2021-22
Annual Report

tsi MORAY

Changing Times



Image by Alexander Williamson

Report from our Chair



This year marks a significant milestone for tsiMORAY. In April 2012, following the amalgamation of Volunteer Centre Moray , Volunteer Action Moray and Moray Social Enterprise Network, tsiMORAY was established as the single organisation to deliver the range of services to develop and support the Third Sector across Moray. Over these past 10 years, after an initially challenging start, we have seen our organisation grow from strength to strength and tsiMORAY is now recognised as a strong voice and major source of support for voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises across Moray.

Nothing was certain in 2021-22, except for change and it was constant. Moray's community and third sector organisations faced the wearying effects of the pandemic, while furthering adapting to much harder social and economic realities. But this did not stop action, or partnerships, or funding for people who needed it most.

Two significant changes that have affected the way we work and deliver our services to the community have been the decision to move out of our office at 30/32 High Street and the turnover in our staff team. While we retain a presence in Elgin at leased office space in Caledonian House, for the most part staff now work from home while continuing to engage regularly with our stakeholders through face to face and online meetings and events. Staffing levels have responded to changes in available resources, as some took up new job opportunities as programmes of work came to an end, while additional staff were recruited to manage new projects. Despite these changes the leadership and staff teams have continued to deliver effectively across an increasing range of services and initiatives. Full details are provided in my report in the Annual Accounts, but the following highlights some of the key areas of work we delivered on over the past year:

We continued our commitment to **community-led local development**, with projects addressing community priorities, Moray's move towards net zero, as well as a hospital discharge project, supporting people and the community groups who can offer help.

We were proud once again to manage the **distribution of critical community funding**, through the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, as well as smaller participatory grant making projects.

Our **networks and forums** remain important connectors with partnership groups, communities and individuals, as we all balance digital and face-to-face engagement and learning. Moray's Climate Assembly continued to gain momentum through 4 well-supported public sessions on a variety of themes.

The approach to delivering **on volunteering** has also shifted. Many organisations that began resuming activity now have fewer volunteers. As informal volunteering is now firmly here to stay, volunteering organisations are adapting to a changing volunteer landscape, where flexibility and engagement is now key and understanding motivation, essential.

The above summary illustrates the wide scope of the work undertaken over the past year by our dedicated and hardworking staff, supported and managed by the strong leadership team. The support given to voluntary organisations and community groups during the Covid pandemic has been outstanding and has been well recognised both locally and nationally. As an organisation, tsiMORAY has come a long way in the past 10 years and we can be truly proud of the progress we have achieved in delivering on our vision of a 'vibrant third sector in a resilient and sustainable Moray'.

Don Vass

- 06.12.2022

Community-Led Local Development

Two projects this year, Community Priorities and Carbon Neutral Communities took a place-based, community-led local development (CLLD) approach further, supporting communities in Moray to come together and increase their capacity to take action for a just and sustainable renewal.

Following on from the success of Moray's LEADER Programme, these projects were once again overseen by Moray's Local Action Group (LAG) and delivered by tsiMORAY.

The projects used creative and holistic CLLD engagement methods to develop collaboration and learning as well as gaining community feedback. A 5-part series of events was created, as well as content-specific workshops and a participatory grantmaking opportunity.

These projects have helped the LAG begin work on a new strategic vision and have further embedded participatory methodologies in its programme. The work has also enabled the Moray Climate Assembly to take a proactive role in the development of proposals for a Moray Climate Action Hub.



Image by Alexander Williamson

Forums and Networks

Connection and engagement are core to our forums and networks. These are the essential ingredients for collaboration. This year, our forums were vital, keeping people connected, sharing a high volume of information and crucially, making a place for conversations to respond to change.

In October 2021, the Fairer Moray Forum Action Group, an equal partnership between third and public sector, worked together to raise awareness of poverty, through Moray Challenges Poverty, as part of the national Challenge Poverty campaign, providing a week of actions and events.

These were predominantly in digital format, but also in-person where safe to do so, amplifying voices, raising awareness of issues and challenges, and sharing sources of advice and support. Many third sector organisations provided presentations or films that can be accessed here.

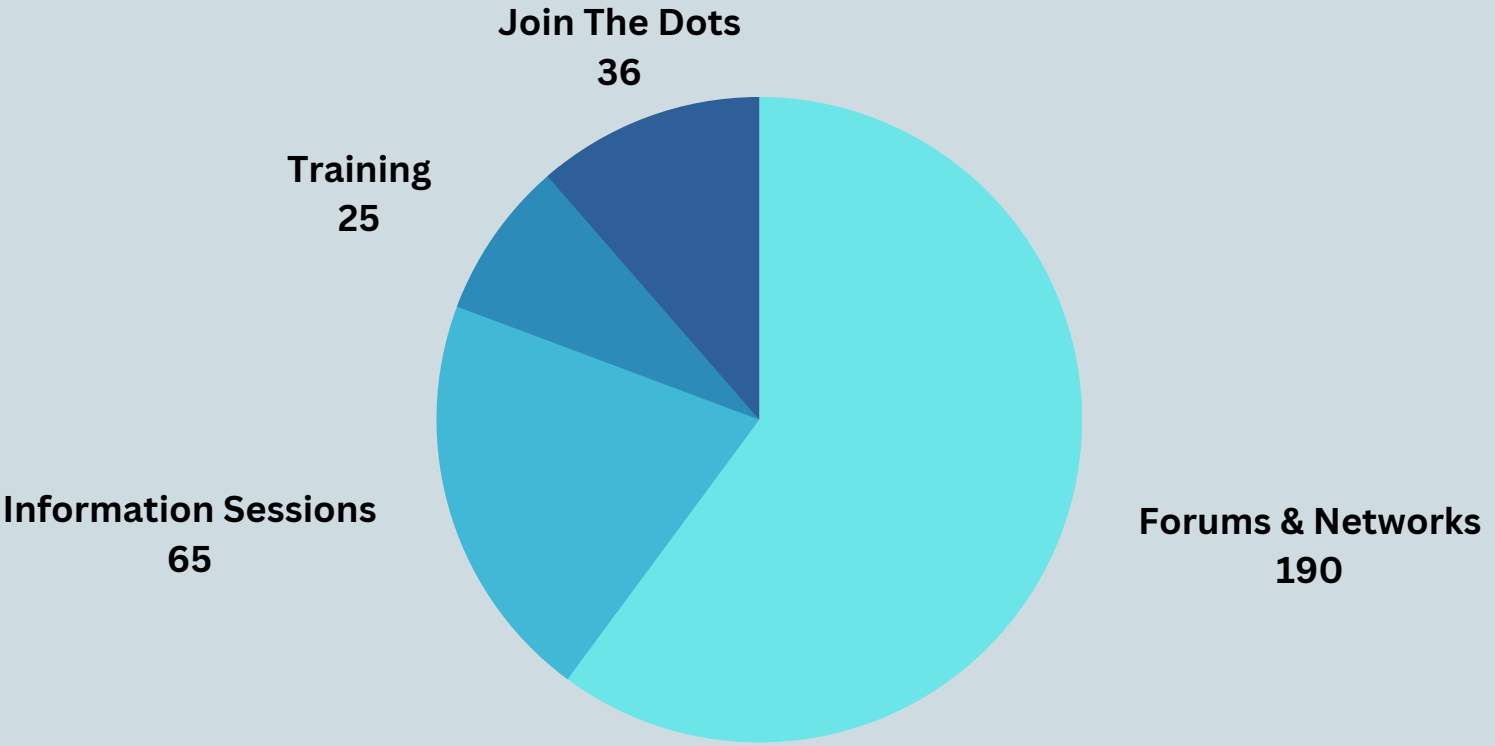
This week highlighted the Living Wage as a key issue to be addressed in Moray, through R-evolution for Good's film and call to action to Moray Council (and more), to become an accredited Living Wage employer, which has now been taken forward.

The Forum built on previous work through the Money Worries/Need a Little Help leaflet, collaborating with IFAN (Independent Food Aid Network) to produce a new 'Worried About Money?' leaflet and online tool, bespoke to Moray, translated into several languages, making it more accessible to more people, including those affected by conflict. Find out more here.

The Forum formally responded to the Scottish Government's consultation: Ending the Need for Foodbanks, and invited the SG's Food Insecurity Team to feedback to the Forum, to make use of the group's insights and voice at a local level. The invitation was subsequently taken up and acted upon.

The group also produced and published the Poverty and Inequalities report

No. of Organisations attending



In 2021-22, we held 46 events, with a total of 745 attendees from 173 different organisations/groups.





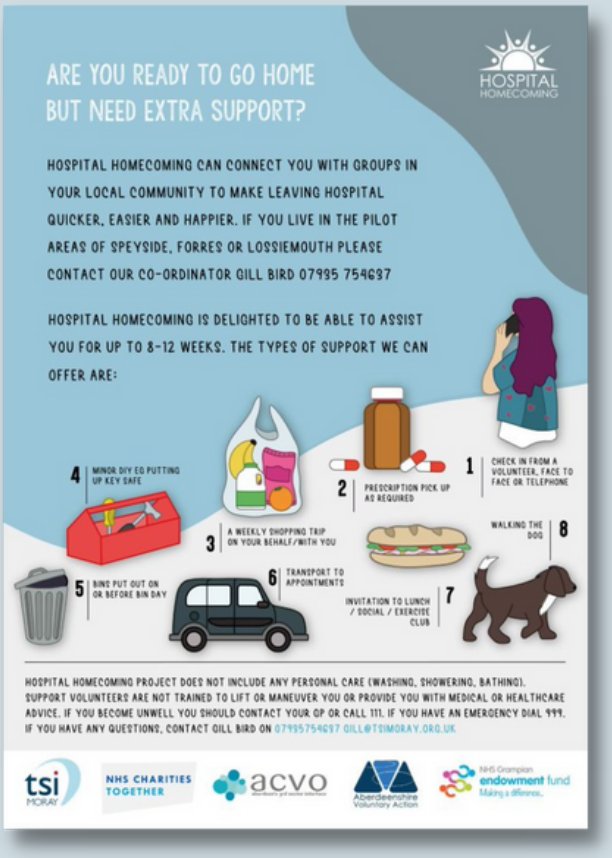








Hospital Homecoming



The 'Hospital Homecoming' project facilitated by **tsi**MORAY was launched earlier in the year. A Grampian TSI partnership was awarded funding from the NHS Charities Together Fund to help people get home from hospital more quickly and easily. It was recognised that community support could provide the discharged patient and their family with community connections, confidence and both emotional and practical assistance. We're working in partnership with NHS Grampian, H&SCMoray and some amazing local community organisations here in Moray.

Patients are being supported by the local community with assistance ranging from picking up some shopping or prescriptions, to walking a dog, having a chat, or giving a lift to a follow-up appointment.

- Enquiries received 29
- People supported 12
- Voluntary orgs involved 19
- Referrers involved 8, sources:

Hospital Discharge Team (Social Work), Senior Staff Nurse, GPs, Occupational Therapy (Health Centre), Neighbourhood Care Team, Hospital Physiotherapy, Discharge to Assess Team, Self-Referral

Type of support taken up:
Befriending – 10 (face to face) – 1 (telephone), Light Domestic Duty – 2, Putting Bins Out – 2, Shopping – 2 (accompanied) - 2 (shopped for) - 2

"The Forres volunteer has helped me enormously with shopping and prescriptions. It is lovely to see them each week and I am so glad they put me on to the British Legion Veterans Support – it is great to be able to chat to other veterans. I would not be as settled as I am without the Hospital Homecoming project."

"It has been a delight and pleasure to support him coming home from hospital. They are very cheerful and interesting, and it feels very good to be able to provide such a simple but meaningful act of goodwill."

Funding



The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund was created in response to the rising mental health needs in the adult population due to the pandemic. The fund is also part of the Scottish Government's Mental Health Transition and Recovery Plan.

In the fund's first year, the Scottish Government provided £15 million of funding to be administered and distributed by the country's third sector interfaces.

Here in Moray, tsiMORAY received £257,199 to distribute to local communities. In total, 57 funding applications were received and 40 organisations received funding, including:

- Hopeman Minibus volunteer driver training: The bus connects nearby coastal towns and villages to ensure community members can take part in social gatherings and attend appointments.
- Recruitment of an LGBT+ Outreach Co-ordinator for Moray
- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention training for Elgin Street Pastors volunteers
- Building disabled access areas, decking and a sheltered outdoor classroom for Elgin 1st Scout Group
- Local community gardening projects in Elgin, Forres and Lossiemouth
- Across Moray, Peer support projects for men, women, families and older people
- Purchase of shipping containers to be converted for use for a new Finechty Men's Shed
- Delivery of Dufftown and District Community Association's Wellbeing Week



Dufftown & District Community Association
Image by Viktoria Eriksson

In collaboration with local authorities, TSI's across Scotland facilitated delivery of the Scottish Government's Community-based Adult Learning Recovery Fund (CBAL Recovery Fund) helping people re-engage with learning and offering diverse opportunities to do so.

tsiMORAY received £20,000. A programme of 17 different 'taster' sessions was developed and delivered, covering outdoor learning, creative learning, digital skills, personal and leadership development as well as practitioner development. In total, 97 learners participated, most of whom had not engaged in any community-based learning in a considerable time. Ages ranged from 16-85, with the majority of digital skill learners aged over 65, and majority of all learners, women.

"I found the instruction easier to follow than I expected because I had blocked learning by myself due to lack of confidence."





"I really enjoyed the session. It was very relaxed yet informative. The instructor was very confident in her knowledge and open to discussion when needed. The seaweed and popcorn part was lots of fun and a great experience. I really liked the morning and was keen to learn more!"





Image by M:ADE
Print made by a New Learner

Volunteering

Organisations that ceased volunteering during 2020, slowly re-opened to volunteers in 2021, but to a much different reality. Many found their volunteers did not return; others still needed to be mindful of restrictions and limit numbers. Our hotlist resumed, as we began regular engagement with people who had initially signed up to volunteer at the start of the pandemic. This surge of volunteers, however, fell dramatically, as many people returned to jobs, while others informally helping in local community groups, needed to step back after months of intense and incredible volunteering activity. Outdoor volunteering opportunities generally faired better in attracting and retaining volunteers, as restrictions eased here first, and people continued to enjoy the safeness of outdoor spaces and did so through volunteering. 105 new volunteer registrations were recorded from 31 March 2021 - 1 April 2022.

- tsiMORAY continued to represent the TSI network on the national Volunteer's Week Campaign working group, which in 2021, continued as an online campaign.
- We represented and reported into the Scottish Government's Young Persons Guarantee/Volunteering Subgroup. The purpose of the group was to ensure the volunteering element of the Young Person Guarantee was realised.
- Moray's Volunteer Managers were also invited to discuss and give feedback about youth volunteering, both challenges and opportunities, with Project Scotland, who are supporting youth volunteering on a national scale.
- Volunteer managers interested in knowing the difference between being neighbourly and befriending, were invited to hear how Argyll and Bute's Visiting Friends, manages this balance, while helping to alleviate loneliness and social isolation.
- With Volunteer Scotland, we worked on changes to the national Volunteer Friendly Awards.
- In September 2021, we were honoured to be invited to see the Cullen Volunteer Group receive their much deserved Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.





Moray's Funders Forum

Moray Funders Forum facilitated by tsiMORAY, in partnership with The Gordon & Ena Baxter Foundation and Adam Family Foundation, has been running virtually during 2021-22 and on a quarterly basis. We have 28 funders now attending, from local and national level including membership from Foundation Scotland, Scotmid, Asda, REAP Scotland and several others. Each quarter, the Forum provides funding updates, and also focuses the meeting around a specific theme, where we invite a speaker from a third sector organisation to talk about this theme. This allows the Forum to gain important local knowledge about community needs. The Forum is an opportunity to also learn from each other, collaborate and share funding information to improve grant making processes for the community. It has been a very positive year, with Forum topics including mental health for young people and fuel poverty.

Moray's Social Enterprise Strategy



Highland and Islands Enterprise and tsiMORAY finalised the Moray Social Enterprise Strategy 2021 – 2026, after consultations with Moray's social enterprises and Moray's Social Enterprise Network (MSEN). Mini MSEN meetings focusing on environment, children and families were also held during 2021, to respond to emerging local needs. The MSEN continues now to work on the action plan linked to the strategy – which aims to increase opportunities for young people to become involved in social enterprises, as well as further developing the MSEN environmental forum.

Closing Remarks

Throughout 2021-22 work at **tsi**MORAY continued at pace with 'change' being the key word in all that we undertook. This report provides a taste of the many activities we were involved in and the many partners, organisations and communities that we worked with. Not only did our team flex in the way that we worked internally, but also as we endeavoured to meet the needs of others in often challenging circumstances.

Moving through 2022 this has continued and we have focused on maximising opportunities as they have arisen and welcomed the ability to get out and about in our local communities meeting with people again. At this time the role of the Third Sector has never been more needed and the opportunity for people to participate in their local communities more welcomed. We move into 2023 with continued uncertainty however with optimism and enthusiasm to embrace 'change' for the better, and continuing to focus on 'Connecting People Creating Change'.



Fabio Villani



Jackie Maclaren

tsiMORAY Leadership Team

tsi MORAY

www.tsimoray.org.uk