

Scottish Community Development Network

'Supporting People who Support Communities in Scotland'

"Agencies need to co-ordinate their support to communities, instead of competing for them",



Alison Gilchrist from the Community Development Foundation speaking at our 2005 Conference

was one of the key points made by delegates at our recent conference **'As if by Magic... ... Putting Communities at the Heart of Community Planning.'**

Over 70 delegates from across Scotland took the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers on this subject, and participate in workshops.

Key points are noted on page 5, and more detailed reports can be downloaded from the Events page of www.scdn.org.uk, where you can also find details of our next event.

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A Busy Year for SCDN...

"It has been a busy year for SCDN in which we have made great strides in achieving our key objectives (Page 4).

Our main challenge remains the promotion of Community Development approaches, principles and values,

and in particular the issues raised at our conference.

In order to do this we aim to:

- Consolidate our strategic position
- Further increase membership, and in particular the number of active members

- Attract resources to promote our work
- Develop a strong vision for promoting Community Development
- Take forward priority issues from the Conference (Pages 10 and 11).

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We prefer communication by email to info@scdn.org.uk or from the *Contact Us* facility on www.scdn.org.uk

CD News In Brief

Community Engagement Standards

The final version of the Standards has now been published, along with a Users Guide, and other support materials are available from www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk, or from a direct link from the News Page of www.scdn.org.uk

Inside Policy

Learning Connections at Communities Scotland have just published Inside Policy, which aims to provide an overview of key policies relevant to 'Community Learning & Development'.

Under headings such as Community Planning, it gives definitions, identifies key documents and identifies links with policy documents for Community Learning & Development.

'CLD' training for professionals in Regeneration and Community Planning

Learning Connections at Communities Scotland have now published a summary of this research carried out for them by Scottish Community Development Centre.

It can be downloaded from the Tools & Resources page of www.scdn.org.uk

Scottish Index of Multiple deprivation

The website has now been launched, and contains a variety of data available for small and user defined areas. <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/stats/SIMD2004/>

Community Voices network

A new network for community activists, engaging in community regeneration initiatives at neighbourhood level, is being developed by Communities Scotland and SCVO. This new Scotland wide network hopes:

"to build the capacity of people who are active on an unpaid basis in the regeneration of the 15% most disadvantaged communities in Scotland by sharing experiences and providing opportunities to influence national level community regeneration policy and practice"

Partners In Regeneration

Partners in Regeneration brings together a broad range of professional, interest and issue based networks. The networks involved are broadly representative of the breadth of elements, which contribute to holistic regeneration.

Illuminating Practice: Case Studies in CLD

This has been compiled by Scottish Community Development Centre for Communities Scotland to accompany the Scottish Executive Guidance on Working and Learning Together to Build Stronger Communities. It contains a number of Case Studies from across Scotland covering different elements of Community Learning and Development.

Community Voices Fund: New Guidance

Our previous newsletter reported on the launch of this new fund, which is aimed at improving the engagement of the most disadvantaged communities in community planning and community regeneration.

Billed as the successor of the Empowering Communities Fund, it requires Community Planning Partnerships to consider how this fund would most effectively be managed to ensure that supports are provided to assist groups and individuals from the 15% most deprived neighbourhoods to influence decisions. The fund is to be used to support the delivery of the Regeneration Outcome Agreements, but is to remain separate to the Community Regeneration Fund.

Scottish Executive guidance emphasised the importance of planning and co-ordinating activities. It suggests that Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) should think about

how the fund links to other activates and resources, for example: Community Learning and Development Partnerships, Tenant Participation and the wider community planning contexts.

This new fund started in April 2005 and runs for a period of 3 years.

So what does it mean for CD practitioners?

If you are working with disadvantaged neighbourhoods, you may be able to access this fund to assist in providing support programmes, which will facilitate effective community engagement. It could help remove some of the practical barriers to effective engagement.

For more information on this fund check out Communities Scotland website www.communitiesscotland.gov.uk

CD Competencies

Following the development of Occupational Standards for Community Development and related areas of work, a set of 'Common Core' values and competencies have been identified.

The exercise was undertaken by PAULO now part of wider Sec-

tor Skills Council Life-long Learning UK (LLUK).

The competences are intended to assist in recruitment, appraisal, and assessment of training needs, as well as informing future developments in vocational training.



Budapest Declaration: A Scottish Perspective

CD Practitioners across Scotland came together in March to look at the Budapest Declaration and relate it to the Scottish Context for CD.

The event was organised by Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS), who incorporated the find-

ings from the seminar into a Scottish Addendum to the Declaration, with key points for Scotland under the main themes of the original Declaration.

The Declaration and Scottish statement can be accessed via www.scdn.org.uk/tools.html



“General principles, guidance and outcomes should be set at national level, but interpretation and allocation of funding should be decided at local level within the Community Planning Partnership processes.”

From *Budapest Declaration: a Scottish Perspective*.

Event!

SCDN are holding a joint seminar with SCDC, called 'A Capacity for Change' in Glasgow on 25th October 2005.

See the Events page of our www.scdn.org.uk for more info, but hurry it's booking up fast!

Strategic Framework for Community Development Under Review

The Community Development Exchange (CDX) are reviewing their Strategic Framework for Community Development.

The Framework was published in 2001, following extensive consultation with CD practitioners.

CDX are now consulting UK wide on a revised Framework, including a new definition of CD (right).

The existing definition is on our Homepage at www.scdn.org.uk

The proposed new definition is consistent with the UK

wide Occupational Standards for Community Development, and is shown in the column on the right.

The Revised Framework states that *"rooting Community Development practice firmly within universally recognised values, principles and approaches is crucial to achieving effective CD work."*

SCDN are asking CD Practitioners in Scotland to give their comments on the definition and the Framework by completing the online questionnaire at <http://www.cdx.org.uk/strategicreview/strategicquestionnaire.htm>

Contribute!

Revised definition of Community Development:

"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"

We at SCDN endorse the revised definition: give your views on the definition and Framework using the online questionnaire at

<http://www.cdx.org.uk/strategicreview/strategicquestionnaire.htm>

"A Community Development approach has helped SW Services make best use of resources, and fulfil important policy requirements. It will be crucial in meeting future statutory requirements in relation to Community Engagement in Community Health Partnerships".

SCDN Response to 21C SW Review

21st Century Review of Social Work

SCDN made a submission to the 21st Century Social Work Review.

This was based on input from members in Social Work, and looked at 4 key areas:

- The Value of a Community Development approach to Social Work
- the contributions of

Community Workers and Social Workers to this, and

- the tensions between a holistic approach, and a focus on service users and carers.

The full text of our submission can be downloaded from a special **21C Review** page on www.scdn.org.uk

Conference & AGM

To get away hopefully from any accusation that SCDN is a Glasgow centric organisation this years Conference & AGM was held at the GLO Centre in Motherwell

The main theme of the event entitled 'As if by Magic' was looking at how communities can be put at the heart of community planning.

Over 70 delegates from a range of organisations across the breadth of Scotland had the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers on this subject including:

- Amanda Inverarity from the Community Development Exchange
- Alison Gilchrist from the Community Development Foundation
- Stuart Hashagen from the Scottish Community Development Centre.

Notes from their presentations will be made available from the Events page of our web site.

Workshops

A number of participatory workshops allowed delegates to flag up and discuss key issues around different aspects of community planning (the details of which are summarised on the facing page).

AGM

Last, but not least, the latter part of the afternoon session was given over to the Annual General Meeting.

Chair's Report

In her address SCDN Chair Fiona Ballantyne highlighted the strides that the organisation had made (*see right*).

Fiona emphasised that committee members were undertaking all this SCDN work in conjunction with the ongoing commitments of their own jobs.

Within the current policy context Fiona outlined that SCDN's main challenge was to raise the profile of community development & promote an understanding and acceptance of Community Development principles, values & approach.

In conclusion Fiona summarised SCDN's future priorities as being the need to:

- **Consolidate our strategic position**
- **Further increase membership, and in particular the number of active members**
- **Attract resources to promote our work**
- **Develop a strong vision for promoting Community Development**

Membership

It was agreed to increase membership fees as follows:

Individual:	£5
Small Organisation:	£10
Large Organisation:	£20

Achievements 2004-5

We are pleased to report that we have made significant progress on all our Objectives for 2004-5, as noted below.

- **To develop a website and link to other appropriate websites.**
- Website launched October 2004. Over 5,000 hits across 30 pages of content. Variety of links to CD organisations and resources.
- **To develop regular newsletters and bulletins.**
- Two issues published: circulated to members in hard copy, distributed widely by email, and available to download from our website. Commitment to two newsletters per year, and a further two email bulletins.
- **To encourage members to contribute articles which highlight practice.**
- Practitioner and Organisation Profiles received and published on web site and in Newsletter. New **CD in Practice** section added to Newsletter, (*page 8*). Further submissions sought.
- **To further increase and broaden our membership base.**
- Significant progress on this (*page 7*).
- **To organise a seminar / event to enable discussion / debate on current practice issues.**
- AGM/ Conference at-

tended by 70 practitioners, managers, and policy makers, from across Scotland, and elsewhere in the UK.

- **To strengthen links with other appropriate networks.**
- See box below

The Network Networks

SCDN and it's committee members now participate in a number of other networks:

- **Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS):** network of networks interested in CD
- **Community Development Exchange (CDX):** UK wide Network for CD Practitioners
- **Community Learning and Development Managers Scotland (CLDMS, previously CEMS):** network for Managers of Local Authority 'CLD' services
- **Partners in Regeneration**
- **Participatory Appraisal Network**
- **Scottish Urban Regeneration Forum (SURF) Community Leadership Panel**

Key Issues from Conference Workshops

A Strategic Approach to Community Development

- Address the power imbalances [between agencies and communities], including knowledge.
- Increased Awareness from all partners of what is and is not Community Development
- Knowledge/ Resources & Partnership; a willingness to share what's there
- CD Frameworks and Strategies are needed at all levels, including linking the CDX Strategic Framework to the Scottish context
- Genuine Partnership of agencies and communities is required starting with agreeing aims and goals. Community Workers have a key role in facilitating this.
- Community Agenda: use a variety of methods to identify this, then use it as a starting point
- Training & Learning: flexible learning for all partners based on shared principles & values. Policy makers & Managers need training in Community Development.

Community Engagement in Community Planning

- We need to clarify the differences between Community Development, Community Engagement, and Community capacity Building
- Community Development takes time and should be funded accordingly



- Community Engagement should happen at a variety of levels, and make particular efforts to engage with the most marginalised communities
- Elected members need clear roles in Community Engagement
- If it is to be meaningful, community engagement needs to be, planned, appropriate, and involve feedback on progress in responding to issues raised.

Neighbourhood Community Development

- Engagement should start at neighbourhood level.
- Agencies need to



change from competing for communities' involvement to coordinated working to support communities.

- Community Engagement needs to be based on shared values: Community Development
- Identifying and supporting key communities: this needs sustained investment.
- Engagement is a process not just a one off.
- Toolkits to audit whether partnerships are empowering communities as 'Active Partners' [would be helpful]
- Senior Agency staff need to be involved in actual engagement activities.

Community Engagement in Community Health Partnerships

- Lack of practical support for people to engage in the development process for Community Health Partnerships.
- Need for good practice models to be identified and shared through SCDN.
- Need for good practice and performance management systems to be put in place.
- Challenge to learn from social inclusion partnership structures and find effective ways of involving community representatives.
- Need input from people from communities at neighbourhood level, at board level, and through contact with service providers.
- How do we back up expectations that we generate with resources, and is this sustainable?
- How to convince Community Health Partnerships that community Development approaches can deliver if not focused on Health Board priorities.

The Scottish Delegation

co-ordinated by SCDN included representatives of:

- SCDN
- Scottish Community Development Centre
- North Ayrshire Council
- Linked Work & Training Trust
- Communities Scotland, (Learning Connections, and Community Engagement Teams)
- Glasgow City Council, (Chief Executives Dept. and Social Work)
- Inverclyde Council
- Scottish Refugee Council



"[It's important to get] beyond shifting statistics within regeneration ...

...it is far easier to organise training courses than to set up processes for change."

*Anastasia Critchley,
Speaking at the 5
Nations Summit*

5 Nations CD Summit: Belfast

A twelve strong delegation from Scotland participated in a Community Development summit held in Belfast on 12th April, 2005.

The event was organised by CDX to facilitate a dialogue between the four nations of UK and the Republic of Ireland; to reflect on practice within a broader political context and to consider the strategic position of CD across the five nations, building on the Budapest Declaration on Community Development .

Scotland was able to draw on the experience gained in considering the application of the declaration. The Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS) had previously brought together a range of interests, within the Community Development, field to develop and apply the declaration to the Scottish political context. The Scottish response can be viewed on the SCDN or CDAS websites.

Keynote speaker

The Belfast summit heard an inspiring input from Anastasia Critchley, who immediately defined Community Development as being about **"collective analysis, collective action and collective change"**. She helped us to explore the globalised framework within which CD is operating. The fo-

cus on economy "brings restrictions to those without economic power. The emphasis on individual rights as an alternative to

statistics within regeneration and stated that "it is far easier to organise training courses than to set up processes for change."



Anastasia Critchley addresses delegates at the 5 Nations CD Summit in Belfast.

collective rights and the marginalisation of the anti-poverty agenda creates a challenging context for CD."

Reflecting on change movements over the decades, Anastasia noted that "women remain unequal and social capital gets in the way of real progress (focusing on the power of the middle classes)." She asserted that "any view of power should include structural, individual and cultural; we should tidy up language regarding the community and voluntary sector; we should get beyond obsessions with monoliths, which force groups to work together and we should recognise diversity."

Advising on the application of the Budapest Declaration, Anastasia suggested that CD "needs to be hard nosed in terms of what it is about. It is about consciousness raising, which requires its own theory." She noted "the importance of getting beyond shifting sta-

An agenda for SCDN

During the event, each of the nations were able to identify ways to take forward the issues raised.

SCDN was asked to:

- 'Get Community Development back on the agenda' in Scotland
- Encourage debate around the purpose of Community Development – is it about tackling issues of power / powerlessness or is it about capacity building and technical infrastructure?
- Highlight that a narrow interpretation of Community Capacity Building, which is learning based, does not tackle issues of power and influence.
- Help network people in the field and promote Community Development within policy frameworks
- Facilitate inputs to colleges on community development practice
- Consider a CD Strategy for Scotland.



Website

5,000 Hits

The SCDN website recently had it's 5,000th hit across 30 pages of content.

New Items on the Website

New items are regularly added to the site including Member and Organisation Profiles, and links to the items referred to in the Newsletter. These can be accessed from the 'New on the Site' page.

Useful items Still on the Website

- Facility to join and pay membership fee online
- Downloadable content, including back issues of the newsletter
- Links to Community Development tools and resources
- Links to information sources
- Links to CD Websites
- Facility for members to contribute comments, and news.
- Further info on newsletter items.

SCDN Membership Analysis

Who are our members?

SCDN's members are paid or unpaid community development practitioners, covering a range of sectors, working on variety of themes, and living or working across the majority of Local Authority areas.

SCDN now has members from 25 of the 32 Local Authority Areas in Scotland, from Shetland to Dumfries and Gallo-way, and from West Dunbartonshire to East Lothian.

Who do our members work for?

Most members are Individual Members, but have given us information about their work context.

Around a third of members identified themselves as working for a Local Authority, as well as Community Learning and Development, or Community Services this included a number of staff from Social Work, as well as Chief Executive's and Economic Development Departments.

The majority of the remaining members who had identified this, are committee members or staff of local community or voluntary organisations.

A number of members

work for regional or national infrastructure organisations, and a small number identified other types of organisation such as Social Inclusion Partnerships, universities, and faith organisations.

What themes or issues do members work on?

A number of members identified themselves as doing generic, or neighbourhood community development, these were primarily working in a voluntary capacity, or for Local Authority Community Services. Many of these were within a particular local authority, where they have a role



encompassing Community Work, Adult Education and Youth Work.

A number of other members worked in Social Work, although having a focus on Community Care and Social Welfare issues, have some degree of generic role, in that they can respond to issues raised by the wider community.

The main themes mem- bers identified them-

selves as working on included Housing, Health, Regeneration, Community Safety, Play, and Environment.

Others worked with specific communities of interest, such as older people, black and minority ethnic communities, young people, and Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual people.

Some had specific functions, such as volunteering, voluntary sector development, policy, and Community Councils.

Meeting of Community Work Staff in Social Work SCDN recently set out to bring together Community Work staff in Social Work Services, across Scotland. Six Councils were identified, and attended the meeting.

Recent Council re-configurations meant that some services had been, or were soon to move from Social Work, or were now in wider service Departments. Nonetheless, many common issues and areas of work were shared.

Notes from the meeting will be published shortly on our website.

Case Study: Drumchapel Locality Panel

BACKGROUND

Aims of piece of Work

The overall aim was to bring together Health, Social Work and Housing staff with Service Users and Carers to improve delivery of services in Community Care at a local level. The specific aim of Community Work staff was to ensure this was based on meaningful User and Carer involvement.

Background to piece of work

This was started as part of a pilot scheme in several areas of Glasgow. The Locality Panel for Drumchapel had Health Services as the Lead Agency.

Reason for CW Involvement

The Social Work Area Manager identified that work should be developed by 'Care Group'. Community Work staff had the key role in this to deliver on SWS objectives with Service Users and Carers in relation to 'Modernising Community Care'

Timescale

Plans were made in late 1998 and work was started in early 1999.

Practice Issues

It was identified that representation from Service Users and Carers must be meaningful. That people needed to feel that they were not token representatives and would be heard and would make a difference.

The specific circumstances of Community Care Service Users (e.g. health) can mean that individuals can have difficulty sustaining involvement. This in turn means that new people have to be supported to come forward and take on roles.

The approach of organising events for the wider community of service users, taking each care group in turn and forming a representative organisation for each is good community development practice, but does not necessarily ensure continued involvement from all Care Groups.

EVALUATION

Input Made by Community Work staff

Community Work staff formed interagency working groups and organised large community consultation events by Care Group in local venues.

Community Work staff supported Service User and Carer involvement on an equal basis by preparation work with members in relation to jargon and understanding policy documents.

They supported, trained and developed the different representative organisations that were formed following each event, e.g. elderly, and disabled forums and a carers group. This was fairly intensive work over a long period that frequently had to be repeated as people got ill at times and would stand down and let new repre-

sentatives to come forward.

Inputs made by other staff and Agencies

Staff from a variety of relevant agencies and levels in SWS and Health Planning and Service Delivery attended the Events.

Other agencies were partners in joint working to organise specific events.

Other staff have become involved in supporting representative organisations for the individual Care Groups formed as a result of this process.



Community Work Processes Used

All five of the Dimensions of Community Capacity Building were involved, as well as our service's additional dimension of working with agencies to promote community empowerment.

Main areas of development concentrated on:

1. Work with communities to plan and address their needs

As service user organisations

2. Support the development of skills and

confidence of activists and organisations

Within those organisations

3. Promote broad based participation in Community Affairs

Organising events to engage the wider public of service users

4. Assist communities to exercise power and influence

Over planning of relevant services

5. Assist communities to provide or manage services

Assisting service users to contribute to managing the Locality Panel budget

Outputs of CW Intervention

A series of events were held for particular Care groups. These identified issues from the wider interest group of people in relation to each Care Group tackled, which built up into an agenda for the Locality Panel to work to.

The events also resulted in new organisations (e.g. Elderly Forums) being formed with representatives to sit on the Locality Panel taking forward their issues. These bodies have continued to be representative groups in their own right, addressing the concern that the Locality Panel would have token individuals, by creating meaningful and ongoing representation.

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Case Study: Drumchapel Locality Panel

(Continued from page 8)

Members of the Locality Panel have been instrumental in forming a Glasgow wide group for Community Care Service Users (Voices for Change), who in turn have assisted Social Work in organising Glasgow wide consultation conferences and contributed to the development of proposals for future Service User and Carer involvement across the city.

The Locality Panel has already held one local conference to start to implement these proposals.

Outcomes: Community Empowerment

Service Users and Carers have joined together across previously disparate areas into new organisations with real and ongoing representation able to respond to changes to SWS boundaries.

Forums are now in place for people to raise issues on an ongoing basis, and monitor progress.

This means that people feel listened to and are playing a role in the development of services.

Community members, Users and Carers were able to influence a number of specific developments:

Drumchapel Elderly Forum could participate in the development of proposals for replacing the premises of the SWS Day Care Centre. It linked with the other Fora in Drumchapel to identify

issues and bring forward sensible proposals to improve services.

A structure is now in place that can respond to Community Care Consultation processes in time, and in a meaningful way. Many of the large Local Community Consultation events have been arranged to coincide with Joint Community Care Planning processes.

Outcomes: Quality of Community Life

There is now a forum for new ideas to be explored e.g. Glasgow Housing Association's ideas on housing for Community Care Clients in the local area.

A new carers group has now been set up in one area, that provides ongoing support to local Carers.

The Drumchapel consultation led to improvements in services, e.g. the use of joint funding to improve services allocated to Health and SW was used to create an Incontinence Supplies Delivery Service. This solved a significant problem for many elderly people and their elderly carers.

Points raised at the Disability Event resulted in the Lead GP from the Local Health Care Cooperative (LHCC) taking back changes to the design of doors in the Health Centre to improve access.

Comment

The Locality Panel has now started to fill gaps in participation by the range

of Care Groups.

New reps are from Learning Disability Group, a Community Mental Health Project and wider disabled representation.

These have been from groups either not previously represented at all or not achieved by the previously used method: events for the formation of organisations and the election of representatives.

After a period of waiting to see how the Pilot Locality Panels were to be rolled out to the rest of the City, the new proposals for Local service User Networks (LSUNs) have given a new impetus to the organisation, both to develop its role locally and across the City through *Voices For Change*.

The existence of the Locality Panel will also shape the development of community involvement in Community Health Partnerships. At the recent Local Service User Network (LSUN) conference, which included a consultation by Health Staff on this topic, recognition was given to the group and an acknowledgement that existing structures for Service Users and Carers would be included in the new plans.

Conclusions

Community Work can create opportunities in work like this, not only to give communities influence, and so improve services, but also to assist Social Work Services

to deliver on new policies and developments such as Modernising Community Care Services and Joint Futures.

The opportunity to sit down and participate with service managers at local level, helps people make sense of changes, and contribute helpful feedback and common sense suggestions from the users perspective about how this impacts on their lives. Links to the wider community and project work are created by these developments and achievements are made through partnership working.

Future Community Work Input

This needs to be continued and focussed on assisting these organisations and their representatives to respond to new changes in policy and structure, in particular the Community Health Partnerships and their Public Partnership Forums.

Assistance to independent representative organisations needs to continue to ensure that representatives on the LSUN retain constituencies and so that two-way communication of issues and information exists between service users and the Locality Panel/LSUN.

Sheena McDonald
Community Development Officer, Social Work Services, Glasgow City Council.

Viewpoint



In issue 1 we gave a *Viewpoint* on Community Engagement in Community Planning.

Our 2005 Conference explored these issues further, and on this and the facing page we give our further analysis and views on this subject.

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

“The foundation of meaningful Community Engagement is the development of strong, autonomous, democratic community organisations and groups, that reflect the views, aspirations and needs of their communities.”

SCDN

The 'Magic' Behind Community Engagement

Community Development practitioners have been 'bumping their gums' on the subject of communities influencing decisions for, well... decades.

What is new, however, is the policy context within which we are operating...

Our national (Scottish) parliament has enshrined community engagement within its aspirations for democratic renewal, regeneration, community planning, etc and has been working with experts in CD, communities and other relevant agencies, to assist with the development of the Community Engagement Standards.

The relationship between Community Engagement and Community Development was therefore a natural theme for our conference.

'As If By Magic...'

The title of our conference, "As if by Magic...." reflected the implicit assumptions that community engagement would 'just happen': that communities would magically organise themselves and be ready to engage in whatever processes policy and service planners chose.

To us at SCDN, it seems obvious that the foundation of effective Com-

munity Engagement, is Community Development.

This means the development of strong, autonomous, democratic community organisations and groups, that reflect the views, aspirations and needs of their communities.

This is the best, perhaps the only, route to community engagement that is meaningful in terms of the ability of communities and their representatives to participate on an informed basis, and with a mandate and support to genuinely represent communities.

This in turn requires what the Community Engagement *Support* Standard describes as 'impartial professional community development support' i.e. from skilled practitioners, working to recognised values and principles, such as those in the UK Strategic Framework for CD, and promoted by SCDN.

An Agenda for SCDN

SCDN strives to be an organisation, which reflects and responds to the needs and aspirations of its members.

We therefore spent some time analysing the conference notes to identify common themes across the workshops, and considering action that could be taken to progress these.

One of the strong overarching messages of the conference was confirma-

tion of the need for an effective Community Development practitioner's network.

SCDN's existing strategic priorities were further reinforced by the fact that most of the actions identified fitted neatly within them, as noted below.

Strengthen the collective voice for CD in Scotland

We have been asked to:

- **Promote CD values and principles as the foundation of good practice.**
- **Highlight the approaches and benefits of CD as the foundation of effective community engagement .**
- **Promote the outcomes of Community Development within Community Engagement processes.**
- **Promote the national Community Engagement Standards, in particular the 'Support' standard**

To provide a forum for CD practitioners to share information on good practice

We have been asked to:

- **Highlight good practice models.**
- **Consider producing or collating information on how to fa-**
(Continued on page 11)

The 'Magic' Behind Community Engagement

(Continued from page 10)

Facilitate engagement

- Highlight the limitations and costs of short term approaches
- Highlight the importance of support for appropriate **professional development** of CD staff.
- encourage practice rooted in **analysis of exclusion and powerlessness** rather than 'checklists' of excluded groups.
- Promote **appropriate performance management of CD** at local level, and the use of the Community Engagement 'Support Standards for this.

We will undertake these actions through our newsletters, website and events and through our involvement and connections with other networks, agencies, and policy makers.

Identify and disseminate to our members, relevant policy frameworks and priorities, highlighting implications / opportunities for practice development

We have been asked to:

- Develop a Community Development **Jargon Buster**.
- Relate the **CDX Strategic Framework** for Community Development to the Scottish context.

We have begun develop-

ment of a Jargon Buster.

We have incorporated elements of the UK Strategic Framework for CD within our Development Plan.

To promote practice which effectively empowers communities

We have been asked to:

- Promote to policy and service planners the idea of **'going to communities' table'** rather than the reverse.
- Encourage the development of **community visions** and their central place in agencies planning processes.

We will continue to raise the profile of SCDN and of CD with a range of partner agencies and through networks, such as Partners in Regeneration and the Community Development Alliance Scotland.

To provide opportunities for Community Development practitioners to discuss and debate issues of common interest.

This priority was to some extent met by the conference itself.

We will be holding a further conference, on Tuesday 25th October in Glasgow: focussing on the skills and challenges of **Building Community Capacity**. See the Events page of www.scdn.org.uk for further details.

Our Members' Agenda

So this is our agenda from, and commitment to, our members. Tell us what you think!

Key points from each workshop are noted on Page 5.

What can others can do to progress these issues?

The Scottish Executive and Communities Scotland can:

Note the issues raised when developing arrangements for resourcing and support for 'impartial professional community development support'.

This involves:

- Applying resources for CD support in joined-up sustainable ways that develop existing CD infrastructure, and ensure staff with a CD role have appropriate professional leadership and support.
- Responding to the specific professional development needs of staff to carry out these roles, and deal with the issues involved.

CD Practitioners can:

Promote within their organisation and partners Community Development values and principles as the foundation of effective community engagement.

Support communities to

develop their own vision of their community and the services and supports it needs.

Encouraging managers and planners to 'come to communities' table'

Write up and share good practice examples. SCDN can provide a Case Study template and notes, and publish work on the web site and newsletter.

Service providers and planners can:

'Go the to the community's table': engage regularly with the various communities on their own terms, not just when your Plan is out for consultation!

Engage with communities at 'vision' level; not just in relation to specific services.

Community Planning Partnerships can:

Look at the best ways of resourcing 'impartial community development support'

Bring together relevant practitioners and managers with a Community Development role to:

- Share practice and provide support.
- Develop joined-up approaches at local and partnership levels.

Record and share good practice in Community Development through appropriate networks.

SCDN



**Policy Briefing
Editor Martha
Wardrop**

**'Community
Organisations with
Charitable Status
will from 2006 have
to make a return to
the Charities
Regulator'**

In Brief

Freedom of Information Act

The **FOI** and the earlier **Data Protection Act** have implications for CD practitioners, in terms of storing contact information for community members, and for public access to any records, such as process recordings, made for monitoring and evaluation of Community Development activities.

A briefing on FOI / DPA can be downloaded from the Policy page of www.scdn.org.uk

Planning White paper

A briefing can be downloaded from www.scdn.org.uk

Charity Accounting Regulations

Source

Scottish Executive / Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR).

The proposals for the accounting flow from the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Bill.

Summary

The proposal is to set an income threshold of £250,000: charities with income below this may produce receipts and payments accounts, rather than a full audit.

Rationale

As stated in the consultation paper:

'By setting the threshold for both the form of accounts and the audit requirements keeps the regime simple and consistent. Increasing this threshold from £25,000 to £250,000 is a major deregulating move'.

The Scottish Executive believe that:

'preparation of the fully accrued accounts requires a level of expertise unlikely to be readily available for a charity as small as £250,000 and they rarely have transactions of a complexity that would make receipts and payment accounts misleading'.

Implications for different Charities

Under these proposals, the following accounting regulations could apply:

Charities with an income of over £250,000 will have to produce a statement of accounts

which includes:

- A statement of financial activities
- A balance sheet
- Notes to the accounts
- An annual report
- Those charities with an income or expenditure over £250,000 must be audited.

Charities with an income of under £250,000 which are not companies, limited liability industrial and provident societies or SCIOs may opt instead to produce a statement of accounts on a receipts and payments basis which includes:

- A receipts and payments account
- A statement of balances
- Notes to the accounts
- An annual report

Charities with an income or expenditure under £250,000 whose accounts are not required by their constitution to be audited must have their accounts approved by an independent examiner.

There is no proposal to exempt **very small charities** from independent examination. It is recognised that independent scrutiny is an important aspect of providing transparency and accountability.

Comments

Views on whether the proposed thresholds are

the right ones and whether there should be a third category of charity for which independent examination is optional, were invited as part of a recent consultation.

All responses which the Scottish Executive has permission to publish (81), are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/Recent>



It is acknowledged that the Bill provides an opportunity to update and modernise the existing regulatory framework to reflect the current UK practice and also, ensure that the requirements are proportional to the size of charities. The intention of the proposals is to help maintain public confidence in the charity sector without creating undue burdens on charities.

Implications for Community Development

CD practitioners may have advisory and/or monitoring roles for community-based charities, and this may reduce the burden of financial reporting.

Community Health Partnerships

Source

Scottish Parliament: White Paper *Partnership for Care*. This formed the basis of the NHS (Scotland) Reform Act of 2004.

Summary

The White Paper and the Act emphasised the importance of strengthening 'single system' working in the NHS by dissolving NHS Trusts and introducing CHPs from April 2005 in order to transform the way local healthcare is delivered.

The NHS reforms are designed to put patient-centred care at the heart of services. The reforms are based on partnership between the NHS and other organisations, particularly local authorities.

They aim to break down some of the barriers that have traditionally existed between community health, social care and specialist health services.

This will create new opportunities to develop new health services at a local level and make it easier for patients to access all of the health and social care services they need regardless of whether these are provided by their CHP, hospital or local authority. It will also help develop stronger relationships between community health and other local services such as housing, leisure and education.

The Scottish Executive

stated that CHPs should be based on:

- partnership between the NHS and local authorities
- community involvement
- devolution of resources to local control
- an agenda for service re-design and professional development of staff
- service integration within the NHS and with local government
- health improvement and community planning

CHPs are seen to offer "massive potential" to deliver better services tied to structures which ensured local accountability.

It is foreseen that local healthcare could be tied directly to the wider 'health improvement' agenda. CHPs would, therefore, not only offer access to healthcare but could also take a lead in programmes aimed at preventing ill-health in the first place through strong links to organisations responsible for regeneration, employment and other issues.

Implications for Community Development

The establishment of Public Partnership Forums will require input from CD practitioners, in terms of developing their capacity and capabilities for involving patients, carers and the wider public in the plan-

ning and decision-making process.

There is a need for wider community involvement framework for CHPs which takes account of how the PPF fits with existing or proposed arrangements for consulting people about public services.

In December, 2004 Guidance was issued to NHS Boards on the community involvement component of CHPs, particularly on the creation of Public Participation Forums within these new organizations. This guidance is summarised in the box to the right.

Who Does it Affect?

All communities have a stake in local Health Services, so CHPs are relevant to 'generic' CD practitioners, as well as those in or working with Health and Social Work.

Comment

The development of CHPs offers great potential to improve the responsiveness of health services to local communities.

There are many important roles for CD Practitioners, including influencing, and subsequently supporting the development of the community involvement arrangements.

Submitted by:

Martha Wardrop

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector

Community Involvement in CHPs: Summary of Guidance

Coherence with other engagement mechanisms

'CHPs with local authorities, the voluntary sector, community groups and other bodies should work to agree an approach which utilises existing engagement systems and has coherence with other joint engagement mechanisms e.g. joint futures, children's services and community planning'.

Public Partnership Forums (PPFs)

'PPFs will have three **core functions**; Communication and information provision, engagement on service design and health improvement, and participation in planning and decision making'.

'PPFs must have a formal role in the decision making processes of CHPs and will be **represented on the CHP committee** or sub committee'.

'The PPF has **no legal status** and will not be a constituted organisation'.

Voluntary Sector

'CHPs should be developing a partnership approach to working with their local voluntary sector, utilising the Voluntary Sector Compact'.

"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
or use the *Contact Us* facility on www.scdn.org.uk

Getting Involved

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 on the back page.

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 its 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

Practitioner Profiles

Kirsten Robb, Community Officer, Dalriada Project

What does the organisation do?

Rural development of Mid Argyll.

We aim to protect, restore and use the best of Mid Argyll to benefit visitors, residents and local businesses.

How long have you worked in Community Development?
5-10 years

What did you do before this?

I've worked on Local Agenda 21, Community Plan-

ning, and Youth Work.

Tell us about something you are currently working on

Community consultation, strategy preparation for funding application

Any Particular interests in the field of Community Development?

Engagement of public agencies with community organisations, and social enterprises; community ownership / management

Contact

kirsten.rob@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Anne Munro, Community Worker, Pilmey Development Project

What does the organisation do?

Community Development principally with older people, young people and adults

What is the Community Development element of this?

Wide range of direct face-to-face and development work

How long have you worked in Community Development?
More than 20 years

Tell us about something you are currently working on

Development of Older Men & Mental Health project & local forum for older people initiative

Any Particular interests in the field of Community Development?

Older people, minority ethnic older people & carer issues

Contact

0131 553 2559, or ibsc14820@blueyonder.co.uk

More...

Check for more Profiles, and submit your own at the Members section of www.scdn.org.uk

Practitioner Profiles

Philip Bryers, National Co-ordinator, Alzheimers Scotland

How long have you worked in Community Development?

Over 30 years

Organisation Type

National Voluntary Organisation

What does the organisation do?

I support the Scottish Dementia Working Group, which comprises a membership of people with a diagnosis of dementia who want to campaign on issues important to them

What is the Community Development element of this?

Involvement of people with dementia in local groups to campaign and promote public awareness of dementia

What did you do before this?

Hon Secretary of the Association of Community Workers 1968-72

Taught community development in York/Glasgow University 1970-9

Various CD posts in Strathclyde Region SWD, 1979-90

Senior Dev Officer - Volunteering in Health, Volunteer Dev Scot. 2001-4

Representative on Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network

Tell us about something you are currently working on

Training video for professionals in dementia services made by people with dementia

Benefits issues (especially DLA) for people with dementia

Development of local dementia working groups throughout Scotland

Any Particular interests in the field of Community Development?

Public Health
Community Care (including respite/short breaks)

Contact

0141 418 3939, or
pbryers@alzscot.org

Janice Boyd, Access Officer, Inverclyde Council

What does the organisation do?

Local Authority. My part is implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and associated tasks

What is the Community Development element of this?

Involving local communities in improving access to the countryside.

How long have you worked in Community Development?

3-5 years

What did you do before this?

Grants Officer

Tell us about something you are currently working on

Establishment of a Local Access Forum, which will hopefully be set up to feed upwards from the grassroots level

janice.boyd@inverclyde.gov.uk

Organisation Profile

Community Work Service, Inverclyde Council

Purpose of Organisation

To provide a service that assists communities to organise around locally defined issues, problems and aspirations. To enable communities to influence decisions which affect their lives and to organise to meet the needs of their own communities.

Community Development Role

Practice is firmly rooted in CD values and principles as described by SCDN.

Current Priorities

Generic grass roots community development support at neighbourhood and community of interest level. CD support to neighbourhoods within the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund areas.

Additional Information

Community Work in Inverclyde was first established in 1971, and provided the inspiration for the development of the Community Work service within Strathclyde Regional Council. The service has recovered from the post 1996 funding squeeze on Local authorities, and is growing in strength and numbers

Current issues for the organisation

Promoting and coordinating CD practice which is rooted in CD principles and values across services, agencies and sectors. Attracting suitably trained and motivated practitioners

Staffing

We currently have seven staff

Contact

Fiona Ballantyne, Community Work Manager

Tel. 01475 715459

Mail to: fiona.ballantyne@inverclyde.gov.uk

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, Chair of SCDN

SCDN

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