North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Network:
Area Partnership Report Aug/Sept 2024

Anderston City Yorkhill - Ward 10
Drumchapel Anniesland - Ward 14
Hillhead - Ward 11
Partick East Kelvindale - Ward 23
Canal - Ward 16
Garscadden Scotstounhill - Ward 13
Maryhill - Ward 15
Victoria Park - Ward 12

North West Glasgow Voluntary Sector Update

Cost-of-Living is still adversely affecting Member Organisations and the People they work with.

- At a recent Network meeting, members intimated that the impacts of the cost-of living crisis are still being felt by the people they work with. Indeed, for some groups the impacts are getting worse rather than easing.
- Members also discussed that there is an increased demand for services, at a time when funding is tighter and more competitive and costs of running services is increasing.
- The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is also impacting on people's health/mental health.
- Holiday clubs for children & young people are providing meals now as a matter of course as families are struggling to afford food and fuel for their families.
- Some of our members are looking to fundraising and crowd funding to stay open and/or offer current and additional services.
- GCVS published a blog on 5th August sharing research findings from a small focus group study conducted in partnership between GCVS and Strathclyde University's Department of Work, Employment and Organisation on the Cost-of-living and Glasgow's Third Sector
- Digital poverty: **Plugged In our IT Recycling Project** https://nwgvsn.org.uk/our-work/plugged-in/
- Plugged In was born out of people facing Digital Poverty during lockdown. The project continues today, providing access to IT and data for families and individuals in need, that our member organisations work with.
- The IT recycling project continues to take unwanted PCs, laptops, tablets & phones, refurbish them and give them to local people in need in the North West of Glasgow. We also offer an internet dongle with 6 months internet access.

- It would be remiss of us not to mention the recent violence and racist attacks taking place in England & Northern Ireland. Whilst at time of writing, no such large-scale incidents have occurred in Scotland, members and the people they work with from the BAME, Asylum Seeker, Refugee and non-white Scots communities have experienced a feeling of unease and in some cases fear locally. We have met as a network to discuss the issues, share practical advice and information about keeping the people we serve and ourselves safe. Sadly, for our colleagues at the Integration networks, it is not the first time they will have experienced threats, or harassment so were able to share some useful advice and resources with us. https://hopenothate.org.uk/
- **We stand in solidarity with our fellow citizens, who are welcome in our city and our country.**

Contact martina.northwestglasgowvsn@outlook.com
www.nwgvsn.org.uk https://twitter.com/NWGVSN https://www.facebook.com/NWGVSN/

Anderston City Yorkhill

Rep: Stuart Duffin stuart@rsglasgow.org.uk
Contact: Gordon.northwestglasgowvsn@outlook.com

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of living crisis continues to impact on organisations and people members work with.
- Increase in people in crisis in some services.

Cost-of-Living Impacts

- The Pyramid at Anderston find their shop to be continuously oversubscribed. Working through their wait list and working to secure further sources of food.

RS Counselling services Report (summary below) https://www.rsglasgow.org.uk/

- As rising housing, energy and food costs put more people in the position of making difficult choices about heating or eating, I expect to see more people pushed into poverty and its health consequences. People now are experiencing poverty of opportunity. The cost-of-living crisis is having a disproportionate and severe impact on vulnerable people and communities:
- Worsening mental health issues. Three out of five Scots reporting that the cost-of-living crisis has affected their mental health.
- Widening inequalities, the burdens of rising costs falling harder on some groups than on others. Further highlighting social gaps, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities.
- Reduced access to support: While many are seeking emotional and health-related support, fewer are accessing practical support like means-tested benefits, indicating a gap in policy and service provision.

Long Term Concerns

- Potential for Severe Mental Health Problems: Prolonged anxiety and stress due to financial pressures can lead to more severe mental health issues. The Mental Health Foundation warns that the mental health effects of the cost-of-living crisis could be on a scale like the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Risk of Increased Suicide Rates: There is a concern that continued financial stress and deprivation could lead to higher suicide rates, particularly among those already experiencing significant economic hardship.

In summary, the cost-of-living crisis is exacerbating existing mental health issues and creating new challenges for many individuals, particularly those already vulnerable due to financial instability or pre-existing mental health conditions.

Call for Action**:** Government (at all levels) Intervention: we are calling for urgent government action to alleviate financial pressures and provide targeted support to those most affected.

Read the full report and sources here

General Member Update

The Pyramid at Anderston https://thepyramid.scot/

- Holiday food programme funded by GCC was a great success, and always in demand.

- Holding a coffee morning on the 22nd of August and invite partners, collaborators and other organisations offering support to come along to share with the community.
- Taking part in Glasgow's Doors Open Day 21st and 22nd of September

The Marie Trust https://www.themarietrust.org/
Healing for the Heart https://healingfortheheart.co.uk/
Glasgow Council on Alcohol https://www.glasgowcouncilonalcohol.org/
Townhead Village Hall https://www.facebook.com/Townhead-Village-Hall-106388822128494
Garnethill Multicultural Centre https://garnethillcentre.org.uk/

Canal

Rep: Jill Mackay jill@nucommunities.org
Sub Rep Marina Costello marina.lovemilton@gmail.com

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of Living Crisis is still an ongoing concern for families, causing a great deal of stress within the family environment, having an impact on well-being and mental health.
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Cost-of-Living Impacts

- Continued and increased use of support services, alot of which are already stretched.
- Causing increased anxiety and stress for service users and worsening this with those who are already struggling to manage these.
- More people having to make the difficult choice between heating and eating.
- Continued worries over mental health and how the Cost of Living is affecting this. Both in young people and adults

General Member Update

Young People's Future http://www.youngpossilfutures.org.uk/:
Love Milton https://www.facebook.com/welovemilton:
Lambhill Stables https://www.lambhillstables.org/:
North United Communities http://www.nuconline.co.uk/:
North Glasgow Community Food Initiative https://www.ngcfi.org.uk/:
Possobilities https://possobilities.org.uk/

Drumchapel Anniesland

Rep Dougie Taylor dougie@drumchapellife.co.uk

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of Living Crisis affecting people who use services.
- Increased costs for organisations, in particular fuel costs.
- General increase in families/children/young people wanting to attend summer activities – a lot of events are free or affordable and offer food/snacks.

Cost-of-Living Impacts

G15 Youth Project https://www.facebook.com/g15youth

- Have experienced increased costs, in particular large increases in their fuel bills – thanks to funders for their help.
- They advertised they had funds to support young people who were members of G15 and asked them how best they could support them and their families with food, clothing, fuel the three areas of support. They received just under 200 applications for the funds, lots not from Drumchapel, lots who didn't have children at all and many with children not registered with G15. The team spent a day going over all the applications and agreed they food and fuel would be prioritised.
- They supported 47 families (who had 137 children and young people) with food vouchers between £50 and £150 and fuel top ups of £50 and referred 62 to the foodbank.

WOW Group with 3D Drumchapel and G15 Thriving Places
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558741984960

- Set up a School Uniform Bank at the Community Centre – offering free uniforms - saving people money and the planet at the same time.

Drumchapel CAB https://www.drumchapelcab.org.uk/

- We are continuing to see an increase in the number of people seeking help on numerous different topics including cos-of-living issues.
- The webchat and email advice service has been introduced to try and help more people over other mediums, so they do not have to wait for a phone or face to face appointment due to lack of availability and also space in our office to take appointments.
- A percentage of those are due to the cost of living, specifically those on a benefit income needing our assistance with food bank referrals and fuel vouchers.
- We are seeing an increase in people who have been off work sick and their sick pay is coming to an end so they are needing help applying for benefits and needing budgeting/debt advice as they can no longer maintain their monthly payments.
- We are also seeing an increase in the number of clients seeking help due to the threat of homelessness and actual homelessness. This could also be due to the cost-of-living and being unable to maintain their tenancy or relationship suffering breakdowns because of financial reasons.

Drumchapel Foodbank https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066573716768

- Increase in people attending the foodbank and the need to promote for donations.
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General Member Update

Homestart Glasgow North & North Lanarkshire https://www.facebook.com/homestartgnnl

- Have completed their move into Netherton Community Centre and are recruiting Family Support Volunteers

WOW Group https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61558741984960
Drumchapel CAB https://www.drumchapelcab.org.uk/
G15 Thriving Places https://twitter.com/TPDrumchapel
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066681380972
Antonine Court Day Centre https://antonine.org/
Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland https://www.chss.org.uk/services/health-defence-scotland/
3D Drumchapel https://www.3ddrumchapel.org.uk/
G15 Youth Project https://www.facebook.com/g15youth
Drum Hub https://www.facebook.com/drumhub15
Drumchapel L.I.F.E. https://twitter.com/DDrumchapellife
Enable Glasgow Fortune Works https://www.facebook.com/EnableGlasgowFortuneWorks
Drumchapel TV https://www.youtube.com/@drum-tv https://twitter.com/DrumchapelTV
Drumchapel Foodbank https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100066573716768

Garscadden/Scotstounhill

Rep: Lainey Bedingfield lainy@kingswaycc.org.uk

What are the issues in the ward?

- Increased demand for services – impacting capacity.
- Funding for organisations.
- ESOL provision – huge waiting lists noted by ESOL providers.

Cost-of-Living Impacts

- Increased foodbank referrals – due to increases in bills, household budgets, members are noting an increase in foodbank/pantry referrals. Worryingly, in-work poverty is at an increased rate.
- Increased fuel poverty – despite the summer months, members are still seeing a high number of requests for fuel support. Again, we believe this to be due COL in general.
- Increased debt advice requests – including in over 65's, CAB now run a weekly outreach at Kingsway Community Connections aimed at those of pensionable age.
- Increased digital poverty – particularly sim cards and repeated requests by those being supported.
- More people presenting as being sanctioned by Benefits Agency

With the needs of the community increasing and becoming more urgent, demand for services has continued to grow exponentially. Members are noting a real concern going into the winter months as demand will only increase putting more strain on a sector that is already stretched to the max.

Member Details

Yoker Community Campus https://www.yokercampus.org/ https://twitter.com/CampusYoker https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072307083175
Kingsway Community Connections https://www.kingswaycc.org.uk https://twitter.com/Kingsway__CC https://www.facebook.com/KingswayCommunityConnections
Glasgow Eco Trust/De'ils on Wheels https://glasgowecotrust.org.uk https://twitter.com/GlasgowEcoTrust https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowEcoTrust https://www.facebook.com/DeilsOnWheels
Knightswood Community Centre https://www.knightswoodcentre.co.uk/
Active Seniors https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100079995702359
DRC Generations http://www.drcgenerations.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/drcgenerations
DRC Youth Project https://drcyouthproject.blogspot.com https://twitter.com/DRCYouthProject https://www.facebook.com/drcyouthproject
LINKES https://www.linkes.org.uk https://www.facebook.com/linkesglasgow https://twitter.com/linkesgla
Heart of Scotstoun – https://twitter.com/HOScotstoun

Hillhead

Rep: Anna Dyer a.dyer@scottishoverseasdevelopment.org.uk

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of Living
- Fuel Poverty

Cost-of-Living Impacts

Community Central Halls https://centralhall.org/

- The success and continuous development of **CCH Community Fridge** is a sad reflection of the challenging times of so many of our local residents. Community Central Hall has been fortunate to continue receiving assistance from some funders, Fareshare and donations from a wide range of companies and individuals. In common with most of the organizations in our network the shelves are emptied within an hour of opening. We have a diverse range of regular users encompassing many ethnic mothers with young children, people whose wages have not kept up with soaring prices and many older people.
- The planned expansion of the CCH Community service is vital currently. We always aim to welcome our users and respect their dignity. We are creating more space for the operation to enable a small café service to ensure there are hot drinks and snacks, most welcome in wintertime and we intend to have a Money Advisor available in this area to provide support to our users. Our policy has been to build the service in steps and the informal atmosphere we are seeking to create is a part of our larger strategy.
- Woodside Halls is now open and additional space gives us the opportunity to develop Wellbeing events which will assist many residents through the hard winter and to reduce the loneliness and isolation so prevalent in our very poor part of the Ward.
- This winter the Cost-of-Living crisis undoubtedly will be worse particularly for the elderly with the Pension Fuel Payments Cuts. Restricting it to only those on pension credit will affect many who with a small additional pension will be just above the barrier.
- Woman will be most affected such as many due to childcare, caring responsibilities, low incomes and uncertain employment. Other groups such as the Waspi women are caught in the limbo between retirement from work and the rise in the pension age.
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General Member Update

- https://centralhall.org/

Maryhill

Rep Melanie Farrow mfarrow@mbht.org.uk
Sub Rep Sharon Bowers sharon-at-acre@outlook.com /

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of living crisis affecting members participants and member organisations' costs
- Anti-social behaviour still an issue within the ward. There are ongoing discussions with organisations in the ward on how best to try tackle this.
- Quad bikes and dirt bikes still an issue. People are driving them with their faces covered to hide their identity.
- There has been a spike in people breaking into buildings and shops. The hub was one of the victims of break into due to fire and water damage the building had to close throughout the summer holidays having a significant impact on services.

Cost-of-Living Impacts

- The cost- of- living crisis remains to be a concern to families and to the organisations giving out food due to rising numbers in people needing food.
- It is a concern too for member organisations, like Maryhill Burgh Halls, who are fundraising to help with increased costs.
- Members have noted that summer clubs and programmes were noticeably busier this year.

General Update

Acre Community Hall https://www.facebook.com/AcreCommunityHall
https://twitter.com/HallAcre

- Acre community hall: Community learning, employability and Thursday club all due to start back after the holidays. They have been operating 3 days per week Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday throughout the summer holidays.

Maryhill Burgh Halls https://www.maryhillburghhalls.org.uk/
https://www.facebook.com/maryhillburghhalls https://twitter.com/maryhill_halls

- Maryhill burgh halls had an extremely successful flag handover in May. They had a 2-day event with many activities for all the community to enjoy and join in and was well attended.
- The George ward collection was extremely well attended each day with over 2500 people visiting to see the exhibition.
- Maryhill burgh halls are trying to raise money due to having to replace their boiler costing £60k. Running costs are an extra £30k higher this year, which is much higher than anticipated it is a very worrying time for Maryhill burgh halls.

Shakespeare Street Youth Club https://www.facebook.com/ShakespeareStYouthClub/

- Shakespeare youth club ran a successful summer holiday programme with numbers being **higher than anticipated**. They had a variety of activities and trips including a residential trip to Lockerbie manor which was successful.

North United Communities https://www.nuconline.co.uk/about/
https://www.facebook.com/Northunitedcommunities

- NUC ran a summer holiday club from St Gregory's chapel due to the damage in the hub this was very successful with many activities enjoyed.
- NUC also had opera on stocking field bridge with Bella the Beithir a big hit - this had lots of different activities for the local community to enjoy including tile making, musicians, face painter's fun characters and much more.

Maryhill Integration Network https://www.facebook.com/maryhillintegrationnetwork
https://maryhillintegration.org.uk/

- MIN have offered citizen advice support, a gardening club, MIN voices and Refugee integration service outreach clinic throughout the summer holidays.
- Maryhill integration networks joyous choir recently performed at spring burn park as part of a variety show.

Partick East/Kelvindale Ward 23

Rep: Jane Cowie jane.cowie@annexecommunities.org.uk and Julie Fox Julie.fox@annexecommunities.org.uk

What are the main issues in the ward?

- Annexe Cost of Living Support Group- more folk attending Annexe, having ran out of food a few days before their next benefits.
- Cooking Skills – there is a lack of knowledge about hot what and how to cook, and not having the right equipment to cook own meals. Also learning the nutritional value of making your own meals.
- Social prescribers from doctors - people coming in with Mental health issues, isolation, grieving, drug addictions, lack of motivation, poor coping strategies, extremely negative mindsets.
- Partick Housing Association has issues with tenants self-disconnecting their energy due to standing charges and their money adviser is supporting 20-25 people a week. PHA has an emergency food and fuel support fund.

Cost-of-Living Impacts

- Annexe Cost of Living Support group is working with Glasgow University students in their Seeds of Change programme where they are trying to work out a system and change policy on the waste of their sandwiches and lunch foods. They have adopted our idea of "Save Our Sandwiches" stickers. No other University is doing this yet, so has an opportunity to have a massive impact on saving landfill and getting food to people that need it!
- This Glasgow University partnership has enabled the COL Support group to receive funding to keep going till the end of September 24.
- Partick Community Growing Project is awaiting the Glasgow University Civic funding result that would support the running of Annexe COL Support group for another year!

General Member Update

Annexe Communities https://www.annexecommunities.org.uk/

- Annexe secured £20k+ from Glasgow University for an exciting local opportunity where 12 interested people will be signed up as Communiversity researchers. Training in research techniques this time the focus being on why people do not exercise even although they know it is good for them. This work is for a year and participants will be reimbursed for their time and efforts.
- Annexe on final push for local signature for their asset transfer of the Annexe building ownership for the community! Pop by Annexe and lend your support/signature …
- Future Summer community events Thornwood Park Thursday 8th August and down at the harbour Saturday 17th August- yes, Ward12 but events ran by Ward23.

Partick Housing Association & Partnerships https://www.partickha.org.uk/community/growing-projects/

- Partick Housing Association ran a children's competition to design on electrical box, inspired by the work already completed with a partnership with SWG3 and the Annexe Dreams and Aspirations group.

- Partick Housing Association _ Beith Grove Garden- thanks to AP funding site has been cleared ready for the next stages of planning, residents' consultation and steering group formation.
- Partnership with Partick Housing Association, Partick Community growing project and Annexe volunteers hosted a summer event in Mansfield Park, which was enjoyed by many until the skies opened towards the end. Going to work together for Halloween and Christmas events. PHA also very successfully partnered with Westfest for a great afternoon for our community on June 22nd.
- Partick Housing, Annexe and Partick Community Council are keeping an eye out for the Bridge opening aimed September. Proposed name doing the rounds is the “Mary Barbour Bridge.” Partick will obviously want to put on an event of some form to welcome Govan.

Victoria Park

Rep post Vacant – contact hello.northwestglasgowvsn@outlook.com

What are the issues in the ward?

- Cost of living - food poverty/insecurity
- Cost of running services against increased demand and running costs
- Youth unemployment
- Anti-social behaviour

Cost-of-Living Impacts

Whiteinch Centre https://www.whiteinchcentre.org.uk/

- Whiteinch Community Centre Community Shop is busier than ever. The community shop is open 2 days a week, Tuesday 13:00-19:00 and Wednesday 13:00-17:00.
- They have 305 active members- this is at capacity until we can accommodate more.
- Have helped over 1000 people get access to low-cost food since we opened in a dedicated space at the end of May.
- They operate on a booking system where members select a time that they would like to attend and then that is their time going forwards. We are looking in to developing an app to make this system more fluid.

DRC Youth Project www.drcyouthproject.co.uk www.twitter.com/drcyouthproject https://drcyouthproject.co.uk/north-west-community-pantry/

- They are seeing increased numbers of young people and families looking to access food support through our shop, the North-West Community Pantry.
- During all their summer DRC sessions, they offer breakfasts and lunches to members. They also ensure there is access to food during club times.
- They have tried to ease the financial burden on families throughout the Summer by offering young people who attend our project access to multiple trips (Almond Valley Farm Park, Valley View Adventure Park, Laser Quest, Flip Out, Edinburgh Dungeons, Camera Obscura, Snow Camp) as part of our summer programme.
- They are also seeing an increase in youth homelessness. They are working intensively with young people on a day-to-day basis who are in crisis, offering ongoing support.
- Another 6 young people have completed Mybnk's Money Works training with support from DRC. This 2-day financial education programme has been essential training for the young people we support, especially given the current financial climate.

General Member Update

DRC Youth Project www.drcyouthproject.co.uk www.twitter.com/drcyouthproject

Pathfinder

- Pathfinder is a unique, holistic employability support service open to young people aged 16-24 in NW Glasgow. On Pathfinder, we find local businesses who are willing to support and mentor young people while on placement (which lasts up to 13 weeks). We establish links with placement providers who offer a route into FT employment or a Modern Apprenticeship when each placement is completed. Young people earn up to £110 p/w on placement (plus travel costs) and access essential training, accreditation & support.
- For more info please contact: gerard@drcyouthproject.co.uk

North-West Community Pantry https://drcyouthproject.co.uk/north-west-community-pantry/

- The North-West Community Pantry continues to be well used by members of the public from all throughout the North-West of Glasgow. The shop currently opens to the public two days per week, with referral support coming in from partners at NHS, Kingsway Community Connections, Glasgow Helps and Glasgow Council on Alcohol. The shop also continues to provide a platform for local young people to gain work experience, with 30 young people having volunteered their time since April. For more info please contact: jamie@drcyouthproject.co.uk

STRIVE Initiative

- Funded by Corra Scotland, our STRIVE initiative aims to facilitate a personal development programme targeting young people who are in danger of substance misuse or partake in the use of drugs and alcohol regularly. It also aims to provide support, advice and guidance on employment, training and career and personal development for the young people. 8 young people are currently participating in weekly 1-2-1 and group work sessions. For more info please contact: info@drcyouthproject.co.uk

Free DRC BMX Sessions

- We run free BMX sessions on Friday nights at the pump track outside Glasgow BMX Centre, with young people being able to borrow a bike and helmet to ride the track for the evening. As well as having access to a loan bike, young people also had the opportunity to receive coaching from Glasgow Life coaches, with 4 last year achieving their Level 1 and 2 BMX certificates as a result. BMS sessions take place on: Fridays 6-8PM Glasgow BMX Centre. For more info please contact: info@drcyouthproject.co.uk

Detached youth work and sessions focussed on what young people want.

- Our team of youth workers are out on the street working together with young people where they often choose to socialise. We continue to target individuals and groups who are associated with anti-social behaviour in the local area.

Whiteinch Centre https://www.whiteinchcentre.org.uk/
Glasgow Eco Trust https://www.glasgowecotrust.org.uk
Movement Park have the following updates to share: https://www.movementpark.org.uk/

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