



Nithsdale CVS Annual Report 2008



Chairman's Report 2008

Dear Members and Supporters of Nithsdale Council of Voluntary Service



The 2007/08 period has seen advances in the refurbishment of our Friars Vennel property albeit at a slower pace than we would have liked. The "fitting out" work detailed in my last report has still not begun, but we now have the systems and consultants in place to drive the project forward to completion. We are now hoping to move in during July or August 2009. The property will give us disabled access, private interview rooms, a "state of the art" public access meeting room and training room facilities as well as improved IT systems infra structure and much needed storage space.

On the funding front, the Scottish Government has made proposals to significantly change the way the CVS Network is funded in the future. The funding period 2008 to 2011 will be the last time the funding is done in the way it has been. Post 2011 will be a totally new funding landscape. The Executive Committee and staff will be working on plans to ensure the long term future of NCVS post 2011.

The period saw the Concordat and the associated Indicators agreed between local authorities and the Scottish Government. This will have an impact on the Third Sector in Dumfries & Galloway. We need to ensure that the Third Sector engages with the development of the Single Outcome Agreement.

The final payment from the European Funded SOSNET 2 project was received which has brought closure on this major multi CVS project.

The CVS National Council Steering Group was established as a result of decisions taken at the CVS Conference 2007. It is hoped this will improve CVS representation at a strategic level and give access to Scottish Government processes affecting the Third Sector.

During November, Heather Hall the Vice Chair resigned owing to family commitments after many years of service to NCVS. Heather brought a wealth of experience and knowledge to the Executive Committee and her contribution is greatly missed. On behalf of the Executive Committee I thank Heather for her contribution.

I am very pleased to report that NCVS underwent the Investors In People (IIP) 3 year review and we retained our IIP status.

The period ahead will be challenging, however NCVS has the strength, will and flexibility to improvise, adapt and overcome to ensure its long term sustainability for the continued benefit of the communities we serve.

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 07/08

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

Resignations in 07-08

Heather Hall (Vice Chair)
Stacie Geddes
Robert Howard
Rev. David Taylor

* Non-voting positions

Projects based with NCVS during 07/08

- 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
- Access to Work Projects

Directors Report

2007/8 has been another very busy year at NCVS!



Like many voluntary sector organisations securing funding for our sustainability remains a key issue.

We are the least core funded CVS in Dumfries & Galloway yet Nithsdale area has the highest population, the majority of SIMD data zones and the largest number of voluntary organisations. Our core funding from the Scottish Government and D & G Council does not cover the costs of providing our intermediary work of supporting, advising, assisting, building the capacity of, and representing the issues of the community and voluntary sector in Nithsdale. Increasingly we rely on our other key area of work, the development and delivery of community projects and services, to bring in surplus income which then helps us cover the funding shortfall.

We have seen a large increase in demand for assistance from voluntary organisations this year in relation to Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) reporting requirements. Similarly an increasing amount of NCVS time is taken up in participating in community planning structures and activities. During 2007/8 it has cost NCVS approx £12,000 p.a. in staff time alone to participate in these community planning structures and activities.

This year we have been able to continue to deliver successful partnership projects that make a real difference in peoples lives; to assist community groups and the voluntary sector lever in external funding; and to provide capacity building training. All of which contribute to the development of sustainable communities that are able to source solutions to address identified community needs.

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

Work with Community Groups in Nithsdale during 2007/8

- 15 new community groups were assisted
- 73 existing groups were supported
- 4 community surveys/development plans were completed
- 180 development support sessions were provided
- 10 training workshops were delivered (attended by 126 people)
- £167,000 of funding was secured for community groups
- 70 organisations attended the NCVS Information Day and met with national funders

Access to Work Projects

NCVS delivered 2 Access to Work Projects during 2007/8. The projects worked with 30 clients throughout Nithsdale (funded through DGC Economic Regeneration & Quality of Life grants) and 20 clients in Upper Nithsdale and North West Dumfries (funded by Working for Families grant).



The projects provided a range of practical learning sessions, including driving lessons and a driving test, for unemployed people who found lack of transport a barrier to accessing employment or job related training. Key client statistics from 2007/8:

- 39 moved into sustained employment
- 46 obtained a 3yr First Aid Certificate
- 43 completed road safety awareness sessions
- 43 completed car maintenance workshops
- 35 completed a personal development module
- 43 passed Theory & Hazard Test
- 18 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 Regeneration Centre as an exemplar of community planning in action.

During 2007/8 I attended training on Diversity & Equality Awareness and Working Tax Credits/Child Tax Credits Assessments.

Ronnie Johnstone — Projects Co-ordinator

Community Planning

The Community Planning Training Sub Group (CPTSG) facilitates community learning and development training opportunities for community planning networks to encourage participation in the community planning process. It was my role to support the group and its activities. 603 people participated in training arranged and funded by the CPTSG during 2007/8.



In partnership with the Scottish Community Development Centre the CPTSG also provided seminars. These included looking at providing effective feedback to communities and working collectively to identify outcomes for the community learning and development sector to contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement and Concordat indicators.

I also carried out a mapping exercise of training requirements of community planning networks across Dumfries and Galloway for the CPTSG.

*Katrina Branney—CPTSG Support
(Graduate into Business)*

Administration & Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme



The Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme

continues to develop across the region. In 2007/8 the scheme assisted 63 households (119 people) on low incomes who were in housing need but unable to access social housing, obtain private sector tenancies. On average around 20 enquiries were received each month regarding the scheme. This scheme covers the whole of Dumfries and Galloway.

Disclosure checks - 67 were carried out for community and voluntary organisations registered with NCVS in 2007/8.

Independent examination of accounts - 4 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 158 lists were e-mailed weekly to public access points across the region, as well as an average of 30 hard copies distributed from the NCVS office. We had over 140 private tenancies advertised each week which is a 50% increase on last year.

Big Issue We also continue to support the Big Issue vendors as the regional registration and distribution centre. Many of us walk past Big Issue vendors without really thinking about their lives and the complex issues that have led them to experiencing homelessness.

NCVS Charities Fayre took place at the Loreburn Hall in November and was supported by more than 40 voluntary organisations raising funds to assist with providing their own activities during 2007/8.



Jeanette Murray - NCVS Office Support Worker



Walking Works Project - Mid & Upper Nithsdale



The project has stepped up the pace this year as it spreads down the Nith valley.

7 enthusiastic and reliable Volunteer Walk Leaders have helped organise and run 4 weekly walks, including the original Kirkconnel walk, 2 in Thornhill and a new addition in Moniaive. The Breathe Easy Group walk in Mabie Forest helped to launch the Physical Activity Strategy on 2nd July.

Linking with Health Centres and health professionals, partner organisations and local groups has helped to spread the message to potential health walkers and we had 130 walks with a total of 1000 walkers during the last year.

The Walk Leaders look smart with their new outdoor gear embroidered with the project logo, and the t-shirts, hats and pedometers are popular with the walkers.

The weather has often been wet, but it hasn't dampened spirits! Good turn-outs and regular exercise in friendly company have made 2007/8 a successful year.

Graham Banks - Project Co-ordinator

Walking Works Project - Dumfries



During 2007/8 130 walks took place with a total of 900 walkers.

There are 7 active trained Volunteer Walk Leaders who help organise and run the 4 weekly health walks which take place in Dumfries Town Centre as well as Lochside and Lincluden. There are now 25 risk assessed short walk routes available in these areas.

Several of our walkers have been rewarded with certificates marking their participation in 25 and even 50 health walks. A GP referral pack has been developed and distributed among the local practices.

This year we also took part in walks led by the Forest Commission Recreation Ranger Service and participated in the launch event of the Physical Activity Strategy.

During 2007/8 I completed the Paths to Health Cascade Trainer certificate and I also attended Diversity And Equality Awareness training.

Vicki Leigh - Project Co-ordinator

Many thanks to all our volunteers and placements who have helped in the NCVS Office during 2007/8. Your help during the last year is very much appreciated. Thanks also go to everyone who assisted in our annual Charities Fayre (pictured above)

NCVS Staff during 07/08

Karen Lewis
Director

Suzanne Lafferty
Administrator
Rent Deposit Guarantee Co-ordinator

Jeanette Murray
Office Support Worker

Katrina Branney
CPTSG Admin Support

Ronnie Johnstone
Access to Work Projects Co-ordinator

Vicki Leigh
Walking Works Project Co-ordinator
Dumfries

Graham Banks
Walking Works Co-ordinator
Mid & Upper Nithsdale

Maureen Pagan
Office Cleaner

Volunteers and Trainees 07/08

Volunteers

Will Roberts

Placements

Kelly Ross

Walking Works Volunteers Dumfries

Janis Beggs, Val Black, Jean Johnston, Carole McCann, David McPherson,
Margaret Mullett, Irene Shaw.

Walking Works Volunteers Mid & Upper Nithsdale

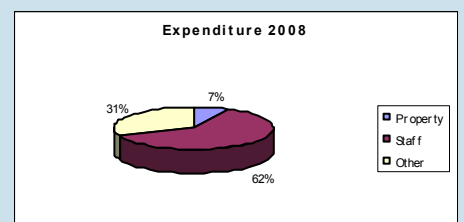
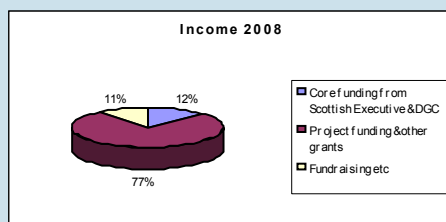
Hughie McVie, Billy Stevenson
John MacSorley, Phil Terry
Eunice Laidlaw, Linda Airley,
Colin Thomson

Snapshot of key statistics for 2007/08

| | |
|---|--------|
| Accommodation info & basic housing advice | 1196 |
| Assistance to voluntary organisations | 235 |
| Big Issue | 10,449 |
| Rent deposit guarantee scheme enquiries | 1006 |
| General advice | 329 |
| Office services provided | 272 |
| Reception duties for partner organisations | 1180 |
| Voluntary organisations use of NCVS resources | 460 |
| Signposting to other agencies | 346 |

NCVS Summary Income and Expenditure Account

| | <u>2008</u> | <u>2007</u> |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Core funding from Scottish Executive & DGC | 40,531 | 41,041 |
| Project funding & other grants | 249,264 | 142,293 |
| Fundraising etc | 34,530 | 28,085 |
| Total Income | 324,325 | 211,419 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Property | 16,991 | 17,173 |
| Staff | 151,475 | 123,037 |
| Other | 75,723 | 69,252 |
| Total Expenditure | 244,189 | 209,462 |
| SURPLUS FOR YEAR | | |
| | 80136 | £1,957 |
| Funds brought forward | £74,296 | £72,339 |
| TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD | | |
| | £154,432 | £74,296 |
| Represented by | | |
| Restricted funds | £34,618 | £988 |
| Development Fund | £80,000 | £50,000 |
| General Fund | £39,814 | £23,308 |



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.

We receive funding from the Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

