

# THE YEAR OF RECKONING



**Edinburgh Third Sector Interface response to  
City of Edinburgh Council budget consultation December 2014**



EDINBURGH  
.....  
Social  
Enterprise  
Network  
.....

**If we are serious  
about putting  
people first and  
honestly working to  
improve the health  
and wellbeing of  
Edinburgh's citizens,  
risks will have to be**

**taken. The definition of insanity is doing what you've  
always done and expecting different results.**

**So, what have you always done when faced with financial  
problems and increasing demand – you've cut the  
budgets, particularly payments to the Third Sector.**

**And, invariably  
the end result has  
been increased  
crisis intervention,  
increased inequality  
and increased  
poverty.**

**What lies ahead is not a technical problem where we can dip into handbags for, "one we prepared earlier", nor is it purely a Council fiscal problem. This is new territory for everyone. We are literally moving into new territory where the involvement of citizens becomes crucial and new partnerships need to be forged.**

**There is no such thing as a safe way forward > your real challenge is trusting Third Sector partners and working with us to honestly build a better Edinburgh.**

**We have stark options:**

**1. Work in true partnership – the full fat, no red line collaborative approach, deciding what goes into making the cake**

The Third sector offers that valuable first option! We are inherently flexible, respond to individual and local needs. It is our experience that people are not "hard to reach" – they are banging our doors down!

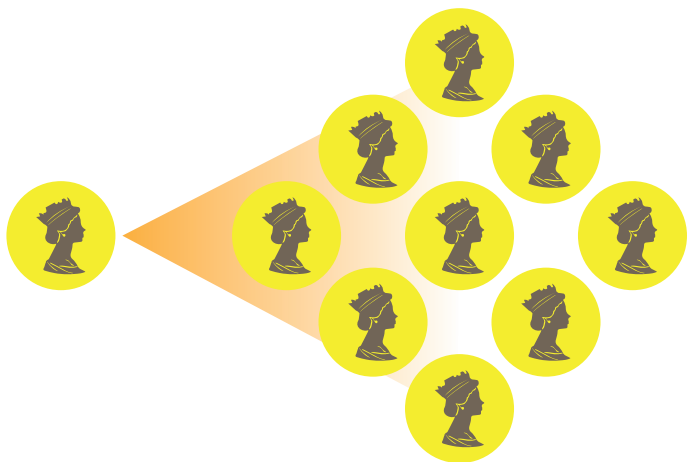
**2. Tweak the edges – deciding the colour of the icing on the cake approach**

There are strong positive examples of the contribution the Third Sector makes to the economy as well as the health and wellbeing of the City and what can be achieved when the Council and the Third Sector in Edinburgh collaborate.

**3. Keep doing what you have always done and expect different results – the deck chairs on the Titanic approach**

# THIRD SECTOR FACTS:

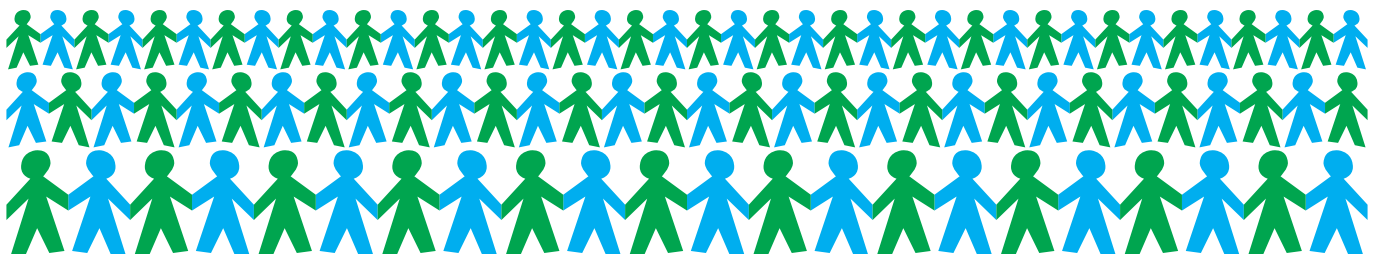
We contribute  
**£2 BILLION** to the  
Edinburgh economy

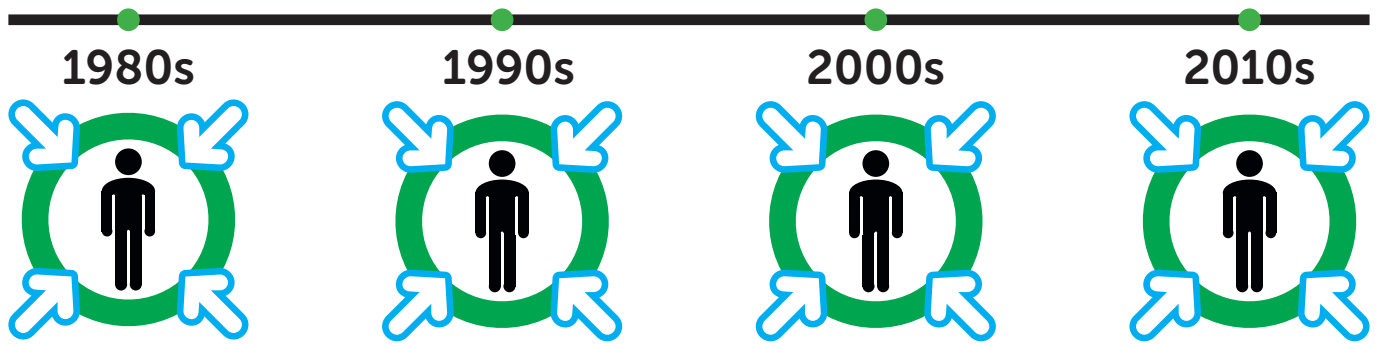


For every **£1** of  
public grant invested  
in the Third Sector  
we provide services  
to the value of **£9**

We employ circa **15,000** people

2760 organisations each benefit from an average 98  
volunteering hours per week – that is 270,480 volunteer  
hours donated by citizens to citizens





**We have provided person centred, flexible, responsive services for decades**

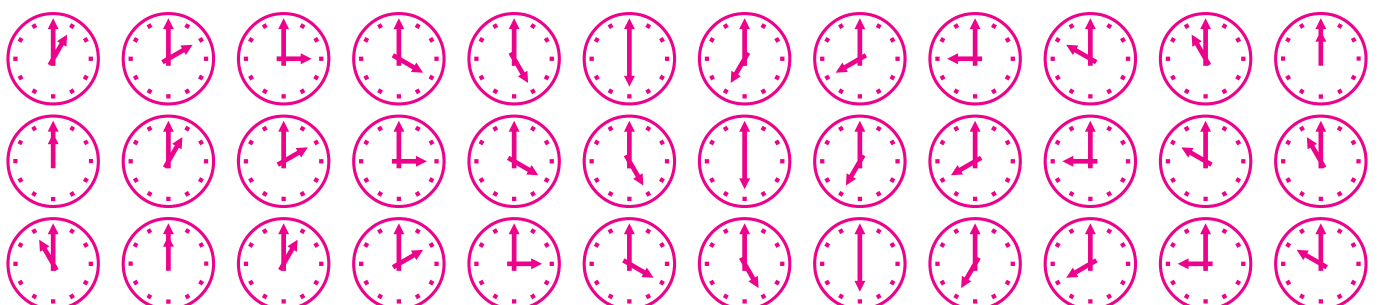
**We work WITH people rather than doing to**

**Our mission and purpose is to build capacity, increase resilience and we do this through preventative and early intervention**



**The start-up rate for social enterprises in Edinburgh is double the national average in Scotland**

**We have contributed hours and hours of our time expertise, knowledge and skills to working collaboratively with the Council to develop services, policies and strategies**



## **CASE STUDY 1:**

### **Care and Repair**

Social Return Included



For the individual: increased confidence and control over own life, reduced falls and accidents, increased sense of security, reduced demand on family, reduced demand for care services in the home and reduced social isolation. For the statutory sector: reduced costs as a result of accidents and falls and the provision of extra care this incurs, reduced delay in hospital discharge and the need to rehouse in sheltered or very sheltered accommodation is reduced.

## **CASE STUDY 2:**

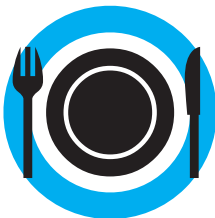
### **Homeless Services**



Third Sector organisations worked hard to create a collaborative approach to the provision of services to some of the most vulnerable people in Edinburgh. This collaboration has been recognised locally and nationally as transformational change and was knowingly entered into on the understanding that there would be a 15% cut in the contract.

## **CASE STUDY 3:**

### **Prevention**



The supper club provides space for people with dementia and their carers to spend an evening together as a couple with the care needs for the person with dementia being looked after by paid staff and volunteers. The evidence shows this is a valuable respite service which retains the primary relationship and dignity of the couple and increases the resilience of the caring relationship.

## **CASE STUDY 4:**

### **Affordable Warmth**



Volunteers visit older people in their own homes across Edinburgh to reduce and/or manage their energy use. The link from fuel poverty and energy advice to health improvement is well established, this work is therefore directly impacting on the ability of vulnerable older people to sustain their health and preventing worse health outcomes. In addition the volunteers are able to link people to other activities in their community. Taking part in social activity and feeling warm and safe in your own home are key factors in addressing health inequalities.

# The alternative is a fiscal approach and the disproportionate impact on people of Edinburgh who are living an unequal life

## **CASE STUDY 1:** Homeless Services



It is now proposed that a further 8% cut is imposed. This will seriously jeopardise services to the most vulnerable in our city, increase homelessness and increase the length of time people spend in B & B accommodation which is an expensive option (socially and financially). There is robust and accepted evidence that each person presenting as homeless costs the statutory sector between £18,000 and £22,000.

## **CASE STUDY 2:** Arts Project



Currently working in an area of deprivation, open 55 hours per week over 6 days, including 4 evenings. A reduction in funding will mean a direct cut in staff, opening hours and numbers of people engaging with the service. This would be detrimental to the area, including the perceived safety after dark, as the venue's lighting contributes to the street lighting for the routes around the building. The 'no go' feeling for the area, after dark, has increased already since the library, situated beside the venue, cut its opening hours last year and the project does not want to exacerbate this situation.

## **CASE STUDY 3:** Women's Service



A women's service which has a track record of providing "best value for money" would have to reduce services jeopardising the holistic approach of their support to women. The Council and Scottish Government have made a commitment to reducing women's disadvantage in the workplace and this project directly contributes to these shared aims. A reduction in funding would further disadvantage women who are furthest from the job market.

# We have the power through legislation and relationship framework in Edinburgh to truly be brave together

## You must:

- Trust the Third Sector to be part of the solution
- Believe that there is a Better Outcome which can be achieved
- Assess the unintended consequences and accumulative impact of fiscally driven actions
- Take risks, provide the leadership which walks your talk
- Learn from everything and share that learning widely
- Push hard on those who say "we can't"
- See people – not labels or pound signs
- Believe in the impact of investing in early intervention and prevention

## We will:

- Work with you to find solutions
- Bring our expertise, knowledge, skills and resources to the table
- Continue to stimulate the economy by leveraging additional resources

**Edinburgh TSI,**  
**c/o EVOC**  
14 Ashley Place  
Edinburgh, EH6 5PX

**T:** 0131 555 9100  
**F:** 0131 555 9101  
**E:** [info@evoc.org.uk](mailto:info@evoc.org.uk)  
**W:** [www.evoc.org.uk](http://www.evoc.org.uk)

Designed by  
Tommy Perman  
Artlink  
[www.artlinkedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.artlinkedinburgh.co.uk)