



Integrated Care Matters Webinar Series 5

Social Leadership, Collective Action and Kindness

Wednesday, 14th April 2021

Background

The webinar brought together like-minded people with policy, civil society and implementation perspectives to share learning and resources. This was eloquently complemented by examples of the positive impacts of volunteering and acts of kindness and how these are enabling compassionate communities right across the globe.

A total of 86 registered for the webinar from various sectors covering 22 countries around the globe:



Panellists:

Alan Stevenson, Interim CEO, Volunteer Scotland and **Calum Irving**, Head of Third Sector Unit, Scottish Government shared the plans and progress to develop the National Volunteering Action Plan for Scotland.

Penny Halliday, Volunteer Coordinator, A Listening Ear Telephone Befriending Service, Dumfries and Galloway, Wigtownshire shared the development and implementation of the service and how a small idea can have a big impact on the befrienders, recipients and compassionate Wigtownshire.

Dr Stephen Ginsborg & Jessie Williams, CEO, GroundSwell Project, New South Wales shared their work and reach of the GroundSwell Project. Highlighting compassion in the workplace is a next step.

Bonnie Tomkins, Compassionate Communities National Lead, Pallium Care, Canada shared the Canada wide progress that has been achieved and how this has been adapted to context through sharing examples and resources.

“There’s a profound honesty in each of the presentations; in the message ‘it’s time to talk about death’ but also an honesty that comes from advocating for those most vulnerable and ignored by bureaucracy and process. Powerful simile from Bonnie likening each community to a “little snowflake” which speaks to their uniqueness but also (perhaps) their fragility and transience. We need more space, time, resources for communities like these that motivate 80 + year olds to volunteer with their elders. **Continue to be yourself and tell it like it is!**”

Take Home Messages

People study for months to prepare for a birth— why not a death?

The power of communities to adapt and care during COVID shines through

Diversity is the word. To make a difference is key – it is fabulous to hear this

- ⇒ I really enjoyed the IFIC session. Its been a valuable learning opportunity to hear what is unfolding in countries like Canada and Australia and the message of hope post Covid, that this is the time now for Compassionate Communities! The webinar was an opportunity to take part in an amazing fellowship which was truly inspiring!
- ⇒ As we move forward, exploring compassion in workplaces is taking more prominence for all.
- ⇒ This is the time now for Compassionate Communities!
- ⇒ A real sense of authenticity and sincerity of the people and the work they are doing to make a difference

It's refreshing to hear about programmes that are built on relationships and have people at the very heart of what they are doing. A real sense of authenticity and sincerity of the people and the work they are doing to make a difference and I agree the time is now.

Compassionate Communities should all be their own little snowflake!



You will find the webinar recording, presentation slides and topic resource [here](#)



Our next Webinar

Wed, 16th June 2021

3.30 pm to 5.00 (BST)

Health Literacy and Realistic Medicine

Sign up [here](#)



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<https://integratedcarefoundation.org/ific-scotland-3>



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