



*The alliance of Community-led health and wellbeing improvement organisations*

***Working with the Scottish Government and the NHS  
Summary***

There are 4 main strands to the activities of SCHW in relation to working with the Scottish Government and the NHS:

- 1 Maintaining regular contact with the Scottish Government
- 2 Ensuring SCHW has a high profile in Scottish Government /NHS events/activities
- 3 Lobbying on behalf of community-led health and wellbeing improvement
- 4 Securing Government funding for specific SCHW projects

**Key actions/activities:**

Strand 1: Regular Contact

Our most successful period of regular contact with the Scottish government was over 2007-2009 when we made the case to the Scottish Government, through a series of meetings with civil servants and ultimately the Cabinet secretary for health and wellbeing to provide transition funding for the two years after the end of Big Lottery Funding for the Healthy Living Centres in Scotland. This resulted in funding of almost £4.5 million of core funding (approx. £70,000 per HLC pa over two years)

Since 2010 organisations in SCHW have hosted numerous visits by Scottish Government ministers to experience good practice, to launch national projects, to consult on proposed new legislation eg the Community Empowerment Bill and to present awards. The range and nature of such visits reflects the quality of the work delivered by SCHW organisations and the high regard with which many of them are now held by both local and national politicians.

Representatives of SCHW have also readily taken up invitations to appear at Scottish parliamentary committees eg the Local Government and Regeneration Committee to contribute to the work of the committee.

In 2011 we were invited to contribute to the work of the Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities through participation in a group representing the third sector in Scotland which held a series of meetings and presented its views directly to the ministerial group.

In 2012 we presented an offer to the Scottish Government to support the establishment of a coordinated network of community health anchors across 100 disadvantaged communities in Scotland. This resulted in meetings with civil servants and an invitation to contribute to the continuing professional development programme for civil servants in the Public Health division of the Scottish Government. Our presentation went down well and established stronger links with some key individuals. Our offer remains on the table.

In 2012 our offer also stimulated a meeting with the senior health spokesperson for the Labour Party group in the Scottish Parliament which in turn established a pathway for communications with the group

## Strand 2 : High Profile

Since 2007 we have established an excellent working partnership with the Scottish Community Development Centre (SCDC) and the Community Health Exchange (CHEX). Representatives of SCHW regularly contribute to the planning and delivery of national events organised by SCDC/CHEX.

In 2009 we were invited to contribute a chapter on community-led approaches to health improvement to the Chief Medical Officer's annual report in which he promoted the idea of asset based approaches to tackling health inequalities.

From 2010 to date representatives of SCHW have accepted numerous opportunities to participate in and contribute to national conferences and workshops organised by the Scottish Government and the NHS. We use these opportunities to promote and distribute information on the work of SCHW

Over 2013-14 we continue to participate in, a national Government funded project to identify transformational and radical approaches to improving care in the community, outside hospitals. ( The Scottish Collaborative Innovation process project, SCIPP)

In 2014 we accepted an invitation to participate in the national Government funded Town Centre Challenge/Can Do project which

focuses on developing innovative and imaginative ways of tackling regeneration challenges in small town centres. This an on-going project.

Wherever appropriate we engage SCHW organisations in producing written responses on behalf of SCHW to requests for views on the consultation stages of new legislations and national working group activities.

### Strand 3: Lobbying

In 2013 we successfully secured the opportunity to mount a stand, for a week, in the members lobby of the Scottish Parliament building. We used this opportunity to promote our offer to the Scottish Government, to highlight the work of community-led health improvement organisations and to establish contact with key members of the Scottish Parliament. This was a successful event in terms of achieving all three of these outcomes and generated considerable interest in our arguments for a stronger role for the third sector in tackling health inequalities. We followed up this event by sending out a pack of information to over 35 MSPs whom we spoke to over the week and who expressed an interest in receiving further information.

We regularly send out briefings to all the SCHW organisations to support local lobbying of local and national elected politicians on community-led approaches to improving health and wellbeing and on our offer to the Scottish Government.

Several SCHW organisations now hold local political briefings in which local councillors, MSPs and MPs together with senior HNS personnel are invited to hear about the work of the organisations and the benefits of community-led approaches to improving health and wellbeing. These briefings are considered very worthwhile in establishing and maintaining good local partnership working.

### Strand 4 : Government funding

Over 20010-2013 we were successful in acquiring almost £350,000 from Government funds for 4 projects involving consortiums of community-led organisations in SCHW. We have now established a very positive image for SCHW with managers of Government Funds. As a result we have also strengthened our reputation with key civil servants who now approach SCHW to assist with particular projects, a recent request was to support an initiative involving football clubs and men's physical health (See our website)