

Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing, Welfare and Social Care (HWWS) Collaboration

Year 2 - Development and Delivery

Project Overview

Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing, Welfare and Social Care (HWWS) Collaboration is a transformative three-year project that aims to improve the range and delivery of third-sector mental health, wellbeing, and social care services through fostering collaboration, prioritising holistic approaches, and aligning services with community priorities. The project provides a framework for delivering services that are not only more efficient and responsive to needs but, also emphasize the power of collective action.

By fostering collaboration, third-sector organisations can achieve far more together than they could individually. This collective strength enhances their impact, ensuring better outcomes for the communities they serve while also benefiting each participating organisation through shared resources, knowledge, and expertise.

This document provides an overview of project progress and activity for Year Two, which is designed to fortify third-sector relationships, improve co-production, and develop sustainable solutions to meet local needs.

Overview of Project

Year 1 (2024-2025): Research and Engagement	Year 2 (2025-2026): Development and Delivery	Year 3 (2026-2027): Integration and Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish HWWS Collaboration steering group.• Map third sector services in Skye and Lochalsh.• Develop a Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, and Welfare Plan.• Identify funding and partnership opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop a dedicated HWWS collaboration platform.• Formalise consortium or partnership agreements.• Develop and support a delivery programme for the Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care Plan.• Increase third-sector capacity and sustainability.• Build stronger partnerships with public sector organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch new initiatives or enhancements to existing services.• Evaluate and refine strategies.• Enhance capacity-building initiatives.• Ensure the long-term sustainability of initiatives.

Project background and partner involvement

This project is driven by challenges in delivering third sector mental health, social care and wellbeing services in Skye and Lochalsh due to its remote location, unstable funding, and lack of development resources.

It evolved as a response to critical issues identified in September 2023 when SLCVO gathered feedback from third sector and local agency teams (37 organisations) on the draft 2024-2027 Highland Health and Social Care Partnership's Adult Services Strategic Plan. This highlighted:

- Fragmentation among third-sector organisations in health, wellbeing, and social care.
- Reliance on short-term funding, leading to unsustainable service delivery and competition.
- The absence of a thematic network to advocate for shared priorities and facilitate resource-sharing.

Following this, direct discussions with third-sector groups, along with a co-production visioning session facilitated by the Scottish Community Development Centre in March 2024—featuring nine key mental health and social care organisations (Appendix 1)—identify several priorities.

- Co-production should be built from a strong evidence base of community need.
- There needs to be a collaborative approach to developing services and funding.
- Succession planning needs to be strengthened within third sector groups to ensure robust governance and continuity of local services.
- Long-term sustainability of third sector organisations requires a programme of capacity building
- The third sector's influence on wider service provision needs to be improved by building trusted relationships with the public sector.
- There needs to be stronger partnerships and collaboration between the third and public sectors.

These priorities served as the foundation for establishing the HWWS collaboration.

Year 1 HWWS Collaboration - Research and Engagement

Through Community Regeneration Funding, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and SLCVO's reserves, the HWWS Collaboration project was launched as part of the broader Empower Skye and Lochalsh Programme which also includes SLCVO supporting the Skye and Raasay Future Plan (Area Place Plan, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7e9f34271d324a189b581e3e7547c405>).

Year 1 HWWS Collaboration Outputs

- Establish a HWWS Collaboration Steering Group to:
 - Provide a cohesive third-sector voice in health, social care, and community planning.
 - Collaborate with public sector bodies to improve funding and commissioning.
 - Review consortium/partnership structures for Years 2 and 3.
 - Guide programme development for Years 2 and 3.
- Conduct a comprehensive mapping of the third-sector to update knowledge on health, social care and wellbeing services, and refresh the third-sector area profile and community directory accordingly.
- Build trust and shared expertise through engagement with third-sector organisations and statutory services.
- Conduct desk-top research and engage with communities to assess health, wellbeing, and social care needs.

- Develop a Skye and Lochalsh Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, Welfare, and Social Care Plan, outlining shared values, priorities and opportunities where the third sector can make the greatest impact.
- Establish mechanisms to share funding opportunities, capacity building, learning, community planning updates and best practices with third-sector groups.
- Work with collaboration members to understand their governance and culture to support the development of a formal consortium/partnership agreements.
- Integrate third-sector organisations into community planning processes, promoting awareness of legislation and policy impacts.
- Align health, wellbeing, and social care needs with national, regional, and local plans, including SARF and the SLWR District Planning Group Themes.

Year 1 HWWS Collaboration Key Outcomes

- A refreshed understanding of health, social care, and wellbeing services in Skye and Lochalsh.
- Strengthened collaboration using a layered approach to engage local groups, broader third-sector organisations and statutory services, in defining the HWWS Collaboration model.
- Community inclusive planning in the development of the Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care Plan.
- Public Sector Integration by aligning efforts with strategic commissioning and place-based funding initiatives, as detailed in the *Learning Report: Place-Based Commissioning on Skye (September 2024)*

Year 2 HWWS Collaboration - Development and Delivery

Year two builds upon the foundational work of Year 1, moving toward the project's long-term vision of creating a holistic, co-produced health and social care systems in Skye and Lochalsh.

We have secured funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund to appoint a full-time Project Officer, which may be structured as two part-time roles. This dedicated position will support the delivery and coordination of the HWWS Collaboration, drive third-sector capacity building, and serve as a shared resource to assist local groups in working collaboratively toward the outcomes outlined in the Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, and Social Care Plan.

Year 2 HWWS Collaboration Key Outcomes

- Enhanced Community Resilience
 - Strengthened collaboration networks between third-sector organisations, public sector bodies and communities will foster a shared capacity for resilience.
- Systems Change
 - Integrating third-sector-led solutions into statutory service frameworks will help shape regional policy and resource allocation, addressing the unique needs of rural and remote communities.
 - Co-produced and community-aligned services will enhance synergy with public-sector commissioning and strategic funding models.
- Sustainable Third-Sector Growth
 - Strengthening governance and operational frameworks within third-sector groups will increase their capacity to deliver sustainable, high-quality services that attract diverse funding opportunities.
- Improved Individual Outcomes

- Increased accessibility to, and effectiveness of health, social care, and wellbeing services, will lead to enhanced emotional and social wellbeing of individuals in Skype and Lochalsh. sustainable and inclusive services to address social isolation and rural challenges, as well as the needs of vulnerable groups such as unpaid carers, individuals with disabilities, and those with mental illness.

Year 2 HWWS Collaboration Outputs

Activity	Time frame
Skype and Lochalsh HWWS Collaboration and Partnership Development (Enhanced Community Resilience)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch and facilitate HWWS Collaboration Forum, a platform for third-sector collaboration, knowledge sharing, and co-production (6 meetings a year). 	April 25 – March 26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop formal Consortium/Partnership Agreements to clarify roles and ensure structures are in place to deliver outcomes in the Skype and Lochalsh Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, Welfare, and Social Care Plan. 	April 25 – July 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a standardised framework to monitor progress and measure outcomes and documented action plans. 	April 25 – July 2026
Public Sector Integration (Systems Change)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate quarterly meetings with statutory service partners or participate in established community and district planning meetings, to integrate HWWS collaboration activities into broader health and social care frameworks. • Work with NHSH to support strategic commissioning and place-based funding initiatives. 	April 25 – March 26
Capacity Building (Sustainable Third Sector Growth)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to capacity building resources. • Develop and facilitate a learning programme based on needs identified in the plan (target: 6 training sessions, 60 participants). 	August 25 – March 26
Develop a Delivery Programme for the Skype and Lochalsh Third Sector Health, Wellbeing, Welfare, and Social Care Plan (Improved Individual Outcomes)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a multi-stakeholder workshop to identify enhancements to existing services and new initiatives to take forward. • Conduct community engagement events to inform service design and foster inclusion (at least 4 events) • Plan new initiatives or enhancements to existing services with partner organisations, developing feasibility studies, business cases and support funding applications 	August 25 August 25 – March 25

Summary

Year 2 of the HWWS Collaboration represents a vital step toward embedding sustainable, community-driven, and co-produced health and social care services in Skye and Lochalsh. Building on the strong foundations established in Year 1. This phase focuses on activating formal partnerships, delivering capacity-building programmes, and integrating third-sector innovation into public sector frameworks.

Through continued collaboration, shared learning, and investment in local strengths, the project will support resilient communities and responsive services tailored to the unique challenges of our rural context. The involvement of dedicated personnel, structured delivery plans, and a commitment to inclusive engagement ensures that the voices and experiences of local people remain central to service development.

Ultimately, Year 2 is not only about delivering outputs but also about deepening trust, strengthening networks, and laying the groundwork for long-term transformation in how services are planned, resourced, and delivered. This collaborative effort has the potential to shape a more equitable and effective model of health, wellbeing, and social care—rooted in the values of community, partnership, and sustainability.

Appendix 1 – Core Partners

- **Rag Tag and Textile** promotes mental health and social well-being through creative workshops. They focus on upcycling textiles and helping participants develop skills while reducing waste. The organisation offers workshops for vulnerable individuals in a supportive setting, fostering personal growth and confidence. They also host open workshops for the wider community engagement providing social opportunities
- **Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association** supports around 120 individuals locally, providing a lifeline for those with mental health difficulties. Their services are crucial in tackling isolation and providing informal, community-based mental health support
- **Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh** provides free counselling for adults and children in the community., it offers face-to-face, telephone, and online sessions. Their counsellors are professionally trained and accredited by BACP or COSCA. Referrals are accepted from both GPs and individuals. They focus on making mental health support accessible in this rural area, which faces limited access to larger facilities
- **Viewfield Garden Collective** offers therapeutic gardening for vulnerable adults, particularly those with mental health challenges. They manage a kitchen garden with cultivated areas and polytunnels, where participants engage in planting, harvesting, and social activities, promoting community interaction. Additionally, the Collective organizes workshops, yoga sessions, and community lunches to encourage physical activity and socialisation. They focus on environmental sustainability through eco-friendly practices
- **Kyleakin Connections** supports adults with learning and physical disabilities, promoting independence and skill development. Formerly the Skye and Lochalsh Association for Disability, the centre offers various activities like outdoor pursuits, IT training, cookery, arts and crafts, and social skills workshops
- **Alzheimer Scotland Skye and Lochalsh** provides crucial support for people with dementia through its local Dementia Link Worker, who offers personalised post-diagnostic assistance. This support helps individuals manage their diagnosis and maintain community ties. They facilitate peer support groups for individuals and families, creating a space for shared experiences and discussions. Regular meetings ensure caregivers and those living with dementia receive ongoing assistance
- **Crossroads Care Skye and Lochalsh** provides essential home and respite care services for individuals of all ages, as well as support for their families. Their focus is on promoting independence and enhancing quality of life, helping reduce social isolation and improve community engagement.
- **Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers** supports young people aged 5 to 18 who provide care at home. With over 50 current members SLYC offers group activities for connection and recreation, individual support and advocacy, respite care during school holidays, and a safe space for young carers to share experiences and build friendships.
- **The Whole Family Wellbeing Programme** are working with the collaboration to develop family services. The collaboration will apply for their larger collaboration grant to match the Adult HMCW fund focusing on the development of family services

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