

Fife Women and Inclusion in Politics

Evaluation Report
June 2018 to March 2019



June 2019

Nina Munday
Fife Centre for Equalities



Community Learning & Development



Introduction

How it started

In 2018, Scottish Government introduced the Vote Centenary Grant Scheme to mark the 100th anniversary of the success of the Suffragette movement, and to remember the brave and inspirational women who joined together to successfully challenge discrimination and influenced women's politics for generations.

Fife Centre for Equalities (FCE) was awarded £5000 by the Scottish Government to run a nine-month programme, 'Fife Women and Inclusion in Politics', to tackle the under-representation of disabled, minority ethnic or transgender women as voters, political activists and representatives in Fife.

Working with partners, this programme aimed to raise women's awareness of the struggle for equal voting rights. More importantly, the programme aimed to highlight the on-going struggles for women of different protected characteristics in the UK and around the world, and how women are succeeding in overcoming the barriers they face.

“It is important that we all work together to create a society where every woman (inclusive of transgender women), regardless of their age, ethnicity, disability, religion or sexual orientation, is able to enjoy an equal access of opportunities to lead a fulfilling life without fear of harm. One of the best ways to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s right to vote in the UK would be to encourage women of marginalised groups to be active in the political systems, from registering to vote to standing for election. This way every woman’s voice will be heard.”

Nina Munday, Manager, FCE

We wanted to celebrate the successes of the unsung heroines who contribute to the Scottish political systems daily; they are the campaigners, personal assistants, researchers, analysts, lobbyists, community activists and so on. We planned to end the programme with a celebration event near International Women’s Day in 2019 to mark the learning and achievements of the participants.

FCE invited women from all political groups to help us to make our political systems more inclusive of disabled, minority ethnic or transgender women.

To deliver the programme, we asked women with community development skills to help us.

Working Group

Three workers from Fife Council Community Learning and Development volunteered and they are Dominique Robertson, Jo Ross and Kate Stewart. Along with Nina Munday, Manager of FCE, these four women became the core working group. Putting aside their political differences, this working group agreed on one goal – enabling marginalised women to make a difference.



Programme of Activities

Events

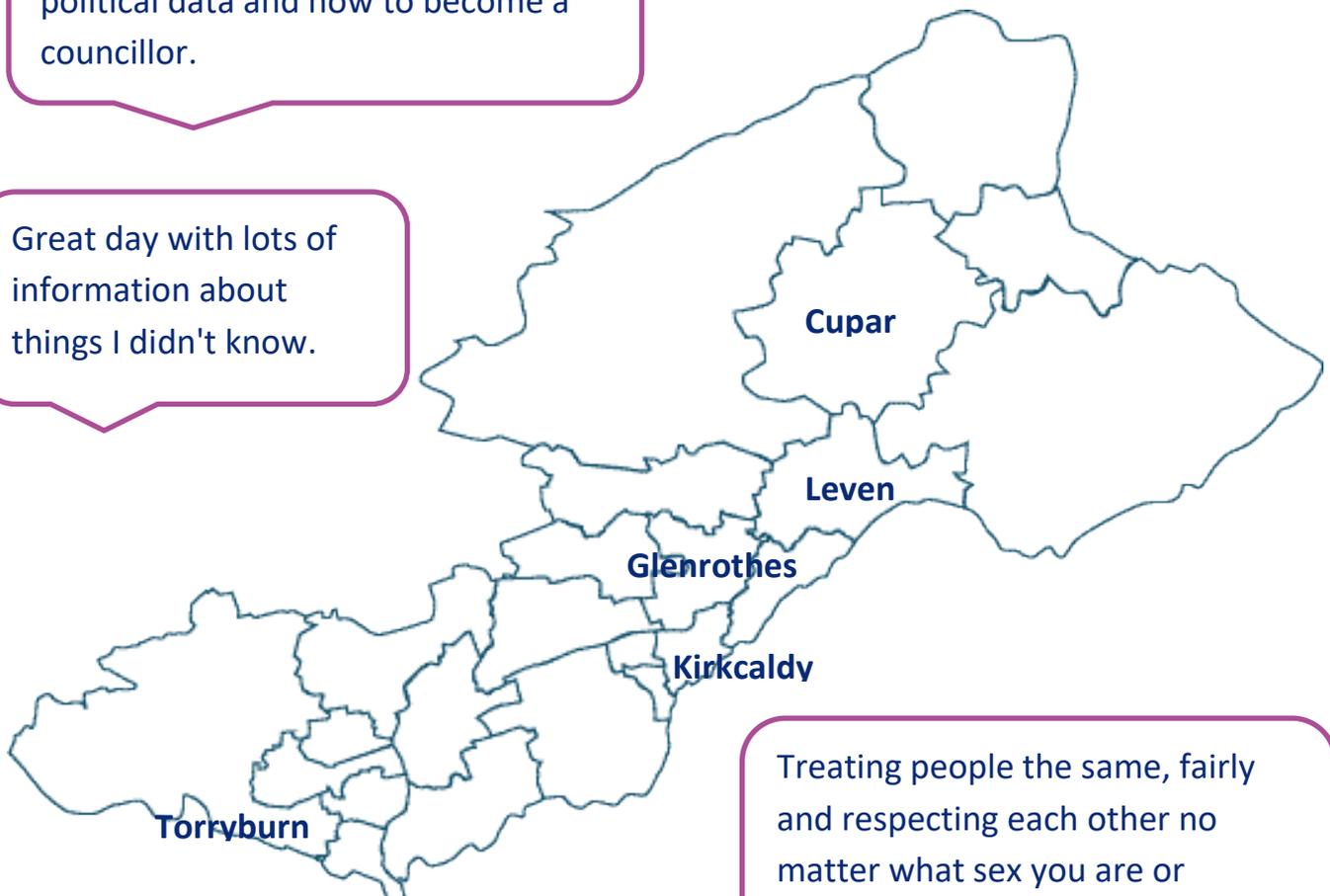
Event Title	Date and Time	Venue	Presenters
Launch Event	21 August 2018, 2pm to 4pm	Adam Smith Theatre, Kirkcaldy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Munday • Chantal Mrimi • Muriel Houston • Lesley-Ann Clubb
History of women campaigning for equal voting rights	09 October 2018, 2pm to 4pm	The Centre, Leven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominique Robertson • Marta Jones
Roles of Women in politics in Scotland	13 November 2018, 2pm to 4pm	Torryburn Community Centre, Torryburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jayne Baxter • Jo Ross
Dismantle Barriers for disabled / minority ethnic / trans women in politics and society	04 December 2018, 10am to 2pm	Cupar County Buildings, Cupar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Stewart • Chantal Mrimi • Lesley-Ann Clubb • Michelle Wright
Tour of Scottish Parliament	07 February 2019, 10am to 3pm	The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny Gilruth MSP • Claire Baker MSP
Attendance at Full Council Meeting of Fife Council	21 February 2019, 10am to 12noon	Fife House, Glenrothes	
All Women Connected – Celebration Event	16 March 2019, 11am to 4pm	CISWO, Glenrothes	The audience The entertainers The politicians The organisers

Places

I would like to learn about analysing political data and how to become a councillor.

Lovely event, well presented and informative.

Great day with lots of information about things I didn't know.



Treating people the same, fairly and respecting each other no matter what sex you are or choose.

I will use the confidence and knowledge in my private and professional life and try to be more understanding of my place in the world.

Change the little stuff to change the big stuff!

People



Outreach

Eight workshops delivered by Jo Ross, Community Development Worker of Fife Council.



I liked doing the quizzes. There wasn't anything I didn't like.

All sessions were good - loved writing session. Parliament visit was awesome.

Safe, empowering, confidence building, accessible, interesting. Nothing was negative.

Politics in Their Own Words

Never Girl

I know this girl that's been very upset.

Self-harming, popping pills, got herself into loads of debt.

No job. No friends, not even a phone. She lies in bed, home alone.

Body all bruised and covered in sores, blood running out from all her pores
Crying constant again and again. Only way she feels better is to form some pain.

She's only young about 16 in the head,

If she keeps popping pills and self-harming she'll end up dead.

Her family and people are worried for her too,

she ain't going to change for me or for you.

She lies and cries staring at the wall, her lifeless body is scarred like a chucky doll.
Scars, burns, deep cuts and bruises, hurting herself, that's what she always chooses.

If only there was a way to make her better, pen to paper writing letter by letter.

Her mum was rattling on her room door,

there was her blood and body lying helpless on the floor.

Panicking, shouting, screaming her name

From that moment her mum thought

she had lost her girl/princess her one and only wain.

Ambulance phoned emergency services are rushing,

the poor helpless girl is lying absolute gushing.

Her face is pale and she's starting to wheeze

Mum's crying and screaming please help her please.

Time is ticking her heart is failing, still loads of blood just keeps on trailing.

Got her to the hospital just on time, in high independency,

lying unconscious in bed nine.

Mum saved her life but she's worried sick,

just hoping that her baby's better quick.

She woke up in hospital with not one idea,

no recall to why she was lying here.

Days were passing she was getting better,

this wouldn't have happened if she put emotions into a letter.

Now she's home in her own bed,

She's still confused and can't believe she was lying on that floor for dead.

No sharp objects to be anywhere insight or near,
those scars and marks on her body will never disappear.

Months went on and she was back on her feet,
she started helping people out in the street.

The poor the homeless the drug users as well,
She told her story she wanted to tell.

Applied for jobs and got some places, she was excited to meet friends and some new
faces.

Now she has a job a phone and some friends just because you're upset doesn't mean
your life ends.

She now has a career a family and a car, running her own clubs and her own bar.
So that girl that was once a wreck mess, that was only because she was under loads
of stress.

Times precious so hold it forever, don't ever think about giving up life
NEVER.

Scottish Parliament

When I went to Parliament, it really opened my eyes

It made me feel like I could actually relate,
And talk to my Local MSP.

Jenny Gilruth and Clare Baker answered a lot of our questions

And also they were really down to earth and approachable

So it was easy to relate to them

Which I was surprised about

Cos I usually think of Politicians as

Us and them

So it was refreshing.

Untitled

It is wrong that we live in a world that still fails to understand mental health. It always amazes me that if you break your arm, everyone would run to sign your cast, they would understand, they'd probably even ask if you were ok, if they could help and so on....

But what happens when your head breaks?

People run in the opposite way because they don't understand. Maybe it's because they can't see it with their eyes or maybe it's the fear of the unknown.

We all strive for happiness, It's like a smile or a laugh, when really everyone should know that it is ok not to be ok.

I've looked, seen so many women, clients, friends, families fall apart, need help, feel their head break, but still hurt, led the night help or support that in my eyes is wrong and recreates a security that does not understand mental health.

If I had a magic wand

I would put the world to right, make sure there was no one starving or dying of thirst.

Help people who are troubled, try to stop violence (knife crime/massacres).

I would try to sort out my own life which I am doing not bad with up to now, can't think the now.

Help animals, get better Government that knows what they are doing. Wish I hadn't wasted so much of my own life, drinking (etc.). Trying to better my life now I have a group of really good friends.

Don't want to be rich, just enough money to keep me comfortable and enjoy life without having to worry about anything, at the same time win a big chunk of money and give it to charity to help people and animals and anything else I could help with. I would like to have more days in the week so I could do more volunteering work and help others.

That's some of the things that make me happy and smile and makes me feel needed.

That's what I would do if I had a magic wand.

Evaluation

WHAT DOES POLITICS MEAN TO YOU?

- Treating people the same, fairly and respecting each other no matter what sex you are or choose.
- Listening and helping you sort things out.
- Personal is political always.
- All the different walks in life, small steps – big changes.
- Being there to listen and see if you can help anyone.
- If I can help one person, then job is done. The one person can change others.
- Doing the right thing.
- A chance to change/influence.
- Getting more equality for people who are Transgender.
- Working together no matter our backgrounds.
- Change the little stuff to change the big stuff!

WHAT DID YOU LIKE OR FIND USEFUL ABOUT FIVE WOMEN & INCLUSION IN POLITICS?

- Empowering.
- Everything.
- Was All Good.
- Everyone can contribute.
- Great fun.
- Phenomenal Woman That's Us X
- Motivating, fun together.
- Everybody has something to offer.
- I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to other women.
- Inclusivity fighting for social justice.
- The amazing people!

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE FOR THIS PROJECT?

- Keep Going.
- It Grows Awareness.
- Hear more women's stories.
- Change.
- Information on where the closest group is to contribute.
- School should teach more about women in politics and history.
- Trans Awareness forums for adults and in our schools.
- More meetings – networking giving support to each other.

About Fife Centre for Equalities

Fife Centre for Equalities (FCE), funded by Fife Council, started in 2014 with the **vision** to inspire and enable everyone we work with to take action that makes Fife a more equal, fairer place to live, work and study.

FCE's **mission** is to develop a harmonised approach to build a collective voice to champion equality, diversity, inclusion and social justice.

Our **values** are to work with honesty, integrity, respect and transparency, and strive to demonstrate a fully inclusive approach in everything we do. We want everyone we work with to share these values in the belief that they will help make Fife a fairer and more equal place.

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