

**Summary to Kathy in CDHN from notes at Shankill Shared Women's Centre
Events on 10/12/25**

Common Ground group feedback on what individuals are passionate about:

Young People	Power balances	Trust	Integrity	Real Collaboration
Valuing lived experience	Listening	Fairness	Better health outcomes	Community
Commitment	Recognition of the sector	Hope	Older people	Inclusion
Community Development Values	Sharing resources	New learning	People	Peer support
Equity	Sustainability	Change	Storytelling	Connection

Key themes from round table discussions with third and public sector organisations looking at what to build on, change and develop:

- Trust between statutory and community and voluntary sector is vital and two-way
- Long term funding and multi-year budgets for longer term planning and sustainability
- True collaboration that supports measured risks and recognition of skills
- Professionalism of staff and volunteers in the C&V sector through training and progression routes, valuing the importance of lived experience
- Ensure that statutory sectors have a better understanding of community development and how it relates to their work
- Small pots of money can make a big difference but need to reduce onerous administration related to applications and reporting
- Sharing the evidence base of why the medical model is not the only way
- Recognition and celebration of shared interests and common goals
- Ask decision makers and influencers what they are doing to improve health and wellbeing outcomes and who are they working with to do this
- Campaigning including for social prescribing models that are working in other areas

- Shouting from the rooftops about why community development works to reduce health inequalities
- The roots in grass roots are not something nice to have, they are the foundation of communities
- So much synergy between Scotland and Northern Ireland to seek out international funding/partnerships
- Don't reinvent the wheel – there are so many evidence-based models out there – use the research to influence eg IRIS Model in Southern area
- More opportunities for networking and days like these
- Planning models to improve access and reduce duplication
- Prevention is key
- Racism and sectarianism is there in structural barriers
- Celebrating and supporting volunteers adequately, they play a pivotal role across sectors
- Shared campaigning and creating a movement for lasting change
- Devolved government can be a challenge in terms of control, politicising decisions and fairness
- Being smart about the social return on investment
- C&V sector often the go to for 'involving' communities yet unheard or not listened to when shaping change/policy/funding models, so frustrating
- Role of Community Pharmacy and learning from CDHN BCCP model
- New Neighbourhood model could be used as a way to reduce funding in other pots but some positive context there too
- Lack of clear agreement on what success looks like in terms of reducing health inequalities
- Measurement of impact/outcomes still largely focused on medical model
- The communication loop in co-production is rarely closed
- We shouldn't accept that there is no 'new money' – why not!
- The people here today haven't lost sight of why CD matters, that's why we are here but who else should be here is important to consider

Key themes from afternoon session including CDHN membership organisations:

- Tailoring support, need to know your community
- It all starts with meeting people where they are at
- Impact of the pandemic is still evident
- Economic inactivity requires innovative and realistic leadership
- Collaboration is not just a word but a value that helps us all survive
- Inequalities have worsened, need is greater and so many solutions are short term/short fix
- Waste of resources in terms of poor planning or duplication
- Patronising tone of policy documents/language needs to change
- C&V sector not high enough on the list in stakeholder engagement with statutory sector

- Build capacity of minority communities and migrant communities for inclusive participation
- Language matters
- Lack of longer-term funding is a barrier for impact in deprived communities where change takes time
- Succession planning, who is going to fill the vacant roles in future
- Low capacity in rural communities is a challenge
- Trust takes time to build and when we are competing for funding it can be harder
- Research is good but it only focuses on one community/one theme
- Prevention and early intervention models exists and support collaboration
- We are stronger together, that is easier to say than to implement
- We need better training and support to build capacity
- It is positive to learn from each other in different areas and recognise the similarities in challenges and structures
- Our volunteers are getting older and our staff team are tired, some retiring and this will leave a big gap
- Our voices are strong and respectful, they just aren't being listened to
- Community Development works, we know that and see that, how do we tell the stories in the places where decisions are made

Words that were shared across all sessions:

- Trust
- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Lived Experiences
- Funding
- Partnerships
- Community Development Values
- Voices
- Change
- Capacity
- Communication
- Relationships
- Prevention
- Hope
- Community
- Frustration
- Inclusion
- Social model