

Linkes

Annual Report 2019/20

All People, One Community



Registered Scottish Charity no. SC037175



LINKES

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Funders



Letter from the chairperson

Another busy year for Linkes.

This year we worked with and alongside the local community to deliver a vibrant programme of activities for the whole community, working with more than 1500 people. Our tagline, which was developed at a staff, volunteer and board Development Day, is All people, One Community. I think this really sums up our organisation and what we are trying to achieve. Being a small community led organisation means that we can identify changing needs, respond quickly to those needs and adapt our activities and our approach when needed, which I see as one of our key strengths.

This year, as well as our community and youth work, access to nutritious healthy food on the estate was identified as a key issue and we began delivering our Fareshare project in September 2019, distributing surplus food from supermarkets to people within the community. Sadly, we have seen the number of people approaching us for foodbank referrals continue to rise and we hope to continue to develop our food related activities in the coming year.

It's also impossible to speak about 2020 without mentioning the impact of Covid 19. On 20th March 2020, we took the difficult decision to shut both Linkes venues and all staff moved to home working. Since Linkes was established, our community hubs have never been shut for more than a few weeks at a time and even then only for essential repairs, so this has had a devastating impact on us as an organisation and on the local community. Our staff immediately began repurposing our services to ensure that we could continue to support people during lockdown and we had initial conversations with partner organisations about setting up a fresh meals delivery project for older people and those with health issues who were self-isolating. By the end of March, we had already started delivering a small number of meals. We'll provide further information about how this project developed in next year's annual report but I would like to take this opportunity to say how immensely proud I am of our Covid response work, none of which could have happened without the hard work and dedication of our staff team, our board and our volunteers.

We're living within extremely challenging times. Community projects, like Linkes, are more important than ever, to address social isolation and to provide opportunities for communities to learn, live and laugh together. My thanks go to the volunteers, sessional workers, staff, partners, and funders, for enabling us to make a real difference.

On behalf of the board,
Robert Smith
Chairperson



Our Board

Chair	Robert Smith
Vice Chair	Fatima Mohammed
Treasurer	Salma Ishaq
Secretary	Heather Merry (resigned 14.1.20)
Secretary	Toni Spencer
Environmental Rep	John Wright
Member	Samraa Mohamed
Member	Robert Geddes
Member	Yunming Lin
Member	Susan MacAskill
Member	Niall Byrne
Member	Claire Lyall (appointed 30.1.20)
Member	Chris Furse (resigned 26.8.19)

LINKES is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Membership is free and is open to everyone who supports our aims.

Aim of Linkes

Linkes is a community led project, established, and governed by local people. Our aim is to provide opportunities for learning and well-being and to utilise our facilities for the benefit of the local community.

Board of Charity Trustees (Voluntary)

We have a diverse and committed board of trustees, many of whom are local residents, and who meet bi-monthly to oversee the running of the organisation.



Our Staff & Volunteers

Senior Development Worker (14hrs)	Niki Logan (job share)
Senior Development Worker (14hrs)	Elaine Connelly (job share)
Development Worker (28hrs)	Tina Loewe
Development Worker (28 hrs)	Ingrid Fitzsimons (maternity leave cover)
Child & Youth Development Worker (34 hrs)	Heather McGill-Crawford
Finance Officer (14hrs)	Sunshine Wood
Cleaner (3hrs)	Miranda Balliu

Sessional Staff

Play Workers	Ashley MacRae Sylwia Osiecka Cloey McGee Susan MacAskill (volunteer) Sehar Shabbir Esther Olaleye Tony Miller
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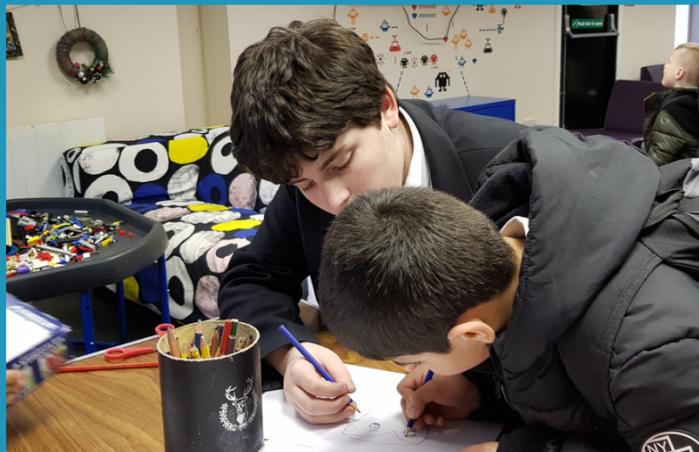
Click & Connect	Amatunoor (Noori) Mirza Christine Cather Adam Laidlaw David Hamilton
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Senior's Lunch Club & Women's Group	Fatima Mohammed
Men's Group	Thomas Cheyne

Volunteers

In addition to the valuable input of our board members, many people contribute to the project throughout the year and we would like to thank them for their contribution to the work of Linkes, in particular Clive Baxter, Toni Spencer and Zamzam Ghanem.

Children & Young People



This year, we worked with over **600** children and young people and **6** Peer volunteers helped out during holiday clubs and after school. Activities included football, den building, BMX coaching, bike fixing sessions and even a photography exhibition!

During 2019/20 we provided **392** breakfasts
147 packed lunches
Over 5000 snacks to children and young people

75 Families enjoyed our pre-school movement class which involves music, singing, movement, stories and props to encourage movement and dance in babies, and to develop bonding with their parents/carers.

Working with local primary school, Corpus Christi, we delivered lunch time play sessions, Outdoor Classroom Day activities, Eco Day activities, Children's Mental Health Week activities, Bikeability and Ballet

Three weekly youth clubs provided a safe space for young people to attend, hang out, meet friends and learn new skills, such as first aid.

Children & Young People Community Partners

Big thank you to our community partners:

Glasgow Life
Achieve More Scotland
Scottish Cycling
Glasgow Eco Trust.
MsMissMrs
Street Doctors
Rosey Project
The Caravan Project
Metro Outdoors
The City of Play
Corpus Christi Primary School
Dance House



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"Thank you for the best day of my life!"
Corpus Christi pupil

“

"It's great and staff are fab."
Parent

“

"I really enjoyed Monday's class and how hard Dawn worked to make it stimulating and enjoyable for babies and Carers."
Boogie Babies participant

Community Groups & Activities

Women's Group

A total of 60 women participated in our weekly Women's Drop-In on Monday afternoons, taking part in a range of interesting and fun activities.

We worked in partnership with many organisations including West of Scotland Regional Equality Council (WESREC); Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS, Tai Chi Glasgow, Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership, the Women's Support Project, Glasgow City Council Social Work, Parent Network Scotland and the Caravan Project.

Our Women's Group Big Day Out, in October ran in partnership with the Caravan Project, and was enjoyed by 70 people.

12 men participated in our weekly Men's Group, working together to learn new skills to further develop their model railway project. Men also attended various Model Railway Shows and regular training events.

Seniors' Lunch Club

44 older people participated in our weekly lunch club, with an average of 25 people attending every week to enjoy a freshly cooked 3 course lunch and fun activities.



"I love mixing with people at the group – we always have a good carry on. When I look at the model railway, I feel so proud of what we've achieved together. I love it!"
Men's group participant



"Communities can come forward and they can learn and be part of the community where they live.... You can come in chat, talk, make plans, take part in family activities. It is really inclusive. We are so lucky."
Women's group participant



English for Speakers of Other Languages

16 students attended our ESOL Beginners Class twice a week and 17 students attended our ESOL Pre Intermediate Class twice a week, both delivered by Clyde College from September 2019 until March 2020.

Click & Connect

50 people used our computer drop in sessions this year, which take place four times a week, with many people carrying out job search activities. These sessions are supported by our friendly team of trained staff and our partner at Mobile ICT.

Childcare Course

15 students took part in our evening Childcare Course, delivered by Glasgow Kelvin College and all received an SQA certificate in Childcare. A creche was provided to allow students to participate, who would otherwise not manage to engage in further education.

Welfare Advice

In July 2019 we began working with Drumchapel Money Advice Centre to provide a weekly welfare advice surgery. Over the following 34 weeks, 56 people attended one to one advice sessions, accessing free interpreters when required.

Fareshare

In September 2019, we began our Fareshare food hub, distributing surplus supermarket food to the local community. Approximately 25 households attended each week to collect food packs consisting of essential groceries, including tinned and fresh foods.



Community Events



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"All brilliant...thank you for a great night."

“

"All the family joined in and felt very relaxed."



350
people enjoyed
our Summer
Fun Day



85 people
took part in our
Community
Ceilidh





Big thank you to our community partners:

Active Seniors
Clyde College
Drumchapel Money and Advice Centre
Fareshare
Glasgow Housing Association
Kelvin College
Knightswood Community Centre
Knightswood Congregational Church
Knightswood Connects
MisMak
Mobile ICT
Occasions Mobile Creche
The Wheatley Learning Network