

WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010



CONVENOR'S REPORT

It is not difficult to be gloomy about the prospects for tackling in the present economic climate. It seems that almost on a daily basis we receive yet more bad news about the state we are in. The most recent Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion Scotland report gives little cause for any sense of optimism about the immediate future. The new report has found that much of the progress that has been made in addressing poverty over the last 10 years has been undone. Our unemployment rate, for some time better than England, is now worse than England; child poverty in Scotland is back to levels that we last saw in around the mid 1990s; perhaps worst of all is that income inequality appears to be widening.

These are difficult facts to face, but we must face them if we are to find better, more sustainable solutions to poverty than we have pursued in the recent past. The Poverty Alliance, along with many other campaigners, voluntary organisations, researchers, think tanks, argued that an anti-poverty strategy based on an increasingly tough benefits system and a labour market that still provided too little for too many was always bound to come undone. It appears that this turns out to be the case, with the hard fought progress that was made now being reversed.

If some of the past policies towards welfare reform and low paid employment were wrong-headed, the current approach from Westminster seems deliberately brutal. The attacks on benefits contained in the Emergency Budget in June 2010 were startling and the proof from IFS that the package as a whole would hit the poorest hardest should come as no surprise.

Despite the rhetoric that we are all in this together, it seems very clear that those least responsible for the financial crisis will have to pay the most.

Despite a frankly bleak outlook, the Alliance will continue to seek to have a positive engagement with Government in Scotland and the UK. In the context of cuts to services provided by the statutory and public sectors, the Alliance will need to play a central role in ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable are protected. We have made progress over the last three years in bringing people together across Scotland to find better solutions to poverty. Our network is stronger than it has been for many years. But it will need to be even stronger if it is to meet the challenges that lie ahead over the next three years. This will be a tough job, but a vital one if we are to help build an effective coalition to defend those living in poverty in Scotland.

As this report shows the Alliance has continued its work on a number of different fronts. This is my final report as convenor. Over my three years in this role I can attest to the levels of dedication and commitment from all of the staff. I would like to record my thanks to all of them and also to my fellow board members. We have had a number of staff join the team over the last year and I'd like to welcome them and wish them success. Finally, we look forward to working with all the members of the Alliance, both old and new, in taking forward the fight against poverty over the coming year.

Irene Graham
Convenor

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

DELIVERING ON OBJECTIVES, APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

Working with Communities

Outlined below are some of the key areas of work that we undertook during the course of the year and that sought to work directly with individuals and communities experiencing poverty.

We have worked with a variety of community based organisations over this year including groups in Glasgow, Stirling, Edinburgh, Inverness, Falkirk, Aberdeen, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, Western Isles and Inverclyde. We also carried out engagement work with equalities groups experiencing poverty including disabled people, older people, and minority ethnic people, in particular Muslim women in Glasgow, diverse migrant communities and service providers at local levels. We have been able to recruit new members to the Alliance as a result of reaching out to more people in the field.

In addition to the project work outlined below, we are always seeking to engage with community organisations and others that are active in the fight against poverty.

Our work with communities during 2009/10 included engaging community groups on the Scottish Government's 'Achieving our Potential Framework', building public support and challenging stereotypes about poverty, engaging community groups on low income and employment issues, supporting the development of the Scottish Migrants Network as well as the Community Activist Advisory Group (CAAG).

The Alliance undertook a range of community meetings, events and one to one consultations with a wide variety of organisations including:

Advocacy in Western Isles, Inclusion Scotland, Bridging the Gap in Gorbals, Focalare Ecumenical Movement, Amina Muslim Women's Resource Centre, International Women's Group in North Glasgow, Cranhill Community Project, Feel Good Women's Group (Govanhill), Fab Pad (Impact Arts Govan,) Govan Integration Network, Greater Pollok Integration Network, Scottish Refugee Women Strategy Group, Clydesdale Befriending Group in Lanark, Karibu, various Locality Networks in North Lanarkshire including Wishaw & Shotts, Cambernauld, Coatbrige, Airdire, Bellshill and Motherwell, The Disability Reference Group at the Golden Jubilee Hospital, Faith in Communities Scotland, Multifaith Anti Poverty Project, Young people at Whitehill Secondary School, West Dunbartonshire Community event, among many others.

Based on the work done in 2009/2010, we produced a community engagement plan that set targets for our engagement with communities, with a specific focus on reaching out to working age adults, older people's groups and rural poverty issues.

We will continue to work with groups and individuals to support them to take action against poverty, and to strengthen their arguments and resources for doing so. We would like to thank all those organisations listed above and the many other community groups we have worked with over the last year for their commitment and support. If you are interested in finding out more please, contact our Fieldwork Development Officer, Twimukye Mushaka:
twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org

Evidence – Participation – Change

(EPIC): The EPIC project has developed rapidly since it was launched in February 2009. Over the last year the EPIC staff has carried out capacity building training with 30 groups involving 107 people to support them to take action in their communities, and to help them to understand national anti-poverty policies. In addition to the training, community based research has been started with two very different and challenging groups. These are young people aged 14 years to 17 years from Culterhove in Stirling part of Stirling Council's Youth Services. The other group is life coaches from the Wise Group's Routes Out Of Prison project. For further information about the community research contact:
fiona.mchardy@povertyalliance.org

Community Activists Advisory Group

(CAAG): The Alliance established the CAAG in 2008/09. It consists of community activists drawn from different parts of Scotland, who together bring with them different experiences of poverty. The group's main purpose is to act as a platform for engagement on issues on which the Alliance is working and to ensure that our strategic approach is informed by the experiences of people we work with. During the financial year 2009/10, the CAAG has been involved in discussions on the Poverty Alliance's new Strategic Plan, the Scottish Assembly to Tackle Poverty in Feb 2010, preparation for the 9th EU meeting for People Experiencing Poverty in Brussels and the launch events for the European Year for Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion in Bristol and Glasgow.

In March 2010, CAAG member, Heather Gowans was co-opted onto The Poverty Alliance's Board. If you are interested in finding out more about CAAG and its activities please contact our Fieldwork Development Officer, Twimukye Mushaka -
twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org

WORKING WITH PROFESSIONALS

BUILDING THE NETWORK

Poverty Awareness Training (PAT)

PAT remains a key area for the Alliance's engagement amongst a broad range of staff with a responsibility for addressing poverty issues in their day-to-day work. Over the last 12 months we have continued to deliver PAT to a wide range of organizations. These have included three sessions with staff from Scottish Borders Council and voluntary organisations between November 2009 and February 2010, two sessions with community regeneration staff in South Lanarkshire, one session with community volunteers from North Lanarkshire and another with trainees from North Lanarkshire Volunteer Agency. For more information on Poverty Awareness Training contact Robin Tennant, Fieldwork Development Manager, robin.tennant@povertyalliance.org or Twimukye Mushaka twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org

Annual Seminar Series

We have also continued to organise our annual programme of regional seminars across Scotland. These are aimed at informing and encouraging debate amongst staff in a range of organisations, including local voluntary organisations, statutory bodies, trade unions and others. This was the fourth annual series and the theme of this year's seminar series, carried out in ten locations across Scotland, was Fighting Poverty in Scotland: Achievements and Opportunities.

The seminars focused on the UK General Election and the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion looking at what has been achieved so far,

and what the anti-poverty movement in Scotland should be pushing for in the next period. More than 160 people from across Scotland attended the seminars between January and March 2010.

For more information on our Annual Seminar Series contact Peter Kelly, Director, peter.kelly@povertyalliance.org or Robin Tennant, Fieldwork Development Manager, robin.tennant@povertyalliance.org

Working with the Voluntary Sector:

At a time of increased pressure on the voluntary sector, the role of the Poverty Alliance in helping to articulate the concerns of organizations on the frontline becomes more crucial than ever. The joint working through the various campaigns and projects referred to throughout this report highlight the range of work that goes on in this area. We have deepened our work this year through EPIC in particular through the Tackling Poverty Stakeholder Forum and the Scottish Assembly for tackling Poverty.

In addition to our campaigning and project work we remain formally involved with a number of key organisations in the voluntary sector. These include Scottish Drugs Forum, Energy Action Scotland, Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector, Scottish Refugee Council and Community Health Exchange amongst others. We are also involved in several SCVO groupings including the Policy Committee, the Intermediaries Network, the European Policy Group and the Policy Officers Network.

We have also worked with a wide range of organisations, delivering talks and presentations related to poverty in Scotland, a key way of not only raising awareness of poverty issues in Scotland, but also of the role of the network. Over 1400 people have taken part in events where the Alliance have had an input. If you would like a speaker from the Alliance to attend an event you are organising please contact our Fieldwork Manager, robin.tennant@povertyalliance.org

European Anti-Poverty Network

(EAPN): The Alliance continues to play an active role in the work of EAPN in Scotland and the UK. Over the last year much of this work has been concerned with two broad areas – preparing for the European Year for Combating Poverty and beginning discussions regarding the future 10 year European jobs and growth strategy. A key goal is to make the European dimension more directly relevant to the concerns of our members. We have had considerable progress towards this goal. In April 2009, we organized a joint hustling meeting with SCVO for the European Parliamentary elections, attended by more than 60 people. We also produced a detailed publication highlighting the role of Europe in addressing poverty. In September 2009, we held two seminars highlighting the role of Europe in addressing poverty, and outlining the potential role of the European Year in the UK.

More than 200 people attended the events. We also invited the Executive Committee of EAPN to Edinburgh to hold a two day meeting, with representatives from across the EU.

Over the next year we will continue to lobby with other EAPN members for an effective social dimension to the new Europe 2020 Strategy. We were also successful in our bid for awareness funds for the European Year, and have been working on a project with the Document International Film Festival to produce three short films highlighting what groups do to address poverty in Scotland. These will be launched in October 2010. Finally, we are leading on work for EAPN UK on the redevelopment of the network in the UK, looking to strengthen the network and involve more organisations in its activities. The first phase of this work will be completed by November 2010. For further details on the European work of the Poverty Alliance contact Peter Kelly peter.kelly@povertyalliance.org.

INFLUENCING SOCIAL POLICY AND CAMPAIGNING

As in previous years the Poverty Alliance has worked through a range of different forums and activities in order to influence social policy. This section of the report focuses on the Poverty Alliance's involvement in a wide range of partnerships to influence the development of social policies. Much of the work referred to under 'Working with Communities' can also have an impact on the development of improved social policies, particularly the responses to consultations and joint meetings between policy makers and communities. The Alliance's resources for policy-influencing work were significantly increased in February 2009 with the start of the EPIC project.

Advisory bodies: An important way for the Alliance to actively influence the development of social policy is through membership of advisory groups. Over the last year we have been involved in a number of advisory groups for the Scottish Government. Central to this has been the Tackling Poverty Programme Board which brings together senior civil servants, representatives from local government and a range of other stakeholders and is jointly chaired by the Scottish Government and Cosla. This group has oversight for anti-poverty policy in Scotland and it is hoped that it will become increasingly influential in the future development of the strategic approach to addressing poverty. In addition the Alliance remains active on the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum and the advisory group for the Scottish Government's Tackling Poverty and Regeneration Learning Network.

EPIC Stakeholder Forum and the Scottish Assembly for Tackling Poverty

The implementation of the 'policy' elements of the EPIC project has been a significant step forward for the Poverty Alliance's efforts to influence policy and to create more participatory mechanisms to do so. The EPIC Tackling Poverty Stakeholder Forum has around 40 participants, made up of representatives from Scottish Government, Local Authorities, the voluntary sector and people with direct experience of poverty. The role of the Stakeholder Forum is to follow the development of Scottish anti-poverty policy and identify where there may be gaps or where action is not working. The Forum met twice in the last financial year and has already developed a strong identity and clear commitment from the participants. One of its first actions was to establish a short-life working group made up of community representatives and civil servants to contribute to a review of the Equally Well health inequality framework. A series of meetings concluded with a meeting of community activists with the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Shona Robison MSP. Two new working groups have since been set up looking at issues of stigma and employment and poverty.

The Scottish Assembly for Tackling Poverty is the other main part of the EPIC programme that is designed to foster more debate and dialogue about progress in tackling poverty. The first Assembly was held in Glasgow in February 2010.


Around 200 people attended the event, people drawn from grassroots community organisations, local authorities, trade unions, UK and Scottish Government, voluntary organisations and many others. As well as hearing speeches from Ministers, the Assembly also heard from those directly experiencing poverty. The event highlighted the energy commitment and ideas that exist in Scotland to address poverty. Over the coming year we will be working to put the ideas generated at the Assembly into practice. For further information contact Sarah Welford, Policy and Parliamentary Officer: sarah.welford@povertyalliance.org

Consultation responses: Formal consultation responses remain an important way for the Alliance to influence policy development and to clarify the positions that the Alliance adopts. Last year we submitted responses to consultations on the UK Government's Shaping the Future of Care Together Green Paper and the Scottish Government's Consultation on the socio-economic duty in the UK Equality Bill. We also gave evidence to the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament on the development of the new Europe 2020 Strategy.

Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform (SCoWR): The Alliance has continued to play a leading role in SCoWR. We now provide coordination for the campaign, which now has more than 170 contacts. As in previous years, the campaign has spent much of its time responding to developments in welfare reform, particularly the implementation of the most recent wave of reform.

This has meant producing briefings for MPs and MSPs, organising meetings at party conferences and providing comment to the media. However, during the last year SCoWR has made good on its commitment to take a more positive approach to campaigning around welfare reform. In September 2009, a conference was organized to discuss in more detail what the welfare system we want would look like. This led, ultimately, to the production of the SCoWR Manifesto for Change, which was launched before the UK General election in 2010. This document has been distributed widely and forms the basis of SCoWRs response to the current wave of reforms. For further information contact our Policy and Campaigns Officer, Maggie Kelly: maggie.kelly@povertyalliance.org

Scottish Living Wage Campaign: The Alliance has committed considerable time to the coordination of this campaign, which is now beginning to pay off. We have continued to receive strong support from key partners, the STUC and the Church of Scotland. We have seen important steps taken during the last year on a number of fronts. We launched the Scottish Living Wage Employer Award, making our first awards to Glasgow City Council, Scottish Enterprise and Employers in Voluntary Housing. We have also helped raise the political debate around the living wage, ensuring that the issue has been debated at party conferences and in the Scottish parliament. Most encouraging during the last year has been the development of a number of local campaigns.



Each of these has their own priorities and ways of working, but all are making the case for economic justice in Scottish communities. Local campaigns are now developing in North Edinburgh, Greenock, Dundee, North and South Lanarkshire. We look forward to more developing in the months ahead. For further information contact our Policy and Campaigns Officer, Eddie Follan eddie.follan@povertyalliance.org

Communications: More than 1000 people now receive monthly updates through our e-news service. The revised website continues to be the main source for disseminating information. Over the course of 2010-11 we will carry out further revisions of the service to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of our members and supporters.
www.povertyalliance.org

Peter Kelly
Director



TREASURERS REPORT

The year 2009-10 was the second year of our three year funding agreement with the Scottish Government. During the course of the financial year we have consolidated the position of the organisation, despite the deterioration in the funding environment in which we operate. In times of economic downturn the role of the Poverty Alliance becomes more important than ever. Our role in bringing voluntary and community organisations together to ensure that issues of poverty remain on the policy agenda of Government, in Scotland and the UK, has become vital. We have made real steps forward in ensuring that this is done, but this can only be achieved through the financial stability provided by the core funding from the Scottish Government and our local authority funders. As we move into the final year of our current three year agreement with the Scottish Government, we will be seeking to secure our future for the subsequent period to ensure that the progress that has been made over the last three years can be built upon.

In last year's audited accounts we voiced concerns regarding the prospects for the Alliance's funding from Scottish Local Authorities. Despite maintaining a strong level of financial support during 2009-10 from a number of local authorities based in west central Scotland, our concern has grown. Grant funding from Scottish Local Authorities continued to decline, down from £61,728 received in 2008-09 to £60,304. We are particularly grateful to Glasgow City Council for their continued

support of the work of the Poverty Alliance, and to local authorities in North and South Lanarkshire. The financial situation facing Local Authorities will continue to worsen during 2010-11 and beyond. During the coming year we will seek to develop the relationships with current funders and to broaden and diversify our financial relationships with local authorities. We do not doubt the challenges that this will bring, but we are confident that our experience in working with a wider range of local authorities, and over a broader range of subject areas, will stand us in good stead.

During the course of 2009-10 we have continued to secure funds from a number of different sources to allow us to deliver a range of project-based activities. In 2008-09 we secured funding from the Big Lottery fund for the Evidence-Participation-Change (EPIC) project. During the last financial year this project became fully operational, drawing in more than £167K for the Alliance. This has made a significant contribution to the organisation's overhead costs and the three new members of staff have significantly enhanced our capacity to deliver on our strategic objectives. This project will continue to play an important role for the Alliance over the coming three years. We also secured funding from the Department for Work and Pensions, the European Anti-Poverty Network and the Scottish Government to organise a number of high profile events in advance of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Funding was also received from Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Oxfam to carry out a number of small scale projects.

Given the current economic context and the pressures on public spending, the Poverty Alliance's finances are in a reasonable position. The support from the Scottish Government and the Big Lottery Fund have been central to our current position. More than any other year we are not complacent about this relatively favourable position. As outlined below, we will now have to redouble our efforts to ensure that the organisation is able to maintain our current level of funding over the coming period. We are grateful to all those organisations, particularly our core funders, who have continued to support the work of the Poverty Alliance. A full description of the Poverty Alliance's activities can be found in our Annual Report which is issued separately from these Accounts.

Copies of our full audited accounts are available from our Administrator, Poe McHugh - poe.mchugh@povertyalliance.org.

We would like to thank all our funders for their support during 2008-09: the Scottish Government, Glasgow City Council, North Lanarkshire Council, South Lanarkshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, Scottish Borders Council, the Big Lottery Fund and the UK Coalition Against Poverty.

Nick Bailey
Treasurer

Income	2009/10	2008/09
	£	£
<i>Scottish Government</i>	185,981	197,380
<i>Local Authorities</i>	60,304	61,728
<i>UK CAP</i>	--	6,000
<i>EAPN</i>	16,585	2,955
<i>Big Lottery Fund</i>	167,596	52,953
<i>Oxfam</i>	3,000	--
<i>DWP</i>	4,567	--
<i>JRF</i>	3,402	--
<i>Scottish Borders Council</i>	--	22,474
<i>STUC</i>	--	3,000
<i>Church of Scotland</i>	--	2,000
<i>Membership Fees</i>	4,225	3,280
<i>Other Income</i>	23,318	27,630
<i>Bank Interest</i>	170	3,261
Total	469,148	382,661
Expenditure		
Cost of generating income	29,807	30,258
Charitable activities	380,530	314,545
Governance costs	5,321	6,292
Total	415,658	351,095
Net Surplus	53,490	31,566
Balance b/fwd	139,149	107,583
Balance c/fwd	192,639	139,149

STAFF AND BOARD

APRIL 2009 - MARCH 2010

Peter Kelly, *Director*

Fieldwork

Robin Tennant, *Fieldwork Manager*
Twimukye Mushaka, *Fieldwork Development Officer*
Fiona McHardy, *Community Research Officer*

Policy and Information

Maggie Kelly, *Policy and Campaigns Officer (p-t)*
Eddie Follan, *Policy and Campaigns Officer (p-t)*
Sarah Welford, *Policy and Parliamentary Officer*

Administration

Poe McHugh, *Administrator*
Kathryn Collins, *Administrative Assistant*

Volunteers and Placements

Thomas Lividini, *Intern*
Kelly McDade-Walker, *Placement*

Board Members 2009-10

Irene Graham, (*Convenor*) *Save the Children*
John Dickie, (*Vice- Convenor*) *Child Poverty Action Group*
Nick Bailey, (*Treasurer*) *University of Glasgow (co-opted)*
Marion Davis, *One Parent Families Scotland*
Elizabeth Gore, *Energy Action Scotland*
Dave Hewitt, *Pilton Community Health Project*
Iain Johnston, *Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network (until October 2009)*
Myra Mackenzie, *Angus Against Poverty (until October 2009)*
Mary McLean, *Western Isles Healthy Partnership*
Jim Milne, *Dundee Anti Poverty Forum (until October 2009)*
Agnes Tomlie, *Scottish Women's Convention (until March 2010)*
Jim Boyle, *Oxfam*
David Liddell, *Scottish Drugs Forum*
Dave Moxham, *Scottish Trades Union Congress (co-opted)*
Heather Gowans, *Community Activist Advisory Group (co-opted)*
John Mulvey, *Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty (until October 2009)*



**POVERTY
ALLIANCE**

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