

Team Consortium Presents...

**Recovery Intervention: Glasgow Trades Council May Day event
Saturday 4 May 2014 Glasgow**

How did this opportunity arise?

The Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC) met with Peter, who is in recovery and a Trades Unionist, around possible areas of mutual interest between the Trades Union movement and the recovery movement. Shortly afterwards Glasgow Trades Council were thinking about a community based theme for their annual May Day event and the link was made between something Glasgow can be proud of; its growing community recovery movement.



Waiting to march

What did we do?

We accepted the Trades Council's invitation to lead off the march, take a stall at the arena and give a short 5 minute speech to the crowd. We also agreed to the Recovery Walk Scotland 2013 film being shown.

Recovery groups in and around the city had all been informed about the event and were invited to share in a planning group. The SRC, one east group and one north-east group met in advance to agree what the themes and actions would be.

We invited individual recovery activists and groups from across Glasgow to walk behind the recovery banner at the front of the May Day march and 50 recovery activists accepted the invitation. Martin from the West of Glasgow and Paul from the East End led the march out of George Square. Both are men in recovery who contribute to recovery groups in the city.

The SWAN community recovery group from South of Glasgow came out in force to walk with their own banners. Just Like Us recovery group from Milton also took responsibility for looking after the stall in the arena. The bulk of those behind banners were individuals in recovery from previous recovery colleges and current recovery support groups around the city. The banner that led Glasgow's May Day March in 2014 said: "Recovery Matters because Life Matters", a slogan also appeared on their posters for the event.

The Recovery Walk Scotland 2013 film was shown at the rally that followed the march. It took place at the O2 arena and Kuladharini gave a 5 minute speech on recovery in Glasgow that encouraged people to share with others what they had learnt about recovery on the day.

Initial Recovery Impact

Over 1000 people saw the Recovery Walk Scotland film, several hundred people saw the recovery banner lead off the march and recovery was visible in a march in Glasgow for the first time. Kuladharini identified herself as a person in recovery when she spoke at the event.

Recovery Bounce

The local NHS shop stewards branch for Glasgow has asked Team Consortium to present to them and an audio file of Kuladharini's rally speech will be made available on the SRC website.

What did we learn?

We learned that recovery groups do not necessarily want to take part in high visibility events, which is entirely their right. We are currently working on reforming the SRC Team Consortium activists (a volunteer pool) to support this area of our work. We also learned that this was a useful way to connect recovery with new areas of public life.

Kuladharini
June 2014