



Supporting people who support communities in Scotland

Strategy

2021 - 2024

We are a strong, dynamic organisation which provides a forum for CD practitioners to share experiences, exchange information, discuss and debate practice and policy issues within a framework which seeks to empower communities

**Join SCDN by using our contact facility
on our website: www.scdn.scot**

1. Scottish Community Development Network

SCDN is the only member led organisation for Community Development (CD) practitioners in Scotland who, paid or unpaid: (students, volunteers, community activist, part-time or full-time practitioner)

- Have community development as their main role or part of their remit
- Actively use and endorse community development approaches
- Support the values, principles and approaches of community development
- Aspire to use community development approaches in their practice

Membership is open to individuals and organisations who ascribe to the principles and practice of community development.

2. What is Community Development?

When we talk about community development practice, we mean:

‘Community development enables people to work collectively to bring about positive social change. This long term process starts from people’s own experience and enables communities to work together to:

- Identify their own needs and actions
- Take collective action using their strengths and resources
- Develop their confidence, skills and knowledge
- Challenge unequal power relationships
- Promote social justice, equality and inclusion

in order to improve the quality of their own lives, the communities in which they live and societies of which they are a part.’

(Community Development National Occupational Standards)

We work to the recognised values and principles of community development:

Community development is fundamentally based on the values of human rights, social justice, equality and respect for diversity.

The principles which underpin its practice are:

- Self-determination - people and communities have the right to make their own choices and decisions.
- Empowerment - people should be able to control and use their own assets and means to influence.
- Collective action - coming together in groups or organisations strengthens peoples' voices.
- Working and learning together - collaboration and sharing experiences is vital to good community activity.'

(Scottish Community Development Centre)

We also support the principle that CD is recognised and valued by CD practitioners as an approach that achieves and contributes to social justice, equality and human rights.

3. What's the need for and benefits of SCDN?

The demands, expectations and opportunities for communities places those who support communities in increasingly complex arenas. Developing communities' skills, confidence, knowledge and influence to bring about positive change, requires skilled and knowledgeable practitioners. SCDN works to build an infrastructure which enables practitioners to share information, experience, skills and practice issues and, in doing so, can make a significant contribution to developing the confidence and ability of practitioners.

By joining, members can: contribute to having a strong collective voice within Community Development across Scotland; be part of a practitioners' national forum to share experiences; champion value-based CD practice; exchange information and debate practice and policy issues and have opportunities to link with like-minded people through local, national and virtual events and activities.

SCDN works with other national community development organisations in a partnership approach including SCDC, Community Development Alliance Scotland (CDAS) and International Association of Community Development (IACD). This offers opportunities to collaborate on common issues and concerns relating to community development policy and practice.

4. What are the relevant legislative and policy drivers for community development in Scotland?

The strategic context in which community development is operating should provide a strong driver for the recognition and resourcing of skilled CD practice. Aspirations to empower communities, reduce inequalities, and alter the way in which public services are planned and delivered with more emphasis on prevention, are central to current public policy in Scotland and are recognisable as potential outcomes of skilled CD practice. Some of the key pieces of legislation and policies to support CD are highlighted below:

- [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#)
- [Community Development National Occupational Standards](#)
- [New Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: Community Learning and Development](#)
- [Commission on the Future Delivery of Public Services](#) (Christie Report)
- [National Advisory Group on Women and Girls](#)
- [Fairer Scotland Action Plan 2016](#)
- [Fairer Scotland Action Plan: progress report 2020](#)
- [Participatory Budgeting](#)
- [Achieving a Sustainable Future: Regeneration Strategy](#)
- [Local Governance Review](#)
- [Public Bodies \(Joint Working\) \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) (Health & Social Care Integration)
- [Good Places Better Health](#)
- [An introduction to the Equality Act 2010](#)
- [Equality Act 2010: guidance](#)
- [Equality Outcome 2017 - 2021](#)
- [Digital Health and Care Strategy](#)
- [Community Benefits in Procurement](#)
- [Community Wealth Building](#)

In addition the implications for communities of the UK government's welfare reform policy should be of concern to CD practitioners. More information on this and other useful web-links can be accessed via our website www.scdn.scot at our links page.

5. SCDN Mission Statement

Our mission statement or high level 'outcome' is:

"We are a strong, dynamic organisation which provides a forum for CD practitioners to share experiences, exchange information, discuss and debate practice and policy issues within a framework which seeks to empower communities"

Our mission is translated into a series of measurable outcomes, which are interdependent. These are set out in the following table.

Scottish Community Development Network Outcomes 2021 - 2024
CD practitioners are better connected and have a stronger collective voice to represent their views and perspectives
CD practitioners have a national forum to share information and experiences to help them improve and develop practice that empowers communities
CD practitioners are better able to inform and contribute towards CD related policy and practice development

6. Key Activities

In order to achieve the outcomes above, our main activities will be:

- Organising national conferences and network meetings
- Maintaining and developing an up-to-date website with access to downloadable resources and materials
- Providing regular bulletins on policy and practice developments

- Creating on-line opportunities for members to voice their views, debate issues, work with key national partners and make contributions towards formal policy and practice consultations.
- Building, developing and expanding our membership base across Scotland, and so ensuring as many practitioners as possible have access to the Network and to each other.