

WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

CONVENOR'S REPORT

As we report on the activity of the Poverty Alliance over the last financial year, the impact of the recession is hitting hard. Over 2.8 million people are unemployed and youth unemployment (those aged 18 to 25 years) is running at double the national average. On the political front, a worrying development has occurred that puts public services under attack. While banks and financial institutions have received a commitment of billions of pounds from public money, the political parties argue about the extent of cuts in public services needed to deal with the aftermath of the bank bailouts. Cuts in already stretched public services will hit poor and vulnerable people and communities the hardest, as well as exacerbating the recession through further job losses. How we respond to the cuts and their impact will determine the issues that we must address over the coming years and the battles that will inevitably be fought.

Whilst we continue to make the case for increased resources to tackle poverty, we are well aware of the need to strengthen the anti-poverty network in Scotland. The Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities is having significant repercussions for how we address poverty in Scotland. We have to respond to developments at both the Scottish and local levels. The Poverty Alliance has continued to ensure that the voices of individuals living in poverty and organisations representing them are heard wherever decisions are being taken that will affect their lives, whether this is at the national or local level. But to do this effectively, we must build a stronger anti-poverty network.

The Alliance has continued to engage with the Scottish Government. But despite this close working relationship we have retained our most important role – that of an independent and critical voice in the debate about poverty and how to address it. Against a background of severe cuts in public spending as well as the continuing recession, it will be all the more important to retain this independent and critical stance.

With unemployment rising and the decline in poverty appearing to come to an end, it is all the more important to raise our voices to defend people at risk of poverty. We have continued the work for a positive engagement with the Government in Scotland, particularly through our new Evidence – Participation – Change (EPIC) project that started in February 2009. This is a crucial development, which we hope will ensure that tackling poverty remains high on the political agenda even in these difficult times.

As this report shows the Alliance has continued its work on a number of different fronts. I would like to record my thanks to all the members of staff and my fellow board members for helping to create those achievements. 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 2008 – MARCH 2009

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 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. We will work with groups and individuals to help them take action against poverty, and to strengthen their arguments and resources for doing so. If you are interested in finding out more please contact our Fieldwork Development Officer, Twimukye Mushaka:
twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org

Scottish Government Anti-Poverty

Framework: We were commissioned by the Scottish Government to carry out an extensive programme of work to ensure that people with experience of poverty had the opportunity to feed into the development of the new anti-poverty framework. This work culminated in July with a major event in Glasgow involving grassroots activists, civil servants and the Minister for Communities. We believe that this work helped shape the Achieving Our Potential Framework that was published in November 2008. We will continue to work with

communities to ensure that this framework is implemented and the commitments that are made in it are delivered.


Scottish Borders Poverty Commission:

This project was completed in September 2008. The Alliance employed a Development Officer, based in the Borders, whose role was to raise awareness of Commission and its role, engaging people with experience of poverty in its work, engaging with the local community and voluntary sector and produce a written report at the end of the project. A large number of meetings were held with local community and voluntary organisations. A mini conference was held with the Commissioners and with people in poverty in July 2008. A comprehensive report was submitted to the Commissioners in August. The final report of the Commission was launched at a conference in December 2008. Copies of the report can be accessed on the Poverty Alliance's website
www.povertyalliance.org

Evidence – Participation – Change (EPIC):

This new project was launched in February 2009. The project will run for four years and aims to create new opportunities for people with experience of poverty to have greater dialogue with decision makers. One of the key elements within the EPIC programme will be training to support people to take action in their communities, and to help them influence national anti-poverty policies. In addition to the training the EPIC project is also establishing new processes to help people engage directly with policy makers, and will also support groups to carry out their own research in to poverty and social exclusion.

For further information contact:
fiona.mchardy@povertyalliance.org
or sarah.welford@povertyalliance.org



Grassroots Advisory Group: The Alliance established a group of community activists who were 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 that the Alliance is working on and to ensure that our work is informed by the experiences of people we work with through their participation and advice. During the financial year 2008/2009, the bulk of the work on the AG was on identifying potential members and developing draft terms of reference. The group will meet up to five times a year

WORKING WITH PROFESSIONALS

BUILDING THE NETWORK


Poverty Awareness Training has remained 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. In 2008-09 we widened the delivery of this work to include Culture and Sports Glasgow (June 2008), the Equalities and Human Rights Commission (March 2009), Lothian Health Promotion staff (November 2008), North Lanarkshire Volunteer Centre (January 2009) and the UK Coalition Against Poverty (March 2009). A Business Plan for taking forward Poverty Awareness Training has been developed and we are seeking new resources to implement the plan. For more information on Poverty Awareness Training contact Robin Tennant, Fieldwork Development Manager, *robin.tennant@povertyalliance.org* or Twimukye Mushaka *twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org*

Working with the Voluntary Sector:

Strengthening our ties with organizations across the voluntary sector is essential for the Poverty Alliance. It is essential in order to ensure that we are well informed about the key issues affecting the sector, and also

so that we are able to share our knowledge of current anti-poverty activity. Poverty Alliance staff are involved in the management boards of a number of key voluntary sector organizations, including the 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 presentation related to poverty in Scotland. The topics covered have included the role of trade unions in the fight against poverty, fuel poverty, and the links between violence and poverty. More than 1300 people have taken part in events where Alliance staff members have had an input. If you would like a speaker from the Alliance to attend an event you are organizing please contact our Fieldwork Manager, *robin.tennant@povertyalliance.org*



Seminar Series: We have also continued to organise our annual programme of regional seminars across Scotland aimed at informing and encouraging debate amongst staff in a range of organisations, including local voluntary organisations, statutory bodies, trade unions, academics and others. The theme of this year's seminar series, carried out in eight locations across Scotland, was 'Fighting Poverty in a Recession'. This was the third annual series of seminars and we anticipate delivering a bigger series of seminars in the coming year with the focus on the 2010 General Election.

Scottish Migrants Network (SMN): The Alliance continued to take a leading role in the development of the Scottish Migrant Network alongside Oxfam and Positive Action in Housing. The SMN held its first conference in February 2009 and launched a migrant workers poster campaign at the conference, which was attended by the Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP. For more information about the work of the SMN contact

*twimukye.mushaka@povertyalliance.org
or maggie.kelly@povertyalliance.org*

UK Coalition Against Poverty (UKCAP): The Poverty Alliance has continued to work with the UK Coalition Against Poverty and provides Scottish representation on the Board of UKCAP. The two Scottish representatives on the board of UKCAP are now Harry Cartmill, of West Lothian Poverty Action Forum and John Mulvey, of the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty. Funding for UKCAP has now come to an end, but we are actively seeking new ways to ensure that UK wide networking continues. For further information about the work of UKCAP visit www.ukcap.org

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN):

The Alliance continues to play an active role in the work of EAPN in Scotland and the UK. Much of this work finds its expression in our engagement in the NAP Social Inclusion, although we have been increasingly active in ensuring that EAPN messages and positions are communicated to UK Government Ministers. In May 2008, we supported a Scottish delegate to attend the 7th meeting of people with experience of poverty in Brussels. Progress has begun to be made in making the Alliance's activity in this area more directly relevant to the concerns of our members in Scotland. We hope to make a European seminar an annual event in Scotland.

The coming period will be increasingly important for European issues. The EU Year Against Poverty in 2010 will present opportunities for raising the profile of the Alliance's work on European anti-poverty issues. Peter Kelly will represent the Alliance on the DWP's National Implementing Body for the European Year Against Poverty in 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 was 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 were involved in the Scottish Government's steering group for the development of the Achieving our Potential anti-poverty framework, the advisory group for the review of the School Clothing Grants system, the reformed Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum and the advisory group for the Scottish Government's Tackling Poverty and Regeneration Learning Network.

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 Welfare Reform, the Child Poverty Bill, the Scottish Government's discussion paper on tackling poverty and inequality and the Scottish Fuel Poverty Forum's consultation.

Social Policy Task Force: The Alliance has continued to play a leading role in work to develop an ongoing dialogue with policy makers regarding the development of the National Action Plan on Social Inclusion. We have provided strong support for the Social Policy Task Force (SPTF) to engage with DWP officials in the future development of the NAP and related issues. The SPTF has

played a crucial role in making preparations for the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion, providing strong input to the development of the UK Government's programme. The SPTF has also successfully lobbied the DWP to establish a more formal process of engagement around the development of the NAP Inclusion. This process is now coming together and we expect the first meetings to begin before the end of the 2009.

The new National Action Plan on Social Inclusion was published in September 2008 and we will now be working to ensure its effective implementation. For further information about the SPTF and how to get involved please contact Peter Kelly peter.kelly@povertyalliance.org

Scottish Campaign on Welfare Reform (SCoWR): During 2008-09 we continued to play a leading role in the SCoWR campaign. Much of the time of the campaign has been spent responding to the Green Paper as it became a Bill, lobbying MPs and Lords as necessary. We have also organized fringe meetings at the Labour and SNP party conferences in order to raise awareness of the implications for the Bill. SCoWR is now looking to the future development of our welfare system, and is looking at how a more positive approach to welfare reform can be created. One of the key aims of the campaign over the coming year will be to ensure that grassroots community organisations are able to take an active role in the campaign. For further information contact our Policy and Campaigns Officer, Maggie Kelly maggie.kelly@povertyalliance.org

End Child Poverty (ECP): During 2008-09 the Alliance has continued to work with key partners in Scotland (CPAG, Save the Children, Barnardos, One Parent Families Scotland and Action for Children) to promote the ECP campaign. Key activities included a joint fringe meeting at the STUC conference in April 2008, a fringe meeting at the Conservative Conference in May 2008 and a meeting with members of the Communities

and Local Government Committee to discuss the their consultation on child poverty. The Alliance supported efforts in Scotland in mobilizing people for the 10,000 strong demonstration on 4 October 2008, in London. For further information contact Peter Kelly peter.kelly@povertyalliance.org

Scottish Living Wage Campaign: This campaign has made some significant steps forward since the Alliance took the lead in its launch in 2007. The steering group, which includes the STUC, the Church of Scotland, Unison and others, for the campaign established the level of the Living Wage at £7 an hour. Perhaps the most significant step forward was in the announcement that Glasgow City Council was to pay the Living Wage. The campaign also launched the Living Wage Employer in Dalrnarnock in the East End of Glasgow where Glasgow City Council became the first employer to be awarded the Scottish Living Wage Award. The campaign has received widespread media coverage and we are actively supporting the development of local campaigns across Scotland. For further information contact our Policy and Campaigns Officer, Eddie Follan eddie.follan@povertyalliance.org

Communications: Our monthly email based news service has continued to receive very positive feedback due to the range and quality of information it contains. It was re-launched in March 2009 with a new look and format and the number of subscribers now stands at near 900. The Scottish Anti-Poverty Review was also re-launched and now is fully accessible on the Alliance website. The website has also been completely redesigned and is now more regularly updated. Feedback on the new design has been positive and we look forward to receiving more of your comments in the coming year: www.povertyalliance.org

Peter Kelly
Director



TREASURERS REPORT


The year 2008-09 was the first year of our new three year funding agreement with the Scottish Government. This funding has not only allowed the Poverty Alliance to build a strong, yet independent, relationship with policy makers within the Scottish Government, but has also provided an important element of financial stability.

This financial stability has allowed the Alliance to make real progress in the last financial year in securing other sources of funding. Over the course of the year we were able to secure funding of almost £800K over a four-year period from the Big Lottery Fund Scotland for our 'Evidence-Participation-Change' project. There is little doubt that the secure and sound financial footing that the Alliance has attained over the last few years has helped to ensure that we were able to secure these important additional funds.

As in previous years our funding from Scottish Local Authorities remains under pressure. During 2008-09 we managed to maintain a strong level of financial support from a number of local authorities based in west central Scotland. Funding from Scottish Local Authorities stood at £61,728, down from the £61,947 received in 2007-08. 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, and North Ayrshire. However, it is clear that whilst the decline in Local Authority income has been modest over the last year, we have concerns about the impact the recession will have on local authorities and the consequential impact on organisations supported by them in 2009-10. Over the coming year we will ensure that support is continued from Local Authorities that have been long standing supporters and we will build relationships with those who have had little engagement with the work of the Alliance.

As in previous years we have drawn in funds from a number of different sources to help deliver a range of project based activities. However, in 2008-09 number of funders for these types of activities reduced. The Scottish Government funded work to create a poster campaign to support the work of the Scottish Migrants Network. The Scottish Government also provided funding, along with the Church of Scotland and the STUC for research into the living wage in Scotland. Additional project funding was received from the Scottish Government to carry out consultation work on their poverty discussion paper. We received support from Scottish Borders Council to carry out consultation work on their Commission on Poverty and Social Exclusion. However, the most significant project funding was received from the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) in Scotland to support the Evidence-Participation-Change (EPIC) project, noted above. This will provide training and support to community and voluntary organisations across Scotland to help ensure that they can have their voices heard by those in Government. The award was made in September and the recruitment of staff was completed by February 2009. The early response to the project has been very positive and we expect that the project will significantly enhance the work and profile of the Alliance over the next four years.

Overall, the Poverty Alliance's finances are in good shape. Our core income has been relatively stable, and the injection of new project funding has allowed the organisation to make a modest contribution to reserves, having had to draw on those reserves in the previous financial year to cover a loss. That loss was attributable to our failure to secure all of our funding from the European Commission for a project now completed. While still at a reasonable level, our reserves are not excessive, particularly when we



consider the expansion in our activities that will occur with the EPIC project. We are grateful to all those organisations, particularly our core funders, who have continued to support the work of the Poverty Alliance.

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, Scottish Borders Council, the Big Lottery Fund and the UK Coalition Against Poverty.

Income	£
Scottish Government	197,380
Local Authorities	61,728
UK CAP	6,000
EAPN	2,955
Big Lottery Fund	52,953
Scottish Borders Council	22,474
STUC	3,000
Church of Scotland	2,000
Membership Fees	3,280
Other Income	27,630
Bank Interest	3,261
Total	382,661
Expenditure	
Cost of generating income	30,258
Charitable activities	314,545
Governance costs	6,292
Total	351,095
Net Surplus	31,566
Balance b/fwd 2008/09	107,583
Balance c/fwd 2008/09	139,149

STAFF AND BOARD

Peter Kelly, *Director*

Fieldwork

Robin Tennant, *Fieldwork Manager*
Twimukye Mushaka, *Fieldwork Development Officer*
Fiona McHardy, *Community Research Officer (EPIC)*
Dr Jan Flaherty, *Fieldwork Development Officer (March 08-August 08)*

Policy and Information

Sally Mackenzie, *Policy and Campaigns Officer (Until December 08)*
Maggie Kelly, *Policy and Campaigns Officer (p-t)*
Eddie Follan, *Policy and Campaigns Officer (p-t)*
Sarah Welford, *Policy and Parliamentary Officer (EPIC)*

Administration

Poe McHugh, *Administrator*
Kathryn McTurk, *Administrative Assistant (EPIC)*

Volunteers and Placements

Thomas Lividini, *Policy Intern*

Board Members 2008-09

Irene Graham (Convenor) *Save the Children*
John Dickie, (Vice- Convenor) *Child Poverty Action Group*
Nick Bailey (Treasurer) *University of Glasgow (co-opted)*
Louise Carlin, *Oxfam Scotland (until January 2009)*
Marion Davis, *One Parent Families Scotland*
Tesfu Gessesse, *Black Community Development Project (until January 2009)*
Elizabeth Gore, *Energy Action Scotland*
John Harvey, *Iona Community (until March 2009)*
Dave Hewitt, *Pilton Community Health Project*
Martin Johnstone, *Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network (until October 2008)*
Iain Johnston, *Scottish Churches Social Inclusion Network (co-opted)*
Myra Mackenzie, *Angus Against Poverty (co-opted)*
Mary McLean, *Western Isles Healthy Partnership*
Jim Milne, *Dundee Anti Poverty Forum (co-opted)*
John Mulvey, *Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty (co-opted)*
Agnes Tomlie, *Scottish Women's Convention*
Jim Boyle, *Oxfam (co-opted)*
David Liddell, *Scottish Drugs Forum*



WORKING TOGETHER TO COMBAT POVERTY

162 Buchanan Street | Glasgow G1 2LL
Tel: (00)141 353 0440 | Fax: (00) 141 353 0686
Email: admin@povertyalliance.org
www.povertyalliance.org

Supported by
The National Lottery[®]
through the Big Lottery Fund

