



Launch of Social Enterprise Reset Week (#socentreset)

Context

COVID-19 has brought about a new appreciation of what is important and valued in society and the reliance we all have on our local communities. The response to this pandemic has demonstrated the true value of 'localism in action' with community-based social enterprises providing crucial services and a lifeline in their communities.

As outlined in Scottish Government's '*COVID-19 – A Framework for Decision Making*', one thing that is certain is that the transition towards new norms will be a gradual process. Once the lockdown measures begin to be relaxed, in a safe and phased manner, we need to rebuild and strengthen civil society and fully recognise its importance and resourcefulness. Community-based social enterprises will be more important than ever in order to ameliorate the long-term socio-economic impacts of the pandemic that have affected communities all across Scotland.

As the national focus moves into the next phase of looking towards recovery and developing the road map that can lead us towards a more normal way of life, our sector has also begun to reflect on how best we can support our communities and contribute to what will inevitably be a very difficult journey towards national recovery.

Campaign #socentreset

Today, we are launching **Social Enterprise Reset Week!**

We will connect and engage with frontline community-based social enterprises right across the country and gather information related to common experiences and support and funding needs for a sustainable future. The conversation kicked off on Friday 1st May with an all SEN Meeting. This will be followed by a week-long series of local and thematic SEN meetings and a twitter campaign encouraging all social enterprises across Scotland to engage.

SE Reset Week will begin in earnest on the 11th May – a series of conversations with community-based social enterprise to determine their support and funding requirements over the medium to longer-term.

The week will include opportunities for social enterprises to contribute on a local and thematic basis via virtual SEN meetings. There will also be virtual focus groups where SEs can put forward challenges, issues and opportunities that they can discuss with their peers – there are already some key themes emerging around preparing for continued social distancing measures and reconfiguring spaces and services. For the full calendar of events and activity taking place, see <https://senscot.net/se-reset/>. If you would like to get involved by hosting an event or suggesting a theme for discussion email: mail@senscot.net

Towards Recovery

There has never been a more critical time to ensure that the central goal of economic recovery and the various strategies that will deliver it, also deliver collective wellbeing and greater community resilience which are so essential in order to tackle the deep-rooted inequalities that this crisis has not just laid bare but exacerbated.

The transformed economic climate, new norms, values and behaviours and no doubt increasing service delivery pressures highlight to us the importance of community-based social enterprises to the economic and social recovery at the neighbourhood level. Our sector has proven to be resilient in crisis and agile in responding to the needs of Scotland's most vulnerable groups and communities.

Community-based social enterprises stand ready to make a significant contribution to our nation's recovery – stimulating economic, social and community action that can help drive that recovery. These organisations are so important because their explicit goal of strengthening communities is not a mere by-product of their enterprising activity but their *raison d'être*.

We urge all social enterprises to get involved in **#socentreset** and together we can inform and chart a change in course – towards a new economy based on the values of community, inclusivity, sustainability and solidarity.

For more information: <https://sencot.net/se-reset/>

Twitter: **#socentreset**