

Paper 2: Draft Annual Review 2020 – 2021

"This year has been a year like no other, with the social care sector being particularly impacted by the global pandemic. Camphill Scotland may be a small team, but our efforts to support members during Covid19 whilst continuing to represent people with learning disabilities and additional support needs through our policy work has been an incredible achievement."

Marcus Sangster, Chair, Camphill Scotland

We are a membership organisation for eleven Camphill communities across Scotland. Together they support more than 600 people with learning disabilities and additional support needs. Working on behalf of our members we influence policymakers, partner with like-minded organisations across the sector to champion disabled people's rights and promote the work and values of Camphill to the wider public.

In June, Camphill marked its 80th anniversary. Most of our planned activities were put on hold due to the global coronavirus pandemic, and our primary focus shifted to supporting our members through this unprecedented time. The nature of life in Camphill allowed our members to lockdown early, and to create spaces for people to socialise safely. However, Covid-19 has had impacts across the health and social care sector, and these have been felt severely in Camphill, too.

Continuing to influence

Inclusive communications

"The need for inclusive communications has never been more important. People need accessible information and accessible ways of communicating, whatever way they find easiest to communicate." **Ruth Maguire, MSP**

Working with Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and Inclusion Scotland, we succeeded in ensuring that the Scottish Government's Social Security legislation and Consumer Scotland legislation included a strong focus on inclusive communication. Building upon this success, we drafted the Inclusive Communication (Scotland) Bill and will continue to work with all parties to increase the use of inclusive communications by all public bodies.

Brexit

International connections are valued in Camphill and we have been working hard to protect them. The UK Government's decision to exclude care workers from the proposed new fast-track Health and Care visa could have far reaching impacts on both the health and care sectors across the UK, and on those people who rely on quality, human-centered care.

Health surcharge

Every year our members enjoy hosting around 250 international volunteers, many of whom are young students who will volunteer within their host Camphill community for about a year. Since Brexit the UK Government has introduced a health surcharge of over £600 which these young volunteers would have to pay.

Baroness Judith Jolly lodged an amendment to the Committee Stage of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill in the House of Lords, on behalf of Camphill Scotland and our supporters totalling over 50 organisations across the UK. The Amendment required the UK Government to ensure that the immigration health surcharge exemption extends to international volunteers. Dialogue is ongoing between the UK Government and Baroness Jolly.

Impact on health and social care

We gained the support of over 50 partners to urge the UK Government to make a commitment that it will commission an independent review of the impact of the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill and of the new points-based immigration system upon health and social care across the UK. The UK Government gave a commitment that it would publish an independent assessment of the impact of ending free movement on the social care sector.

Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill

“Without proper planning and preparation for, and support with, transition, too many disabled young people will live with the long-term consequences of being denied the right to achieve their potential.....This is a matter of equality and justice.” Johann Lamont, MSP

With our partners Inclusion Scotland and support from Because We Matter, we continued to support Johann Lamont MSP’s proposed Member’s Bill. Following a consultation period, the Disabled Children and Young People (Transitions to Adulthood) (Scotland) Bill received support from a total of 53 MSPs from all five political parties represented in the Scottish Parliament. Johann Lamont MSP was given permission by the Scottish Parliamentary Bureau to introduce her Bill, which was developed by Camphill Scotland with support from Camphill School Aberdeen, Ochil Tower School and our other members, and by Inclusion Scotland.

We gave oral evidence to the Education and Skills Committee about the general principles and content of the Bill. It received a positive response from the Committee, although it subsequently confirmed that it would be unable to complete its Stage 1 scrutiny due to the lack of time left in the parliament. We continue to receive support for the Bill and will continue to pursue it in the new parliament.

Cross Party Groups

Camphill Scotland has continued to play an active role in cross-party groups in the Scottish Parliament, including the cross-party groups on Disability, on Learning Disability, on Carers, on Children and Young People, on Older People and Ageing and on Volunteering.

Camphill Scotland raised the issue of day services at the Cross-Party Group on Learning Disability, consisting of MSPs, organisations and individuals with an interest in issues relating to learning disability. At the meeting Camphill Scotland secured agreement from the Cross-Party Group that its legacy paper will include a commitment it will request that the Health and Sport Committee in the new parliament undertakes an inquiry into the availability of day services and day centres for people with a learning disability and other support needs.

Staying Connected

Our member forums have never been more needed. Throughout the pandemic they have provided an invaluable source of support for the communities – from urgent peer support during the initial lockdown to sharing advice on how to continue to welcome international volunteers safely, our team has facilitated online gatherings whilst ensuring that essential information from relevant bodies was shared quickly.

- **Covid:** We have held a weekly (sometimes twice weekly) Covid meeting since the beginning of the first lockdown. We subsequently addressed issues which arose with the relevant external forums, partners and stakeholders, including Scottish Government, CCPS, COSLA and the Care Inspectorate. These meetings have played an integral part in supporting our members through all areas of the pandemic and ensuring a coordinated response across Camphill in Scotland wherever possible

- **Influencing:** The Influencing Group met to discuss the Scottish Parliament elections, plans for policy engagement in the upcoming parliamentary session and plans for engagement with politicians and stakeholders within communities
- **Finance:** The Strategic Finance Group met twice to discuss financial challenges and issues arising from Covid. Shared learning around challenges such as local authority contract delays and cancellations is essential for communities at a time when they are stretched across all areas of their work
- **Volunteering:** The Volunteering Group met nine times during the year. This forum brings together colleagues from across Camphill and volunteering organisations to discuss issues relating to international volunteering and how to develop the pipeline for new talent. We are developing a pilot scheme to match Care Leavers with communities
- **Members:** We have established new networks for our members. The International Co-workers Meet-up is an online space for volunteers who have joined from overseas during lockdown. They can share experiences about what it is like at their community and create new connections. The Members Meet-Up is for everyone who works and volunteers within a Camphill community in Scotland, and is set-up as an evening social event
- **Families:** The Family Network was established this year with an aim of uniting families from across Camphill communities. Parents and siblings meet on a regular basis to offer peer support and to discuss the current opportunities and issues for Camphill. It has grown to become a hugely important resource for families

Reaching Out

- We have continued in our partnership working with Inclusion Scotland with emphasis on the Transitions Bill
- Our campaigns on the need for an independent review of the impact of Brexit and the new points-based immigration system on health and social care, and on the need to extend the immigration health surcharge exemption to international volunteers, were both UK-wide campaigns. These campaigns were led by Camphill Scotland, the ALLIANCE and SCVO. It is extremely rare for Scottish organisations to lead UK-wide alliance campaigns. This is a testament to our strong partnerships with other organisations
- Our work with Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists on the Inclusive Communications Bill culminated in Inclusive Communications being included in four of the five party manifestos during the Scottish Elections 2021. We co-commissioned research from Fraser of Allander at Strathclyde University to aid us in this work
- Charlie McMillan, CEO at Scottish Commission for Learning Disabilities (SCLD), spoke at our AGM on protecting and championing rights for people with learning disabilities and we continue to support each other's work

Communications

Camphill celebrates 80 years

“What a great film! Watching this makes my heart full of joy and re-confirms how wonderful and enriching Camphill life is so for many. I am always in gratitude.” Jane Riach, Parent at Murtle Estate

The global pandemic has impacted on Camphill's 80th Anniversary celebrations. A parliamentary reception at the Scottish Parliament, originally planned for October 2020, has been postponed until it is safe to host physical events. However, we were able to launch our film '[Camphill – Still Thriving at 80](#)', which was created in collaboration with media co-op and a number of our members.

The film was screened as part of the Fire Starter Festival, which is run by the Collective Leadership for Scotland team at The Scottish Government. Camphill Scotland and a member from Camphill Blair Drummond, who was involved in the filming, took part in a Q&A during the event.

Social media

We have continued to develop our online communications, with a 23% increase in visits to our website this year. Our internal comms continues to provide communities across Scotland with up-to-date information on our work and activities across Camphill.

MORE QUOTES TO BE ADDED & FINANCIAL SUMMARY