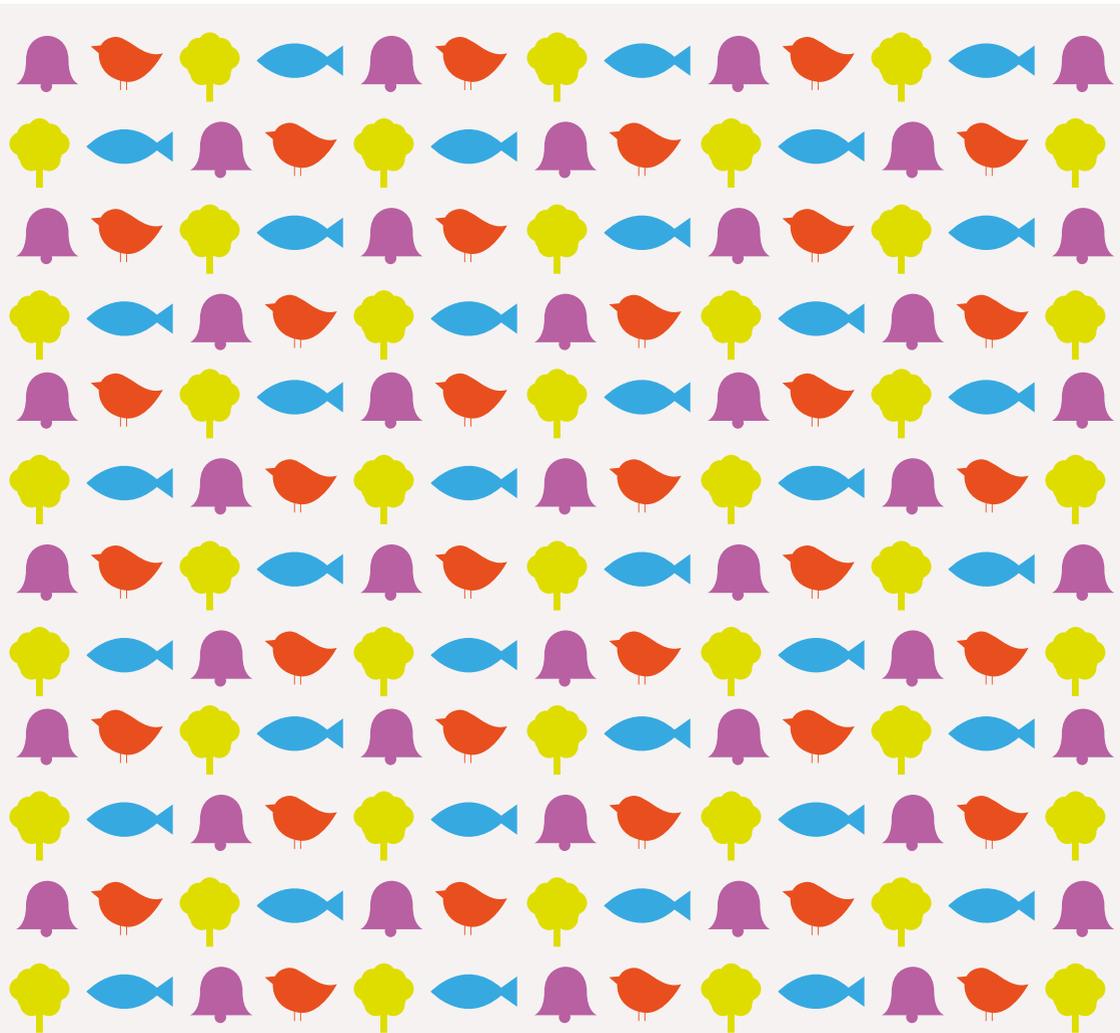




Annual Report 2018/19



CHAIR FOREWORD

I concluded our previous annual report with a prediction of 2018 bringing more exciting opportunities and I'm glad to say I wasn't wrong. With the launch of Glasgow's first coproduced Social Enterprise Strategy, the creation of a Social Enterprise Board which we are delighted to report that Elizabeth, our Director, is Vice Chair of, and the introduction of new ways in which to support members, we certainly have had another productive year.

As some of you will know, GSEN is a small team with a big reach and we were encouraged to see our social capital highlighted through our participation in an [impact evaluation pilot](#) where we could clearly see GSEN's high level of connectivity between members, stakeholders and influencers. With our full membership increasing this year by 20% we are confident this will continue as a strength of the network.

I stand down as the Chair of GSEN this year. It has been quite a journey and it has been a pleasure to be a part of, and support, GSEN over the past few years. I have pride in handing over the baton of Chair to Mark McRitchie who has supported GSEN from its inception back in 2008.

On behalf of the GSEN Board I would like to thank all members and partners who work with us, dedicate their time to support us and assist us in achieving our ambition for social enterprises in Glasgow. As we look forward to 2019 we don't expect to slow down. With the implementation of the first action plan of the strategy getting underway, the launch of our fourth social enterprise mapping report and the formation of new exciting partnerships we look forward to continuing this journey with you all.



Betty Elliott
Chair

OUR KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR...

GSEN continues to support a growing network of 187 members made up of:

26

Associate Members
(individuals and organisations)

11

Aspiring Members

150

Full Members

GLASGOW SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY

Working in partnership with Glasgow City Council seen the development and launch of the city's first co-produced Social Enterprise Strategy launched in June 2018. The strategy covers

The first three-year action plan is due to be launched in quarter two of 2019 so watch this space!

a period of ten years from 2018 -2028 and commits to delivering three, three-year action plans. The first three-year action plan is due to be launched in quarter two of 2019 so watch this space!

CONCORDAT

Alongside our TSI partners and Glasgow City Council we developed a concordat for the city. The concordat's aim

is to transform partnership working between the local authority and third sector in the city.

REFLECTING VIEWS

Our role as an organisation to reflect views of social enterprise has grown significantly over the past two years with GSEN, and GSEN members, now sitting on a number of groups and committees including:

- Social Enterprise Board
- Glasgow Economic Partnership Group (GPEG)
 - GPEG Business and Enterprise Hub
 - GPEG Employability and Skills Hub
- National Social Enterprise Strategy Reference Sub Group
- Concordat Working Group

NETWORK SESSIONS

We hosted six network meetings this year offering members opportunities to make connections and forge relationships. A stand out session, using an exercise to understand what members need and what they could offer, resulted in 32 needs, 42 offers and 29 connections being made on that day. This picture says it all!



32
needs

42
offers

29
connections

ASK PROGRAMME

The School for Social Entrepreneurs Scotland delivered a commissioned pilot programme which spanned eight months and used an action learning set model to create a safe space, build relationships, offer peer support and find solutions to challenges the participants faced within their social enterprise. Some quotes from the evaluation of the pilot included:



I have thoroughly enjoyed the programme. I feel it has given me some much needed development and an opportunity to build a network of people who I trust and respect”



I was initially unsure if this would prove effective but I have had the opportunity to practise this technique in a work situation. Where you are dealing with small enterprises it helps to build self-confidence in handling personnel relationships”



I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience it has opened my mind as to how I can handle situations in the future”

POCKETS AND PROSPECTS

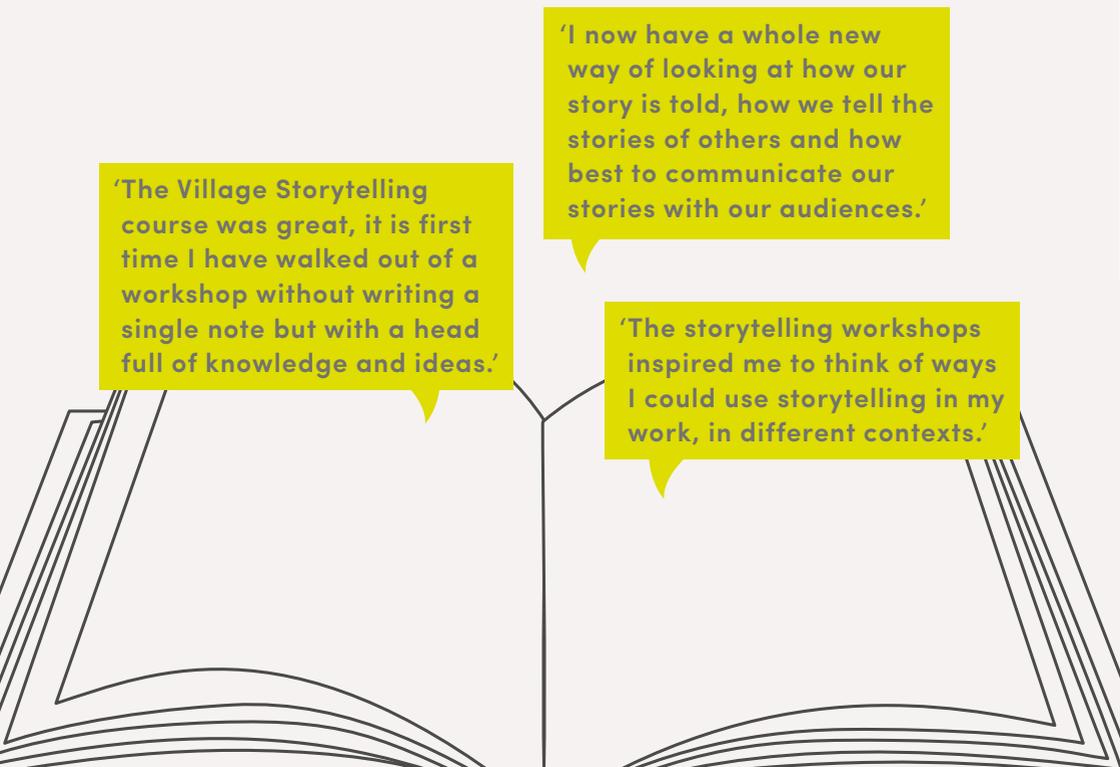
In partnership with SENSCOT, we delivered Pockets and Prospects, a pilot programme to co-ordinate a range of activities available for community anchor organisations to purchase and

make available for people in their communities who are facing social isolation. This has been an exciting new programme which continues into 2019.

STORYTELLING

We hosted a Village Storytelling Centre programme which provided a space for members to reflect on and refine how they share their story and the value

of their work while considering their differing audiences and the ethical implications. Some feedback received included:



'The Village Storytelling course was great, it is first time I have walked out of a workshop without writing a single note but with a head full of knowledge and ideas.'

'I now have a whole new way of looking at how our story is told, how we tell the stories of others and how best to communicate our stories with our audiences.'

'The storytelling workshops inspired me to think of ways I could use storytelling in my work, in different contexts.'

STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

We jointly hosted, with Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations, a series of events with a focus on 'Strengthening Relationships:

Where are the Opportunities'. We have committed to increasing connectivity between both sets of memberships.

GLASGOW SCHOOLS DRAGONS' DEN

With Education Services, GCC and Social Enterprise Academy we have been proud to support Glasgow Schools Dragons' Den over the past few years. This initiative brought Glasgow

primary and secondary school pupils together to pitch their social enterprise idea to a panel and an audience of peers, at an event held in the city chambers.

COPRODUCING JUSTICE

Our involvement in the development of a Coproducing Justice programme with a range of partners has informed the development of social enterprise and cooperative structures in both work generation and

integration for people involved in the justice system, by sharing international research evidence and policy and practice expertise across academic and professional disciplines.

FUTURE PLANS

Glasgow is ambitious for social enterprises and the role GSEN plays is increasing in both strategic and operational delivery. GSEN will continue to contribute as a key strategic organisation and deliver bespoke programmes, respond to members needs and generate added value by working in partnership with a range of stakeholders.

IN 2019 WE WILL:

- launch the fourth mapping report to highlight the scale and contribution of social enterprises in Glasgow
- pursue the creation of a second edition of the Pocket Guide
- offer members the opportunity to take up a professionally written case study
- pursue the provision of coaching services
- host two thematic sessions
- continue to play a key role in the delivery of Glasgow's Social Enterprise Strategy

The Board will reflect on GSEN's year and work to review the role of GSEN where needed including other sources of funding and income generation.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

We continue to be supported by the Scottish Government Third Sector Division through the Third Sector Interface (TSI) funds to the value of £78,000, which we receive in a partnership arrangement with GCVS and Volunteer Glasgow.

This funding is guaranteed until the end of September 2019, although it is expected that the national TSI programme will continue to support social enterprise development, and GSEN specifically beyond this period. The largest single cost for the organisation is staffing, followed by the office which was established in the Briggait. GSEN continues to provide a programme of activity in addition to officer support and representation.

During the year GSEN was also supported for the first time by member donations. The Board are extremely grateful for member support and looking forward the Board are also hopeful that the close co-production of the Glasgow Social Enterprise Strategy and the resultant joint Glasgow Social Enterprise Board will bring many benefits to the membership, and increase resources for the network to further strengthen and develop members.

THANKS

Thank you to all our members, funders, partners and stakeholders who continue to support the GSEN board and staff, 2019 is going to be another big year and we are looking forward to working with you all again.

CONTACT

Get in touch to find out more about membership and our work.

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GSEN is a partner in the Glasgow Third Sector Interface which provides comprehensive support to the third sector in the city to help it to develop, grow and thrive.

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