

# SKYE AND LOCHALSH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



## Annual Report

April 2018 – March 2019



# Chairmans Report

PETER URQUHART



**This year Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, opening in 1949 as Skye Council of Social Service.** We have seen a lot of changes in the third sector during that time however, at its heart volunteers have remained strong and committed to improving lives for people in our communities.

SLCVO has over 18 volunteers supporting our befriending and core services, including our trustees who total over 50 years volunteering. In July 2018 we welcomed our newest trustee, Mike Taylor from Eilean Ban Trust, to support the board with its governance duties and Roger Liley retired from the board in November 2018. On behalf of SLCVO's Trustees I would like to thank Roger for his invaluable support in the development of strategic plans and for his time with SLCVO.

Due to uncertainties in funding we ceased using external resources in the delivery of core funded work. Because of this proactive support of volunteering and social enterprises reduced and we saw a decrease in the attainment of performance targets from 83% to 58%. Despite the decrease, support of third sector groups reached peak performances with a 90% of HTSI targets being met and third sector participation in community planning remaining constant at 100% achievement

Our community planning work continued to expand with SLCVO's Chief Officer, Jo Ford, taking the Vice Chair role for Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum and trustee Gordon Higgins becoming a trustee for Youth Highland.

Sammy-Jo MacArthur completed year 2 of her part-time Community Development Degree at Dundee University and Sarah Cardo started maternity leave in October 2018, when Claire Nairn joined the SLCVO team to cover Sarah's maternity leave.

We remain in a healthy position with good reserves of £132,175 at the year-end however, during this year we had to use some reserves to support the delivery of services. With the remaining uncertainty of funding beyond March 2019 the trustees have designated £61,500 of reserves to continue operations for 6 months if core funding is lost.

On behalf of the SLCVO Board I would like to thank our staff and members in supporting Skye and Lochalsh CVO for the last 70 years and look forward to carrying on the legacy of those who started the organisation in 1949.



# Chief Officers Report

JO-ANNE FORD

**With the expansion of our delivery area to include Wester Ross, SLCVO took the opportunity to update our Articles of Association at our AGM in July 2018.**

This change was driven by a need to update SLCVO purposes, remove restrictions on our geographical delivery area and take into account regulations as per the 2006 Companies Act and Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

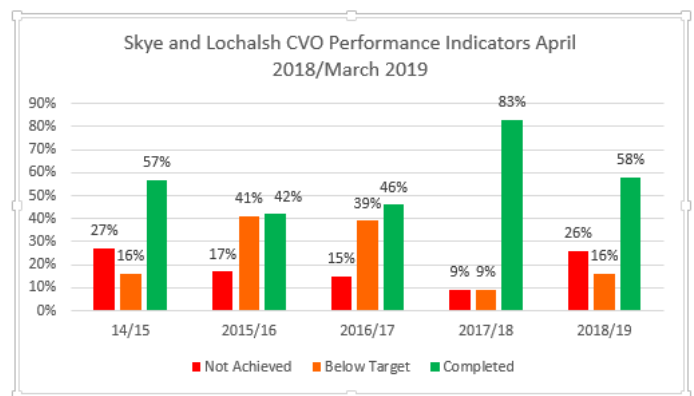
The core objective of Skye & Lochalsh CVO is now the advancement of citizenship and community development within the Highlands including:

- The promotion of civic responsibility, volunteering, the voluntary sector or the effectiveness of efficiency of charities
- Rural and urban development and regeneration
- Such other similar charitable purposes and the company from time to time determines.

These new objectives better reflect the role of SLCVO including our third sector support services that are funded by the HTSI.

## Performance

For the last five years the HTSI have used a standard set of indicators to measure our performance and since April 2014 we have seen a general increase in performance. This year, however, there has been a 25% decrease in attainment due to a reduction of resources able to undertake proactive support.



From April 2018 to March 2019 we provided 519 episodes of support to 58 community groups including:

- Indicator 1a: More people have increased opportunity and enthusiasm to volunteer. **183 episodes of support provided in 2018/19** (274 in 2017/18)
- Indicator 1b: Volunteer involving organisations are better able to recruit, manage and retain volunteers. **27 episodes of support provided in 2018/19** (58 in 2017/18)
- Indicator 2: Social Enterprise develops and grows. **31 episodes of support provided in 2018/19** (40 in 2017/18)
- Indicator 3: Third sector organisations are well governed and managed to deliver quality outcomes. **278 episodes of support provided in 2018/19** (256 in 2017/18)

- Indicator 4. Third Sector organisations feel better connected and are able to influence and contribute to public policy. **100% of targets completed.**

In response to requests from our members we asked the Social Enterprise Academy to deliver training about Enterprising Village Halls in October 2018, this event was well supported with six village halls and community facilities taking part.

We also worked with third sector groups and statutory agencies in promoting community participation in a number of local, regional and national engagement/participation opportunities including:

- Green Health Mapping Launch in Portree locality area in March
- Community engagement in Kyle locality area at local trusts March well-being event
- Highland Senior Citizens Spring Fling event in March
- Community engagement of the Portree and Braes Community Trust in relation to their community assets buy-out plans
- Kilmuir Community Council community engagement events for establishing a community trust and purchasing common grazing land for the community
- Kyleakin Community Council engagement events in the development of a Community Trust for Kyleakin
- Struan Community Development Group plans for local Hub
- Skye Connect surveys in relation to tourism
- Highland Children's Forums
- Highland Adult health and Wee-being forum
- Community Justice Highland
- Police Scotland 2019-2022 plan
- South Skye Kayak club survey
- Highland council change to Easter Holidays
- National Children's Services Plans
- OSCR changes to regulations
- Scottish Government Hate Crime Legislation
- Survey about public toilets and parking in Elgol

In addition to core services we further developed our befriending service, Skye and Lochalsh Neighbours and Friends, in partnership with Highland Hospice as part of their Helping Hands befriender service. As of the end of March 2019 we had involved 16 volunteers and supported 12 people.

### Financial Overview

Although HTSI Core funding increased by £5,653, to support the expansion into our new delivery area of Wester Ross, overall we saw a deficit of £ 11,501 this is a consequence of:

- Reducing income generating services including, the cessation of Community Toolkit licensing, income loss for rents received, consultancy work, desk top publishing and photocopying services.
- Reduction in donations, specifically in relation to the community foodbank which became an independent organisation in November 2018
- Outstanding creditors falling within one year

### Looking to the Future

The Scottish Government are still carrying out their review of Third Sector Interfaces. Because of this we are uncertain of future funding from the Highland Third Sector Interface however, we work very close with the HTSI board and are hopeful that services will continue, although the extent and nature of this may change.

We will continue to build on our befrienders' service with Highland Hospice and hope to bring health and well-being groups together to look at more co-ordination and communication across the area.

If you would like to chat about SLCVO and how we can support you please contact myself at [Jo.Ford@slcvo.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Ford@slcvo.org.uk) or call 01478 612921

# Supporting Volunteers

Skye and Lochalsh CVO support many aspects of volunteering including helping groups' set-up policies and procedures, supporting recruitment and helping people find volunteering positions.

Our befriender's service relies on a core team of volunteers and where we can we work with groups to develop positions for people who may have barriers to volunteering. In 2018/19 we helped 55 people look for volunteering positions and supported 18 groups.

Volunteering can be a way for people to make new friends, develop skills or share their experiences. Here at SLCVO we are very lucky to have the support of an amazing volunteer, Sarah, who has been with us in one way or another for over 12 months. Here Sarah tells us about her volunteering journey.

## Sarah

When my marriage broke up and I moved to Portree, SLCVO were very helpful to me. Initially my social worker contacted them about their Befrienders scheme to see if they had anyone available who might be able to help me with small jobs that I needed doing in my new home but was unable to do myself as I am disabled. They matched me with such a volunteer who visited me for several weeks and helped with things like putting up pictures. It was also nice to have the company as I was getting used to living on my own again. Sitting talking with the volunteer over a cup of tea I got the feeling that the scheme was beneficial to both of us as he seemed to enjoy the company and conversation as much as myself.

When I started to find my feet in my new life, I stopped using this service and instead contacted SLCVO to see if there were any volunteer opportunities that would suit me.

*Sarah is pictured with Tyla from Dog's D'amour on one of her many trips to gigs across the country.*

As I had volunteered for SLCVO previously they were aware of my background in publishing and so asked me if I would be able to help with proof reading various documents for them. As proof reading was something I had done and enjoyed at the publishing company I had previously worked for I was very happy to do this. I contact them on a weekly basis and if they have any work for me, I can go into their office and do it there or do it at home depending on what I am able to do at that particular time. I do enjoy going into the office when I can as I enjoy the opportunity to interact with others.

Since starting this position with them other opportunities have arisen too, for example I recently attended a meeting with one member of staff and took the minutes of said meeting. I really enjoy doing this work as it gets me out, meeting people and doing things I enjoy but as it is on a voluntary basis it is OK if there are times when I cannot attend so there is no pressure on me to attend if I am unable.

I am unable to engage in full time employment because of my health issues but this opportunity gives me a chance to contribute something and helps my self-esteem and mental health which I am very grateful for and I am proud to be able to help SLCVO as I feel they are a very valuable resource for the local community.





# Community Planning and the Third Sector

As HTSIs' delivery agent for Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross, SLCVO are commissioned to support third sector organisations in connecting to and contributing to public policy and community planning outcomes. We do this on a strategic and local level through:

- Participating in community partnership meetings/local forums to facilitate third sector input and
- Developing/co-ordinating opportunities for the third sector to come together and feed into community planning processes.

In 2018/19 we took part in 43 meetings/forums for 14 processes (see opposite) and co-ordinated 23 opportunities for the third sector to come together including:

**Working with Portree Medical Centre** to bring together third sector health and social care organisations to develop referral processes, as part of the North Skye Community Assessment Service being developed by Portree Medical Practice. We facilitated a third sector and practitioner workshop, mapped third sector provision and collated the results into a small directory for use by the GP surgery.

**Facilitating third sector involvement in a focus groups for NHS 24** to find out why people do not use the service, why people do not trust the service and to start to improve understanding of the service.

Working with NHS Highland, Scottish Ambulance Service, local emergency services and first responders to **help promote community first responder schemes** and encourage volunteers.

**Ensuring local third sector providers are aware of and involved in the NHS Highland Funding changes** including working with the HTSI to arrange local workshops and provide representation at Highland events.

Bringing together third sector youth work organisations to **established a Youth Work Practitioners Forum for the Lochalsh area**. Groups include the Lochalsh Youth Trust, Highlife Highland, Kyle and Lochalsh Trust, Lochalsh Leisure Centre, Christian Outlook on Lochalsh and Skye and Lochalsh Counselling Care. The forum held their first workshop in January 2018 and participants have signed-up to a Youth Work Development Plan of capacity building and participation.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUMS AND MEETING ATTENDED BY SLCVO

- Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Community Partnership
- Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross CLD Practitioners group,
- Skye and Lochalsh Health Housing and Social Care Forum,
- Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum,
- Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health and well-being forum,
- Lochalsh third Sector Youth Forum,
- Skye Youth Forum
- NHS24 work stream
- Sir Lewis Ritchie Out of Hours Steering Group
- NHS Highland Hospital Redesign Steering Group
- NHS Highland First Responders Work Stream
- NHS Highland Community Beds Work Stream
- NHS Third Sector Funding Changes
- Portree Medical Centre North Skye Community Assessment Service

# Essential Information

## Board of Directors

As a Scottish Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee SLCVO's Board of Trustees are made up of representatives from our membership.

At the end of March 2019 we have 160 members representing the third sector in Skye and Lochalsh and 8 trustees.

- Peter Urquhart Chair, from Portree representing the RNLI
- Clive Pearson Vice-Chair, from Glenelg representing the Isle of Skye Ferry CIC
- Jim Towers, from Carbost representing the Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel
- Cllr John Gordon, from Portree representing Highland Council Ward 10 Eilean a Cheo
- Gordon Higgins, from Staffin representing the Staffin Community Trust
- Dr Di Van Ruitenbeek, from Sleat representing Skye and Lochalsh Counselling Care
- Jryna Batters, Treasurer, from Kingsburgh representing Viewfield Garden Collective
- Mike Taylor from Kyleakin, representing the Eilean Ban Trust

## Contact Details

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