



Glasgow
Council
for the
Voluntary
Sector

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector

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Aileen Campbell MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Communities & Local Government
The Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
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11 June 2020

Dear Cabinet Secretary

The last few months of the coronavirus pandemic has proven challenging to families and communities across Scotland. As well as the direct impact of the virus on people's health that our health and social care colleagues have been dealing with, the virus has also highlighted and deepened the inequalities in our society, not least those of poverty, health, digital exclusion and social isolation.

We are sure you will agree that third sector organisations and volunteers the length and breadth of the country have been magnificent in responding to these challenges. The mobilisation of grassroots community capacity has meant that families had food on the table, older people remained connected and children kept learning.

The Third Sector Interface (TSI) network is proud to have played our part in this amazing work at a local level. We think the value of Scottish Government's continued investment in a national network of local third sector has never been clearer. The additional investment you made over the last three months have enabled us to play a key role in mobilising volunteers, supporting organisations, sharing information, and coordinating activity across the country.



As Scotland we begin to exit lockdown, we are focused on the type of society we want to see in future and how we build that together. Key areas for us include the importance of:

- Empowering people, including through volunteering
- Increasing use of Place Based approaches
- An enhanced role for the third sector
- A fairer, wellbeing economy.

We think we share many of the aspirations that Scottish Government would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Bruce', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ian Bruce

Chief Executive

Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector, on behalf of the network of Third Sector Interfaces