

Connecting better in the local area.

Each group look at the statement from different positions depending on their relationship, connection to GCFN. There were individuals, community organisations, service providers and volunteers.

All of the groups talked about a HUB - where they might be able to get information about whatever it was that they needed to know.

It was suggested that Community councils could be the go to to tell people what is in the local area, as they get funding. It was discussed that different people got to different places for information, other places suggested were libraries, local housing associations and on a bigger scale the internet.

Focusing on who/ what you want to connect with, finding other groups in the area by researching or by attending events and networking. Organisations can connect better by making themselves known to the public, by having events, doorknocking, collaboration and co-creating events or projects. Connecting with others by advertising events putting up posters and using Social Media - Facebook, twitterEventbrite, What's on Glasgow, East Renfrewshire..

There was people who talked about building up a directory of information and how to keep this updated.

It was discussed that sometimes as soon as a directory is made it is almost straightaway that something in it will have changed due to the nature of funding and community projects.

One organisation said that doing POP-UP events it was difficult to connect with local area without so much local knowledge.

Foodbanks and Community meals were talked about as places people can find out a lot about whats going on in an area from the local people, individuals are happy to share local knowledge if people are looking for

help and don't know where to go to. Often local people know more than the facilitators.

It was suggested that Holistic interventions can occur by having many services in one place. Having Citizens Advice and other services come along to community meals.

Sharing best practice - Things work better if they are connected, sharing with each other what they are doing. Professionals who are offering a service connecting with others, networking, working in partnership with organisations like homestart, mothers and toddlers and other local organisations. Groups reaching out to other groups, visiting other groups and facilitators organising or taking individuals or groups to other services.

One individual was working with another organisation who had previously done a guide to the foodbanks in the area, so they were working with them to keep the guide updated and doing a limited number.

Other suggestions were: -

- Community map - e.g. collective of growers mapping what's going on in their own areas from homegrown gardens to community gardens.
- Social Enterprise Network Map
- Connecting with Local MP's
- Evaluation what works well and why, Reflecting on partnerships work that has worked well and work that hasn't gone so well.