



**KINGSWAY
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025/26

Presence

a reflection on relationships,
participation and community life



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Reflections from our **Managing Director**

Lainy Bedingfield's fifth year leading Kingsway Community Connections.



It is once again my pleasure to share KCC's Annual Impact Report.

This has been a special year as we celebrated 25 years of the organisation. Reflecting on the year, what stays with me most is not simply what took place, but what this place continues to mean to people.

Across the year, our spaces remained full of life. People came through the doors for groups, activities, advice, food, events, learning, youth work, volunteering and everyday connection. Familiar faces returned, new relationships formed and people came together through shared experiences.

At a time when many people continue to experience pressure, uncertainty and isolation, places where people feel welcomed, included and able to take part matter more than ever.

I have been especially aware of the importance of supporting young people. Over the past year, we have seen both the challenges many young people are facing and the value of providing safe, familiar spaces where they feel respected, supported and able to be themselves.

Some of the moments that have stayed with me most have not been large, organised activities or planned outcomes, but the ordinary moments in between. Young people sitting around together making endless rounds of toast, laughing, talking, checking in with one another and continuing to come back week after week.

We do not have expensive equipment or endless resources. Some nights it feels like we are running on footballs, a toaster and relationships. Yet despite that, the group continues to grow. For me, that says something important about the value of trusted spaces, consistency and adults who genuinely care enough to keep showing up.

I have seen countless examples of people supporting one another, getting involved and helping shape the life of KCC. People stepped forward to volunteer, participants tried new things, friendships strengthened and communities came together across cultures, generations and experiences.

While many of these moments may appear ordinary, together they create the connection and sense of belonging that continue to define KCC.

I remain deeply grateful to everyone who contributes to this work: our staff team, volunteers, Board of Directors, partners, residents and participants. The spirit of KCC is shaped by the people who continue to walk through the doors and make this place what it is.

I hope this report feels like a meaningful reflection of them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'L' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Lainy



LAINY
Managing Director

Photo Credit:
Gordon Terris/Herald and Times Group

Presence

This year's report is themed around Presence. For over 25 years, KCC has been a place where people have come together for friendship, support, learning, advice, food, activities and connection.

As we reflected on the past year, we kept returning to the importance of simply being there. Being present within the community. Being present for one another. Having somewhere familiar to go, relationships to rely on and a place where people feel welcomed and known.

Throughout this report, you will see different examples of what presence means to our community: familiar faces, trusted relationships, shared experiences and people continuing to be part of one another's lives.

The stories, photographs and reflections that follow are all examples of what presence can look like in practice.

Why Presence Matters

Personal Growth & Wellness is the lens through which all of our work is designed, delivered and evaluated. It reflects our belief that communities thrive not when their deficits are managed, but when their strengths are recognised and supported.



PERSONAL GROWTH & WELLNESS

Throughout this report we reflect on the importance of Presence. People returning week after week, familiar faces, shared meals, conversations, volunteering, learning and time spent together.

These moments may appear ordinary, but they are often where Personal Growth begins. Personal Growth & Wellness helps us understand why these everyday interactions matter.

EVERY INTERACTION HAS PURPOSE

At KCC, we see every interaction as an opportunity to encourage Personal Growth. Whether someone joins a walking group, attends an activity, seeks advice or simply stops for a chat, staff and volunteers think intentionally about how each interaction can encourage confidence, participation, connection and wellbeing.



Learn more about the origins of Personal Growth & Wellness by watching Sir Harry Burns' TEDx talk.



LEARNING FROM EVERY INTERACTION

Alongside recognising the changes experienced by the people we support, we reflect on the intentional actions taken by staff and volunteers that may have encouraged those changes. This strengthens our practice, helps us learn from experience and supports greater consistency across the organisation.

Every day we ask ourselves...

What did I intentionally do today to encourage Personal Growth?



By reflecting on our own practice, we continually strengthen the way we support people and create more opportunities for Personal Growth.



NADIR, HASAN, ISAEAH
Kingsway Youth Group

Who We Are

Kingsway Community Connections (KCC) is a community anchor organisation based in the heart of Kingsway Court, serving the wider Garscadden and Scotstounhill area.



Our vision is one of a Proud, Capable and Confident multicultural community.

KCC is a place where people come together. It is a place for support, friendship, learning, laughter, food, conversation, culture, care and community.

We believe people are more likely to flourish when they feel connected to others, able to participate and are part of a community that values them.

Our work is shaped by Personal Growth & Wellness, which influences how we build relationships, respond to people and support personal growth across all areas of the organisation.

For many people, KCC has become a familiar and trusted part of everyday life within the community.



HANNA

Conversation Cafe Volunteer

Community life

At KCC, activities, groups and events are about far more than filling time. They help people feel connected, welcomed and part of something bigger than themselves.



Many activities begin through simple conversations with residents about what they would enjoy, what they would like to try or what might encourage someone to come along for the first time. Some activities have become longstanding parts of KCC because people genuinely enjoy them and continue returning week after week. Others have grown naturally through friendships, shared interests and the confidence people build over time.

People came together through Activity for All, walking group, coffee mornings, community events, shared meals and informal gatherings. These moments created opportunities for people to meet others, build confidence, try new things and feel more connected to their community. Participation is about more than attending an activity. It is about being part of the life of the community, building relationships and having opportunities to contribute, connect and belong.

What may sometimes look like ordinary moments often carry real significance. A conversation over tea, someone returning after a difficult period, a new resident attending for the first time, or familiar faces laughing together all help shape the sense of belonging that continues to define KCC.



FARIBA
Volunteer

Culture & Community

KCC is proud to be part of a multicultural community, and throughout the year our groups continued to reflect the languages, cultures, relationships and shared experiences that make Kingsway unique.



Women came together through Kurdish, Afghan, Sudanese and Kingsway Women's Groups, while families and community members connected through Tamil language activity. Across these groups, people shared food, conversation, culture, support and friendship.

Many groups were shaped collaboratively with participants, with activities and discussions developing naturally through shared interests, experiences and ideas. This helped create spaces that felt welcoming, familiar and comfortable for the people attending.

The numbers tell an important story. They show how many people returned, not once, but again and again, because the space mattered to them.



KURDISH WOMEN’S GROUP

The Kurdish Women’s Group continued to be one of the busiest and most regularly attended groups within KCC, creating opportunities for women and children to spend time together through activities, conversation and peer support.



173

Individuals



27

Sessions



1988

Interactions

TAMIL LANGUAGE GROUP

The Tamil Language Group supported cultural connection, language, learning and participation across different age groups.



35

Individuals



48

Sessions



433

Interactions



GROUPS AT KINGSWAY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



KINGSWAY WOMEN'S GROUP

Kingsway Women's Group provided opportunities for women to come together through conversation, activities and shared experiences, helping build friendships, confidence and routine.



18

Individuals



35

Sessions



175

Interactions

SUDANESE WOMEN'S GROUP

Women attending the Sudanese Women's Group spent time together, shared experiences and enjoyed activities in a supportive and familiar environment.



36

Individuals



21

Sessions



157

Interactions



AFGHAN WOMEN'S GROUP

The Afghan Women's Group created a welcoming space where women could meet regularly, get to know one another and participate in activities together.



20

Individuals



11

Sessions



141

Interactions

Activity & Wellbeing

Activity for All sessions and the Walking Group continued to provide regular opportunities for people to come together, stay active and enjoy spending time with others.



ACTIVITY FOR ALL

For many participants, these groups became part of their weekly routine. They offered opportunities to try new things, build confidence, improve wellbeing and remain connected to others through shared experiences and conversation.

TOTALS



160

Individuals



112

Sessions



561

Interactions

While activities varied throughout the year, what remained consistent was the sense of welcome, encouragement and friendship that developed within the groups.

People often spoke about the importance of having somewhere to go, people to see and activities they looked forward to each week.

Activity for All brought people together through a range of creative, physical and wellbeing-focused activities, including arts and crafts, exercise and opportunities to try something new.

Sessions encouraged participation at a pace that felt comfortable for individuals while creating opportunities for social connection and enjoyment.

“

‘I really enjoyed Yoga today, it was so lovely. I always enjoy it but today it really meant a lot to me.’

Yoga Participant

”

“

‘It was brilliant, great stories, memories and all round banter. It was a very feel-good session.’

Story telling Participant

”

 ACTIVITY & WELLBEING

BRAZILIAN DRUMMING

Music brings joy, energy and plenty of noise! Our Brazilian Drumming workshops have delivered all that and more, giving participants the chance to learn exciting rhythms while having fun together.



11

Individuals



8

Sessions



45

Interactions

WREATH MAKING



Now an eagerly anticipated annual workshop, wreath making has become a wonderful opportunity for people to come together, get creative, and add a little festive magic to the season.



18

Individuals



2

Sessions



18

Interactions

JAPANESE ART & CRAFT

People were introduced to traditional Japanese art forms, including calligraphy and origami. They learned the basics of these ancient arts, practised writing their names in Japanese calligraphy, and created beautiful pieces of artwork to take home.



5

Individuals



1

Sessions



5

Interactions



ACTIVITY & WELLBEING



WEAVING

Our weaving workshops gave participants the opportunity to learn a traditional craft, develop new skills, and create beautiful handmade pieces to take home. As part of the workshops, participants also worked together to create a special woven piece celebrating KCC's 25th anniversary.



22

Individuals



11

Sessions



42

Interactions

PHOTOGRAPHY

Our photography workshops celebrated Kingsway's past, present and future. Participants selected their favourite photos from the last 25 years, captured new images of the community today, and designed a creative piece showcasing their vision for the future of Kingsway.



14

Individuals



6

Sessions



46

Interactions



YOGA

Our yoga sessions provided a calm and welcoming space for people to relax, improve their wellbeing, and build confidence. Through gentle movement, stretching and mindfulness, participants enjoyed taking time to focus on both their physical and mental health.



19

Individuals



41

Sessions



203

Interactions



 ACTIVITY & WELLBEING

WALKING GROUP



The Walking Group continued to provide opportunities for people to spend time outdoors, explore local areas and enjoy conversation while walking together. More than simply physical activity, the group created space for friendship, peer support and shared experiences, helping participants remain connected and active throughout the year.



50
Individuals



28
Sessions



265
Interactions



Presence FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Throughout the year, KCC provided safe, familiar and welcoming spaces for children and young people.



Through school holiday activity, outdoor play and relationship-based youth work, young people had opportunities to spend time together, build friendships and be supported by adults they know and trust. As concerns around violence affecting young people remained present within the community, trusted youth work became increasingly important for many young people and families. Young people need somewhere they can go before situations reach crisis point. They need trusted adults, consistent relationships and spaces where they feel safe, respected and able to be themselves.

KCC helped provide that.

YOUTH PROVISION AT A GLANCE



80

youth sessions
delivered



112

young people
engaged



1284

interactions
recorded



500+

free meals
provided



My team won the tug-of-war and I really liked the egg and spoon race... I come here to see my friends and having fun during summer holidays.

Young Person, Outdoor Youth Programme



 YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINGSWAY



OUTDOOR YOUTH PROGRAMME

During school holidays, KCC delivered outdoor activity for primary-aged children, creating opportunities for play, friendship and exploring the local community together.

Sessions provided safe and supportive environments for young people to spend time together, while free lunches helped reduce financial pressure for families.



71

Individuals



22

Sessions



501

Interactions



Accessibility is at the heart of our youth work - free provision, familiar staff and flexible engagement ensure that young people can take part without barriers.



YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINGSWAY



“Young people deserve safe spaces, trusted adults and communities that believe in them.”



YOUNG PEOPLE IN KINGSWAY

KINGSWAY BOYS YOUTH GROUP

Relationship-based youth work remained an important part of KCC’s work throughout the year.

The group was not only about planned activity. Sometimes it was football, games or conversation. Sometimes it was sitting together making toast, checking in, laughing or giving young people somewhere familiar to be. These everyday moments helped build trust over time.

That trust matters. It means young people know where they can go, who they can speak to and which adults will listen without judgement.



KCC introduced young people to Boxing at Antonine Boxing Club and Football with Achieve More Scotland!



41

Individuals



58

Sessions



783

Interactions

Presence THROUGH PRACTICAL SUPPORT

KCC continued to provide practical support for residents experiencing financial pressure, crisis and uncertainty.



Alongside more formal advice provision, many people accessed support through informal conversations, drop-ins and trusted relationships within the Centre. The flexibility of the approach allowed people to ask for help in ways that felt accessible and familiar.

WELFARE ADVICE & SUPPORT SERVICE

The Welfare Advice Service supported residents with benefits, debt, housing and wider financial pressures affecting households across the community.

A mix of appointments and drop-in support remained an important part of the approach, allowing immediate issues to be addressed while maintaining access to more in-depth support where required.



808

Drop in
Interactions



247

Welfare
Appointments



505
Food Support
Referrals

FOOD & CRISIS SUPPORT

KCC supported residents to access emergency food provision in a dignified and accessible way through partnership working with North West Pantry and Foodbank.



These figures reflect the pressure many households are facing, but they also show something important: people knew where they could turn.



PRACTICAL SUPPORT AT KINGSWAY

DIGITAL INCLUSION

Community digital access supported residents requiring access to computers, telephone facilities and Wi-Fi, while referrals to the Plugged In project helped people access devices and connectivity where needed.



18
Individuals



35
Referrals



175
Interactions

“

I use the computer (at KCC) to check my Universal Credit and message my work coach. I don’t have a phone or access to the internet at home.

Resident

”



FINANCIAL WELLNESS WORKSHOP

A Financial Wellness Workshop also created space for practical guidance and discussion around managing household finances during a difficult time for many families.

“

I attended the workshop and left feeling confident that I will be able to save money on my bills.

Workshop Attendee

”

Presence THROUGH LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

KCC continued to support learning in ways that felt welcoming, relaxed and rooted in community life.



The newly formed Conversation Café became a relaxed and welcoming space where people practised speaking English over cups of tea, conversation and lots of laughter.

Additional learning took place through Popular Education sessions and workshops with young people, including community mapping and gambling awareness. These sessions created opportunities for discussion, participation and shared learning around issues affecting the local area.



12

Conversation
Cafe
Participants



4

Conversation
Cafe
Sessions



8

Popular
Education
participants



7

Popular
Education
sessions

 LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT AT KINGSWAY

ESOL PROVISION

Delivered in partnership with Glasgow Clyde College, ESOL classes supported people to improve language skills within a familiar community setting.

Classes took place across elementary and literacies levels, helping ensure people with different levels of confidence and experience could take part comfortably.



40

Individuals engaged



99

Sessions delivered



599

Interactions recorded

“

I couldn't get a place at college and ESOL at Kingsway is good for me as I can study close to where I live and be able to collect my kids from school afterwards.

ESOL Student

”

EVERYDAY *Presence*

Much of KCC's work takes place through everyday contact with the community.

Breakfast Club, food access, the Community Garden, newsletters, the mobile shop and the open-door feel of the Centre all helped create familiar points of connection throughout the year.



Residents used the space in informal and accessible ways. People came in for tea or coffee, made toast, browsed the community library, accessed the community wardrobe, used the Wi-Fi, asked for help or simply spent time with other residents and staff.

These everyday interactions often created opportunities for conversation, support and connection in ways that felt natural and welcoming.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club provided children and families with a familiar and welcoming start to the day through food, routine and social connection.

The group also helped reduce financial pressure for families during a time of rising living costs.



67

Individuals
Supported



177

Sessions
Delivered



2346

Breakfasts
served



COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Community Garden remained at capacity throughout the year, with all plots occupied and demand from residents wanting to take part.

The garden created opportunities for people to grow food, spend time outdoors, connect with others and enjoy a calm space within the community.



17

Occupied
Plots



14

Residents on
waiting list

NEWSLETTERS

KCC distributed over 1,000 newsletters to local households, helping residents stay informed about groups, support, activities and events taking place across the Centre.

MOBILE COMMUNITY SHOP

In partnership with Good Food Scotland, KCC hosted a weekly mobile community shop, helping residents access affordable food within the local area in a way that felt accessible and dignified.





MEET THE TEAM AT KINGSWAY



LAINY BEDINGFIELD

Managing Director

Lainy is the longest serving member of staff at KCC and has worked within the organisation since 2016. Her approach is shaped by community development values, relationship-based practice and a strong belief in trusted community spaces.

While her role is focused on leadership, partnerships and the long-term development of the organisation, she remains a visible presence within the Centre and closely connected to the everyday life of KCC.



STEPHANIE COYLE

Administrator & Finance Officer

Stephanie has worked at KCC since 2021. Warm, friendly and approachable, she is often one of the first people residents and visitors connect with when contacting or visiting KCC.

Known for being caring and meticulous in her work, Stephanie manages the organisation's day-to-day administration and financial record keeping while contributing to the welcoming atmosphere people experience when they visit.



Lainy and Jamie attended Scottish Violence Reduction Unit's (SVRU) 20th anniversary event "Unfinished Business: The Next Twenty"

February 2026



MEET THE TEAM AT KINGSWAY



JOE MCSHANNON

Programme & Development Coordinator

Joe has worked at KCC since 2023 and coordinates the organisation's programme of activities, groups and community engagement.

Calm and thoughtful in his approach, he works closely with residents, staff and partners to help ensure activities feel welcoming, engaging and responsive to the people taking part.



JAMIE O'NEILL

Community Development Worker

Jamie is a former resident of the Kingsway Estate and is well known and trusted across the community.

He has a particular interest in supporting young people and many residents naturally turn to him for support, advice or a conversation. His strong local connections and understanding of the area help people feel comfortable within the Centre.



Joe, Steph and, former staff member, Beth took part in the Kilt Walk raising £1,167 for KCC!

Thank you to everyone who donated.

April 2025



MEET THE TEAM AT KINGSWAY



PAUL HARRISON

Welfare Advice & Support Worker

Paul joined KCC last year and has quickly built strong relationships with residents accessing support through the Centre.

Known for his caring and approachable nature, Paul is someone people trust during difficult periods. He is deeply committed to ensuring residents feel supported, listened to and treated with dignity.



SESSIONAL STAFF

We couldn't deliver our work without the dedication of our exceptional sessional staff, whose care and consistency make so much possible. Our youth work programme was supported by a great team of Youth Workers, each bringing their own energy, creativity and commitment to the young people they work with.

Our Community Development Gardener, Eric, keeps the garden thriving and offers guidance and encouragement to plot holders and residents alike, helping them grow with confidence.



VOLUNTEERS AT KINGSWAY



Volunteers continue to play an important role in the life of KCC.

Our volunteers support activities, events, groups and the everyday running of the Centre. Some give their time regularly each week, while others step forward to help at particular events or when extra support is needed.

Together, they help create the warm and welcoming atmosphere that people experience when they come through our doors.

The contribution volunteers make goes far beyond practical support. They offer conversation, encouragement, friendship and a listening ear. They share their skills, experiences and local knowledge, helping people feel connected and ensuring KCC remains rooted in the community it serves.

Volunteering is also a two-way relationship. Many of our volunteers tell us that being involved has helped them build confidence, develop new skills, make friends and feel more connected to their community.

Whether helping behind the scenes, supporting activities or simply taking time to be there for others, every contribution matters.

To all of our volunteers, thank you. Your time, kindness and commitment make a real difference, and KCC is stronger because of you.



Colm Merrick MSP with Hadi and Kenan



Volunteering at Kingsway has helped me grow in confidence and meet new people while giving something back to my community.

Yassir, Youth Volunteer





JOHN
Chair



BOARD OF DIRECTORS & FUNDERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

KCC is supported by a voluntary Board of Directors who provide governance, strategic oversight and support to the organisation.

Board members bring a range of professional, lived and community experience, helping ensure KCC remains accountable, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community it serves.

We would like to thank all of our Directors for their time, commitment and ongoing contribution throughout the year.

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

The work reflected in this report is only possible because of the commitment of our funders, partners and donors.

Their investment enables KCC to provide trusted spaces, practical help, community activities, learning opportunities and relationship-based youth work. More importantly, it sustains the people, places and relationships that strengthen our community.

While funding is often associated with individual projects and activities, its greatest impact is seen in the connections, trust and continuity that develop over time. It is reflected in friendships formed, confidence built, support accessed, communities strengthened and the thousands of everyday interactions that take place across the Centre each year.

As community needs continue to evolve, long-term investment remains essential. Communities rely on organisations like KCC not simply to deliver programmes, but to provide consistent, accessible and trusted places where people can connect, find support and build relationships. This kind of work cannot be created or sustained through short-term funding alone.

We recognise the importance of the continued investment made by those who support KCC and the community we serve. This commitment helps ensure that these opportunities, relationships and supports remain present, responsive and available for the long term.



MINA'S STORY WITH KCC

When Mina first connected with KCC, it was through her children's involvement in the Outdoor Youth Programme. Attending during the school holidays gave her children opportunities to build friendships, spend time outdoors and get to know staff within a safe and familiar environment.

As the family's connection with KCC grew, Mina began attending Breakfast Club regularly with her children. What started as a practical source of support soon became something more. The Club provided a welcoming start to the day, access to food and an opportunity to spend time with other parents, carers and staff. Through these relationships, Mina became increasingly involved in the life of KCC and began building confidence within the community.

Over time, Mina took on new responsibilities within the organisation. She became a founding member and volunteer facilitator of the Sudanese Women's Group before later joining KCC as a sessional Youth Worker, supporting the Outdoor Youth Programme during the October holidays.

Alongside this, Mina accessed support through the Welfare Advice Service to address significant debt issues affecting her family. Through a combination of practical support, trusted relationships and opportunities to participate, she became more involved, more confident and more connected within the community.

Looking back across Mina's journey, it is possible to see how different parts of KCC became connected. What began through her children attending holiday activities gradually led to friendships, volunteering, employment and access to support when it was needed. Her story reflects how relationships and participation can often create opportunities for growth in ways that are difficult to predict at the outset.



"What began with her children attending holiday activities grew into volunteering, employment, lifelong friendships and renewed confidence."



CASE STUDIES

JANETTE'S STORY WITH KCC

When Janette first came to KCC, she was looking for a yoga class. Having recently returned to Glasgow after living elsewhere in Scotland, she was adjusting to retirement and the loss of both her husband and sister. Her social circle had become much smaller and she was looking for ways to meet people and feel more connected locally.

What began as a weekly yoga session soon became much more than exercise. Janette enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere, the opportunity to improve her fitness and the chance to spend time with others. After sessions, people often stayed for tea and conversation, and she gradually became part of a group of familiar faces she looked forward to seeing each week.

As her confidence grew, so did her involvement. Janette began attending the Walking Group, wellbeing activities and community events, building new friendships and becoming more connected to life at KCC. Mondays became something she looked forward to and yoga became an important part of her weekly routine.

In 2024, Janette underwent a heart valve replacement. Following surgery, she was able to return to yoga within a few months. She often speaks about the positive difference that staying active, connected and involved has made to both her physical and emotional wellbeing.

Today, Janette remains a regular part of the KCC community. What started as a search for a yoga class became friendships, routine, connection and a renewed sense of purpose at a time when she needed it most.



"Through staying active and connected, Janette found friendships, confidence and a community she now calls home."

25 YEARS OF KCC

Throughout 2025/26, we celebrated our 25th Anniversary with a series of projects and celebrations to recognise our community's history, present and future.

Over the past 25 years, KCC has become woven into the everyday life of the community. Across generations, people have attended groups, events and activities, accessed advice and support, built friendships and shared important moments in their lives.

People have laughed together, supported one another through difficult times and remained connected through relationships built over many years.

Throughout the anniversary celebrations, many people reflected on their own memories of KCC and the role the organisation has played at different stages of their lives. For some, KCC was part of their childhood. For others, it became somewhere they turned during periods of difficulty, isolation or uncertainty.

Many spoke about the welcome, familiarity and connection they found through the Centre and the wider community around it.





25 YEARS OF KCC

The anniversary also created an opportunity to recognise the generations of staff, volunteers, residents and partners who have helped shape KCC over the past 25 years.

Reflecting during the celebration event, Managing Director Lainy Bedingfield spoke about the importance of relationships, mentorship and community development values in shaping both the organisation and her own approach to leadership.



The celebrations brought together residents, families, former staff, partners and supporters to celebrate both the history of KCC and the relationships that continue to shape its future.



“KCC is not just a building or project, it is a living, breathing example of what community looks like when people care enough to show up for each other.”

Beyond the Centre

Alongside daily community work, KCC continued to contribute to wider conversations around violence affecting young people and the importance of relationship-based, community-led approaches to prevention.



Throughout the year, KCC used opportunities through partnership work, media and wider networks to raise awareness of the experiences facing many young people and communities, while continuing to advocate for long-term investment in trusted youth work and prevention.

RELATIONSHIPS BEYOND GLASGOW

After the loss of a young person in violent circumstances, KCC found itself supporting young people, families and the wider community while also processing the impact ourselves.

Many of the boys connected to the group naturally came to KCC to spend time together, talk, grieve and try to make sense of what had happened. Friends, family members and residents also gathered at the centre, looking for comfort, connection and somewhere familiar to be.

At the time, there was very little guidance available for community organisations responding to situations like this, and much of it felt like we were trying to work things out as we went.



KCC meets MLCE and the London VRU



Wayne James and Lainy Bedingfield



Wayne James (MLCE), Lib Peck (London VRU) and Helen Hayes MP

Through conversations with others, KCC was introduced to Wayne and Margaret at Marcus Lipton Community Enterprise in Brixton, London, who had experienced a similar tragedy within their own community.

Through that relationship, we were able to speak openly, learn from one another and support each other through experiences that were deeply difficult for both communities.

“Youth work must be recognised as essential public infrastructure.”



Those conversations helped strengthen wider discussions around violence affecting young people, trusted community spaces and the need for stronger local partnership responses.

Since then, KCC has become part of the North West Violence Prevention Partnership, helping build stronger relationships between community organisations, statutory services and local partners.





SHARON & LAINY
STV News Interview outside Parliament



RAISING THE PROFILE OF VIOLENCE AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE

The experiences of local young people and families continued to shape conversations beyond Kingsway throughout the year. Through media, partnership work and public discussion, KCC helped raise awareness of the challenges facing young people and the importance of long-term, relationship-based approaches to prevention.

These conversations often focused on trusted relationships, early intervention and the role community organisations can play in supporting young people before situations reach crisis point.



Patricia Ferguson MP meeting with KCC and MLCE Staff

“Prevention requires long-term relationships, trust and consistency”

During the year, KCC contributed to local and national discussions connected to youth work, prevention and community wellbeing, including conversations around long-term investment in community-based support.

“Young people deserve safe spaces, trusted adults and communities that believe in them”



Looking Ahead

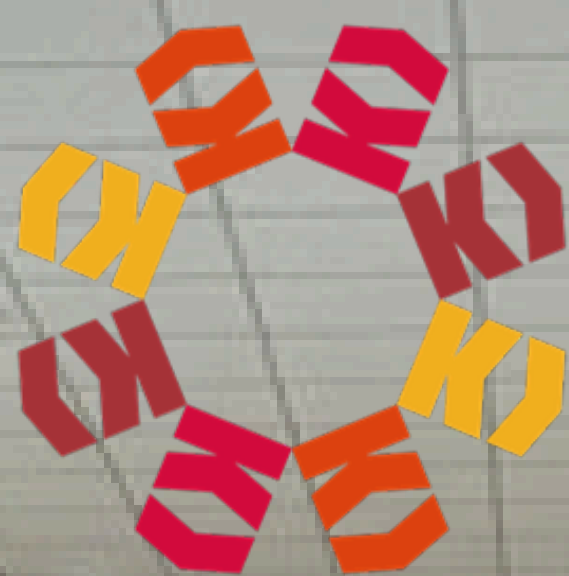
As we look ahead, our focus remains on the simple things that continue to matter most: people feeling welcomed, knowing where they can go, having trusted relationships around them and feeling part of something bigger than themselves.



This report reflects just some of the conversations, activities, challenges and moments shared throughout the year. Some were planned, others happened quietly through everyday interactions.

Together, they tell the story of a community space that continues to matter.

To everyone who walked through the doors this year, whether for support, connection, friendship, food, learning, youth work, volunteering or simply a cup of tea and a chat, thank you.



**KINGSWAY
COMMUNITY
CONNECTIONS**





KINGSWAY COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDERS



The Scottish
Government

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