

BACKGROUND

Key facts

- About 500 people use The Annexe headquarters in Partick each week for community-based activities and services; the annual footfall is nearly 25,000
- Around 600 older people took part in our Connects project 2011 to 2013
- 36 regular volunteers committed between two and eight hours of their time per week 2016
- We have nine volunteer directors - eight drawn from the community and two co-opted
- There are 130 active 'members' of Annexe Communities
- Turnover has increased annually for the past 10 years
- The BIG Lottery Fund awarded us more than £629,686 in 2014 to run a five-year project to help re-connect isolated elderly people with their communities



Annexe Communities began life as Partick Community Association (PCA) nearly 30 years ago. Members were mainly residents and community activists. The key issue then - as it is today - was to help the disadvantaged, particularly those suffering as a result of poverty or poor health.

In 1996 a petition of around 10,000 residents' signatures was submitted to Glasgow City Council (GCC) seeking approval to use what was formerly St Peters' Boys' School in Stewartville Street as a base for our work since there was no community centre available in Partick.

Two years later, PCA secured £90,000 funding from The Lottery to refurbish the building we now know as The Annexe in Partick, making it fit for public use. In August the following year, PCA secured a 20-year lease from GCC to use the building as a community centre. The Annexe was born.

In 2000 PCA won five years' Big Lottery support to run The Annexe as a Healthy Living Centre and a year later registered as a charity and company limited by guarantee.

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Growing projects

In the ensuing five years, PCA expanded and created:

- A Healthy Living cafe [link]
- Exercise, art and cultural activities
- RedDotArt - a community artist network
- Partick Fayre Productions - to run local events and galas
- Traditional Arts Project Partick - to run traditional music events and activities
- A parent and toddlers group
- A pool of volunteers to help in the cafe, help with the West End Festival and train as therapists to provide complementary health treatments. [link]

Outreach work

When Big Lottery healthy living funding ended in 2008, PCA negotiated a contract with the local Community Health and Care Partnership (CHCP) to extend our healthy living initiatives to four neighbouring communities - Townhead, Anderston, Knightswood and Netherton.

Local bases were established in each area and the outreach projects developed their own programmes of activities in partnership with the local communities and in response to the different needs. Older people are the focus in Knightswood, families in Anderston, alcohol issues in Townhead, and people with disabilities in Netherton.

Becoming Annexe Communities

In 2010 PCA following a strategy review, PCA was renamed Annexe Communities. The change of name better reflected the expanding work of our organisation and the fact that our activities now extend well beyond Partick.

A business plan was created for 2015-201 with the specific focus on developing Annexe Communities as a social enterprise and further developing local community activities.

Partnership awards for special projects were secured from [funders](#) such as the Climate Challenge Fund, The Big Lottery Fund, Glasgow City Council Community Planning Partnership, Scottish Government and several commercial organisations. This means that in 2016 we are on target to establish ourselves as a key social enterprise provider in west central Glasgow. We currently generate 100% of our core costs from our own resources.

In 2013, working in partnership with North Glasgow Healthy Living Community we secured a four year contract to deliver community health activities in neighbourhoods across north west and north east Glasgow - known as Axis Health Hubs.