

Third Sector Support Review

Overview

The Edinburgh Partnership is conducting a review of how it supports and works with third sector organisations in Edinburgh. This includes how we deliver grant funding and commissioning, how we ask third sector organisations to monitor and report on what they do, and what in-kind support we provide.

We recognise that a well-functioning third sector is essential for Edinburgh, and that third sector organisations are our partners in delivery of a vast range of services to all communities in the city. The third sector directly supports Edinburgh residents with person-centred services that are difficult for the public sector to provide or where trust in the public sector is low. We know how big a difference the third sector makes especially in building personal resilience and helping vulnerable people enjoy good, rewarding lives.

Recent funding changes, inflation, increased national insurance costs, and other factors have made this a difficult year for the sector, and we know that urgent action is needed.

As part of our commitment to help the sector, the City of Edinburgh Council has dedicated £3.5m this year to help organisations impacted by unexpected loss of grant funding or reduced commissioning. Visit the Council's website for more information about the [Third Sector Resilience Fund](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/14178/emergency-fund-launches-to-support-the-city-s-third-sector-ahead-of-longer-term-review#:~:text=The%20City%20of%20Edinburgh%20Council%20Third%20Sector%20Resilience%20Fund%20is,of%20the%20EIJ%20Grants%20Programme) <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/news/article/14178/emergency-fund-launches-to-support-the-city-s-third-sector-ahead-of-longer-term-review#:~:text=The%20City%20of%20Edinburgh%20Council%20Third%20Sector%20Resilience%20Fund%20is,of%20the%20EIJ%20Grants%20Programme> .

This review is happening now to allow the findings to influence the decision-making processes of Edinburgh Partnership organisations for the next financial year. Results will be shared with participants and the wider third sector, and with the Council's Policy and Sustainability Committee in August.

This survey is for third sector organisations of all types – voluntary organisations, social enterprises, and charities. This survey is specifically for those organisations to complete, but you may wish to attend one of the in-person meetings listed below. You can both attend a meeting and complete the survey. Please note that places at "workshops" are limited and you must reserve a spot by contacting communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Shortcode: factbank

Factbank Title: Workshop dates, times and venues (booking required)

Factbank Content:

Please contact communityplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to reserve a place at one of the following workshops.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 19 May	10:00 - 12:00	Volunteer Edinburgh, 222 Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH6 5EQ
Wednesday 21 May	10:00 - 12:00	North Edinburgh Arts, 12C Macmillan Square, Edinburgh EH4 4AB
Thursday 22 May	14:00 - 16:00	Spartans Community Foundation, 94 Pilton Dr, Edinburgh EH5 2HF
Monday 26 May	10:00 - 12:00	Community Renewal Trust, 31 Bingham Ave, Edinburgh EH15 3HZ (near the community centre in Bingham Park)
Thursday 29 May	10:00 - 12:00	The Ripple Project, 198 Restalrig Rd S, Edinburgh EH7 6DZ
Monday 2 June	14:00 - 16:00	Thistle Foundation, Centre of Wellbeing, 13 Queen's Walk, Edinburgh EH16 4EA
		EaRN, 222 Leith Walk, Edinburgh EH6 5EQ
Tuesday 3 June	10:00 - 12:00	(This workshop is for EaRN members only)
Wednesday 4 June	10:00 - 12:00	Space, 79-89 Broomhouse Crescent, Edinburgh EH11 3RH
Thursday 5 June	10:00 - 12:00	WHALE Arts Agency, 30 Westburn Grove, Edinburgh EH14 2SA

Shortcode: factbank

Factbank Title: Information about network meetings

Factbank Content:

For information, we're planning to attend the following network meetings to discuss third sector support.

Network	Date	Time	Venue
Gorgie Dalry Forum	Wednesday 7 May	09:30 - 11:00	Gorgie Memorial Hall, 338 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 2RQ
North Edinburgh Response and Recovery Group (R2)	Tuesday 3 June	09:30 - 11:30	North Edinburgh Arts, 12C MacMillan Square, Edinburgh EH4 4AB
Leith Network	Tuesday 17 June	14:00 - 16:00	Edinburgh Remakery, 13A Newkirkgate, EH6 6AD

Introduction

This survey is for third sector organisations. Only one person should respond for each organisation, and those responding for larger organisations may want to look through the questions first and speak to their colleagues before submitting their response. You can save your responses and come back later if you need to.

1 What is your name?

Your name

2 What is your email address?

Contact email

3 What is the name of your organisation?

Organisation name

4 The Council would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference.

Please do not include any personally identifiable information as part of your response, including names, addresses, or personal characteristics of your organisation's paid staff, volunteers, or clients.

Do we have permission to publish your response?

(Required)

Please select only one item

- ☐ Publish response with organisation name
- ☐ Publish response only (without organisation name)
- ☐ Do not publish response

If you choose the option '*Do not publish response*', your organisation name may still be listed as having responded to the consultation in, for example, the analysis report.

Information about your organisation

5 What is the main purpose of your organisation?

For example – What service do you provide? Who do you provide a service to? What problem are you trying to address?

6 Where does your organisation operate?

Please select only one item

- ☐ One or more areas of Edinburgh, but not the whole city
- ☐ Across all of Edinburgh
- ☐ Regionally, nationally or internationally
- ☐ Don't know

7 What was your total revenue from all sources for last year?

Please select only one item

- ☐ <£25,000
- ☐ £25,000 to £100,000
- ☐ £100,000 to £500,000
- ☐ £500,000 to £2,000,000
- ☐ >£2,000,000
- ☐ Don't know

8 Approximately, what percentage of your revenue last year was generated through trading?

Round to nearest whole percent

9 Approximately how many grant awards or commissioned contracts did you receive last year?

Third sector organisations which receive grant funding, or who are commissioned to provide a service, are usually required to apply for money and report on what they did with those funds.

Please select only one item

- ☐ None
- ☐ 3 or fewer
- ☐ 4-10
- ☐ 11-20
- ☐ 21 or more

10 Approximately, how many months of operating costs does your organisation currently hold in unrestricted financial reserves?

Please select only one item

- ☐ No financial reserves
- ☐ Less than a month of operating costs
- ☐ Between one and three months of operating costs
- ☐ Between four and six months of operating costs
- ☐ Between seven and 12 months of operating costs
- ☐ More than 12 months of operating costs
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

The Edinburgh Partnership

The Edinburgh Partnership is a group of organisations who are required to work together by law on community planning issues. The partners have a shared goal of making sure “*Edinburgh is a thriving, connected, inspired and fair city, where all forms of poverty and inequality are reduced.*”

The Partnership is made up of the following organisations and representatives:

City of Edinburgh Council (one member from each of the political groups including the Council Leader)

Police Scotland

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

NHS Lothian

Scottish Enterprise

Edinburgh Integration Joint Board

Skills Development Scotland

Edinburgh College

University of Edinburgh

Armed Forces

Chamber of Commerce

Equality and Rights Network (community of interest representative)

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (community of place representative)

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (Third Sector Interface representative)

Edinburgh Affordable Housing Partnership

Many of the Partners provide grant funding or commission services from third sector organisations, or distribute funds from Scottish and UK Governments. All of the Partners want to see the third sector in Edinburgh succeed and can influence this through their actions. Your responses will help inform what all of these organisations do over the next several years.

Fair Funding

The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) has set out **Fair Funding** <<https://scvo.scot/policy/fair-funding-procurement/fair-funding>> principles, which it says the voluntary sector needs to be successful. While SCVO makes several detailed requests of Scottish Government and other funding bodies, in summary, these principles are:

When organisations get funding, this should be for at least three years.

Funding should take account of inflation and increases to other costs such as national insurance. Funding should allow organisations to pay a real living wage to their staff.

Restricted funding (where funds can only be used for one activity) should be reduced, and more funding should be flexible and used to cover core costs.

Getting access to funding should be a standard and simple process for all funding bodies. How organisations monitor and report on what they do should be easy and proportionate to the amount of funding they get.

11 Should the Edinburgh Partnership work towards adopting the SCVO Fair Funding principles for all its grant-funding and commissioning?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

12 Please share any comments or concerns you may have in relation to SCVO Fair Funding.

Edinburgh's Third Sector

We want to know your thoughts about the third sector in Edinburgh in general. In the next section you will be asked about your organisation specifically.

When you think about challenges and actions, please also consider things beyond funding and commissioning.

13 What are the main challenges for the third sector in Edinburgh right now in relation to funding and commissioning?

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Availability
- ☐ Timescales
- ☐ Skill to apply
- ☐ Lack of yearly inflationary increases
- ☐ Other (please state)

14 What other challenges exist for the third sector in Edinburgh right now?

15 What actions, if any, should the Edinburgh Partnership take to provide urgently needed help to the sector in the short term (this financial year)?

16 What actions, if any, could the Edinburgh Partnership take to help the sector in the medium term (one to three years)?

Challenges for your organisation

This section is about your organisation. Please use your personal experience of running your organisation to suggest specific actions that would make a difference to you or your clients.

17 Across the last four months, which, if any, of the following have been the three biggest challenges your organisation has faced in trying to deliver its planned programmes and services?

	1	2	3
Difficulty fundraising <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff retention and staff turnover <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteer shortages <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Financial or cash flow restraints <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Inability of suppliers or partners to deliver (Please specify what) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Rising costs and/or inflation <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accommodation / property / access to venues <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supply chain issues <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recruitment of staff / Skills shortages <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Uncertainty about the future <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Staff and/or volunteer wellbeing <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Something else (Please specify) <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Don't know <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
We have not faced any challenges <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please specify or add comments to support your answer above.

Challenges for your organisation (continued)

18 What, if anything, has your organisation done in order to address the challenges presented by demand for its core services? (Please tick all that apply).

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Applied for new funding
- ☐ Advertised for and/or recruited more staff
- ☐ Asked staff to work more hours
- ☐ Advertised for and/or recruited more volunteers
- ☐ Asked existing volunteers to work more hours
- ☐ Adapted the existing services we provide (e.g. moved to online delivery)
- ☐ Started providing entirely new services
- ☐ Issued cost-saving measures to make use of the resources we have
- ☐ Looked for/secured a site or premises with more space
- ☐ Invested in more materials, tools, and/or infrastructure
- ☐ Reduced some areas of service to focus on others
- ☐ Engaged in closer co-operation with other organisations
- ☐ Merged with another organisation
- ☐ Increased borrowing
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Please specify or add comments to support your answer above.

Challenges for your organisation (continued)

19 In which, if any, of the following areas would your organisation benefit from receiving external support or advice over the next 12 months?
(Please tick all that apply)

Please select all that apply

- ☐ Setting up an organisation
- ☐ Winding down an organisation
- ☐ Recruiting volunteers (including trustees)
- ☐ Other volunteering support (e.g. volunteer training)
- ☐ Training (other than volunteers)
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Governance
- ☐ Mediation
- ☐ Admin (e.g. HR, insurance, office expenses)
- ☐ Business planning
- ☐ Legal advice
- ☐ Support to find funding
- ☐ Charity regulation compliance
- ☐ Accountancy
- ☐ Information technology and digital
- ☐ Environmental issues (e.g. energy, transport, waste)
- ☐ Procurement and supply chains
- ☐ Marketing and promotional support
- ☐ Building partnerships and networks
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Something else (please specify)

Please specify or add comments to support your answer above.

Challenges for your organisation (continued)

20 What actions, if any, should the Edinburgh Partnership take to provide urgently needed help to your organisation in the short term (this financial year)?

21 What actions, if any, could the Edinburgh Partnership take to help your organisation in the medium term (one to three years)?

Changes to the Third Sector in Edinburgh

As part of this review, we also want to consider how third sector organisations can work better together, support each other, and seek other support and funding.

22 What opportunities are there for the third sector to work better in Edinburgh?

23 Please share any other comments you want the Edinburgh Partnership to hear.

Next steps

We will consider your comments on this survey and look to conduct further in-depth workshops on the problems and solutions which participants have suggested.

24 Would you be willing to participate in a future workshop?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

25 Can we contact you in future about this work?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Feedback about this consultation process

26 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about this consultation activity?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I was given all the information that I needed to have my say. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This activity was clear and easy to understand. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I was given the opportunity to have my say. <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please provide any comments or suggestions on how we can engage better in the future.