

SPOTLIGHT ON LANGHOLM



THIRD SECTOR
Dumfries and Galloway

TSDG's Engagement Managers on Wednesday, November 29th, 2023, spent the day in Langholm. This visit brought together eight third sector organisations and TSDG's Community Engagement Manager, Employability Manager, Social Enterprise Manager, and Community Health and Wellbeing Manager, creating a powerhouse of TSDG expertise.

The primary objective of this visit was twofold: to establish meaningful connections with various groups and gain an understanding of Langholm's third sector landscape, while also highlighting the support of TSDG's broader engagement services.

What became immediately apparent during the visit was the remarkable initiatives across the community, with an impressive 72 active groups operating within the third sector. These groups, offer a range of activities and projects for the community, ranging from a range of youth projects, children services, grass root community projects as well as land management and tourism.

The Langholm visit originated from a personal invitation from Councillor Denis Male. As well as meeting Mr Male, TSDG's Engagement Managers engaged with the following community stakeholders in Langholm. The team met with:



Selina
Social Enterprise Manager



Gail
Community Engagement Manager



Niomi
Community Health & Wellbeing Manager



Sharee
Employability Manager

**Canonbie
Community
Enterprise**

Excel Youth

**Langholm
Initiative**

**Tarras Valley
Nature
Reserve**

Creation Mill

**Langholm
Alliance**

Outpost Arts

**The Chair of the
Langholm, Ewes,
and Westerkirk
Community
Council**

All these groups extended a warm welcome to the TSDG managers. The team even paused for a photograph under the Christmas tree, capturing a moment of shared collaboration for the local paper.

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Counsellor Denis Males intention was not only to showcase the quality work in Langholm but also to shed light on the challenges faced by the community. Discussed with TSDG Engagement Managers, these challenges highlighted pressing issues such as the absence of community transport and the departure of five core health services since the onset of the pandemic.

As the Engagement Managers listened, they learned about the struggles faced by individual community members due to these issues—daunting five-hour journeys to DGRI hospital and missed healthcare appointments due to the lack of community transport, highlighting the pressing need for intervention. The Engagement Managers also discovered a collective commitment to collaboration, with the Langholm Community Forum standing out as a prime example of third sector partnership at the heart of Langholm's community initiatives.

Community Transport

- Getting to employment
- Getting to health care and appointments
- Getting to education establishments
- Getting to shops
- Getting to leisure points
- Community groups getting to groups that live in rurally isolated areas
- Cannot transport the local community to other venues and projects

The impact of the removal of core health services

Funding particularly on direct funding to ensure project longevity and funding utility bills

The insights gathered during this visit are spotlighted in this edition, and key findings will be disseminated to our partners. TSDGs CEO also plans to bring these highlighted barriers to the attention of the CSSPP Board.

Each manager, representing their respective departments, are committed to undertaking a series of actions. These actions aim to provide ongoing support to the groups, aiding them in continually enhancing their organisational capacity and capabilities.

KEY EMERGING THEMES

Training and development on key themes of

- Finances and financial Management System training
- Upskilling people from the community into employment to do textile industry
- Upskilling people to be employed
- Board succession planning
- Procurement training
- Dementia training
- Community mental health and wellbeing training

Wellbeing Exchange

Education Facilities and Apprenticeships - benefit of education coming to Langholm

Women's health - Menopause awareness

Business Start Ups and Sustainability

Networking and collaboration - particular emphasis on the SEDG network

Langholm can feel forgotten about in key consultations

Collapse of Loreburn housing has impacted on all the above key themes

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Useful Information

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Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway is the operating name of Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector Interface, a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC043832.