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scotregen

issue 41 : spring 2008

sharing experience : shaping practice

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plus links, reviews, language and numbers in regeneration.

SURF conference votes on progress in 'a Generation of Regeneration'.



Dundee's West Park Centre was full to capacity for the SURF Conference where delegates from all regeneration sectors debated what progress has been made in the last fifteen years and what policies will help meet the challenges of the next fifteen.

Since SURF was set up in 1992 a lot has changed, and yet for many a lot remains the same:

- Intergenerational poverty remains ingrained in concentrated areas
- Social mobility is low
- Health and income inequalities have increased
- Poverty and poor health remain closely linked

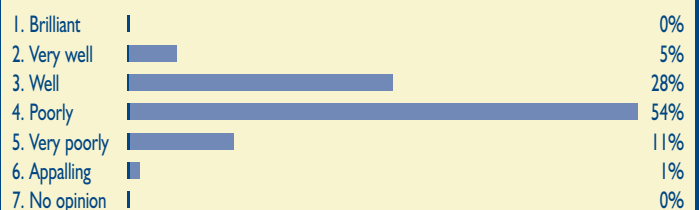
However, the level of understanding of the issues, and the linkages across regeneration agendas, are greater than ever.

Describing the January 2008 conference as a timely opportunity to look forward in a period of change, SURF Chair, Ian Wall, welcomed the 'genuinely fierce' commitment of SURF members to make a better Scotland. The 150 delegates heard from excellent keynote speakers on 'How we got here in terms of regeneration policy, what seems to have worked, and what we need to consider if we are to meet future challenges.' Guests were also given a chance to debate the way forward with the help of 20 experts from the SURF network in the four policy priority areas of:

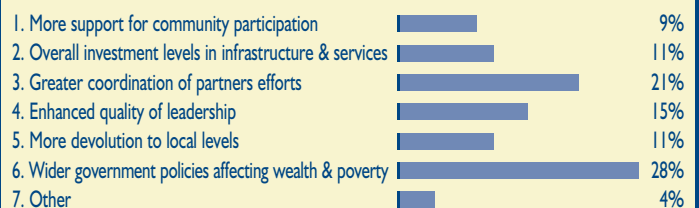
- 1. Gainful Employment
- 2. Healthy Futures
- 3. Skills and Learning
- 4. Community Empowerment

A report summarising the key learning outcomes from the event is available on the SURF website at www.scotregen.co.uk, as are additional materials, such as copies of the speakers' presentation slides and the outcome of the keypad voting sessions. Here are just two of those conference vote results:

How well do you think the current regeneration policies are working?



What one thing needs to improve most to make our overall regeneration efforts more successful?



Check out the rest of the results on our website and let us know if you agree with the delegates.

A view from the chair



Ian Wall
SURF Chair

Transmitting Success

2007 ended on a high with our Annual Awards Presentation Dinner and Ceilidh. The quality of the submissions this year was extremely high. It was great to see such important work being recognised and celebrated. It also provides practical guidance and examples for all of us across Scotland. Full details of the successful projects can be seen on www.scotregen.co.uk.

The 2007 Awards Ceremony was the culmination of what has been a good year for SURF with continued growth in membership and event participation levels. The year ended with a very positive independent evaluation of our continuing Open Forum Programme.

2008 got off to a very good start with our Annual Conference held in Dundee, attracting 150 participants, with presentations and workshops ranging across the very wide field of regeneration. It would be invidious to pick out any particular contributions or workshops as the overall standard was very high but two key elements recurred in different guises throughout the day.

Firstly, the necessity to tackle regeneration in the round. Most projects begin around a particular issue, e.g. mental health, housing, training. They are rarely successful in isolation and the need for integration and co-operative working across the range of all those responsible for the well-being of our society is critical. Lip service has of course always been paid to this but, the Scottish Government and other organisations within Scotland, now seem to be seeking to ensure that it is actually practised.

Secondly, the need to ensure an efficient and responsive transmission belt between practice and policy. Those on the ground are often quickest to see what is not working so well and what is working very well. That knowledge needs to be integrated with other practitioners' experience and translated quickly to policy makers to ensure that both policy and resources are allocated to the best effect for our communities.

In both of these areas SURF plays an important role as the only national organisation focussed on regeneration that draws together public and private, community and government, major commercial concerns and activist groups. In doing so it provides the cross cutting organisation we need to integrate our work and the transmission belts from bottom to top that we need to ensure success.

SURF needs you

Our Scotregen journal and the SURF web site highlight our extensive and developing programme of activities but, in addition to that, and in order to fulfil these two roles even better than we do at present, more than anything we need a larger SURF membership.

If you are reading this and your organisation is not a member, please join; if you are a member, are there others you can recruit to join us? The more members there are, the stronger our organisation becomes, the more it is capable of fulfilling an important role in the future of Scotland. Full details on SURF membership are available on the our web site at www.scotregen.co.uk.

Editorial



Andy Milne
SURF Chief Executive

Welcome to the Spring 2008 edition of **scotregen**, our 41st issue.

The purpose of this quarterly journal is to use SURF's independent position to raise discussion and debate about important developments in regeneration policy and practice. Scotregen is part of SURF's regular output of publications, events and discussions aimed at supporting more successful and sustainable regeneration efforts in urban communities across Scotland.

In this issue you can read about:

Growing Success

HIE and the Big Lottery offer substantial support for community asset building.

New Directions in Private Renting

Shelter's Rosemary Brotchie on stepping up to the challenge of Firm Foundations.

Time Banking

George Thompson of Volunteer Development Scotland outlines how Time Banking is building social capital and supporting regeneration efforts in Scotland and across the world.

European Support

Gordon McLaren of the East of Scotland European Partnership explain how Scotland can make the most of the 2007 - 2013 European Structural Funds Programmes.

Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland

Gregor Henderson, Director of the National Programme for Improving Mental Health, emphasises the positive approach the Government wants to take towards the nation's wellbeing.

Planning with Young People

Vincent Gibson of Space Unlimited finds evidence of success in an enterprising approach to engaging young people in decision making.

And more....

Elsewhere, SURF goes in search of the best regeneration films and books, and Scotregen's regular columnists Chik Collins and Stirling Howieson tackle the Language and Number games that people play. There are also reviews and links to useful reports. All this and more in Scotland's independent urban regeneration journal.

Your feedback on any of the above, or anything else you think we should be looking at in future editions of Scotregen, is always welcome. Just email me at [andyMilne\(at\)scotregen.co.uk](mailto:andyMilne(at)scotregen.co.uk)

Growing Success

In November 2006, SURF teamed up with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Highland and Island Enterprise and others to deliver a Perth based seminar titled 'Same Difference? - Community Asset Based Regeneration: useful lessons from different settings.'

It's an area of interest that we have followed since and we will be holding a further event on this topic in co operation with HIE and the Big Lottery later in the spring.

Meanwhile, the article below sets out some of the progress and opportunities connected to the Growing Community Assets Fund that was one of the bright lights on the horizon at our November 2006 event.

Shaping the Future

Growing Community Assets (GCA) is a scheme delivered by a Highlands and Islands Enterprise led consortium of national partners on behalf of the Big Lottery Fund (BIG), Scotland. As one of four investment strands in the Big Lottery Fund's Investing in Communities programme, GCA runs until spring 2009 and allows groups in Scotland to take control of assets to shape the future for their community.

GCA aims to help communities to obtain and purchase assets such as land, buildings or equipment. These assets will have to have a long-term end purpose. For instance, land purchases might allow the opportunity for forestry or setting up a nature reserve. Other activities that GCA can support includes footpaths, cycleways and transport initiatives linked to assets that support communities to be more connected.

To date 42 community groups across Scotland have been successful in obtaining nearly £14 million of funding that will help them to purchase assets, or to develop assets they already own.

Projects that have benefited from a funding award from GCA include:

- The Auchencairn Initiative that was awarded £225,000 to construct the Auchencairn Enterprise Centre a purpose-built facility that will provide premises in Dumfries and Galloway for new business opportunities, the local shop and post office.
- McSence Workspace Limited was awarded £800,000 to develop a new social enterprise centre that will encourage entrepreneurship and stimulate new social enterprises, in the Mayfield area of Midlothian.
- Community Food Initiative North East was awarded £517,000 to enable them to purchase a share in premises, allowing them to grow their existing business which involves distributing fresh fruit and vegetables to disadvantaged groups in deprived areas of Aberdeen as part of a healthy eating initiative, whilst also providing volunteering opportunities and reducing the amount of fresh food going to landfill.
- The purchase and development of assets in the form of community renewables can also benefit from GCA funding. Castlemilk and Carmunock Community Windpark Trust were awarded £49,766 to enable them to employ a development officer to advance their proposals for a community owned wind farm.

Community Led

GCA invests in proposals that are community led and controlled such as development trusts, community interest companies and community co-operatives.

- Recently, GCA awarded £227,666 towards a two year project providing training and employment in path building skills to Culag Community Woodland Trust in Assynt, Sutherland.
- In Fife, the Community Council of Milton and Coaltown of Balgonie,

through the Balgonie Bleachfield Project will create a 10.63 hectare wildlife area on a former landfill site. Growing Community Assets is providing £45,500 towards this development which will enhance the biodiversity of species, both flora and fauna.

- Derelict land in the Govan area of Glasgow has been assisted with an award of £24,440 to Govan Housing Association to provide green space for educational visits by schools and enable a variety of community events throughout the year.



Kathleen McLennan of the Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company

Along with HIE, the consortium involves five other major partners: Scottish Enterprise, CeIS (Community Enterprise in Strathclyde), Forth Sector, Highlands and Islands Community Energy Company and Social Investment Scotland.

The consortium ensures that communities have direct access to the most comprehensive and focused single community development resource in Scotland.

GCA would like to see more community groups coming to us with exciting ideas for greenspace projects, such as: developing a piece of land to become a sustainable community asset; projects around food, such as community orchards; and other projects based around renewable energy. GCA is also looking for urban communities to think about how they could have an impact in regenerating their area.

Supporting more urban investment

Community groups need support to help them develop their ideas and there are experts available to advise groups who are trying to work up a full application through GCA. Development funding is also available through Investing in Ideas to help projects develop and get a better understanding of what shared aspirations communities have.

Communities have until August 2008 to submit an initial outline proposal form describing their projects to Big Lottery Fund. Further information can be obtained by visiting BIG's website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/Scotland. An outline proposal form is downloadable here where projects should be described. Alternatively call 0845 606 1199 to request a hard copy or contact BIG's Enquiry line on 0870 240 2391.

SURF will be continuing its support for promoting community asset based regeneration by organising a special policy discussion with key decision makers and a seminar on how communities and other partners can benefit from this approach. Further details will be notified to SURF members and posted on the SURF website at www.scotregen.co.uk.

Firm foundations - stepping up to the challenge

Following Colin Armstrong's critique of 'Firm Foundations' in the last issue of Scotregean, Rosemary Brotchie of Shelter Scotland offers some tactical advice on how the Scottish Government and Local Authorities could get up to speed to meet the 'Olympian' target of eradicating homelessness by 2012.



Rosemary Brotchie
Policy Officer, Shelter Scotland
rosemary_brotchie(at)shelter.org.uk

New Directions in Private Renting

In 2012, the Olympic Games will be hosted by the UK. But for Scotland, taking top place on the podium in 2012 will not mean winning a gold medal, it will mean winning international acclaim by making sure that no one in Scotland is homeless. By 2012, anyone found to be unintentionally homeless will have the right to a home. Implementing this groundbreaking goal will be an Olympian challenge for local authorities over the next four years.

For the new Government elected in Scotland less than a year ago, it's an ambitious target to match their ambitions for Scotland. Since May, from the First Minister down, the Scottish Government have been resolute in emphasising their support for 2012. But as we enter 2008, it's become make or break time for delivery. The challenge will be in ensuring that there are enough homes available. We don't want to be in a position where meeting the target means people who are homeless have to spend long periods in temporary accommodation, and people who are on waiting lists to get a socially rented home have no prospect of a move.

To meet the challenge, the housing sector in Scotland has been united in calling for a step change in the number of socially rented homes built between now and 2012. When the budget was announced however, blaming a tight settlement from Westminster, the Scottish Government refused to provide the funding for 30,000 new affordable rented homes for Scotland. Despite this figure being backed by all the major housing organisations as a realistic response to the crisis in affordable housing.

Instead, their consultation, 'Firm Foundations' promised a range of measures to meet Scotland's housing need and the 2012 target on homelessness. As well as an intention to build more houses across all tenures, the main proposal that will contribute to meeting 2012 is to make greater use of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) to house homeless people. Local authorities are already using the PRS to supplement their own stocks of temporary accommodation, but the Scottish Government is now suggesting that the PRS could be used to allow a local authority to discharge its statutory duty to households who are homeless.

BROAD SUPPORT

Shelter is broadly supportive of this proposal, though with some important caveats about the conditions of the tenancy and the management arrangements. But we also urge caution about the scale of the contribution that the PRS can make to meet the needs of homeless people. Under the right circumstances the PRS can play an important and valuable role, but it does not undermine the case for an increase in the number of socially rented homes that are built.

The PRS may offer increased choice, opening up opportunities that otherwise might not be available to homeless people in terms of where they live and the type of property available. For some people at certain points in their lives, private rented accommodation may well be a good option. But it is also the case that a high proportion of clients come to Shelter as a result of leaving the PRS. Over 20 per cent of our clients cite a problem with a private tenancy as a reason for seeking our advice. This is a disproportionately high number when the PRS only houses 7.5 per cent of households in Scotland. In light of this, Shelter wants the Scottish Government to address problems with the security, cost and management quality of accommodation available to people in the private rented sector:

- **Security of Tenure.** At the moment the vast majority of tenants in the PRS are given a Short Assured Tenancy, which generally only offers 6 months security of tenure. This is nowhere near enough to be considered settled accommodation or a permanent home. We think that the Scottish Government should create a specific tenancy option alongside the existing regime, designed to offer greater security to people who are being housed as a result of a homeless application. We think there is merit in investigating a model similar to the 'Part 4' tenancy* in the Republic of Ireland. If this model were adapted for private landlords in Scotland who house people who have been homeless, during the first six months the tenancy would constitute temporary accommodation. For some households, moving seamlessly then into a 3 year fixed contract could be considered sufficient to stabilise their housing crisis.
- **Cost** - Rent levels in the PRS are significantly higher than the social sector and people who rely on housing benefit often find it difficult to access PRS accommodation. A combination of high rents, the way benefits reduce as income increases and unreliable administration all act as very tangible barriers to finding and keeping a PRS home. The problems with housing benefit are largely outside the control of the government in Scotland. Expanding the role of the PRS in housing people on low incomes means increasingly relying on an income stream which is not under the direct influence of the Scottish Government.
- **Tenancy Management.** We have extensive experience through advising our clients of the appalling management practices that persist in some parts of the PRS. The list of poor practice will be familiar to most people and includes unlawful eviction, harassment and unfair withholding of deposits. We have never suggested that poor management is endemic in the PRS, but the number and scale of cases we deal with, which are themselves the tip of the iceberg, suggest that landlords who mismanage their tenancies are numerous. With this in mind, Shelter would argue that the PRS is not necessarily suitable for people with high support needs.

* A Part 4 tenancy introduces greater security of tenure for the tenant while still allowing the landlord possession of the property under certain circumstances. During the first six months, the tenant or the landlord can terminate the contract by giving 28 days notice without the need for a reason. After this period, the tenancy converts automatically to a 3 year fixed term. During the fixed term, the landlord can only terminate the lease on one of a number of fixed grounds, and the notice period for both the tenant and the landlord increases over the period.



ACCREDITATION PLUS

So how do we address these concerns over security, cost and management to make the PRS suitable for homeless households?

Shelter believes that we are moving towards a specific sub-sector of private renting made up of landlords with long-term motivations and a commitment to higher and consistent management standards. Shelter envisages a scheme where landlords who choose to get involved in housing homeless people meet an 'Accreditation Plus' standard, or sign up with an intermediary tenancy management agent.

In recognition that landlords are undertaking the added commitment of meeting public policy goals, a range of incentives could be developed. A key incentive for landlords to take on this role would be for the local authority to secure the flow of rent payment, including support from a housing benefit officer dedicated to resolving problems in administration. Incentives might also include access to specially negotiated insurance policies, rent deposit guarantee schemes and grants or loans to carry out repairs and maintenance. Our discussions with landlord bodies suggests that there is an appetite among some landlords for taking on this role, and this can be demonstrated further by the large numbers of landlords who have applied to join the Private Sector Leasing Schemes in areas such as Edinburgh.

One important consideration that is not properly reflected in the Scottish Government's discussions so far, is that it is unhelpful to talk about the PRS as a homogenous group of landlords. There is a big difference between why landlords are letting, and how they view their role. Indeed it could be argued that some landlords, particularly in rural areas, are already providing a semi-social role. It is also important to be realistic about the scale of the contribution that the PRS may make to meeting the needs of homeless people. There is considerable variation in the size and significance of the PRS between different areas, in large cities such as Edinburgh it accounts for a large proportion of housing stock and could probably make a significant difference, but in other areas it may only account for a tiny proportion of local stock and its contribution will therefore be limited.

That is not to say that the PRS could not play a specific and targeted role in meeting the housing need of people who are homeless or on low incomes, but that the contribution to meeting overall housing

need should not be overstated. We are clear that we agree that the PRS can play a larger part in housing homeless people than it currently does, but we do not think that the PRS would be a suitable choice for every, or even many, households coming through the homelessness route.

So we want the Government to encourage a sub-set of private landlords to take on a specialised role in housing homeless people. But there is also a role for the Scottish Government in encouraging higher standards for tenants across the wider PRS. Over recent years, the Scottish Government has encouraged local authorities to engage and communicate with private landlords. This is an important role, but we question whether local authorities have the capacity to do this well. Many local authorities are just beginning to develop private rented sector and the level of commitment to engaging with landlords varies widely across Scotland.

EMPOWERED FOR SUCCESS

Perhaps more significantly, however, is the fact that there has been very little communication between local authorities or the Scottish Government, and private tenants in Scotland. That tenants know about their rights and can act to ensure they're upheld is the underpinning principle of much of the regulation that has recently been introduced. Recent reforms for the sector, such as the introduction of national Landlord Registration and the Repairing Standard for private landlords will only work well if tenants become empowered to use their new consumer rights. Supporting and equipping tenants and landlords to exercise self-regulation should be given a higher priority if we want to create a thriving sector.

Government engagement with the sector must take place on a range of levels with a proper understanding of the dynamics of the sector. Moving towards opening up the PRS to households who are homeless is a significant development that may take many years to reach its full potential. These changes will blur the traditional distinction between social and private landlords and require a new vision for the role of landlords in Scotland. This is all part of the challenge in securing the social justice potential and international acclaim that the 2012 target represents for Scotland.

A full list of responses to the Government's Firm Foundations consultation will soon be available from <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/About> (NB: not online at time of going to press).

Time Banking: part of the new volunt

George Thomson is CEO of Volunteer Development Scotland which has established a national role in the development of Time Banking in Scotland. In this article he shares with Scotregen the thinking and experiences behind TimeBanking and the opportunity that it offers for community regeneration.



George Thomson

Chief Executive, Volunteer Development Scotland

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Understanding the Changing Needs of Volunteering in Scotland

The findings of research by VDS has demonstrated that although there is a very high stated willingness of people to volunteer (from all backgrounds) although the numbers actively volunteering either formally or informally appears to be decreasing. Our evidence suggests that there is a need to provide a much greater range of opportunities for volunteering; which are more flexible, personally fulfilling, inclusive, diverse, less formal or contractual, easily accessed, enjoyable, which build social networks – in essence volunteering which meet the needs of the modern lifestyle choices and demands which face the people of Scotland.

Responding to the Changing Needs of Volunteering in Scotland

It is essential therefore if volunteering in Scotland is to be respond positively to the expressed willingness of people to give time for others, that change is required, and that change must address the evidence from people about what they need to gain their involvement in volunteering in all its forms.

Why Time Banking?

Time Banking is a concept which was conceived by the world renowned campaigner for civil rights Dr Edgar Cahn. After suffering a heart attack and during his period of recuperation Dr Cahn says that he felt useless. This led him to invent a currency which everyone had access to – time – and which was earned by undertaking the important work he felt society didn't value highly enough, such as being a good neighbour and bringing up children.

The first Time Banks, created from Dr Cahn's concept, were set up in the USA in the mid 1980's. Time Banks UK as an umbrella organisation to support Time Banking throughout the UK and became a registered charity in the year 2000.

Time Banking Core Values

All Time Banking initiatives are based on common principles which run through their everyday operations. These are the core values of Time Banking.

• People are assets

The starting point for all Time Banks is the recognition that people are the real wealth in any community. Every individual can contribute to the well being of the local community through giving their time, sharing their skills and providing practical support.

• Redefining work

Activities such as bringing up children, caring for people who are marginalised, keeping communities safe and fighting social injustice have to be recognised, rewarded and counted as valuable work which contributes to a healthy society for us to live in.

• Reciprocity

Giving and receiving are the simplest and most fundamental ways of building trust between people.

They are the basic building blocks to positive social relationships and healthy communities.

• Building Social Capital

Belonging to a mutually supportive and secure social network brings more meaning to our lives and new opportunities to rebuild our trust in one another.

Evidence gathered since 2000 demonstrates that Time Banks have the potential to engage individuals from a wide range of backgrounds, including many who don't generally choose to volunteer. More specifically research from 2002, *The Time of Our Lives*, Dr Gill Seyfang, University of East Anglia indicated that;

- 58% of Time Bank participants come from low income households - (compared to 16% in formal volunteering)
- 20% are disabled or long term illness - (vs. 3% in formal volunteering)
- 72% not in formal employment - (vs. 40% in formal volunteering)
- 58% older people - (vs. 19% in formal volunteering)
- 8% from black/ethnic minorities - (vs. 5% in formal volunteering)
- 51% never volunteered before

How Time Banks work

1 hour = 1 credit

A Time Bank is a tool which can be adapted and used to build social capital and enhance the networks in which we live and work. It is open to individuals and also organisations. 1 hour of help or support equals 1 time credit. A Time Bank participant deposits time credits in their 'account' whenever they give and they withdraw time credits when they need something done for themselves.

Time Brokering

The Time Broker role is pivotal; this is the central coordinating of the Time Bank. They match people who have a specific need with those who have the specific skill or attribute to fulfil that need. These 'exchanges of time' which take place through this matching process, can be very flexible.

Volunteer Development Scotland

A Joint Venture was established with Time Banks UK in 2007. This agreement recognises VDS's role in Scotland. As the national agency VDS aims to further develop its capacity which will in turn enable it to develop the 32 Volunteer Centres in Scotland building their capacity and capability to be local authority based agencies for Time Banking.

The evidence of the positive impacts of Time Banking on communities, health, inclusion, diversity, employment, and social capital has already developed an interest in the model and VDS is exceptionally well placed to develop its credibility and ability to deliver on the potential growth of Time Banking.

Research by the New Economics Foundation into the sustainability of Time Banking has been fully applied in Scotland by building a national coordination approach backed up with local infrastructure. Scotland has, in applying best practice on a national basis an opportunity to be truly a world leader in Time Banking which is a world wide movement.

teering and regeneration landscape

Volunteer Centre Network – Time Banking Pilot Project

The pilot project took place in 4 Volunteer Centres across Scotland from October 2006 until September 2007. The experience of the pilot VC's has proved to be invaluable in



providing sufficient evidence to confirm that Volunteer Centres are in an ideal and unique position to further develop Time Banking as a new vibrant, flexible, informal and inclusive dimension to volunteering in Scotland, locally and nationally with the structured support from Volunteer Development Scotland.

The key findings of the pilot included;

- The Need for a Structured Process
- The Essential Nature of the Time Broker / Coordinator Role
- The Diversity of the Volunteers Recruited

Time Banking: National and International Connections

Time Banks now operate in thirteen countries and we know of another eight countries where time banks are being planned. Time Banking is taking off all around the world: in Japan they are being used to care for growing numbers of elderly people, using tokens called hureai kippu (tickets for caring relationships). From a Slovakian children's home to a Tibetan refugee's camp; in Spain, China, France, New Zealand, Portugal, Israel, Brazil, Italy and Curacao, Time Banks are signing up to form what is becoming 'a small plus small plus small equals big' international movement.

Castlemilk Time Bank

Castlemilk Time Bank has been in operation since September 2001 and now has a membership of over 200 which includes 50 community organisations and local businesses.

The Time Bank has been a catalyst in the setting up of new community groups.

Castlemilk Time Bank were awarded the Evening Times Local heroes Award in January 2006 and have been recently been nominated for the Queens Award, the results are to be announced later in the year.

Time Banking in Health

Time Banks are important because they operate on the basic building blocks of healthy communities and positive social relationships – co-sufficiency and the fact that we all need each other. By developing Time Banking schemes for communities we can improve the health, quality of life and participation for all members.

One such example of such a scheme is a timebank in Rushey Green, London, which is located in a general practice health centre in East Lewisham, South London. It was founded in 2000 as an innovative way to promote wellbeing and health. The GPs were convinced that many patients, who presented with symptoms of isolation and depression, could be helped by increasing their contact with other people and finding a framework in which they could feel useful in society. The Time Bank now provides that structure.

The Socio-Medical Research Centre of St Thomas Hospital has conducted a two year evaluation of the health impacts of the Rushey Green Time Bank. They found that participants emphasised how the social networks surrounding the Time Bank lessened the loss of function resulting from their physical illness, not only in terms of their obvious improvements (e.g. transport to get around) but also in terms of the additional social action diverting attention from pain or frustration of being house bound. For those with psychological symptoms, improvements were recorded in around 70% of participants.

Time Banking and Prisons

A prison based Time Bank scheme has been established in Gloucester and will transform the current Probation and Prison Service dealing with resettlement and sentence management. Community linked work will be strengthened and Time Banking has been recognised and acknowledged as a means of support for inmates and their families in and outside of prison through the use of an alternative currency and community support mechanism. Prisons can access more services and support in the prison and in their Family and Visitors Centres to assist with the Family Pathways related work. Essentially Time Banks can help with family cohesion, resettlement, reintegration, and the reduced likelihood of re-offending.

Recently within the Castlemilk Time Bank a prison project has been launched in partnership with three prisons, Shotts, Kilmarnock and Polmont Young Offenders Institution. Prisoners from Castlemilk who would normally do voluntary work within the prison, are now able to earn time credits for the work they do. They can then donate these to their families in Castlemilk or the wider community, such as local community organisations. The average number of hours donated every month is 20. The prisoners in Shotts are listeners to fellow inmates and are trained by the Samaritans, the prisoners in Kilmarnock are baking for Governors' meetings which occur every week and the prisoners in Polmont are involved in Drama.

Universal Values

Time Banking is not just another community building tool or volunteering 'initiative'. It is a flexible tool for participation which brings local community organisations together, and strengthens their activities. It also involves socially excluded groups in a spirit of equality, meeting needs and linking service 'users' with service 'providers' together in a new way. Time Banking rewards community self-help and active citizenship, tackling social exclusion in deprived neighbourhoods.

The use of Time Banking has considerable potential for further impacts. Its value lies in generating social networks and affirming positive relationships on a foundation of universal values. This makes for a very modern and adaptive tool for human development and regeneration.

Lisbon – Gothenburg – Employment

For some Scotregen readers, talk of Lisbon goals and Gothenburg strategies will bring back fond, if rather distant, memories of Scottish footballing triumphs, but they are in fact key elements for future European success in regeneration. In this article, Gordon McLaren of the East of Scotland European Partnership outlines some of the rules and tactics required for a successful Scottish team performance in the field of European regeneration funding.



Gordon McLaren

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Co-operating in a changed context

The Lowlands and Uplands Scotland area is eligible for funding under the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Objective which replaces previous Objectives 2 and 3 and supports projects that increase competitiveness, employment and skills. There are two Operational Programmes for Lowlands and Uplands Scotland – the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme and the European Social Fund (ESF) Programme. The Programmes are managed by ESEP Ltd, based in Glasgow and Inverkeithing under contract to the Scottish Government.

In the 2007-13 Programmes, there is a significant reduction in European Structural Funds. Scotland will receive less than half of the level of funding of the 2000-6 Programming period. Both the European Commission and Scottish Government are agreed that it is essential that the Funds are better targeted, that there is an increasing focus on more strategic projects, and that the limited funds available have the greatest impact on regional development and employability.

Enlargement of the EU in 2004 and 2007 has resulted in a shift of Structural Funds resources towards the new EU Member States with acute development needs and a subsequent reduction in funding to many of the 'older' Member States such as the UK. There is a strong possibility that this will be the last significant Structural Funds support for Scotland, which means that there is an even greater emphasis in the 2007-13 Programmes on assisting projects which are sustainable beyond Structural Funds support.

In addition to this changed context, all those involved in Structural Funds have experienced an unprecedented level of external audit from the Commission and the European Court of Auditors. These investigations have challenged established practice across a range of compliance issues including procurement, state aids, the assessment of additionality and revenue generation. The Scottish Government has determined that the Managing Authority, Programme Manager and Project Sponsors will work together to ensure that the lessons are learned and that all projects supported under the new Programmes are fully compliant, to avoid the disruption and risks that can ensue.

Changes and Challenges

There are a number of important changes to the 2007-13 European Structural Funds Programmes. Tighter restrictions on eligible activities have been introduced. Programmes now have to meet expenditure targets set by the EU to ensure that activities contribute to achieve the EU's Lisbon Strategy goals for employment and economic growth. The Lowlands and Uplands Scotland Programmes, funded through the Competitiveness Objective, must

spend a minimum of 75% in support of the Lisbon goals:

- Making Europe a more attractive place to invest and work through extending and deepening the internal market, better regulation, more competitive markets and improved infrastructure.
- Knowledge and innovation for growth by increased investment in research and development.
- Creating more and better jobs through modernising social security systems, improving the flexibility of labour markets, investing in education and skills to improve human capital.

The European Commission has 'earmarked' types of activities that directly support Lisbon goals and should be the focus of Structural Funds support. This targeting places limits and restrictions on activities previously eligible under the 2000/06 Programmes and means, for example, that a key change is that there are now substantial constraints on how much capital infrastructure can be supported by the Programmes.

Research and innovation support has been prioritised in the EU Cohesion Policy for 2007-13 and has been given a separate priority in the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland ERDF Programme (Priority 1). It aims to help support the managerial and entrepreneurial skills required to support R&D in enterprises and establish new knowledge based businesses. Innovation, however, should not be seen as the exclusive domain of the research and commercialisation activity of Higher Education and Research Institutes but should include all organisations being more innovative and acting smarter.

'Leaving a legacy' is a phrase which is somewhat over-used, but given that this will probably be the last significant Structural Funds support for Scotland, increased weight will be given to projects which fit with Scottish Government, UK and EU strategies and policies. Scottish Government are looking to support more strategic projects and to implement new delivery arrangements in order to effectively and successfully implement the new Programmes.

Large regeneration projects can no longer be supported on the same scale as before under the new ERDF Programme for the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland. However, there is the opportunity to pursue more innovative and sustainable ways of financing large scale regeneration through for example building and developing community assets. JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas), the Commission's proposed urban regeneration development fund, offers the potential for European funding to co-finance major regeneration activities through an investment fund-type vehicle. This is an entirely new and novel way of using EU funding to promote sustainable investments and growth in urban areas. Work is underway to explore its applicability and eligibility in the context of the Lowlands and Uplands Scotland ERDF Programmes.

The significant reduction in funding means that inevitably there are difficult choices and decisions ahead for the Programmes. There is increased need to ensure that project appraisal processes are sufficiently robust, open and transparent, and ultimately deliver the right decisions. Structural Funds awards will continue to be made on the basis of competitive rounds and projects will be assessed through a mixture of expert and peer review. Greater emphasis has been placed on:

- fit with national and local strategies
- partnership with local and national bodies
- taking forward the Programme's sustainable development and equal opportunities aspirations

Urban Regeneration – A Continuing Priority

Urban regeneration will be delivered through Priority 1 ESF (Progressing into Employment) and Priority 3 ERDF (Urban Regeneration). The Scottish Government have determined that one of the effective delivery vehicles should be the Community Planning

A policy framework for 2007-13 European Structural Funds Programmes.

Partnerships (CPPs). Funding will be awarded to a selection of CPPs in implementing social inclusion/regeneration action plans, supporting projects which complement the role of CPPs in delivering social inclusion and regeneration goals at a local level. Funding will be awarded for a period of two years and will be independently evaluated on completion of the projects.

Funding will focus on projects which integrate ESF and ERDF eligible activities to deliver sustainable outcomes for targeted communities and residents. There will be an emphasis on effective engagement with communities and, whilst fundamentally there is a requirement to achieve economic development outcomes, it will be expected that there will be evidence of progression which takes participants from a low starting baseline through to employment and/or training. The headline policy here is Employability and everything around the CPP proposals will have to be directed to that end.

CPPs have been encouraged to apply for both ERDF and ESF funding as their applications will be assessed on how well they can integrate funding from both Priorities. Funding will also be available for individual projects applying to these two Priorities. Organisations taking part in CPP applications can also submit separate applications for individual project funding, however the same activity can only appear in one application.

Eligible CPPs must be based in local authority areas that are eligible for Priority 3 ERDF and Priority 1 ESF funding. These areas have been determined in accordance with the Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD).

Clackmannanshire	Dundee City
East Ayrshire	Edinburgh City
Fife	Glasgow City
Inverclyde	North Ayrshire
North Lanarkshire	Renfrewshire
South Lanarkshire	West Dunbartonshire
West Lothian	

Successful CPPs will have to produce a complementary statement aligned to their Community Plan objectives and Regeneration Outcome Agreements (ROAs)

Building and Sustaining Local Regeneration Capacity

In the context of leaving a legacy and building local regeneration capacity, particularly within communities, key policy priorities around the social economy and the growth of social enterprises have a significant role to play.

Restrictions on eligibility of project activity as well as the establishment of a minimum project size based on the annual average total eligible costs of £200,000 represent both a fundamental risk and a fundamental challenge to organisations, particularly in the voluntary sector in accessing European Structural Funds in this programming period. This coupled with a reduction in Funds means that there will be a significant number of disappointed project sponsors. ESEP has commissioned a study examining the potential for developing local consortium arrangements within the voluntary sector, so that small voluntary organisations can form strategic alliances and develop more viable delivery arrangements and business models in order to secure longer term funding beyond this period of Structural Funds.

Whilst small scale activity from individual voluntary sector/NGO organisations may no longer be supported, where the desire and opportunity exists for organisations with good track records to come together in some form of strategic consortium arrangement, then this needs to be encouraged and properly supported. Such an arrangement can have benefits beyond European Structural Fund support and would more effectively and more efficiently respond to local authority and indeed Scottish Government requirements in meeting key government policy priorities. The context for this is set by Workforce Plus (Employability Framework) Framework, the Regeneration Policy Statement, More Choices More Chances

Strategy, the Skills for Scotland Strategy and Social Enterprise. There is also the opportunity here for both the voluntary sector to market and position themselves better in terms of sustainability, future business opportunities, and also moving away from a longstanding dependency on EU funding.

A Sustainable Development Model

Structural Funds Programmes in Scotland are committed to promoting better and more effective ways of tackling regeneration through a sustainable development model, which genuinely integrates social inclusion, economic development and environmental sustainability. Along with equal opportunities, these continue to be key cross-cutting themes in the Programmes and projects need to evidence and monitor how their activity addresses these key policies. A sustainable development model requires buy-in and ownership by the local community if it has to have any chance of success in the longer term, and again this is where the social economy has an important role to play.

ESEP's approach to mainstreaming these cross-cutting or 'horizontal' themes is to make these integral to the Programmes and to all supported projects, rather than treating them as discrete or separable strands of an economic development programme. The approach is designed so that all the key policy priorities of economic development, environmental sustainability, equal opportunities, and social inclusion are fully incorporated in project design and delivery to enable them to act in a mutually reinforcing manner.

In the 2007-13 Programmes, practical measures to embed the three key components of Sustainable Development will ensure that:-

- The horizontal themes continue to form part of project selection criteria and project monitoring;
- The Programme Monitoring Committee/Advisory Groups have members with expertise and experience of horizontal themes issues;
- There is a continued focus on identifying and sharing good practice examples of activity and mainstreaming approaches in projects.

Conclusion

Clearly, the implementation of EU Structural Funds in the new programming period for 2007 – 2013 is not business as usual, but is characterised by the need to invest more limited funds in more targeted, strategic and sustainable ways. Headline policies such as the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies and the European Employment Strategy direct funding decisions and guide the drive to create local and regional capacity which is sustainable and can compete effectively in the local marketplace. If we are to deliver the Lisbon Strategy goals and in so doing sustain economic growth, we must do so in a way which respects social justice, promotes equality, and seeks to protect and enhance the environment for future generations. In Scotland we can demonstrate that this is not mere rhetoric but achievable.



European Funding will be one element that SURF will be examining in a future seminar we are planning on 'Funding Future Regeneration'. SURF members will receive priority notice and substantial discounts for this upcoming event.

Flourishing Scotland

For the last 18 months SURF has been making a particular effort to support more consideration of the vital links between Health and Regeneration. This is now a major focus for the Government. In this short article Gregor Henderson calls for all regeneration players to work- 'Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland'



Gregor Henderson
Director of National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing, Scottish Government

www.wellscotland.info

Accentuating the positive

The Scottish Government has recently embarked on a discussion and consultation process on future proposals for improving mental wellbeing in Scotland. The consultation document, 'Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland' has been issued to help stimulate discussions, ideas and proposals for both national and local work. The work forms one part of achieving the Government's wider strategic objectives and builds on the work supported and developed through the Government's National Programme for Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing. (www.wellscotland.info)

The discussion paper makes a distinction between 'mental health' (or mental wellbeing) and 'mental illness'. Where mental health is more than the absence of clinically defined mental illness. Mental health is a set of positive attributes. It is defined by the World Health Organisation as, 'a state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to his or her community'. Mental 'health' can be measured, and is often termed 'mental wellbeing'. Mental Wellbeing has a number of different dimensions and components. These include:

- Emotional Wellbeing: feelings of positive emotion, positive affect, satisfaction with life.
- Social Wellbeing: feelings and ability to contribute, to be integrated and included in social life, acceptance and tolerance, coherence
- Psychological Wellbeing: acceptance of self, ability to form and sustain positive relationships, mastery, autonomy, personal growth, meaning and purpose.

There are also 'spiritual' dimensions to wellbeing.

Mental wellbeing is a precious resource for all of us, it is fundamental to good overall of individuals, families and communities and is intimately connected with physical health and behaviour. It is largely determined by social, psychological and biological factors. Social disadvantage, inequality, poverty, discrimination, violence are all associated with poor mental wellbeing, so addressing social determinants is fundamental to improving mental wellbeing. Improving mental wellbeing contributes positively to human, social, community and economic development.

People, families and communities need good mental wellbeing to help them flourish in all areas of their lives, to help make the most of opportunities, have greater control and autonomy over the things that influence and shape their lives and to achieve a good quality of life, where they live, work and play. By promoting and sustaining good mental health and wellbeing considerable advantages and opportunities can be created for all people living in Scotland.

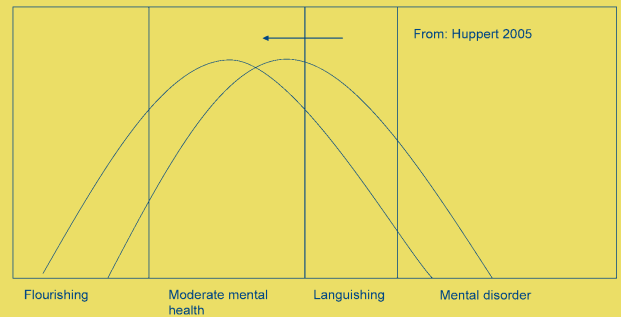
Some of the main benefits include improvements in:

- Physical Health (improved mortality and morbidity)
- Mental Health and Mental Illness (prevention and recovery)
- Health Behaviour (reductions in excessive alcohol consumption, drug taking, smoking, violence)
- Education (improvements in learning opportunities, life skills and resilience)

- Productivity (improved economic gains)
- Crime (reduction and prevention)
- Pro-social behaviour (participation, connectedness and cohesion)

The Government's aim is to help shift the distribution of mental wellbeing positively across the whole population. (see Graph)

Population distribution of mental health



The Government's future proposals focus on three key themes:

- Promote mental wellbeing
- Prevent mental health problems, mental illness, suicide, self harm and address the interaction between mental health problems and physical conditions and illnesses (heart disease, cancer, diabetes etc)
- Support improvements in the quality of life, social inclusion, health, equality, recovery and wellness of people who experience mental health problems or mental illness

Each of these is underpinned by a need to focus on addressing inequalities in health, material, social and economic circumstances and for addressing the key determinants of health and wellbeing.

Regeneration goals

In relation to Community Regeneration, the promotion of good mental wellbeing for local communities is an important aspiration and goal. It contributes to economic growth, social cohesion and the Government's ambitions of creating a more successful country with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish. It helps in creating and sustaining flourishing communities, which are more positive and optimistic.

Where communities have a sense of wellbeing there is greater interaction between people and families, a sense of belonging, with higher levels of engagement and participation, lower levels of crime and greater use made of community places. Addressing key structural challenges such as poverty, disadvantage, lack of opportunity for education, employment, the use of open and green spaces is key.

Community development approaches help get at the heart of these issues through meaningful and purposeful regeneration that builds on community capacity, attributes, skills and experiences. Not just dialogue and consultation, but real co-production, participation, with a greater sense of local control and autonomy. Investing in good and proven community development techniques, skills and networks brings improvements in community mental wellbeing.

Regeneration, which has health, education, employment and wellbeing at its heart, includes a concern with how the built environment and the community infrastructure affects how people feel and interact. Some of the evidence points to developing places that encourage and support social interaction and participation. Designing places of 'escape' within urban landscapes, places that can be 'restorative', supportive, social places, well designed physical places, where design is both functional and aesthetic.

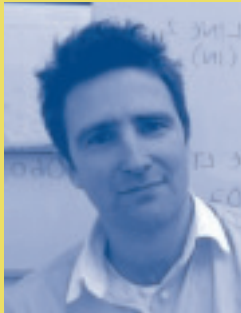
Your views

Partnership is as ever a key theme and working in ways that build on optimism and possibility, building on community assets and strengths. In a recent discussion event in Lanarkshire, Andy Milne referred delegates to the recent SURF Conference in Dundee, concluding that 'Health and Wellbeing is the purpose of community regeneration, not just a factor of it.' Across Scotland there are many examples of successful community regeneration that demonstrate this. What will help is learning from these examples and building on them. Your views on what will help achieve improvements in mental wellbeing are welcome, particularly what you feel are the main ways in which community regeneration can contribute to the key themes of the discussion document.

Copies of the discussion document are available from www.wellscotland.info along with other helpful information.

A question of what suits - Planning with young people.

Vincent Gibson of Space Unlimited explains an enterprising approach to engaging young people in the future of their communities.



Vincent Gibson
Space Unlimited
info(at)spaceunlimited.org

Innovative approaches

The Scottish Government sees engagement with communities as an absolute pre-requisite in all matters of planning and re-development. However, certain parts of those communities are recognised as being more difficult to engage with than others. Among those typically described as “hard to reach ” are young people. So how do we try and reach them?

In a recent policy advice note on Community Planning we’re told that legislation wants to ensure that young people have the opportunity to get involved in planning in ways that best “suits their needs”. “Suits their needs” is an interesting idea and one that prompts some questions.

Should the government and the regeneration companies be concerned first and foremost with what type of engagement best suits the needs of the young people? Or should they be asking “Why do we need to talk to the young people?”, “What can young people genuinely help us with?” and then “What processes and mechanisms are out there that can help them help us? ”.

At Space Unlimited, businesses commission young people to explore innovative approaches to a business issue and bring them fresh ideas. The projects are built around a question the business sets the young people. We encourage the business to pose a question that is real and relevant to their organisation. Should the approach to engaging young people in community planning matters be any different?

Is there a worry abroad that young people would find the complexity of the planning process too difficult to understand? That a lot of time and resources would need to be spent simplifying business plans or explaining to them why the costs of a skateboard park would impact on sheltered housing for the elderly?

Evidence of success

In reality there are a number of successful projects that demonstrate how young people are more than capable of understanding the issues involved in community planning:

In South Lanarkshire, for the preparation of the local plan, a group of young people adopted the roles of “junior planners”. The teenagers made sense of the planning process and helped shape the future development of their areas. In Linwood - in a piece of consultation by Streets-UK for Tesco. Local secondary school pupils happily discussed “complex” plans with architects, engineers and consultants. They then presented informed ideas on roads and traffic, town centres and green spaces based on their thoughts.

At a recent Space Unlimited project in Sanquhar young people were challenged to come up with a use for a disused local building. At the end of the project the local enterprise agency were so impressed by the young peoples energy and ideas that they are now working together on a business plan for the building to make it happen.

These engagement exercises along with others in areas such as Clydebank and Raploch were driven by a desire to engage with and learn from young people not just to accommodate them.

In some, conditions were created that allowed this to happen in ways that didn’t dampen or curtail their natural enthusiasm. Ways that reflected the real-life challenges involved in a regeneration project yet encouraged the young people to identify and share innovative new ideas.

The planners and developers employed mechanisms for engagement with young people that didn’t add unnecessary levels of complexity to the engagement process. But at the same time did not underestimate the young peoples capacity to understand what was involved.



Could it be that their success stemmed from the fact that they believed that the young peoples unique perspective on their communities and the local area would offer valuable input? That they asked them questions they genuinely needed answers to in the knowledge that the responses would “suit the needs“ of the regeneration process as a whole?

Whatever the reasons, there’s no doubt that even what seems to be the most frivolous question when engaging with young people highlights their innate understanding of what their community wants, needs and feels.

At the end of our recent project with Maryhill Burgh Hall Trust. The young people were asked by the business - “Who should we get to open the redeveloped Burgh Hall?

“Robbie Williams?” the adults asked, “Kylie Minogue? “What about local boy made good Hollywood star Robert Carlyle? “ The young people never stirred. “Who then?” inquired the adults As one the young people roared “JACK and VICTOR.”

Local knowledge, it’s a wonderful thing.



The Numbers Game

Dr Stirling Howieson of Strathclyde University is interested in numbers. From understanding the 'big bang' to managing your credit card repayments, numbers hold the key to everything. Here, in his regular Scotregen column, he offers some more interesting figures.....



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0.007 – Shaken not stirred

British spies have always been acutely aware that there is a subtle difference in taste between a Martini that is shaken, not stirred. Two distinct approaches can be adopted to explain this intriguing phenomenon. Scholars of St Thomas of Aquinas will no doubt prefer one that imagines zillions of Vodka fairies dancing frenetically on the ice cubes. The other would involve constructing a hypothesis (vigorous shaking apparently encourages the off-gassing of aldehydes from the vermouth that does not occur when merely stirred) and undertaking a double blind, placebo controlled trial to investigate the taste sensations reported by a statistically significant (Fishers exact test $p=0.001$) matched cohort.

To achieve life-supporting chemistry, E (as in $E=mc^2$) has to be **0.007**. This is the proportion of the mass of a hydrogen nucleus converted to energy when it fuses to form helium. If the E value was **0.008** all hydrogen would have fused to make heavier elements and no water could be produced. If E was **0.006** the universe would contain nothing but hydrogen and the possibility of single cell organisms emerging - never mind complex life - would not exist.

In addition to this happy co-incidence (and yes creationists it is just a random co-incidence - the product of billions of years of random astro-chemical chaos), planet Earth is in a similar Goldilocks zone; not too hot, not too cold, but just right! Cosmologists have estimated that in the entire universe, there may be only a few billion planets in a Goldilocks zone. Given the number of planets likely to be out there, this represents a tiny number, but few of us get the chance to appreciate the intricacies of astrophysics. To ignore this challenging complexity and revert to 'faith' in crude and simplistic homilies becomes especially tempting, given the Darwinian pre-disposition of homo-sapiens to trust our elders and teachers ("don't go near the water hole, crocodiles will eat you"). Those individuals, who choose theological opiates, effectively lose their right to criticise the fundamentalists in our midst, for these zealots are simply taking death cult idealism to its logical conclusion.

It would be comforting but naive to believe that such primeval creeds have little or no impact on our daily lives and the decisions we make to regenerate our society, but just as the 'Good Friday' agreement institutionalised sectarianism in the 6 counties that presently constitute Northern Ireland, so denominational schools create, on a daily basis, nauseating religious apartheid in almost all Scottish urban communities. This recently resulted in an architect having to design separate entrances in one school to facilitate the division of children solely on the grounds of their parents' nominal, if unpracticed, religion. A remarkable example of 'unintelligent' design!

Numbers are fabulous things for they allow us to get closer to how and why things work. It is this objectivity that is the foundation of progress. Historically, religious orders have eschewed numbers, for they undermine the perpetuation of mysticism that is the foundation stone for the creation of fearful submissives. If we are to succeed in building a 'civil' society, our education system must now be liberated from the last vestiges of this angst ridden voodoo. Let the omnipotent Martini be our guide; it is time to stir and shake things up!

Review - Estates by Lynsey Hanley

The history of council estates in Britain has been one of bad decisions and bad faith. Conceived in the second world war in a fit of idealism, estates were supposed to ameliorate harmful social distinctions, and for a short while they almost did. But as Hanley reveals, an umber of factors sunk them: they were often built in isolated areas without decent public transport or even basics like shops or schools. The Thatcher led campaign for home ownership removed thousands of homes from council ownership, freezing the poorest in society into socially-stratified sink estates seemingly forgotten about by those who had escaped.

Hanley was brought up in Birmingham on Britain's largest council estate. Her beguiling mix of memoir and social history coldly lays out the way in which poor town planning, a fad for brutal Modernist architecture and prejudice against the poor created an underclass. Funny touching and chilling, this is an essential read.

The above review by Colin Waters appeared in
The Sunday Herald on 17.02.08

ISBN No. 1862079099.

Instead of elected local leaders, we have the police

Our society has no tier between individuals and the central state - and nobody to enforce communal discipline

So says Guardian columnist Simon Jenkins on 26.02.08

'In France there is an elected official for every 120 people, which is why French micro-democracy is alive and kicking. In Germany the ratio is 1:250; in Britain it is 1:2,600. In France the smallest unit of discretionary local government (raising some money and running some services) is the commune, with an average population of 1,500. In Germany that size is 5,000 people. In Britain the average district population is 120,000'.

Read the full article at;

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/feb/27/prisonsandprobation.ukcrime>

SURF Open Forum Programme Update

Edward Harkins,
Networking Initiatives, SURF.

“ Over 40
participants
benefited from the
instructive
combination of
contributors ”



Edward Harkins
**SURF Networking
Officer**

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Evaluation in Regeneration

The November 2007 Open Forum was on 'The Control and Use of Evaluation in Regeneration'. This Open Forum was significantly more successful and productive than the previous Forum on the same topic some three years ago. Over 40 participants benefited from the instructive combination of contributors. These included Ron McQuaid of Heriot Watt University, who is one of the academic authors of a recent Communities Scotland review of Scottish community regeneration evaluation experience, and Thomas Glen of Avante Consulting who until recently worked with Communities Scotland and had extensive first-hand experience on evaluation. Judy Barrow of Raploch URC and Jeevan Sharma of Save the Children Scotland completed the panel line-up.

Core outcomes included recognition of; the need to link up the 'local with national priorities', a need for activists and practitioners to achieve a stepped change in their own capacities to participate in evaluation, and the need for policy makers to demonstrate what they were seeking from evaluations and how they use evaluations to inform policy.

Private & Public Sector Partnerships

The February Open Forum on 'Private & Public Sector Partnerships in Scottish Regeneration' in Perth was attended by over 50 delegates. The make-up of the audience demonstrated the need to ensure that the private sector operators are engaged with, and that they are able to engage with, the other stakeholders in Scottish regeneration. The healthy numbers attending was especially gratifying given the disruption road and rail transport that day, and which led to one speaker being unable to attend – considerable appreciation is due to Joe Noble, Operations Director of Scottish Enterprise Fife, who stepped into the abruptly vacant speaker's slot for us.

Core learning points from this Forum included the need to have clarification and confirmation as soon as possible on the newly forming business development infrastructure environment in Scotland, for public and third sector organisations to know what they need, and be seen to know, when they seek partnership with the private sector. A politely polarised range of opinions were exchanged on whether there problems and barriers around the capacity of local authorities to be fully responsive and expeditious in the operation of the Compulsory Purchase Order system.

The Outcome Paper on these forums will be available on the SURF website > Knowledge Centre > Event Reports.

Future Open Forum programme

There is a range of significant and wide-ranging changes and developments currently under way in the policy front in Scotland. This also is a timely point at which to do some reflecting on the lessons of the past Open Forum programme. SURF will be paying close attention to these considerations in programming, in particular, the Open Forums due in April and June.

The SURF Open Forum programme is funded by Communities Scotland's Scottish Centre for Regeneration with the aim of facilitating independent feedback and opinion to policy makers in Scottish Regeneration and Community Planning. This funding ensures that Open Forum participation is open to all without charge. SURF always welcomes suggestions for topics or offers of contributions for future forum events - please email edward(at)scotregen.co.uk.

SURF goes to the movies (and to the library)

The real life vitality of regeneration sometimes spills over into mainstream culture.

We thought it might be interesting to consider a list of the top ten regeneration films and books. Here is our first shot. If some of you anoraks out there in regeneration land have other suggestions please e mail them to [andyMilne\(at\)scotregen.co.uk](mailto:andyMilne(at)scotregen.co.uk) and we'll update the lists in the next Scotregen. We might even send a book token to the compiler of the best list.



Top ten regeneration books

1. Estates; an intimate history – Lynsey Hanley (see the review on page 12)
2. Our Fathers – Andrew O'Hagen
3. Lanark – Alistair Gray
4. Swing Hammer Swing – Jeff Torrington
5. Ripples From the Zambezi – Ernesto Sirolli
6. Song of Stone – Neal Acherson
7. The Impact of Inequality – Richard Wilkinson
8. The Tipping Point – Malcolm Gladwell
9. The Wisdom of Crowds – James Suriweski
10. The Road to Wigan Pier – George Orwell

Top Ten Regeneration Films

1. Chinatown – Roman Polanski
2. Trainspotting – Danny Boyle (could have been on the book list as well)
3. Cathy Come Home – Ken Loach
4. Kes – Ken Loach
5. Passport to Pimlico – Henry Cornelius
6. The Long Good Friday – John MacKenzie
7. Local Hero – Bill Forsyth
8. Field of Dreams – Phil Alden Robinson
9. It's a Wonderful Life – Frank Capra
10. Tree of Wooden Clogs – Ermanno Olmi



Special SURF sponsors support for 2007 award winners



Winners of the 2007 SURF Awards with Stewart Stevenson MSP, Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change and representatives from SURF Sponsors – Royal Bank of Scotland, Dunfermline Building Society and Brodies LLP who are kindly offering special development support to the winning projects.



LANGUAGE GAMES

Dr Chik Collins of the University of the West of Scotland continues his personal look at the role language plays in social change.

Work/Force

Makes You Free

In recent years I've found SURF events really interesting. But increasingly I find them fascinating. Maybe as I learn more I see and understand more. But maybe the post-Cities Review agenda for regeneration is making things somehow more intriguing. It's probably a bit of both.



This at least is how I'm thinking in the wake of the recent SURF Annual Conference. There, in particular, I was captivated by the policy discussion on "Gainful Employment". It began with a promise that the report back to the main conference would not reveal the identities of individuals contributing key points. That was very welcome. It's good to create an environment where people can feel 'free' to raise salient issues, and even better that these are then shared with a wider group. Yet the fact that it is felt helpful to offer people a 'guarantee of anonymity' prior to a policy discussion hardly reflects well on the environment in which they are working.

In the discussion some of the underlying factors emerged – initially hesitantly, but then more straightforwardly. The official view has been that long-term 'exclusion' from the labour market breeds 'dependency', and is the enemy in terms of 'closing the opportunity gap'. Work, on the other hand, 'makes you free' and opens up a new world of 'opportunity' for those who participate in it, and their children, and their children's children

The practitioners in the room say it's not like that really. There are a lot of very vulnerable people out there, and the Department of Work and Pensions – and perhaps even some people in Scotland – is intent on forcing them back into work, regardless of the fact that you or I, reader, in their shoes, might feel that it was perhaps not in our best interest to make that 'transition'. And these vulnerable people, and their 'inclusion' in the labour market, are increasingly 'targets' and 'outcomes' which have crucial implications for the revenue streams of organisations in both the private and voluntary sectors. Vulnerability now has an economic value.

Perhaps we need, it was suggested, to think about how we 'incentivise' activity in the field. (Reasonably oblique.) Perhaps we need to think about whether we should go so far in making vulnerable people means towards other people's ends? (Still a bit hesitant.) What do you mean 'ends', comes the retort, income and profits surely? (Now it's out there.) But if we in the voluntary sector don't do it others will, and we might be 'workless' too. (Oh!)

Work makes you free – unless you are forced into it at your peril, and unless you are a 'voluntary' sector organisation that itself has little 'choice'. And recession looms larger by the day.

Work-force: Fascinating alright, but not entirely edifying.

Further nominations for the 'language games' dissecting table to: chik.collins@uws.ac.uk.

SURF stuff - some of our main events planned for 2008

April	Special "Reflect and Regenerate" Open Forum
May	Community Asset Building Seminar Special Guest Lecture
June	Funding Future Regeneration Seminar Open Forum
July	Architecture and Design Seminar Opening of SURF Awards 2008 process
August	Football and Regeneration ("The Second Leg") Conference
September	Study Visit with One NorthEast Open Forum
November	Annual Lecture
December	SURF Awards 2008 Presentation Dinner

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Review:

Being too Creative about the Creative.

Back to the Future of the Creative City.

Merijn Oudenampsen

By Edward Harkins, Networking Initiatives, SURF



www.iamsterdam.com is the City of Amsterdam's official English-language portal

In this article the author Merijn Oudenampsen places himself in the vanguard of commentators who are now re-evaluating the Florida phenomenon and the accompanying Creative City theory.

The global impact of Richard Florida's concept of the importance of the creative industries as drivers for the regeneration of cities was so profound that it became known simply as 'The Florida Factor'.

However, the line taken by Oudenampsen is a sceptical one and he agrees with geographer Jamie Peck who states that The Florida Factor had such an impressive influence on policy makers around the world because:

"it provided a cheap, non-controversial and pragmatic marketing script that fitted well with the existing entrepreneurial schemes of urban economic development. It offered a program that city authorities could afford to do on the side, a low budget public relations scheme complemented by a reorientation of already existing cultural funding."

After a useful and thought-provoking historical overview on fusions between creativity and industry in cities, Oudenampsen argues that we are currently witnessing the extension of the economic into the creative domain in cities throughout the global economy. He goes on to agree with those who describe this as the New International Division of Labour. This entails the rise of cities whose economic success depends on the presence of high tech innovation and global control functions. This is all part of a greater shift away from the era of Keynesian management and on to an entrepreneurial approach complete with increasing interurban competition.

One aspect of this 'new reality' is that claims of The Creative City as being a great social and economic equaliser are being proved wrong. The actual reality is what is dubbed the 'Entrepreneurial City' with its origins in the "neoliberal state withdrawal from urban plight in the United States... In this new urban regime, independent of any specific party in power, the public sector displays behaviour that was once characteristic of the private sector: risk assessment, innovation, marketing and profit motivated thinking."

This article is something of a tightly argued polemic – and all the more instructive for that. It forces up some trenchant questions about the whole Creative City concept and the efficacy of city regeneration policies informed by that concept. The author argues persuasively that the arts and creativity that we take to be drivers of city success have actually been subverted by economics and entrepreneurialism. In support of this the author provides a salutary and faintly chilling extract from the website of Artvertising, part of Sandberg arts and design faculty in regeneration-frenetic Amsterdam:

"Every self considered art or design intellectual ends up twisting his or her nose to the so-called 'commercial world'. Art, culture, criticism is what matters. But we don't think so. We believe that now, more than always, the world is ruled by commercial and economic relationships. Culture defines, and most important, is defined these days by market dynamics"

'Back to the Future of the Creative City' by Merijn Oudenampsen appears in Variant number 31 Spring 2008. www.variant.org.uk

Scotregen

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