



Nithsdale CVS Annual Report 2007



Chairman's Report 2007

Dear Members and Supporters of Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service

In preparing this years Chairman's Report I noted Ian McAllister's Chairman's report for 2003 which reflected that the year had seen NCVS with three Directors! Ian's report emphasised to me the importance of having a stable and consistent presence both on the Volunteer Board but also the Director and key staff. It is this stability that allows relationships and trust to be built with partner agencies and funders that enhances the standing of NCVS. This stability and consistency also allows NCVS to "weather the storms" and deal with the "challenges" that life in the voluntary sector presents. Since 2003 we have been very fortunate to see a stable Board membership and Directorship.



Sam Kerr and Robert Menzies receiving their Ian McAllister Bursary Awards

NCVS acknowledge permission by Loreburn to use this photo

As a lasting recognition of Ian's own commitment to the voluntary sector NCVS worked closely with Loreburn Housing Association, SFHA (the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations) and Ian's family to launch an annual young persons bursary scheme. The Ian McAllister Bursary Award is aimed at young people who have demonstrated their personal commitment to their local community and/or the voluntary sector. Incidentally Loreburn Housing Association celebrated its 25th anniversary this year. Those of you with very long memories will know that Loreburn was originally founded by an enlightened set of volunteers at NCVS.

2007 saw the end of SOSNET2 - the European Funded South of Scotland Network project which involved the four CVS of Dumfries & Galloway working with our CVS colleagues in the Borders. With the ending of SOSNET all CVS lost funding for worker posts.

The planned NCVS Friars Vennel premises has now been transformed with extensive external and internal works. We are about to enter the internal "fitting out" stage which, when complete will allow us and our existing 'tenant' organisations to take up residence. This work is a lasting tribute to all those volunteers and staff that have helped raise funds over the years of which the former Charity Shop played a big part.

I hope that the year ahead will see a stable, thriving and happy NCVS continuing to develop and deliver services throughout Nithsdale. A highlight for 2008 will be the NCVS move to the Friars Vennel premises.

I wish you all good health and would like to say thank you to all staff, members, partner agencies and funders for their continued support.

Andy Todman
Chair

Executive Committee 06/07

Andy Todman (Chair)
Heather Hall (Vice Chair)
Robin Wishart
(Company Secretary)*
Hector Campbell (Honorary President)*

Sheila Campbell
Tom Featherstone
Stacie Geddes
Trina Geddes
Councillor Beth Gordon*
Heather Hall
Morag Halliday
Robert Howard
Corinna Penrose
Rev. David Taylor

* Non-voting positions

Projects based at NCVS during 06/07

- Big Issue
- Volunteer Action D & G
- D & G Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme
- Solway Credit Union
- Walking Works Project—Dumfries
- Walking Works Project—Mid & Upper Nithsdale
- Community Learning & Development Service
- Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Association

Directors Report



Once again this has been a challenging year for Nithsdale CVS in terms of striking the right balance between growing the organisation whilst ensuring that we have the capacity to deliver. Our core business as an

intermediary organisation providing support for the community & voluntary sector in Nithsdale remains the same. However we now increasingly deliver services and projects as well. Lack of sufficient core funding means it will be our ability to develop and deliver services and projects that will assist the sustainability of NCVS over the longer term.

Of course NCVS is not the only voluntary sector organisation faced with funding issues and staffing capacity. Many of our member organisations are in the same position. Looking forward this situation does not look like improving with the current financial constraints facing the local authority and the ending of Quality of Life, Working For Families, Community Regeneration Fund and ERDF/ESF grants. This means many voluntary sector projects will be ending or will struggle to be sustainable.

However on a more positive note in 2006-7 we were able to continue and expand the Nithsdale Access to Work Project and introduce a new Walking Works Project for Mid & Upper Nithsdale.

Partnership working with community planning colleagues also continues to strengthen. Along with Nithsdale Local Health Partnership and D & G Council Economic Regeneration Unit we secured funding to progress work on the Food Initiative.

Working with community activists and partner agencies we secured funding to commission consultants that will assist with further work on developing an Upper Nithsdale Recycling Centre.

We were also part of the Grow Your Own Project 'rescue package' that ensured that this intermediate labour market project didn't fail when it's lead voluntary sector agency, One Plus, went into receivership.

This year also saw a landmark for NCVS — we secured our first competitively tendered contract! This was to provide support to the new Community Planning Training Group but as the saying goes, 'mighty oaks from little acorns grow'. Procurement and contracting are now looming large on the voluntary sector landscape and we all need to be ready for this shift.

Finally my thanks go to; the NCVS Executive Committee; the many agencies who work in partnership with NCVS, our valued NCVS membership, our funders, and finally the staff and volunteers who make working for NCVS such a positive experience.

Karen Lewis — Director

Nithsdale Access to Work Project



The Project worked with 30 clients (Economic Regeneration & Quality of Life funding) throughout Nithsdale and 25 clients (Working for Families funding) in Upper Nithsdale and North West Dumfries.

The project provides a range of practical learning sessions, including driving lessons and a driving test. 80% of the 2006-7 clients have now moved into employment or further training.

You may have noticed in the national media that a pilot scheme has started in Aberdeenshire to have the Arrive Alive and Road Safety Awareness presentations delivered in schools. I am pleased to say that we have already been delivering both to all our clients for the past 4 years with our partners the Driving Standards Agency (Arrive Alive) and Dumfries and Galloway Police.

Additional funding has been secured for 2007-8 to enable another 50 unemployed people in Nithsdale to be supported by the project.

During the year I have also completed :-
Tier 1 Inter-Agency Child Protection Training.
Tier 2 Inter-Agency Child Protection Training.
Certificated Mental Health First Aid Course.

Ronnie Johnstone — Project Co-ordinator

Work with Community Groups in Nithsdale during 2006-7

As usual NCVS was as busy as ever assisting a range of community groups in Nithsdale. The assistance provided included:

- advice about the most suitable legal structure for groups
- advice about getting charitable status
- identifying funding sources
- completing funding applications
- providing a range of training

In total:

- 25 new community groups were assisted
- 75 existing groups were supported
- 3 community surveys/development plans were completed
- 348 development support sessions were provided
- 10 training workshops were delivered (attended by 143 people)
- £185,000 of funding was secured for community groups

NCVS Office

Another busy year in the NCVS office in which I achieved NVQ Level IV in Management.



The **NCVS Homepoint Project** continues to be popular providing a weekly private sector accommodation list and continues to be a valued resource. Over 130 lists are e-mailed weekly to public access points across the region, as well as an average of 50 hard copies distributed from the NCVS office weekly.

The **Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme** continues to develop across the region. In 2006/7 the scheme assisted 51 households (76 people) on low incomes who were in housing need but unable to access social housing, obtain private sector tenancies. On average around 38 enquiries were received each month regarding the scheme. This scheme covers the whole of Dumfries and Galloway and many useful links have been made with local landlords across the region with landlords themselves referring appropriate people to the scheme.

37 **disclosure checks** were carried out for community and voluntary organisations registered with NCVS in 2006/2007.

The NCVS **Charities Fayre** took place at the Loreburn Hall in November and was supported by more than 40 voluntary organisations to raise funds to assist with their own activities during 2006/7. Numbers through the door were similar to 2005 although the number of organisations taking up stalls showed a slight decrease. This is possibly due to other groups now holding fund raising events in their own right.

Suzanne Lafferty - NCVS Administrator/Deposit Guarantee Scheme Co-ordinator



Many thanks to all our volunteers, trainees and placements who have helped in the NCVS Office. Your help during the last year is very much appreciated. Thanks also go to everyone who assisted in our annual Charities Fayre (pictured above)

Walking Works Project -Mid and Upper Nithsdale



The beginning of November 2006 was the start of my new post to set up and promote health walks in Mid and Upper Nithsdale, concentrating on Sanquhar, Kirkconnel and Thornhill. The first few months were an exciting and hectic round of meeting new people, risk assessing walks, recruiting and training walk leader volunteers and raising awareness of the health benefits and fun that people get from short, safe, local, organised walks. I also attended several training days including Mental Health First Aid, Motivating Behaviour Change and several with Volunteer Action on recruiting and motivating volunteers.

With help from the NCH Family Project, Hillview Leisure Centre staff and the Project Steering Group we had our first walk on 5th February 2007. This is now a regular Monday morning walk from the Miners Memorial Hall in Kirkconnel. More people are now joining this weekly walk which has proved to be a solid start to expanding the Project in 2007-8.

Graham Banks - Project Co-ordinator

Walking Works Project- Dumfries



The Walking Works Project was officially launched on Friday 16th June 2006 with 42 people taking part in two short health walks from Dumfries Town Centre and North West Resource Centre. Walkers included Russell Brown M.P, Elaine Murray M.S.P, two footballers from Queen of the South and members of NCVS Executive Committee.

To date over 600 walks have been walked from different venues in Dumfries Town Centre, Lochside and Lincluden. Four walks take place each week averaging a total of 20 walkers with 48 walkers and 18 trained volunteer Walk Leaders registered with the project. Several walkers and walk leaders have been rewarded with certificates marking their participation in 25 and even 50 led health walks.

During 2006-7 we also visited Mabie Forest and took part in walks led by the Recreation Ranger which is something we all thoroughly enjoyed.

As Project Co-ordinator I have attended several training days including Mental Health First Aid, Motivating Behaviour Change and several with Volunteer Action on recruiting and motivating volunteers.

Vicki Leigh - Project Co-ordinator

NCVS Staff during 06/07

Karen Lewis
Director

Janice Cowan
Community Worker (SoSNET)

Suzanne Lafferty
Administrator
Rent Deposit Guarantee Co-ordinator

Carol Cruickshank
Office Support Worker

Ian Dyer
CPTSG Admin Support

Ronnie Johnstone
Access to Work Project Co-ordinator

Vicki Leigh
Walking Works Project Co-ordinator
Dumfries

Graham Banks
Mid & UN Walking Works
Project Co-ordinator

Maureen Pagan
Office Cleaner

Volunteers and Trainees 06/07

Volunteers

Will Roberts

Placements

Anne Hughes, Rachel McCabe

Walking Works Volunteers Nithsdale

Valerie Beattie, Janis Beggs,
Val Black, Tizi Irving
Jean Johnston, Carole McCann,
David McPherson, Margaret Mullett,
And Irene Shaw.

Walking Works Volunteers Mid & Upper Nithsdale

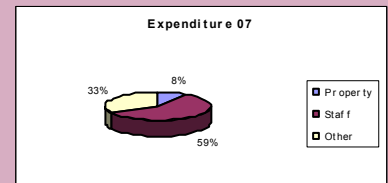
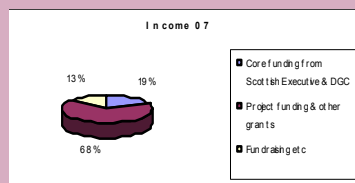
Hughie McVie, Billy Stevenson
John MacSorley, Phil Terry
Eunice Laidlaw, Linda Airley

Snapshot of key statistics for 2006/07

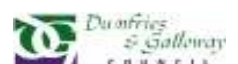
Accommodation info & basic housing advice	552
Assistance to voluntary organisations	215
Big Issue	11,058
Rent deposit guarantee scheme enquiries	456
General advice	360
Office services to the general public	389
Reception duties for partner organisations	1088
Voluntary organisations use of NCVS resources	405
Signposting to another agency	329

NCVS Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	2007	2006
INCOME		
Core funding from Scottish Executive & DGC	41,041	39,406
Project funding & other grants	142,293	131,400
Fundraising etc	28,085	54,299
Total Income	211,419	225,105
EXPENDITURE		
Property	17,173	20,427
Staff	123,037	87,550
Other	69,252	56,867
Total Expenditure	209,462	164,844
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	£1,957	£60,261
Funds brought forward	£72,339	£12,078
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£74,296	£72,339
Represented by		
Restricted funds	£988	£16,959
Development Fund	£50,000	£30,000
General Fund	£23,308	£25,380



Nithsdale CVS, Holywood Building, Old Assembly Close, Irish Street, Dumfries. DG1 2PH
Tel: 01387 269161 Fax: 01387 269026 Email: info@ncvs.org.uk Web: www.ncvs.org.uk
A company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland no: 81362 Charity no: SC008201



Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service is a member of the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, Dumfries and Galloway Federation of Councils of Voluntary Service and the South of Scotland Network of Councils of Voluntary Service.

We receive funding from the Scottish Executive, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the European Regional Development Fund.