

EVENT FEEDBACK



GIVING A VOICE TO SCOTLAND'S COMMUNITY LINK WORKERS

Scottish Community Link Worker Network Annual Conference 2023

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On the 24th May 2023 VHS held the first Scottish Community Link Worker Network Annual Conference. We had 158 delegates registered to attend with around 140 attending on the day. This was the first in-person conference for the Network. Our event featured keynote speakers, a panel session, workshops and exhibitors.



listening SCOTTISH COMMUNITY
linking LINK WORKER NETWORK
learning ANNUAL CONFERENCE
24 May 2023



This report highlights key findings and quotes from survey respondents who completed the electronic post-event survey. 96 people responded to the survey. The quotes are a sample from the feedback to give an insight into comments from the day.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE CONFERENCE?



81 of the 96 respondents rated the overall event excellent with the remaining 15 rating the event good.

WHAT WORKSHOP DID YOU ATTEND AND ANY COMMENTS?

“Workshop 1- very engaging and informative.”

“Workshop 2- informative and interactive. Will definitely feed to practice within our team.”

“Workshop 3- excellent and they should be proud of this innovative work- we would love to replicate.”

“Workshop 4- Excellent- so happy they were willing to share their materials as I will find it very useful.”

WHAT NEW LEARNING OR MESSAGES DID YOU TAKE FROM THE EVENT?

“How important, even critical, the link worker service is.”

“Link workers and the model of community health care we represent have huge impacts on health inequalities; however there is a sense of powerlessness in terms of promoting investment in this model and programmes.”

“So much variation between programmes. To work across Scotland long term, we need to learn from each other.”

“It was great to hear about different models and ideas. I hope that we can implement some ideas I have heard today in our programme.”

“We are all in the same boat. A lot of issues highlighted today are felt within our team- this was reassuring and a lot of possibilities shared too.”

“That we are valued and more Community Link Workers are needed. National framework needs considered.”

“How important social prescribing is and what difference it is making although inequalities are massive.”

WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY FOR YOU?

“Gerry McCartney was very interesting and highlighted a different importance of our role. Listening and learning from each other.”

“Conversations, sharing of knowledge and shared experience.”

“Meeting with other link worker programmes and linking to share best practice.”

“Gerry's presentation and Maree Todd- makes me want to increase my political activity and awareness.”

“Speakers were so helpful. Learned so much. Findlay's discussion made me reflect on how we work.”

“For Maree Todd to hear questions raised by Community Link Workers regarding conditions in pay and the networking.”

“Getting to speak with link workers from other areas and finding out how we all work differently but our aims are the same.”

“All of it- thank you so much.”

“Meeting other CLWs and sharing experience. Gerry McCartney to motivate to advocate and raise voices.”

“Great day, interesting speakers and great workshop.”

“Loved the day- the buzz, the conversations and information sharing”

WHAT COULD WE DO DIFFERENTLY OR BETTER?

“Mix up the tables to allow more interaction.”

“Allow us to attend more than one workshop.”

“Have capacity for all link workers across Scotland to attend.”

“Policy discussion- attendance by people responsible for decision making.”

“Invite people who make budget decisions to the conference so CLW can ask how budgets and money allocated.”

“Overall on the right track- a great day.”

“Really enjoyed the day- a good follow up would be more CLW/Leads meet up events to share learning with CLW speakers.”

“Day ran smoothly. Potentially mix tables to encourage networking opportunities.”

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AS PART OF THE DAY FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

“More opportunity to speak with different Community Link Workers.”

“More stalls and more time to talk with stalls.”

“I really liked the pace and structure of the day and think if you replicate next year with different speakers and workshops it would be ideal.”

“How research impacts on evidence base for community link workers.”

“More interactive sessions.”

“More information about community mapping/services available.”

“More on impact of austerity and Covid/public health impacts. Input from patients and Community Link Worker experience.”

WHAT TOPICS OR SPEAKERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT FUTURE NETWORK EVENTS?

“Social Security Scotland and more third sector organisations.”

“How to better spend budgets to meet the actual needs of CLW services.”

“More GPs like Peter and ability to put thoughts of CLW to people who fund us.”

“More practice from LWs in other areas- examples of different models.”

“Sessions on understanding, gathering and using quantitative and qualitative data. The pros and cons of specialist link workers.”

“Green health- looking at meeting climate goals and links with social prescribing.”

“Hear more from Gerry McCartney.”

ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE US TO KNOW?

“This was a fantastic day- can't wait for next year which could be bigger!”

“Many thanks to all involved organising today- it has been a really interesting and engaging day giving me lots of food for thought.”

“Really valuable day- the buzz was great. An annual event is a must in person. Thanks so much.”

“Thanks for all the work, events and communications through the year.”

“It's been a really great event. The knowledge and experience in the room was amazing. Really well run with excellent speakers.”

Report compiled June 2023

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