

# Break Out Session Group 1 Notes

Provided by Mary Sinclair

## Networking Sessions

Issue specific or locality focussed networking sessions would be valuable. Whilst the larger quarterly networking events are useful, it would be really good to have smaller more frequent networking sessions that focus on more specific issues. Would provide an opportunity to go into more depth on issues of particular interest.

- a quick survey out to members could generate a list of potential sessions. Some sessions might be suitable for individuals / groups at different stages in their journey. e.g. new starts
- would be good if people were comfortable enough to share what hasn't worked for them as well as what has worked. Sometimes people feel awkward about what hasn't worked, but this is valuable learning / lessons learned to share and avoid others making the same mistakes.
- also good if networking sessions could reflect that lots of activity happens at a hyper local level.

## Community Learning Exchanges

- It would be good to access the fund for this via Scottish Community Alliance.
- great to visit good examples as a group and for the host to receive some payment for this.
- these could focus on groups / organisations targeting different groups, e.g. New Scots women, or employability or intergenerational activity, etc.
- opportunity to explore reflective practice.
- explore different approaches to resourcing activities such as funding, volunteering etc.

## Communication

- sharing and promoting members' good news stories and developments
- raising the profile of community food network members across the city and amongst other partners
- often groups are doing great work, but don;t promote themselves, and this could be a really valuable service for GCFN to provide for members.
- it would also strengthen the network and encourage sharing
- also a role for GCFN in simplifying / demystifying complex language and bureacratic processes. Making some of these issues more understandable and accessible to a wider range of members.

## Influencing

- follows on from point above

- it would be useful to have something / some provide a breakdown of the power structure within GCC, explain how GCC operates?
- An Elected Members briefing on community food in Glasgow.
- how can GCFN support influencing? opportunity via Glasgow Food Policy Partnership?
- academic perspectives on this? providing clarity on some legal definitions

#### Connecting members

- this would also strengthen the network
- introducing members to one another that are interested in particular issues to have conversations and potentially take forward developments / collaborations (e.g. provided was of sharing kitchen tools)
- this links back in to the more focussed network sessions / discussions
- there's a danger that people are working in isolation and often feeling down / desperate with what they are trying to do. Role for GCFN in facilitating / providing opportunities for peer support amongst members.

#### Connecting with corporates

- role of GCFN to provide introductions / make connections between GCFN members and corporates, where there is interest
- could this fit in with the Food Economy Working Group and actions in the City Food PPlan?
- there's also a potential income from this
- link to Procurement Working group re. community benefits?

#### Identifying best practice

- finding out what's happening , provide examples , case studies etc that would provide inspiration and potentially demonstrate how the whole food system is connected

## Break Out Session Group 2 Notes

Copied by Rebecca Livesey-Wright

In response to 'Swap Shop' activity → use recorded

In response to 'Develop robust monitoring and evaluation' → build in monitoring in activity

Added indicators for 'Demonstrating alternative food systems':

- Reduce food poverty
- Record new systems

## Break Out Session Group 3 Notes

Copied by Rebecca Livesey-Wright

In response to 'Membership involvement' → Individuals vs. orgs. Expertise? → Different levels of membership → Sponsorship? But need to be appropriate (no greenwashing)

Added to 'Resources':

- Campaign based roles → Sustain roles i.e. Thalia
- Fundraising officer → reporting/reposting processes, deadlines

In response to 'Increased networking, connections and support' → informal space

Added to 'Activities' in line with 'Food and Climate Action Project'

- Community composting scheme?
- Urban food production

Added to 'Indicators' in line with 'Strengthening the Organisation':

- Number of members increases annually
- Active participation in events and network

## Break Out Session Group 4 Notes

Copied by Rebecca Livesey-Wright

Added 'Outcomes' as a column:

- Long term/ more secure funding
- Stronger and more resilient community food sector
- ↓ Reliance on surplus food in community sector
- ↑ Training and employment opportunities in community food sector
- ↓ Land available for market gardening
- ↓ Contracts

## Break Out Session Group 5 Notes

Provided by Rebecca Livesey-Wright

In response to 'Operations manager' → at the moment, the director are at the helm → important to have someone in post

In response to 'Members involvement' → how can we max this?

(collated a post-it notes - not entirely relevant to any particular point on the document)

- Nexus of people's experiences → repository
- At the moment, decisions are made on an ad-hoc level
- Road map to getting land ⇒resources for understanding how things work
- Funding goes in trends - at the moment, the majority of GCFN's funding comes from health
- Specific focus for engaging young people and children and engaging through the arts
- Allotments → demographics have changed fro working class to middle class
- Destigmatise food → food stories though life cycle
- Food is great vehicle for engaging with the arts and STEM
- Cross- sector convos around best practice e.g. arts and food, arts and climate (GSA, Rumpus Room are some orgs already doing this)
- Funding for access to kand → central repository for funding opportunities → but important to remember to keep your core aims ↓
- Creating skill-sharing/ network strengthening → speed dating for a skills exchange
- Needs and requests page on website
- Campaigns?
- Understanding production of food → and communicating to people
- Scottish Food Coalition → Brenda fed back need for learning exchanges
- Workshops and events on things like acquiring land fundraising etc,
- Seasonal resources and skillsharing events
- What are things that we should be famous for?