



Nithsdale CVS Annual Report 2008/9



Chairman's Report 2008/9

Dear Members and Supporters of Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service

The 2008/09 period has been full of activity on a number of fronts.

Firstly, our new premises in Friars Vennel. At the NCVS Executive Committee meeting in March 09 the Board agreed to instruct Atlas Maintenance (Scotland) Ltd as contractors to progress the renovations. A late summer 2009 move in date is still on the cards. While the progress on the Friars Vennel property has not been as quick as hoped, it will be worth the wait.

Secondly, 'the allotment' went live after many months of hard work and preparation. This partnership project has been grown from the original research work carried out in North West Dumfries. In addition to its health and wellbeing outcomes, this project is giving NCVS valuable Social Enterprise experience for other potential developments.

Thirdly, a great deal of work has been around the type of structure needed for the "Interface" in the post 1 April 2011 funding landscape. This has involved discussion and strategy work with partner organisations to evolve an acceptable structure that meets the needs of the Scottish Government and Community Planning Partners but also NCVS and its members.

The period ahead will be even more challenging. However NCVS has the strength, will and flexibility to ensure its long term sustainability for the continued benefit of the communities we serve. The Vennel property will become a focus for this community action.

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 08/09

Andy Todman (Chair)
Steven Schwartz
(Vice Chair)
Sheila Campbell (Treasurer)
Tom Featherstone
Trina Geddes
Beth Gordon
Morag Halliday
Scott Carroll
Councillor Andrew Wood*
Robin Wishart *
(Company Secretary)
Hector Campbell *
(Honorary President)

Resignations in 07-08

Sitki Nalci
Corinna Penrose
*Non-voting positions



This year we continued to develop and deliver successful partnership projects that make a real difference in peoples lives and communities.

We continued with our core work of assisting, supporting and advising community groups to grow capacity in the voluntary sector.

We assisted in levering in external funding to the region which has a local economic impact and represented the interests of the sector at a local, regional and national level.

All of which contributed to the development of sustainable communities that are able to source solutions to address their needs.

Real concerns from our membership emerged this year about the impact of the funding landscape in the future and the increasing move towards a commissioning model of funding by statutory agencies.

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 the staff and volunteers who make working for NCVS such a positive experience.

Karen Lewis -Director

Projects based with NCVS during 08/09

- Big Issue
- Volunteer Action D & G
- D & G Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme
- Solway Credit Union
- Walking Works Project—Dumfries & Lower Nithsdale
- Walking Works Project—Mid & Upper Nithsdale
- Community Learning & Development Service
- NW Dumfries Access to Work Project
- Nithsdale Access to Work Project



the allotment
 8 Great King Street
 Dumfries
 Mon to Fri 9.30am-5pm



the allotment is an NCVS social enterprise trading subsidiary. It is a non-profit distributing greengrocers that aims to increase consumption of fruit and vegetables within households experiencing health inequalities. We are supported by our NHS partners—Nithsdale Health Improvement Team.

In our first year, the team of employees and volunteers have signed up 459 members (including over 100 discount customers), started a weekly stall at the D.G.R.I every Wednesday and encouraged the uptake and use of Healthy Start Vouchers and NHS Vitamins amongst low income families with young children.

We continue to encourage people to eat more fruit and vegetables by providing good quality, affordable priced produce from an accessible town centre location. At the same time, volunteers gain workplace experience and increase their employability skills.

Greg Clark — Shop Manager 08-09

Access to Work Projects

NCVS delivered 2 Access to Work Projects during 2008/9. The projects worked with 40 clients throughout Nithsdale.



The Projects provided a range of practical learning sessions, including driving lessons and driving tests, for unemployed people who find lack of transport a barrier to accessing employment or job related training.

Key statistics from 2008/9:

- 27 moved into sustained employment
- 13 moved into further education/volunteering
- 39 obtained a 3yr First Aid Certificate
- 35 completed road safety awareness sessions
- 35 completed car maintenance workshops
- 27 completed a personal development module
- 34 passed Theory & Hazard Test
- 24 obtained a full driving licence

The success of the Projects depends on partnership working with a range of agencies. We have been recognised by the Scottish Centre for Regeneration as an exemplar study of Community Planning in action.

Ronnie Johnstone — Projects Co-ordinator

NCVS Information and Training

We support our member organisations in relation to governance, reporting to their regulatory bodies, sharing of information, sourcing and securing funding and facilitating capacity building training.

NCVS / NLRP Information Day 2008

The Information Day 2008 saw 60 representatives from organisations and groups in Nithsdale accessing information on funding opportunities from the 20 funders attending and also participated in workshops on Disclosures, Making Successful Funding Applications, Data Protection and Applying and Sustaining Charitable Status.

Nithsdale Federation of Halls

The Federation of Halls now has 35 member Village Halls and Community Centres across Nithsdale. Funding was secured from Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide a free training programme for Committee Members of Halls and Centres with over 40 participants. A Networking Event was also held for Halls and Centres.

Nithsdale Voluntary Sector Forum

November 2008 saw the formation of the Nithsdale Voluntary Sector Forum. The Forum allows organisations to discuss and share issues affecting the sector and to enable participation in the Community Planning process.

Dumfries & Galloway Compact

2008 saw the launch of the Compact and NCVS co-delivered an awareness raising event for statutory and voluntary organisations in Nithsdale.

Training delivered in 08-09

Committee Skills, Making Successful Funding Applications, Preparing Accounts for OSCR, Managing Community Events.

Katrina Branney—Information & Training Advisor



Key statistics for 08-09

- 10 new community groups were assisted
- 80 existing groups were supported
- 150 development support/ funder finder sessions were provided
- 8 training workshops were delivered (attended by 96 people)
- £132,000 of funding was secured for community groups

Administration & Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme



Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme continues to develop across the region. In 2008/9 the scheme assisted 92 households (160 people) on low incomes who were in housing need but unable to access social housing, obtain private sector tenancies. On average around 29 enquiries were received each month regarding the scheme. This scheme covers the whole of Dumfries and Galloway.

Disclosure checks - 57 were carried out for community and voluntary organisations registered with NCVS in 2008/9.

Independent examination of accounts - 8 voluntary organisations came to NCVS to have their accounts independently examined.

*Suzanne Lafferty - NCVS P/T Administrator/
P/T Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme Co-ordinator*

NCVS Office & Reception

Weekly Accommodation Information Service

continues to be popular providing available private sector accommodation information for those in housing need. Over 165 information lists are e-mailed weekly to public access points across the region, as well as an copies picked up from the NCVS office. We had over 150 private tenancies advertised each week which is an increase again on last year.

Big Issue We also continue to support the Big Issue vendors as the regional registration and distribution centre. The Big issue was set up in 1991 to give homeless people a chance to make an income to cover the additional cost of living in temporary accommodation where they often have limited cooking and laundry facilities. This means they have to pay for takeaways and launderettes etc.

NCVS Charities Fayre took place at our new location of DG One on 1st November. All 60 tables were booked by voluntary organisations looking to raise funds to carry out their community activities. Feedback was good about the location but many groups would have preferred at date nearer to Christmas.



Jeanette Murray — NCVS Office Support Worker

Many thanks to all our volunteers and placements who have helped in the NCVS Office during 2008/09. 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 & Upper Nithsdale



There are now 4 walks in Kirkconnel & Moniaive as well as 2 in Thornhill (1 an evening walk). We have 12 trained and qualified Volunteer Walk Leaders who help organise and lead the walks.

This year:

33 walk routes have been risked assessed

142 walks have taken place.

1140 walkers have participated

A walkers experience:

'Last year at an appointment with my doctor he advised me to get out and about in the fresh air, exercise and socialise a bit more to make me feel better, improve my health and well being.

I saw an advert for the Walking Works Project in Upper Nithsdale. I have participated in numerous walks and now feel healthier, fitter and made many new friends. My doctor is pleased with my health, as I am more agile and feeling good about myself.

I definitely will keep attending walks for as long as I am able to do so and hope the Project continues for as long as possible'. **A Happy Walker**

Graham Banks — Project Co-ordinator 08-09

Walking Works Project Dumfries & Lower Nithsdale

Since starting in post I have been doing work to promote the Project by attending a variety of different group meetings including the Elderly Forum, Beat Babies, Breast Feeding Groups, and ante natal classes to talk about the many different benefits of taking part in Health Walks.

I have worked with NHS staff to promote a Mother & Baby walk which will be starting in Dumfries and investigating the demand for a short health walk for woman during their ante natal period.

There are now 18 active trained Volunteer Walk Leaders who help organise and run the existing 7 weekly health walks in the Dumfries area and NW Dumfries. New walks have also been launched in New Abbey and Southernness.

This year:

32 walk routes have been risk assessed

120 walks have taken place

912 walkers have participated.

Vicky Henshall - Project Co-ordinator 08-09

NCVS Staff during 08/09

Karen Lewis
Director

Suzanne Lafferty
Administrator

Rent Deposit Guarantee Co-ordinator

Jeanette Murray
Office Support Worker

Katrina Branney
Information & Training Advisor

Ronnie Johnstone
Access to Work Projects Co-ordinator

**Vicki Leigh/Vicky Henshall/
Graham Banks**
Walking Works Co-ordinators

Snapshot of key statistics for 2008/09

Accommodation info & basic housing advice	2396
Assistance to voluntary organisations	235
Big Issue	9157
Rent deposit guarantee scheme enquiries	1006
General advice	329
Office services provided	294
Reception duties for partner organisations	1457
Voluntary organisations use of NCVS resources	473
Signposting to other agencies	476

Volunteers during 08/09

Office Volunteers

Karen Rennie
Sara Astley

Walking Works Volunteers

Janis Beggs, Valerie Black, Valarie Beattie, Jean Johnston, Carole McCann, David McPherson, Margaret Mullett, Irene Shaw, Lynn Bryson, David Hamilton, Elizabeth Irving, Joan Kerr, Marion Kirkpatrick, Maria Mosby, Margaret Stewart, Joanne Toohey, Nancy Wood, Robert Cochrane, Hughie McVie, Billy Stevenson, John MacSorley, Phil Terry, Eunice Laidlaw, Linda Airley, Colin Thomson, Gordon Bennet, Dorothy Muirhead, Duncan Sanderson, Maxwell McKenzie, Stuart Waggot, Linda McDonald, Helen Maxwell

Allotment Volunteers

Kim Adamson, Nicola Gibson, Grazia Hannay, Marcus Howatson, Margaret Lochrie, Lisa McMinn, Ross McNaught, Toni Moore, Will Roberts

NCVS Summary Income and Expenditure Account

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
INCOME		
Core funding from Scottish Executive & DGC	46,895	40,531
Project funding & other grants	183,326	249,264
Fundraising etc	33,929	34,530
Total Income	<u>264,150</u>	<u>324,325</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Property	21,423	16,991
Staff	128,607	151,475
Other	132,917	75,723
Total Expenditure	<u>282,947</u>	<u>244,189</u>
SURPLUS FOR YEAR		
Funds brought forward	-18,797	80136
	<u>£154,432</u>	<u>£74,296</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>£135,635</u>	<u>£154,432</u>
Represented by		
Restricted funds	£22,658	£34,618
Development Fund	£80,000	£80,000
General Fund	<u>£32,977</u>	<u>£39,814</u>

