

CVS Network Annual Conference

The Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld

1 and 2 October 2008

BETTER relationships
results

Demonstrating how CVS are achieving ever better results
through developing a range of relationships

INTRODUCTION

Our 2007 Conference took place some five months after the elections which resulted in a new Scottish Government. At the time of last year's Conference it would be fair to say that the direction, policies and priorities of the new Government were still emerging. With reference to individual CVS and the CVS Network there was still a degree of uncertainty as to how the new Government would view us and the wider Third Sector.

One year on and haven't things changed? While some of the detail has still to be filled in, the direction of travel is becoming much clearer. At a local level the delivery of services, and the prioritising of resources to deliver those services, are to be left to Councils working together with Community Planning Partners. The removal of budget ring-fencing and Single Outcome Agreements are practical examples of this new approach.

With regard to the wider Third Sector, Ministers have, on many occasions, made reference to the importance of the sector in contributing to the Government's objectives. Resources have been allocated to help the Third Sector to prepare for these new challenges. Our Sector needs to rise to the challenge and demonstrate that we're up for it – we have work to do.

So what about CVS? Well, the Government has shown belief in us by significantly increasing its investment in CVS and the Thrive and Connect agenda. Of equal importance is the policy shift towards Localism, Community Planning and an Enterprising Third Sector – the very issues which we are all engaged with on a day-to-day basis.

We need to respond to the changes that are underway and see those changes as opportunities, not only for CVS, but for a thriving Third Sector – indeed, many of us have already begun. CVS, through working better together, and through building on our existing relationships with other Third Sector organisations and the wider public sector, undoubtedly have much to contribute to this new agenda and can deliver better results.

We have already made a strong start. This year's conference is designed to assist the process of change and we look forward to seeing you, hearing from you, and building the momentum for the forthcoming years.

DAY 1: 01/10/08

Day 2 of the conference is open to delegates from CVS only and the agenda for that day is contained in a separate pdf... [Download here>>>](#)

- 9.30 – 10.30 **Registration**
- 10.30 **Welcome**
Shulah Allan, Chief Executive, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council
- Setting the Scene**
- 11.00 **Reflections on 30 years voluntary sector experience**
Alastair McIntosh
- 11.30 **COFFEE**
- 12.00 **Linked-in Localism**
Paul White, Director of Networks, SCVO
- 12.30 **Panel and Q&A**
- 13.00 **LUNCH**
- 14.00 – 17.00 **Better relationships, better results**
- Workshops**
Choose two from choices 1-8
- 15.45 – 17.00 **Parallel session for CVS Board members**

Workshop A – 14.00 – 15.15

15.15 – 15.45 coffees served in rooms

Workshop B – 15.45 – 17.00

Workshop Choices

CHOOSE TWO

(Each workshop runs twice)

The purpose of each workshop is to allow delegates from the CVS Network and beyond to learn and to share experience from each other. At the end of each workshop all delegates and presenters will be asked to complete a pro-forma outlining what action they will be taking as a result of the workshop. These will then be sent out to each participant as a reminder following the conference.

1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

A 14.00 – 15.15; B 15.45 – 17.00

Gavin Whitefield SOLACE, Gordon Thomson East Dunbartonshire Partnership

Gavin Whitefield and Gordon Thomson will share their experience. The purpose of the workshop is to explore how different models can enhance good relationships with local councils. Delegates are invited to listen to the short input from speakers, then to discuss their experiences, using the opportunity to learn from colleagues.

2. HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

A: 14.00 – 15.15; B: 15.45 – 17.00

Elsbeth Gracey, CHEX

Elsbeth will give a short presentation on Healthy Communities: Meeting the Shared Challenge. Voluntary Health Scotland will also be in attendance. The purpose of the workshop is to share the experience of achieving better results through developing better relationships in the field of health.

3. WORKING WITH OSCR

A: 14.00 – 15.15; B: 15.45 – 17.00

Steve Kent, EVOC

Steve will give a short presentation on the training programme being delivered across Scotland. There will then be time to explore how the relationship between OSCR and the CVS Network is working, how it could be improved, and the impact OSCR is having at local level.

EQUALITIES IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Developing strategic relationships at national and local levels

A 14.00 – 15.15; B 15.45 – 17.00

Nancy Fancott, SCVO

Nancy will give a short presentation on the current trends in equalities policy and who is driving them; followed by an opportunity to discuss strategies for engagement at both national and local levels. The discussion will encourage the sharing of best practice in equalities policy and support amongst CVS, challenge stereotypes and discuss issues, particularly the rural challenges that CVS face in building relationships with different disadvantaged communities. We hope to conclude with a commitment from each CVS to take practical steps to improve those relationships and practice; as well as suggestions for practical steps SCVO can take to support this work.

5. A LOCAL AGENDA FOR NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

A 14.00 – 15.15; B 15.45 – 17.00

Speaker TBC (from SCVO)

With the move towards localism the environment is changing for national organisations that deliver local projects. This workshop will offer an opportunity for national organisations to engage with CVS and explore how they can input to local SOAs alongside the local voluntary sector.

6. WIDENING THE REACH OF CVS

A 14.00 – 15.15; B 15.45 – 17.00

Richard Duffner, Voluntary Action West Lothian

Andy McCann, George McNeil & Craig Russell – North Lanarkshire Pathfinder

Richard will share the approach they have taken to improve engagement of the voluntary sector across

West Lothian. The development officers from North Lanarkshire Pathfinder Project will describe their work in widening the reach of the CVS and VC.

7. INVOLVING CVS IN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

A 14.00 – 15.15; B 15.45 – 17.00

Helen Macneil, GCVS

Following a short input from Glasgow CVS and a rural CVS about their work both as a social enterprise and with local organisations, CVS will explore their experience of working in the social enterprise field and look at the recommendations coming out of Government about how this area of work will develop.

Boards' Session 15.45 – 17.00

Open to CVS Board members only. The purpose of the session is to allow CVS Board members to discuss issues of relevance to them. Topics can be raised on the day, but if any board members wish to ensure their issue is covered they can contact Harry Whiteside prior to the event.

harrywhiteside@tiscali.co.uk

17.00 – 18.00

Chairs and scribes will meet to pull together feedback that will be presented on day 2.

17.00 – 18.00

Fringe Sessions – sign up at registration.

- CVS are invited to post up an issue that they wish to discuss with CVS colleagues. A room will be allocated for each topic, (or you can arrange to meet in the bar!). Some CVS have already expressed an interest in discussing experience of engagement in SOAs.
- Quality Scotland will host a session to introduce CVS to the Pathways Quality Tool, giving CVS a chance to try it out and ask questions ahead of tomorrow's Quality Matters seminar.
- Children in Need – a sneak preview of new application process
- SVA Team will use this time to progress different strands.

[Download booking form >>>](#)

