**About GCVS**

GCVS is the largest local third sector development agency in Scotland, and is a top performing UK Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

**Our local activity**

We have a layered approach to our engagement with Glasgow’s Third Sector, to reflect the richness and complexity of the sector’s work in the city, and the sector’s varied support needs

* As a membership organisation, our 500 members form our core constituency, we communicate and network with them on a very regular basis, and develop our organisational policies and priorities in active dialogue with them;
* as a Third Sector development agency we provide technical support, advice and back office services directly to well over 1,000 organisations each year, with a particular focus on assisting the small, local, under-resourced, often isolated community and voluntary organisations to function effectively
* our specialist thematic networks - supporting children and families, older people, community learning and development and equalities – engage collectively with over 2,000 organisations on a monthly basis providing information and advice, networking, learning and CPD opportunities, co-ordinating briefings and supporting third sector input to strategic city and national partnerships
* In our representative role for the Third sector, we consult and connect with the sector as widely as possible; through our CRM system we collect and regularly update data and information on over 3,000 Glasgow organisations, we produce regular analysis, research and report on trends,

**Our national activity**

We play a strong role in a Scottish Third Sector context, working closely in working groups and alliances with our 31 other Third Sector Interfaces, and with the main lead national Third Sector organisations and networks.

Collectively we seek to bring about the systemic change to public service delivery which the 2011 Christie Commission recognised was imperative for the future health and well-being of Scotland, and we campaign together to shape social and economic policy and inform human rights in Scotland.

Some examples of this work in 2018/19 include

* **Health and Social Care Integration** (CEO’s input to the National TS H & S C Collaborative - meetings with Audit Scotland, Health Improvement Scotland, Scottish Government)
* **Social Security Reform** (CEOs input to Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform SCoWR; GCVS Social Policy work with new Social Security Agency / think-tanks)
* **Childrens’ Mental Health Health** (Everyone’s Children Team’s work with Children and Families; CEOs work with Childrens MH Champion)
* **E**a**rly Learning and Childcare**  (Everyone’s Children Team and CEO’s work with ELC Sub-group; CEOs meetings with SG, Skills Development Scotland, Economic Forum employability group)
* **Human Rights**  (CEOs input to First Ministers Advisory Group and work with EHRC)’
* **Open Government** (CEOs work with SCVO/ GCC leading to proposed adoption in December 18 by GCC of OG- status

**ABOUT GCVS**

**THE VARIED ROLES WE PLAY IN A COMPLEX LANDSCAPE**

**In our Third Sector Intermediary role, we operate**

* **as a** **charity, and** **trading social enterprise,** seeking to survive and prosper : meeting need, delivering positive outcomes, operating efficiently and effectively, trading profitably and investing in up-skilling, to be fit for purpose
* **as a ‘trade association’** - similar to a Chamber of Commerce - delivering a wide portfolio of membership support services, serving our members’ interests, advocating for a fair and equitable operating environment for our sector, and for dedicated investment in the sector
* **as a technical support agency** (similar to Business Gateway) providing a range practical business and technical advisory services to TS organisations operating as SME’s, to support their good governance, compliance, competence, sustainability and effectiveness
* **as a core partner in the Glasgow Third Sector Interface** (TSI) working in concert with our two core partners - Volunteering Glasgow and Glasgow Social Enterprise Network (GSEN) – and with all the TSI Networks in the city, to provide coherent support for all interest groups – voluntary and community organisations, social enterprise, volunteers. We together collective work-plan within a TSI national outcomes framework agreed with the Scottish Government
* **as a strategic development agency** promoting and leading for the ‘third sector’ on key initiatives in Glasgow : reflecting TS views, co-ordinating TS contribution, and being a formal representative, ‘signing off’ on behalf of Glasgow’ Third Sector on strategic plans and formal agreements like the Third Sector Concordat
* **as a partner within the Lead TSI in Scotland** using our specialist knowledge and experience to formally represent TSIs on a range of national working groups and committees relating to Health and Social Care, Reshaping Care for Older People, Community Learning and Development, Workplace Development, Equalities and Public Procurement

**In our role as a local strategic infrastructure organisation within Glasgow we operate**

* **as public information provider / networking organisation** – a rich source of generalist info useful to the public, and TS sector-specific information, a source of robust data on Glasgow’s TS; an interpreter, a connector, broker, a sign-poster, linking and networking people and organisations together,
* **as an effective delivery partner, and critical friend** - working closely with other agencies / other sectors in the city to deliver programmes and services which lead to good outcomes for citizens, on key agendas like GIRFEC, Child Poverty, Social Isolation. In this work we are looking to find ways we can add value, mobilise the TS, play to our strengths, focus on outputs and outcomes / quality working relationships
* **as an agent for development and change agent in our own right** - a city asset – taking on a leadership role, and undertaking work we believe adds value in Glasgow, in line with our longer-term aspirations for a more equal, successful city.

We seek to use our assets – our own exceptional development and programme management skills, our expertise and knowledge of the city, our allies and supporters, our members and their networks and the cumulative strength and experience they bring - to design city wide programmes and services, and establish strong local neighbourhood infrastructures, to create real and lasting benefits to the lives of citizens and the well-being of our communities.