

An introduction to Scotland's national third sector intermediaries

What do intermediaries do?

Intermediaries are third sector organisations (TSOs) whose members are other TSOs and whose role is to support and represent those members.

Representation & policy influencing

"Most of our members are not 'policy people' – they just want to deliver a good service locally to the people that rely on them" (Intermediary body)

Intermediaries inform members about current policy issues and identify emerging issues, facilitate discussions, agree shared policy positions, and communicate these views to policy makers in Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, and local authorities etc. Raising the profile of their members and the impact of the work they do is part of this influencing role.

Campaigning work is often the driver for an intermediary being set up, when a gap or need is identified, for example:

Several conservation, landscape and recreation bodies **got together in 1980** to challenge a proposed ski development in the Highlands.

The campaign showed that **"by acting together, the various objecting bodies had been much more than the sum of their parts"**

Environment LINK Scotland was founded in February 1987 to facilitate future joint working

Communication & networking

Intermediaries provide communication and information channels and facilitate networking.

A recent survey of 20 intermediaries found that they collectively reach thousands of people and organisations through events, meetings and various media.

✓ **18,132**
e-bulletin /
newsletter readers

✓ **520,000**
web visits
per year

✓ **25,671**
Twitter
followers

✓ **Over 1000**
conferences, events
and training courses



40,000+
voluntary organisations
are active in Scotland today.
These thousands of groups are supported by a strong network of intermediaries.

60
national intermediaries
represent groups of organisations working in the same field, such as youth work, arts, health or heritage.

Scotland's intermediaries directly reach thousands of member organisations and indirectly support many thousand more organisations and individuals across Scotland.

Intermediaries are also called umbrella bodies, membership bodies, or network bodies. Most are membership bodies, which support and represent other voluntary organisations that all work in the same field.

An introduction to Scotland's national third sector umbrella bodies and intermediaries cont.

Information & support

Intermediaries provide a range of practical support services, from general information and signposting to direct services such as members' helpline, payroll, finance, HR and IT.

Organisational development & capacity building

Many intermediaries provide organisational and staff development support, including support with business planning, funding and tailored training for staff.

Intelligence & evaluation

Intermediaries help develop the evidence base for policy and practice, such as the recent Social Enterprise Census to map and understand social enterprise. Many support members with research, monitoring and evaluation.

Promoting good practice

Intermediaries facilitate the sharing of good practice among members and highlight best practice from elsewhere. This can include training programmes and toolkits for members, and setting agreed quality standards.

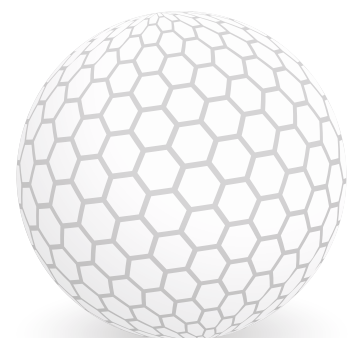
Why has the role of intermediaries become more important?

- ✓ The third sector has grown in recent years, with voluntary organisations working in more spheres and delivering more services across Scotland than ever before. The sector's turnover reflects this, more than doubling from £2billion in 2000 to nearly **£5billion in 2015**. As voluntary organisations become larger and more professional, the level of support they require to keep themselves abreast of new developments increases.
- ✓ The Scottish Parliament brought a new emphasis on **policy and development**, with more opportunities for the sector to provide briefings, evidence to committees and influence policy.
- ✓ The Scottish Government has been keen to **develop policy collaboratively** with the sector e.g. via meetings and consultations, and has been very supportive of the role of intermediaries including funding the work of many intermediary organisations.
- ✓ **Intermediaries work.** They help organisations achieve more than they could on their own, provide tailored support and information, and help keep costs down by offering shared services that stop wheels having to be re-invented by individual organisations. They can push forward on shared agendas while member organisations focus on their own specific priorities.

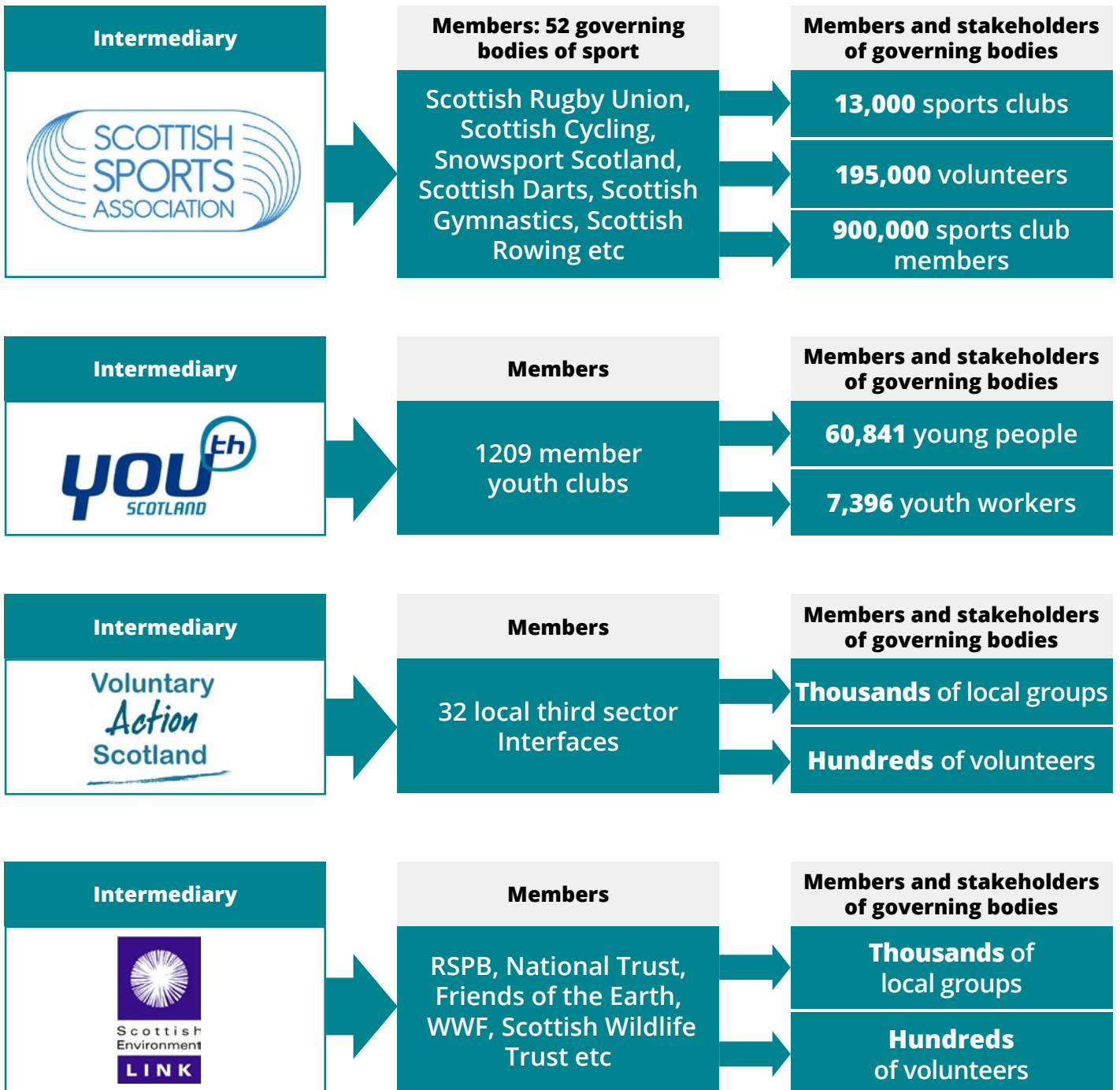
*"The Scottish Government works with a number of organisations which provide a coordinating or intermediary role across the different equality communities. They play an important role in informing the policy making process, in supporting and engaging communities, and in developing capacity and leadership."
(Scottish Government website)*

What is the reach and impact of an intermediary?

Some intermediaries support hundreds of groups. Others provide tailored support to a small number of organisations. But all intermediaries indirectly reach beyond their direct members to thousands of local communities and individuals across Scotland. See some examples on the next page...



The reach and impact of an intermediary : a few examples



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Directory of intermediaries

General support

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations www.scvo.org.uk

Represents the interests of the third sector – SCVO's 1600 members include grassroots groups, Scotland-wide organisations, and 45 intermediary bodies.

Voluntary Action Scotland www.vascotland.org.uk

Supports and promotes the work of the 32 Third Sector Interfaces. The TSIs are 'geographic' intermediaries support hundreds of third sector organisations at a local level.

Association of Chief Officers of Scottish Voluntary Organisations www.acosvo.org.uk

A membership body for third sector leaders, with over 400 members

Children & young people

Children in Scotland www.childreninScotland.org.uk

Collective voice for children, young people and families in Scotland, its 500 members include other children's network bodies.

Early Years Scotland www.earlyyearsscotland.org

Support over 1,000 member playgroups and pre-school services

Play Scotland www.playscotland.org

Network for play workers, nursery staff, teachers etc

Scottish Out of School Care Network www.soscn.org

Umbrella body for nearly 1,000 school-aged childcare services in Scotland

Scottish Parent Teacher Council www.sptc.info

Supports 1,800 Parent Councils and Parent Teacher Associations

Youth Scotland www.youthscotland.org.uk

Network body for 1000+ local youth groups and clubs

Youthlink Scotland www.youthlinkscotland.org

Network for 100+ national and regional youth work organisations

Women

Engender www.engender.org.uk

Networking organisation for women, and feminist and women's groups across Scotland

Scottish Women's Aid www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk

Umbrella body for local Women's Aid services.

Older people

Age Scotland www.agescotland.org.uk

Supports older people's organisations, including 1,000+ member groups

Disability

Inclusion Scotland www.inclusionscotland.org

Consortium of over 70 organisations of disabled people, alongside 700 disabled individuals.

An introduction to Scotland's national third sector umbrella bodies and intermediaries cont.

Scottish Disability Equality Forum www.sdef.org.uk

Member-led organisation promoting equality for disabled people in Scotland

ARC Scotland www.arcuk.org.uk/scotland

Network for organisations supporting people with a learning disability

Social care

Health & Social Care Alliance www.alliance-scotland.org.uk

The Alliance represents 1,500 individuals and organisations using or involved in health and social care

Befriending Network Scotland www.befriending.co.uk

Umbrella body for 250 befriending services

Carers Scotland www.carersuk.org/scotland

Network for carers and organisations that support unpaid carers

Coalition of Care & Support Providers in Scotland www.ccpsscotland.org

CCPS represents over 70 of the largest third sector care providers in Scotland

Homeless Action Scotland www.homelessactionscotland.org.uk

Membership body for over 100 third sector organisations working to prevent homelessness

Relationships Scotland www.relationships-scotland.org.uk

Supports the national network of 22 local family support services

Scottish Mentoring Network www.scottishmentoringnetwork.co.uk

Forum supporting 150 third sector organisations with an interest in mentoring

Health

Voluntary Health Scotland www.vhscotland.org.uk

National intermediary for voluntary health organisations

Scottish Partnership of Palliative Care www.palliativecarescotland.org.uk

Umbrella and representative organisation for over 40 palliative care charities and hospices

Scottish Drugs Forum www.sdf.org.uk

Mental Health

COSCA (Counselling & Psychotherapy in Scotland) www.cosca.org.uk

Membership is primarily individual counsellors, but includes 100+ organisations

Scottish Association for Mental Health www.samh.org.uk

Technically not an intermediary, SAMH has details of local mental health services and projects

Minorities & faith

Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure in Scotland www.bemis.org.uk

Council of Ethnic Minority Voluntary Sector Organisations www.cemvo.org.uk

Interfaith Scotland www.interfaithscotland.org

An introduction to Scotland's national third sector umbrella bodies and intermediaries cont.

Equalities & rights

Citizens Advice Scotland www.cas.org.uk

Equality Network www.equality-network.org

Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance www.siaa.org.uk

Umbrella body for 70 independent advocacy organisations

Poverty Alliance www.povertyalliance.org

Culture

Archaeology Scotland www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

Museums Galleries Scotland www.museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

Represent and support 450 museums and galleries in Scotland

Scottish Civic Trust www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk

Scottish Community Drama Association www.scda.org.uk

Voluntary Arts Scotland www.vascotland.org.uk

Not strictly a membership body, but act as a network for the +10,000 arts groups in Scotland

Environment

Built Environment Forum Scotland www.befsc.org.uk

Community Resources Network Scotland www.crnsc.org.uk

Represents over 100 organisations working in reuse, recycling and waste prevention

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens www.farmgarden.org.uk/scotland

Federation of 84 local community farms and gardens

Scottish Environment Link www.scotlink.org

Sports

Scottish Sports Association www.thessa.org.uk

Members are Scottish sports governing bodies, who in turn support 13,000 sports clubs

Economic and community development

Association of British Credit Unions Ltd www.abcul.org

Community Development Alliance Scotland www.communitydevelopmentalliancescotland.org

Community Transport Association www.ctauk.org

Membership includes 160 Scottish community transport groups

Development Trust Association Scotland www.dtascot.org.uk

Support body for over 200 Scottish development trusts

Scottish Fair Trade Forum www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk

Scottish League of Credit Unions www.scottishcu.org

Social Enterprise Scotland www.socialenterprisescotland.org.uk

Social Firms Scotland www.socialfirms.org.uk

SURF www.scotregen.co.uk

An introduction to Scotland's national third sector umbrella bodies and intermediaries cont.

Housing

Scottish Federation of Housing Associations www.sfha.co.uk

International

International Development Education Association of Scotland www.ideas-forum.org.uk

Scotland's International Development Alliance www.intdevalliance.scot

Learning

Learning Link Scotland www.learninglinkscotland.org.uk

Volunteering

Volunteering Scotland www.volunteerscotland.net

Supports hundreds of volunteer-engaging organisations, including local volunteer centres.