

Community-led Health Manifesto

For Communities, By Communities

We have the answer and it's affordable

Proposed by

Communities for Health Advisory Group



Communities for Health Advisory Group is a group of practitioners working in community and voluntary sector health organisations. It became an independently constituted group following the Community Health Exchange conference in 2009 which identified the need to have a representative voice at a national level. It supports the case for a more strategic and central position for community-led approaches to health improvement strategies and in the allocation of resources to community-led health improvement and reducing health inequalities.

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What Community-led health organisations do

At a time when Health Inequalities remain one of Scotland's biggest challenges ¹ Community-led health initiatives continue to address this issue successfully by supporting positive change in Scotland's communities by:

1. Being embedded at the heart of our communities.
2. Using a community led approach which delivers health and well being.
3. Tackling inequalities by combating the effects of poverty, both of economic status and consequential poverty of aspiration.
4. Encouraging and increasing social networks and connections.
5. Recognising that individuals themselves are an asset and experts in their own life circumstances.
6. Responding in flexible and adaptable ways to community needs through listening to and acting on community identified priorities.
7. Involving communities in creative and innovative solutions to the challenges they face in their everyday lives.
8. Supporting behaviour change in relation to improving health and well being.
9. Ensuring that those who are traditionally 'seldom heard' have a voice.
10. Developing and supporting appropriate services.
11. Engaging in constructive partnership working.
12. Having a willingness to be open to new ideas and working with 'hard to reach' groups.
13. By establishing sustainable community organisations e.g. through new social enterprises.

Our Vision for a Healthier Scotland

The right to influence decision making

- Individuals and communities (particularly those currently most excluded or marginalised) will have the right to have control over the decisions affecting them and their communities of geography and interest or identity to ensure positive health outcomes.

Access to Partnership working

- There will be constructive partnerships for health between community-led health organisations and the Scottish Government, NHS Scotland, Local Authorities and other statutory partners both locally and nationally.

Appropriate resource allocation

- The added value brought by the community-led health sector to health improvement will be appropriately recognised through allocation of resources.

We call on Government to

- Recognise and collaborate with the community-led health sector as a key strategic partner for improving Scotland's health
- Ensure sustainable investment in the community-led health sector
- Recognise the significance of the preventative work undertaken by community-led health organisations
- Encourage statutory agencies to acknowledge and welcome the contribution that community-led health makes to Scotland's health improvement, thereby meeting the shared challenge of working towards healthy communities

¹ Chief Medical Officer's report *Health in Scotland 2009: Time for Change*