

UNSEEN

UNEQUAL

UNTAPPED

UNLEASHED

The potential for community action at the grassroots



community
sector
coalition

“Today, many people feel that civil society and its local associations aren’t very important. Instead they think that what really matters are big institutions like corporations, health systems and governments. However, what makes a democracy isn’t its institutions. Rather, it is citizens working together in their clubs, groups, organizations, and associations that make a democracy.

The heart of democracy is the free space where people form their own associations to provide care, advocacy and community. Without this vital centre, democracies become hollow and institutions become oppressive and unresponsive. And people lose their citizenship by becoming nothing more than clients and consumers.”

John McKnight, The Asset Based Community Development Institute, Chicago

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All photographs courtesy of bassac and BTCV

After the money has gone

At a time of massive cuts ‘community resilience’ is what will determine how well local people will survive. When there is no public sector money, when business retreats, all that is left is the collective action of ordinary people. The Coalition believes the scale of community action is not really recognised and understood. Community groups are often overlooked and ignored by government third sector policy.

This has created structural inequality that puts distance between rich and poor, large and small in the sector.

It is grassroots community groups with little funding, which are the backbone of society. Consisting almost entirely of volunteering, their activities extend to every social and environmental issue and every section of the local population, they are extremely important for binding local communities together. They strengthen civil society by:

- building relationships between people
- forming stronger bonds between communities
- nurturing active citizens
- encouraging self-help and self-sufficiency
- fostering robust democracy
- creating community identity
- providing free or low cost activity
- promoting community learning
- raising skills and confidence.

Going beyond the money - for once you don’t need to follow the money, most community groups don’t have any. They thrive on the

more basic currency of human exchange - active citizens coming together to solve problems on their own terms.

The challenge we propose is to help communities to help themselves - supporting not stifling. Community Sector Coalition would like to see:

- investment in grassroots funding
- a community building in every neighbourhood
- community development support
- facilitated local forums
- learning for citizenship.

For change to work it must be driven from within communities led by the collective action of local people. The genius of local people taking community action can be seen to work, where allowed to do so and given a minimum of respect and resource. That space used to be there and we need to find it again, quickly.

Reconnecting with the community sector can truly drive this change. The solution is there, within our reach - it is time to re-think what we know about the sector, time to build a new settlement that delivers lasting change for everyone.

Explaining the terms

What is the community sector?

The community sector refers to the wide range of groups that are rooted in their local communities - these may be communities of place, such as a neighbourhood or parish, or may be communities of interest, such as people who share an ethnic background or a disability.

- **Community groups** - there is a wide range of activity that takes place at community level, owned and run by community groups, for example arts and sports activities, city farms and community gardens, youth groups, learning opportunities, advocacy and advice and social activities for young and old
- **Community centres and village halls** - these buildings, and the volunteer-led associations that run them, often provide a space where community groups can meet and other activity takes place
- **Community anchors** - are independent community-led organisations which are multi-purpose and provide holistic solutions to problems
- **Faith based social action** - where faith based organisations are actively supporting their members and the wider community on social issues
- **Tenants or residents associations** - these are organisations whose membership is made up of tenants or residents in an estate
- **Community activists** - individuals who motivate others in a community to take action
- **Community development workers** - these are professional workers or volunteers who work for a range of different organisations to

work with communities, engaging individuals in community action and developing community groups in a particular neighbourhood or community of interest

- **Neighbourhood forums/ community partnerships** - a forum for residents in a designated geographic area that provides a community-led structure to represent the area and support local activity - it may be entirely local residents or may also involve representatives from statutory agencies
- **Community enterprise** - these are local organisations that are trading for a social purpose with a community base
- **Local campaigns** - a group of people that come together informally to campaign for change in their local community.

What is the difference between the voluntary and the community sector?

There are many similarities between voluntary organisations and community groups as they are all independent, not-for-profit and value-led. The table opposite identifies different characteristics of typical groups in the community and the voluntary sector, although the reality is a spectrum where the distinctions are blurred.

The size of the group, in terms of either income or staffing, is a key indicator to which sector the group belongs to, but it is not as simple as small = community sector and large = voluntary sector.

It is not their size alone, but the extent to which they are embedded

in their communities and function primarily as mutual aid rather than contract service providers that determines if they are part of the community sector. So the issue is not between small and large but about the approach taken. Does it push power and resource downwards? Is there real public accountability to, or ownership by, local people?

For example, some larger organisations retain strong community roots. These 'community anchor' organisations combine the best of both the voluntary and community sectors. They successfully deliver services in their local community and provide a supportive environment for the concerns of local residents and growth of smaller community groups.

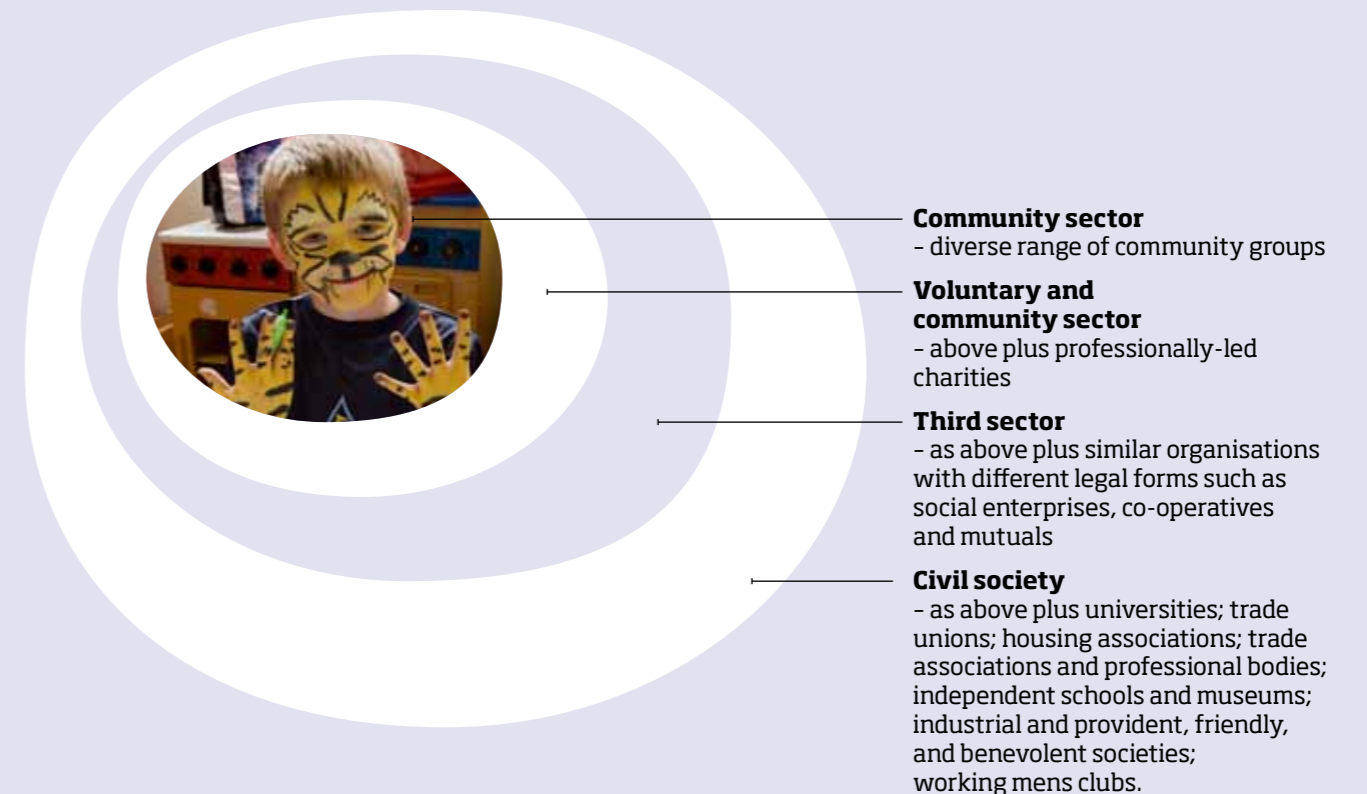
What is the third sector and civil society?

Government policy language has evolved over the years. In 2006 the 'Office of the Third Sector' was established, and this became the accepted label, instead of the voluntary and community sector.

Civil society is a term that refers to the organisations and institutions that occupy the space outside of the structures of the state (public sector) or the commercial institutions of the market (private sector). "Civil society is where people come together to make a positive difference to their lives and the lives of others - for mutual support, to pursue shared interests, to further a cause they care about or simply for fun and friendship. It is where me becomes we." ⁴ The idea of civil society is attracting a lot of attention from academics, researchers and policy-makers. They are interested in how to strengthen and develop a healthy civil society.



	Community sector	Voluntary sector
Structure	Informal	Formalised
Decision making	Participative	Hierarchical
Ownership	Member-led	Staff-led and client focused
Scale	Small/ low income	Larger/ high income
Resources	Volunteer help Members homes	Paid professional staff Offices
Ethos	Self help and mutual support Passion	Providing services to meet identified need Professional approach
Language	Everyday	Jargon/policy-orientated



Unequal: mind the gap

The same third sector that prides itself on an ethos of fairness and social change is probably the most unequal sector in society.

Third sector policy and funding over the last ten years has created new opportunities for a few but left others out - failing to connect with community groups.

Policy Gap

The Government has put in place a variety of measures to build a partnership with the third sector and invest in promoting and growing the sector, particularly its role in public service delivery.⁵ In response, there has been increasing professionalisation and managerialism within the sector. It has been affected by government agendas around efficiencies and modernisation and raised new challenges such as maintenance of an independent outlook, participation in commissioning and procurement, and demonstration of outcomes and impact.

The reality is that the focus on public service delivery is only of interest to the larger professional charities and social enterprises, and is irrelevant for smaller community organisations. Even government policy in deprived neighbourhoods that depends on the third sector is typically aimed at established voluntary organisations and often misses out the most local layer of community groups.

At national and local level, significant decisions are made, supposedly for all, that do not involve or connect with any organisations below a certain size or profile - most community groups are left out of this decision

making process due to a lack of voice and representation. Consequently there is a huge policy gap regarding the community sector.

There have been some improvements as a result of the last Third Sector Review in 2007⁶ that expanded the support of the sector to include enabling voice and campaigning and strengthening communities. This has led to some positive initiatives for the community sector such as the Grassroots Grants endowment match fund, and the Communitybuilders programme.

Unfortunately this approach is not always sustained, as demonstrated by the recent exclusion of the Community Code from the revised Compact, and the cancellation of the Campaigning Research Programme for community groups.

What cannot be allowed to continue is the structural inequality that puts distance between rich and poor, large and small in the sector, which has been a feature of recent years.

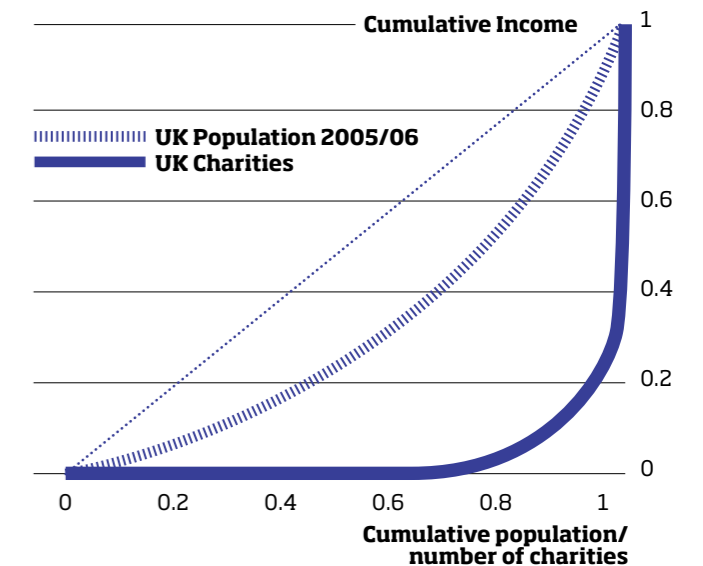
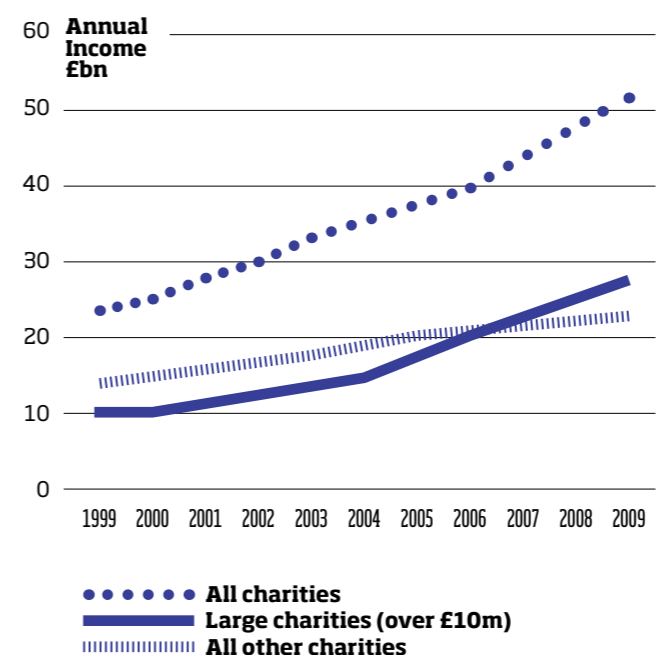
Income Inequality

The consequences of the policy gap are revealed by a detailed look at the sector's growth during the last ten years.

The third sector has become more unequal as the large charities get larger, while the small charities get smaller or close altogether. Overall, the number of charities increased from 159,800 in 2000 to 169,200 in 2007, then dropped to 160,500 by the end of 2009. In contrast, the number of very large charities (over £10m) has consistently grown from 307 in 1999 to 833 in 2009.

The chart below shows overall charity income has more than doubled over the last ten years. This is driven by the very large charities (over £10m) whose income has almost trebled, whereas average income for other charities has grown by a more modest amount.

Those 833 very large charities, which are just 0.5% of all charities, have 55% of total charitable income. Compare this to the 72,900 very small charities with less than £10,000 (approx 50% of charities), that have just 0.5% of total charitable income.



The chart above shows the distribution of income for registered charities in comparison with distribution of household income in the UK, in the form of a Lorenz Curve. The straight diagonal line shows equal income distribution where 50% of charities receive 50% of income. As the curve moves further from this line it shows greater levels of income inequality. It is clear that income inequality in the sector is much greater than inequalities in household income in the UK - despite the attention that the latter receives in the media.

This analysis only includes registered charities - if the informal community groups were taken into consideration then the disparity would be even greater.

Untapped: the added value

It is grassroots community groups with little funding, which are the backbone of the third sector - whether they are above or below the radar. Consisting almost entirely of volunteering, their activities extend to every social and environmental issue, and every section of the local population. They are extremely important for binding local civil society together.

The value of community groups is in:

- **Building relationships between people:** friendly relations build trust and a mutual support network, preventing isolation (*social capital*)
- **Stronger bonds between communities:** relationships between diverse groups are strengthened, the risk of social breakdown minimised (*community cohesion*)
- **Active citizens,** where local people come together to participate and contribute to a vibrant community life
- **Self-help and self-sufficiency:** more people take more responsibility for themselves and each other, and for finding their own solutions to local concerns
- **Robust democracy,** where local people practice democratic engagement through local organisations and where wider political engagement is fostered and nurtured so that they have a greater say in decisions that affect their community's well-being
- **Community identity,** where local people have a sense of belonging and a pride in their local community and feel valued for the part they can play in making their community a better place to live

- **Providing free or low cost activity,** where people who may otherwise be unable to afford it can improve their quality of life
- **Community learning,** where people share their ideas and experience for the benefit of others including local children
- **Raising skills and confidence,** where people's involvement in local group activity can act as a catalyst to changing their life, perhaps seeking skills or employment.

This vision of strengthening civil society can only be achieved if the groups' activities are self-directed and owned, because the value is in people co-operating with each other and taking greater control over their circumstances. No one but the community can strengthen the community itself.

Yet in many disadvantaged local areas, community groups are too sparse or weak or lacking resources to meet the needs that they seek to address. In these areas where social problems are complex, it is particularly difficult to establish such groups. Indeed, the dearth of community groups is both a cause and an effect of social breakdown. And whilst this generates huge problems for people in the community, it also creates additional demands on public services.



Community success stories

Parish phenomenon

It started when Constantine Parish Council in Cornwall wanted ideas to mark the millennium. A survey, undertaken as part of a community-led planning process with community development support, produced lots of different ideas around sport, arts, education, IT, and heritage. A charity was formed, Constantine Enterprises Company (CEC), with extraordinary results: it bought a listed Methodist chapel at auction for £20,000 with the majority of money pledged by members of the local community.

With capital funding from Cornwall Millennium Project and ERDF Objective 2, it was renovated and extended to create a heritage centre, café, and theatre. The Tolmen Centre is a huge asset for the village and has become the centre of village life. "A phenomenal building with even more phenomenal volunteers," says CEC co-founder Elizabeth Moore. As a development trust for the village, CEC is involved in other projects: it has set up a parish newspaper, a heritage trail and a "green team" to look at environmental improvements in the area.

Source: DTA

Environmental Health

Woodchip Green Gym, Oxfordshire aims to inspire people to improve their health and their environment at the same time. Set up by BTCV in April 2007 as one of 100 schemes across the country, they became independent in January 2009, with on-going support from BTCV.

The Woodchip volunteers have been working on improvements to local green spaces, including Hook Norton Nature Reserve, and Woodstock Cemetery. Activities include taking out invasive ivy and brambles, planting wildflowers, mending boardwalks in water meadows

and learning dry-stone walling.

Experienced volunteer leaders guide members through the practical projects, giving them the chance to tackle physical outdoor jobs - improving strength and stamina, boosting practical skills and confidence. Volunteers of all ages and abilities are welcomed, but fun and satisfaction are guaranteed.

Source: BTCV

Stick to your aims

Poverty is a violation of human rights, believes West Glasgow Against Poverty (WestGAP), which sets out to help people with forgotten skills, lost confidence and low self-esteem from being stuck at home without money. WestGAP provides advice and information to 1,200 clients a year: "We are constantly heartened and impressed by people whose human rights are being violated on a daily basis, but who still have enough concern for others and for their community to give their time, energy and skills in working with us."

Proud of their independence, they are financed by a mixture of trusts, foundations and community fundraising and run by two paid job-share staff and 14 volunteers. They make active use of networks; a lively MySpace page; linking in geographically across West Glasgow and wider anti-poverty networks.

Nominated as Advice UK's Member of the Month in September 2009 for supporting initiatives in the local community and their broader commitment to anti-poverty campaigns. Their top tip is "Constantly remind yourself why you were set up and what you are supposed to be doing, and keep checking that you are still actually doing that. Stay true to your core values and those who need your independence."

Source: Advice UK

Community led planning

Coxhoe is a small ex-mining community in Durham which, in 2004, created a vision for their own future through the process of community led planning. With third sector community development support, local residents explored the issues and potential for the local area which led to an action plan for the local community.

Coxhoe community partnership was set up to take on the community-led actions, financed through local fundraising, earned income and grant applications. Actions that required involvement of other statutory agencies were led by Coxhoe Parish Council.

As a result, the community is tackling:

- Street lighting, community safety and vandalism
- IT Improvements to a community-owned hall
- Celebrating the mining heritage through restoration of war memorial and installation of Millennium clocks
- A Living Churchyard project
- Working with commercial partners on land reclamation
- Working with external partners to develop a new medical centre in the village.

Local interest and community action has been successfully sustained over the last 6 years. Rather than being passive recipients of local authority engagement, local people in Coxhoe have owned and managed their own plan to deliver real and continuing benefit for local residents.

Source: ACRE

Unleashing the Potential

The challenge for any government is how to help communities to help themselves – to support rather than stifle grassroots community action. The majority of community groups do not want direct support and fear that external intervention will compromise their independence.

Government policy has an important role in creating a supportive environment to enable grassroots activity to flourish. A two-year study and consultation by the Civil Renewal Unit (2004) established five firm foundations for supporting community action.⁷ The Community Sector Coalition endorses the findings of this

report. Below, we describe in broad terms, our perspective of the five firm foundations – with reference to particular policy ideas identified by individual Coalition members. We believe that providing these foundations will empower people to take action and unleash the potential of the community sector.

Investment in grassroots funding

There needs to be investment in growing local community groups from the bottom up and not just in building capacity from the top down. Access to small grants programmes or community chests is a vital source of support for community groups, and has proven very cost-effective in stimulating grassroots activity.

Community Matters – to channel more national lottery funding into small and micro grants for community organisations⁸

NAVCA – to introduce incentives to encourage more local philanthropy and corporate responsibility to build local endowments that will provide sustainable grants⁹

A community building in every neighbourhood

Every neighbourhood needs an affordable place to meet, to organise, to socialise and to run activities. This space should be neutral, multi-purpose and ideally, owned and controlled by the community. Once a community loses its buildings, it can't get them back and the social cost of their loss could be much greater than the financial cost of providing them.

Community Matters – to encourage local public bodies to transfer viable community buildings to communities where they demonstrate they can manage them¹⁰

Development Trusts Association – to provide access to assets for groups¹¹

Urban Forum – to allow communities to use and benefit from disused land and property¹²

Community development support

The critical element is that community development workers start from the goals and needs that communities and groups define for themselves, helping them to learn the knowledge and skills needed for active involvement and to support their own groups.

Local infrastructure organisations already play an important role in supporting community action and are a natural location for situating community development workers, within the sector.

CDF/CDX/ FCDL – the sustainable community strategy in any local authority area should include a strategic approach to community development across the locality¹³

CDF/CDX/FCDL – all policies which invoke community empowerment or rely on community engagement should have a built-in margin of their budget allocated to community development¹⁴

Facilitated local forums

A forum or network that is deliberately inclusive, open and participatory, ideally owned by and accountable to the community. This could be for example a network of community groups, a broad-based community resident association, or a neighbourhood partnership. It will ensure that individual actions and group initiatives are drawn together in mutual support and accountability. Allowing a space for networking, sharing of information, collective action and development of a voice for the community. It provides a platform to link into wider arenas.

Local infrastructure organisations would have a vital role in facilitating such forums and there may already be such structures in place.

NAVCA – to commit all public bodies to fund local infrastructure organisations to support and empower voluntary action so that all communities have a voice¹⁵

Urban Forum – to increase community access to local policy making processes¹⁶

Learning for citizenship

For community action to be influential, people need to know how the system works, how they can influence decisions and how they can play an active role - they need to learn practical politics. These will range from formal courses, through mentoring to informal sharing of ideas and experience. All must be grounded in people's own experiences, and be seen to have direct practical value.

Democracy Matters - for accessible and affordable opportunities for adults to learn capabilities for citizenship¹⁷

Take Part - to provide programmes of active learning that enable people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to become empowered citizens¹⁸

CSC wants to see a new settlement for the community sector. It is not principally about money, it is about recognition. For central and local government to understand and appreciate the scale of grassroots community action and its contribution to strengthening civil society. This includes finding appropriate ways to include the community sector in government and overcome the policy gap.

Certainly money should be pushed down to small groups through grassroots funding, given the income inequality within the third sector. But the new settlement must be about unleashing the potential of collective community action and this is mostly unpaid.

We need new priorities and thinking, across the third sector and government about how things are done and what is supported. This means moving the community sector from the margins to the mainstream of local strategies. Investment in grassroots community action can reap immediate gains for communities because there is no middle man, the benefit is immediate. And in turn government and wider civil society is healthier, fairer and more resilient; it is a win/ win/ win.

Reconnecting with the community sector can truly drive this change. The solution is within our reach - it is time to re-think what we know about the sector, time to build a new settlement that delivers lasting change for everyone.



Community success stories

Cleaner, safer neighbourhood

New Beginning Tenants and Residents Association (TRA) led the development of a neighbourhood plan for Malabar - an estate in Truro. They canvassed all residents by post and engaged young people through a video project to identify their priorities for improvements - in essence a cleaner, safer and stronger community.

Safety concerns were mainly travel issues, such as speeding and parking. Ideas for the action plan included working with the local school to develop a school travel plan. Environmental issues included rubbish, abandoned open space and dog fouling. Residents suggested some simple solutions; installing more dog bins, recycling bins and free water butts plus an annual Rubbish Amnesty for bulky waste. Local residents wanted a stronger community with facilities for all ages. Carrick Housing Association offered a youth worker for a year, who trained volunteer residents, and consulted young people on ideas for an empty field.

The main outcome was transformation of the old infant school into a community centre. Earlier plans were shelved, but plan process encouraged residents to commit to improving and managing the centre. With minimal funding and lots of hard work, the Malabar community have realised their ambition. "This will be a fantastic base for long term development, and the training that we can now offer will provide young people with more chances and better skills." Kelly Johnson, Chair of the TRA.

Source: TPAS

Self help survival

Papillon is committed to supporting adult survivors of sexual abuse of African and African Caribbean descent. Essentially a self-help group, it has regular meetings that attract people pan-London, and

across the midlands as there are no local support networks. It has secured a small grant of £700 from Groundswell to support the group and pilot special health and well-being sessions.

Jo founded the group as a response to her own experiences - a survivor herself as well as being unemployed and homeless - as she was determined to turn her life around. With community development support from the London Voluntary Service Council's Ready Steady Start consisting of a short course, mentoring and a training bursary, it gave her the skills, confidence and knowledge to start up her own group.

Papillon now has an active management committee and they are establishing strong partnerships with other organisations, such as Women's Aid. The local Samaritans offered them a weekly drop-in session and there is even the possibility of joint working with Victim Support in Jamaica.

Source: LVSC

Putting down roots

Eastside Roots - "a community gardening hub" - is developing two litter-strewn, inner-city sites in Bristol, in areas with high ethnic minority populations and little investment. Local residents, including refugees and asylum seekers, are among the 1,000 volunteers who contributed to building a demonstration garden with raised beds for growing, a rainwater harvesting system, wormery and compost toilets. Weekly volunteer days attracting up to 20 volunteers - they get involved in whatever jobs need doing and take home a share of the harvest.

New activities at the site include a spring fair, seed swaps, short training courses, and community garden centre. Their big ambitions for the future include, a play area for children, building a tool store and installing a solar-powered water pump.

Another exciting adventure is with GroFun, to help build gardens in schools. When Roots installed a soft fruit bed, herb and potato tyres, fruit trees and wild flowers, a grateful primary school commented: "It's the best money we have ever spent!"

Eastside Roots have achieved an enormous amount with very little revenue funding, thanks to their volunteers. Nick their volunteer co-ordinator explains, "We aim to generate income and become self-sufficient, by selling the produce we grow through the garden centre and building school gardens".

Source: FCFCG

Life-changing

Just getting to meetings of the Dunsford Arts and Crafts Group, in a Church hall near Ardglass, County Down, is a problem for the 33 elderly members. Many have no car, or are physically unable to come on their own, and there's no bus service. Yet they come, and lives have changed as a result.

Friendships have been formed, and some members - suffering from strokes, depression or loneliness - have found new purpose in life. Sewing and painting skills are taught and improved, as well as computer use. Their crafts are sold to raise funds for people with cancer or multiple sclerosis.

Income comes from an annual £5 membership fee, £320 a year from Down District Volunteer Centre and occasional one-off grants. There's no paid staff, and half the £1,600 annual budget is spent on rent. Survival depends on hours of voluntary time put in by the committee members.

Source: VAN

Community Campaigns

The Coalition is supporting a number of national campaigns that will broadly benefit the community sector, or address key political issues.

Better Banking Campaign

www.betterbanking.org.uk

The Better Banking campaign calls on the government to intervene to ensure that fair and affordable finance is available to the least well off communities, and the organisations that support them.

We believe it's time the banking system gave something back to society. If the banks invested just a fraction of their profits into the community it could transform some of our most deprived areas. And with the banking bail-out resulting in huge cuts to third sector funding, this investment is needed now more than ever.

The Better Banking campaign is calling for:

- full financial disclosure by banks
- a cap on unfair credit rates for those who cannot afford them, and
- obligations on banks to demonstrate that they provide fair access to credit and reinvest a proportion of future profits to support activity of public benefit.

Community Allowance

www.communityallowance.org

The CREATE Consortium proposes that government establish the Community Allowance in the UK benefits system to enable people to get out of the benefits trap and to enable communities to regenerate. All that is needed is a change to the benefits regulations.

We want community organisations to be able to pay people to do work that strengthens their neighbourhood without it affecting any of their benefits.

Get Fair

www.getfair.org.uk

Poverty in the UK is closer than you think.

It's 100% unfair. Over the past two decades the UK has become richer - but not fairer. It's now the fifth richest country in the world - yet the gap between rich and poor continues to grow. Government statistics show that 1 in 5 people in the UK live in poverty. This has remained the same, whether the UK is in growth or recession.

The Get Fair vision is to ensure that no one in the UK is marginalised or excluded from



society due to poverty. Their campaign calls for a decent, adequate income for all, homes and neighbourhoods that secure health and wellbeing, and good quality services as a right for all.

10:10 Climate Change Campaign

www.1010uk.org

10:10 is an ambitious project to unite every sector of British society behind one simple idea: that by working together we can achieve a 10% cut in the UK's carbon emissions in 2010.

Cutting 10% in one year is a bold target, but for most of us it's an achievable one, and is in line with what scientists say we need over the next 18 months. We now know for certain that unless we act quickly to reduce our use of dirty fossil fuels, humanity will face terrible problems in the years to come. Politicians have so far failed to do what needs to be done, so it's time for ordinary people to step in and show that we're ready to defend our children's futures. It's now or never for the climate. By signing up to a 10% target we're not just supporting 10:10 - we're making it happen.

Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning

www.call.org.uk

Rising charges and course cut backs have seen two million learners' places lost from further and adult education in England since 2005. Now groups representing students, staff and local communities have come together to campaign for the right of everyone to access learning irrespective of class, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability, asylum status or employment.

The Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning believes that affordable access to the life changing opportunities provided by education is the hallmark of a civilised society.

About CSC

The Community Sector Coalition (CSC) was established in 1994 by a group of Chief Executives of national umbrella organisations whose work focused on the community sector.

They met to establish a coalition of organisations that wants to champion the unique contribution that the community sector makes to society.

The added value that is generated through Coalition members working together ensures that resources are used more effectively across organisational boundaries and that there is a stronger, unified voice to campaign on issues vital to the sector.

Collectively, the extended reach of the Coalition runs into many thousands of organisations. The broad membership base reaches out to a wide variety of community sector organisations, for example tenant associations, self-help groups, social enterprises, village hall committees, faith groups, development trusts, arts and sports groups and community foundations. These groups often operate at a very local level and are embedded within their communities. The Coalition provides a structure to reflect the genuine views, experiences of community groups and feedback the overall needs of the community sector at a national level.

CSC vision statement

For the community sector to be empowered, valued and active in local democracy

CSC mission statement

To be a credible and authoritative independent voice for the community sector

CSC aims

- to campaign for policy change that will benefit the community sector
- to deliver a programme of research and learning about the community sector
- to enable members to share information and identify priorities for collective action

Members of the Coalition

Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE)

ADEPT Community Development Agency Advice UK

Black Training & Enterprise Group (BTEG)

British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (bassac)

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)

Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)

Churches' Community Work Alliance (CCWA)

Community Development Exchange (CDX)

Community Development Foundation (CDF)

Community Foundation Network (CFN)

Community Matters

Development Trusts Association (DTA)

Educational Centres Association (ECA)

Faith Based Regeneration Network (FbRN)

Federation for Community Development Learning (FCDL)

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)

MIND

National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)

Novas Scarman

Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)

Urban Forum

Voluntary Arts Network (VAN)

Footnotes

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- 1 Charity Commission figures for 31st December 2009 available on their website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk)
- 2 National Survey of Third Sector Organisations published by Office of the Third Sector in Spring 2009 (www.nstso.com)
- 3 Elsdon, K (1999) Voluntary Organisations: Citizenship, Learning and Change. Nottingham, NIACE

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- 4 'Civil Society: a framework for action' NCVO, February 2009

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- 5 A key focus of the Cross-Cutting Reviews of the sector in 2002 and 2004
- 6 The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration: final report' HM Treasury, July 2007

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- 7 'Firm Foundations: the government's framework for community capacity building' Home Office, 2004
- 8 'Communities Matter: A vision for neighbourhoods' Community Matters, 2010, page 5
- 9 'Strong Independent Roots: supporting local voluntary action' NAVCA, 2009
- 10 Communities Matter: A vision for neighbourhoods' Community Matters, 2010, page 5
- 11 'Trust in communities: a manifesto' Development Trusts Association, 2009
- 12 '10 Big Ideas for 2010' in page 10 of Clearway: Winter 2009, Urban Forum, 2009 - www.urbanforum.org.uk

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- 13 'The Community Development Challenge', DCLG, December 2006 in partnership with CDF, CDX and FCDL (page 40)

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- 14 *ibid* (page 41)
- 15 'Strong Independent Roots: supporting local voluntary action' NAVCA, 2009
- 16 '10 Big Ideas for 2010' in page 10 of Clearway: Winter 2009, Urban Forum, 2009 - www.urbanforum.org.uk
- 17 <http://www.campaigncentral.org.uk/journal/democracy-matters/titus> - supported by Novas Scarman
- 18 www.takepart.org - part of the Together We Can campaign and supported by DCLG

“It’s of vital importance that the community sector is seen for what it is – or more importantly, what it *can* be.”

Matthew Scott, CSC

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