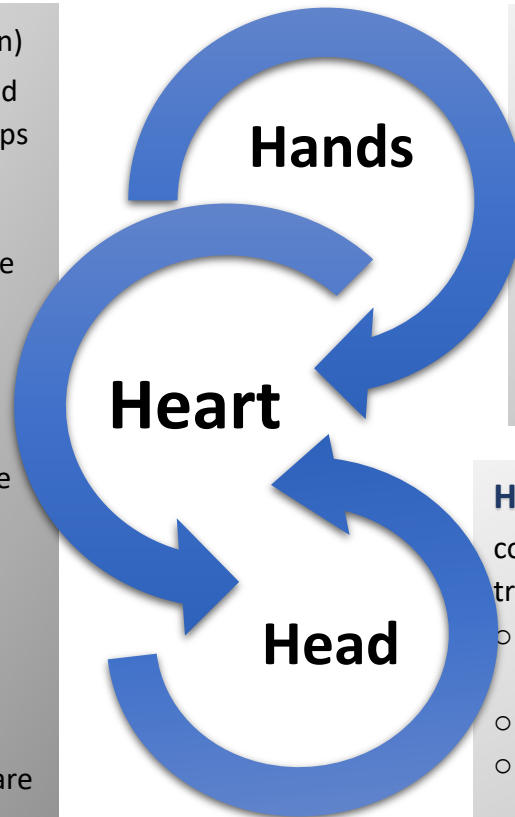


Grassmarket Community Project's Theory of Change: A Social Pedagogy Approach

Grassmarket Community Project is a community of individuals who deliver emotional support, services, classes, activities, practical support and enterprising opportunities by taking a **strengths-based approach** (or in community terms, an *Asset Based Community Development* approach). We access the skills, expertise and lived experience of our Members. We recognise and form partnerships with agencies, businesses and professionals who share our values. They bring to our community technical knowledge, training, resources and insight from evidence-based approaches. Our staff and volunteer team comprise a compassionate multi-disciplinary team of craftspeople, technicians, social workers, community adult educators, social entrepreneurs and community workers. Our theory of change is therefore best understood using the core principles of Social Pedagogy. By creating a trauma (ACE's) informed environment with a commitment to equality, anti-oppressive practice and social inclusion and by providing a range of practical, creative, physical, enterprising and therapeutic activities in a nourishing group setting people will live rich fulfilling healthy lives and achieve their goals.

HEART: The **relationship** (the connection) we have with ourselves (our emotions and meeting our needs) and others (friendships and support) must be supported. We achieve this by:

- promoting a warm, nurturing group life and a sense of belonging.
- Seeing people's lives in the whole
- delivering physical and creative group activities to promote healthy development of relationships and have shared experiences
- promoting social and environmental justice, inclusion and social change in order to secure improvements to peoples lives and their planet.
- Emphasising the value of lived experience, self-compassionate and care
- Recognising that people, even when they face challenges benefit from supporting others.



HANDS: People receive **practical** support to ensure they: have access to healthy food; receive up-to-date advice & guidance or are signposted to services to meet their housing needs; receive support with benefit claims; receive support with job search, applications and references for volunteering.

The GCP provide a range of **creative, technical and craft** opportunities, classes and experiences as well as on the job skills development in our social enterprises These are a means for developing relationships, skills and accredited learning.

HEAD: Using **reflective** skills and drawing on the **knowledge** of community Members, Volunteers, as well as professionally or technically trained frontline workers we:

- can make joint assessments where members of the community can understand their needs
- identify learning opportunities for all members of our community
- be outwardly facing and embrace new ideas and practices that are life-serving and planet preserving locally, nationally and internationally.
- Form strong partnerships with value-aligned agencies, businesses and organisations as well as Local and National government.