



Introducing Scotland's Voluntary Sector

A Guide for Councillors

#EssentialSector
Learn more and get involved

Produced by:





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Scotland's vibrant voluntary sector is a key asset in our communities and in this guide we aim to ensure you understand how it works at the local level and how the sector is also supported by national organisations.

At a local level, there will be charities, community and voluntary groups and social enterprise of all sizes – some run nationally, whilst other groups are shaped and led by communities. These organisations will be operating across your local authority area. Volunteering will be a big part of this, both within charities and community groups, but also within public bodies. At a local level, Third Sector Interfaces or TSIs will be able to inform you about the voluntary sector in your area – and a full list of TSIs is provided later in this guide.

We would encourage you to develop and maintain an ongoing relationship with the TSI and your local voluntary sector. Knowing the voluntary organisations in your local area is a great way to understand the ways in which they are supporting local people, and the issues they care about.

The TSIs in turn are supported at a national level by a number of organisations – including Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), Volunteer Scotland and

Social Enterprise Scotland. There are others that help in specific areas like Health and Social Care Alliance (The ALLIANCE) which supports health-based charities and Development Trust Scotland Association (DTAS) which focuses and supports development trusts and community empowerment.

Again, your TSI will be able to inform you further on the wider third sector supports available including charitable funders for your local third sector groups.

What's in this guide?

- Scotland's Voluntary Sector
- TSI Scotland Network and SCVO
- Volunteering
- Social Enterprises

Scotland's Voluntary Sector

Overview

Voluntary organisations are charities, community organisations and social enterprises.

Across Scotland, including in your local authority, the voluntary sector is a major employer, a partner in delivering public services, and a vital contributor to society and the economy.

Voluntary organisations need your support to continue to provide the vital services that people and communities in your constituency rely on.

Many voluntary organisations have experience and expertise that can help you as a local decision maker and support your constituents.

The voluntary sector has been fragile for many years, and this has been exacerbated by Covid and the cost-of-living crisis. Sustainability needs to be vastly improved, including a greater degree of financial security, such as multi-year funding.

Voluntary organisations and the people and communities they support need your help to make sure they are heard and represented in your local authority's work.

Voluntary organisations are a part of everyday life for most people. They are critical to Scotland's wellbeing, prosperity, and success. Without realising, people engage with voluntary organisations in many different ways. For example, Scotland's voluntary organisations: >>>



- Provide good quality jobs and support people into employment
- Provide opportunities for people to volunteer their time to support their local communities
- Support digital inclusion, provide childcare, social care and housing, and support the most disadvantaged people and communities
- Undertake vital medical and environmental research through further education
- Run most of Scotland's theatres, museums, galleries, and sports clubs
- Facilitate and support a lot of activity which ensure our communities are vibrant, resilient and connected, e.g. children's clubs, village halls, community fairs
- Campaign for change, ensuring the voices of people and communities are heard

Key Facts



Scotland's voluntary sector is hugely diverse. It ranges from tiny volunteer-run community groups like village halls and play groups to major public service providers in social care and housing.

- There are 46,000+ voluntary sector organisations in Scotland
- More than 6,000 social enterprises
- 25,000 registered charities
- 83 credit unions
- 4 in 5 Scots used a voluntary sector organisation last year
- In 2021, voluntary sector turnover in Scotland was over £8.5bn
- There are over 200,000 charity and community group trustees across the country
- Around one quarter of Scottish charities employ staff. Scotland's voluntary sector has 135,000+ paid staff
- 89% of voluntary organisations in Scotland are local
- 36% of Scottish voluntary organisations are based in remote or rural areas

There are lots of myths and misconceptions about voluntary sector funding. For example, two thirds of sector income is earned rather than donated.

- Around 25% of income comes from public sector contracts
- Around 25% of income comes from grants
- Around 25% of income comes from donations, sales and trading through activities like charity shops
- Around 20% of income comes from rents, including public buildings and housing

Scotland's voluntary sector is a major provider of public services, from health and social care to education and housing. Around £2bn in income comes from the public sector in a typical year, although this rose to £3bn in 2021 due to the pandemic.

2021

- £1.5bn from local authorities
- £850m from Scottish Government
- £450m from other public bodies such as Creative Scotland and the UK Government
- £300m from NHS/Health and Social Care
- £70m from European

There is currently no national assessment of the true added value of public investment in the sector, but many individual charities have carried out 'Social Return on Investment' research to highlight the significant benefits of their work.

Most recently, Children's Hospices Across Scotland reported that its services generated £6.24 in public value in return for every public pound invested^[1].

Despite this, many voluntary organisations delivering public services struggle with short-term funding arrangements that make it challenging to plan for the future.

As a result, charity managers frequently raise concerns about the amount of time they spend trying to raise money rather than delivering vital services.

Some estimates suggest that leaders of small to medium charities spend a quarter of their time chasing funding. Short-term funding also creates stress for staff and beneficiaries.



[1] 'Economic Evaluation of Hospice Services', Children's Hospices Across Scotland (<https://tinyurl.com/25j33bwe>)

Scotland's voluntary organisations are facing a huge demand for their services at a time when their future is more uncertain than ever. People and communities who benefit from voluntary organisations need you to advocate for these services to make sure that they are able to play their part in the fairer, greener, healthier and more inclusive society we all want to see.

Get to know voluntary organisations in your area.

Together, you can make sure the people that voluntary organisations support are heard and represented throughout the council and its work. By finding out more about local voluntary organisations you will also find great sources of support for people in your ward.

Hear from voluntary organisations locally about the issues they care about, and learn from their expertise.

Reach out to local voluntary organisations; your local TSI will be able to tell you about what's going on in the ward you represent or across the Council area. Meet with staff, volunteers and the people and communities who use these valued voluntary organisations - attend local support groups, events or perhaps hold a surgery in a community facility/with a local organisation.

Think about the impact of council decisions on voluntary organisations.

Where you have the opportunity to make decisions about services, contracts or funding, consider how those decisions will impact on voluntary organisations, the people they employ and the communities they work with.



The TSI Scotland Network is a body of charities that support the voluntary sector across Scotland.

There are 32 TSIs – or Third Sector Interfaces in Scotland – one for each local authority area

Each TSI is embedded with the community it serves and has a deep, localised knowledge of the voluntary sector in their area. TSIs have trusted relationships with voluntary organisations and community groups on a local level and across the whole range of policy areas. As a network, TSIs work together to enable and facilitate third sector involvement in creating a fairer society.

TSIs are here to help Councillors understand the local picture of the voluntary sector in their local authority area or communities. They can tell you what the needs, services and

challenges are and how to learn more. They can also help build connections with voluntary organisations so that you can see the difference they make first hand.

Membership for third sector organisations can provide access to a range of services and information including advertising or promoting volunteering opportunities, funding advice and support, bulletins, networking opportunities, training and governance support.

For more information on your local TSI, please go to: www.tsi.scot/directory or see page 23.





The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) is the national membership organisation for charities, community organisations and social enterprises.

SCVO believes that a thriving and effective voluntary sector is vital to Scotland's economy and society. SCVO supports the sector to achieve its ambitions through delivering services, by giving the sector a voice at a national level, and promoting and supporting innovation and improvement. SCVO's purpose, therefore, is to support, promote and develop a confident, sustainable voluntary sector in Scotland. SCVO has a community of over 3,000 members.

SCVO can give you an overview of the scale and breadth of the sector, the significant contribution the sector makes and the challenges voluntary organisations face, particularly as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic and the cost of living crisis. SCVO represents the sector at a national level, and can put you in touch with organisations across Scotland working on the specific issues that matter to you.

SCVO has a wide range of practical support services available for voluntary organisations in your constituency.

Support for SCVO members includes:

- 1:1 information and advice services
- HR and employment support service
- Legal, VAT and tax support
- 30% discount on training programmes
- Full access to funding information from Funding Scotland

Membership is free for voluntary organisations with an income of less than £100,000.

Find out more about what SCVO membership can do for organisations in your area at:

www.scvo.scot/about/membership



Volunteering

Overview

Volunteering has a significant positive impact in many areas including health and wellbeing, community connection and cohesion, education and skills, and inclusion. However more work is needed, especially around partnership development and policy impact, if we are to maximise its potential.



Key Facts

- 64% of Scotland's adult population took part in volunteering, either formally or informally, during 2020
- In 2020, 56% of adults volunteered informally in their local communities, compared to 26% volunteering in more formal roles with organisations
- In 2018, volunteers contributed 361 million hours, an equivalent of £5.5 billion to the local economy
- The formal volunteering participation rate in more deprived communities is half the rate seen in the least deprived communities.





In June 2022, a new national Volunteering Action Plan was launched. This Plan aims to create a Scotland where everyone can volunteer, more often, and throughout their lives. It was developed by national partners lead by Volunteer Scotland.

The Volunteering Action Plan, which provides actions over a 10 year period, acknowledges the cross-cutting value of volunteering in building resilient and engaged communities, as well as for ensuring that everybody in Scotland can realise their own unique potential. It builds upon Volunteering for All: The National Framework.

More details on the Volunteering for All Action plan can be found at:

www.volunteeringactionplan.co.uk

The specific end goals of the Plan which will determine its success are:

- Increase volunteering participation by focusing on non-volunteers and lapsed volunteers, and especially those who'll gain most benefit.
- Widen access to volunteering by understanding and reducing the barriers to participation and supporting community-based, 'place-making' activities.
- Listen to volunteers by ensuring that the volunteer 'voice' is heard and that volunteers help make the decisions that affect them.
- Provide great experiences whereby volunteers feel supported, valued and recognised for their contribution.

Find out more about the Volunteering Action Plan
by visiting the website at
www.volunteeringactionplan.co.uk

Volunteers are the heart of our local communities. It is vital that all community planning partners, and councillors, advocate for volunteering when making decisions. Here are just some local policy areas where volunteering has an important role:

Thriving Communities

- As seen during the pandemic, volunteers have a key role in ensuring our communities are resilient and able to respond to emergencies. This should be recognised in local resilience planning.
- Volunteers also have a vital role in building connections within communities and ensuring local spaces, like village halls and community gardens, continue to operate.
- Volunteering activity helps to address inequality in society through our network of foodbanks and support agencies which ensure many people experiencing poverty have access to essential services.
- Volunteers also support advice organisations, empowering people with information about their rights on benefits, housing and accessing employment.

Health and Wellbeing

- Research has proven the positive impact of volunteering on physical and mental health.
- Volunteers also play a key role in supporting the health needs of Scotland's population, often preventing the need for more acute or clinical care.
- Volunteers also have a key role in our NHS settings, helping to ensure that our frontline workers can focus on providing the best care possible.

Climate Emergency

- The community response to Storm Arwen in 2021 demonstrated the role of volunteers in responding to the effects of climate change.
- Volunteers also support a number of local environmental charities, preserving our natural environment and campaigning against climate change.



Volunteer
Scotland



Volunteer Scotland exists to help people across Scotland make a difference through volunteering.

Volunteering should be an enjoyable, rewarding and fulfilling experience for every volunteer. Volunteer Scotland can help by...

- Recognising the need for volunteers and demonstrating how this makes a difference.
- Understanding what volunteers and volunteer involving organisations want to do.
- Making volunteering easy for everyone, so that more people volunteer and have a great time.
- Offer a one stop digital gateway to anyone looking for volunteer opportunities, working alongside the TSI Scotland Network.
- Support organisations to advertise volunteer opportunities and events online.
- Provide an expert disclosure service for voluntary organisations.

Volunteer Scotland are supported by the Scottish Government and others to:

- Research, demonstrate and measure the impact made by volunteers.
- Develop skills through training and useful volunteer development tools, policies and guides.
- Promote and grow volunteering through partners, funders, Government, and policy makers.
- Work with others to support projects, innovation and creativity in volunteering.
- Advocate for the contribution of volunteering to be reflected in policy

The Volunteer Charter, developed by Volunteer Scotland and the STUC, details 10 principles for meaningful and legitimate volunteering. It is useful for people working directly with volunteers and those who have influence over how volunteering is resourced or implemented. You can actively support the principles of the Volunteer Charter by signing up as a Charter Champion at: bit.ly/VolunteerCharter.



**VOLUNTEER
CHARTER**

Find out more about the services of Volunteer Scotland by visiting their website at www.volunteerscotland.net

Social Enterprises

Overview

Social enterprises are already managing public services and delivering contracts for local authorities, across both urban and rural Scotland. From leisure trusts to sports centres, housing and much more, they are regenerating neighbourhoods and providing lifeline services to local people, including excluded groups.

There is huge potential for social enterprises to work in partnership with Councils, officers and elected members to unlock more opportunities. They can lead on policy priorities and use their expertise to drive forward Community Wealth Building, the Fair Work agenda and a Wellbeing Economy.



Key Facts

The latest Social Enterprise Census tells us that:

- The number of social enterprises in Scotland stands at 6047 - up from 5199 in just 6 years.
- Almost 90,000 full time equivalent jobs are provided by social enterprises, up from just over 81,000 in 2017.
- 33% of all social enterprises are in a rural location, in areas with just 17% of the Scottish population.
- 19% are in island and remote communities – with only 6% of the population.
- 85% of social enterprises now pay the voluntary real living wage, up from 68% just 6 years ago.
- Women's leadership of social enterprises is now at 71%.
- Gross Value Added (GVA) is £2.63bn, up from £2.4bn in 2017.
- The total net worth of social enterprises at £7bn, up from £3.9bn in 2015.

How can you help?

Find out about your local Social Enterprise Network.

- Most areas across Scotland support a network or SEN. This is often through the TSIs but can also be an organised group. Social Enterprise Scotland support SENs and advocate for their value at a national level.
- Find out how the local procurement and purchasing strategies of your local authority can be more supportive to SEs.
- One of the pillars of Community Wealth Building is to focus on using procurement measures to spend money locally. This can be achieved and also provide more beneficial community benefits at the same time, by taking an inclusive approach to using social enterprises and third sector organisations.
- Meet your local credit union and find out about new and innovative financing models like community benefit societies
- Learn about exciting new community-based ways to deliver services and drive economic developments. Find out more by getting in touch with your local TSI or through Community Shares Scotland, Crowdfund Scotland or Scottish Enterprise around cooperatives.



**SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
SCOTLAND**



Social Enterprise Scotland (SES) is an independent, membership-led organisation and is the voice of social enterprise in Scotland.

We have championed the sector for more than 15 years to help create a supportive policy environment for social enterprises. SES works in collaboration with the TSI Scotland Network and other community support organisations like Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS), Circular Communities Scotland and Community Enterprise.

In the Social Enterprise Action Plan 2021-24, the Scottish Government set out its plan to fund an enhanced single intermediary body with responsibility for representing the social enterprise sector across Scotland. SES will now lead a collaborative movement so that all social enterprises have a stronger voice which will put social enterprises at the heart of Scotland's future.

SES provides members with the following support:

- To represent, and champion the social enterprise sector and ensure members feel informed, supported and connected
- Provide connection to local Social Enterprise Networks (SENs)
- Free membership for social enterprises with turnover less than £250,000 per annum
- Provide links to training and funding specific to social enterprises at all stages of their development
- Social Enterprises can join for free if their turnover is less than £250,000, membership fees then apply based on turnover

**If you would like to get in contact with your local TSI,
please find the list of contacts opposite:**

Who are your TSI Scotland Network contacts - please find below:

Aberdeen

Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
www.acvo.org.uk

Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action
www.avashire.org.uk

Angus

Voluntary Action Angus
www.voluntaryactionangus.org.uk

Argyll and Bute

Argyll and Bute Third Sector Interface
www.argylltsi.org

Borders

Border TSI
www.bordertsi.org.uk

Clackmannanshire

Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface
www.ctsi.org.uk

Dumfries and Galloway

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
www.thirdsectordumgal.org.uk

Dundee

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action
www.dvva.scot

Dundee Social Enterprise Network (DSEN)
www.dundeesen.org

East Ayrshire

CVO East Ayrshire
www.cvoea.co.uk

Volunteer Centre East Ayrshire
www.volunteer@eav.org.uk

East Dunbartonshire

East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action
www.edva.org

East Lothian

Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL)
www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk

East Renfrewshire

Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire
www.va-er.org.uk

Edinburgh

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)
www.evoc.org.uk

Volunteer Edinburgh
www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk

Edinburgh Social Enterprise
www.edinburghsocialenterprise.co.uk

Falkirk

Council for Voluntary Sector (CVS) Falkirk
www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk

Fife

Fife Voluntary Action
www.fifevoluntaryaction.org.uk

Glasgow

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector (GCVS)
www.gcvsv.org.uk

Glasgow Social Enterprise Network (GSEN)
www.gsen.org.uk

Volunteer Glasgow
www.volunteerglasgow.org

Highland

Highland Third Sector Interface Partnership
www.highlandtsi.org.uk

Inverclyde

CVS Inverclyde
www.cvsinverclyde.org.uk

Midlothian

Midlothian Voluntary Action
Volunteer Midlothian
www.thirdsectormidlothian.org.uk

Moray

TSI Moray
www.tsimoray.org.uk

North Ayrshire

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (CVS)
www.arrancvs.org.uk

Ayrshire Community Trust
www.theayrshirecommunitytrust.co.uk

North Lanarkshire

Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire
www.voluntaryactionnorthlanarkshire.org

Orkney

Voluntary Action Orkney
www.vaorkney.org.uk

Perth and Kinross

Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Services
www.thirdsectorpk.org.uk

Renfrewshire

Engage Renfrewshire
www.engagerenfrewshire.org

Shetland

Voluntary Action Shetland
www.shetland-communities.org.uk/vas

South Ayrshire

Voluntary Action South Ayrshire
www.voluntaryactionsouthayrshire.org.uk

South Lanarkshire

Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire
www.vaslan.org.uk

Stirlingshire

Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise
www.sventerprise.org.uk

West Dunbartonshire

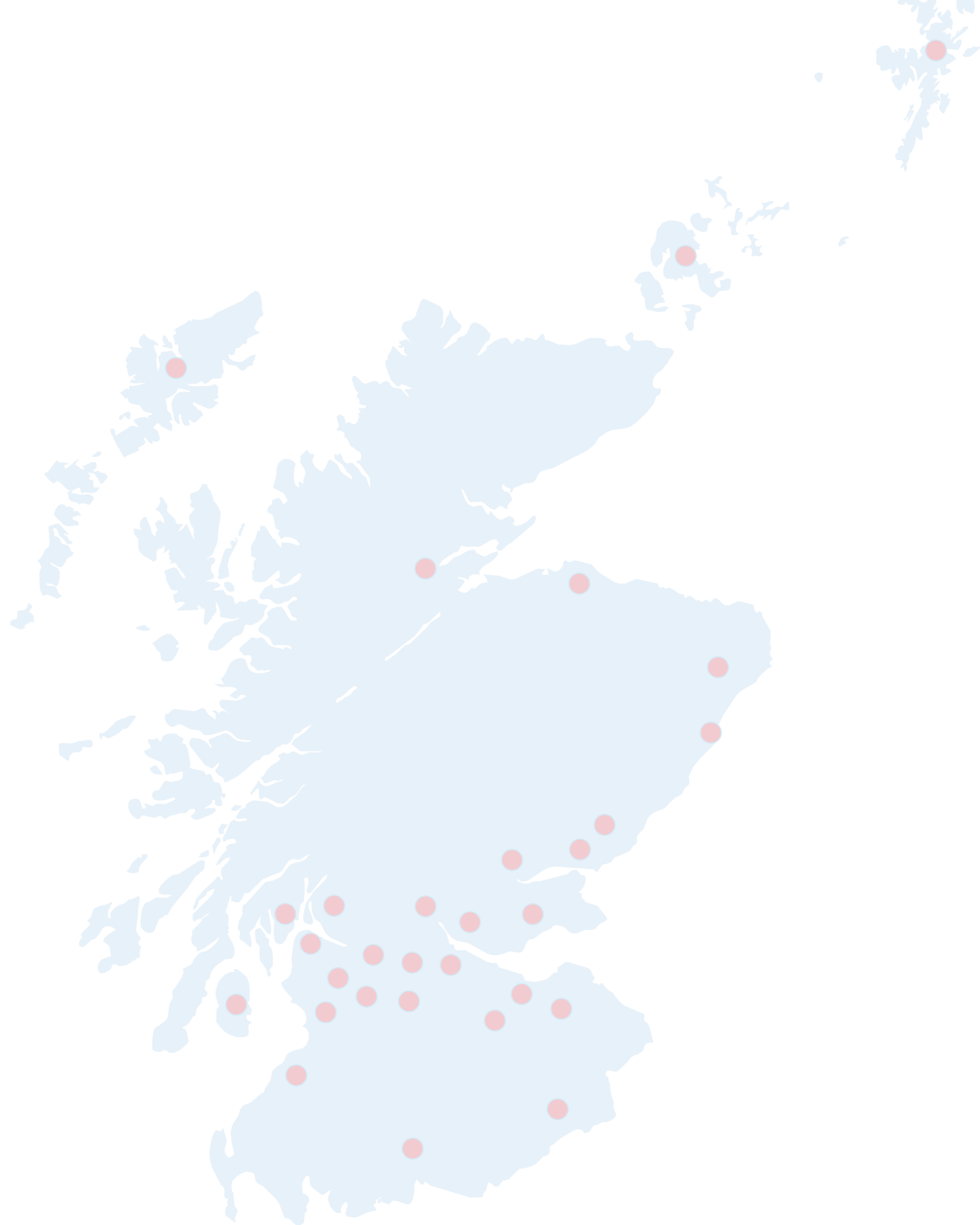
West Dunbartonshire CVS
www.wdcvs.com

Western Isles

Third Sector Interface - Western Isles
www.tsiwi.org

West Lothian

Voluntary Sector Gateway West Lothian
www.voluntarysectorgateway.org



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**Volunteer
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**Volunteering
Action Plan**

TSI Scotland Network is supported and funded by:
Third Sector Unit • Public Service Reform Directorate • The Scottish Government

For more information, please go to: www.gov.scot/policies/third-sector/third-sector-interfaces



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot