



# Report on the Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance (TFPLA) Governance Event

The Tayside and Fife CLD Professional Learning Alliance (TFPLA) hosted a Governance Event that attracted numerous participants from various community and voluntary organizations. The event aimed to provide valuable insights into governance structures, common pitfalls, and the legal frameworks applicable to third sector organizations. The session included tea, coffee, and networking opportunities, followed by a series of presentations and discussions.

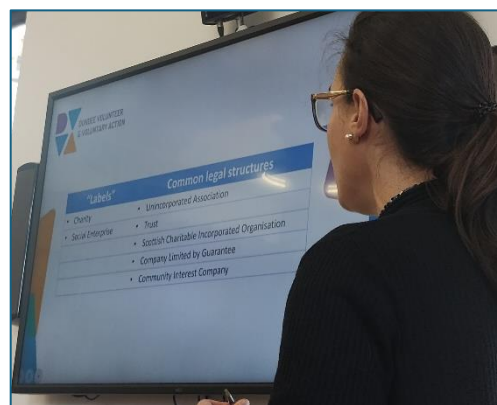
## Presentations and Key Topics

The event featured three main presentations, each focusing on different aspects of governance for third sector organizations.

### Introduction to Legal Structures

Presented by Lali Tudela, Senior Manager of the Communities Team at Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action, this session provided an overview of common legal structures for third sector organizations. Key points included:

- Explanation of unincorporated and incorporated structures and their implications
- Details on legal personality, liability, and regulation for different structures such as Charities, Unincorporated Associations, Social Enterprises, Trusts, Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organizations (SCIOs), Companies Limited by Guarantee, and Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Comparative analysis of the governance requirements, membership structures, and legal duties for each legal form
- Resources and links for further information and guidance



## How a Third Sector Interface (TSI) support local organisations

Presented by Alastair Cameron, Development Officer at TSI PK, this session covered:

- The role and functions of TSIs in supporting and advocating for local charities, community groups, and other third sector organizations
- Unique characteristics of TSIs and their operational models
- Overview of the services, existing networks, and partnerships facilitated by TSIs
- Insight into good governance, volunteer management, and the importance of alignment with national outcomes



## Governance Pitfalls

Helen Rorrison, Head of Community Development at Fife Voluntary Action, delivered a presentation on common governance pitfalls and strategies to avoid them. The key points discussed were:

- The importance of clear, specific governance structures in securing funding and ensuring sustainability
- Aligning governance documents with funding priorities and modern operational needs
- Challenges faced by older SCIOs in complying with new legislation, such as the Community Empowerment Act 2015
- Recommendations for regular review and updates of governance documents to reflect current practices and legal requirements





## Feedback and Discussion

Participants appreciated the comprehensive insights provided by the speakers, particularly the clarity on different legal structures and the practical advice on avoiding governance pitfalls. The interactive discussions and Q&A sessions allowed attendees to address specific concerns and gain personalized advice from the experts.



All respondents said they would benefit from more governance related training events.

### How equipped are you to support communities to meet obligations in relation to governance?

- Participants generally feel well-equipped to support governance but acknowledge varying levels of confidence and expertise.
- Many rely on strong relationships with Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) and effective partnership working to navigate governance challenges.
- Continuous professional development (CPD) and network sharing are crucial for better understanding and supporting organisations.
- There is a need for ongoing learning, resource-sharing, and building stronger connections with TSIs to enhance governance support.

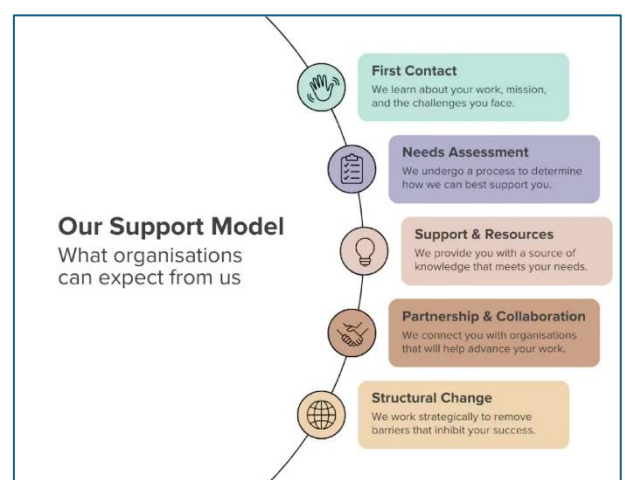
### How well do we understand and respond to the support and development needs of the organisations we support?

Feedback indicated a strong emphasis on partnership working, with many respondents highlighting the importance of understanding and responding to the support and development needs of the organizations they help. Key points include the necessity of regular needs assessments, building relationships, and continuous improvement through training and resource sharing. It also emphasizes the importance of adapting support to the unique needs of each organization and collaborating with partners to enhance support.

**What's In The Governance Matters**

- Governance documents dictate what your organisation can legally do
- Just because it's in the governance doesn't mean you must do it
- Keep documents relevant and updated to reflect actual activities

	Unincorporated association	SCIO	Company Limited by Guarantee	Trust	CIC
Charitable?	Can be a registered charity	Can only be a charity	Can be registered charity	Can be a registered charity	Cannot be a charity
Regulator (if registered charity)	Single regulator	Single regulator	Dual regulator	Single regulator	Dual regulator
Legal status	No legal personality Trustees undertake transactions on behalf of the charity	Legal personality Trustees liability is limited providing they act lawfully	Legal personality Undertakes transaction on its own right Liability is limited, according with AA	No legal personality	Legal personality Asset lock for community benefit
Membership	At least 2 members One-tier or two-tier	At least 2 members One-tier or two-tier	At least 1 member	No membership structure	At least 1 member
Legal duties and requirements	No, other than those specified in governing document	Yes, including maintaining register of members and trustees	Yes, including keeping register of members and directors	Set out in the governing document Also subject to Trust Law	Less stringent



## What was the most useful part of today's event?

Attendees found the event highly valuable, particularly appreciating the networking opportunities, informative presentations from the Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs), and the panel discussions. Many highlighted the benefit of hearing different perspectives and learning from the experiences of others. Overall, the sessions were considered clear, insightful, and filled with useful information.

## Is there anything you wish we'd talked more about?

knowledge.



## What other CLD professional learning priorities would you like us to focus on in future?

Participants expressed a strong interest in focusing on professional learning priorities such as community empowerment, engagement, ownership, asset transfer, political education, dialogue, deliberation, and navigating council policies versus community aspirations. They also highlighted the importance of community-led participatory budgeting, project management, and adult learning services across community learning and development (CLD) services.

## The Good Governance Wakelet

At the event we launched our “Good Governance” Wakelet which has a huge amount of useful information contained in the presentations and well as other governance information to inform CLD practice. You can access it [here](#).

