Poverty Leadership Panel
Meeting note
23 May 2013

Present:

Gordon Matheson, Leader of the Council

Ghazala Hakeem, Poverty Truth Commission

Matt Kerr, Executive Member for Health and Social Care

Sandra Collins, Pearce Institute

Jean Forrester, Poverty Truth Commission

Kirsty Birkner, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Blair Green, Poverty Truth Commission

Steven Andrew, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martin Johnson, Third Sector Forum

Tressa Burke, Director, Glasgow Disability Alliance

Peter Kelly, Director, Poverty Alliance

Colin Borland, Head of External Affairs, Federation of Small Business

Duncan Wilson, Head of Strategy and Legal, Scottish Human Rights Commission

Martin Armstrong, Chief Executive, Glasgow Housing Association

Carol Tannahill, Director, Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Linda De Caestecker, Director of Public Health

Jim McCormick, Advisor, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Jonathon Squire, Convenor of the Board, Ethnic Minorities Ethnic Law Centre

Fraser Falconer, Head of Children in Need Scotland

Lynn Brown, Executive Director of Financial Services, GCC

David Coyne, Development and Regeneration Services, CC

Jim Gray, Head of Democratic Services, GCC

Apologies:

Aileen Colleran, Executive Member for Communities

Paul Mulgrew, Poverty Alliance

Ailsa McKay, Professor of Economics, Glasgow Caledonian University

Richard Brown, Executive Director of Development and Regeneration Services, GCC

Present:

Ione Campsie, Corporate Communications, GCC

Jim Boyle, Oxfam

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	**Welcome** Gordon Matheson emphasised that this was an important day for the city and the Panel presents a real opportunity to tackle poverty in the city. **Apologies** Apologies were noted.	

	Introductions	
	Each Panel member introduced themselves and said what they could contribute to the work of the Panel.	
2.	'**How we got here': The Background**, Martin Johnstone	
	In providing some background to the Tackling Poverty Together Report, Martin Johnstone made the following points:	
	• the expertise of those who are living in poverty has been missing from the efforts to tackle poverty. We need people that have direct experience of poverty to help lead this work.	
	• we need to look at how we effectively bring limited resources together.	
	• there is much excellent work happening around the city but better co-ordination is required. This requires leadership at a city level.	
	• Community Planning Partners have made it clear that they want to look at their work to see what difference it makes to the levels of poverty in the city. If it doesn't, then they will be asking why.	
	Agreed: That the Panel note the report's recommendations and that these recommendations were agreed by the Community Planning Partnership in February 2013.	
3.	**The Panel's Vision for Glasgow**, Kirsty Birkner	
	Kirsty Birkner provided some background information on drafting the Vision and commented that it is based on the idea that people are not powerless to make changes.	
	In the following discussion, it was suggested that the Vision:	
	• Incorporate notions of dignity and respect, as well as identity and a sense of belonging.	
	• Reference the idea of people 'contributing' to the Vision.	
	Agreed: A revised Vision for the Leadership Panel that reflects these discussion points will be circulated to the Panel.	**Leader's Office (LO)**
4.	**Glasgow's Plan for Action**, Gordon Matheson	
	In relation to the Terms of Reference, the discussion focussed first on the 'Responsibilities' section and suggestions included making more explicit the following:	
	• that Panel members assume responsibilities to progress the work. There is an individual responsibility of Panel members and also their institutions to commit to delivering the action plan;	
	• there is an equal role for the voluntary, private and public sectors;	
	• a reference to the issue of 'exclusion';	
	• that the Panel has responsibility to monitor progress against the action plan and as a result of that, to have a role in re-prioritising or increasing resources in the action plan over time.	
	The Panel then discussed the Guiding Principles and noted that:	
	• if the Panel is to pursue a human rights based approach then it's important that people are involved in the accountability mechanisms. Participation cannot	

	only be in the vision but in delivering change. The expertise of people that are experiencing poverty must be heard. • referencing women's poverty is important because women suffer the effects of poverty more, often because of their role as lone parents. We should be specific about gender inequality, but be clear that it sits within a broader equalities framework. • there are significant demographic changes in Glasgow which may be creating a new underclass. This is partly due to the displacement of the first intake of asylum seekers and the new influx of Eastern Europeans. **Agreed:** **(i)** **to extend the 'responsibilities section' of the paper to reflect the Panel's individual and organisational responsibilities to contribute to the agreed vision;** **(ii)** **to reference the Panel's accountability to deliver on this and that Panel members are accountable to each other;** **(iii)** **to reference 'exclusion' as well as poverty;** **(iv)** **to mention the vulnerability of asylum and refugee communities;** **(v)** **and that the action plan needs to be developed and progressed by public sector, third sector and private sector partners.** **Plan for Action** The following points were made about the Plan for Action document: • the action plan cannot be a list of existing projects, but should focus on big ticket items that would really make a difference. • some of this will need to focus on how we spend our resources better, and how we change organisational culture. • GCPH could give some guiding principles to help fill in the action plan so that its approaches are sustained and at a city level. • The group of changemakers, or the people within organisations who will help implement the action plan, are key to this process. They will 'open doors' and make sure there is progress on the work. • GCPH has committed staff resource to support the monitoring and evaluation of progress on the Action Plan. **Agreed:** **(i)** **to hold an additional meeting in September/ October.** **(ii)** **that in between meetings Panel members will progress work that has been agreed. The Panel meetings will be an accountability mechanism for the work done outside the meetings.** **(iii)** **specifically in relation to the next meeting, each Panel member will be actively involved in populating the action plan. Each Panel member will be contacted to discuss how their organisation can contribute to the action plan and over which parts they will take ownership.**	**LO** **LO**
5.	**Workplan**, Ghazala Hakeem Ghazala led a discussion on how the Panel should structure its future meetings.	

		Agreed:	LO
		(i) the next meeting would focus on the high level action plan.	
		(ii) Each Panel meeting after that would assess progress of the action plan overall, with the second half of the meeting involving a more detailed discussion of each theme in turn.	
		(iii) A revised workplan would be circulated to the Panel members.	