

Skye and Lochalsh CVO Year-End Case Study 2 Celebrating and Promoting the Impact of Volunteering April 2020 to March 2021

Delivery Outcome: The understanding of the impact and diversity of activity delivered by the Third Sector in Highland will be improved.

Project Outcomes:

- The TSI regularly celebrates and promotes the impact of volunteering and wider work of the Sector.
- COVID-19 Response - We will undertake action to mitigate the impacts and provide support to communities responding to the COVID-19 outbreak
- COVID-19 Response -Where necessary we will co-ordinate Third Sector response in local areas.

Activities Delivered

- Awareness raising campaign - Volunteer of the Year Award for SLCVO project volunteer as part of SLCVO's project Advancing Active Travel Skye and Lochalsh. (Work Plan 1.3)
- Co-ordinated Volunteers Week Activity and thank you celebrations for SLCVO Covid response volunteers (Work Plan 1.4)
- Included section about volunteering in SLCVO's Evaluation Scotland Case Study about our Befriending Service and produced volunteer videos for Volunteers Week (Work Plan 1.5)
- We promoted local Covid-19 opportunities, national and regional volunteer recruitment drives and the recruitment of volunteers for SLCVO's Covid-19 emergency response initiative Community Calls (56 volunteers recruited). We worked with the HTSI in the checking and placement of registered Covid-19 volunteers and promoted local groups looking for volunteers. 24 opportunities and 86 people (Work Plan 5.1)
- We ran a volunteer led Covid-19 check-in call system for Wester Ross, Skye and Lochalsh (Work Plan 5.7)

Evidence of Action/Activity

- SLCVO's Advancing Active Travel Skye and Lochalsh project was to deliver an information and awareness raising campaign about walking and cycling as part of the Highland Green Health Social Prescribing Project in Kyle of Lochalsh. We worked with local voluntary group 'Skye For All' who gave the project a tangible presence. People related to our project volunteers Sara and Melanie, not only through their blogs and videos but, through newspaper articles and a motion put forward by local MSP Rhoda Grant to Scottish Parliament, recognising Sarah's contribution to active travel and her Paths for All Volunteer of the Year award.
 - Paths for All Volunteer of the Year award video <https://vimeo.com/474637450>
 - Parliamentary motion <https://beta.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/votes-and-motions-search/S5M-23333>
 - Press and Journal Article for Volunteer of the Year [Skye volunteer rewarded for work on accessible paths | Press and Journal](#)
- To celebrate volunteers week we created 4 volunteer video case studies and issued 201 volunteer certificates to 8 groups. Keep Dunvegan Beautiful, Sconser Hub, Skye Community Response, Community Calls, Broadford & Strath, Skye Young Carers, Here to help North Skye, Skye Bible Church
- We ran a volunteer led Covid-19 Community Call system for Wester Ross, Skye and Lochalsh, for a case study of service follow this link https://ac579b02-524a-4b32-8beb-35172497fd8a.filesusr.com/ugd/0be1a8_24ea2d27e85f476d82a60ff63dfbe91a.pdf
- We worked with Viewfield Garden Collective to provide Green Health bags to clients of the Covid response Community Calls service and we provided thank you gifts of seed packs to 50 volunteers
- 27 SLCVO volunteers were sent thank you gifts at Christmas

Verification/Evidence of Impact

- Advancing Active Travel Skye and Lochalsh project: Number of social media promotional articles 100, reach of social media promotional articles 68,073, engagements with social media promotion articles 7,222. We commissioned Skye For All to produce accessibility maps of Portree and Kyle as well as videos of their walks. The videos were very well received by the public with 733 views
 - Video 1 introduction to Advancing Active Travel September [Skye For All - Kyle of Lochalsh Sept 2020 - YouTube](#)
 - Video 2 Glen brittle October [Skye For All - An accessible walk through Glen Brittle Forest, Isle of Skye - YouTube](#)
 - Video 3 Balmacara Woods [Skye For All - Balmacara Woods - YouTube](#)
 - Video 4 The Plock Inner Loop in Kyle [Skye For All - The Plock Inner Loop - YouTube](#)
 - Video 5 The Plock part 2 [Skye For All - The Plock Part 2 The Moorland and Shore Path - YouTube](#)
 - Video 6 Nature Trails in Portree [Skye For All - Leasgeary Woodland Walk , Portree - YouTube](#)
 - Video 7 Skye Bridge [Skye For All - Skye Bridge Walk Part 1 - YouTube](#)
 - Video 8 Portree Accessibility [Skye For All - Accessibility in Portree - YouTube](#)
 - Kyle of Lochalsh amenities and accessibility map [Kyle of Lochalsh Amenities - Skye For All](#)
 - Portree amenities and accessibility map [Portree Amenities - Skye For All](#)
- SLCVO's Evaluation Scotland Case Study about our Befriending Service [Befrienders-Skye-and-Lochalsh-Rich-Tapestry-March-21.pdf \(evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk\)](#)

Outcome 3: Volunteers participate more in the community

One of the key factors in social isolation is retirement and living circumstances, 56% of our volunteers are retired or do not work, 25% of our befrienders decided to volunteer due to Covid-19 lockdown as they had more spare time to dedicate to volunteering and their regular social connections suddenly stopped.

Making connections with clients has allowed our volunteers to broaden their social network and build relationships with people outside of their usual social group. As a volunteer befriender they gain access to a dedicated social media group where they can meet and build relationships with other volunteers, enabling volunteers to strengthen their connection to the wider community.

 Volunteers feel valued being part of this essential service; **they have told us:**

Communicating with people who are isolated and alone makes me feel as though I am doing something to help and it makes me feel good about myself, I get a lot of enjoyment from it.

Volunteering is much more than a caring commitment to one another within our own Island community. For myself, I do believe it has been beneficial in that I feel I am contributing by doing something positive to help, however small that might be. Volunteering helps to give my life structure and purpose.

I thoroughly enjoy making phone calls to local people who live on their own twice a week. I get to talk to a variety of amazing men and women, most of whom have lived on Skye for longer than I have and have some wonderful tales.

It has been good to feel involved and to contribute to the community, even if it is in a very small way. I have enjoyed this very much; it has been good to talk to a range of different people in different parts of the Island, it is a good way of building links between people and maintaining community spirit. At some point all of us will need help from our neighbours.

Volunteering takes my mind off how much I am missing my own family. I feel I am helping a little bit.

Here are [videos](#) of some of our volunteers talking about their experiences of befriending.

- SLCVO's Volunteer videos
 - Sam [Community Calls Volunteer - Samantha Wadham - YouTube](#)
 - Janet [Community Calls Volunteer - Janet Macleod - YouTube](#)
 - Seamus [Community Calls Volunteer - Seamus Maguire - YouTube](#)
 - All volunteers [Community Calls Volunteers Experience - YouTube](#)