

SKYE AND LOCHALSH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS



Annual Report

April 2019 – March 2020

Chairmans Report

PETER URQUHART



At the time of writing my report for the period 2019-2020 our lives are very different to what they were 12 months ago. However, this report is looking back to a year with no Covid-19 pandemic, when the SLCVO team were very much 'on the road' across Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

Having the new delivery area of Wester Ross the SLCVO team decided to stay in Gairloch and Ullapool for a couple of weeks in April and June, making contact with 21 new groups. Response was good, we started working with Ullapool Dance, the Gairloch Community Car Scheme and Highlife Highland Youth Services, and since then have seen our connection to Wester Ross groups grow.

Our Director Gordon Higgins took on some support work with local groups helping the Lochalsh Leisure Centre and Youth Community Trust secure essential funding for repairs and core costs. He also supported a group of parents to set up a new youth club in Staffin for young people in the Trotternish peninsula.

In January 2020 we welcome new Director Julie Mace from Kyleakin, representing the Eilean Ban Trust. Julie joining the board ensured we had continued representation from the Kyleakin and Kylreah area after Mike Taylor retired in May 2019.

Our community planning work continued to expand with SLCVO's Chief Officer, Jo Ford, participating in and encouraging third sector involvement local forum meeting and Community Partnership meetings.

Sammy-Jo MacArthur, SLCVO's Volunteer Development Officer, continued her part-time Community Development studies at Dundee University and took a trip of a life time when she volunteered at a nature reserve in Africa for three weeks.

Claire Nairn joined the SLCVO team in August 2019 when Sarah Cardno left SLCVO to join the Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers, to whom she will be a great asset.

Our befrienders service continued to grow with volunteers providing over 240 hours of befriending support to people across Skye and Lochalsh.

As of the 31 March 2019 We remain in a healthy position with free reserves of £58,828, restricted funds of £9,207 and designated funds of £68,500. We had a deficit of £5,352 a consequence of creditors falling within one year and reduction in office services such a printing.

On behalf of the SLCVO Board I would like to thank our staff and member groups not only supporting us but, supporting communities across Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross during the Covid-19 pandemic. The third sector has come into its own during these last nine months and has been a life line for many across the area.

Chief Officers Report

JO-ANNE FORD



Skye and Lochalsh CVO are commissioned by the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) to support third sector organisations and community planning in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross. We have 40 HTSI targets and a local work plan we report against each quarter.

2019/2020 saw SLCVO carry out 370 episodes of support to 102 groups, with 65 taking advantage of our free 1:1 support service. We assisted in writing governing documents and funding applications, compliance to legislation, setting up groups and charities, developing volunteer management frameworks, operational development and strategic planning.

To promote volunteering opportunities we produced a quarterly volunteer opportunities booklet for Skye and Lochalsh which was held in GP surgeries, Service Points and waiting rooms. We worked with groups in Wester Ross to produce a similar booklet which was to be launched in March 2020 however, this was delayed due to Covid-19.

We participated in and encouraged third sector involvement in 34 community planning and co-production meetings and worked on eight projects to bring together the third sector with public services and national bodies including:

- The development of the North Skye Day Hospital for Portree Medical Centre.
- Setting-up of a social prescribing pilot in Kyle with NHS Green Health Partnership.
- Facilitating third sector participation in the local review of NHS 24.

We worked with local, regional and national organisations to encourage local participation in 47 consultations and developed a dedicated community planning section on the new SLCVO website www.slcvo.org.uk.

Our Befrienders Service supported 18 people across Skye and Lochalsh and we were successful in obtaining funding from the Highland Green health Partnership to run a Garden Befriending project, which we hope to start when Covid-19 measures allow.

Our work with the Kyle of Lochalsh Green Health Steering Group has seen myself and Sammy-Jo become Walk Leaders and we hope to combine this with our 2020/21 Skye and Lochalsh Active Travel project details of which can be found on our website.



SLCVO's Community Development Officer Samantha-Jo McArthur is pictured with Dr MacDougall, Malcom Mathieson, Dr Lankston and Julia Rudram for the North Skye Day Hospital

Skye and Lochalsh Community Directory

The Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum brought together health and well-being groups from the third sector, Police Scotland and NHS Highland to share information, identify training needs and develop local support.

In the summer of 2019 SLCVO facilitated a workshop to map drug and alcohol support services across Skye and Lochalsh and look at gaps in provision. We found there were many services supporting people however, information on these was not readily available.

To remove this barrier SLCVO produced the 'Skye and Lochalsh Health and Well-being Community Directory' which was published in October 2019.

The directory will be updated every 12 months and funding from the Skye & Lochalsh Mental Health Forum enables us to offer printed copies for free.

If you would like a copy of the directory email info@slcvo.org.uk or visit the SLCVO website www.slcvo.org.uk to download a copy.

For more information about the Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum visit the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership website. <http://www.highland-adp.org.uk/>



A Brief Look at 2020/2021

Skye and Lochalsh CVO have worked with the Highland Third Sector Interface HTSI since 2012, delivering support services in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

In 2020/21 we will continue to deliver HTSI core services as well as our local work plan which includes:

- Volunteering development.
- Building the third sector relationship with community planning.
- Starting a new mentoring programme for young people to become board members.
- Developing third sector profiles for Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross
- Awareness raising activities about community planning and co-production processes.
- Capacity building sessions about funding, change management and village halls.

During 2020/2021 we may need to change our focus and direction in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we will continue to provide core support services to groups across the area with staff working from home.

In addition to third sector support services, Skye and Lochalsh CVO run a befrienders service supported by the Highland Hospice. The service has been operating

for three years and offers in-person befriending to people across Skye and Lochalsh.

As Covid-19 restrictions were introduced in March 2020 we changed from in-person befriending to telephone befriending, which led to a new Covid-19 response service 'Community Calls' a daily check-in call service funded by the National Lottery and Highland Council Skye and Raasay Committee.

By the end of August 2020 Community Call volunteers made over 2,000 calls to 56 people across the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross.



John Finlayson Skye and Raasay Councillor meeting with Jo Ford SLCVO Chief Officer and Claire Nairn Befrienders Co-ordinator

On-Line Support for Community Groups

SLCVO Website and Community Toolkit www.slcv.org.uk

The Skye and Lochalsh CVO website includes our downloadable Community Toolkit guides that help groups in their set-up and running, information about community planning and volunteering, as well as dedicated project and Covid-19 sections.

Highland Third Sector Interface website <https://www.highlandtsi.org.uk/>

The HTSI website contains information about events, training opportunities and vacancies across the Highlands. There is information about their strategic Community Planning Third Sector Representation Pathways, as well as updates from their e-learning platform.

Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/covid-19>

Volunteer Scotland's website provides information, guidance, and templates to help volunteers and volunteer involving organisations. This includes guidance on volunteer management, PVGs and volunteering opportunities.

Scottish Community Development Centre <https://www.scdc.org.uk/supporting-communities-safely>

SCDC is the lead body for community development in Scotland, their online resource 'Supporting Communities Safely' provides advice on how to virus proof the fantastic things communities are doing and reduce the risk of indirect spread.

Foundation Scotland <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/>

Foundation Scotland website helps third sector groups, community led projects and individuals across Scotland access funding.

Funding Scotland <https://fundingscotland.com/>

Funding Scotland is an online funding directory by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. It provides information on funding opportunities and funders in Scotland.

Grants Online <https://www.grantsonline.org.uk/region-news/scotland/>

The Grants Online website helps groups to keep up to date with the latest news about grants and funding in Scotland.

Institute of Fundraising <https://www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk/guidance/>

The Institute of Fundraising website provides groups with guidance and information for fundraising, as well as information on rules and regulations.

Information Commissioners Office <https://ico.org.uk/>

The ICO is the UK's independent body set up to uphold information rights. Groups can get information about Data protection obligations and how to comply from their website.

The Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) <https://www.oscr.org.uk/>

OSCR are the independent regulator and registrar for charities in Scotland. Their website has a wealth of information about setting-up and running a charity as well as options to search the Charity Register.

SLCVO | Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations

As a Scottish Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee SLCVO's Board of Trustees are made up of representatives from our membership. We have 144 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
- Julie Mace from Kyleakin, representing the Eilean Ban Trust

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The Highland Third Sector Interface was formed in 2012. Their Mission is to ensure that the Third Sector in Highlands is strong, developing and a valued community and regional asset. As a Third Sector Interface they work together with five partners (including Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations) to deliver, among other services, four specific themes of work as agreed with the Scottish Government. You can find out more about their work at <https://www.highlandtsi.org.uk/>