

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council
Annual Report 2008



140th
ANNIVERSARY
EST. 1868

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council

EVOC is the main support and development agency for voluntary and community organisations in Edinburgh and delivers a wide range of services to the 1800 + organisations operating in the Edinburgh area.



EVOC'S MISSION IS TO:

Support the Voluntary Sector

Bring together organisations for common action

Present and promote to the outside world the common policies and concerns of the Voluntary Sector

Pioneer new forms of voluntary action and areas of activity both within the Voluntary Sector and with the public and community sectors.

EVOC'S MANAGEMENT BOARD

David Bennett
(Convenor) appointed 7.3.08

Sandra Blake
(Vice-Convenor)

Graeme Thom
(Treasurer) – retired 30.4.08

Margaret Wilson

Anne Barnet

Ella Simpson

Pat Elsmie

Carena Brogan
appointed 7.12.07

Gillian Windever
resigned 3.10.08

EVOC'S POLICY COMMITTEE

David Bennett
(Convenor) appointed 7.3.08

Sandra Blake
(Vice-Convenor)

Anne Barnet

Margaret Wilson

Ella Simpson

Pat Elsmie

Carena Brogan
appointed 7.12.07

Akin Fatunmbi

NOMINATED PLACES

Cllr Paul Edie
City of Edinburgh Council

Cllr Marilyne McLaren
City of Edinburgh Council

Colin Murray
Workplace Union

Bankers
Royal Bank of Scotland

Solicitors
Shepherd & Wedderburn

Auditors
Chiene & Tait

Assessor
**City of Edinburgh
Council Health & Social
Care Department**

Welcome

I welcome you to EVOC's Annual Report 2008. This is my first year as EVOC's convenor and I am delighted to be joining the organisation as it celebrates its 140th Anniversary.

Throughout its history, EVOC has provided a range of services to the individuals, organisations and communities of Edinburgh and has continually proved its ability to adapt and respond to emerging challenges. It is EVOC's ability to provide the services that organisations need, as well as its willingness to pioneer new ways of working which has enabled it to thrive over the years.

It is a tribute to EVOC's membership, Management Board, Policy Committee and staff that EVOC remains a valued resource for EVOC's thriving voluntary and community sector in 2008. We look forward to a vibrant future for the organisation and the voluntary sector in Edinburgh in the decades to come.

David Bennett – Convenor

THANKS

EVOC acknowledges the support for our work over the past year by the undernoted funding bodies and contract partners:-

City of Edinburgh Council

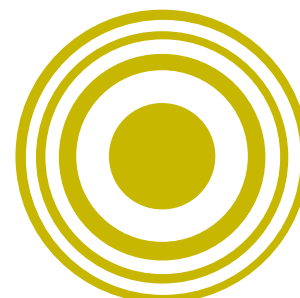
Scottish Government

European Structural Fund

Scottish Social Services Council

Changing Children's Services Fund

South East Scotland Learning Network





Director's Report: Making a Difference

The core of EVOC's work is to strengthen the capacity of the Voluntary Sector to make a difference in Edinburgh. During the year reported on, EVOC has continued to support and promote the profile of the sector – which has included informing and facilitating communication about the wide range of the sector's activities and interests.

Edinburgh displays a highly active and diverse range of third sector organisations. Approximately 15% of all of Scotland's voluntary organisations are based here, with most of them delivering services locally. It is a significant challenge for EVOC to be an organisation that responds to requests for our services, whilst also having the capacity to define and act on emerging issues that will impact on organisations which deliver social benefit.

The Voluntary Sector has a history of being a catalyst for change, pioneering new ways of working, and being a link between public concerns, emerging policy and social change. A key role for EVOC is to facilitate organisations who have a wealth of practical experience gained through their activities, to usefully inform planning processes and the direction of social policy. We progress this through a focus on promoting partnership working, in a range of settings and approaches, described throughout this Annual Report.

This year a new Business Plan for all CsVS in Scotland has been introduced. Delivery of this Business Plan is underpinned through a 3 year Funding Programme from Scottish Government which runs until 2011. Scottish Government has made it known that it will not fund CsVS, Volunteer Centres and Local Social Enterprise Partnerships in their current form, beyond this 3 year spending period. The challenge we have been given is to create new arrangements which support the Third Sector while providing a strong interface with Community Planning arrangements.

Whatever the outcome of planning for the future it can safely be said that there will be a continued commitment to make a difference through what we do, because the Voluntary Sector makes a difference to Community Wellbeing and Active Citizenship and delivers real social benefit to the city.

Shulah Allan - Director

Development Support

EVOC provides vital developmental and capacity building services to new and established organisations across Edinburgh, supporting them to be well managed and governed, well resourced and well connected. It also facilitates their participation in shaping local and national policy through consultation and partnership working.

Funded by the City of Edinburgh Council's Health and Social Care Department, EVOC's Social Care Resource Team supports organisations to operate in a challenging world of increasing regulation, constrained resources and an ever-changing political and policy environment.

IN 2007/08, THE TEAM HAS:

- given one-off guidance or information to over 200 organisations.
- assisted 27 organisations to register as charities and 14 to register as companies.
- assisted more than 50 organisations to comply with charity and company law and regulations, including help with accounts and independent examinations, annual returns, consents and notifications.
- supported 22 organisations with strategic reviews, business planning and change implementation.
- given guidance on funding applications to 31 organisations.
- supported 19 organisations on matters of good employment practice.
- provided briefings or training on good governance and management to trustees/directors of 20 charities.
- co-ordinated a major consultation exercise on the Lothian Joint Physical and Complex Disability Strategy, Our Lives Our Way, in which over 30 organisations participated.
- developed and piloted training in charity law and regulation for advisors of small charities in partnership with Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).
- maintained active Forums for voluntary sector providers of services to people with learning disabilities and older people.
- continued to host and support the voluntary sector member of the Edinburgh Community Health Partnership (CHP).
- worked closely with the Health and Social Care Department and voluntary organisations to develop good practice in procurement and tendering for services.
- EVOC provides support to and convenes the Edinburgh Community Transport Operators' Group (ECTOG), bringing together the city's Community Transport Operators in a cohesive partnership grouping.

Feedback

'EWRASAC has always received support and information of the highest standard from EVOC. Our transition to limited company status was a complex process, particularly as it was bound up with our transition from a collective organisational structure to a management structure. Our experience of working with EVOC has shown us time and time again the great commitment that EVOC has for the voluntary sector in Edinburgh. We would not be where we are now if it was not for EVOC, and we are sincerely grateful for all the excellent support we have received from them over the years. Thank you EVOC!'

Caroline Burrell, Centre Coordinator
Edinburgh Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (EWRASAC)



Learning and Training

EVOC Learning provides high quality learning and training opportunities for voluntary sector staff, volunteers and management committee members.

In January 2008, EVOC ceased to receive European Social Fund (ESF) funding to deliver its learning and training services. However, EVOC Learning has continued to provide affordable services through the development of a social enterprise approach and through pursuing alternative funding streams.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2007/08

EVOC Learning has delivered learning and training opportunities to over 700 participants and has:

- delivered short course training in core topics such as Support and Supervision, Financial Management and Securing Funds.
- developed a soft skills training programme including Assertiveness Skills, Listening Skills and Time Management.
- provided Accredited Management training in conjunction with Stevenson College Edinburgh.
- delivered committee skills training including Chairing Meetings and Minute Taking.
- developed a programme of tailored, in-house training to a range of organisations.
- supported organisations to engage with the EVOC Care Training Needs Analysis tool.
- developed a partnership with the South East Scotland Learning Network to support workforce development across South East Scotland.

Focal Point

In 2008, EVOC Learning established a Voluntary Sector Training Forum, to bring together trainers and training co-ordinators from across the voluntary sector in Edinburgh. This forum will support organisations to share expertise and resources and to identify the emerging learning and training needs of the sector.



Community Planning

EVOC continues to support the development of the Edinburgh Compact, a city-level partnership between public agencies and Edinburgh's voluntary and community sector. It also supports the sector to engage in the new Neighbourhood Partnership arrangements across the city.

The last year has seen significant activity in the development of community planning arrangements, both at a strategic level and at local neighbourhood level. Each of the city's 12 Neighbourhood Partnership Boards has a seat for the voluntary sector and these places will be taken up by representatives chosen by a "Neighbourhood Network" of organisations delivering services and running activities in the local area.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007/08

- a research project "Preparing for Partnership" was undertaken to assess the sector's readiness to engage in Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- a Compact Planning Day was held to look at shaping the future of the Edinburgh Compact.
- a new Neighbourhood Development Worker's post was created to support the sector to engage in local community planning.
- local organisations were supported to come together and form local networks.
- work was instigated with partners to develop a Climate Change proposal and secure funds from the Climate Challenge Fund.
- the Compact funding strategy "Moving Forward: Together" was developed to lead the way in developing a joint policy around funding.
- a new Compact Action Plan was developed to take forward the work of the Compact until 2013.

Feedback

"The Compact framework for Edinburgh continues to make a significant contribution to the community well-being of the city. Through the Compact agreement, the Council engages with third sector interests in a consistent, coherent, strategic and timely manner. Specific outputs and new strategic products have been achieved. This requires a culture of confidence, trust and respect between the third sector and the Council. Whilst the right institutional and governance arrangements are, on their own, not sufficient to create and maintain such a culture, they are a prerequisite to realising it and maintaining a successful partnership. Previous and future Compact action will build on this success."

**David Jack, Head of Performance Strategy & Policy,
City of Edinburgh Council**



In June EVOC's Partnership & Outreach Team played host to John Smith Fellow Farida Sulaimanov visiting from Kyrgyzstan. Left to right: Ian Brooke, Chaitali Sheth, Farida Sulaimanov, and Shulah Allan.

Outreach

EVOC provides a range of partnership and outreach services to organisations and communities across Edinburgh. This work is enhanced by the services offered from our dedicated bases in South Edinburgh and West Edinburgh.

In 2007, the West Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Forum extended its membership and support to include all voluntary sector organisations in the new South West Neighbourhood Partnership Area and currently engages over 110 voluntary organisations.

In 2007/08, the West Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Forum has:

- Facilitated the election of a voluntary sector representative to sit on the South West Neighbourhood Partnership.
- Held regular forum meetings to engage and support the sector locally.
- Secured new premises in a space which is affordable and shares its resources with 6 other local community groups.
- Raised the profile of the sector locally through presentations and publicity.
- Worked with the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh to provide seed funding to set up a local volunteer recruitment hub.
- Engaged in planning and coordinating the Health Marquee at "Altogether in the Park" – a local community event.
- Developed and produced a local newsletter "Points West".
- Administered the West Edinburgh Community Engagement Fund.

Update

The Forum has to date been funded through Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) and the former West Edinburgh Community Planning Partnership monies. However this CRF funding has now come to an end and the objective is to access funding through other trusts and grants in order to continue work within South West Edinburgh.

The South Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Support project supports local groups and partnership engagement within the communities of South Edinburgh.

In 2007/08, the South Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Support Project has:

- Supported the South Edinburgh Day Centre Volunteers' Forum.
- Worked with SEAG on Community Transport issues.
- Participated in the LAHA Business Plan Exercise.
- Provided support to the Fala Court and Craigour Health Flats 'Action Groups'.
- Delivered a new 'Community Lunch' Initiative.
- Supported Neighbourhood Partnership working including participation in Employment, Training & Education Group (ETE), Health Inequalities Group, Officers' Group and Board Away Day.
- Produced 'Get Connected' a local newsletter.
- Organised Election Hustings for Council & MSP candidates to meet with voluntary organisations.
- Supported election of Voluntary Sector representatives for local partnership working.

Update

The changes in regeneration funding meant that the future of the South Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Support Project was uncertain in early 2008. However, local organisations in the Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership area came together to lobby for the continuation of the project and funding has now been secured from the Fairer Scotland Fund for the medium term.

Eke-Out Project

The Eke-Out Project aims to improve the capacity of the voluntary sector to engage in the planning and delivery of services for children, young people and families.

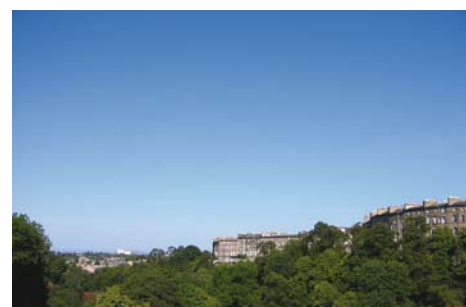
Funded by the Changing Children's Services Fund, the Eke-Out Project supports the Edinburgh Network of Voluntary Organisations for Children, Young People and Families, develops partnership working in Edinburgh, promotes good practice and pioneers new models of engagement.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007/08

- Ensured that the Network is centrally involved in the planning and implementation of Edinburgh's Fairer Scotland funded early intervention programme, ensuring that the voluntary sector's significant contributions are acknowledged and reflected in the programme.
- Negotiated a role for the Network as Lead Officer in taking forward a key theme of the Integrated Children and Young People's Plan - "to free children and young people from the effects of poverty and inequalities".
- Supported 33 reps on 23 strategic partnerships and established a Network Representatives Peer Support Group to allow reps to share experiences, identify good practice, and develop support mechanisms for strategic partnership working.
- Organised and held Policy Forums for Network members to debate issues of common concern such as the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) bill.
- Produced a Network profiling brochure to illustrate and publicise the scope and value of the voluntary sector working with children, young people and families in Edinburgh.
- Carried out impact assessments on the organisations affected by the City of Edinburgh Council's funding cuts and supported organisations to plan their responses.
- Actively supported organisations to engage with the new local community planning structures.
- Provided regular information briefings and newsletters for Network members.
- Carried out a survey of the cost and value of Network participation in strategic partnership working.

Update

The future funding of the Eke-Out Project is currently under review as a result of changes in the Changing Children's Services funding stream. However, the project recently reviewed its structures to make sure it is fit for purpose and it is confident that it is uniquely placed to identify, bring together and support voluntary organisations working with children, young people and families.



Practice Teaching Unit

In the year 2007-2008, the Practice Teaching Partnership supported 32 students in directly supervised practice and 14 in an initial preparation for practice learning through over 2,564 “practice learning days” which is the measure used by the Scottish Social Services Council. This was well above the expected target and a significant increase on even last year’s achievements. The agencies involved in providing these opportunities were: Link Living, Thistle Foundation, NEDAC, People First, ELREC, Saheliya, Dean & Cauvin Trust, Health In Mind, HIM Orchard Centre, Penumbra, Action Group, PYCP, Open Door, NHS Anitt, Freespace, Places for People, Midlothian Women’s Aid, Waverley Care and Barony.

In the last annual report, we noted that the Practice Teaching Unit was still under threat of closure, due to withdrawal of SSSC funding to voluntary sector Units. Sadly, we have now reached the point where the closure has been announced and the posts in the Unit will be made redundant. The agencies who regularly work with the Unit have all expressed their regrets and, more worryingly, their concerns about how social work practice learning can be sustained in voluntary agencies. The Practice Teaching Partnership, comprising over 40 voluntary agencies, has now met to disband and disburse its remaining resources.

The staff at the Practice Teaching Unit want to express their thanks to the many voluntary agencies who have made it possible to develop such a high quality range of learning opportunities for social work students, reflecting difference and diversity and some of the best in social work practice.

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Trust (EVOT)

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations’ Trust has for many years administered a number of Trusts. The Trust Funds are managed by a body of Trustees known as EVOT and are appointed by the Board of EVOC. The value of the Trusts at 31st March 2008 was £3,531,833.

Grants are distributed to individuals in need and also to voluntary organisations in the area of social welfare. The current policy of the Trustees is to support smaller organisations with a turnover of less than £200,000 p.a. with grants towards core costs.

In addition, EVOT also administers grants to children and families in need on behalf of Children in Need and grants to young people for Ponton House Trust.

In 2007/08 a total of £95,604 was distributed as follows:

	Number	£
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	30	£35,250
Grants to Individuals	417	£28,927
Grants to Individuals on behalf of BBC CIN	353	£22,560
Grants to Individuals on behalf of Ponton House	131	£8,867

EVOT Trustees

David Bennett

Convenor (appointed on 7th March 2008)

Sandra Blake

Trustee

Graeme Thom

Chair/ Treasurer (retired 30th April 2008)

Geoffrey Lord

Honorary Secretary

Penny Richardson Trustee

(resigned 16th June 2007)

Monica Langa

Independent Trustee

Madeleine Allen

Independent Trustee

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2008

	2008	2007
INCOMING RESOURCES	£	£
Incoming resources from generated funds:		
Voluntary income	79,019	106,450
Activities for generating funds	59,651	71,398
Investment income	43,632	38,589
Incoming resources from charitable activities	719,843	961,344
Total incoming resources	902,145	1,177,781
RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Costs of generating funds:		
Costs of generating voluntary income	1,218	1,058
Costs of generating funds	3,306	2,924
Cost of charitable activities	975,890	1,216,940
Governance costs	11,121	9,575
Total resources expended	991,535	1,230,497
Net outgoing resources before other recognised gains	(89,390)	(52,716)
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/(LOSSES)		
Realised (losses)/gains on investment assets	(17,293)	309
Unrealised (losses)/gains on investment assets	(4,256)	10,449
Net movement in funds	(110,939)	(41,958)
Total funds brought forward	619,235	661,193
Total funds carried forward	508,296	619,235

If you would like a full set of audited accounts of Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council for 2007/08 please contact us. The above information is extracted from accounts independently audited by Chiene & Tait.



**Edinburgh Voluntary
Organisations' Council**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



EdinburghCompact

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Registered Office: 14 Ashley Place, Edinburgh EH6 5PX

