

Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council

150 Years of History

1868-2018

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Foreword

The Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council has a long and varied history going back to 1868 through several name and organisational changes and characteristics. It started a survey showing that poverty and social need lay deep in the core of Scotland's capital, an otherwise wealthy city. This was followed by the realisation that something could be done about it provided there was co-operation between organisations with the harnessing of voluntary effort and the good use of the human and financial resources.

Led by some outstanding people, its members and staff addressed the many challenges of their time and searched for solutions. There was a ready response amongst the population and they started many and varied projects, discovering new ways of working. They achieved remarkable things despite two world wars and many government changes, national and local. The scope of their work has expanded enormously and shows no sign of diminishing.

This account traces the story, draws on the documentary evidence available and enlists the help of those who worked in the organisation or alongside it. It is considered an important contribution to the anniversary celebrations.

Alan Rees

Introduction

On 30th March 1868 the **Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor** was constituted having its Objects as:

- educating the young,
- giving practical help for the poor,
- promoting sanitary improvements and good housing,
- finding work for the unemployed,
- assisting 'the struggling, suffering and the destitute',
- administering relief.

These aims have changed very little over the following 150 years and this history describes how the Association and its successor organisations went about trying to achieve them, providing a valuable insight into the social conditions and preoccupations of Edinburgh's citizens.

What is now called the **Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council** supports voluntary organisations as a significant part of the fabric of society. In some parts of the country people speak about 'the mixed economy of welfare provision', embracing the statutory, voluntary and private sectors, as though it is something new. In Edinburgh it is clear that the voluntary sector has played a leading role in this partnership for a long time and still remains alive and well, although as observed when marking the 125th anniversary, many of the issues still confront us.

This history is divided into three parts.

Parts 1 and 3 comprise personal contributions from former and present employees and their contemporaries drawing on their own records and experience in different spheres of activity. They therefore deal mainly with more recent events.

Part 2 relates to earlier periods in the form of a TimeLine. It draws heavily on the account of the period 1868-1906 by Rhona Morrison in her booklet *The Help* published in 1968 and also on information in the factsheet inserted in EVOC's 1993 annual report. These have been augmented by information in annual reports deposited in the National Library of Scotland and in other published records on the internet and elsewhere. (See Bibliography) The result in no way claims to be comprehensive and still contains gaps with scope for further research.

Part 1. Personal contributions

1.1 Brian Ashley

Formerly Director of Social Studies, Moray House College of Education

Edinburgh University Settlement

I first came into contact with the Council of Social Service when I took up my appointment as Warden of Edinburgh University Settlement on January 1st, 1957. That meant supervising Cameron House in Prestonfield, the Settlement HQ for all its social work and also the residence for university students who chose to undertake voluntary social work in the neighbourhood.

I and my family had a flat on the top floor of Cameron House and so, as well as my official duties, we shared the daily life of this 'slum clearance' (in the late thirties) estate and quickly learned the 'labelling' effects of such life. The people had been moved from the High School Yards area of the Old town and the original Settlement House in 1927, following the example of Samuel Barnett in Toynbee Hall in the East End of London. It was still owned by the Settlement and operated as an adult education centre when the neighbourhood social work moved from the traditional premises to remain in close contact with the 'cleared' inhabitants.

This adult education centre was a particular example of the University's interest in and support for the Settlement work. The Professor of Adult Education was chairman of the committee supervising the centre. The chairman of the Settlement itself was Lord Cameron, a High Court Judge, and a committee comprised of wives of professors supervised the residence and the house-holding of the resident Housekeeper. The Settlement was a typical voluntary organisation of the time, depending on donations, legacies and the proceeds of the Students Annual Rag Day procession and collection.

This history – particularly the recognised quality of the superlative work undertaken during the depression years before the Second World War (e.g. pioneering soup kitchens and the then Warden, Miss Grace Drysdale, earning the public approbation of the Prime Minister Baldwin). - gave the Settlement a respected position in all discussion of the development of social services in the city. As a result I found a large part of my duties consisted of representation on the governing bodies of public services and other voluntary organisations as consultant or adviser.

A reciprocal of the above process was that the Settlement benefited from the voluntary service of other professionals in advisory capacities and from cooperation with public services and other voluntary organisations. This reciprocal helping process was significant in finding innovations to fill gaps in the development of the social services of this period. An example of this was Mary Coverdale, then Secretary of the Edinburgh Council of Social Service. Her role as a committee member of many of Edinburgh's voluntary organisations was too facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation between services, not only in Edinburgh and Scotland but in the UK as a member of the National Council of Social Service.

Thus when the Edinburgh City Council, worried about the increase in delinquency in one of its slum clearance estates, asked for help from the Settlement, Miss Coverdale reported on the work of Lady Allen in establishing pioneer children's playgrounds in similar situations in London and suggested that I as Warden should visit and study this development. When I reported favourably, the Settlement Committee decided to begin a similar activity in the Craigmillar estate.



The adventure playground project opened in 1961 as the first in Scotland and known locally as The Venchie.

It was gradually developing when Lady Allen, leading a UK delegation to a UNESCO seminar on playgrounds in Stockholm, suggested that I join the delegation. There the delegates studied Stockholm's comprehensive playground system and left determined to establish a similar system in their own countries. A group met in Denmark with others interested and in 1961 formed what is now the International Playgrounds Association – Promoting the Child's Right to Play (IPA). It has members in fifty seven countries and continues to develop play opportunities and facilities around the world.

As a reciprocal of this cooperation, I was a member of the ECSS Executive Committee and sub-committees. The main sub-committee was the Case Committee. Miss Nicolson was the only social worker at that time employed and had long experience pioneering casework in the Craigmillar estate. Families had been moved there from the slum areas of the High School Yards district, the same area from where the Settlement had moved to neighbouring Prestonfield. I never ascertained whether this casework was a relic of a larger practical social work service in decline or a 'model' pioneering example as an experiment. But there was little doubt of the need and the effect of this work based on a flat in the estate. Miss Nicolson was a 'legend' not only in the families of the estate where she worked but among other public service workers, e.g. the school headmaster, the doctor and the nurse. I was a member of her committee which met once a week and had a classic training in how she introduced and controlled the use of her knowledge and understanding of the problems of living in a labelled community.

Like the Settlement, the voluntary Officers of the ECSS were highly placed members of Edinburgh civic life who gave much time to developing the ECSS interests. The Chairman during most of the time I was involved was Harald Leslie, a highly reputed lawyer and judge who later became Lord Birsay as Sheriff of the Northern Isles. He never failed to surprise me with the time he gave and detailed interest he took in the work of the ECSS.

1.2 Sandra Blake **Manager, Edinburgh Central CAB** **1993-2008**

Citizen's Advice

In 1938, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) called a meeting with the Government expressing the need for a Citizen's Advice Service in the event of war being declared. September 1939 saw the opening of Citizen's Advice Bureaux in cities across the UK. In Scotland Glasgow was first and Edinburgh's Bureau opened in November. It dealt with issues such as lost pension books,

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debt, access to rations, missing family members after buildings had been destroyed by bombing, how to get rid of rats and where to find a gas mask for a baby. It operated from the Edinburgh Council of Social Service office in Wemyss Place until premises were donated at 58 Dundas Street. It remained part of ECSS until 1972 when all Bureaux achieved independent status.

Strong links have been maintained with EVOG as bureau advisers make contact requesting donations from Trust funds for the purchase of clothing, bedding and household goods for clients. Quick response is crucial in enabling people to move on with their lives,

The Bureau has also played its part as part of EVOG's governance structure and the development of Edinburgh's Compact involving Third Sector, Public and Private Sectors.

1.3 John Dickie Director, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) in Scotland.

Poverty

One hundred and fifty years after EVOG started life as the Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor, poverty continues to undermine the life chances of one in five of Edinburgh's children. (1) Whilst it is a depressing scandal that poverty continues to blight a city with so much wealth, we should not be blinded to the progress that has been made, and which so dearly needs to be protected.

Rights

There is nothing inevitable about Edinburgh's poverty or for that matter poverty across Scotland and the rest of the UK. Real progress has been made since the days of the Poor Law and the Charity Workhouse. The creation of the welfare state and the development of rights to social security support when faced with unemployment, ill health, disability or caring responsibilities, have done much to protect people from poverty, as have improvements in employment rights. The voluntary sector has also played a crucial role in ensuring Edinburgh's citizens have been able to access the advice and support needed to exercise those rights.

Such rights have, however, proven fragile. The cuts of the 1980's, along with high levels of unemployment, drove an explosion in levels of poverty in Edinburgh as across the UK, so that by 1997 over a third of children across Scotland were officially recognised as living below the poverty line. (2) One thing that has become crystal clear over the last 150 years is that poverty is susceptible to political choices and policy interventions. Just as levels of poverty rocketed during the 1980s, remarkable progress was achieved between the mid 1990s and 2010, at least for children and the elderly. (3) Decisions to invest in child benefit by John Major's UK Conservative government kick-started progress on reducing poverty. This was reinforced by further improvements under the New Labour governments to the value of child benefit and the introduction of tax credits. Such investment in social security was complemented by the introduction of the national minimum wage, improved parental rights in the workplace and greater support, including childcare, for those excluded from the labour market. From 1999 devolved policies on childcare, income maximisation, and employability also helped to support the downward trend in child and pensioner poverty.(4) Whilst too many families continued to be left behind in Edinburgh, as elsewhere, the reductions in child and pensioner poverty were historically and internationally unprecedented.(5) By 2011/12

there were 170,000 fewer children in poverty across Scotland than in 1996/7, (6) with measurably positive effects on overall levels of child wellbeing. (7)

Cuts

Yet again however such progress has proven fragile. UK government cuts to the value of social security support for those both in and out of work, alongside stagnating wages and increasing insecurity in the workplace, are hitting the pockets of low income households in Edinburgh, just as they are across the UK. By 2020/21 so called 'welfare reforms' will have taken over two billion pounds a year out of annual household incomes in Scotland. Cuts introduced since 2015 themselves are taking £78 million pounds a year out of household budgets in Edinburgh alone – an average of £230 from every working age adult.(8) However it is households with children who are worst affected, with key cuts including the freeze on benefit uprating, the introduction of arbitrary benefit caps hitting larger families, cuts to the work allowance within the new universal credit and the introduction of the two child limit for benefit entitlement.(9) The inevitable outcome of such extraordinary cuts to social security is that independent modelling by both the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and Resolution Foundation project 50% increases in child poverty across the UK by 2020 (10). Already child poverty has increased in Scotland by 70,000 since 2010/11. (11) In Edinburgh the latest figures estimate over one in five (22%) of the city's children live in poverty. (12)

Increasingly poverty is again an in-work problem. Just as in the 19th century when the 'insecure craftsmen, the poor and the casual labourer had little protection from seasonal and cyclical variations in demand or the periodic increases in the price of food,' (13) cuts to in-work benefits, stagnating wages, insecurity, zero hour contracts and limited hours are leaving increasing numbers of working households in poverty. The proportion of children in Scotland in poverty who live in a household where an adult is working rose from 47% in 2010 to 70% in 2016. (14)

Low income crises

Worse still, Edinburgh has not just seen recent increases in the grinding low income poverty that these statistics illustrate. An increasing number of people are facing acute income crises as a result of delays, errors and maladministration in the delivery of benefits, tax credits and the new universal credit, along with a punitive sanctions regime and a precarious labour market. This too often leaves individuals and families without enough money to even buy food or pay energy bills. (15)

Once again voluntary action has stepped into the gap, most obviously in the development of food banks providing an immediate emergency response to the extreme poverty too many are facing. The very real risk is, however, that reliance on food handouts for so many once again becomes an acceptable part of Edinburgh's social welfare landscape. It is more important than ever that voluntary organisations continue to advocate for the structural changes needed to prevent poverty, as well as stepping into the gaps when the welfare state is undermined and our economic system fails.



Cause for optimism

Despite this backdrop of reduced rights to social security, rising poverty and a return to the reliance on charity for basic essentials, there is, as we enter the 150th year of EVOC's history, some cause for optimism that current trends can be reversed and progress once again made to make poverty part of that history.

The passing at the Holyrood parliament of the Child Poverty (Scotland) Act by unanimous vote in late 2017(16) restated political agreement, in Scotland at least, that poverty is unacceptable and that it can be eradicated. While a piece of legislation in itself lifts no-one out of poverty, the Act creates a framework for action and a mechanism for holding government to account. What's more with local authorities and health boards for the first time under a legal duty to develop local child poverty action reports, and an expectation that these will be developed in partnership with the third sector, there is a clear role for Edinburgh's voluntary organisations to play in building the social and economic infrastructure needed to end poverty in the years ahead.

(1) See *End Child Poverty. Poverty in Your Area*. CPAG 2018

(2) Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland. Table A1 Scottish Government Publication 2213/7

(3) *Uprating Children's Benefits. Publicity Note*. Chapter 13. CPAG. December 2014

(4) Chapter 13 *Poverty in Scotland 2011*, CPAG

(5) *Ending Child Poverty by 2020. Progress Made. Lessons Learned*. CPAG

(6) See www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/2213/7_Table A1

(7) Bradshaw, J in *Ending Child Poverty by 2020. Progress Made. Lessons Learned*. CPAG.

See www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/CPAG_0612

(8) *Impact on Scotland of New Welfare Reform*. See shura.shu.ac.uk/15885/1/.pdf

(9) *Welfare Reform. Impact on Families in Scotland*. CPAG See www.cpag.org.uk/content/

(10) *Living Standards, Poverty and Inequality in the UK: 2015-16 to 2020-21*. Table B2: Relative Poverty: 2007/08 to 2020/21. See www.ifs.org.uk/uploads/publications/comms/R114.pdf

Research from the Resolution Foundation also projects increases in child poverty of up to 1.2 million across the UK by 2020/21 compared to 2016/17. Available at www.resolutionfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Child-poverty-briefing.pdf (Page11)

(11) See www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/2213/7_Table A1

(12) See *End Child Poverty. Poverty in Your Area*. CPAG 2018

(13) Morris, Robert J *Philanthropy and poor relief in 19th century Edinburgh*, 1999

See www.persee.fr/doc/mefr_1123-9891_1999_num_111_1_4620

(14) See www.gov.scot/Publications/2017/03/2213/7_Table A7

(15) See www.cpag.org.uk/content/hard-choices-reducing-need-food-banks-scotland

(16) See www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/Bills/10340.aspx

1.4 Marianne Hughes and Mike Tait Student Unit Staff Members.

Student Unit

Around the mid-1980s Les Robertson was the first Practice Teacher employed by EVOC to offer placements for social work students in a small number of city centre voluntary organisations. When he left in 1988, Mike Tait moved from the Community Work team to become the Practice Teacher in what became the Practice Teaching Unit (PTU), taking students studying for the CQSW. He was joined in 1990 by Marianne Hughes who had been working in Lothian Regional Council's Community Work team in the Social Work Department.

The PTU expanded quickly to forge relationships with a wider range of voluntary organisations. As the universities and colleges developed the Diploma in Social Work (DipSW) 25-30 students per year were offered social work placements in agencies working with adults and with young people. The agencies were based in a wide variety of locations - Pilton, Muirhouse, Westerhailes, Craigmillar, Livingston and the city centre of Edinburgh.

The ethos of the PTU was to connect social work students directly with people and their lives. Students learned to listen to people directly, to assist people to come together so their voices could be heard and to understand about the community within which people lived (geographical communities and communities of interest). The community work background of ECSS's Practice Teachers was an important factor in social work students learning to consider the structural and political issues impacting on people's lives. The 'private troubles, public issues' awareness was one which factored in all placements.

It had always been the role of voluntary agencies to break new ground, try new ideas and test out innovative ways of working. The Practice Teaching Unit held on to that philosophy not just in the selection and recruitment of agencies to become the network involved with training of social work students but to advance the idea that social work had a role in society to tackle discrimination, confront oppression and deal with people in times of vulnerability as equal citizens, with respect and with dignity.

All of the voluntary organisations provided a rich experience for students. They learned to develop their communication skills with individuals, groups and other professionals; they developed their theoretical knowledge in order to understand and assess in a comprehensive way; and they learned about the various ways to intervene in order to assist in a positive way. Most importantly they learned, also, about their own values and attitudes and about how discrimination impacts on people's lives - and how to challenge this constructively.

The PTU ran student groups for all of the students on placement within the network in addition to the individual supervision sessions they had with practice teachers on a weekly basis, either 'long-armed' by the Unit practice teachers or by the singleton practice teachers based in the voluntary agencies. There were also Practice Teacher groups for the sole Practice Teachers working in the range of voluntary organisations, often as the sole practitioner with that role in their agencies. Both of the Unit's Practice Teachers were central to the development of the

new qualification - the Practice Teaching Award (PTA) - and acted as Practice Assessors and mentors for staff members in the network of agencies who studied for the PTA.

Over the years, the funding for the PTU came from the Scottish Office Social Work Services Group initially, then CCETSW (Central Council for Education & Training in Social Work) and finally from the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC).

The areas of work in which students worked on placements were varied:

Mental health agencies including EAMH, SAMH (Redhall Walled Garden), Stafford Centre, Edinvar Mental Health project, Craigmillar Health project;

Homelessness and substance misuse agencies including Homeless Outreach Project, Streetwork, NEDAC, Cowgate Day Centre, Grassmarket Advice Centre, Edinburgh Council for Single Homeless;

Supported living agencies including the Old Town Housing Association and Ark Housing Association;

Agencies working with young people including, PYCP, Canongate Youth project, Citadel Youth project, Open Door, Dean & Cauvin Trust;

Agencies working with women and with minority ethnic people including Women's Aid (Edinburgh), Women's Aid (Midlothian), Shakti, Saheliya, Cranston Street hostel, Lothian Racial Equality Council;

Agencies working with people with a disability including Lothian Coalition of Disabled People, RNIB, Deaf Action, Thistle Foundation, ELCAP, People First.

Agencies working with people affected by HIV and AIDS including Milestone House and SOLAS;

Agencies working with people in the criminal justice system including SACRO, APEX Trust and Barony

Also, before the formal integration of health and social care entered legislation, the PTU developed relationships with the NHS and placed students with their mental health outreach service and substance misuse services. The Unit had made inroads with Lothian and Borders Police to host social work placements in some of their specialist services but sadly that did not materialise before the Student Units in Scotland were closed.

Although the SSSC withdrew funding from all Scottish Voluntary Sector Practice Teaching Units (and EVOC's two Practice Teachers were made redundant in March 2009) - the legacy of the PTU work continues as the universities recognise the value of the learning to be gained for students within voluntary sector organisations. In particular, the way in which students can develop core values in relation to respect and human rights, and they can develop their skills in working directly with people to assist change in their individual, group or community circumstances.

**1.5 Su Millar
Chief Executive, LifeCare, Edinburgh.
Edinburgh Old People's Welfare Council**

**Edinburgh and Leith
Old People's Welfare Council**



Old people's welfare

Known today as LifeCare (Edinburgh) Limited, or locally as LifeCare, the Edinburgh Old People's Welfare Council came into being in July 1940 under the auspices of the City of Edinburgh Council of Social Service with its address at Ainslie House, 11 St. Colme Street, Edinburgh. It was subsequently constituted in the autumn of 1941 and set up an Executive Committee and formed five Sub Committees: Homes, Visiting, Social Activities, Finance and Legislation. Four Regional Committees for Restalrig, Southern, Tynecastle and Leith were also established.

The quote, 'Life is fortified by many friendships' from Sydney Smith (1771-1845), an English wit, writer and Anglican cleric, was chosen by the then Social Activities Committee to be printed on the membership card. It was felt to be so appropriate that it appeared on the writing paper of the Old People's Welfare Council and used as the motto for the organisation.

The object for which the Council was established was *'to work for the welfare of old people in any way which may from time to time seem appropriate.'*

'In this work it seeks to co-operate with Local Authorities, Churches and other Organisations and Voluntary Agencies.'

Partnership working was robustly evident too and members of the Council included representatives from societies working among old people such as the Aged Christian Friend Society, Indigent Old Men's Society, and homes for older people such as Queensberry House and Salvation Army Homes, The Hospital Almoners' Association and many other societies and churches.

In the first Annual Report for the Year 1941-2, it stated that:

'The Edinburgh & Old People's Welfare Council was brought into being in the autumn of 1941 in the hope that its activities might go some way to meet the claim of the older members of the community to a fuller share in the community life. It is believed that it is likely to be to their advantage that there should be a Body specially concerned with their interests and able to voice their views and their desires.'

The aim of working for the welfare of older people is to be pursued by such methods as the following:-

1. By arranging in co-operation with churches and other organisations for friendly visits to old people, especially any who are alone and have few friends or interests.
2. By co-operating with Local Authorities and voluntary agencies in furthering the welfare of residents under institutional care, particularly those without friends.

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3. By arranging periodic social gatherings and outings for older people, particularly those with little other social intercourse.
4. By trying to bring interest into the lives of old people by the provision of occupation.
5. By helping individual old people to find suitable accommodation, putting them in touch with any necessary treatment, and arranging for them holidays or other social amenities of needs.
6. By studying the adequacy and suitability of the housing and homes available for old people, and promoting whatever developments may be considered necessary.
7. By commending old people who leave town to go to other districts, including any who may at any time be evacuated, to the goodwill of residents in their new areas and of the Churches there.
8. By considering social legislation as it affects old people, and taking action thereon if so advised.

Post war, the need was identified for social contact, visiting of old people and regular social gatherings with the hope that these also take place in the regions and districts in the city. Another identified need was for 'full information about available accommodation for the guidance of old people and their friends' and being able 'to add to that accommodation' and to provide 'useful developments'.

This need for 'friendly visiting' still resonates very much today. One challenge mentioned in the 1944-5 Report by the Tynecastle Regional Visiting Committee was that 'Our regular visiting continues, but extension is held up for lack of help'. And 'shortage of personnel prevents development in all other directions, but with the cessation of war in Europe we hope to win many recruits to the work'.

In the 1949 Report it was highlighted under Visiting that '*it is seldom realised how isolated in spirit an old person can become, whether still living in his own home or in an institution. The postman has ceased to bring letters to him, and so the annual Christmas card and the visitor's birthday card or holiday picture postcard are treasured far beyond their real worth, as a much needed enhancement of 'amour propre', the birthright of every human being. Yet we ask all our friends to help us to find more visitors.*'

Rev. R. B. Notman B.D. was the Chair of EOPWC for many years until 1951 when he resigned upon his appointment as Convenor of the Church of Scotland Committee on Social Service. Mena M. Whigham LLB, the Honorary Treasurer, was Secretary until 1946 when Helen M. Lowe, C.A. became Honorary Treasurer.

The EOPWC acquired premises at 56 Manor Place at that time for the sum of £5,250 and the furnishings it contained for £3,027. It became the first Old People's Home under the Edinburgh Old People's Welfare Council and was set up as a Housing Association registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act. Appeals were also initiated around this time raising funds to meet increasing need.

In the eighth Annual Report dated 1948, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh agreed that he should in his official capacity, become the Honorary President. He moved the adoption of the Annual Report and gave an address in which he made a strong plea for the development of work to meet the needs of old people. At the same time he handed over a cheque for £100 being a gift from H.R.H Princess Elizabeth. At that same meeting the Constitution was amended so that the Council then bore the name of 'Edinburgh and Leith Old People's Welfare Council' with the Convenor of the Leith Committee becoming an office bearer of the Council (ELOPWC).

The methods employed to achieve the objectives evolved into:

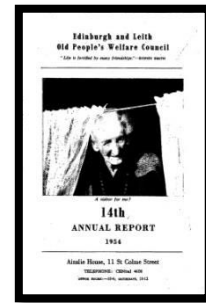
1. Friendly visiting of older people.
2. Arranging amenities such as social gatherings, clubs (including lunch clubs), outings, holidays, and laundry facilities.
3. Helping those who require accommodation in rooms, homes or hostels, and nursing homes.
4. Provision of homes.
5. Studying legislation, housing, homes, general care, etc., and promoting whatever development may be considered advisable.

ELOPWC continued the expansion and development of its work. West Coates House, another Residential Home, was officially opened on 7 April 1951 by Miss Herbison, the then Under Secretary of State for Scotland. That same year a special Appeal was established with the The Right Hon. The Countess of Erroll (Lord High Constable of Scotland) who had consented to be the Hon. President, and the Hon. Mrs Henry Douglas-Home to be the Chairman of a Special Appeal Committee formed in March 1951, the objects of which were to raise additional funds for the Old People's Welfare Council and to make its work known to a wider public. In spite of the ever increasing difficulties of that time, this was in part achieved and a foundation laid of a still wider appeal to the general public.

Patrons of the Appeal included the Duchess of Atholl, the Earl and Countess of Haddington, Earl Haig, the Earl of Selkirk, the Earl and Countess of Wemyss and March, the Dowager Countess of Eglinton and Winston, the Countess of Ellesmere, the Countess of Minto, Viscountess Colville of Culross and Viscount Weir, to mention only a few. In 1952, owing to the death of His Majesty King George VI, the Leap Year Ball which had been arranged by the Special Appeals Committee had to be cancelled. A Waterloo Exhibition and Ball were held in the Music Hall on 18 June, the anniversary of the battle. By kind permission of Lady Mears, the gardens of the White House, Inveresk, were thrown open to the public. The Special Appeal Committee demitted office in November 1952.

The Queen graciously conferred the honours of a Knighthood upon our Honorary President, The Right Hon. The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Sir James and Lady Miller. So much had been achieved in the first 12 years. This was recognized 'as ample testimony to the members of permanent staff which formed the pivot on which the work revolves'. This is very apt, for as it was then, so it is now. Ainslie House ceased to be the central address in late 1956 when as stated in the 1957 Annual Report, the Chairman's Report said:

‘On 28th November the Council took a big step forward. On that day we moved into our new Headquarters at Margaret Tudor House, 1 Merchant Street. The Old People’s Welfare Council was launched by the Edinburgh Council of Social Service, and our Headquarters have been in Ainslie House up until this removal. We would like to put on record our thanks to them for their early supervision and unfailing help and courtesy as our movement developed.’ Ronald Selby Wright, Chairman.’



His report later went on: ‘A landmark not only in the current year but in our work as a whole was the removal on 28th November 1957 to Margaret Tudor House in the heart of old Edinburgh. Here for the first time in its history the Council is entirely on its own, and the staff have adequate administrative accommodation in this century old building.’

LifeCare Edinburgh, or LifeCare as it is referred to locally today, is a descendant of what was ELOPWC and it continues to progress that original mission to pursue the welfare of older people. It does this through our three registered centre-based care services in addition to a city-wide outreach service providing registered care in the home, caring and helping the vulnerable, isolated and lonely, and people with dementia, multiple co-morbidities, disabled, housebound and their family carers with the care and help they seek. Our Help at Home service too gives practical help to extend an older person’s independence at home for longer through the provision of shopping, cleaning services and providing that friendly helper and social link. ‘Friendly Visiting’ is provided by these services and also our Vintage Vibes project, which is a charitable partnership for hard to reach over 60s who suffer significant social isolation and loneliness. We have added to our stable of services a community café, Café Life, which provides hot affordable cooked meals for the elderly in our community and is open to all. Our community centre, known as Stockbridge House, locally referred to as The LifeCare Centre, welcomes more than 70,000 people through its doors every year now and provides access to activities for all that address health, wellbeing and prevention issues. Our provision has diversified but for our modern times it is not so different from when it started in 1940.

1.6 John Moore Chief Executive, L0thian Community Transport Services

Transport: EVT to LCTS

In 1970 Edinburgh Council of Social Service (ECSS) established a Voluntary Organisations’ Working Party to examine areas of need in the city. One of the findings was that transport resources appeared to be under-utilised and that ‘there was considerable scope among voluntary organisations for the more effective use of vehicles and manpower.’

The following year, ECSS established Edinburgh Voluntary Transport (EVT) to act as a clearing house whereby local organisations with a transport need could be linked to groups with a driver and vehicle. However, experience quickly showed that there were severe limitations to such a service. Apart from the legal, technical and



financial difficulties involved in sharing transport, attitudinal barriers were very often the key stumbling block to such a brokerage scheme. It was, therefore, soon determined that the best way forward was for EVT to become a transport operator in its own right and showcase how, with good management, vehicles could be made available to meet the needs of a wide variety of different organisations.

In 1972, a full-time Transport Organiser and two drivers were appointed, and grants were secured to enable the acquisition of two minibuses and a van. The minibuses could be hired on a with-driver or self-drive basis, with the former service augmented by the deployment of volunteer drivers.

The purpose of the van was primarily to collect donated furniture for one of ECSS's charity shops. However, it quickly became apparent that other voluntary organisations, particularly those providing services for homeless people, also needed access to a regular supply of low cost furniture, and sometimes a full removal service.



Within a year, over 100 local groups were using the vehicle hire service on a regular basis, with demand for goods transport initially exceeding that for passenger transport.



Over the next few years there was an increased demand to transport people with disabilities, especially wheelchair users.

In 1976, a specially converted minivan was donated to EVT, which was capable of carrying a person travelling in a wheelchair. This led to the creation of a *Cab Service for the Disabled*, which was the first of its type in Scotland, using a driver licensed under the private hire car regulations.

By 1980, the *Cab Service for the Disabled* was struggling to meet the demand, despite the acquisition of another cab and the refurbishment of the original minivan. A report on the service by a student from Edinburgh University demonstrated how indispensable it was to so many people, with examples of wheelchair users only leaving their homes when travelling with EVT, and others relying on it for their employment.

This led to the formation of Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd in 1982, a separate charity which could provide door-to-door dial-a-ride journeys with six wheelchair accessible vehicles throughout Edinburgh and the Lothian Region. (See Part 1.9.3)

The minibus hire service had also grown due to a pioneering agreement whereby EVT managed a minibus on behalf of another voluntary group, thus demonstrating that sharing assets could benefit all parties. Both EVT and ECSS were determined that the defining characteristics of the minibus hire service should be affordability as well as accessibility, so hire charges were set as low as possible so as to help groups who were often struggling

financially. This approach was only made possible by ECSS's commitment to fund the necessary subsidy, which was quite a challenge at a time when inflation was frequently around 10%pa.

After conducting a major review of its internal work practices and external service provision in 1984, EVT was determined to build on its reputation as a sector leader by becoming a nationally recognised centre of excellence. In particular, training, advice and information services were developed which specialised in all aspects of designing and delivering community transport services.

In 1985, *Minibuses & The Law (a guide for community groups)* was written and published by EVT. Originally targeted at local voluntary sector minibus operators, this booklet was also freely distributed to public sector agencies and other community transport providers across Scotland, and also as far afield as Cornwall and Belfast.

Throughout the 1980s, EVT staff were increasingly called upon to design and deliver a wide range of training sessions, both locally and at a Scottish and UK level. Particular areas of expertise included *Minibuses & the Law; Design, Specification and Purchase of Accessible Minibuses; Minibus Driver Training; Minibus Management; and Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures.*

By the end of 1990, and with demand for EVT services coming from all parts of Lothian Region, EVT, ECSS and Lothian Regional Council collectively came to the view that the time was right for the organisation to become independent, with a new and expanded Lothian-wide remit.

So it was that, in October 1991, EVT became Lothian Community Transport Services (LCTS).

In order to focus on its new brief, which included minibus and van hire, training, and advice and information, it was agreed that the cab service would no longer be provided. It was also agreed that the furniture storage and removal service would be terminated, with the van only being available on a self-drive basis.

In recognition of its unique blend of skills and experience, LCTS adopted two strategic aims which were specifically targeted at enhancing quality assurance in minibus management systems in the voluntary and statutory sectors. These were:

- To encourage and support transport providers by promoting good practice in management and operation techniques.
- To provide high quality consultancy services to community transport and other passenger transport providers.

Since then, LCTS has become one of the country's most highly respected community transport groups, with a strong record of innovation and success, operating from depots in Edinburgh and Midlothian. Another ECSS success story!

1.7 Dianne Morrison Office Manager, EVOC.

Information and printing

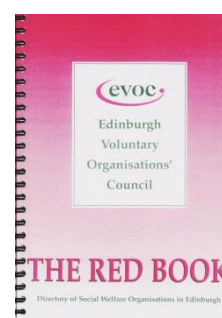
Information

A core function of the Edinburgh Charity Organisation Society when it was established in 1906 was to direct 'the philanthropic policy of Edinburgh and act as a centre for information, ideas and the pooling of experience' (The Help p45). One of the objects in the Edinburgh Council of Social Service's constitution was 'to establish and maintain a centre for referral and information'. The earlier Association had collected information on its membership.

The Edinburgh Philanthropic Red Book was first produced in 1901/1902 consisting of a list of charities and trusts. It was regularly updated after that *The Red Book, a Directory of Social Welfare Organisations*, for a time enlarged to include organisations in the Lothian Region.

This is the cover of the 1997 edition in the author's possession.

It went 'on line' in 2013.



as

In 1920 a *Directory of Voluntary and Social Services* was published and sold for two shillings.

In 1926 A *Social Survey of the City of Edinburgh* was published by Oliver & Boyd and sold through booksellers at one shilling.

In 1941 a handbook, the *Edinburgh Wartime Guide*, published by ECSS, was in such demand it went to three editions and distributed 9,000 copies.

In 1975 the *Directory of Social Services. A guide to Statutory and Voluntary Organisations and Facilities in Edinburgh* was published in conjunction with the Lothian Region Social Work Department and the Lothian Health Board.

In 1997 a directory called, *Places for Meetings* was published to help voluntary organisations find suitable accommodation for events, conferences and meetings.

Newsletters for members have been regularly produced. *LINK-UP* (ISSN 6307164) was started as a quarterly in 1980. This is the front cover of Issue 41 in January 1994.



Noticeboard, the fortnightly paper newsletter for members, was printed and posted out through the Royal Mail from 1992 until 2004.

All newsletters are now online and/or available on free subscription by virtue of interest in particular sectors.

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Get Connected was produced for the Liberton/Gilmerton area between 2000 and 2008.

MEMO (Minority Ethnic Mail Out) was a monthly offering organised between 2002 and 2009, which brought together information from across the BME sector, mailing leaflets, notices and other information through the Royal Mail.

A display of information leaflets and a stock of reference material has been maintained at the office.

Information was collected and distributed by development staff until the appointment of an information officer in 1999. EVOC now has a core Communications Officer post to keep, amongst many other duties, online materials up to date.

Archives

Annual Reports produced since the Association was established in 1868 have been lodged with the National Library of Scotland (although not complete).

Trust Ledgers were deposited with the Edinburgh City Archivist when the office moved from Ainslie House to Ashley Place in 1999.

Printing

In 1970 the Voluntary Organisations' Committee of ECSS started a printing service from its office at Ainslie House. It produced all the organisation's own publications and those of other charities at cost price.

A number of disabled people were employed as assistants within the Printing Department to support production of work as it was received by the office – both one-off and regular items such as society newsletters or pamphlets. Customers included Scottish Women's Aid, several churches, Live Music Now, the National Association of Youth Orchestras and other voluntary organisations from across the city.

1.8 Laurie Naumann

**Director, Scottish Council for Single Homeless (now Homeless Action Scotland)
1978-1999.**

Homeless People

Introduction

During the two decades starting in the mid 1970s, ECSS/EVOC played a significant role in helping local voluntary groups and statutory agencies to address collaboratively issues associated with single homeless people, often having a variety of additional social or medical needs, in the Grassmarket area of central Edinburgh and in Leith.

Just as would be expected of an area-based council for voluntary service, ECSS's initial role was to service what was a large informal, yet determined, working group hosted by the

Regional Council – *The Edinburgh working party on single homeless people*. The working party's membership was all embracing with representatives of the local authority housing and social work departments, Lothian Health Board, Shelter Scotland, the Citizens' Rights Office, DHSS (DWP), GPs, Edinburgh University, Church of Scotland, Salvation Army, the Council on Alcohol, lodging house and hostel managers, Edinburgh Cyrenians and Barony Housing Association. The working party was chaired initially by the Reverend Tom Scott, at the time chair of ECSS.

Day Centre

Practical action by different working party members quickly emerged. A steering group chaired by ECSS staff was set up to develop a day centre for homeless people in a vacant property owned by the Church of Scotland in the Cowgate. Grants were secured from the Scottish Office under its Urban Programme targeted on designated areas of high social need, such as the Grassmarket and Leith at the time, meeting 75 *per cent* of capital and five years' running costs. The day centre flourished over the years and was eventually replaced by purpose designed premises offering both day and certain night facilities for individual homeless people.

GP registration

In parallel, negotiations partly enabled by the ECSS, were entered into with the recently established Lothian Health Board to address the severe problem of the lack of straightforward access by homeless people in the city to the majority of mainstream primary health care services. A significant cause of this problem was that a large proportion of the homeless population seemed not to be registered with a local, i.e. central Edinburgh, GP. The approach to the Health Board was fully endorsed by the new Edinburgh Local Health Council which, in its formation, ECSS had helped to ensure that it truly represented community groups covering all interests, including homeless people, across the city. In order to help confirm the position a one night survey, jointly sponsored by the Health Board and the Social Work Department, of people living in the night shelter, lodging houses and hostels or sleeping rough was undertaken. Employing a large team of volunteers almost 1,000 people were interviewed.

Once the results were analysed and compared with records, the low registration rate was confirmed; generally the registration rate in Scotland at the time was about 104 *per cent*! The Health Board then took on the challenge and set about finding ways to resolve it. This major campaign achievement in the community could not have been reached without the networking and negotiating skills offered by the ECSS at the time.

Edinburgh Council for the Single Homeless

At this stage in 1978 and the coming into force in Scotland of the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act, the Edinburgh Working Party was already running the Day Centre and close to completing for occupation, in conjunction with Edinvar Housing Association, *Stopover* in Newington, Scotland's first direct access emergency accommodation for young homeless people. Given its growing responsibilities, Working Party then transposed itself into a city wide charitable organisation, Edinburgh Council for the Single Homeless (ECSH), and employed its first core staff, originally a researcher and then director, initially hosted by ECSS in Ainslie House.

Edinburgh's GP registration survey also confirmed that between a third and a half of those homeless people interviewed had been living in the Grassmarket area for over ten years predominantly at the same address. This finding strongly countered the widespread arguments locally that the community of homeless people was largely transient. Developers were always **Page**

wishing to buy and renovate flats in old tenement blocks which would be marketed to incomers and were not considering the urgent needs of the local homeless community.

In the early 1980s many homeless men and women were still living in most unsatisfactory conditions in a number of hostels and lodging houses in central Edinburgh e.g. Grassmarket, Cowgate, Grove Street, The Pleasance, as well as in Leith. All of these facilities urgently required extra support for both the residents and to help improve and redevelop the accommodation being provided; this was a major set of tasks to be faced by ECSH and all the partner agencies supported throughout by ECSS.

Castle Trades Hotel

One example of the redevelopment approach related to the Castle Trades Hotel, known simply as No. 75, in the Grassmarket. Just over 300 homeless men were living in the private three storey lodging house made up of three listed tenement blocks with about 100 tiny wooden cubicles on each floor often described as a potential tinderbox. When the owners of the lodging house put it on the market, the locally managed Grassmarket Area Housing Association, previously somewhat wary of accommodating homeless people, expressed an interest in purchasing the Castle Trades and converting it into shared housing for about a third of the existing homeless residents.



A successful offer was submitted and accepted on the eve of the new financial year, a major step in the move from 19th to 20th century accommodation for its longstanding residents. This would not have been possible without the full support and endorsement of the Housing Association's proposals by Robin Cook MP in the House of Commons, the efforts of ECSS and other voluntary organisations, including Edinvar Housing Association for technical support, as well as the local authorities, which was continuously needed right up to that point.

Victoria Hostel for Women

Given all the activity around the former Castle Trades Hotel, concerns were raised about the plight of homeless women and how they were managing in the very run down Victoria Hostel occupying another local four storey tenement block just off the Grassmarket. Various voluntary organisations and the Grassmarket Project Team (a part of the local authority Social Work Department) had been providing limited support to the self-catering, mainly elderly, residents as well as to the one staff member. The hostel was a charitable trust managed very lightly by a firm of accountants who also paid the worker's meagre wages.

ECSS, on making enquiries about the management of the trust, discovered that any form of governance was virtually non-existent, with the trustees never having appeared to have met for many years. Among them were the CEO of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh's Lord Provost and the Minister of St. Giles Cathedral. None of the people holding those posts at the time of the enquiry were aware of the additional responsibility that went with their positions!

A basic refurbishment of the property was completed under the supervision of the newly re-established Board of Trustees among whom was an active ECSS staff member. Eventually alternative, more suitable, premises were secured a short distance away at 2 Cranston Street for the remaining residents. The original tenement was sold.

Bosnian Refugees

Coinciding with the completion of the new Day and Night Centre for homeless people in Holyrood Road and the major refurbishment of properties in the Grassmarket area in the 1990s, new demands for emergency accommodation occurred with the influx of refugees to Scotland from the Balkans in 1992. ECSS already collaborated with Edinburgh Direct Aid which was supporting people in the area and a demand for emergency reception accommodation for refugee families from Bosnia arose. In part, given its recent experience of the refurbishment of hostels etc. for homeless people, EVOG (as it was renamed in 1992) was able to turn its hand to setting up temporary accommodation for the refugees in North Berwick. This was largely achieved by negotiating a deal with Lothian Regional Council which released a recently made redundant care home for older people which was suitably situated and equipped to provide short stay family accommodation for a number of years.

Scottish Refugee Council

The Bosnian refugee experience demonstrated to EVOG how stretched the relatively recently established Scottish Refugee Council (SRC) actually was in coping with the new and greater demands on its limited resources with the influx from the former Yugoslavia. Pressed by EVOG and other organisations, the Scottish Office, a key stakeholder in the SRC and already one of its larger funders, agreed to commission and fund a comprehensive review of the SRC's management structure and governance.

A critical recommendation, arising from that review undertaken in the mid-1990s, was a re-invigorated top level structure for the organisation with a new post of a chief executive officer (CEO) to be funded by The Scottish Office as a part of a new core grant that had not previously been received. Subject to being successful in securing the grant aid, the SRC Board agreed in principle to adopt the model proposed. EVOG's director, Ted Matthews, took on a temporary appointment as the interim part-time CEO. He was seconded by EVOG to take the SRC through the transitional period until it had appointed a permanent full-time CEO. This much appreciated arrangement greatly benefited the SRC, enabling it to respond effectively to growing demands placed on it at this very busy period in its history and also relieved EVOG of its role in managing the refugee reception centre in North Berwick and transferred that responsibility to the SRC.

Conclusion

While never in the position of providing accommodation for homeless people, ECSS/EVOG played a key facilitating role in progressing positive changes and securing an understanding among the stakeholders, small and large, at the front line. Through working together, sharing expertise, resources and experiences, remarkable changes and improvements to provision in Edinburgh were made during that period. In the recent drive by the Scottish Government and its predecessor to reduce the incidence of homelessness in Scotland, Edinburgh City Council and its many partners' pathfinding experiences have been promoted as demonstration models around the country and further afield in Europe.

1.9 Alan Rees MBE

Assistant Director, EVOC 1976-1993.

1. Charity Shops and 'Bygones' Sale

From the early 1970s the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Committee increased the number of charity shops selling donated goods to raise invaluable income for its general funds, the earliest called 'The Clothes Peg'. They were in popular shopping areas of Edinburgh – Dalry Road, Easter Road and Crichton Place (Leith Walk). They were all staffed by volunteers although latterly the shop managers and someone in overall charge were paid.

It also had a furniture store and repair workshop, firstly on the south side of Edinburgh in Haddon's Court and then in Stead's Place off Leith Walk. Items, including house clearances, could be collected in Edinburgh Voluntary Transport's furniture van (See Part 1.6).

The most sellable and easily handled items were sold at top prices in the annual 'Bygones' sale. It was organised by Hugh and Margaret Stephenson who between sales kept the items in their home basement. The sale was held in the pre-Christmas period in some city centre shop which was vacant at the time, even in Princes Street one year. The sale became well-known and attracted great interest.

2. Christmas Card Sale and Charities Hypermarket

ECSS held an annual Christmas Card Sale at Adam House in Chambers Street in October/November during the years 1970 to 1978. The object was to facilitate the selling of its own charity card and those of its members and other charities. It was organised by Margaret Robertson at a time when charity cards were becoming ever more popular and to help smaller charities be part of the action.

In 1979 the sale moved to the Assembly Rooms in George Street, renamed the Charities Hypermarket. The intention remained basically unchanged but the period was increased from one to two and then three days (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). The extra space allowed a greater range of merchandise to be sold, taking in the whole building including the Ball Room and side rooms, Music Hall and ground floor Supper Room and Dance Studio.

ECSSS booked the accommodation from the City Council with tables and chairs. Charities were allowed to pre-book their stall space and its position on a set layout at a standard charge on a first-come-first-served basis and then keep the takings and profit. ECSS managed the event and arranged the publicity (mainly through the Edinburgh Evening News and Radio Forth). The first celebrity invited to open the event was Moira Shearer, the ballet dancer of Red Shoes fame. Others who were performing in the annual King's Theatre pantomime included Stanley Baxter, Jimmy Logan, Jack Milroy and Rickie Fulton (appearing together as Francie and Josie). Also invited were Councillor Phyllis Heriot, Chair of the Council's Social Work Department (in 1980) and Sir John Hunt (of Everest) who was lecturing to the Scottish Geographical Society nearby. Some 150 organisations took part and raised an estimated £10,000 overall annually.

The rooms were decorated for Christmas and a tree from Glentress Forest near Peebles took centre stage in the Music Hall.

A side event organised on several years was a Children's Christmas Card exhibition. To start with the entries were outstanding (one year judged by Ricky DeMarco), notably from the Royal Blind School. However it ceased when exhibition space became hard to find. The Hypermarket itself ended in 1964 because charities had found other outlets for selling their cards and gifts.

3. Disabled People

IYDP Celebration

The United Nations declared 1981 to be the International Year of Disabled People (IYDP) and ECSS took a lead in a number of ways.



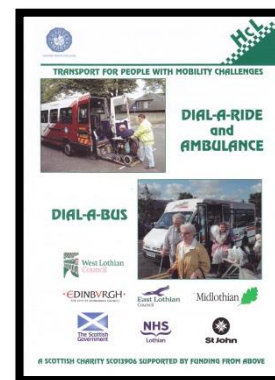
It helped Disability Scotland's Mobility Committee to organise an international conference and exhibition in Charlotte Square called *Transport for Special Needs*. This was the first time the square had been used for such a purpose although it had been used for charity sales by St Columba's Hospice and was later to be used for the annual Edinburgh Book Festival.

Conference sessions took place in the adjacent Roxburghe Hotel whilst a wide range of vehicles and mobility equipment went on display under canvas in the square. The star exhibit was the single-decker 'Telebus' brought over from West Berlin for its first appearance in the UK. Its revolutionary low-floor design included a hydraulic 'kneeling' capacity to provide easy access for

wheelchair users, later to become standard for all buses here. In Berlin the vehicles were used to transport disabled and elderly people on a call-up basis.

Handicabs/HcL

Another major initiative was through the Lothian Coordinating Committee for the Disabled to meet the needs of homebound people in the region. IYDP provided the opportunity for a fundraising drive to purchase six low-floor buses for a 'dial-a-ride' service. Drivers and back-up staff were funded by the Manpower Services Commission under its Community Service scheme for the unemployed. A limited company, Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd, was established in August 1982 as a charity, with its headquarters at Ainslie House in Edinburgh and offices in Bathgate, Dalkeith and Haddington. The door-to-door service was launched in 1983 and later expanded to provide 'dial-a-bus' shopping and ambulance services.



A history of Handicabs/HcL's first 30th years can be found in Edinburgh's Central Library.

The Yard

A further project to get underway in the 1980s with help from ECSS was the Scotland Yard Adventure Centre, now called 'The Yard'. The Scottish Association for Play for Handicapped Children (SAPACH) had established a playground at Linn Park in Glasgow in 1983 and was looking to develop a similar playground in Edinburgh. A site was found on waste ground at Scotland Street and leased from the Edinburgh District Council. ECSS provided the initiative in establishing SYAC as the local charity to raise the necessary funds for clearance and development, including £300,000



for an indoor play building. Staff were appointed and the Centre opened by Princess Anne in October 1993.

Since then The Yard has grown in size and capacity, annually used by some 1,700 disabled children, including many with multiple and complex needs, and their families throughout the week. Off-shoot playgrounds have been started in Fife and Dundee.

Histories: *SYAC: The Early Years* and *The Story of SAPACH*, give details and can be found in the Edinburgh Central Library.

1.10 Jane Saren

Regional Voluntary Organisations Officer, Social Work Department, Lothian Regional Council 1986 – 1992 and Manager, Voluntary and Private Sector Services Unit 1992 – 1996.

Statutory Services

'The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there.'

A personal reflection on ECSS/EVOC and its context from 1986 to 1996

The oft-quoted opening line of L.P. Hartley's *The Go Between* springs to mind when I think back to the time when I attended ECSS Board meetings as a representative of one of its key funders, Lothian Regional Council.

We did things differently in those days, at least in some respects. The term Third Sector Interface had not yet been devised, so far as I am aware, and there was no formal representation of the Third Sector via community planning structures. Nonetheless, by the time I left the Social Work Department in 1996, Lothian voluntary organisations were formally recognised as one of the Joint Partners in the Community Care Planning process.

The Lothian Regional Council's Social Work Department spent about £2.5m of its budget on grants to approximately 120 voluntary organisations. When I arrived in 1986 it was seen as the natural place for the post of Regional Voluntary Organisations Officer to be located.

Lothian had a strong history of supporting the voluntary sector and had sought to recognise the level of specialism embedded there and the value of not making 'clients' of people whose position did not necessitate it. Hence the Department's Section 10 budget also included further significant expenditure on externally contracting fulfilment of a number of statutory social work responsibilities for delivery by voluntary organisations under formal agreements. These included social work services for people with visual and hearing impairments, and the more straightforward fostering and adoption placements which were not a consequence of the local authority having assumed parental rights. By the time I left the Department in 1996, the implementation of community care policies meant that payments for voluntary and private sector services accounted for over one third of its annual budget, around £68m.

The Social Work (Scotland Act) 1968 was an important landmark in the history of Scottish social policy; it led to the establishment of social work departments within local government and in Section 12 conferred 'the duty of every local authority to promote social welfare'. Section 10 empowered a

local authority to make grants or loans 'to any voluntary organisation the sole or primary object of which is to promote social welfare', along with further discretion to support the voluntary sector by making available local authority premises, furniture, vehicles or equipment and the services of staff.

Both Lothian and Strathclyde Regional Councils had used the provisions of the Act to make payments to support the families of striking miners during the National Union of Mineworkers' industrial action led by Arthur Scargill in 1984-5. Strathclyde had used Section 12 and was later taken to task for expenditure ultra vires; however Lothian had employed Section 10 in making grants to formally constituted family support groups and thus escaped sanction.

I recall a meeting of the ECSS Board after the Department had been obliged to make cuts in the voluntary organisations grants budget and opted to take a strategic approach rather than top-slicing across the board. There were a number of organisations which had been directly affected in attendance and the meeting was lively, as I sought to defend our targeting. As it happened this was the first meeting with the then Bishop Richard Holloway in the Chair: I remember him diffusing some of the tension by shaking his head and commenting ruefully, 'Well, I can see this post is going to be interesting...'

I would characterise the relationship between the Social Work Department and ECSS as one befitting a shared interest in promoting social welfare, willingness to collaborate in responding to specific new needs which arose, and respect for each other's different roles. It was a pleasure to work with both Ted Matthews and Shulah Allan as Directors of ECSS/EVOC who each brought great energy, insight and commitment. There were some robust exchanges of view with Ted on occasions when we stood on different sides of the fence, but never any doubt that we had shared interests.

The Social Work Department gained new responsibilities following the NHS & Community Care Act (1992) and a transfer of funds from health to reflect a major shift in the balance of care from institutional or residential care in respect of priority groups such as elderly people and those with mental illness, learning or physical disabilities. This entailed some internal reorganisation, including expansion of my responsibilities to include working with the private sector and to encompass commissioning as well as purchasing. We didn't use that specific terminology as the then Chair of the Social Work Committee objected to the incorporation of such language from the world of commerce, and so we became the Voluntary & Private Sectors Services Unit, soon condensed to VPSSU (pronounced to rhyme with 'hip sue!').

We were extraordinarily fortunate to have John Chant at the helm as Director of Social Work at this time, bringing a recognition that contracting for social care required an approach based on standards and person-centred values, since it was a chimera to imagine one could ever specify every element of care which was truly responsive to individual needs and preferences. He and Ted Matthews were formidable leaders to have had in place at that important time.

**1.11 Janette Scappaticcio
Trust Administrator
Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund**



Grant-making Trusts

The Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund is a registered charity (SC013561) with a history of almost 150 years, addressing poverty and inequality. It has its origins in the creation of what is now the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council in 1868.

In 1918 the Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor, then known as 'The Help', was asked to administer the Royal Scots Emergency War Fund. Over the years the charity was asked to administer a number of other trusts such as the William Thyne Trust, Miss Beveridge, the KEY Trust and the Young Bequest. In total seventeen funds were brought under the auspices of the charity. These were largely legacies from individuals who wished to donate a sum of money for the benefit of voluntary organisations and individuals in need. Most of these Trusts were amalgamated in 2001 and a single Trust known as the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Trust (EVOT) was formed.

From that point EVOT operated as a separate entity from EVOC and had its own charity registration and Board of Trustees (which included three Office Bearers from EVOC). At this time, EVOT distributed BBC Children in Need grants for needy families within the city of Edinburgh – a job it carried out for over 25 years until 2013.

A further two trusts were combined with EVOT in 2007. In 2014 the Trust took over the management of the former Surplus Fire Fund which had been created in 1824 to help the victims of a number of fires in the High Street and re-launched it as The Edinburgh Fire Fund.

In 2015 EVOT modernised its constitution and changed its name to the Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund but its core purposes remained unchanged. These are the relief of poverty and the provision of financial assistance to individuals in need. Some grants are also awarded to small charities with similar aims. The funds are restricted to beneficiaries in the City of Edinburgh and the Lothians. In 2016 ELTF took over the administration of grants for the Edinburgh Police Fund for Children, formerly known as the Police Aided Clothing Scheme (PACS), distributing money for the purchase of school jackets and clothes.

Through the various funds it administers ELTF distributes nearly 950 grants to individuals in need every year – in 2017/18 this amounted to £108,067. Grants are disbursed through partnerships with the city's Social Work staff, housing support, NHS Lothian professionals, schools and other Third Sector organisations working with vulnerable people. Small grants to charities across the Lothians that year totalled £26,569.

1.12 Mike Tait Community Work Team Member

Community Work Team

In 1968, with Mary Coverdale as the Organising Secretary of the then Edinburgh Council of Social Service, a social work team was already established, in advance of social work becoming a function of local authorities under the Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968. The team was developing casework as an approach. ECSS then decided to create a Community Work Service and appointed John Mulvey as its first community worker. At that point, at least some of the community work focus was on clients of the social work service and the first appointments after John were as detached youth workers in the form of Tom and Norma Smith and Moira Prior. Most of their activity was in Broomhouse and West Pilton.

In the early 1970s, the detached youth work mostly came to an end and neighbourhood community work became the focus in the Greater Pilton area, Broomhouse and Sighthill and Calders and in the sprawling estates of Wester Hailes while it was still under construction. The team, as well as John Mulvey and Moira Prior included Mike Tait, Colin Gillan, Jimmy Burnett, Nick Lewis and Mae Shaw through the seventies and eighties with other staff joining in later years as those workers moved on.

The Community Work Team, mostly under John's leadership, made a conscious decision to focus on Community Action as a methodology as distinct from Community Organisation or Community Development and was relatively unusual, at least in Scotland, in that respect. The Team worked with tenants groups, neighbourhood associations, parents groups, etc., on campaigns such as road safety, lack of community facilities, police services, council housing rents and maintenance.

While the approach was radical, it was well-founded in established international community work theory such as Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* and Saul Alinsky's *Reveille for Radicals* and shared much of its philosophy with writers coming out of the Home Office Community Development Projects. In 1979, some of the team in fact collaborated in the Edinburgh-London Weekend Return Group's *In and Against the State* publication with Cynthia Cockburn and John Holloway and others which developed new theory about the role of the State and how to engage with it.

The ECSS Community Work Team was uniquely placed to both operate within working class neighbourhoods and beyond them. It was part of the philosophy to create links between campaigners in different areas to allow and support the raising of consciousness and awareness of rights, poverty, deprivation and oppression and, importantly, of common and shared experiences between different groups.

At its peak, the team worked across most of the housing estates in Edinburgh including Pilton, Muirhouse, Granton, Broomhouse, Sighthill, Wester Hailes, Stenhouse, Gilmerton, Niddrie, Craigmillar, Bingham, Prestonfield, Dumbiedykes, Leith, Oxfangs, Moredun, Southhouse, Burdiehouse and Gracemount.

Examples of cross-neighbourhood activity were:

The city-wide **Dampness Action Group**. It was formed to raise the Issue of appalling dampness in council housing and to organise and place concerted pressure on local and national government to

acknowledge the problem and provide resources to deal with it. This work involved helping establish and support local groups, bringing action groups together from across Edinburgh and indeed developing links with similar groups in other cities. These actions led to £11 million being made available from the Scottish Office for councils to begin to address the problem. And after further pressure and direct action on the part of the groups, it was accepted this was a national problem and further resources began to be made available.

STOP the WAR (Western Approach Road). This was a campaign originating in the Stenhouse Whitson area of Edinburgh. In 1977 the Regional Council had plans, supported by the District Council, to demolish over 100 high quality, much in demand council houses to drive through a direct link from West Edinburgh to the city centre at Lothian Road. The road was also to be built on stilts across Balgreen Road and virtually beside around 80 owner occupied houses. The community workers helped angry locals to arrange a public meeting, which was on the night not only standing room only with over 200 people attending but overflowing into the entrance hall and beyond. At the conclusion of this meeting the Stop the Western Approach Road campaign group was established, followed a few weeks later by the Baird Drive Action Group. Both groups held many further meetings, gained the support of the Labour Group in Lothian Region, lobbied and made presentations to both councils. A public Enquiry was subsequently announced by the Scottish Office and both groups, assisted in their preparations by the team, made highly skilled presentations to the Enquiry. Following the Regional Council elections in 1986, the plans were finally abandoned.

A further development was the idea that common experiences were not limited to people within neighbourhoods but the same people had very similar experiences in their places of work. In response to that ideology, the **Tenant and Worker Information Network (TWIN)** was born, applying the concept of Community Action to industrial work environments as well as geographical neighbourhoods.

Nursery Concerned, Parent Pressure, Summer Playschemes and Save Our Services were additional examples of community action campaigns city-wide which sprang from common experience and identity rather than neighbourhood.

While the radical nature of the work created a challenge for Ted Matthews, as the Director, especially when dealing with the local authority as the main funder, there is no doubt that the work was also highly respected in professional circles. The Team was never short of both community work and social work students on placement from institutions as far afield as Glasgow, Aberdeen and Belfast as well as the local courses at Moray House and Edinburgh University. Community work team members were also regularly invited as guest lecturers in some of those programmes.

**1.13 Paul J Wilson
Chief Officer, Volunteer Edinburgh.**

Volunteering

EVOG and its predecessors have always relied on volunteers to support and deliver its services, eg early case work, charity shops, etc.

In 1920 a register of people wanting to do voluntary work was initiated.

1973 A Volunteer Bureau was established in the ECSS office at Ainslie House with Keith Adam as the first paid worker.

1975 A Volunteer Job Centre (VJS) was opened in Abbeyhill to provide 'shop front' access to volunteering for the public - the UK's first 'Volunteer Job Shop'. The Director of the Volunteer Centre in London said at the time: "Now I believe is the time for an imaginative step..... we should like to see the development of a national network of community job shops..."

1977 VJS relocated to Dalry Road and was rebranded as the Edinburgh Volunteer Exchange (EVE).

1996 EVE received matched funding from the Scottish Office and moved to much larger premises at 77-79 Easter Road, the former ECSS charity shop premises.

23 December 1999 EVE registered as a separate company, launched on 1st April 2000.

2002 EVE rebranded as the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh adopting the common national branding of Scotland's 32 Volunteer Centres.

May 2003 The Volunteer Centre Edinburgh moved to new premises at St George's West Church in Shandwick Place.

17 October 2012 The Centre moved into the 3rd floor of 24 Torphichen Street.

18 May 2015 VCE moved once more, this time to its very own home at 222 Leith Walk and at the same time changed its brand name to Volunteer Edinburgh with a new corporate identity!



The Volunteer Centre has been at the vanguard of volunteering developments....

1984 It became the first Volunteer Centre to launch a dedicated Mental Health project.
1990 It started a project to encourage students at Napier University to volunteer as part of their degree.
1994 It was the first Scottish Volunteer Centre to launch a project to help companies to develop Corporate Social Responsibility through Employer Supported Volunteering.
1996 It became the first Volunteer Centre to launch a dedicated project to promote volunteering by 50+ volunteers.

1996 Sun Microsystems BV outsourced delivery of its Corporate Social Responsibility programme to EVE.

1998 It hosted the first major Volunteer Recruitment Fair in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms and this event grew rapidly to become the largest of its type in Scotland.

1998 It secured a contract to deliver New Deal Mentoring in East Lothian and Midlothian.

1999 It launched a dedicated Resource Unit to provide dedicated support and training to volunteers involving organisations in Edinburgh.

2002 It was the first Volunteer Centre to offer all its opportunities online – and its newly launched website wins a national award.

2003 It established its first local office in South Edinburgh, encouraging people in regeneration areas to reap the benefits of volunteering.

2004 It launched a whole city-wide marketing campaign, including on buses, featuring real volunteers and the strapline 'Becoming richer. Work for nothing.'

2004 It produced a landmark report on volunteering: the *Unseen Force* and held a major conference to launch it.

2005 In partnership with SportScotland, it launched a project to promote volunteering in sport.

2006 It opened a second neighbourhood office in Craigmillar.

2006 It was the first Scottish Volunteer Centre to launch a city-wide volunteering strategy which all community planning partners signed up to.

2007 A third neighbourhood office opened in Wester Hailes.

2008 It established a ground-breaking 'hub' for patients within the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. It launched a new, innovative youth peer education project. It launched 'Get on Board', a new project to recruit and match volunteer trustees. It opened a fourth neighbourhood in Granton with a strong focus on employability.

2009 It received the Investing in Volunteers Award.

2010 A new website was launched which offered greater choice and information, utilising new media technologies.

2011 & 2012 It was voted one of the top ten of Scotland's 'Best Work Places'.

2012 It renewed its Investing in Volunteers Award.

2012 The second Edinburgh Volunteering Strategy *Inspiring Edinburgh's Volunteers, Building Success 2012-2017* was launched. 2015 It received the Investing in Volunteers Award again. 2015 It celebrated 30 years of our Health and Wellbeing team's powerful work to overcome barriers and discrimination which accompany mental illness and disability.

Part 2: History Timeline

2.1 Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor. 1868-1906 (38 years)

In 1867 a meeting was called by Edinburgh's Lord Provost to discuss a report by Dr Alexander Wood on the appalling living conditions, particularly in Canongate, Tron, St Giles and the Grassmarket. It was published later that year as a pamphlet *How to Relieve the Poor of Edinburgh without increasing Pauperism: a tried, economical and successful plan*. A committee of 70 was set up which met three days later and appointed two sub-committees, one to draft a scheme to establish the Association and one to produce a report on social conditions in Edinburgh.

Dr Alexander Wood MD (1817-1884)



Dr Wood became the Association's first Chairman. He was a GP in Practice in Stockbridge and New Town Dispensary. In 1858 he was elected President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

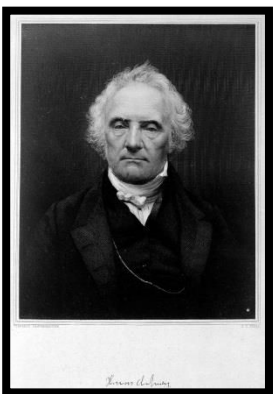
He is best known for his invention of the hypodermic needle and syringe using the bee sting as a model.

The Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor, later known as 'The Help', came into being on 30th March 1868 as one of the earliest organisations to introduce method into charitable giving. It accepted Thomas Chalmers as its 'authority and inspiration'.

Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847)

First Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland.

He grew up in the parish of Anstruther in Fife and all his teaching was based on the 'genial face-to-face relationships of a country parish'. But going to Glasgow in 1815 he realised that the city had outgrown its parishes and a new system was needed in which each parish was divided into smaller units each with a lay deacon in charge and a more ordered way of assessing need and responding to it. Better relationships would be established preventing class divisions and promoting self-reliance.



In 1820 he established a visiting scheme in the St John's area of Glasgow and in 1826 he published *Christian and Civic Economy in Large Towns*. Because of his position in the church and as a preacher, his views carried great weight. In 1844 the 'Glasgow experiment' was repeated in the West Port district of Edinburgh.

Also of influence was the model adopted in New York in America and Elberfeld in Germany. There the area was divided into districts and sub-districts each with volunteers responsible for visiting and advising families. Money was allocated from a public fund according to need and work was required in return.

In London in 1869 the **Society for the Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendacity** was established, always known as the **Charity Organising Society** or COS. A conference that year decided that relief should be administered by local groups run by trained volunteers making local visits to individuals and families to assess need. This was the beginning of social work.

The name in Edinburgh was different but the common object was to relieve poverty and help the poor. The Poor Law of Scotland, based on an Act of 1579, differed from the English Poor Law in that able-bodied men and their dependents were not entitled to relief and parishes were not obliged to raise a poor rate by assessment. There was no movement in Scotland at that time to develop workhouses and no employment for overseers and collectors. Poor relief therefore became a function of the established church, as was education. Although in theory the church was a nationwide organisation which raised and disbursed funds as part of its general care for the lives of parishioners, it was less and less able to do so with the growth of large towns and the greater mix of religious denominations.

Following a Royal Commission in 1843 which found how meagre poor relief had become, the Poor Law Act of 1845 created a Board of Supervision and Parochial Boards in all parishes, with a new local official, the Inspector of the Poor. A pauper had a right to relief which could be claimed from the Sheriff Court and the right to sufficient relief which could be claimed from the Court of Session. The scale of relief allowance was accordingly raised, although the poor were still reluctant to apply.

The tradition in Scotland differed from England: there was no attempt here to make work unpleasant as a deterrent or 'test labour'. Doing practical things to relieve poverty and produce a more 'rational' response to need was the emphasis.

The whole history of the Scottish Poor Law had left a space which voluntary enterprise filled and a large part was played by the medical profession. 'Practising doctors.....were the prime movers in and often the major contributors to many of Scotland's early charitable enterprises'. (*The Help* by Rhona Morrison)

In 1869 the Association issued its first Annual Report. Its office was at 5 York Place and then at 69 Hanover Street where it stayed until 1891.

1871-1892 A sewing room was under the supervision of **Flora Stevenson** (1839-1905) and open for the five winter months: women were 'paid' with a grocery order to the value earned up to 2s.6d a week for a maximum of 1.5 hours work on 4 or 5 days in the week. Articles made were sold for the sewing room and 130-150 women were employed every winter - the maximum attendance a day varying between 40 and 70.



(Painted about 1904 by Alexander Ignatius Roche. 1861-1921. Scottish National Portrait Gallery.)

She was an active member of the Edinburgh Association and campaigned for better children's education and 'ragged schools'. The primary school in Comely Bank, founded in 1899, is named after her.

1874 A Sick and Funeral Society was established long before death benefit was thought about.

1876 A firelighter factory was established at 15 Leith Walk to create jobs for destitute men.

1880 A Relief Committee was formed.

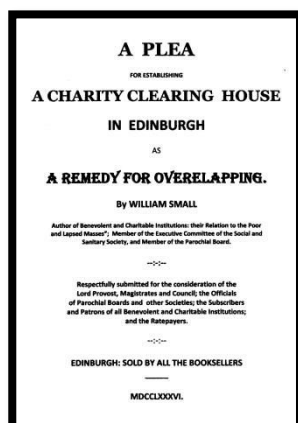
The name adopted as its title in 1893, '**The Help**', described the period when the Association worked out its own approach to Edinburgh's problems. It was also the title of the history written by Rona Morrison in 1968 to mark the 100th anniversary.

The Association came under many outside influences until in 1906 it changed its name to the **City of Edinburgh Charity Organisation Society (COS)**.

William Small

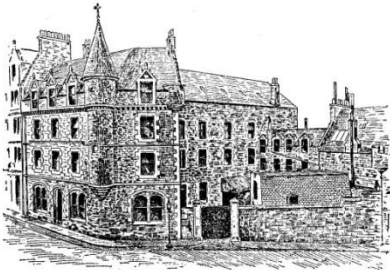
William Small was a member of the Executive Committee of the Social and Sanitary Society and a Member of the Edinburgh City Parochial Board. In 1886 he published a pamphlet entitled *A Plea for Establishing a Charity Clearing House: a Remedy for Overlapping*.

It was addressed to Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Council officials, those running charities and the general public. He pointed to the existence of more than 130 benevolent societies and religious institutions in the city set up to cater for the needs of the poor, which were often competing, inefficient and doing similar things. Making comparison with banking and the railways in the commercial sector, he called for the setting up of a body which would create a central register and provide information for the public. He said that the proposed institution would require the calling of a public meeting and "the approval and adhesion of a few of public charity societies and by the appointment of a Board or Council". But it would differ essentially from a Charity Organisation Society or any existing society inasmuch as it would not deal directly with money affairs or administer relief.



Included in the pamphlet was a list of charities and institutions categorised as 'Homes for Children', 'For Boys', 'For Boys and Girls', 'For Girls', 'For Women', 'For Men', 'For Men and Women', and 'Miscellaneous'. It was acknowledged that the "list is incomplete and there were other institutions which have not been inserted; information about these will be gladly received". Under the category 'For Men and Women' was the **Edinburgh Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor** with the address as 69 Hanover Street and the Office Bearer as T.R.Marshall Esq. Hon. Treasurer. Profits from the sale of the pamphlet were donated to the Simon Square Soup Kitchen.

The Association's address continued to be 69 Hanover Street until 1891 when No 1 King's Stables Road, off the Grassmarket, was purchased to bring the Association's activities together by providing an office, recreation room, sewing room, firelighter factory and waste paper store.



Activities at No 1 King's Stables Road

In 1891 a new scheme for clothing children was begun with a meeting of charities, including the Scottish Society for the Protection of Children from Cruelty (SSPCC), to centralise the work to make and mend clothes for 800 ill-clad children. Stocks piled up until January 1892 when 350 children were clothed. By the end of 1893, 939 had been clothed. The success of the scheme prompted the setting up of other schemes in the city.

1893 A scheme for collecting waste paper was started: 22 men and 9 women were employed under various categories: 'ordinary, time expired, permanent and extra hands hired in an emergency'.

1894 Unemployed tailors (17 men and 20 women) were taken on to make clothes for those unable to sew.

1895 The impact of the weather was severe and this was a disastrous winter. People were cold, wet and hungry. An engine was donated to drive the wood-cutting saw.

Other activities at the time were:

- a sickness and funeral fund,
- a register of members and donors,
- the collection and disbursement of money given for other charities,
- a list of publications and papers in the Annual Report.

In February 1897 there was a disastrous fire in the King's Stables Road factory which wrecked the interior so badly that the building was closed and subsequently sold. An office for the Association was rented at 59 North Frederick Street and a new firewood factory opened at 80 Dundee Street which included accommodation for the factory superintendent.

1897 The future of the Association was influenced by **Sir Charles Stewart Loch**.

Sir Charles Stewart Loch (1849-1923).



His family owned a mansion in Drylaw, Edinburgh, and he was educated at Glenalmond School in Perthshire and at Oxford University. He joined the Islington Charity Organising Council in 1875, becoming branch secretary and then national COS secretary that same year, serving until 1913. It was said of him in an obituary: 'He made the COS. He was the COS'. He influenced community workers and social workers worldwide.

(Painted by John Singer Sargent in 1901. Scottish National Portrait Gallery.)

A conference of COS delegates was held in London in 1881 and another in Glasgow in 1897. A register of COSs was opened in 1895 and by 1900 there were 77 societies recorded.

1899 Charles Loch visited Edinburgh and gave two lectures.

1900 The Boer War started. There was grave concern at the lack of any benefits for unmarried mothers left behind as men went to fight in South Africa since most relief agencies required sight of a marriage certificate.

Membership which had peaked at 1,386 in 1880 was down to 354 in 1900. The subscription remained at 5 shillings a year but the Association's broad base in the community had been lost and the size of the General Committee had been reduced. There was still support from Established and Episcopal Churches but there was no longer contact with the Roman Catholic Church.

1901/02 ***The Edinburgh Philanthropic Red Book*** was first produced including a list of charities and trusts. It was regularly updated after that as *The Red Book, a Directory of Social Welfare Organisations*, for a time listing organisations in the Lothian Region. It went 'online' in 2013. (See Part 1.7)

1902 A COS conference was held in Edinburgh and the Association's Chairman, the **Hon. Morton Stuart-Gray (17th Earl of Moray 1855-1930)**, gave an account of the Association. He said it had not followed the COS London line in training its workers, perfecting its methods and establishing District Committees. Instead it had relied on the Elberfeld pattern of voluntary committees. However they had lost their zeal after three years.

Other speakers favoured the London COS method.

1903 and 1904 Measures to relieve severe unemployment were met by the Edinburgh Corporation not by the Edinburgh Association.

1905 A Lord Provost conference set up a large General Committee with an Executive Committee and 6 sub-committees to study the topics: Elberfeld; temporary relief;

employment; vagrants; hospital relief; permanent homes and institutions. Reports from 3 sub-committees were sent to Charles Loch. His recommendations relied on the standard COS pattern of having a widely-representative Council to direct philanthropic policy in the city, a centre for pooling information, experience and ideas. The factory should be made over to the Parish Council and waste paper collection to the Corporation.

2.2 Edinburgh Charity Organisation Society (ECOS) 1906-1920 (14 years)

On 1st February 1906 a draft constitution for an Edinburgh COS was adopted and on 1st April the old Association was reconstituted with the new name, the full title being The City of Edinburgh Charity Organisation Society.

It held its first annual meeting in 1907. The Chairman was the Lord Provost and the General Secretary was Isaac J. Cowie who for 5 years had been General Secretary of 'The Help'. He was to serve for a further 12 years.

Activities continued much as before including a casework service to families. Something of the district structure was preserved but on the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 there were administrative problems due to the shortage of staff and volunteers.

1907 Management of the firewood factory at 80 Dundee Street was passed over to the Distress Committee for the Unemployed.

A Charitable Collection Scheme was established to dispense donations through the central office. This was a forerunner of the Charities Aid Fund. That year 46 charities subscribed and it was to grow steadily, so that by 1918 there were 121 charities listed.

A Youth Employment Bureau was set up. It was illegal for children under 12 to work and it was only in 1918 that the Education (Scotland) Act set the school leaving age at 14.

1908 A sub-committee grew into the Voluntary Health Visitor Movement and play schemes for children were developed.

1909 There was a series of seminars on 'Social Reforms', 'The Poor Law' and 'Co-operation between Public and Private Agencies'.

1914 'The Help' was asked to administer the Royal Scots Emergency War Fund. (See Part 1.11)

1918 Edinburgh University opened its School of Social Study under the direction of Dr Nora Milnes.

1919 Miss S.K. Findlay succeeded Isaac Cowie as ECOS General Secretary and the central office was moved from 28 Rutland Square to 6 Rutland Square.

After the First World War the London COS took the name Family Welfare Association and started the casework movement providing people with 'prolonged and friendly supervision'. District Committees were combined into Area Committees.

Outside London, provincial city COSs were formed. One was set up in Glasgow following the COS conference there in 1897. It handled subscriptions and payments for some 100 charities and published an annual handbook. It created Glasgow's Industrial Centre and a scheme for clothing school children. District Offices were established in 1896 but were only open for two hours a day.

Name change

In 1920 there was a further name change, the full title being the **City of Edinburgh Council of Social Service**. As previously, annual reports continued to carry the City's coat of arms and the sitting Lord Provost held the position of Chairman, demonstrating the close association of the two bodies.

The 'compass' logo was now used and it was described as 'a body not confined to one particular type of social work but ready to turn its energies into any direction which may be for the social good of the city'.

2.3 Edinburgh Council of Social Service (ECSS)

1920-1992 (72 years)



A house at 28 Stafford Street was bought for use as the central office and the organisation moved there from 6 Rutland Square. Miss S.K. Findlay had taken over from Isaac Cowie as General Secretary. The Council's Chairman was the Lord Provost and the Executive Committee's Chairman was Sir John Cowan.

The Council's work was based on five Districts:

North and East
South and West
St Giles
Canongate
Pleasance

A wide range of community and personal services was started and developed:

- a family casework service with a team of qualified social workers giving advice and practical help with loans, pensions, holidays and employment,
- a Clothing Guild and stores which were the first beginnings of charity shops,
- a Welfare Housing Association and a special loan fund to help householders with debt, the training of students from Moray House College and Edinburgh University

School of Social Study.

In 1920 a register of people wanting to do voluntary work was begun - the start of the **Edinburgh Volunteer Centre**. (See Part 1.13)

A Directory of Voluntary and Social Services was published and sold for two shillings.(See Part 1.7)

1922 A centre for the 'mentally handicapped' opened at the University Settlement (See Part 1.1) and a Mother and Infant Care Committee was set up.

Edinburgh Home for Mothers and Infants

The Home at 17 Claremont Park in Leith was established in 1922 under a Deed of Trust. The property was gifted on his death by Alexander Mouat. The object was 'to provide a home where unmarried expectant mothers may be admitted before their confinement and to which they may return with their babies after confinement'. The assets were held by an independent group of Trustees and staff were appointed and supervised by an Executive Committee. Over the following years the average number of residents was 20 but this declined as social attitudes and needs changed.

A review of 'Claremont Park' by Ronald Beasley in 1979 recommended closure and ECSS was asked to help with its winding down with Alan Rees as Chairman. The home closed in 1981, the property sold and the Trust wound up. The proceeds were used to fund sheltered accommodation for the same group of women.

1923 There was a conference on Housing and House Management when there was a talk on the importance of training rent collectors. The following year training for rent collectors started.

1926 A *Social Survey of the City of Edinburgh* handbook was published by ECSS at one shilling and sold by Oliver & Boyd and through booksellers. In its own words 'it showed the immense and various needs of modern life', the 'elaborate and far reaching machinery brought to bear on them', and 'what a concentration of wisdom, work and sympathy is still needed'. It was then updated as an annual.

SCSS/SCVO

At its Annual General Meeting in June 1926, the Edinburgh Council of Social Service passed a motion that it 'should enter into correspondence with other centres as to the desirability of a national Scottish organisation and that, if other centres be found sympathetic to this policy, steps be taken to form a representative committee'.

Following that, there was a conference in 1927 to discuss the setting up of a Scottish Council of Social Service, attended by delegates from 68 organisations.

But it wasn't until 1939 that a Scottish Advisory Committee was formed in Edinburgh by the National Council of Social Service (now the National Council of Voluntary Organisations) and given the remit to draft a constitution.

It was four years later, in October 1943, when the new body was formally separated from the National Council of Social Service and established in its own right as the Scottish Council of Social Service with 75 members representing a wide cross section of voluntary activity in Scotland.

Edinburgh Welfare Housing Ltd was set up with a campaign for a Home Help Service.

1929 A family casework service was started in the new housing estates of Prestonfield and Niddrie.

1935 Miss S.K. Findlay retired as General Secretary after 17 years of service and was succeeded by Miss Ann Ashley.

Citizen's Advice Service

In 1938, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) called a meeting with the Government expressing the need for a Citizen's Advice Service in the event of war being declared. September 1939 saw the opening of Citizen's Advice Bureaux in cities across the UK.

In Scotland, Glasgow was the first one and Edinburgh's Central Bureau opened in 1939, initially at 18 Charlotte Lane, then at Parsons' Gallery at 45 Queen Street for the war years and then at 6 Melville Street. It moved to 58 Dundas Street in 1962.

It was a part of ECSS until 1972 when it achieved independent status. (See Part 1.2)

Ainslie House

The property at 11 St Colme Street was bought by ECSS in 1938 and its office at 28 Stafford Street sold to the Society of Friends (Quakers).

The house was originally built around 1822 by the 10th Earl of Moray on his estate in the New Town. It was named after his second wife Margaret Jane Ainslie, the Countess of Ainslie, for use as a boarding school for young ladies.

It is now a private dwelling.



1940 With the outbreak of the Second World War, ECSS supported the WRVS and other organisations in preparations for emergencies and the evacuation of older people and families with children. It distributed clothing with the help of volunteers and provided information on services. Postal messages were received and replied to through the Red Cross and rest centres were opened.

Old People's Welfare Committee

In 1940 an Old People's Welfare Committee was established under the auspices of ECSS with its headquarters at Ainslie House. (See Part 1.5)

In 1941 a handbook, the *Edinburgh Wartime Guide*, published by ECSS, was in such demand it went to three editions and distributed 9,000 copies. (See Part 1.7)

1943 **The Scottish Council of Social Service** was established as an independent body with 75 members representing a wide cross section of voluntary activity in Scotland. (See under 1926 above)

1945 Community Centres were developed with the co-operation of the Civil Defence and the Home Guard. Plans were made for setting up a Marriage Guidance Council for Edinburgh. The national body had been established in 1938 and changed its name to Relate in 1988.

1949 Problems arose from housing shortages. Work was undertaken with the British Council for Aid to Refugees and established in 1952. It now forms part of the Refugee Council.

1953 There was growing dependence on credit and issues to do with house repossession were highlighted. ECSS's clothing store was taken over by the WRVS.

1957 Ann Ashley retired as General Secretary after 22 years of service and was succeeded by Mary Coverdale.

1960 There was a study group on the employment of ex-prisoners.

1962 The CAB moved to 58 Dundas Street. At this time it was staffed by some 30 volunteers and handled over 8,000 inquiries. (See Part 1.2)

1968 **The 100th anniversary** of the establishment of the Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor was marked by the publication of its history. Entitled *The Help* it was written by Rhona Morrison, Senior Lecturer in Social Administration, University of Dundee, and published by the Edinburgh Council of Social Service, Ainslie House, 11 St. Colme Street, Edinburgh.

To celebrate the centenary there was a Civic Reception in the City Chambers, a service in St Giles Cathedral, a Fashion Show, a Ball and a Yule Fair.

In 1968 John Mulvey was appointed to lead a **Community Work Team**. (See Part 1.12)

1969 A working party was set up to consider the implications of the possible closure of the Castle Trades Hotel in the Grassmarket and the Salvation Army Hostel in The Pleasance. (See Part 1.8)

In 1970 a Voluntary Organisations' Working Party was set up to examine areas of need in the city.

The **Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Committee** was formed as a structural change within ECSS, after the Social Work (Scotland) Act gave central and local government additional powers to 'promote social welfare'. (See Part 1.10) The change marked a moving away from casework to concentrate on a wider range of services and community work.

1970 The Voluntary Organisations' Committee started a Printing Service. (See Part 1.7)

1971. A consultation on **Social Planning and Community Involvement** was held at Middleton Hall, Midlothian. The speakers were Ronald Jones, Reader in Geography at Queen Mary College, London University, on 'The Social Geography of the City' and A.S.Travis, Professor of Town and Country Planning, Heriot-Watt University, on 'From Physical Planning to Comprehensive Planning for Social and Physical Needs'. There was a concluding summary by B.J.Ashley, Director of Community Studies, Moray House College of Education and Convener of the Edinburgh Council of Social Service Community Development Committee.

1971. **Edinburgh Voluntary Transport (EVT)** was established to co-ordinate transport provision in the voluntary sector, raise standards and provide driver training. It made passenger vehicles and a furniture van available for hire. (See Part 1.6)

1972 The Voluntary Organisations' Committee in effect took over the running of the Edinburgh Council of Social Service.

1972 The **Citizens Advice Bureau** became independent. (See Part 1.2)

1973 A **Volunteer Bureau** was established in the ECSS office at Ainslie House, 11 St Colme Street. (See Part 1.13)

1974 Edward A. Matthews was appointed Director.

Ted Matthews OBE



Ted Matthews was born in Middlesex in September 1937. He obtained an MSc in Social and Public Policy at Edinburgh University in 1989 and his first job was a Chaplain at the Borstal in Feltham. Between 1966 and 1974 he was Deputy Director with the Richmond Fellowship responsible for 22 half-way houses for the mentally ill. He was Director of EVOG until retiring in 1994 when he had plans to set up an independent consultancy. He died suddenly of a heart attack in January 1996.

Ted Matthews took on numerous voluntary jobs and appointments notably in the fields of mental health and homelessness. From 1992 to 1995 he was seconded from EVOG to the Scottish Refugee Council to be Acting Chief Executive. He was a member of the Lothian Health Board from 1983 to 1987 and the Midlothian Local Health Council from 1987 to 1992. He was a member of the Lothian Region/Health Board Senior Management Team and a Trustee of the Waverley Care Trust and the Edinburgh Cyrenians Trust.

1975 Local government was reorganised in two tiers, regional and district. Lothian Regional Council and Edinburgh District Council were created and continued until 1996 when unitary councils were reintroduced.

A Directory of Social Services. A guide to Statutory and Voluntary Organisations and Facilities in Edinburgh was published in conjunction with the Lothian Region Social Work Department

and the Lothian Health Board. (See Part 1.10)

In 1975 ECSS had over 900 voluntary organisations in membership.

1976 Alan Rees was appointed Assistant Director and also became the Secretary of the Edinburgh Council for Single Homeless established that year. The following year ECSH took over the Victoria Hostel for women run by the Edinburgh Lodging House Association and started refurbishment with funding under the Government's Urban Aid Programme.

1978 There was further intensive lobbying to close and upgrade the Castle Trades Hotel, the lodging house for men in the Grassmarket, and the need to have it bought from private owners by the City of Edinburgh Council or a housing association. (See Part 1.8)

1979 EVT pioneered a wheelchair accessible Mini-cab service for disabled people with the driver employed under the Government's Job Creation Programme. (See Part 1.6)

1980 An inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh Association for Mental Health was held. The Scottish Association for Mental Health had been established in 1923. (See website history)

1981 The inaugural meeting of the Edinburgh Council on Alcoholism took place.

In this year the ECSS **Practice Teaching Unit** was set up to provide social work students with placements in voluntary organisations. It was later to become the Student Unit (See Part 1.4)

This was the International Year of Disabled People when Government funding was available. Fundraising started to set up Handicabs. (See Part 1.9.3)

1983 **Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd** was formally established with its registered address at Ainslie House, 11 St Colme Street.

1983-86 Handicabs and Edinburgh Voluntary Transport shared office premises at 14 Braefoot Terrace during this time, after which Handicabs went to 58 Canaan Lane and EVT to 129B Willowbrae Road.

1987 The Lothian Interpreting and Translating Service Trust was established.

1991 **Lothian Community Transport (LCTS)** became an independent body. (See Part 1.6)

1992 A women's hostel at 2 Cranston Street was opened to replace the Victoria Hostel. (See Part 1.8)

2.4. Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council 1992 – 2018 (26 years)

There was another change of name with a new logo to rebrand the organisation.

The relationship between statutory bodies (city, region and national) and voluntary bodies from the earliest days was one of interaction, cooperation and partnership between them with a mixture of

policy-making, planning and service delivery.

Support services for organisations and communities continued with the following:

- Grant-giving: in 2001 the Trust Funds were combined as EVOT. (See Part 1.11)
- Printing and duplicating. (See Part 1.7)
- Information provision – continued publishing the ‘Red Book’ directory of voluntary organisations. (See Part 1.7)
- Shared premises provision and projects.
- Fundraising – charity shops and the annual Charities Christmas Hypermarket (See Part 1.9.2)

1993 125th anniversary.

A two-sided A4 insert in the annual report was headed *125 Years of History* and highlighted issues and events over that period.

1994 **Voice of Carers Across Lothian (VOCAL)** was formed as a charitable company with the help of EVOC. It now provides a wide range of services for some 10,000 carers with carer centres in Edinburgh and Midlothian. In 2017 it employed 35 part-time and full-time staff.

1994 Ted Matthews retired and the following year Shula Allan was appointed Director.

Shulah Allan MBE Director of EVOC 1995-2009.

Shulah came to Edinburgh to take up a position in child care for the local authority. She subsequently retrained as a Youth and Community Worker and for a decade prior to moving to EVOC worked in the field of developing community-based mental health services across the city and with service users to integrate their role in planning services.



During her time as Director, EVOC moved from its long established, but no longer fit for purpose, office in the New Town and the sale of the building allowed new and keenly sought initiatives by EVOC to be supported financially.

The introduction of Community Planning coincided with Shulah Allan’s time at EVOC providing new opportunities and challenges for the Third Sector in Edinburgh which EVOC actively addressed. In 2010 she received the MBE for services to the voluntary sector in Edinburgh.

Following retirement from EVOC, she became a Non-Executive Director of NHS Lothian in 2010 and was Vice Chair of the Board from 2012 to 2017. She was Convener of SCVO from 2013 to 2017.

1994 Local government in Scotland was reorganised into single tier authorities, the City of Edinburgh Council being one.

Bishop Richard Holloway ended his 6 year term of office as Chairman.

The EVOC charity shop in Easter Road was closed after a fall in takings due to roadworks. The shops in Crighton Place (Leith Walk) and Dalry Road remained open.

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1996 In January Ted Matthews died of a heart attack. A memorial service was held in St Mary's RC Cathedral.

1996 *Ted Matthews: A Collection of Tributes*. Alan Rees (Editor) was published.

1998 There were problems for EVOC when the Council grant was reduced and the Community Work Team was disbanded. (See Parts 1.10 and 1.12)

Shared premises

EVOC was for a long time aware of the difficulty faced by voluntary organisations in finding suitable and affordable office accommodation in central Edinburgh. Other cities in the UK posed similar problems. The solution in some was for the Councils of Voluntary Service to acquire an office with extra space or to find property in which to provide 'shared' facilities.

Ainslie House was able to make provision for several other organisations at different times, the Salvation Army, Women's Aid and the National Association of Youth Orchestras being examples. And it could help with advertising when other organisations had free space.

When the Norton Park Annexe and outbuildings at 57 Albion Road became surplus to the Education Authority's requirements in 1989 due to declining school rolls, it seemed a golden opportunity to create something special. Four charities looking to relocate got together in 1994, made a commitment to rent and, with funding from the Tudor Trust for the project, a feasibility study was undertaken. The Albion Trust was formed as a registered charity. Among its Trustees were Shulah Allan MBE, Director of EVOC, and Mike Harland, EVOC Board Member and project leader.

A Development Worker was appointed in 1995 and the **Norton Park Centre** opened in May 1998, able to accommodate 20 organisations with common reception, interview and training room facilities. What's more, the nearby Lockhart Memorial Church was later converted to provide a conference auditorium with a 100 person capacity and associated seminar rooms. The re-fashioned Hibernian Football Stadium also became available for events. The architect Ricky Pollock described the project as "one of the most successful he had ever undertaken".

A similar but unrelated project was **The Melting Pot**, established as a social enterprise in 2007 by Claire Carpenter. It occupied the top floor at 5 Rose Street to provide 'a special resource base and shared working environment'.

1998-2004 **The Voluntary Sector Participation Unit (VSPU)** was set up to develop EVOC's role in 'communities of place'. In January 2000 more EVOC staff were based in city neighbourhoods.

1998-2006 There was a **New Deal/Public Sector Contract** in place and in 2003 a Compact Strategy for the Voluntary Sector and 5 other sector bodies. (See Part 3.2)

1999 EVOC moved its office from Ainslie House to 2 Ashley Place. Archive records of Trust accounts were donated to the City of Edinburgh Council.

2000 The **Edinburgh Volunteer Exchange** became an independent body. (See Part 1.13)

Trust Funds

In 2001 a single Trust known as the **Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Trust (EVOT)** was formed from a number of funds managed by EVOC on behalf of individuals and other charities. EVOT operated as a separate entity with its own charity registration and Board of Trustees (including some trustees in common with EVOC). A further two trusts were combined with EVOT in 2007. The Surplus Fire Fund was dissolved under The City of Edinburgh (Leith Links and Surplus Fire Fund) Act 2014 and re-launched in 2015 as The Edinburgh Fire Fund to be managed by EVOT.

In 2015 EVOT modernises its constitution and changed its name to the **Edinburgh and Lothian Trust Fund** but its core purposes remained unchanged. These are the relief of poverty and the provision of financial assistance. As before, the trust funds are restricted to beneficiaries in the City of Edinburgh and the Lothians. (See Part 1.11)

2005 EVOC's Care Learning programme was introduced.

2008 EVOC's 140th anniversary was marked by a Civic Reception in the City Chambers.

2009 EVOC's two Practice Teachers were made redundant. (See Part 1.4)

2009 Shulah Allan resigned as EVOC Director and Ella Simpson succeeded her as the Chief Executive.

2012 The Substance Abuse Network Edinburgh (SUNE) was set up to provide a means of sharing ideas and good practice.

2014 LOOPs (Learning Opportunities for Older People) was launched jointly by EVOC and the Pilmeny Development Project in Leith to improve uptake of social activities and preventative services.

2014-17 The Recovery Essentials Project, funded by the Big Lottery, was to provide greater financial security for people in recovery through welfare benefits and fostering skills.

Everybody's Edinburgh

2017-2021 EVOC and Volunteer Edinburgh produced a Manifesto entitled *Everybody's Edinburgh* as a 'call to action to prioritise the wellbeing of Edinburgh's citizens'. It noted a 'polarisation in society and politics – rich vs poor, left vs right, union vs independence'. It said the Third Sector 'acts as a bridge across these divisions, bringing people together to problem solve and reduce inequality and isolation. Only through investing in our communities will it be possibleto tackle inequalities, poverty and injustice'.

The Manifesto made a commitment to:

- focus resources on addressing poverty and inequality,
- recognise, nurture and support in-depth co-production and partnership working,
- participate in a Third Sector led 'Commission on Prevention' to quantify investment in preventative services and recommend future actions to shift the balance of spend.

The two organisations undertook to 'constructing productive space' where voluntary, statutory and private sectors can come together to tackle inequalities, work with elected members to ensure involvement from across sectors in finding solutions, and work to support partnerships and collaboration.

In the years that followed, EVOG established a work programme designed to involve as wide a spread of voluntary sector organisations as possible in regular consultation and participation between themselves and with other sectors.

Governance

From the start, the constitution's Objects gave the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor, and its successor bodies, the status of a charity. Charitable organisations in membership made up a Council which annually elected an Executive Committee.

For many years the Chairman was ex-officio the Lord Provost of Edinburgh. The EVOG Committee appointed its own Chairman or Convenor for six year terms who was independent of any one particular member body and often associated with the church or university. Since 1978 the following have served: Rev. Tom Scott, Rev. Professor Duncan Forrester, Bishop Richard Holloway, Maureen O'Neill, Penny Richardson and Professor David Bennett. The present Convener is Joan Fraser.

General Secretaries (Directors or Chief Executives) have been appointed by the Executive Committee as head of the staff team to manage and develop the organisation. They have served for longer periods: Isaac Cowie for 12 years (1907-1919), Miss S.K.Findlay for 16 years (1919-1935), Ann Ashley for 22 years (1935-1957), Mary Coverdale for 17 years (1957-1974), Ted Matthews OBE for 20 years (1974-1994) and Shulah Allan MBE for 14 years (1995-2009). Ella Simpson, the present Chief Executive, then took over.

Part 3: A New Role

3.1 Shulah Allan MBE

Director, Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council 1995-2009

Changing Times in Health and Social Services

The 1990s was a pivotal time for charities and community organisations in Edinburgh engaging with the development of community-based health and social care services. Significant changes in the strategic direction for introducing and then mainstreaming community care, as an alternative to institutional care presented new challenges, and new opportunities. EVOC's role was to support organisations as they sought to influence the change, to develop their capacity and to initiate new ways of working, supporting them to develop new and alternative approaches and new ways of engaging people who used their services to influence the fast flowing agenda for change.

The community-focussed model for delivering care services is the mainstream these days. The recognition of the value and potential of preventative approaches is likewise recognised strategically. In the 1980s and 90s this was certainly not the case, and the campaigning role and increasing focus on service provision was challenging the state monopoly of provision of health and social care services. This led to new charitable organisations developing alternatives to institutional care for people with, for example, enduring mental health conditions and learning disabilities, and for older people. For many of these new bodies EVOC carved a significant role providing the developmental support necessary for their organisational sustainability.

Forums

At the same time, EVOC was supporting organisations to influence how services were being designed and commissioned through sharing their experience of developing new ideas and practice. Forums brought them together to address mutual interests, and the Community Care Alliance was set up to facilitate participation in the emerging strategic arrangements for joint planning of health and social care services.

In similar vein, EVOC supported the Third Sector organisations delivering health-focussed services in the city to play a role in the governance arrangements for the city's two Community Health Partnerships, when they were introduced in 2005.

Capacity-building support was given to groups of people who used particular services or experienced particular health conditions who sought to develop their voice and to use their unique experiences to influence how services were planned and delivered in both the Public and Third Sectors. EVOC's *Red Book* directory was there to enable people to know about, navigate and access the city's Third Sector's resources and facilities.

Positive interventions

The Third Sector has a justified reputation for being able to respond nimbly to changing environments. To respond successfully to change and within it to deliver best organisational practice organisations can require a range of positive interventions. These can include, as examples, being well informed, undertaking capacity building, having access to funding advice, and developing and delivering best practice in governance and employment. EVOC's

role has been to support this, notably through the Social Care Unit, and also through the EVOC Care Learning programme introduced in 2005. Examples of significant specific challenges for delivery organisations were the learning and training issues associated with the introduction of Registration and Regulation of Care Services and the introduction of charity law in Scotland.

The 1990s saw a gradual move from local authority grant-aid towards Service Level Agreements (SLA's). This then moved on with Community Care legislation to an increasing profile for Public Sector contracting with delivery organisations within a commissioning culture. This resulted in EVOC liaising with a growing range of skilled voluntary organisations who were extensively engaged in planning, presenting and delivering significant services. The formal relationship with the Public Sector which ensued, together with legislation, required new levels of accountability and compliance, and increased managerial approaches. Meanwhile, EVOC needed to also be relevant for the small grant-aided charity, delivering informal services, often responding to locally identified gaps in provision, significantly preventing people's life situations from escalating and then requiring formal intervention.

EVOC has played a key role in supporting the Third Sector to challenge the status quo, often in partnership, by initiating alternatives to traditional models of service delivery, and delivering high quality services. The successful programmes for closure of two institutions (The Thomas Clouston Clinic and Gogarburn Hospital) were due in no small part to participation of the sector in planning and setting up new resources in the community.

3.2 EVOC Today

Introduction

The relationship between statutory bodies (city, region and national) and voluntary/community bodies from the earliest years of EVOC's history has been a story of interaction, co-operation and partnership, with a mix of policy-making, planning and service delivery. In recent years ensuring communication across the sectors and facilitating relationships, collaboration and leading change, have become the organisation's main activities as the voluntary sector has grown in size and complexity.

The Voluntary Sector in Edinburgh

There are upwards of 4,000 voluntary organisations based within Edinburgh. These are comprised of some 2,800 organisations formally registered with The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as charitable, as well as an estimated 1,200 community groups.

* 71% of these organisations work solely or largely within Edinburgh,

* 29% working across Scotland, the UK or internationally.

The sector employs in the region of 15,000 people and provides extensive workforce and skills development, employability support and life-long learning opportunities for young people and adults of all ages.

Statistics from the Scottish Charity Register show that there are 655 charities whose purpose is the improvement of people's health. Set alongside other purposes, such as working with disadvantaged people (691) and the relief of poverty (537), we start to get a feel for the scope of the sector in delivering both health and social care services.

Add to that non-charitable organisations and social enterprises, we start to build a picture of a complex interplay between the individuals, autonomous organisations, the voluntary sector, the community, and the wider world including statutory and independent sector partners.

EVOC's Overall Strategic Objectives

1. Consulting, supporting and representing the Third Sector.
2. Building the capacity of and developing the Sector.
3. Developing partnership approaches, principles and practice.
4. Providing improved services by supporting and developing our people.
5. Being a high quality, effective and developing organisation.

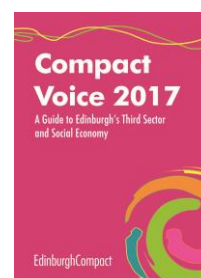
Volunteers and Governance

The voluntary sector would not be able to function without the support of a dedicated pool of volunteers. In addition, good governance is provided for all Third Sector organisations by volunteer Trustees who frequently dedicate large amounts of time to the establishment of organisations, supporting funding initiatives and working within communities to build community awareness. EVOC continues to support organisations' governance through one to one support and training. Good governance is the bedrock of a successful, sustainable voluntary sector.

Edinburgh's Third Sector Interface and Compact Partnership.

EVOC works in partnership with Volunteer Edinburgh and Edinburgh Social Enterprise forming the Edinburgh Third Sector Interface (TSI); annually a collaborative work plan is agreed which benefits the sector and stakeholders.

The Edinburgh Compact between the Public and Third Sectors has been developed for over ten years as a collaborative strategic partnership delivering a programme around future planning across the third and Statutory Sectors. It seeks to close the gap between the poorest and the most affluent and 'flatten the gradient' of unequal outcomes. Compact works with all Edinburgh Community Planning stakeholders and contributes to Edinburgh's Community Plan setting out ambitious outcomes for the city.



EVOC also contributes to a wide range of Community Planning partnerships, from Community Safety, the Health & Social Care Integration Joint Board to the Edinburgh Partnership itself – which is the overarching board for all community planning activity in the city.

EVOC supports a number of Networks

Edinburgh Community Transport Organisers Group (CTOG)

This is an informal group of community transport operators aiming to deliver the most effective transport solutions for the community and voluntary sector in Edinburgh.

Edinburgh Disability Forum

EVOC provides support to the Edinburgh Forum for voluntary sector organisations providing services to people with disabilities.

Edinburgh Mental Health Forum

The Forum is open to any Third Sector organisations delivering mental health services in Edinburgh. It receives dedicated development support from EVOC.

Older People Service Providers Forum

EVOC supports and services the network as a means for providers to share their concerns, to address issues and to promote their interests.

Substance Abuse Network Edinburgh (SUNE)

Its aim is to improve the effectiveness of Edinburgh's voluntary sector to the planning and delivery of services and activities for tackling issues around drug and alcohol use.

The Children Young People's and Families Network

Edinburgh's network of voluntary organisations working with children, young people and families.

The Third Sector Strategy Group

This group brings together a range of voices from Edinburgh's Third Sector to consider matters of strategic importance. It enables knowledge and intelligence to flow from thematic or geographical networks to City level conversations.

Voluntary Sector Forums

The VSFs bring together organisations in local geographical areas for peer support, thematic discussions, sharing developments and challenges and agreeing joint work and action.

Thinkspace



This provides opportunities for individuals and organisations to come together to learn about and discuss issues and developments in different fields in the Third Sector. EVOC has an on-going programme covering a wide range of topics. In 2016/17 there were 19 events attended by 472 people from 28 different organisations.

Conclusion

As was said in the introduction, many of the issues which were addressed by the **Edinburgh Association for the Improvement of the Conditions of the Poor** when it was established in 1868 still confront us today. We still live in an unequal society divided between the haves and the have nots. The number and variety of charitable organisations has grown enormously and there is an even greater need for consultation and co-operation across what we now call the Third Sector, and indeed across the much enlarged and complex Statutory and Private Sectors. This is the dominant task on which EVOG is engaged, as well as continuing the delivery of specific services to meet the needs of Edinburgh's citizens as it has done in the past.

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As stated in the introduction, he again acknowledges the large extent to which he has relied on the work of Rhona Morrison in her book *The Help* which describes the period 1868-1906, and the factsheet produced by EVOC to mark its 125th anniversary. Annual reports have also been a valuable source. Part 1 contributions have been checked with the contributors. However he takes full responsibility for this history throughout and any mistakes or inaccuracies.

Images

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45	Portrait from Shulah Allan.
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55	Self portrait by the author.

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Memberships: British Acoustic Neuroma Association; British Association of Social Workers; Community Transport Association; Edinburgh Community Transport Operators Group; Edinburgh Council for the Single Homeless; Edinburgh Home for Mothers and Infants; Edinburgh Lodging House Association; Edinburgh Voluntary Transport; HcL/Handicabs (Lothian); International Play Association (IPA); Parkinson's Disease UK; Practical Action; Scotland Yard Adventure Centre; Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance; Scottish Adventure Play Association for Handicapped Children; Scottish Disability Equality Forum; Seagull Trust.

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