

Skye and Lochalsh Collaborative Projects with Third Sector Leadership or Involvement That Align to HOIP Strategic Priorities and Outcomes

Skye and Lochalsh council for Voluntary Organisations Report for SLWR Community Partnership
18 September 2025

HOIP Strategic Priority People: Enable people to live independently, safe and well within their community.		
Principles		Outcomes
- Take a person-centred approach to how services and support are designed and delivered. - Ensure practice is trauma-informed and responsive to lived experience. - Use preventative approaches and address inequality in partnership working. - Deliver services and support that are proportionate to need.		- Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes. - People in Highland benefit from good health and social wellbeing opportunities. - People access the right support at the right time through a whole system approach.
Project	Description	HOIP Outcome Alignment
Skye & Lochalsh Caring Communities Plan 2025–2030 Stage: to be published October	Lead: Skye & Lochalsh HWWs Collaboration Participants: SLCVO, third-sector organisations, public sector partners, and local communities. The Caring Communities Plan is a five-year strategic framework developed by the Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) to transform health, wellbeing, welfare, and social care services across the region The plan is delivered through the Health, Wellbeing, Welfare and Social Care (HWWs) Collaboration, which includes: - A Steering Group for governance and strategic oversight. - A Community Wellbeing and Support Forum for engagement and idea generation. - SLCVO's project team for operational delivery. Strategic Priorities: - People and Communities – Focus on resilience, equity, access, and community-led service design. - A Stronger Third Sector – Build capacity, sustainability, and innovation within third-sector organisations. - Stronger Partnerships and Integration – Foster collaboration across sectors and embed third-sector value in public planning. Learn more on SLCVO website	- Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes. - People in Highland benefit from good health and social wellbeing opportunities. - People access the right support at the right time through a whole system approach. - Communities benefit from access to support and services within local places. - Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities. - Maximising resources and innovation: The plan promotes sustainable funding models and shared learning.
Skye and Lochalsh Community Outreach Hub Stage: Applying for funding	Lead: Skye & Lochalsh HWWs Collaboration Partners: A range of third sector and public organisations including SLCVO, SLCAB, Connecting Carers, Thriving Families Rag Tag and Textile, SLMA, NHS Public Health, ALIEnergy etc A S&L HWWs Collaboration project. A 24 month pilot running from January 2026 to December 2027, led by SLCVO. - Purpose: Bring essential services—health, wellbeing, welfare, social care, and community support—directly to rural communities in Skye and Lochalsh. - Format: Monthly rotating hubs in accessible community spaces, offering drop-in and pre-booked support.	- Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes. - People in Highland benefit from good health and social wellbeing opportunities. - People access the right support at the right time through a whole system approach. - Communities benefit from access to support and services within local places.

	• Features: Informal activities (refreshments, play sessions, peer support), co-production opportunities, and stigma-free engagement. • Outcomes: Improved access, wellbeing, inclusion, early support, and stronger community and sector connections.	• Collective use of physical assets delivers better services, efficiencies, and opportunities.
Skye and Lochalsh Wellbeing and Community Support Directory and online information hub Stage: Launched 17 September	Lead: SLCVO via HWWS Collaboration Participants: third-sector organisations and public sector bodies The Skye & Lochalsh Wellbeing and Community Support Directory is part of the Skye and Lochalsh Community Information Hub, a central online space offering easy access to local resources that support everyday life. Developed through Year 1 research and engagement of the Health, Wellbeing, Welfare and Social Care (HWWS) Collaboration, the directory includes contact details for local charities, volunteer-led groups, national helplines, and statutory services such as NHS Highland, The Highland Council, and emergency services. It supports individuals, professionals, and organisations with signposting, referrals, and service awareness. Available online at slcvo.org.uk/information-hub, printed copies will also be distributed through GP surgeries, libraries, hospitals, housing associations, and other key service points across the area. 🔗 Learn more on SLCVO website	• Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes. • People in Highland benefit from good health and social wellbeing opportunities. • People access the right support at the right time through a whole system approach.
Distress Brief Intervention – local provision for young people Stage: feasibility	Partners: SLCVO, NHS Highland Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Change Menta Health, Education, Third Sector Groups Distress Brief Intervention (DBI) is a national programme in Scotland that provides early, compassionate support to individuals aged 16+ experiencing emotional distress. DBI aims to reduce pressure on emergency services and improve mental health outcomes through timely, person-centred intervention. DBI in Inverness Schools Change Mental Health has successfully adapted the DBI model for Inverness secondary schools. This school-based approach has helped fill gaps in mental health support for young people and complements wider early intervention strategies. Work is underway to explore the introduction of a school-based DBI model at Portree High School. The aim is to ensure young people in Portree have access to timely, compassionate support that helps them manage distress and stay connected to appropriate services. 🔗 Learn more on DBI website	• Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes. • People in Highland benefit from good health and social wellbeing opportunities. • People access the right support at the right time through a whole system approach. • Communities benefit from access to support and services within local places. • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities.

HOIP Strategic Priority Place: Work in partnership to develop sustainable and resilient local communities.

Principles

- Take an integrated and place-based approach to service design and delivery.
- Consider just transition to net zero and support communities to adapt to climate change when promoting sustainability and resilience.
- Enable and empower people and communities to be involved in local decision-making through active participation and engagement

Outcomes

- Depopulation tackled by addressing barriers such as housing, transport, and childcare.
- Communities benefit from access to support and services within local places.
- Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities.
- Communities maximise opportunities from sustainable tourism, culture, and heritage, including Gaelic.

Project	Description	HOIP Outcome Alignment
Community Transport Workshop on 9th October, 10–1pm at Dunvegan Community Hall	Lead: Dunvegan Community Trust Participants: NHS, Highland Council, schools, bus companies, community groups, SLCVO etc. Dunvegan Community Trust has brought in Jenny Milne (Scottish Rural & Island Transport Community) and Rachel Milne (North East Transport Training CIC) to help shape a transport strategy for Dunvegan, with potential to expand regionally. Transport barriers in NW Skye are significant — limited public options, reliance on private cars, and challenges for non-drivers. Visitors also face congestion and parking issues. Identify key transport challenges. Aim: • Review existing data and case studies • Explore practical solutions and needed resources • Discuss short-, medium-, and long-term actions Learn more on DCT website	• Depopulation tackled by addressing barriers such as housing, transport, and childcare. • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities • Improved access to services and support through co-produced and integrated processes.
Range of community Housing projects	• Edinbane and Communities Company • Elgol and Strathaird Development Trust • Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust • Glenelg & Arnisdale Development Trust • The Glendale Trust	• Depopulation tackled by addressing barriers such as housing, transport, and childcare. • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities.
Skye and Raasay Future (SARF)	Lead: SLCVO provide support to SARF Board and management of Delivery Programme Partners: The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Lochalsh & Skye Housing Association, Representation from Local Development Trusts, Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations, West Highland Chamber of Commerce, NHS Highland Skye and Raasay Future (SARF) is the region's Area Place Plan, developed in 2021 through extensive community engagement. It sets out shared priorities for development, services, and investment across Skye and Raasay, ensuring that local voices shape decision-making and resources are aligned with community needs. The plan is delivered through a collaborative approach, involving communities, public sector bodies, third sector organisations, and local businesses. It is overseen by the SARF Board, which meets quarterly and operates on principles of collective leadership and strategic coordination. Key Outcomes and Themes: • Climate Action & Resilience • Strengthening Communities	• Depopulation tackled by addressing barriers such as housing, transport, and childcare. • Communities benefit from access to support and services within local places. • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities. • Communities maximise opportunities from sustainable tourism, culture, and heritage, including Gaelic. • People • Prosperity

	• Diverse & Green Economy . • Transport Infrastructure • Health & Social Care • Education & Lifelong Learning • Digital Infrastructure • Organising Ourselves The SARF Delivery Programme includes over 40 active projects and proposals that contribute directly to these outcomes, led by a mix of local organisations, public bodies, and third sector groups. Learn more on the SARF website	
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HOIP Strategic Priority Prosperity: Create opportunities for all people and places to prosper and thrive economically.

Principles

- Integrate and align people, investment, and financial resources to maximise opportunities for Highland.
- Use innovation and technology to evolve service delivery and support across Highland.
- Strengthen partnerships by encouraging involvement from business and social enterprise sectors.

Outcomes

- Community wealth building approaches embedded into partnership activity.
- Collective use of physical assets delivers better services, efficiencies, and opportunities.
- Young people have access to employment, education, training, and recreational opportunities to retain and attract returners.
- People across Highland have improved access to career development opportunities.
- Highland benefits from maximising natural capital and attracting investment.

Project	Description	HOIP Outcome Alignment
Skye & Raasay Renewables Fund	Lead Highlands and Islands Climate Hub Participants: Development Trusts, Community Councils, HIE, SLCVO The Skye & Raasay Renewables Fund working group is progressing toward a long-term vision of establishing a community benefits organisation that can manage current and future renewable energy funds across the area. While initial efforts are focused on benefit funds linked to the Glen Ullinish II and Ben Sca wind farms, the wider ambition is to create a structure that delivers greater returns and long-term value for communities throughout Skye and Raasay. Support from the Highlands and Islands Climate Hub has helped the group build momentum, clarify its purpose, and begin shaping a shared vision. The next phase involves: • Developing a clear roadmap for the organisation's structure and governance. • Engaging communities to ensure transparency, inclusion, and local ownership. • Identifying opportunities to align with the Skye & Raasay Future Area Place Plan. Community engagement will be central to this process. Plans are being considered for public workshops, surveys, and outreach activities in early 2026 to gather input on priorities, potential projects, and how the fund should be managed. If aligned, there may be scope to secure funding for a dedicated	• Community wealth building approaches embedded into partnership activity • Highland benefits from maximising natural capital and attracting investment. • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities

	development officer to support both the renewables fund and wider community planning efforts.	
Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Workshop – November	Lead Rag Tag and Textile, SLCVO facilitating workshop Participants: Third sector organisations Plans are underway for a community event focused on waste reduction and circular economy initiatives across Skye. The event will bring together local groups and organisations already active in recycling, upcycling, repair, and reuse, with the aim of mapping current activity, identifying gaps, and encouraging collaboration. The session will explore: • Who is currently delivering circular economy initiatives. • Opportunities to strengthen local provision and partnerships. • Ideas for new projects and services that reduce landfill waste. • How to make reuse and recycling more accessible to residents and visitors. The event will also celebrate the creativity and commitment of community groups working to promote sustainability and reduce environmental impact. It is expected to spark new ideas, build stronger networks, and support more joined-up approaches to waste reduction.	• Community wealth building approaches embedded into partnership activity • Highland communities are strong, resilient, and involved in identifying and delivering local priorities
New Routes	Lead: The Highland Council Community Children's Worker, Care and Protection Participants: Education, Social Work, SLCVO, Third Sector Groups , Private Sector Organisations Children have a right to education that supports their development, respects their individuality, and meets their needs. In Skye and Lochalsh, some young people face barriers in mainstream education due to transitions, additional support needs, or rural challenges. Local statutory and third sector organisations have identified a growing need for alternative education options. These aim to provide inclusive, flexible learning opportunities that reflect the diverse ways children learn and thrive—both within and beyond traditional school settings. Existing community spaces and services offer potential for creative, place-based learning. Elsewhere in Highland, partnerships between education providers and third sector groups (e.g. Highland Boxing Academy, Scottish Fire and Rescue) show how collaborative models can expand access and support. This project seeks to build on local assets, strengthen partnerships, and ensure all children in Skye and Lochalsh can access education that supports their rights, wellbeing, and future potential.	• Young people have access to employment, education, training, and recreational opportunities to retain and attract returners. • People across Highland have improved access to career development opportunities.

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