

Cash-first in action: Barmulloch Community Development Company



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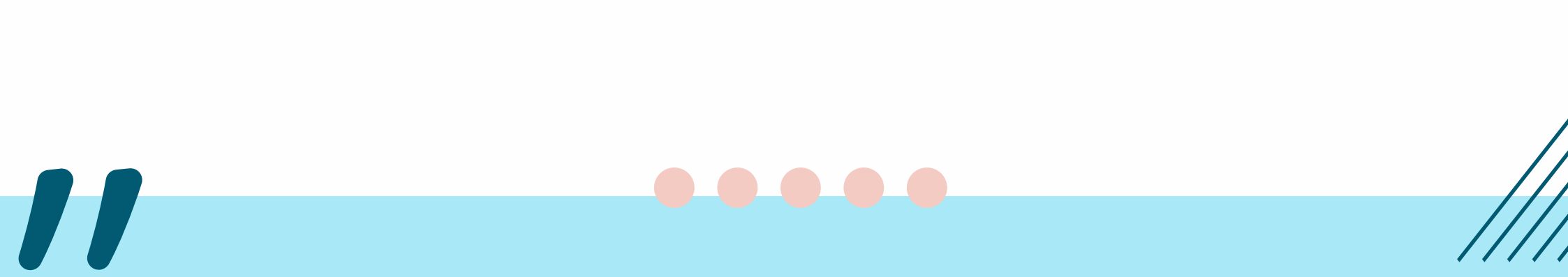
Barmulloch Community Development Company (BCDC) is a development Trust in the North East of Glasgow owned and run by local people working together to create vibrant communities.

They work in **partnership** to enhance the lives of local people and provide state-of-the-art venues and facilities for a diverse range of community-run social, sport, and cultural events. **Acting as a host** across 3 community hubs, they enable approximately 42 external services to be present in the heart of communities through affordable rent and a team dedicated to connecting community members with the range of opportunities and support that these services offer.

BCDC's current **community food initiatives** include:

- a **Community Fridge** that people can access on a weekly basis
- a weekly **Community Lunch** through their 'Meet and Eat' project
- partnership with **The Croft** who work with people and their families inside and outside prison to help support people in the heart of the communities, including through community food initiatives





We move with the times, we evolve, we are adaptable, and developing a cash-first approach is part of that

Overview of current cash-first approaches

The **cash-first approaches** currently being offered by BCDC are evolving as they strive to develop this alongside partners. BCDC have:

- **built a partnership** with Social Security Scotland (SSS) who are present at their premises on a weekly basis. SSS deliver financial inclusion support and advice
- **weekly engagement at the community meal** with a range of services present to build relationships and increase access, including financial advice agencies
- **in development, expansion of their Community Fridge model** where additional cash-first approaches will be delivered





BCDC support the Glasgow Helps initiative which is spearheading support for people in the communities struggling with Poverty, Energy and food Crisis and many other issues which are affecting Glasgow residents. We see this model supporting and benefiting local people and working in partnerships reducing issues will enable our communities to thrive.



Figure 1, BCDC Cash-first in Action: BCDC's process toward their aspiration

Aspiration

BCDC recognises the need for cash-first supports alongside their Community Fridge project

They seek to increase their partnership working and knowledge of what cash-first supports are available locally

BCDC create a space where people can maximise their income and reduce reliance on emergency food aid through increased partnership working offering a range of cash-first supports

They work towards adapting one of their facilities to enhance their Community Fridge Model to include cash-first supports





We have people providing support and advice where the community meals happens and barriers are broken down through an informal approach. There's an expectation that these services are professional as well as approachable, this works well.



Challenges

Some challenges in actioning and developing a cash-first approach within their Community Food Initiative are:

- **staffing and time** to work on developing this and then work on delivering
- **accessing funding** to support their model
- **finding partners that have the capacity** to commit time in the community to enable cash-first supports to happen alongside their Community Fridge Model
- **having up to date knowledge** on what supports are available and when, particularly when supporting someone experiencing a crisis, often on Friday evenings or the weekend



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We recognise there needs to be more of this [cash-first] and will work towards increasing support but we need help to do this from community, staff, volunteers, services, city Officers, Housing Associations and Government.

Positives

With the implementation of the current cash-first approach through Social Security Scotland at BCDC, there has been a **noticeable rise** in individuals accessing the necessary support to transition from emergency food aid to a maximised income.

BCDC anticipate even greater access once they expand their partnership working to enable additional cash-first supports alongside their Community Fridge model.

“ We are adapting one of our facilities and this has been due to the fridge model being so successful – we will create a safe warm space for people to access the fridge model, grow food, cook food and access services to support cash first approaches.

Thank you

to Barmulloch Community Development Company for their contribution to this 'cash-first in action' series.

You can see more 'cash-first in action' profiles via Glasgow Community Food Network's website at <https://glasgowfood.net/>

This series is part of a wider Scottish Government funded project, delivered by Paddy McKenna, commissioned by Glasgow Community Food Network.

