



Access All Areas



Conference Report of the
Shared Care Scotland National Conference
22 November 2018

www.sharedcarescotland.org.uk

#accessallareas

With Access All Areas, we wanted to deliver an event that had a big impact. We wanted to explore some of the innovative ways that organisations are supporting full and equal participation across leisure, sport, cultural life and civil society. We wanted to emphasise our rights to live a full, active and vibrant life and how physical and attitudinal barriers can have a profound impact on the ability to some people exercise these rights, and experience the same freedom that many of us take for granted.



Our first speakers in the morning Judith Robertson, Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission and Dr Sam Smith, Chief Executive of C-Change Scotland, reminded us very powerfully of these rights and the importance of placing a rights-based approach at the very centre of our policies and practice. We were encouraged to take every opportunity to empower the people we connect with to know and claim their rights, and to hold our public bodies and businesses to account.

Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed concluded the morning session by illustrating just how difficult it can be to participate in even the simplest of activities such as visiting the park with her family. Better engagement with families in the early stages of planning facilities or services could make such a difference in opening up greater access to recreation. Shubhanna appealed to us to challenge services to raise their game, to question why things can't be different, and to be persistent.

Our 16 trailblazer sessions demonstrated across a wide range of activities what can be achieved with a little imagination and commitment. Common themes emerging from the workshops included the importance of collaboration; developing new partnerships and working together with service users to overcome any barriers to participation. Being ready to adapt and evolve in response to feedback was another key theme, illustrating perhaps that it's unlikely we'll ever get things right first time, but it's better to try and make mistakes than never to try.

Our final speakers in the afternoon were Malcolm Roughead, Chief Executive of VisitScotland and Jo Chopra, Founder and Director of the Latika Roy Foundation in Dehradun, India.

We learned from Malcolm that inclusive tourism is now a central theme within VisitScotland's core strategy. This recognises the vital social and health benefits of having a short break or holiday. As well as developing resources and information to develop more accessible venues, VisitScotland has also developed an annual campaign to work with hospitality businesses in Scotland to provide free breaks to families who would otherwise struggle to afford a holiday. 420 families were supported through Scotpririt in 2017 with 94% reporting that as a result of their break they were feeling more positive and optimistic about the future.

Our final speaker of the day was Jo Chopra. Jo's presentation was entitled 'Just leap, the net will appear' in which she talked about the need to remain strong in our convictions and not be discouraged by the occasional set back. As 'Trailblazers' ourselves we need to be prepared to take risks and to push forward into uncharted territory. Jo's inspirational story of how she came to set up the Latika Roy Foundation, supporting children and adults with special needs, and the challenges faced in overcoming some of the practical, financial and attitudinal barriers was truly inspirational and perhaps put our own challenges into perspective!

“Whenever something needs to be done and the way looks dark and the task seems impossible, we think of the child whose whole existence has been a series of impossibilities and we realize, once again, that all things are possible with faith, love and the willingness to leap into the unknown. Just leap. The net will appear.”

Jo Chopra, Executive Director of the Latika Roy Foundation

So we hope you were inspired by what you heard and the many contacts and ideas you took away from Battleby will be put to good use. As Mairi Damer, our wonderful compere said at the end of the day, we must all take responsibility for playing our part in overcoming barriers to participation. We can draw inspiration from those who shared their story on the day and who showed us that we each have the power and influence to make things happen.



Don Williamson
Chief Executive
Shared Care Scotland



Keynote Speakers

Judith Robertson, full time Chair of the Scottish Human Rights Commission spoke on the issues of participation, the PANEL principles, and how vital it is to get to know what your rights are, and how to use them.

Judith also referenced General Comment 21, a document which further explains the right to participate in cultural life. The full text of General Comment 21 can be found [here](#).

 @judith shrc | @scothumanrights

Picture right: *Judith Robertson, pictured at AccessAllAreas*

 Shared Care Scotland
@CareBreaks

Participation
Accountability
Non Discrimination
Empowerment
Legality

PANEL principles are important to
[#accessallareas](#)



Dr Sam Smith is the founder and CEO of C-Change Scotland, gave a powerful speech on human right beginning at home, quoting Eleanor Roosevelt

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person...Such are the places where every man, woman and child seeks equal justice, equal opportunity, equal dignity without discrimination. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere."

Picture above: *A quote from Sam Smith's Access All Areas speech*

Sam also spoke about the practical work that C-Change does in supporting people to fully realising their rights, showing a film on how one person managed to do this. You can see Paul's story [here](#).

 @samcchange | @cchangescotland

Shubhanna Hussain-Ahmed is the Partnership Development Officer at the Coalition of Carers in Scotland, however her speech was a very moving and personal account of being a carer for her husband and child and how a simple thing like going for a 'walk in the park' was anything but.

"sometimes when we talk about policies and strategies, we can forget that we're talking about real people. And they are people, not performance indicators" [#accessallareas](#)

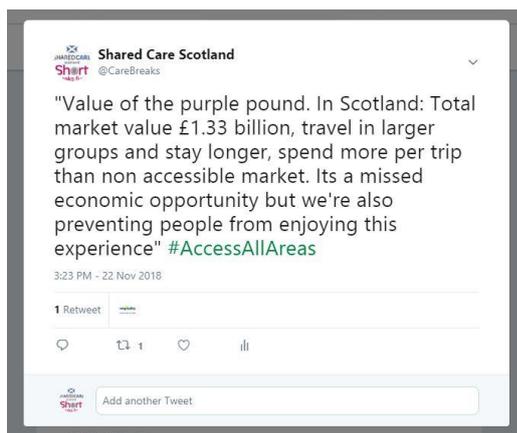
 @shubhanna | @carerscoalition

Each of our keynote speakers from the morning session was asked 'if you could do one thing what would it be?'

Use the PANEL principles, and know that you have the strength of that behind you.
Sam Smith, C-change Scotland

Participation: it's not rocket science and it's not expensive. Call to account our organisations, our people, ourselves on participation.
Judith Robertson, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Everyone here has power and some form of privilege – your knowledge and experience, and your power – is your privilege. Use it.
Shubhanna Ahmed, Coalition of Carers in Scotland



VisitScotland's Chief Executive in Malcolm Roughead joined us in the afternoon to deliver a keynote speech on accessible tourism in Scotland. He spoke on the work of Visit Scotland in training Scotland's tourism industry in accessibility, as well as the value of the 'purple pound'. You can find out more about the work of Visit Scotland on accessible tourism [here](#).

Picture left: A quote from Malcolm Roughead's speech
[@visitscotland](#)



Our final keynote speech of the day came from Jo Chopra McGowan the co-founder and director of the Latika Roy Foundation, a 25 year old organization for children with special needs in Dehradun.

Jo spoke about the need to reflect on how far we've come and left delegates feeling inspired and motivated too.

To find out more about Latika Roy visit their website [here](#).

[@jochopra](#) | [@LatikaRoyFound1](#)

Trailblazers

We hosted 16 workshops at Access All Areas, covering a broad range of organisations working in accessible culture, leisure and recreation, sport and civil society. Many of the workshop presentations are available to look at on our website [here](#). Simply click on the trailblazer session to find out more. Please note that we have been unable to make all trailblazer session presentations available owing to the privacy of some of the service users whose stories featured at the event.

We asked delegates to feedback at the end of the workshops. Here's some highlights.

Some delegates were inspired into action:

"to create a 'body' to take forward how we can gain better access to tickets and better seating areas." *Gig Buddies*

"to challenge....Ask questions! Why? Why not?" –*Museums Disability Cooperative Network*

"We're moving to work in this area – I'll arrange to come and have a chat with you!" –*Supporting Positive Paths*

The theme of participation emerged too:

"collaboration with users is essential" – *Museums Disability Cooperative Network*

"work on ways to engage more disabled carers in having an active voice in carer policy development" – *Inclusion Scotland*

"need to make more use and contact with our local carer reps. And consider how to support them in representing our group" – *Carers Collaborative*

"we need to include people living with disabilities in the design/planning of new services" – *Euan's Guide*

"closer collaboration with charities and local authorities to remove barriers" – *from the workshop of Anne Marie Monaghan, and Michael Kerr.*

And importantly, delegates left inspired:

"Great to hear about what you are achieving!" –*Gig Buddies*

"Challenged my thinking, its not just about the sport!" - *from the workshop of Anne Marie Monaghan, and Michael Kerr.*

"What a fabulous idea for children and young people." – *Broxis Den*

"Incredible presentation, 1000% inspired! – *Cycling without Age*

And finally, one quote which sums up the day:

"The power of ordinary people to create an incredible change"
Play as One

What's next?

Shared Care Scotland will be following up on the work of our Access All Areas conference throughout 2019 and we'll keep you posted across all our news channels. You can signup to our monthly newsletter [here](#) or follow us across our [social media channels](#).

We'd also like to remind you about the work that was done in preparation for the conference in building an evidence base for Access All Areas. This took the form of a report produced by IRISS which contains a wide range of practice guidance and research evidence connected with this theme. We believe this resource will also support your efforts, post conference, to promote and 'champion' the development of more inclusive and accessible opportunities in their organisations or communities.

You can read the report in full on our access all areas website [here](#).