



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

ENGAGE
R E N F R E W S H I R E



A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to present the annual report for 2020/21 which sets out for the members of Engage Renfrewshire some of our significant achievements over the last year.

2020/21 was a challenging year for everyone across all communities in Renfrewshire as the country responded to the ever changing Covid circumstances and by adapting to the needs of the Covid recovery. Engage Renfrewshire constantly reviewed and reshaped its operational delivery in all areas of its work - volunteering, community engagement, social enterprise and community planning to respond to these changing and challenging circumstances, all done whilst working from home.

The Directors of Engage Renfrewshire are very confident that the Engage team will respond to the continuing covid Recovery in the year ahead with the same enthusiasm, creativity and hard work and the company will continue to thrive in what will continue to be challenging and uncertain times.

THIS YEAR ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE CELEBRATES ITS 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY AS THE THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE IN RENFREWSHIRE.

On behalf of my fellow directors, I pay tribute to all our staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and achievements over not just this last year but over the last 10 years and look forward with confidence for to the next 10 years. In particular I would like to acknowledge how they have embraced their new ways of working throughout the covid emergency. I would also like to extend our thanks to the many volunteers and members who have supported the work of the company and who make a significant contribution to their communities across Renfrewshire



INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Hello - and many thanks for attending this year's AGM.

Today with a membership of 390 organisations the company retains its strategic aim - to act as the 'single door' for community action, volunteering and the voluntary sector in Renfrewshire. We are a member led organisation and we view our performance in the context how well we support our members with training, development opportunities, connections through a range of networks and awareness of both national and local public strategy developments. We are committed to ensuring the voice of our network is heard & understood by decision makers and funders.

All of us at Engage Renfrewshire are committed to helping Renfrewshire's charities and community groups to be well managed, well resourced, well represented and well connected. While this has been another challenging year, Renfrewshire's local third sector has consistently delivered

outcomes that matter to people, building on their strong and trusted relationships within their local areas.

ON THURSDAY 1ST APRIL 2021 ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE CELEBRATED IT'S 10TH BIRTHDAY!

Since then we have embarked on a year-long anniversary campaign to highlight our impacts over the last decade, while simultaneously highlighting the invaluable work of the community groups and charities we support. This report includes some of those highlights.

At Engage we promote plans that develop strong communities - believing that communities have the power to create change from within. During this year, working in partnership with Renfrewshire Council, the Health &

Social Care Partnership and often with local private sector organisations, community groups have continued to help shape the local response to the covid crisis - often providing a 'safe place' for those vulnerable individuals and families most at risk. Those organisations who have offered so much during the crisis will remain crucial as Renfrewshire put in place plans for recovery and social renewal.

Renfrewshire's local Third sector organisations are immensely resilient, but capacity of such organisations is often reliant on staff undertaking multiple roles - fundraising, leadership, finance management, 'hands on' delivery and communications. I'm pleased to say this report includes information on a range of successful engagements taken on by the team at Engage to support our members around these areas of need - for their hard work and dedication I express my sincere thanks.

In signing off I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the company's board of directors. Without their support, enthusiasm and commitment the work undertaken in the last year would not have been possible. I would also like to note my personal thanks to all of the volunteers who have supported the work of the company throughout the year.

As always, I would note that we are very grateful for the continued support of our funders.

Alan McNiven,
Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire
@AlanMcNiven1

BILLY CLARK, DIRECTOR, ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE

Everyone at Engage Renfrewshire was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Board member Billy Clark earlier this year. Billy had served on the board since the company was re-launched as Engage Renfrewshire in 2011. Billy was a well-known local community volunteer and had supported many charitable operations over the years. He was a great supporter of the work of Engage and had a true passion for community leadership. He will be sadly missed.



FINANCE SUPPORT

We offer a range of payroll services to individuals, organisations and voluntary groups who employ people. That might be individuals in receipt of Self-Directed Support or Independent Living Fund employing personal care staff or workers in the community - we do the hard work for you.

Our services scale, so it doesn't matter whether you're a large third sector organisation with more complicated needs or an individual wanting to remove the hassle and responsibility of payroll. We deliver a bespoke service based on your requirements.

For a monthly fee we can:

- register you with HM Revenue and Customs and deal with any future correspondence, fill in forms and new legislation as well as prepare your wage slips for each employee
 - calculate the employer/employee National Insurance
 - organise PAYE and statutory payments and provide you with a report of the correct monthly PAYE/National Insurance to be paid to HMRC
 - complete your employers annual year end return and prepare P14 and P60 forms on line filing
 - manage a payroll bank account for you to pay employees, pensions and HMRC direct
 - process and pay care/respite invoices
 - assist with the setting up of auto enrolment and administer monthly thereafter ensuring you are legally compliant
 - complete monitoring reports to funders on your behalf
- We also offer a range of complete accountancy and book-keeping services for larger organisations with more complex needs.

Providing full Payroll Service to:

- 90 individual clients who employ 165 staff
 - 32 organisations who employ 143 staff
 - Managing approximately £3.2 million per annum
- For our subsidiary, Childcare First Ltd, we provide Accountancy Services
- All financial transactions managed by Engage
 - Managing approximately £500,700

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Finance Support Renfrewshire | Payroll | Advice | PAYE
(engagerenfrewshire.org)



COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ACTION TEAM

Prior to the pandemic, through Renfrewshire's HSCP Strategic Planning Group, Engage had already begun building solid cross-sector relationships with colleagues in health. These have only been strengthened by the crisis.

As well as honest and supportive conversations, the SPG has also developed six priority sub-groups consisting of voluntary and public sector colleagues. Small but significant amounts of non-recurring funding for collaborative projects were awarded and projects have now begun.

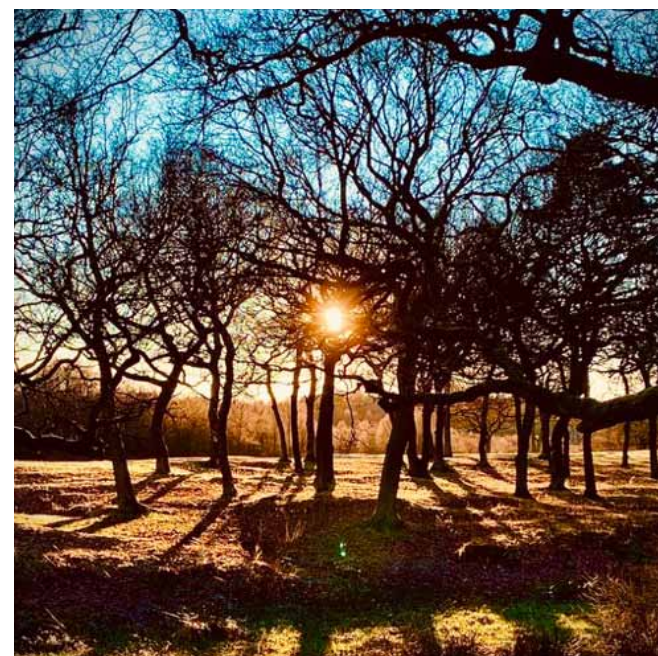
Additionally, the successful quarterly networking breakfasts have moved online. Feedback shows that while these sessions are different from meeting face-to-face, they are still very worthwhile. On reflection, it feels as if we've achieved a deeper cross-sector equity, and a sense of partnership within the SPG.

THE NEXT STAGE IS TO DEVELOP THE 2022-25 HSCP STRATEGIC PLAN AND WE'RE ALL KEEN THAT THE PLAN SHOWS HOW WE ARE RETHINKING, REDESIGNING AND REBUILDING HEALTH IN RENFREWSHIRE.

In addition to running Our Children (voluntary sector forum for children & young peoples' services), Engage has continued to support various collaborative projects addressing mental health and wellbeing for CYP. Early Action System Change moved into phase 2, with 8 local CYP organisations focusing on developing solutions for emotional wellbeing and coercive control in adolescence. Simultaneously, Engage is involved in developing and

implementing Barnardo's Strategic Plan for mental health and wellbeing, and is part of the CYP Mental Health Governance Board, ensuring that voluntary sector are a key part of demedicalising wellbeing while building community-based supports for young people and their families.

The Renfrewshire Affordable Credit Alliance (RACA) has enjoyed a huge boost to event attendance thanks to moving to digital delivery, with figures around 50 for online events, and attendees from local authorities all over Scotland. This is a significant shift from previous face-to-face events, which were attended by local practitioners only. Feedback shows that the information presented, and the chance for discussion on current financial issues, such as illegal money lending, is very welcome. Additionally, RACA has produced various information videos and recruited a Digital Marketing Volunteer who has been successful in increasing reach and engagement on social media platforms.



Engage is supporting the Local Employability Partnership particularly around volunteering opportunities within the Young Person's Guarantee. Volunteering is a significant part of the employability pipeline, and we are actively promoting volunteering among young people and minority ethnic communities. Additionally, we are supporting LEP with their strategic planning and improvement action plan. 2020 provided a stark and necessary reminder that we must work together to eradicate institutional racism in all sectors, including our own.

The Engage New Buddies Network Officer was key throughout covid in bringing organisations supporting minority ethnic communities into the Engage network, so that we in turn can ensure those organisations are well connected, represented, managed and resourced. Discussions through the online Engage In Conversation sessions have begun to inform agencies of the priorities for our minority ethnic communities and where and how we can do better to ensure that our systems are inclusive and fair.

Black History Month and grassroots initiatives such as the Birthday Cards and Pen-Pals projects have provided ways for young people to get to know others from different communities.

Furthermore, we look forward to Renfrewshire's first ever integration network (IN-Ren) launching in 2021, alongside an online race equality toolkit for Engage members.



VOLUNTEERING IN RENFREWSHIRE

Our volunteer management system, TeamKinetic continues to support volunteer recruitment for our members. Over the period 848 individuals registered on the system. A large portion of this will have been individuals wanting to support covid relief efforts but the system continues to see success for those organisations using it.

The system had 22 organisations register during the period which is roughly 5% of our membership, and a total of 51 roles were uploaded to the system which, when compared to previous AGM reports, is roughly half the amount typically seen.

As roles began to re-emerge at the beginning of this year we held further training and introduction sessions for the online system and will continue to offer these periodically throughout the coming year.

VOLUNTEER FRIENDLY AWARD

We continue to promote the Volunteer Friendly Award as a quality standard development tool for volunteer involving organisations.

DURING THIS PERIOD THERE WAS ONE FIRST TIME ACHIEVER - THE TANNAHILL CENTRE IN DECEMBER 2020.

The Volunteer Friendly Award recently changed management and ownership to Volunteer Scotland, and from autumn 2020 to spring 2021 our Volunteer Development Officer was a part of the cross TSI steering group that evaluated the existing award structure and made recommendations for its update. The new offer was launched in June 2021 and will be the new standard for all renewals and first time applicants to the award.

RENFREWSHIRE VOLUNTEER MANAGERS' FORUM

The Volunteer Managers' Forum continued to meet throughout last year. 6 digital meetings covered a variety of topics that responded to immediate, covid related concerns (such as online safety for volunteers) and long-term planning (such as Employability considerations for volunteers). Attendees were strongly encouraged to provide topics of discussion and bring forward any concerns or ideas to share with other attendees, though the forum organisation and running of individual meetings was still primarily overseen by Engage's Volunteer Development Officer.

The forum format and running has remained largely the same, despite limitations of working online. Networking, an element previously identified as forum members' main drivers for attending, became harder online but there have still been individual success stories of volunteer managers connecting outside of forum meetings and sharing information and resources for the benefit of volunteers and service users.

Even with the reduced networking capacity of the digital format the forum continues to have good attendance, with an average of 15 attendees at each meeting, and has received positive feedback in terms of the information shared and its inclusive and encouraging atmosphere. Alice, Engage's Volunteer Development Officer, would like to extend her thanks to all who attended the forum over the period and contributed in creating this constructive and supportive space.

VOLUNTEER MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SESSIONS

In September 2020 we offered Volunteer Mental Health Support Sessions for Volunteer Managers. These three-part information sessions were devised following consultation from the Volunteer Managers' Forum, and calls to offer greater support for volunteers who may be facing anxiety and/or work related stress due to the ongoing pandemic.

The three sessions were well attended with 14 organisations joining for all three sessions and received positive feedback following the final session. The sessions created a welcoming atmosphere for volunteer managers to share concerns, raise awareness and share more with one another and had a positive effect on other collaborative work including the general Volunteer Managers' Forum meetings.

Follow up work with individual organisations was conducted over the following months but further group work was hindered by the second lockdown. Despite this we would like to run the sessions again for another round of organisations and will encourage participants from both sessions to pursue continued learning and sharing of practice.



SALTIRE AWARDS

As predicted in last year's report the Saltire Awards claims for this period saw a significant decrease as schools were disrupted for a majority of the period. Though young volunteers are a part of many of our organisations across Renfrewshire their award hours were historically collated by their school coordinators and submitted via the schools. The disruption both to standard volunteering and school timetables meant this was less of a priority this academic year.

We continue to maintain links with the schools and appropriate partners within the Local Employability Partnership, and digital support materials were created for school/group administrators and for volunteers wishing to use the new Saltire Awards website. These are currently used digitally and will be adapted for in person presentations once we are able to return to school premises.

We also continue to promote the use of the award for all our volunteer involving organisations and several organisations came forward to use Saltire Awards as a means of thanking those young volunteers that had supported covid relief efforts.

SALTIRE STATISTICS 2020/21

13 CHALLENGE GROUP VOLUNTEERING AWARDS

for those getting started in volunteering through team challenges

37 APPROACH AWARDS - 10 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 10 hours volunteering

37 APPROACH AWARDS - 25 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 25 hours volunteering

30 ASCENT AWARDS - 50 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 50 hours

62 ASCENT AWARDS - 100 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 100 hours

19 ASCENT AWARDS - 200 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 200 hours

5 ASCENT AWARDS - 500 HOURS

for volunteers that have reached 500 hours

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The final quarter of 2020/2021 saw several collaborative working projects that we hope will continue to grow in to 2022. Our Volunteer Development Officer sat on the Healthy and Active Living Subgroup of the HSCP SPG, supported the Youth Work Network's Recovery funding bid, supported employability partners at Invest In Renfrewshire with volunteering guidance and support as part of the Young Person's Guarantee, and sat on the aforementioned steering group for the review and relaunch of the Volunteer Friendly Award.

VOLUNTEER WEEK 2020

Our Volunteers Week campaign for 2020 was exclusively digital and gathered a lot of interaction online. The official Engage Twitter account saw 12.6k impressions over the course of the week and its Facebook posts reached 9,800 individuals. Despite being restricted to online activity only the week did create some great discussion and recognition for volunteering and we were able to gather brilliant volunteer insights which sustained a regular volunteer blog until the end of the year.

Noting the successes of the campaign we developed the content for 2021 and nearly doubled our reach on Twitter; the official Engage Twitter account saw 24.9k impressions over the seven-day period.

TRUSTEES WEEK 2020

Trustees Week was also run entirely online. We shared myth busting material and trustee insights throughout the week but our main event for the week - a digital event aimed at young trustees - was cancelled due to low take up. The benefit of this was that it helped enlighten us as to the extent of the difficulties of youth trusteeship, and as a result we committed to working with the other partners in Youth Work across Renfrewshire on the Community Empowerment Academy. This ongoing project seeks to share leadership skills and knowledge with young people and encourage more organisation to embrace young trustees.

10 YEARS OF

ENGAGE RENFREWSHIRE

VOLUNTEERING



Engage Renfrewshire is Renfrewshire's Third Sector Interface, supporting the charitable sector across the local area

- 2008-2011**
The TSI format is in development across the country. Renfrewshire third sector support organisations review and consolidate their **services** and work towards an **all encompassing model** to support the whole charitable sector
- APRIL 2011**
Engage Renfrewshire officially opens its doors!
- 2012**
Development of Renfrewshire's first **local volunteering strategy**
- 2013**
Engage Renfrewshire hands out its first Saltire Awards, by the end of the year **410 certificates** have been awarded
- 2014**
The VMF (**Volunteer Managers Forum**) is launched to support volunteer managers/coordinators in Renfrewshire
- 2015**
We conduct focussed **Volunteer Awareness Raising campaigns** and see an increase in the annual registered volunteers to **1220**. We achieve **Volunteer Friendly Status!**
- 2016**
Work on the Paisley2021 City of Culture bid begins, Engage advocate for community input and community led events. Engage support a **Syrian Refugee Volunteer Programme** to great success
- 2017**
Our **Celebrate Volunteering** event sees over 170 attendees. We also work with partners on a **16+ Employability Project** with messaging promoting volunteering as an employability booster
- 2018**
Engage membership has grown to 430. Year of the Young People event sees **200 attendees & 1,256 Saltire certificates** awarded
- 2019**
100 Volunteer Opportunities are listed from our members and a record number of referrals are made
- 2020**
As the COVID-19 lockdown hits we register a spike in volunteering interest and establish the **COVID-19 Volunteer Reserve**. We supported emerging **mutual aid** groups that facilitate very local, informal volunteering & support the development of Renfrewshire council's **Neighbourhood Hubs**
- 2021 & BEYOND**
We continue to adapt with the sector. We support Volunteer Scotland with the revamp of **Volunteer Friendly Award** & work with partners & members to promote the many **benefits of volunteering**



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND THIRD SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Officers from Engage have continued to support the local Social Enterprise network - peer support and networking in the Social Enterprise sector has been particularly important during the crisis. Organisations have highlighted the need to focus on the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers, recognising that there are many factors impacting upon an individual's ability to continue to work and be productive.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

A significant support to Social Enterprise has been Engage's continued partnership with Renfrewshire Council's Procurement Forum to ensure that the value of community benefits from contractors was maximised. Due to the pandemic, community benefit activity was dramatically reduced, however, 13 benefits in total were delivered - seven financial contributions to groups totalling **£11,000** and six non-financial benefits (on site works, construction, decorating etc.) with an approximate value of **£6,000**. One of the beneficiaries, Erskine based mental health support organisation CRISIS said: 'It has made such a difference to have our counselling rooms freshly painted as it has created a more relaxed and calm feel to the space'

STRATEGY

We conducted a local consultation of needs and issues facing Social Enterprises during the pandemic, which shaped our business delivery plan for 2021/22. Additionally, we supported the Scottish Government and the Office of Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) with a national consultation focussing on charity law changes. 12 local organisations got involved in this important consultation process.

ADVICE AND LEARNING

In lockdown we focussed on the new and urgent needs of our members and as such delivered digital workshops covering relevant issues, such as risk assessment, premises reopening, private and public sector leases. This was invaluable for social enterprises and other community organisations undergoing urgent organisational development in the midst of uncertainty. Spateston Tenants and Residents Association said: 'We weren't really sure what to watch out for; this was our first time applying for a lease. With support from Engage and their partnership with Senscot Legal we were able to grasp the basics, and gained a better understanding of the legalities involved when signing lease documents'



RenSEN (Renfrewshire Social Enterprise Network) continues to develop and evolve. We hosted 5 RenSEN sessions digitally, introducing guest speakers such as LEADER funders, Crowdfund Scotland and Business Gateway and delivered 11 training events. We also developed and promoted our new logo.

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER

Despite the pandemic there was a positive expression of interest from groups wanting to find out about community asset transfer; ranging from local parks, sports pitches, pavilions, woodlands and even a nature reserve. Engage along with Renfrewshire Council's empowerment officer

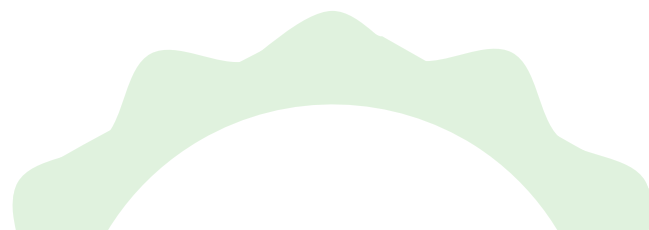
produced online digital resources to ensure that information and guidance was readily available. We are continuing to develop a Renfrewshire roadmap to simplify and future-proof CAT processes.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE START-UP

Like CAT, Engage received a high volume of requests from groups and individuals for information on how to set up a social enterprise. In fact, 22 groups were made aware of social enterprise as a business model and the start-up process. Of these, 3 went onto start up social enterprises, others are still at development stages in relation to Community Asset Transfer set up. As a direct result of the pandemic, we have made information and guidance materials available online.

TARGET ACTIVITY UPDATE

- 16 RENSen events
(5 themed network events & 11 training sessions)
- 3 social enterprise start up business plans supported
- 6 new social enterprises registered
- 18 social enterprises assisted with funding and signposting to specialist support
- 13 social enterprises received community benefits
- 22 groups/individuals taken through preliminary social enterprise as a business model
- preparation



ORANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

EXAMPLES OF TRAINING COURSES PROVIDED

Online Brand Recognition

Getting Started with Trust & Grants

Re-opening Businesses, Charities/Community Halls

Digital Training

COMMENTS ON TRAINING

'I really enjoyed today's Branding Workshop - I would highly recommend it.'

(Rebranding Session, Mossvale Community Church.)

'Thank you so much for organising the session yesterday, I really enjoyed it and it has helped me focus more when completing applications.'

(Getting Started with Trusts & Grants Fundraising, Radio Lollipop)

The training delivery this year was very different because we had to quickly figure out digital video conferencing and how to navigate various platforms. It has taken a bit of getting used to, but the excellent attendance stats demonstrate that it was very worthwhile. When we return to the office we plan to test and refine a blended approach; with options for face to face plus online. We will continue to consult the membership, so please watch out for those surveys and questionnaires.

128
MEMBERS SUPPORTED

81
MEMBERS SUPPORTED WITH
FUNDING APPLICATIONS

20
TRAINING COURSES
PROVIDED

173
PARICIPANTS ATTENDING
COURSES

147
ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING
COURSES

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FUNDING SECURED LOCALLY

£363, 020

Renfrewshire Council
Supporting Communities

FUNDING SECURED EXTERNALLY

£701, 817

Examples of funders:

Foundation Scotland, Scottish Government,
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, Corra
Foundation, National Lottery Community Fund.

VIRTUAL FUNDING FAYRE OCTOBER 2020

Funders attending

Renfrewshire Council, National Lottery Community
Fund, Robertson Trust, Foundation Scotland

People Attending - 24

Organisations attending - 24

Our first ever virtual funding fayre was very well received; members and funders thoroughly enjoyed it. This was the first opportunity for our members to chat with funding officers since lockdown and it provided a chance to ask questions such as 'will there still be enough money left after the pandemic?' and 'can I apply for things that are not connected to covid?'. Robertson Trust spoke about the launch of new funds, which provided a great opportunity for our members to understand the criteria, begin the application process, and hopefully be amongst the first to apply.

Grantfinder 1-2-1 sessions - 70

Comments from 1-2-1

'Stuart was very helpful and the search came up with quite a few potential funders for us.'

Street Connect

'Getting the list of funders emailed to you was just great.'

KLAS Care

'Grantfinder tool is a life saver, we really don't know where we would be without it.'

Return To Life

The GRANTfinder funding database was of great benefit to during lockdown and the start of the covid crisis. Although we could not continue to use it, we are using alternatives; Funding Scotland, 360-Giving and Grantsonline. Therefore the 1-2-1 funding sessions continue, so that we can support members in finding funders that really want to support projects and causes, and reduce the time they have to invest in searching for eligible funds.

Funding Spotlight Sessions - 4

BBC Children In Need, Tudor Trust, Firstport, West
College Scotland

These smaller funding sessions are a great way for our members to have a more detailed discussion with funders. These have also been digital, and again the numbers are positive with an average of 6 different organisations registering for each session.

VOLUNTEERING OVERVIEW

Volunteering over the last year has seen a huge change. The extended lockdown during spring/summer 2020 suspended a large amount of activity that is still to fully recover. Many organisations shifted their volunteering focus to at-distance or online activity, and few organisations were able to offer volunteering that wasn't an immediate response to the pandemic.

We continued to keep in mind our four main points from our previous strategic plan while adapting and adding resources in response to the needs of the members, which were

- Improving volunteering outcomes for Engage member organisations
- Increasing volunteering among seldom heard communities and groups
- Increasing volunteering among working professionals
- Influencing the culture of volunteering

Our work over the last year has largely focussed on supporting our volunteer managers, giving guidance on how to adapt programmes, updating on new practices such as digital activity, and, most importantly, ensuring they still felt connected to the wider network.

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

COMMUNITY PLANNING

Engage Renfrewshire and its member organisations made an outstanding contribution during 2020/21 to helping people and communities in Renfrewshire through the covid pandemic. More than any other year, 2020/21 demonstrated both the real value in community planning partners working together to address common challenges and where we still have to improve on our partnership working.

The strength of the voluntary and community sector response to the pandemic, in Renfrewshire and across Scotland, has been a bright light in a dark time. Many more people will now have a greater appreciation of the power and value of community action through direct experience of receiving support from local groups, or from being involved themselves in supporting people.

The strong, positive relationships that Engage Renfrewshire has built up with statutory and voluntary sector agencies and its own membership over its ten years paid dividends many times over during the last twelve months. Engage Renfrewshire was front and centre as the key information source and resource for local groups seeking to support people in their area and for individuals volunteering their time and energy.

Through Engage, links were made between the food support provided by the statutory agencies and spontaneous local provision. A Food Network was set up to ensure regular contact between all those involved in food support, to ensure that provision was as co-ordinated and complementary as possible. Engage Renfrewshire facilitated video call meetings - a new thing for most of us last year - with community groups and Renfrewshire Council, to check in about future plans for delivering services and about how the pandemic impacted differently on different groups of people. This work is feeding directly into Renfrewshire's Social Renewal Plan to support recovery, which will be a key focus in 2021/22 and beyond.

For people experiencing shielding and self-isolating, other support as well as food was sometimes necessary.

Neighbourhood Hubs were set up across Renfrewshire to link people with food provision, but also to provide delivery of medical prescriptions and access to support such as library services and befriending calls to help people cope with isolation. The vital link that enabled these services to be delivered was the group of volunteers that came forward to support local people. Community planning partner staff including Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Leisure and Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership worked together with community groups and individual volunteers as one extended team to provide the support people needed when they needed it. Engage Renfrewshire handled all the recruitment aspects of the volunteer operation, ensuring a high standard of professionalism in managing and supporting the volunteers. The ability of Engage Renfrewshire to quickly respond to a request from other community planning to provide this kind of support was critical in ensuring that the operation was able to be set up quickly, effectively and safely.

Related to the Neighbourhood Hubs, another issue highlighted by the disruption caused by covid was the increasing necessity to be digitally connected. The Scottish Government and Scottish Council for Voluntary Services worked together on the Connecting Scotland initiative to provide digital devices to individuals and families who had no access. Engage Renfrewshire was at the heart of partnership working in Renfrewshire to enable community and voluntary sector groups to get devices from this initiative to their service users.

Last year was a time when many groups were urgently seeking funding to provide additional services, pay for necessary health and safety measures or looking to make up for loss of income just to keep themselves going. Engage Renfrewshire was the key resource keeping on top of existing and new funding streams, connecting our community and voluntary sector with funding from the Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership and independent funders.

Planned activities and spend were repeatedly thrown into uncertainty by the ever-changing situation and Engage worked in conjunction with community planning partners to provide the best and most up to date health and safety advice to keep groups operating legally and safely.

While carrying out all this partnership working and more in relation to the pandemic, Engage Renfrewshire has also maintained and strengthened its role as a key player in Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. By chairing the community planning Forum For Empowering Communities and co-chairing the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership Strategic Planning Group, Engage Renfrewshire ensures that community and voluntary sector groups have a strong voice and influence within Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership.

Engage Renfrewshire officers support all Local Partnership meetings and provide advice to the community groups

involved in them. Input about Local Partnership funding and other Council funding was included in Engage Renfrewshire's Funding Fayre and Engage provides advice about alternatives to Local Partnership funding where groups ask for this.

Although 2020/21 has been the hardest of years that many people have experienced, Engage Renfrewshire and all its members have risen to and met the challenge in such a tremendous way that the awareness of what the community and voluntary does and its role as a community planning partner has only been strengthened.

2021/22 will see some of the same challenges as last year and new ones too, but Engage Renfrewshire and its whole membership can take particular pride in its achievements over the last year and be confident of its ability to meet whatever future years bring.

PARTNERS IN THE ENGAGE HUB



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NEW SKILLS?

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds 2021 (£)	Total funds 2020 (£)
INCOME FROM:				
Donations and legacies	5,719	614,667	620,386	605,018
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES:				
Donations and legacies	70,658	2,000	72,658	67,413
Investment income	391	-	391	1,196
TOTAL	76,768	616,667	693,435	673,627
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities	10,947	611,768	622,715	642,319
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE):	65,821	4,899	70,720	31,308
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS / (LOSSES):				
Actuarial gains and losses on defined benefit pension schemes	7,000	-	7,000	22,000
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS:	72,821	4,899	77,720	53,308
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward	653,714	39,496	693,210	639,902
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD:	726,535	44,395	770,930	693,210

CASH FLOW STATEMENT - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	2021 (£)	2020 (£)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Cash generated from operations	49,330	(3,354)
Net cash provided by (us in) operating activities	49,330	(3,354)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Sale of tangible fixed assets	(1,517)	-
Interest received	391	1,196
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(1,126)	1,196
Change in cash & cash equivalents in the reporting period	48,204	(2,158)
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	672,469	674,627
Cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	720,673	672,469

CHARITY BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds 2021 (£)	Total funds 2020 (£)
FIXED ASSETS:				
Tangible assets	1,718		1,718	916
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Debtors	31,229	180,763	211,992	53,732
Cash at bank and in hand	762,682	(42,009)	720,673	672,469
	793,911	138,754	932,665	726,201
CREDITORS:				
Amounts falling due within one year	(69,094)	(94,359)	(163,453)	(33,907)
NET CURRENT ASSETS:	724,817	44,395	769,212	692,294
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES:	726,535	44,395	770,930	693,210
NET ASSETS:	726,535	44,395	770,930	693,210
FUNDS:				
Unrestricted funds				
General funds			141,911	74,090
Designated funds			584,624	579,624
			726,535	653,714
Restricted funds			44,935	39,496
TOTAL FUNDS:			770,930	693,210

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to charitable small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30 August 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Allan Dick
Trustee



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Facebook: [/engagerenfrewshire](https://www.facebook.com/engagerenfrewshire)
Twitter: [@EngageNews1](https://twitter.com/EngageNews1)



Our Board:

The Directors who served the company during the period of 2020-21 were:

- Allan Dick
- Gloria Murray
- Helen Simpson
- Gordon McGuinness
- Jim Gillespie
- William Clark
- Anne McMillan

Engage Renfrewshire (a Company Limited by Guarantee)

Registered Number: SC 120101 • Recognised as a Scottish charity - Charity no SC018453