



## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

SC049428



AUGUST 2020

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

We are delighted to introduce Supporting Our Community's first Annual Review which showcases some of the achievements and impacts we have had this year.

## FOREWORD - DOUGLAS MCINTOSH, CHAIRPERSON

*We have come a long way in our first year.*

*SOC has offered hope to so many people and we want to continue to develop the programmes and services that we provide. The SOC Community Centre has offered a wide range of activities for people of all ages. The addition of our new Outdoor Learning Centre will enable us to expand and to support more local people by providing access to practical training opportunities.*

*Our centre users tell us that SOC is an important resource within the community. We are committed to offering free services and will strive to keep it this way.*

*I have been privileged to work alongside so many committed people and would like to invite people from across the area to come to our centre and meet our friendly and supportive team.*



**Douglas McIntosh**  
SOC Chairperson

**Mission: Improve health and wellbeing across our community.**

## INTRODUCTION

Supporting Our Community (SOC) officially launched in the summer of 2019. This was the culmination of the efforts from our dedicated volunteers with support from South Lanarkshire Council.

After several months of research and careful planning, our committee identified a suitable property, on Comely Bank, Hillhouse from which to provide support services for the Hillhouse, Burnbank and Blantyre areas.

Our Committee arranged a meeting with Hamilton Baptist Church to present our plans for the property. The church committee were impressed by our plans and, as owners of the property at 19A Comely Bank, Hillhouse, they agreed to lease the property to SOC and this became the SOC Community Centre and Support Hub.

Hamilton Baptist Church has continued to assist us throughout our journey and we are grateful for the guidance and support we have received.

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY(SOC)

SOC provides a social/community hub for people from the Hillhouse, Burnbank and Blantyre areas of South Lanarkshire, which are all areas of multiple deprivation. We offer adult, family and intergenerational activities to encourage community participation, reduce isolation and loneliness, and we offer a signposting service to other support services.

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY LAUNCH

The SOC Centre opened its doors on the 8th of June 2019. To help celebrate this occasion, we were fortunate to be joined by elected members, Councillors Mary Donnelly and Allan Falconer, along with Elliot Simpson (Hamilton Baptist Church) and our celebrity guest, Motorbike Milly.



Members of the community came along to support the launch event on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2019. A great day for all concerned, as our volunteers take over the new centre in Hillhouse.



Motorbike Milly attending our opening ceremony.



The Rouse Family who helped to establish the centre in memory of Darian.



Elliott Simpson (HBC) with Councillors Donnelly and Falconer officially opening SOC Community Centre

## TRAINING

To further develop our support services, as well as providing learning opportunities for local residents; we coordinated a range of accredited learning programmes; as well as training and information workshops with a focus on Health and Wellbeing. These included:

- Scotland Mental Health First Aid
- Suicide Talk
- Mental Health Awareness
- Indian Head Massage



We wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to **NHS Lanarkshire and Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health (LAMH)** for their guidance and training. Their input helped our members to gain the knowledge, understanding and information they need to be able to approach and offer appropriate guidance to people in crisis.

## ACTIVITIES

SOC staff and volunteers provide a range of supports. We have developed links with a range of partners to ensure local people get the service they deserve.

The centre is accessible and we cater for all ages and abilities.

We aim to be responsive to local need and all of our programmes and activities are free.



Our volunteers used their skills to provide Guitar Lessons for both young people and adults.



Weekly Coffee Mornings on Tuesday mornings offer free teas and coffees and cakes.



A community asset based approach enabled SOC to offer Sewing, Knitting and Crochet lessons.



Free Family Activity sessions encouraged families to spend some quality time together.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTRE & APPOINTING OUR PROJECT COORDINATOR

Funding from the Investing in Communities Fund (ICF) enabled SOC to employ a Project Coordinator. This funding came at the outset of Covid 19. Therefore, an interim appointment was agreed by our Board of Trustees in order to achieve the targets outlined in our agreement with ICF. After careful consideration, Mark Rouse was appointed as our Project Coordinator.

SOC has faced huge problems as a result of Covid and Lockdown. However, we have overcome these issues and we are seeing the effectiveness and the positive impact Mark and the volunteers have made by utilising local knowledge and building support networks. SOC has continued to stay on track with our commitments with ICF. The Outdoor Learning Centre is close to completion and will be launched as soon as we can do so responsibly. The centre will provide practical classes on Woodwork as well as developing our Community Garden



## WELLBEING & SUPPORT THROUGHOUT COVID 19 LOCKDOWN

Led by our newly appointed Project Coordinator, SOC has continued to work throughout the Covid 19 Lockdown period.

We supported South Lanarkshire Council's Wellbeing Task Force to respond to the needs of vulnerable people in the area by delivering essential prescriptions.

New partnerships were developed with the 'Covid 19 Warriors', 'I Spy a Rainbow' and we became members of 'Fare Share'. We worked together to provide food parcels and we were fortunate to access funding that enabled us to provide resources for families, so that they could support their children's learning as well as have some fun together.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who came along and offered their time to develop and deliver the food and resource parcels, as well as collecting and delivering prescriptions.

The Outdoor Learning Centre will help SOC to expand and offer fun learning opportunities and encourage groups to learn new skills to give them the confidence to make home improvements themselves. Thus, reducing costs and help to save money.



## THE NEXT STEPS

SOC hopes to be back on track in the coming months. The safety of our staff, volunteers and centre users is paramount, therefore, we will only re-open when it is safe to do so. In line with the 'New-Norm' following lockdown, we have begun to implement practices and procedures to ensure the safety of everyone entering SOC.

We plan to offer some trial programmes over the coming months and these will be offered via our Facebook page. Places will be limited as we adhere strictly with the physical distancing guidance. We aim to be fully operational as soon as Government guidance permits us to do so.

We sincerely hope that you will join us  
and we look forward to seeing you all when we re-open.

## ACCOUNTS

### STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

For the year: 6th April 2019 - 5th April 2020

<b>Receipts</b>		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	<b>Total Funds This Year</b>	Total Funds Previous Year
Partner Projects		3,250.00	5,000.00	<b>8,250.00</b>	-
Donations		3,039.56	-	<b>3,039.56</b>	-
Fundraising activities		3,467.28	-	<b>3,467.28</b>	-
Grants	4	-	18,008.00	<b>18,008.00</b>	-
<b>Total receipts</b>		9,756.84	23,008.00	<b>32,764.84</b>	-
<b>Payments</b>					
Staff costs		27.00	858.00	<b>885.00</b>	-
Rent, Utilities and Legals		1,417.37	2,300.00	<b>3,717.37</b>	-
Garden Upgrades and maintenance		899.94	5,000.00	<b>5,899.94</b>	-
Internal Upgrades and maintenance		1,616.06	3,400.00	<b>5,016.06</b>	-
Consumables		223.98	800.00	<b>1,023.98</b>	-
Training		-	570.00	<b>570.00</b>	-
Summer Programme		2.58	600.00	<b>602.58</b>	-
Miscellaneous		228.04	250.00	<b>478.04</b>	-
Governance costs	5				
<b>Total payments</b>		4,514.97	13,778.00	<b>18,192.97</b>	-
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>					
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		5,241.87	9,230.00	<b>14,571.87</b>	-

## **SUPPORT FROM OUR ELECTED MEMBERS**

From the outset, SOC has benefitted from the advice, guidance and support from elected members. We are proud to say that a number of elected members have visited our centre and took time out from their busy schedule to hold discussions with our members.

Christina McKelvie MSP has helped to drive much of our work and, through her efforts and her input to 'A Connected Scotland: Tackling social isolation and loneliness', we know that she really cares about the work we do.

Margaret Mitchell MSP visited SOC Centre to talk with us about our plans. She was so supportive that she put forward a motion in the Scottish Parliament to congratulate us on attaining charitable status and acknowledge our work and aims.

We were fortunate to be visited by Ged Killen, former MP for the area. He met with our committee and offered some great advice.

Margaret Ferrier MP has also attended the centre to share information and to find out more about what we are trying to achieve.

Councillors Mary Donnelly, Allan Falconer, Graeme Horne and Michael McGeever have all visited SOC Centre to offer their guidance and support.

**We thank you all and hope that you will continue to support us in the future**

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

**Supporting Our Community (SOC)**

**19A Comely Bank**

**Hillhouse**

**Hamilton**

**ML3 9TR**

**Email: S.O.C2019@OUTLOOK.COM**

## **FUNDING AND SUPPORT**

In our first year, we have been successful in gaining funds to support our mission. SOC has been privileged to receive funding from a number of local and national providers, as well as fundraising and donations from our volunteers and concerned individuals and charities.

We sincerely wish to thank all of our funders and supporters. They are:

<p>Hamilton Baptist Church Gillian Summers ASDA Hamilton Community Champion HSBC Family Learning Action Group Townhouse Townies Promoting Roles of Father Figures Coalfields Regeneration Trust Morgan Ward Chloe's Rainbow Fund Liz and Graham Johnstone Our Place Our Plan VASLAN NHS Lanarkshire</p>	<p>Investing in Communities Fund Hillhouse Parish Church Foundation Scotland SCOTMID Donna Rouse (Walk of Hope) Strang Family South Lanarkshire Council Community Links Regen FX Youth Trust Weir Trust Hillhouse Community Council Renewable Energy Trust CORRA Foundation LAMH</p>
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