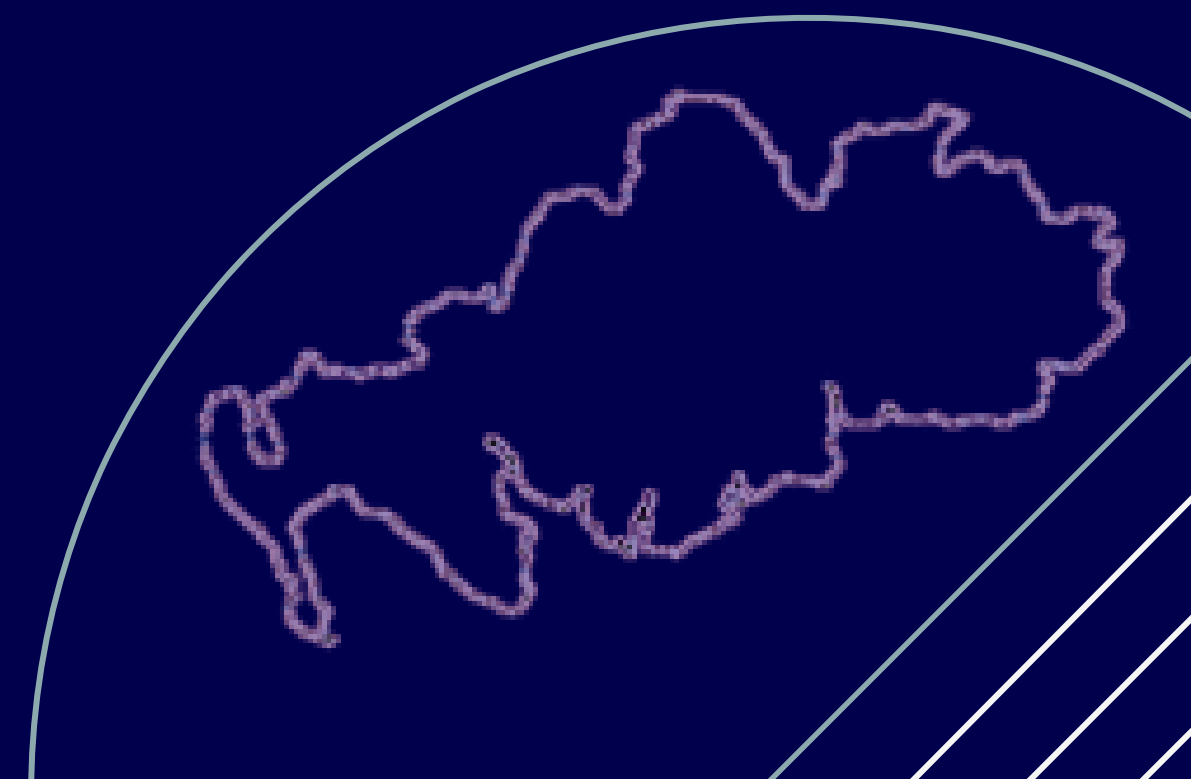
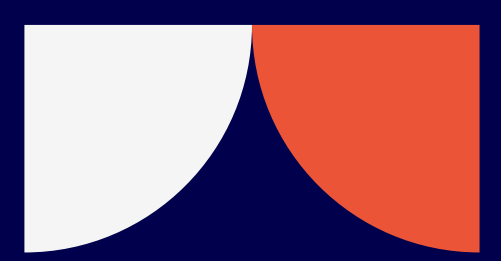
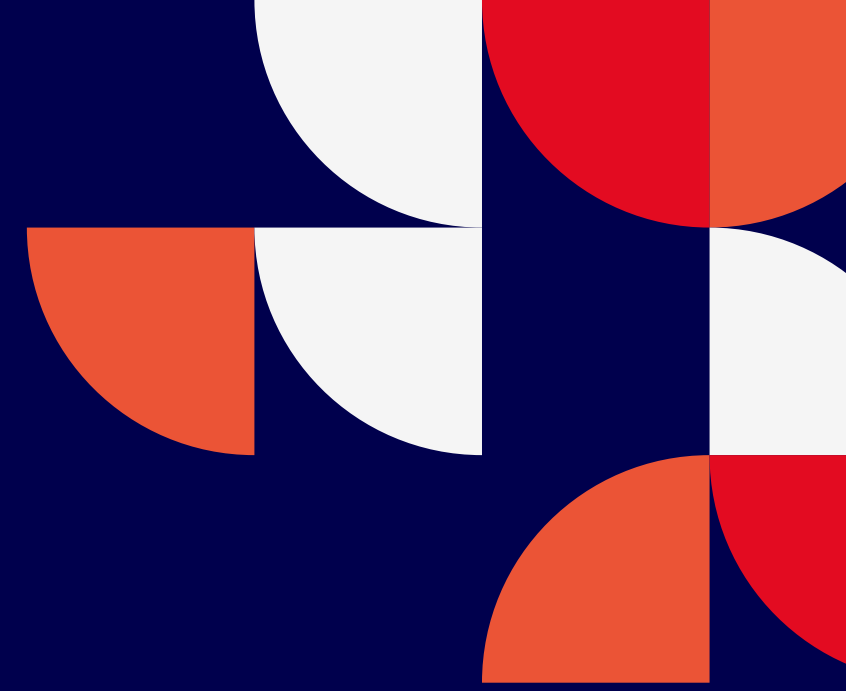
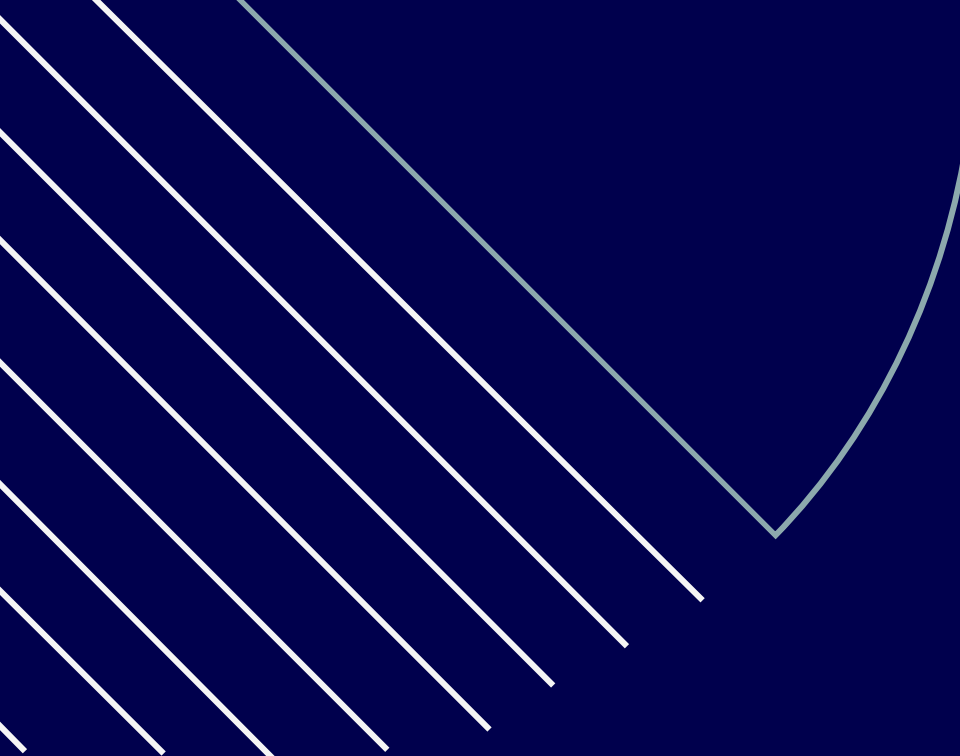


DGC Collective

www.dgcollective.org.uk



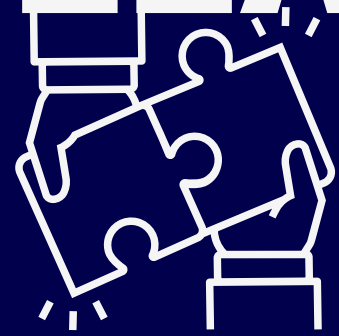
THE CONCEPT



**A COMING TOGETHER OF OUR
SOCIAL SECTOR FOR SOCIAL GOOD
ACROSS DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.**

It's like a network of collaboratives, involving large to small organisations and groups, united around addressing challenges, seizing opportunities and making best use of our collective power. Shared voices, experiences and ideas to create community wellbeing.

THE COLLABS



'Collabs' are shared spaces of interest, influence, resources and support. They can be managed remotely with tech (like a WhatsApp group to keep in touch and network), a series of regular online meetings to coordinate resources or a more formal hybrid space for development of concepts and practice.

**COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND SHARED PURPOSE,
BASED ON WHAT THE SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES DECIDE**

**SHARED SECTOR SPACES THAT CAN RESPOND TO
LOCAL STRUCTURES AND PRIORITIES.**

Children & Young People

Digital Exclusion

Tackling poverty

Community Wellbeing

Transport

Older People's Care and Wellbeing

Employability & Skills

Support for parents and families

Community Wealth Building

for social good

The number of Collabs isn't fixed. Collabs are created to respond to a local priority, or created by members with shared interest across People, Place and Policy. You can join one or many.

2024

LEADERSHIP

The Collective Leadership is made up of Leads from sector organisations and groups who are part of at least one Collab. Anyone can join and contribute, but not everyone has to.

The role of the Collective Leadership is to:

- Set the values that all members will abide by to ensure equity and fairness
- Ensure representation and the voice of the wider sector is heard
- Make decisions on how **DGCollective** funding is invested
- Support other leaders
- Protect the independence of each member (including their own governance, memberships and funding)

1

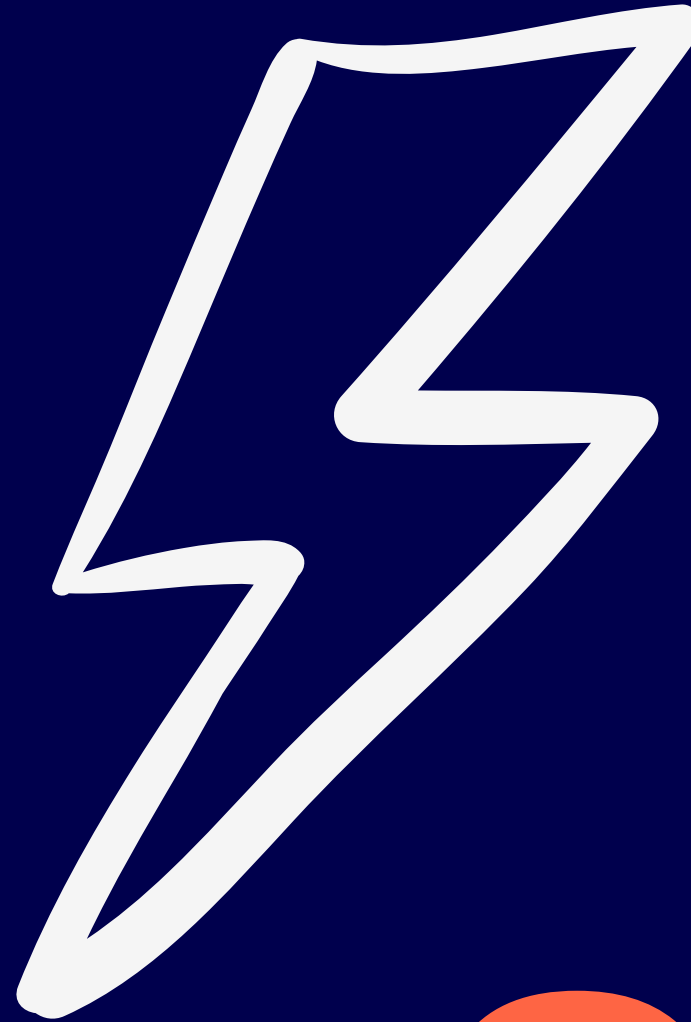
**BRINGING THE SECTOR TOGETHER
AROUND SHARED PURPOSE**

2

**ADDRESSING LOCAL AND
COMMUNITY NEEDS IN A
COLLECTIVE WAY**

3

**ELIMINATING UNNECESSARY
COMPETITION**



4

**ATTRACTING INVESTMENT
IN WHAT WORKS**

5

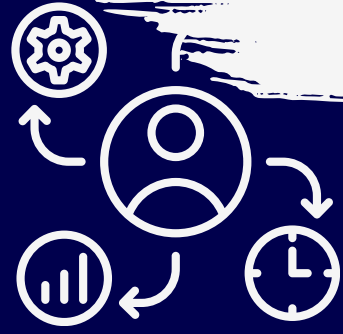
BETTER LEARNING AND INSIGHTS

6

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER, BIG AND SMALL

AIMS

PARTNERS



COMMUNITIES

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

DG COUNCIL

HSCP

NHSDG

NATIONAL FUNDERS

SOSE

NATIONAL BODIES

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



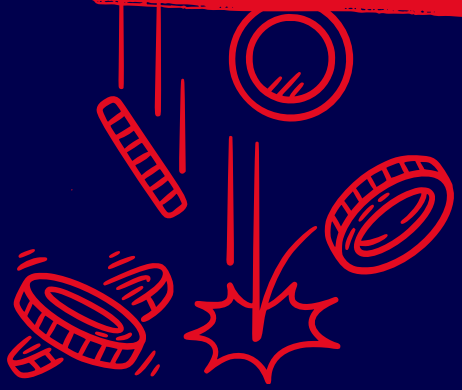
InvestDG

InvestDG is the potential new vehicle for community and third sector collective investment across Dumfries and Galloway. The concept would attract and distribute the investment for action/change identified across DG Collective and together with our communities.

A VEHICLE TO ATTRACT AND DELIVER INVESTMENT IN THE THINGS THAT THE SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES DECIDE

A MODEL BETTER ABLE TO EVALUATE A RANGE OF COLLECTIVE INVESTMENTS ACROSS THE SECTOR AND COMMUNITIES

FUNDS



While the Collective isn't solely focused on money matters, we're all for bringing in investments to our sector and communities. The investments gathered by **DGCollective** concepts and managed by **InvestDG**, whether from national or local sources, will be separate from the individual funds of various groups and organisations who will continue to own their own funding and fundraising. Collective/Collab members have the option to pitch in their own funds for ideas, but it's not a must.

Where the Collective is successful in securing investment, it could be categorised through **InvestDG** like this:

DISCOVERY

Small investments, usually up to £1000, to aid community discovery and involvement. This could be to pay for people in the community to run a small consultation, or to fund one of the Collab members to do some research or data work.

ENABLING

This fund will invest in the development of capacity and skills of members in realising the aims of the Collective. Focus will be on areas like facilitation, consultation, evaluation, storytelling. These funds should also be invested in Collective support and services.

INVEST

This is the large fund category that will be focussed on delivery. Collabs will shape how projects and ideas are delivered and evaluated. These may also be shaped by funders, especially local services, in partnership.



AMBITION

Why the Collective?

With almost 2000 organisations and groups across Dumfries & Galloway, how can we embrace our collective efforts, skills and impact when resources are so scarce and demand continues to rise? Our individual purpose and objectives are wide reaching and varied, some providing services and others creating opportunities. Why shouldn't we aim to get the best of our collective work for Dumfries & Galloway? Collective working doesn't take away individuality, but imagine what we could do better when working together?

COLLABORATION



To improve how we work together as a whole sector, to address need, solve problems, enable change, generate new ideas and attract more investment.

LEADERSHIP



To learn and develop from our range of skills and experiences for mutual benefit, to enhance & improve practice, support each other and demonstrate our readiness and capacity to lead.

VALUE



To ensure our collective work and efforts have positive and sustainable impact for people and places and that we can demonstrate our individual and collective value to communities and partners.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

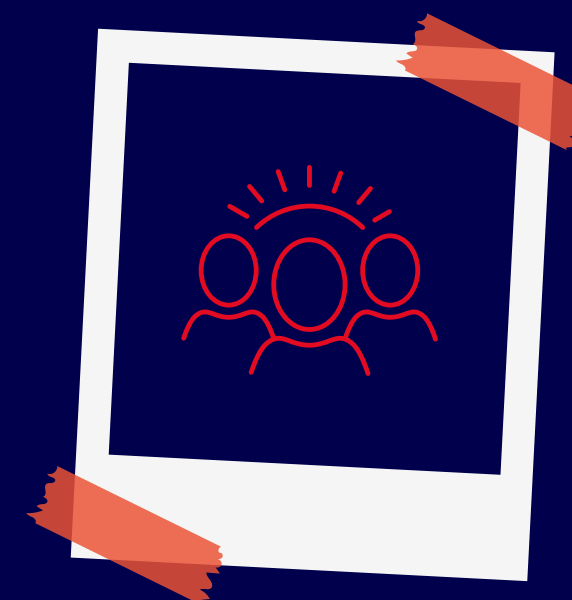
How will we know we are making a difference for others?

OUTCOMES

IMPACT

LEARNING

Agreeing what we (and our communities) think is important will make a huge difference. Whilst we are realistic about reporting to funders, the real measure of success is whether we are actually making a difference in our area(s), not just notional indicators. A focus on outcomes & impact, not volume of activity. That way, we can identify what to stop and what to do more of. And that doesn't have to look the same across the whole region!



Real life stories about what matters

THE ROLE FOR TSDG

Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (TSDG) will retain its role as D&Gs Third Sector Interface with core services.

Our outcomes set with the Scottish Government won't change. They are:

- People are more involved in their community
- Improved cross sector collaboration
- Third sector organisations are better able to lead and develop shared agendas
- Third sector organisations are better able to respond to local need
- Key decision making includes third sector input
- Third sector organisations are better able to contribute to a strong and inclusive local social economy

DGCollective & **InvestDG** provide new approaches to maximise capacity through thematic development work, that could mean:

- Colleagues becoming Collab Facilitators (where needed) and equipping them with the necessary tools for development.
- Using **DG Collective** as a means to improve our sectors collective communication, data, impact, and influence with additional resources.
- Providing support for funding applications and managing investments for **DGCollective** and individual Collabs through **InvestDG**
- Distributing funds/resources across the three funding categories agreed with the Collective Leadership and managing other funds that invest in our region's sector.
- Strengthening the connections between **DGCollective**, Collabs, and D&G Partnership structures in our representative role.

THE STICKING POINTS

Are there challenges to how this might work?
Sure.

Whilst there are examples of organisations working together, the reality is that often there isn't the capacity or the will to do things differently. We should be honest about some of the challenges to be overcome, the bumps we could experience along the way and what *could* stop us entirely. These include:

Capacity: Not everyone has the resources to invest in serious collaboration. Some feel they don't have the skills, experience or confidence. That's why it's needed. Joining the Collective will mean valuing difference, respecting individual organisational boundaries and abilities and supporting each other to participate. Not all Collabs will mean extensive group working either - it could be a WhatsApp group to stay connected or an online space to share ideas.

Motivation: Not everyone will see the value of working together when we have our own organisations and groups to run - that's the priority. This means we should accept that not everyone will be on board with the Collective, that our ambition isn't 100% participation, but also being clear that to benefit from the Collective efforts you need to play a part.

Competition: There isn't a doubt that competition for funding (and sometimes for attention) plays a big role across our sector. Driven by many factors, including competitive contracts and grant making, the Collective can't thrive if competition is at play. It will be hard for some who have become used to navigating competitive funding processes to accept a change. It feels risky for your own survival. The Collective won't take away any members ability or requirement to secure funds. The ambition is to make best use of available resources for the best possible impact across Dumfries & Galloway and attract even more investment.

INNOVATION



Start here. Then where?

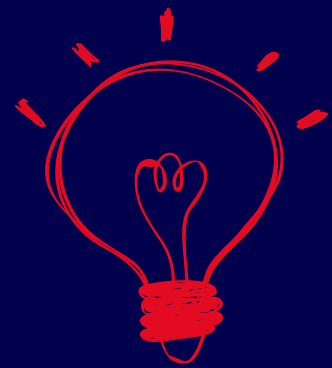
This concept is not new; this is about adding our unique flair to it - and being brave to change. Communities like Barking & Dagenham are already developing their cooperative efforts, providing a range of valuable insights.

The **DGCollective** crosses sub sectors and organisations; the intention is to get the best from working together with a shared idea. It means communities over individual motivations, interweaving people and place in decision-making, enabling people to take the lead.

Focusing on equity, respect, a sense of belonging, and justice. Acknowledging power as a force for good and the importance of distributing it fairly. Use structures and frameworks to help, but not letting them get in the way of what's good. And accepting that the current way of working with fewer resources and increasing pressure isn't effective, sustainable or good for us.

The goal of this Collective is to shape the future and develop ways to bring it to life, knowing that each community will have its unique approach. It should be dynamic and responsive. It should consider what *we* want and how *we* value ourselves. At times the sector has become a mirror of public service that can stifle our ability to thrive. We can take ownership of something different.

Let's bring together the best of all of us and lead the change we want to see.



ARE WE READY?