



Glasgow Game in a Box event at GCPH

Date: 1pm – 4:30pm, Thursday 30th April 2015

Hosted by: Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Facilitated by: Alison Linyard, International Futures Forum & Cat Tabbner, Glasgow Centre for Population Health

With thanks to all participants for their contributions upon which this report is based.

Introducing the “Glasgow Game in a Box”

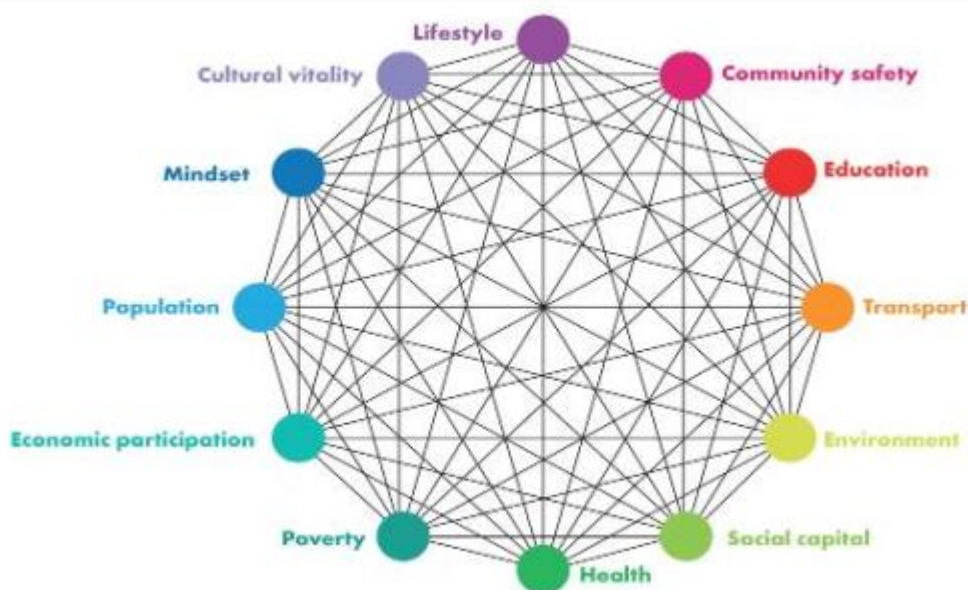
Alison Linyard, from International Futures Forum, introduced the background of the Glasgow Game, and its development into a ‘kit in a box’ to enable groups to use it themselves. Today would be testing out the kit with a group and a facilitator who were mostly new to the game.

Cat Tabbner, from Glasgow Centre for Population Health, was the volunteer facilitator for the day and gave the group the strategic question they would be trying to answer:

How might we best get use out of derelict land in Glasgow, for the people of Glasgow?

Round 1

Twelve issues are explored separately (identified from the domains of Understanding Glasgow – see diagram) and then feedback is obtained.



Round 2

The issues raised in round 1 are combined, since they do not often occur in isolation, and their interaction can result in unanticipated consequences.

The first round is about identifying the issues. The second round is about combining them and exploring the connections.

Round 3

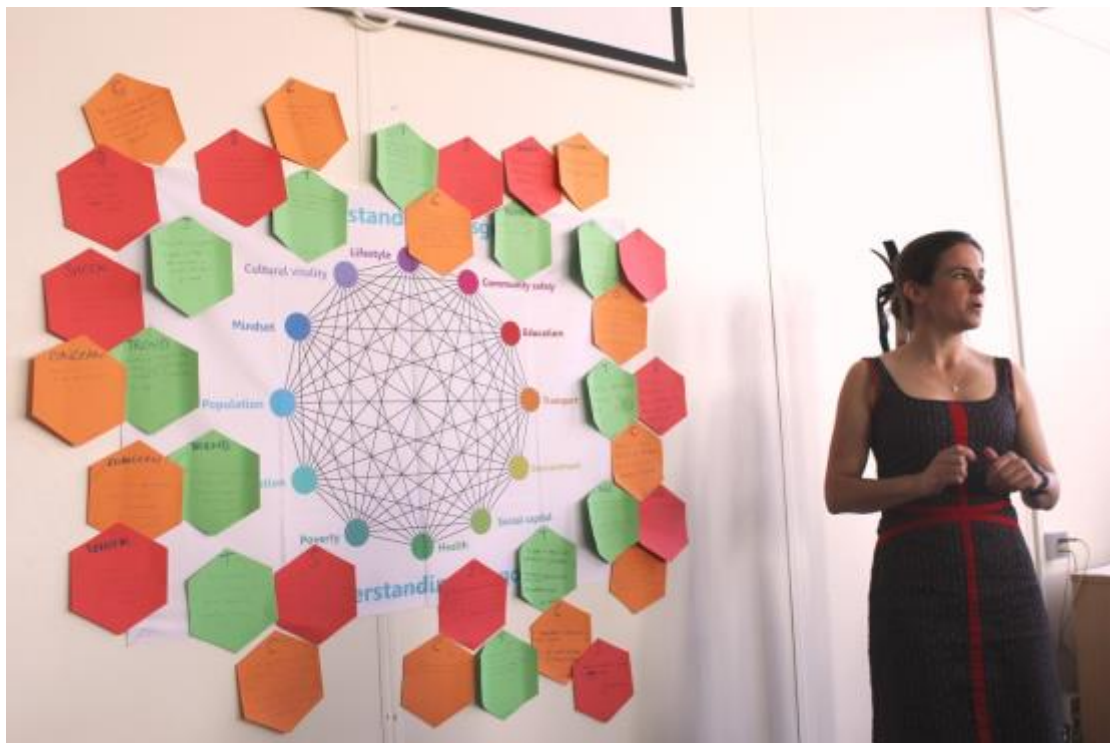
Participants decide what they are going to do about the issues they have identified. This involves coming up with strategic statements that will address the issues and presenting these in a ‘wisdom circle’.

Round 1 Trends, shocks and concerns

In this round, each participant was given a domain to be responsible for, reviewed evidence provided from Understanding Glasgow related to that, and then described for their domain:

- An important **trend**
- A potential **shock** (which can be positive or negative)
- A worrying **concern**

Each trend, shock and concern was appended to the Mandala as illustrated in the image below.



The details of trends, shocks and concerns related to each domain are provided on the following pages.

Lifestyle	
Trend	Unhealthy lifestyles more prevalent in deprived areas → Obesity rising / inequality rising → Poor use of derelict/empty spaces
Shock	Obesity 'epidemic' explodes Derelict land reform in deprived areas leading to significant increases in healthy eating and exercise
Concern	Inequalities in health/education and wealth continue to rise Difference in land use increases making sub-cultures even more different Downward vicious cycle

Community safety	
Trend	Levels of crime are decreasing/declining
Shock	Domestic abuse goes up from 280 incidents (reported) to 500 per month
Concern	Higher levels of crime than other neighbouring local authorities

Education	
Trend	School attendance levels lower in Glasgow than other LA's (89.6%) Higher levels of pupils needing support (e.g. language, disability, looked after children etc.) in mainstream schools
Shock	School buildings and related open spaces not fit for purpose in relation to higher pupil numbers and additional support needs
Concern	Reduced level of resources for schools while numbers of pupils with additional support needs are increasing (resources = buildings, space, finance, support staff etc)

Transport	
Trend	Vehicle emissions continue to rise
Shock	Glasgow confronted with huge penalty fine from EU case (health risk)
Concern	Derelict land could be developed in a way that <i>increases</i> emissions

Environment	
Trend	Glasgow city centre continues to be top of air pollutant tables! Food waste and other recycling poor or only rising slowly
Shock	Landfill tax set to double! (and council looking for savings) Right to buy vacant land at affordable level is agreed by supreme courts
Concern	6 out of 10 Glasgow residents live close to derelict land. This is felt more keenly by particular neighbourhoods. How can this land be 'reclaimed' by communities?

Social Capital	
Trend	Most people in Glasgow rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live Strong sense of reciprocity and high levels of trust
Shock	People in Glasgow less resilient to city-wide disaster → who to turn to for help...?
Concern	Volunteering lower in Glasgow than Scotland. Goes against stereotype of Glaswegian people

Health	
Trend	Life expectancy has increased for men and women But large gap between most and least deprived areas
Shock	Plague of resistant pests drastically affects tobacco crop, meaning that cigarette availability falls and smoking is virtually eliminated
Concern	Mental wellbeing is consistently lower than other cities

Poverty	
Trend	Food poverty and in-work poverty rising and general deprivation getting worse
Shock	Emergence of rainbow coalition government that puts reducing inequalities at the top of their priority list
Concern	Would the public, media, and corporations allow this to happen? Timescale (4 year term) not long enough to achieve real improvement

Economic participation	
Trend	Lots of businesses start up in Glasgow but many of them don't survive long term
Shock	Austerity Welfare reform Things could get worse
Concern	Short term opportunities when we need sustainability and long term positive impact

Population	
Trend	The proportion of lone parent households in Glasgow is already the highest in Scotland (11%) and is predicted to rise further
Shock	Global events leading to migration/immigration increasing in Glasgow
Concern	Huge pressure on housing Pressure on space to meet community needs/housing needs

Mindset	
Trend	Patchy levels of engagement by people in Glasgow in their communities – more than 50% do not feel involved
Shock	Labour Party collapses in West of Scotland – challenge to historic sense of identity
Concern	Difficult to pursue far-sighted initiatives in fractious political environment and nervousness about community engagement

Cultural vitality	
Trend	People living in deprived neighbourhoods less likely to participate in cultural activities
Shock	Market changes make it too expensive to attend cultural events, which leads to a loss of revenue in arts venues – arts venues forced to close
Concern	As it becomes more expensive to attend cultural events it will exacerbate low attendance in low-income communities

Round 2 Combining issues

In this part of the game individual responsibilities were combined into threes and we were asked to think about what would happen if the key ‘shocks’ for their issue from the first round came to pass at the same time.

The groups were first asked to think about:

- What might happen in the city given their scenarios?
- What headlines/media response might there be in the newspapers etc.?

And then

- For their scenarios, what could we do **today** to:
 - Prevent this scenario?
 - Be better prepared for it?
 - Recover more quickly if it did come to pass?

Some groups also accepted ‘wild cards’, which presented additional negative or positive scenarios for the city to take into account.

Transport-Cultural vitality-Poverty

This group imagined that if their shocks happened, it would lead to the environment getting worse, culture being abandoned and a (possibly panicked) reaction government of last resort.

They had two wild cards positing global chains and corporations taking over and a rise in the use of robotics leading to unemployment.

Newspaper headlines/what's happening:

Tourism in massive decline

Highbrow, lowbrow extreme divide in culture

Protest culture rises

Expansion of derelict land

Corporate exploitation of high unemployment – death of the living wage

“Hydro stands empty”

“Panic lurch to left”

“Government wakes up!”

“Rise of the Botristas”

Prevent, Prepare, Recover:

Prevent

- Reverse the emissions trend
- Low-cost public transport extended
- New use for derelict spaces
 - o Pop-up shops
 - o Pop-up creative events
 - o Street food
 - o Local markets

Prepare

- Conditions for sustainable travel
 - o Pedestrian friendly
 - o Cycle tracks
 - o Healthy air for walking/biking
- Create communities and cultural centres on derelict sites “villages in the city”
- Multiple small health centres

Recover

- Convert derelict land to in-city residence, reducing commuting – link with public transport
- Tax on passive land
- Re-establish civic commons

Mindset-Health-Education

Newspaper headlines:

“Emergency cigarette supply arrives from China”

“Shares in Rizla rocket”

“Cannabis deregulation accelerated due to tobacco shortage”

“Kids set up own schools on derelict land”

Prevent, Prepare, Recover:

Prevent

- City Plan considers creative approaches to developing current and future spaces
- Any housing development plans are linked to plans for basic infrastructure (schools, GP, transport)

- Open and accessible means to influence plans. More than community councils and/or online consultations

Prepare

- Invest more in school estate
- Education delivered by wider range of providers – more creative. E.g. apprenticeships. [early leavers → college/work, late starters → nurseries] (Reduce pressures on existing school buildings)
- Invest in individual capacity building. Building self-esteem, aspirations, confidence

Recover

- Create spaces and supported mechanisms to reflect, discuss and learn from changes

All three

Improve political literacy in schools/education – children learn how politics has shaped Glasgow in the last 100 years and the role normal people play.

Social Capital-Population-Community safety

This group imagined that there would be a housing crisis and a teacher shortage in Glasgow, with the NHS also struggling to cope.

Newspaper headlines/what's happening:

Domestic abuse on the increase

Increase in domestic abuse reporting

Church attendance rises

"Migrants beat our women and bleed our services dry"

"New citizens bring culture of success!"

"Upsurge in business development within city boundaries"

"Cambeltown loch becomes a whiskey loch"

"People make Glasgow (literally)"

"Glasgow's smiles better once more"

Prevent, Prepare, Recover:

- Improve and increase the housing stock
 - o Opportunities for employment
 - o Starter houses
 - o Self-build opportunities
 - o People involved in how places develop
- Have community organisations in place to meet diverse range of needs for people coming in to the city.
 - o Skills development training
- Build social capital in communities to aid levels of community reporting of domestic abuse incidents
- Initiative / educational programme to shift attitudes/levels of stigma around offenders. Societal change around social norms in relation to offenders/domestic abuse
- Raising awareness of issues that are not recognised by communities e.g. sectarianism
 - o Acknowledging problem the first step to change

Lifestyle-Environment-Economic Participation

Newspaper Headlines

"Makeshift landfills major health hazard to local children"

"Glasgow: the dear, derelict place"

"Obesity through the roof!"

"High rise pensioners shafted"

"Further welfare cuts increases in-work poverty"

"Community group transforms Milton waste ground"

Prevent, Prepare, Recover:

- Local recycling initiatives
- Local action and participation
 - o Local advice re access to welfare and support
 - o Don't wait/rely on politicians!
 - o E.g. befriending, conversation café, guerrilla gardening
- Challenging politicians and local council
- Stick Your Labels – challenging myths about poverty and welfare
 - o Get people outdoors
 - o Affordable mobility
 - o Exercise
 - o Reduced emissions
 - o Increased awareness of local areas including derelict areas
 - o More vibrant
 - o Safety
 - o Business opportunities e.g. Bike Shop, Bike Doctor, tour guides
- Promote living wage
 - o Incentives for small businesses

Round 3 Declarations

In the final part of the game a 'wisdom circle' was created. This provided a way to formulate ideas and to access the knowledge and wisdom of the group.

People were asked to place themselves back in their original role representing one of the original 12 issues (or domains) and to think about everything they had now heard and then suggest what needed to happen in their domain to make the best use of derelict land in the future. Each participant formulated and then read out their declaration in turn.



Declarations

From the perspective of responsibility for **health**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **prioritise potential health benefits in all decisions about use of derelict land, in particular to maximise local access (and ownership) of land by communities.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **population**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **have a process of involving all of the community including voices that may not be traditionally recorded in community consultation to understand their needs and issues.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **transport**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **use derelict land to form localised residential and working hubs interconnected by zero-emissions public transport given full precedent over the car.**
[Summary: restore wasteland into vibrant interconnected community hubs]

From the perspective of responsibility for **poverty**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **give the local community priority in consideration of the planning/use of land. Make that priority statutory.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **mindset**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **not be hidebound by past structures and assumptions about what can and cannot be done and to use the opportunity to reinvent politics as local, community-based, participative, engaging and self reliant.**

[Summary: All politics is local – and how it is conducted matters]

From the perspective of responsibility for **education**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **build the capacity of individuals, via accessible means, to enable their voices to be heard. This should include peer support to raise aspirations. Only then can community capacity become sufficient to engage, inspire, initiate and control the use of derelict land.**

[Summary: building personal capacity is key to “building” community assets]

From the perspective of responsibility for **social capital**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **create a culture of participation and perception that common land is the responsibility of Glasgow’s people.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **cultural vitality**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **use derelict land to create flexible spaces (i.e. can be used for several purposes) that can accommodate a range of affordable cultural events that can be easily accessed by public transport.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **community safety**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **use available land to provide facility for lone parents, families, young people, ex-offenders. These facilities should support, integrate, normalise, re-balance, reduce stigma for vulnerable groups who are involved in or victims of violent and non-violent crime – especially domestic abuse/alcohol related offending. Including training, skills development, education opportunities and family support.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **community safety**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **engaging those people (offenders/young people/adults) likely to be involved in violence in positive programmes about the use of development of land in their areas. Using community development (Asset) approach to discuss and engage with the issue of violence and domestic abuse. To reduce the a) culture of violence b) acceptance of violence.**

From the perspective of responsibility for **economic participation**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **work with communities using derelict land and local people to use these spaces, in a beneficial way, creating jobs and other opportunities that are secure, well-paid and sustainable. This will build capacity within communities having a long term positive impact.**

[Summary: Glasgow needs secure jobs that pay at least the living wage]

From the perspective of responsibility for **environment**, it is our considered view that, in order to engage responsibly with the future and make the best use of derelict land for the people of Glasgow, it is essential to **engage and support communities to be aware of and assert their rights to make use of vacant land for the good of the community, so that Glasgow truly can be a dear green space for all.**

Feedback / Comments

Alison asked for feedback about how participants felt the 'Game in a box' testing had gone. Comments to note were:

- Along with Prevent, Prepare, Recover there could be a fourth item - 'More things that are working well at the moment' (i.e. examples of good practice)
- The infographic was thought more engaging than the fact sheet for certain groups and would probably be used for some groups more than the fact sheet.
- People could see applications for their work (in health improvement, Thriving Places etc.) but also thought the Game would be a good team development tool to help with work planning.
- It was thought that Cat explained things really well as facilitator, and that overall the game felt very clear and well-paced.
- People could see the Game as something they would use, but a couple made the comment that as national organisations this was very Glasgow specific. They would be interested in more Scotland wide stats and information, or the option of having this.
- The contents of the box would be the mandala diagram, information & infographic sheets for the domains, hexagon cards to write on, preparation notes for facilitators, and wild cards. It was suggested that accessibility could be improved – e.g. larger print size, including points about access issues on the prep sheet for the facilitator to consider (disability needs etc. such as not having to stand for the wisdom circle). In addition, the facilitator's notes should be made very easy to follow.

- It might be possible to have mentoring for facilitators, or it may be there would only be a few sets that are loaned out – the info sheets etc. could then be updated more easily.
- Another idea regarding access issues is to include large size pens. This makes it more likely people would make big written, short clear statements and would be easier to read.
- It was thought to be a very good, clear way to get stats across.
- The different types of questions that could be used were discussed. Marianne mentioned the Disability Alliance posed their question as feeding back to the UN Convention on rights of disabled people – which was something they were actually doing and was very useful.
- Tony underlined that any question which is about being human in the world should be effective. The more you/the group ‘own’ the problem/question, the more dynamic the session tends to be.
- The Big Blether method of discussion was mentioned and it was suggested that the Game might be better for team discussions as it was slightly more structured.
- Cat said she thought an assistant role was very key/useful. This means the facilitator can keep in their role and that participants can participate fully. The recording role of the assistant – audio recording, taking photos, write up and possible feedback – is also important.
- The last step of feeding back to participants (and also feeding back to Bruce/Alison on the use of the kit) could be included in the facilitator checklist. [NB – sometimes the game is just used as a quick brainstorming tool and participant feedback is not needed or wanted]
- Templates for write up and feedback could be included and/or available to download on the website.

Once the kit is finalised Bruce and Alison would appreciate feedback on it and if anyone is interested in helping to test it further please contact them.

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