Development is a deliberate intervention in how people organise themselves on issues of joint concern. It is a holistic process which encompasses the following key components around helping people in communities to:

- Recognise and organise around issues of common concern
- Work together on those issues
- Build organisations which are autonomous, strong, effective, sustainable and accountable to the wider community
- Work within values of equity, inclusiveness and cohesion
- Influence and transform public policies and services
- Build social capital, social economy and community assets

CD also, uniquely, advises and informs public authorities on community perspectives and assists them to strengthen communities and work in genuine partnership with them.

Election 2007

(Continued from page 10 sidebar)

Candidates don't need a majority of votes to be elected, just a known 'quota', or share of the votes, determined by the size of the electorate and the number of positions to be filled. STV ensures that very few votes are wasted. Resources available to improve understanding of STV are available from the Electoral Reform Society's website at: www.electoral-reform.org.uk/article.php?id=48

Make your vote count

A website has been launched by the Scottish Executive to assist anyone to find out if you're eligible to vote, how to register to vote, and all the different ways you can cast your vote. Log on to: www.votescotland.com

Lobbying

In the run up to the election, you may wish to contact the candidates to ask for their views on support to community organisations and resources for community development. To assist in identifying your constituency or list MSPs, enter your postcode at www.writetothem.com

Democratic Renewal Page 12



Policy Briefing

Editor: Martha Wardrop

In recent years, low voter turnout and disengagement from formal democratic politics has been highlighted as a key concern for politicians and anyone interested in the political process.

As a result, there has been some rethinking of the way we do politics in Britain so that the concerns of citizens and their communities are at the heart of decision-making.

The POWER Inquiry.

The POWER Inquiry was launched in 2004 to look at how political participation and involvement can be enhanced in the UK.

Its work is based on the primary belief that a healthy democracy requires the active participation of its citizens.

There was a noticeable decline in voter turnout in 2001 and many political organisations have put considerable effort into analysing the roots of voter abstention and the current state of political engagement in the UK. This is the starting point for a broader investigation into the health of the connections between the public and the political process. The Inquiry was set up to try to understand why the decline in popular participation and involvement in formal politics has occurred and to make concrete and innovative proposals to reverse the trend.

POWER is funded and has been established by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Limited, to mark their centenary year. **POWER** marks a continuation of their work in funding and galvanising social and democratic reform.

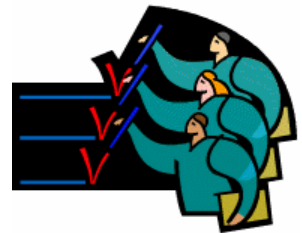
POWER provided a set of proposals and recommendations to enhance political participation, which were presented in their final report - **Power to the People** - published in February 2006. The report is based on primary and secondary research, and, crucially, evidence submitted by the public themselves. It is completely independent of any political party or organisation. The Commission is made up of people from the left, right and centre of politics, and mostly of people with no particular party political affiliation.

In 2007 the **POWER** Inquiry is supporting a major campaign for democratic change with a new website and schedule of events.

www.powerinquiry.org/

Equalities Review: Fairness and Freedom

The Final Report of the Equalities Review was published on 28 February 2007.



The Equalities Review has been established to carry out an investigation into the causes of persistent discrimination and inequality in British society.

The Report is available at: www.theequalitiesreview.org.uk/

Sustainable Communities Bill

Are you living in Ghost Town Britain?

Local Works Campaign

"Have you noticed the following happening in your community?:"

- closure of local independent shops
- closure of the local Post Office
- closure of the local bank branch
- decline of local street markets
- closure of the local pub
- closure of local services e.g. health centres
- green spaces being built on
- more traffic and less people walking on the streets
- less public transport services
- more "clone" branded shops and huge super-stores"

Local Works is the campaign that aims to change this situation, which

they call Ghost Town Britain.

Instead they argue for local sustainability, which has these 4 measurements:

1. thriving local economies
2. social inclusion
3. environmental protection
4. active democratic participation

Local Works is campaigning for the Sustainable Communities Bill.

"We want a more 'bottom-up' society in which communities are empowered to solve the above problems themselves. If made law this Bill will do just that".

The bill would require central government to provide for the implementation of local sustainability strategies that communities will be invited to create themselves.

The campaign is cross-party and aims to build sup-

port from individuals and organisations across the country, the support that will be needed to see the Bill made law.

Currently 15,000 individuals, 1000 councils, 80 national organisations, 300 local organisations and over 350 MPs, support the campaign.

On the 23rd November 2006 Nick Hurd MP (Conservative, Ruislip-Northwood), the first MP drawn in the Private Members Ballot, indicated that he would adopt the Sustainable Communities Bill.

A briefing of the Private Members Bill Schedule for the Sustainable Communities Bill can be found at:

www.localworks.org/

Useful websites

Unlock Democracy
www.charter88.org.uk/

Youth Work Strategy

The National Youth Work Strategy, 'Moving Forward: a strategy for improving young people's chances through youth work' was launched on 13th March 2007.

The main actions highlighted for the coming year, 2007-08, indicate the Scottish Executive will:

- Provide £500,000 to help build the capacity of youth organisations and improve training for volunteer youth workers.
- Set up a Youth Opportunities Fund of £2.5 million so that young people can run local events, projects and volunteer campaigns.
- Give £5 million funding to improve facilities for young people.
- Appoint a coordinator who will work with schools and youth workers to strengthen links across the sectors.

Further information is available on the Youthlink website at:

<http://www.youthlink.co.uk/>

Jargon Buster: Groups in Communities

Community groups and organisations

There are a number of different kinds of groups and organisations in communities, so it is useful to identify these, and the terms used, even though in practice groups do not always fit simply into one category.

Community groups bring members of a community together to represent that community, and take action together on community needs.

The term community organisations is similar, although tends to mean a community group that has some level of formal structure, with a constitution setting out the rules of the group, such as who can be a member, and election of committees. Often there is a progression where an informal group of people from a particular community decide that becoming a more formal organisation, will better help them benefit the wider community. Often this is to do with being recognised by public bodies, including being able to be awarded grants.

Examples of community groups or organisations would be tenants groups, disability action groups, youth councils, senior citizens forums.

Support groups are groups that are primarily about supporting the people who are actually on the group, as opposed to the wider community. Members of a support group will usually be a particular community, usually a community of interest, such as lone parents, Carers, people with specific health issues, etc.

Unlike community organisations, support groups will usually not have elections or any process that gives them authority to speak for a community. However, they often bring together communities that do not have formal organisations, and in the absence of these, are an important voice for that community that can contribute to help public bodies meet the needs of that community by participating in community engagement.

Many support groups will go on to form community organisations.

Some groups will do a bit of both roles, and may receive support from Community Workers for the community organisation work, and others, such as Social Workers or Adult Learning Workers for the support group parts.

Sometimes public bodies bring community members together to engage with them, often around a specific service or issue. These could be described as **participation groups**. *Text box page 15.*

Given that community engagement is defined as a relationship between public bodies and community groups. It could be argued that meeting with such groups is only community engagement if they are a way of engaging with community groups, rather than individual community members.

Voluntary Organisations, are voluntary in the sense that they are run by a Management Committee, or Board of Directors who are unpaid, although they may employ paid staff, sometimes in large numbers.

People generally recognise a distinction between community groups and Voluntary Organisations although views differ as to how the differences are defined.

Voluntary organisations are collectively known as **the voluntary sector**.

Community groups and voluntary organisations have in common that they are driven by values, and aim to benefit specific communities, or the public in general. They do not make profits to distribute to shareholders.

People sometimes talk about the **Voluntary and Community Sector** to include all these kinds of groups, often in relation to Councils for the Voluntary Sector (CVS) which exist in many places (under different names) to provide support to all these groups.

Within the Voluntary and Community Sector community groups are distinguished by the fact that they are actually run by members of the actual communities they aim to benefit.

Jargon Buster: Groups in Communities

Term	Definition
Community Groups & Organisations	"...are located within communities of geography or interest. They are controlled by their users and are usually small and informal with no paid staff. They are often referred to collectively as the community sector". CDX
participation groups or participations structures	Groups, committees, and other arrangements created by public bodies to bring community members together, to engage with that public body. In some cases these are formal sub-committees of the public body.
Support groups	Groups whose main function is to provide support to the group members themselves, rather than a wider membership or community.
The voluntary sector	"All constituted organisations, plus the family economy, as set apart from the statutory and private sectors, and as such voluntary organisations are predominant within it". SCVO
The community sector	"Those organisations active on a local or community level, usually small, modestly funded and largely dependent on voluntary, rather than paid, effort. Can be seen as distinct from the larger, professionally staffed agencies which are most visible in voluntary sector profiles. Hence the phrase 'voluntary and community sector' to encompass the full range." Volresource
Community Anchor Organisations	"... sustainable community organisations which provide crucial focus and support for community development and change in their neighbourhood or community, and for building up the community sector" UK Government Home Office.

Participation groups and structures

Sometimes public bodies bring community members together to engage with them, often around a specific service or issue. These could be described as 'participation groups'.

These may not necessarily meet apart from the public bodies, or be run by their users, in which case, they are not strictly community groups although they may evolve into them.

Participation groups could be set up, for example, by Community Planning Partnerships, the NHS, landlords, etc.

These groups can be called 'reference groups', 'liaison groups', 'panels', 'focus groups', and so on.

It is not always possible to distinguish these kinds of groups from what we would call community groups by their name alone. For example, many participation groups are called Forums (or 'Fora'), but there are also many community groups called that.

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**

Join the Network!

Sign up for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Small Organisation	£10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Organisation	£20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	£5.00

'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 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 **Email** info@scdn.org.uk

JOIN!



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

Fiona Ballantyne, Vice Chair of SCDN

SCDN

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