

SKYE AND LOCHALSH COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Annual Report

April 2023 – March 2024



Contents

Chair’s Report..... 2

Chief Officer Highlights 1

HTSI Commissioned Services 1

Befriending Services..... 0

About Skye and Lochalsh CVO 0

Chair's Report

Peter Urquhart

This year we continued to deliver third sector support services on behalf of the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) and work with the Highland Hospice for our befriending service.

Our Befrienders Co-ordinator, Claire Nairn, left SLCVO in August to start her journey to become a nurse at Broadford Hospital and our Development Officer Samantha-Jo MacArthur took over the befriending service.

The team provided 149 episodes of 1:1 support to 127 groups in a wide range of areas, including governance, volunteering and understanding policy/legislation. We hosted events such as the Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Workshop and the Wester Ross Third Sector Conference. We worked to improve third sector influence on policy through supporting consultations, and strategic partnerships, and developed opportunities for networking including managing the Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross Drug and Alcohol Forum.

Despite a decrease in total income we demonstrated prudent financial management over the fiscal year ending 31st March 2024. We managed to reduce our expenditure proportionately, resulting in a modest net income. The liquidity position remains strong, and the organisation has a healthy balance of unrestricted, restricted, and endowment funds.

Our total income for the year was £114,492, a decrease from the previous year's £138,836. This is largely due to a reduction in income for the Hospital to Home pilot project which runs until March 2025.

The Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) grant to deliver Third Sector Interface Support Services in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross reduced to £69,740 due to the previous year including income for additional work. Donations from member organisations reduced to £914 and rents received remained static at £11,400.

Total expenditure for the year was £108,933, a decrease from the previous year's £113,151. The bulk of the expenditure was directed towards charitable activities with costs to maintain two employees, representing a significant portion of the charitable expenditure.

Next year, we will work to strengthen our sustainability by considering diversifying our income sources and securing new grant support. We will continue to provide HTSI Third Sector Support Services to groups in Skye and Lochalsh, as well as deliver our befrienders service. Additionally, we aim to expand our collaboration and networking opportunities to further enhance the third sector's influence on local policy and community development.

Chief Officer Highlights

Jo-Anne Ford

Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum Workshop in Kyleakin – July 2023

On 18th July 2023, SLCVO hosted an insightful workshop in Kyleakin, which saw the participation of 27 individuals representing 12 third sector groups, 11 public sector teams, and one strategic partnership.

The outcomes of the workshop were highly productive, fostering connections between third sector groups and public sector services. Moreover, a mapping exercise helped in identifying additional services, toolkits, and support providers.

A better understanding of local issues emerged, along with a shared acknowledgment of the necessity for more evidence to establish new projects and services. Conclusively, workshop participants agreed to submit an expression of interest to the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Local Improvement Fund. This was successful with Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust obtaining funding (£22,000) for a project to develop a Community Champion Network in Lochalsh over 12 months from February 2024. See SLCVO website for more information <https://www.slcvo.org.uk/slwr-da-forum>

The SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum Directory of Resources and Services

A direct outcome from the workshop in July was the publishing of a resource and services directory for third sector groups and key workers.

It includes information on organisations providing direct support, reporting criminal and antisocial behavior, and resources and training. To download a copy visit SLCVO website <https://www.slcvo.org.uk/slwr-da-forum>

Meet Your Local Community Groups event in Portree – July 2023

On the 25th July 2023 SLCVO hosted a 'Meet Your Local Community Groups' event in Portree for 19 third sector organisations. This was the first gathering of groups since the Covid-19 Pandemic and, although members of the public attending were few, around 40 people from the 19 groups found the day useful as it was a chance to network, meet new workers and start to build back the relationships that were lost due to the pandemic. Verbal feedback was positive with groups requesting more activities like this. See SLCVO website for more information

<https://www.slcvo.org.uk/meet-local-groups>

Wester Ross Third Sector Conference in Ullapool - September

On the 26th September 2023 SLCVO, in Partnership with Loch Broom and Ullapool Community Trust hosted a conference for third sector groups in Wester Ross to network and share learning & good practice.

27 people from 21 organisations attended. Feedback was very positive with groups wanting more activities like this. Loch Broom and Ullapool Community Trust have taken this action on board. A webpage on the SLCVO website has been set- up to share presentations, details of groups attending and feedback from the day.

<https://www.slcvo.org.uk/wester-ross-third-sector-conference>

Third Sector Review of the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan for Adult Services – September 2023

On the 21st September 2023, in partnership with the local NHS Highland Single Point of Contact Team, SLCVO hosted an online session looking at the three year strategic plan for adult services. Six third sector organisations attended the session and 10 engaged via email. We also held a discussion about the impact of the plan at the Wester Ross Third Sector Conference (21 groups). Feedback was submitted via an email to the NHS consultation Team.

Two key issues came out of the review:

- How difficult it is for groups to access training. SLCVO have agreed to look at this with NHS and other organisations to see how we can facilitate collective third sector training, rather than each individual group trying to do this.
- Third sector groups need to work together more however, finding time to do this is hard when groups are fighting to keep going. It was agreed that SLCVO will look at capacity building funding to see if there is anything we can apply to aid collaboration and support SLCVO to deliver a more hands-on support service for third sector groups providing health and social care services.

Third Sector Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Visioning session in Portree – March 2024

On the 6th March 2024, SLCVO hosted a health and social care community-led co-production visioning session, facilitated by Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC). It was attended by Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh, Skye and Lochalsh Young Carers, Viewfield Garden Collective, Kyleakin Connections, Rag Tag and Textile, Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association, Alzheimer's Scotland and Kyle and Lochalsh Community Trust.

The session considered what a good co-produced health and social care system in Skye and Lochalsh would look like in five years' time and how this can be achieved.

The session endorsed SLCVO to establish a consortium that would develop co-production in health, wellbeing and social care based on strong evidence of need. See SLCVO website for more information

<https://www.slcvo.org.uk/health-wellbeing-socialcare>

Register your Volunteering Opportunities with SLCVO

Let us help promote your volunteering opportunity as wide as possible. Advertising your opportunities with SLCVO is free. We will promote your opportunity:

- On our Facebook page
- With Volunteer Scotland
- In our Volunteer Opportunity Bulletin
- At our Volunteer drop-in sessions

Visit <https://www.slcvo.org.uk/volunteer-opportunities-form> or email thirdsectorsupport@slcvo.org.uk

SLCVO | Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations

New Start Community Group Support

Skye and Lochalsh CVO provide bespoke free support to new start community groups in Skye and Lochalsh including:

- Helping to identify local needs.
- Providing insights into the broader landscape in Highland.
- Supporting options appraisals.
- Offering guidance on legal structures.
- Supplying policy templates.

Contact info@slcvo.org.uk or call 01478 612921

SLCVO | Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations



HTSI Commissioned Services

Jo-Anne Ford, Chief Officer

Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations are commissioned by the Highland Third Sector Interface (HTSI) to support third sector organisations, volunteers and community planning in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross.

In January 2024 our support area reverted back to Skye and Lochalsh. This resulted in a reduction of the number of groups supported by 36%.

To monitor our performance, the HTSI have identified 22 core performance indicators and 4 delivery outcomes which are supported by a local work plan.

- Of the 22 core performance indicators we completed 19, these measure the type of support required by groups as needs arise. The three indicators not completed were due to local groups not requiring these services.
- Of the 4 delivery outcomes in the local work plan we made significant strides in supporting and promoting the third sector in Skye, Lochalsh, and Wester Ross. We have successfully enhanced understanding and visibility of third sector activities, facilitated collaborations, and improved connections with public sector planning processes.

Delivery Outcome 1: Improve the understanding of the impact and diversity of activity delivered by the Third Sector in Highland.

This year, we demonstrated a strong commitment to understanding and supporting the third sector in the area through a combination of data collection, stakeholder engagement, and public promotion.

Despite some setbacks, our ongoing efforts ensured a sustained focus on highlighting the sector's contributions and fostering community connections.

Key Activities:

- We held numerous stakeholder meetings and shared important resources, such as our Skye and Lochalsh Health and Wellbeing Directory, to improve sector visibility and engagement.
- Our promotional efforts included showcasing the activities of local groups via social media and highlighting their contributions in our monthly bulletin.
- We organised events such as the Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Workshop (21 organisations), Meet Your Local Group Day in Portree (19 groups), the Wester Ross Third Sector Conference (21 organisations) and a volunteer week competition that engaged 26 groups and 77 volunteers, emphasising community involvement.

Challenges and Adjustments:

- The production of a new Third Sector Profile encountered delays and it was put on hold due to resource issues and potential future projects. Despite this, we continued to collaborate with local groups and maintain our social media presence, promoting local activities and volunteering opportunities.

Delivery Outcome 2: Influence and impact on policy and decisions in Highland will be expanded and developed from common sector-wide based understanding

Overall, our efforts this year have successfully improved the third sector's understanding of and connections to public sector community planning and health and social care planning.

Key Outcomes and Activities:

- We facilitated consultations and supported engagement efforts, improving the third sector's connections to public sector and health/social care planning.

- We published articles about the HTSI Third Sector Representation Pathways, updated our website with relevant information and shared the HTSI survey to gather valuable insights.
- We shared 14 national and regional strategies and consultations, supported various consultations from the Scottish Government and NHS Highland including Democracy Matters 2 with the Scottish Community Development Centre.
- We hosted a review session of the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership's three year strategic plan, to ensure local third sector perspectives were noted, with 37 organisations taking part.
- We attended numerous public sector planning and health/social care meetings to ensure third sector voices were heard.

Delivery Outcome 3: Opportunities for collaboration, networking and co-production will be improved and expanded

On the whole, our efforts throughout the year have successfully increased opportunities for collaboration and networking, strengthening connections both within the third sector and across different sectors.

Key Outcomes and Activities:

- We managed the SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum and action plan, with 62 active members, providing a foundation for ongoing dialogue and collaboration.
- We organised a Third Sector networking event in Portree and a volunteer week lunch to foster connections among third sector organizations and volunteers.
- We supported engagement activities for Skye Community Response and Skye and Lochalsh Veterans Steering group, facilitating remote engagement and support.
- We conducted Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum workshops and thematic networking sessions to deepen sector engagement and collaboration.

- We hosted a Community-Led Co-Production Visioning Session with Scottish Community Development Centre to explore and expand co-production efforts, resulting in the development of the Skye and Lochalsh Health, Wellbeing and Welfare Collaboration (9 groups)
- We continued to manage and support the SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum, and participated in the Lochalsh Collaboration meetings

Delivery Outcome 4: Third Sector organisations in Highland will be better informed of opportunities for development, engagement and influence

Our efforts throughout the year have significantly improved the promotion and awareness of development and engagement opportunities. We continued to enhance support for the third sector through dedicated resources, articles and outreach sessions. As well as providing tailored support to groups and organisations

Key Outcomes and Activities:

- We delivered two bespoke training sessions and provided 149 episodes of support to 127 groups.
- We produced 12 monthly bulletins and a special bulletin on Democracy Matters to highlight critical issues, funding, training, and consultations and opportunities.
- We shared relevant articles and resources on social media to broaden our outreach and engagement, and updated the SLCVO website to keep our resources current and accessible.
- We created and promoted the SLWR Drug and Alcohol Forum Directory, providing a new resource for third sector signposting and knowledge sharing.

Befrienders Skye and Lochalsh

Samatha-Jo McArthur, Befrienders Manager

This year we continued to deliver the core Befrienders Skye and Lochalsh Service, supported by the Highland Hospice. As well as year two of our pilot project, aimed at developing a short-term befriending service for people transitioning from hospital to home.

We saw the service grow by 56% from 16 to 25 regular clients, and our 28 volunteers provided a total of 671 volunteering hours.

Befrienders Skye and Lochalsh is an essential community-led support service that combats social isolation and loneliness in our rural communities by providing a range of volunteer befriending activities, including:

- Core telephone and in-person befriending, funded for 1 day a week by Highland Hospice and Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations unrestricted reserves
- Pilot hospital and post discharge befriending, funded by NHS Highland and the Highland council
- Group and community befriending funded by a range of organisations depending on activity

Although the majority of our clients are aged 65 and over, the core telephone and in-person befriending service is open to anyone over the age of 18 who would benefit from more opportunities for social connections.

The pilot hospital and post-discharge service is for adults in long term care at Broadford and Portree hospitals, and those in receipt of home based



Would YOU like to make a real difference?

Do you have a spare hour or two, a month, to support people in your local area?

There are many ways in which you can help:

- Telephone befriending
- Face to Face befriending
- Hospital and Post discharge befriending

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer befriender contact us on 01478 272058 or by email at befrienders@slcvo.org.uk



transition care (maximum of six weeks). referred by a range of hospital teams.

Group and community befriending activities are delivered through one-off projects for specific communities or groups of people,

Throughout this year, we faced challenges due to changes in SLCVO staff and NHS Highland key contacts which required us to rebuild relationships and working partnerships. Despite these hurdles, we concentrated on recruiting new volunteers and engaged with Broadford and Portree hospitals to agree on a path forward.

About Skye and Lochalsh CVO

Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations (SLCVO) is a community development organisation that supports communities and third sector organisations to identify their needs and take practical steps to address them.

As the rural delivery partner for the Highland Third Sector Interface in Skye and Lochalsh, we:

- Support third sector groups and new organisations with their governance, development, and growth.
- Provide guidance to individuals of all ages to explore volunteering opportunities and help them take their first steps into volunteering.

We work closely with both the third and public sectors to foster community planning and co-production and advocate for the third sector's interests to policymakers, funders, and other agencies.

Our Community Collaboration Hub is a dynamic space where communities, third sector organisations, and public bodies come together to pursue shared goals and address common challenges, particularly in the development of social care, health, and wellbeing initiatives within the third sector.

In partnership with the Highland Hospice, we deliver befriending services across Skye and Lochalsh. These services include in-person and telephone befriending, a hospital-to-home pilot project (2023-2025), and group befriending activities.

Charitable Purposes

The advancement of citizenship and community development within Highland including:

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



**Registered
Charity
SC013885**

Principal Office
Tigh Lisigarry
Bridge Road
Portree
Isle Of Skye
IV51 9ER

Trusees

- Peter Urquhart, Chair - joined SLCVO's board in September 1997
- Clive Pearson, Vice Chair - joined SLCVO's board in November 2006.
- Gordon Higgins Gordon - SLCVO's board in April 2016
- Dr Di Van Ruitenbeck - joined SLCVO's board in November 2017
- Jryna Batters, Treasurer - joined SLCVO's board in December 2017
- Julie Mace - joined SLCVO's board in January 2020
- Calum Munro - joined SLCVO's board in December 2020
- Siobhan Barker - joined SLCVO's board in November 2021
- David O'Donnell - joined SLCVO's board in November 2021

Staff

- Jo-Anne Ford, Chief Officer - Jo.Ford@slcvo.org.uk
- Samantha-Jo McArthur, Community Development Officer - thirdsectorsupport@slcvo.org.uk
- Claire Nairn, Befrienders Co-ordinator - befrienders@slcvo.org.uk (left August 2023)

Members

As a Scottish Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee SLCVO's Board of Trustees is made up of representatives from our membership. We have 129 members representing the third sector in Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross and six individual members.

- Achmore Community Hall Association
- Advocacy Highland (Skye & Lochalsh)
- An Comunn Gaidhealach – Skye Branch (Local Mod)
- Applecross Community hall
- Ardvasar Community Hall Association
- Arnisdale and Loch Hourn Community Association
- ATLAS Arts
- Aultbea Community Hub
- Balmacara Community Trust
- Bracadale and Duirinish Church of Scotland
- Braes Village Hall
- Breakish Village Hall
- Broadford & Strath Community Company
- Broadford & Strath Community Council
- Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative
- Carbst Pier Ltd
- Care and Learning (Family First)
- Clan Donald Land Trust
- Comunn Eachdraidh Shleite (Sleat Local History)
- Connecting Carers
- Counselling Care Skye and Lochalsh
- Crossroads Care Skye & Lochalsh
- Dornie Community Hall
- Duirinish Media and Culture Club
- Duirinish Youth Club
- Dunvegan Community Council
- Dunvegan Community Hall Association
- Dunvegan Community Trust / Urras Sgìre Dhunbheagan
- Edinbane Community Company
- Edinbane Community Hall
- Eilean Ban Trust
- Fas Mor
- Feisean Nan Gaidheal
- Friends of Arms
- Friends Of Portree Hospital
- Fuaran nan Ealan
- Gairloch & Loch Ewe Action Forum
- Gairloch Community Car Scheme
- Glendale Community Hall Association
- Glendale Trust
- Glenelg & Arnisdale Community hall
- Isle of Skye Accordion & Fiddle Club

- Isle of Skye Ferry CIC
- Isle of Skye Renewables Co-op
- Kilmore Church
- Kilmuir Community Council
- Kilmuir Community Trust
- Kingsburgh Forest Trust
- Kyle village hall
- Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust
- Kyleakin Community Hall Association
- Kyleakin Connections Limited
- Lochaber Hope
- Lochalsh & Skye Swimming Pool Association
- Lochalsh Community Council
- Lochalsh Girls Group
- Lochalsh Trails Club
- Lochalsh Youth Community Trust
- Lochcarron Camanachd
- Lochcarron Sailing Club
- Marie Curie Skye and Lochalsh Fund Raising Group
- Minginish Community Council
- Minginish Community Hall Association
- Network Tuesdays
- Plockton Community Council
- Plockton Harbour CIC
- Plockton Historical Society
- Plockton Village Hall
- Portree & Braes Community Trust
- Portree and Bracadale Free Church of Scotland
- Portree Angling Association
- Portree Community Centre
- Portree Community Pantomime Group
- Portree District Gaelic Choir
- Portree Local History Society
- Portree Moorings Association
- Portree Nursery Ltd
- Portree Youth Club
- Raasay Community Council
- Raasay House Community Company
- Rag Tag and Textile Ltd
- Rionnagan Beaga Dhunbheagain
- Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Skye Branch
- Sconser Community Council
- Scottish Community Drama Assn - Isle of Skye
- Scottish Crofting Federation
- SEALL Community Arts
- Site Collective
- Skeabost Bridge Indoor Bowling Club

- Skeabost Memorial Hall Association
- Skye & Lochalsh Access Panel
- Skye & Lochalsh Citizens Advice Bureau
- Skye & Lochalsh Community Care Forum (Young Carers)
- Skye & Lochalsh Disabled Ramblers
- Skye & Lochalsh Environment Forum
- Skye & Lochalsh Food Link CIC
- Skye Agricultural Society
- Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel
- Skye and Lochalsh Mental Health Association
- Skye Bible Church
- Skye Camanachd
- Skye Cancer Care
- Skye Chamber Music
- Skye for All
- Skye Girl Guiding
- Skye Nature Group
- Skye Old Peoples Welfare Committee SCIO
- Skye Stroke Friends
- Skye Youth Pipe band
- Skye, Lochalsh and Lochcarron Indoor Bowling Ass
- SkyeDance
- Sluggans Woodland Park
- South West Ross Community Car Scheme
- St Columba's Episcopal Church: Portree
- Staffin Community Hall Association
- Staffin Community Trust
- Strath Gaelic Choir
- Struan Community Council
- Struan Community Trust
- Tarskavaig Communities Hall Association
- The MacAskill's of Rubh an Dunan Society
- The Macular Society
- Uig Community Hall Association
- Uig Community Trust
- Ullapool Community Trust Limited
- Ullapool Youth Club
- Viewfield Garden Collective SCIO
- Waternish Community Council
- Waternish Community Hall

For more information about Skye and Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations visit our website www.slcvo.org.uk