

# **Area Partnership Report**

## **Anderston, City Centre and Yorkhill**

This report highlights the key pressures facing the third sector in the Anderston, City Centre and Yorkhill area, with particular focus on rising demand, workforce burnout and the growing expectation that charities will absorb unmet need from NHS and social care without sufficient funding. The evidence is clear that local third sector organisations are central to community resilience, but they are being asked to do more with less, and that is no longer sustainable.

## **Context**

The area covers some of Glasgow's most complex demand patterns, including homelessness, poverty, mental health, employability barriers, youth vulnerability and family support needs. Local service reporting has already identified concerns around social welfare, transport, youth crime and anti-social behaviour, while also noting frustration about how funding is allocated and how little of it reaches frontline voluntary groups. At city level, Glasgow's third sector has also described rising work intensity, increased costs, recruitment challenges and posts not being renewed, all of which deepen instability for local services.

## **Main pressures**

Demand continues to rise across the third sector, especially for practical crisis support, emotional wellbeing, advice, advocacy and preventative work. In the City Centre, charities are dealing with visible homelessness and street vulnerability, which brings high-intensity, multi-agency work and frequent referrals that cannot be resolved by one service alone. In Anderston and Yorkhill, there is strong need for community-based support, youth services, family help and health-related prevention, but organisations often lack the staffing and core funding to respond consistently.

## **Workforce burnout**

Burnout is now one of the most serious risks facing the local third sector workforce. Glasgow-based research has highlighted work intensification, funding cuts, rising costs and growing expectations placed on staff who are often required to take on extra duties when posts are lost or not replaced. GCVS also notes the emotional toll of third sector work and the need to recognise compassion fatigue, while Glasgow City HSCP workforce planning has emphasised the importance of supportive management, wellbeing and sustainable staffing.

## **Funding gap**

A major issue is the mismatch between the scale of need and the funding available to meet it. Third sector organisations are routinely expected to absorb demand created by delays or gaps in NHS and social work provision, but this transfer of responsibility is not matched by adequate long-term investment. Short-term grants, restricted funding and highly competitive local pots make it difficult for organisations to plan, retain staff or build the capacity needed to deliver prevention rather than only crisis response.

## **Local implications**

For Anderston, City Centre and Yorkhill, the consequences are visible in service pressure, staff fatigue and reduced resilience across the sector. Organisations are being asked to manage more referrals, more complexity and more coordination work, while also competing for limited funds and navigating uncertainty. If this pattern continues, the area risks losing the very third sector capacity that helps prevent larger and more costly problems in health, housing, employability and community safety.

## **Actions needed**

- Increase multi-year, flexible funding for core staffing and overheads, not just project outputs.
- Align NHS, HSCP, council and third sector planning so that unmet demand is not shifted onto charities without resources.
- Support safe caseloads, supervision and staff recovery time to reduce burnout and turnover.
- Prioritise prevention, early intervention and locality-based service design in the area partnership area.
- Improve transparency in local funding decisions so voluntary organisations can plan with more confidence.

## **Message for the meeting**

“Third sector organisations in Anderston, City Centre and Yorkhill are carrying a disproportionate share of rising social need, yet they remain underfunded, overstretched and increasingly vulnerable to burnout. Without sustainable investment and better cross-sector planning, the area will continue to rely on goodwill rather than a properly resourced community support system.”

## **Closing point**

The area partnership has an opportunity to make a clear case that the third sector is not an optional extra but a core part of the local support infrastructure. That case is strongest when linked to practical evidence: rising demand, workforce strain, unmet need and the clear cost of underinvestment.