

## **Poverty Leadership Panel**

### **Action notes**

**21 August 2014**

#### **Present:**

Gordon Matheson, Glasgow City Council  
Ghazala Hakeem, Poverty Truth Commission  
Steven Andrew, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Martin Armstrong, Glasgow Housing Association (GHA)  
Lynn Brown, Glasgow City Council  
Maggie-Ann Brunjes, Glasgow Homelessness Network (GHN)  
Tressa Burke, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
David Cairns, Simon Community  
Sandra Collins, Grow Trust  
Malcolm Cunning, Glasgow City Council  
Linda De Caestecker, Director of Public Health  
Beverley Downie, Glasgow City Council  
Lorna Kelly, Glasgow Centre for Population Health  
Jacqueline Keltie, Glasgow Disability Alliance  
Jim McCormick, Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
David Ramsay, Glasgow Homelessness Network  
Shaw Anderson, Glasgow City Council  
Kevin Rush, Glasgow City Council  
Jamie Sinclair, Glasgow City Council  
Morag Sweeney, Department for Works and Pensions (DWP)  
Carol Tannahill, Glasgow Centre for Population Health  
Meriem Timizar, Refugee Women's Strategy Group  
Andy White, Glasgow City Council  
Lorna Wilson, Glasgow Housing Association (GHA)

#### **In attendance:**

Louise Falconer, Leader's Office (LO), Glasgow City Council; Twimukye Mushaka, Poverty Alliance, Ione Campsie, Glasgow City Council.

#### **Apologies:**

Martin Johnstone, Third Sector Forum; Richard Brown, GCC; Aileen Colleran, GCC; Duncan Wilson, Scottish Human Rights Commission; Johnathon Squire, Ethnic Minorities Law Centre; Jim Gray, GCC; Colin Borland, Federation of Small Business; Peter Kelly, Poverty Alliance; Catriona Morton, DWP; Shamaila Masood, Poverty Alliance.

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Panel welcomed David Cairns and Shamaila Masood as new members of the Panel and noted introductions.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes- agreed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that DRS and GDA have met and agreed to pilot a project to support people with disabilities in the labour market.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Progress on Action Plan</b></p> <p>The progress of the 5 priorities in the Action Plan were discussed: credit and debt, work and worth, participation, child poverty and welfare reform.</p> <p><b><u>Credit and Debt</u></b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Domestic Abuse Working Group had examined financial issues faced by victims of domestic abuse. The outcome of the Scottish Legal Aid Board bid to fund two advisors to support families experiencing domestic violence is expected in October 2014.</li> <li>○ work has been undertaken to investigate linking on-time payment of council tax to improving credit scoring. A decision on this is expected shortly.</li> <li>○ consideration is being given to the leverage the Council and its partners have to encourage the banks to offer more suitable products.</li> <li>○ a banking summit would be convened to look at the ‘unbanked’ but also to request more flexible and personal products, with buffers, for people in poverty. However, it was better to consider our ‘asks’ throughly rather than risk going in too soon.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a working group, which incorporated people in poverty, would be established. The group would consider the initiatives and activities currently being undertaken across the city to support the ‘unbanked’, and identify gaps. This exercise would help inform our ‘asks’ of the banks and determine the best way to approach the banks.</li> <li>○ consideration would be given to developing a list of basic functions people in poverty need for their bank accounts.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Work and Worth</u></b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the Home Office had confirmed that there were no restrictions on public sector organisations involving asylum seekers as volunteers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GCC (FS)</b></p> <p><b>GCC (FS)</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ preliminary discussions had taken place with GHN on how to engage with people living in poverty around the review of the Glasgow Guarantee.</li> <li>○ inequalities around who was actually taking up apprenticeship were stark, i.e far more men than women, not very many people with disabilities and too few BME people.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ there would be a further dedicated discussion in September about how best to incorporate poverty issues into the work on the five priority areas, with consideration being given to equalities groups.</li> <li>○ this work would investigate whether previous convictions are stopping young people applying for jobs.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Participation</u></b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ three workshops were facilitated with third sector and housing organisations to design flash surveys.</li> <li>○ a community event was held in Parkhead which brought together people with an interest in Parkhead. An action group of local people and key organisations had been formed to take forward the work.</li> <li>○ a third survey had been drafted on the theme of social networks and isolation and is scheduled for September 2014.</li> <li>○ this work was designed and being implemented with a view to sustained community involvement.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ facilitate a third flash survey and produce a report.</li> <li>○ continue to facilitate the Parkhead action group.</li> <li>○ consider how this work might link to community planning structures.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Welfare Reform</u></b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an intern had been hosted by the Council to determine the citywide impact of welfare reform. The report would be available in September 2014.</li> <li>○ sanctions are causing the greatest hardship for people in Glasgow. There is a lot of confusion about sanctions.</li> <li>○ DWP has changed its policy in relation to the notification of sanctions from July 2014. There is now a detailed process which requires staff to inform customers at the point of sanctioning about why it is happening. An interview takes place the next day to allow the customer to claim hardship.</li> <li>○ DWP invited members of the Panel to its premises to learn more about the JCP's work with its customers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GCC (DRS)</b></p> <p><b>GCC (DRS)</b></p> <p><b>GHN</b></p> <p><b>GHN</b></p> <p><b>GHN/ GCC (CP)</b></p>
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

	<p>It was <b>agreed</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to raise awareness of the implications of sanctions and to promote the right of appeal. Recovery cafes could be one way to do this.</li> <li>○ DWP could consider whether space could be allocated for JCP staff to explain the implications of sanctions to people.</li> <li>○ the implications and effects of sanctions would be fed to the DWP through the DWP/ GCC Strategic Group and the Corporate Welfare Reform Group.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Child Poverty</u></b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ that the cost of the School Day project was in progress.</li> <li>○ the Healthier Wealthier Children Working Group had developed a proposal to work in one neighbourhood, to test out an approach through a nursery and voluntary sector contracts.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ to look at ways in which the Child Poverty Working Group could engage meaningfully with children and families about the child poverty work stream.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GCC (SWS)</b></p> <p><b>DWP</b></p> <p><b>GCC (SWS)</b></p> <p><b>NHS (CHP)</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Challenging negatives attitudes to poverty – action plan</b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a group consisting of people with direct experience of poverty had worked together to develop the messaging campaign, and another group had worked together to agree the questions and approach to the staff survey.</li> <li>• the priorities for the next quarter would be to finalise and launch the staff messaging campaign and to launch a senior manager mentoring programme in September 2014.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that the findings of the staff survey would be presented to the Council's extended senior management team and the NHS management team.</li> <li>• Wheatley Housing Group would consider whether 'mental health first aid' training could be provided for housing officers.</li> <li>• discussions of 'poverty' would incorporate a modern, accurate portrayal of poverty. For instance, that there is more in-work poverty than out of work poverty.</li> <li>• the Wee Panel would assist in determining the Panel's definition of poverty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GHA</b></p> <p><b>GHA</b></p> <p><b>GHA</b></p> <p><b>GHA</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Housing priority update</b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a roundtable discussion on poverty, housing and local places had taken place on 2 July 2014 and was attended by representatives from the Panel and four housing associations.</li> <li>• tackling place-based poverty required a significant emphasis on local knowledge, local contexts and local people.</li> </ul> <p>It was <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• further consultations would take place more broadly via the Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations.</li> <li>• the principle of ‘people-first’ place-making and regeneration was the right approach for this work.</li> <li>• an action plan which incorporated local people’s involvement in local housing matters would be brought to the November meeting.</li> <li>• The Leader’s Office would arrange a meeting with the Secretary of State for Scotland and housing associations to hear their difficulties in mitigating the effects of welfare reform.</li> </ul>	<p><b>GHN</b></p> <p><b>GHN</b></p> <p><b>LO</b></p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Poverty – What you need to know website</b></p> <p>It was <b>noted</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• within the next 4 weeks an interactive review would be available on the Panel’s website entitled ‘<a href="#">Poverty – What you need to know</a>’.</li> <li>• the website would provide people in Glasgow with evidence about poverty. Data from a range of sources was cross-sectioned by priority (eg work and worth) and protected characteristic (eg disability).</li> </ul> <p>The Panel <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• partners would reference this site wherever possible to increase its visibility.</li> <li>• it needed to include a definition of poverty.</li> <li>• it should link in with the <a href="#">Understanding Glasgow</a> website.</li> </ul>	<p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting.</b></p> <p>The next meeting would take place on <b>Thursday 27th November, 2pm – 4pm</b> and the themed focus would be <b>Work and Worth</b>.</p>	