

Chat Discussion

Paul MacAlindin: There's been a disruption in who holds power locally, with those on the ground reacting with more agility and effectiveness than traditional agencies and 3rd sector organisations. How do we make the most of that and support the new groundswell, as traditional organisations return to work?

Sophie Bridger: Question - I'm really encouraged by the initiatives SG are taking forward as a result of this. How will SG and the Social Renewal Advisory Board be looking at supporting opportunities community connection and reducing isolation? This is something many of us are worried about going in to winter and feels like connection should be a priority alongside wealth building (Sophie Bridger, Eden Project Communities)

Elaine Cowan: thank you - just wanted to reinforce the need to accelerate the mechanisms for delivering the funding to true community led groups and link back to the SURF priority of "Reducing Red Tape"

Paul MacAlindin: No multiple choice?

Emma Scott: There is multiple choice on one question. We are looking for single answers on others to help direct the Manifesto response.

Derek Rankine: Further information on SURF's 2021 Manifesto for Community Regeneration is available on our website. Conference participants who are not already involved are very welcome to take part in the process: www.surf.scot/projects/2021-surf-manifesto/

Mhairi Donaghy: These are just immediate reactions, I might change my mind with more time to consider responses.

Steven Szostak : Has the Advisory Board considered the feasibility of government services moving out of city centres....Edinburgh especially...into our smaller towns?

Paul MacAlindin: I'm afraid I have to leave. Thank you everyone.

Aileen Campbell MSP: Hi Steven, i think the way lives are needing to be lived as a result of covid means we need to rethink lots. So i can take that back to the board.

Aileen Campbell MSP: thanks for your questions earlier Paul.

Mohammed Razaq: It is good to have short term funding/resource to deal with impact of Covid however, we need to be aware what will impact organisations soon and that is long term funding from various charities /foundations which has been on hold and will certainly be reduced. This will mean a lot organisations will struggle to keep their doors open long term

Steven Szostak: I am biased Aileen! I run Strathleven Regeneration CIC...a social enterprise property company in Dumbarton. We would be delighted to accommodate government offices on our land!

11:09:19 From John Halliday to Emma Scott(Privately) : I've got a question

Alex Stobart: Hello Emma, please could you share the web link for the covid connector service

Emma Scott: Hi Alex we are just finalizing details on those but once they are out they will be on the SURF website and social media. I will send a note out to attendees. I also suggest signing up to the SURF mailing list which you can do via www.surf.scot

Barbara Kerr: for Elaine - you talked about the volunteer response to covid and continuing to support the larger volunteer pool -is there a sense at all of how much of the volunteer capacity we have seen over the past few months being due to people being furloughed and so having more time to do this? As people return to full time work how can gov at all levels, and third sector support continued volunteer activity?

Kathleen Caskie, Glasgow TSI Network: The research carried out by the TSI network found that most of these 'new' volunteers were simply not used. Whoever had the list of people who had volunteered as part of the national initiative, those names never made it down to the community organisations delivering an emergency service.

Alex Stobart: Thank you Emma

Kathleen Caskie, Glasgow TSI Network: In any case, the community organisations largely were using existing volunteers, because they were too busy to go through vetting and training new people, and were not willing to use unvetted/untrained people to deliver services to vulnerable people.

Andy Colvin: Unfortunately Aileen, as you align the funders ever more closer you are in real danger of favouring the bigger players, and stunting the richness in grassroot responses.

Kathleen Caskie, Glasgow TSI Network: A survey of TSIs across Scotland found only 7% who said they were struggling to access volunteers. Only 13% of organisations recruited new volunteers during lockdown.

Aileen Campbell MSP: hi Andy, that's not the intention - it's more about ensuring we make best use of resources. The funding that we provided from the £350m announced has endeavoured to support locally led groups. We published maps of where money went and it's on the SG website. But i will take on board the fears you have and seek to ensure we guard against. A

Elaine Cooper: For interest...Our own research showed that two thirds of organisations could not have functioned without volunteer support.....

Ann Porter: In Dundee there is a preference for top- down high profile cultural projects like the V&A. This means it is very difficult for organic, community-led, grass roots heritage organisations to find a route through to funding. Would it be possible to create new pathways that give local organisations the opportunity to compete.

Colette McGarva: In relation to prevention, have we ensured Universities Scotland and student services are key stakeholders?

John Halliday: If anyone hasn't already read this I recommend looking at this about how community enterprises are a "super policy" ticking all the boxes for recovery investment. Useful new language I think. <https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/blog/super-policies-new-thinking-to-build-back-better/>

Aileen Campbell MSP: Ann - thanks for the points you raise. I think the Community Wealth Building approach is essential to ensuring benefits are felt locally.

Elisa de Waal: Thank all - excellent event. I'm afraid I need to log off now. Best wishes, Elisa (Arts & Business Scotland)

Aileen Campbell MSP: I'll miss you guys too!

Ian Manson: Aileen has been a brilliant Cab Sec and best wishes for the future.

Hazel Cross: Another great session & discussion thanks everyone & to SURF team, all 3 sessions have been really interesting, insightful and extremely useful.

Kathleen Caskie, Glasgow TSI Network: Thank you for a fascinating session.

Jenny Crowe: Thanks SURF for another great event.

Alex Stobart: Thank you very much to SURF and Aileen for organising and speaking.

Elaine Cowan: thank you SURF team, great to engage and hear from folks

Nick Wright: Thanks for an excellent session - really interesting, varied and well paced - the best online event I've joined since lockdown started!

Steven Szostak: excellent webinar again. Thank you SURF. Also to cabinet minister...greatly appreciated.

Dan Rous: Thanks to all and especially CabSec Aileen for the inspiration today. Looking forward to the things discussed today actually become a reality as we go forward.

Diarmaid Lawlor: Fantastic event and wonderfully hosted. Thank you SURF

Mohammed Razaq: thanks for a slick session folks

Barbara Kerr: Thank you all - another great event.

Ann Porter: Thank you Cabinet Secretary and SURF. Excellent conference and very heartening

Steven Szostak: Unorthodoxy rules!