

Strategic Partnership between the Voluntary Action Fund & Assist Social Capital

Assist Social Capital CIC (ASC) was set up in 2004, to act as a bridge between the academic evidence and practical application of social capital as a critical resource for sustainable development and community wellbeing. For the last 10 years, ASC has been helping communities and organisations across Scotland and internationally (Austria, Canada, Spain, Sweden, Sri Lanka, the Philippines) to make the most of this intangible asset.

We work with a wide range of partners and clients mainly from the public and third sectors on social capital, social enterprise and public participation in Scotland and internationally in Austria, Canada, Spain, Sweden and Sri Lanka through UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere programme.

ASC a range of products and services including facilitation/training, social capital evaluation and policy development to help deliver social change in a replicable and contextually relevant way. We are also co-founder of the **Social Capital World Forum** (www.sc-wf.org), an annual international gathering of individuals and agencies working to promote applied social capital at a regional or national level, now in its 6th year.

Assist Social Capital CIC is delighted to be working in partnership with VAF and to support its decision to on this leadership role on the issue of social capital in the Third Sector. Our organisations have built a strong partnership based on a shared understanding of the inherent value that can be found within our communities if they are supported to identify and realise their own responses to local needs.

ASC and VAF share a common belief that it is possible to invest relatively small amounts of money in ways that tap into local strengths and assets to achieve lasting benefit. Our partnership will work to highlight the impact of VAF's approach to grant giving in terms of how effective it is in generating social capital and we aim to use this opportunity build and extend knowledge and understanding of Social Capital as a critical community asset.

VAF's approach to providing **'more than just money'** has enabled our organisations to build trust in the value of this relationship and to create a long term strategy that will be able to respond effectively to the needs of our communities.

By working in partnership we aim to build on our mutual strengths to create added value for VAFs stakeholders and the money invested through their funding in Scotland's communities.



Colin Campbell

Executive Director and Founder

Assist Social Capital CIC

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