

## Notice of Meeting and Agenda Forum for Empowering Communities Group

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 09 September 2021	14:00	Remotely via Microsoft Teams,

KENNETH GRAHAM  
Head of Corporate Governance

### Membership

S McDonald, Active Communities; M Mathieson, Barnados; I McLean, Bridgewater Housing Association; J Gonani, DEAR; A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; S McLellan, RAMH; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau; C Forbes, ROAR; and C Masson, Save the Children.

### Chair

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire.

## Items of business

### Apologies

Apologies from members.

### Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- |          |   |               |
|----------|---|---------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Minute of Previous Meeting</b>   | <b>1 - 4</b>  |
|          | Minute of previous meeting held on 8 June 2021.                                       |               |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Matters Arising</b>  |               |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Rolling Action Log</b>   | <b>5 - 6</b>  |
|          | Report by Director of Finance & Resources.  |               |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Physical Disability &amp; The Impact of COVID</b>                                  | <b>7 - 12</b> |
|          | Report by Chair, Renfrewshire Access Panel.   |               |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Update on Renfrewshire's Alcohol &amp; Drugs Approach</b>                          |               |
|          | Verbal update by Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire.                                |               |
| <b>6</b> | <b>IN-Ren</b>   |               |
|          | Verbal update by Community and Partnership Manager, Engage Renfrewshire.              |               |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Local Partnership Update</b>   |               |
|          | Verbal Update by Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, Renfrewshire Council. |               |
| <b>8</b> | <b>The Promise</b>  |               |
|          | Verbal report by Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, Renfrewshire Council. |               |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Back to the Office</b>   |               |
|          | Discussion led by Chair.  |               |

## **Minute of Meeting Forum for Empowering Communities**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Tuesday 8 June 2021	14:00	Remotely via Teams

### **Present**

I McLean, Bridgewater Housing Association; M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau; C Forbes, ROAR; and.

### **Chair**

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire, presided.

### **In Attendance**

S Kraft, DEAR; and A Armstrong-Walter, S Graham, I Blair, C MacDonald and R Devine (all Renfrewshire Council).

### **Apologies**

S McDonald, Active Communities; M Mathieson, Barnados; J Gonani, DEAR; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; S McLellan, RAMH; R Robertson, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; C Masson, Save the Children; M Hill, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

### **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

### **SEDERUNT**

The Chair welcomed M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau to the meeting and advised that he had replaced Gavin Lovesey.

## 1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Group held on 11 March 2021.

**DECIDED:** That the Minute be approved.

## 2 MATTERS ARISING

In relation to Item 2 – Matters Arising - S Graham intimated that the Council's Legal Services had advised that a grant award that had been accepted by an organisation would still require each Director or Committee member to sign the acceptance of grant offer and there was no leeway to delegate the sign-off to senior officers of the organisation. It was noted however, that there was an individual waiver if the person was suffering from ill health. It was further noted that the procedure had been reviewed on a number of occasions and the policy was now well established with no plans to revise the current policy.

**DECIDED:** That the update be noted.

## 3 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

**RFG.11.03.21(4) – Independent Review of Adult Social Care In Scotland** – A McNiven and S McLellan met a key representative from Health and Social Care Partnership Scotland in relation to informing the national debate;

**RFG.13.12.17(4b) – Greener Communities** – The Strategic Partnership and Inequalities Manager, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council advised that a Climate Change Lead Officer post was being advertised within the Council and a partnership group was being established around the climate emergency. It was agreed that once the Climate Change Lead Officer post was established that they be invited to a future meeting of the Forum;

**RFG 03.09.20(4) – Mutual Support** – A McNiven advised that more dates had been set for meetings this year and members would be advised in due course.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the updates be noted; and

(b) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

## 4 RENFREWSHIRE FALLS PREVENTION GROUP

C Forbes, ROAR, gave a verbal update on the current work of the Renfrewshire Falls Prevention Group.

**DECIDED:** That the update be noted.

## **5 SOCIAL RENEWAL PLAN**

The Strategic Partnership and Inequalities Manager, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council gave a presentation relative to the Council's Social Renewal Plan.

A Armstrong-Walter gave a brief summary of the approach that had been agreed by the Community Planning Executive Group; detailed the progress of the community impact assessment; highlighted the impact of the pandemic on communities; advised of the Public Services Panel results; detailed the engagement with equality groups; reviewed the key findings and key themes; advised of the principles around the plan; and advised of how they would develop partnership approach.

After discussion the Chair thanked A Armstrong-Walter for the presentation and it was agreed that an update would be submitted to a future meeting.

### **DECIDED:**

- (a) That an update be submitted to a future meeting: and
- (b) That the presentation be noted.

## **6 LOCAL PARTNERSHIP REVIEW**

S Graham Partnerships Planning and Development Manager, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council advised that a review was currently underway of the Community Planning Local Partnership Group. He gave a brief summary of the role and structure of each of the seven partnerships and advised that a report would be submitted to the Council meeting in the autumn and he would come back to the Group with more information once the report had gone to the Council meeting.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal update be noted.

### **SEDERUNT**

C Forbes left the meeting during the following item




## **7 ASSETS AND RETURN TO OFFICE**


The Chair led a discussion by the Group in relation to the arrangements for re-opening of offices as well as other works spaces.

**DECIDED:** That the verbal update be noted.



**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL  
RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES GROUP  
ROLLING ACTION LOG**

	Action is on track	<b>KEY</b>
	Areas for concern that will impact on completion date if not fixed. Action required to bring up to satisfactory level	
	Past deadline date and action required.	

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
<u><b>RFG.12.06.19(2)</b></u>	Membership of the Forum to be reviewed and update to be submitted to next Forum meeting	CMacD				<p>Members to complete their biography forms and send it along with a recent photograph by no later than 13 January 2020 to the Clerk</p> <p><u><b>RFG.05.03.20(5)</b></u> Clerk to email members again who have not submitted their biographies.</p> <p><u><b>RFG171120</b></u> Clerk advised responses received and bio handbook in progress</p> <p><u><b>RFG.11.03.21(2)</b></u> Clerk to send out existing bios for refresh and send out forms to new members for completion..</p> <p><u><b>RFG180621 (2)</b></u> Email sent and awaiting responses.</p>
<u><b>RFG. 28.11.19(9)</b></u>	<u><b>Stay Mobile/Stay Connected</b></u> The issues discussed in relation to bins and vulnerability of the elderly be raised with the Director of Environmental Services	SG/RR				<p><u><b>RFG 03.09.20(3)</b></u> That the possibility of highlighting falls prevention through Council website and neighbour hubs to be investigated.</p> <p><u><b>RFG 17.11.20</b></u> Meeting took place with L Hepburn and members updated.</p> <p><u><b>RFG.11.03.21(2)</b></u> C Forbes advised that she would be attending a meeting of falls prevention group and would update members at next meeting.</p> <p><u><b>RFG180621 (2)</b></u> Verbal update given to members.</p>
<u><b>RFG 03.09.20(4)</b></u>	<u><b>MUTUAL SUPPORT</b></u> (a) Discussion/Support group support sessions to be set up; and  (b) Members to notify the Chair of their interest in participating in the Group.	AMcN/ALL				<p><u><b>RFG 17.11.20</b></u> Meeting will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and further update will be given to Members after that date</p> <p><u><b>RFG.11.03.21(2)</b></u> Members were updated and advised more meetings in diary for 2021..</p>
<u><b>RFG.11.03.21(4)</b></u>	<u><b>INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE IN SCOTLAND</b></u> Agreed that Forum Members work with colleagues in statutory services to contribute local initiatives to reflect the substance of the final recommendations	All Members				<p><u><b>RFG180621 (2)</b></u> A McNiven and S McLellan met a key representative from Health and Social Care Partnership Scotland in relation to informing the national debate</p>

<b><u>RFG.11.03.21(5a)</u></b>	<b>BLACK LIVES MATTER</b> Agreed that S Graham to discuss the BLM strategy with the Head of Policy & Commissioning and the Community Planning Team to ensure that Community Planning partners were connected to the aims and objectives of the strategy and that it fed into the wider community planning system	SG				<b><u>RFG180621 (2)</u></b> S Graham discussed matter with Community Planning and it will be taken into account.
<b><u>RFG180621 (2)</u></b>	<b>GREENER COMMUNITIES</b> Agreed that once the Climate Change Lead Officer post was established that they be invited to a future meeting of the Forum;	AMcN/Clerk				
<b><u>RFG180621 (5)</u></b>	<b>SOCIAL RENEWAL PLAN</b> Agreed that an update be submitted to a future meeting	AMcN				

Updated 16/08/2021





**To: Forum for Empowering Communities Group**

**On: 9 September 2021**

**Report by: Chair, Renfrewshire Access Panel**

**Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights before, during and beyond COVID19**

## **1. Summary**

1.1 In August 2020, Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA) produced Supercharged: a human catastrophe as a marker for the culmination of views gathered from their members during the first lockdown. It found:

- 80% didn't know where to turn to for help in their local communities in terms of information, advice, services or supports;
- 82% were worried about social isolation and loneliness; and
- 60% face digital exclusion- either the device, the connectivity or the confidence to use digital equipment.

1.2 The report is attached for the interest of the Forum members and comments are welcome.

## **2. Recommendations**

2.1 Members are asked to note the report.

Author: S Cruickshank, Chair, Renfrewshire Access Panel



## Supercharged: A Human Catastrophe

### Inequalities, Participation and Human Rights before, during and beyond COVID19: Summary Briefing



Before COVID-19, disabled people were already facing a 'Human Catastrophe': decades of inequality made worse by austerity. The pandemic and responses have **supercharged the inequalities** we already faced, and created new ones, with long-term impacts. **Disabled people's voices will be vital** to ensure Scotland's social and economic recovery leave no-one behind.

Over 20 years GDA has built a **disabled people-led community of interest**, connecting 5000 disabled people across Glasgow – we quickly mobilised this infrastructure to engage our members' lived experience and expertise, and develop a **COVID-response shaped and led by disabled people**.

This summary shares:

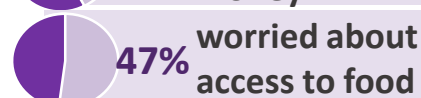
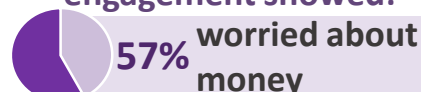
- **Headlines issues** raised by disabled people through this engagement
- Details of **responses we put in place** (16<sup>th</sup> March - 31<sup>st</sup> July, and ongoing)
- **Recommendations for actions** our governments and leaders must take, to tackle these Supercharged Inequalities.

## Poverty and Food Insecurity

Disabled people already **3 times as likely** to be **living in poverty & facing food insecurity**.

### GDA's COVID

**engagement showed:**



Supercharged

Cost of living increase	Barriers to food support
Social Security barriers and delays	Shielding entitlement gaps and delays
Employment impacts	Support cut too soon

### GDA Rights Now

**137** individuals supported through  
**199** phone/ online appointments  
To gain **£191, 115.47** (March-July)

### GDA Lifeline

Food, medications and essentials  
delivered to **1,251 individuals**  
in **874 households**

Response

# Information Gap

Disabled people already face barriers to information and are **4 times more digitally excluded**

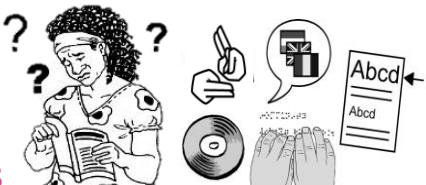
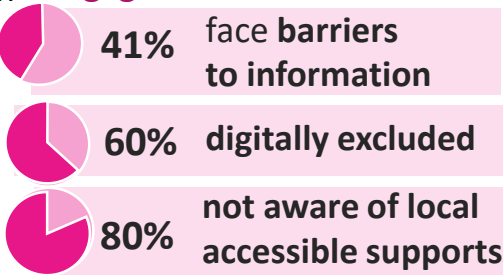
Supercharged

“No-one provides accessible information, so I don’t know what advice to follow or what support is out there”.

“I don’t have internet so it’s GDA that keeps me informed of my rights and what’s happening.”

## GDA’s COVID

engagement showed:



## GDA Engagement

Response

**8500+** Phone calls made/received  
**20,000** accessible info mailouts  
**5000+** signposting referrals

## GDA Connects

**393** digital support calls  
**200+** devices / equipment provided with coaching & support to get online

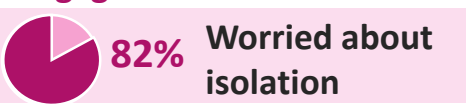


# Isolation and Exclusion

Disabled people **twice as likely to face isolation**. **71% have difficulty taking part in things locally** due to lack of access, support, information, or negative attitudes (GDA Action research 2018)

## GDA’s COVID

engagement showed:



Supercharged

Vital supports cut or withdrawn

Digital exclusion – no social contact

Increase in barriers, hostility and Hate Crime in public spaces

Virus-fears escalated by treatment rationing and DNARs



## GDA Learning

Response

**218** online sessions with **200+** learners  
188 received digital coaching to access activities  
**85** peer support group sessions

Sessions have included: local history, recycled crafts, tea and chat, literature appreciation, printmaking, mindful

## Mental and Physical Health Inequalities

NHS Scotland cancelled 73% of planned treatment in April, including for heart and respiratory conditions, neurological conditions, and 53% of cancer treatment.

**GDA's COVID engagement showed:**

**Worried about mental or physical health**

**90%**



**Supercharged**

Pain management services curtailed

Rationing of treatment & DNARs threatened basic rights and Equality

Support for long term mental health conditions withdrawn

Lockdown worsening existing conditions: lack of mobility, therapies stopped



**GDA Wellbeing:** one-to-one support and advice for Health and Wellbeing

**Response**

**676 referrals**

**563 follow up calls**

**300+** connected to supports eg befriending, counselling, peer support

**86 online Health and Wellbeing sessions** including chair-based exercise, tai chi, mindfulness, relaxation, coping with anxiety, healthy cooking

## Social Care Crisis

While responses centred on protecting the NHS, our Social Care system all but collapsed. Nearly half of all COVID deaths happened in Care Homes; and many disabled people were left even more vulnerable, with vital support withdrawn when they most needed it.

**GDA's COVID engagement showed:**

**Worried about social care support**

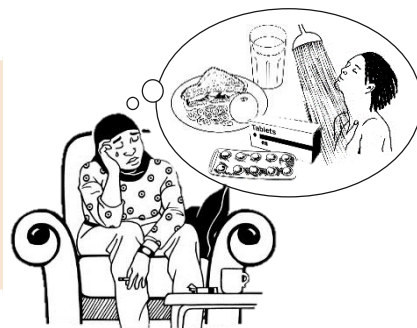
**47%**



**Supercharged**

2000+ care packages cut in Glasgow from 20 March – many with no notice and no follow up

Many left with no support to wash, eat, take medications – or forced to rely on other vulnerable family, friends, neighbours



**GDA Future Visions:** holistic support to tackle barriers to choice and control

**Response**

**57** people received tailored support including life coaching, peer support, group CBT, and practical support to cut through barriers and access services e.g. equipment,

**918** disabled people supported to share lived experience of Social Care  
**227** signed up to contribute lived experience to ongoing Social Care Reforms.

# GDA's Recommendations

## 1 Supercharge involvement of disabled people in recovery planning

- a **Embed Lived Experience** in recovery planning locally and nationally, including resilience planning, and redesign of public spaces
- b **Ensure Place-based approaches are Equalities-proofed:** invest in Equalities training, and parallel equalities-led approaches
- c **Embed Participation in National Performance Framework:** capture benefits of participation for democracy, wellbeing, tackling inequalities
- d **Invest in inclusive learning and community development:** build aspirations & participation through online and offline capacity building
- e **Promote inclusive, accessible communication for all,** involving disabled people in communications planning, equal access to information



## 2 Supercharge Rights implementation and monitoring

- a **Embed UNCRPD in Scots Law:** Revoke Coronavirus Act, investigate unequal impacts on disabled people's human rights.
- b **Co-design a Disability Equality Action Plan** with learning from COVID and a Fairer Scotland; including a Disability Poverty Strategy
- c **Reinforce Employment Action Plan** commitments & ambitions: involve disabled people to mitigate COVID-impacts on disability employment gap.
- d **Tackle Rising Hate Crime** improve reporting, responses, awareness: fund and co-design a better Third Party Reporting Scheme.
- e **Empower Public Sector Staff to deliver Human Rights,** cut through bureaucracy, act with kindness: Equalities training and collaboration



## 3 Supercharge Support existing, emerging and responding to gaps

- a **Extend Shielding list, develop resilience registers for future crises**  
Informed by lived experience and better data collection
- b **Invest in keeping vital supports** which emerged during COVID but tackle deep inequalities and build resilience: digital, wellbeing, food supports
- c **Elevate Social Care** to protect rights & resilience: re-open ILF, establish a National Social Care Agency, co-designed for dignity, respect, human rights
- d **Fast-track disabled people's access to vital services** to address unequal impacts of lockdown on our mental & physical health: care, housing
- e **Invest in holistic, empowering support to tackle barriers** faced e.g. GDA's Future Visions model - with disabled people in the lead to navigate pathways, unblock barriers, achieve goals, participate and fulfil potential.

