

Poverty Leadership Panel

Meeting note

13 November 2013

Present:

Gordon Matheson, Leader of the Council
Ghazala Hakeem, Poverty Truth Commission
Malcolm Cunning, Executive Member for Health and Social Care
Sandra Collins, Pearce Institute
Blair Green, Poverty Truth Commission
Steven Andrew, Glasgow Disability Alliance
David Ramsay, Glasgow Homelessness Network
Martin Johnson, Third Sector Forum
Peter Kelly, Poverty Alliance
Tressa Burke, Glasgow Disability Alliance
Duncan Wilson, Scottish Human Rights Commission
Martin Armstrong, Glasgow Housing Association
Carol Tannahill, Glasgow Centre for Population Health
Linda De Caestecker, Director of Public Health
Maggie-Ann Brunjes, Glasgow Homelessness Network
Jim McCormick, Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Fraser Falconer, Children in Need Scotland
Lorna Wilson, Glasgow Housing Association
Beverly Downie, Financial Services, GCC
Susan Deighan, Glasgow Life
Fiona Moss, Community Health Partnership
Shaw Anderson, Democratic Services, GCC
Ricky Fleming, Glasgow Centre for Population Health
Diane Murchison, Tackling Poverty Assistant
Charles Dunn, Tackling Poverty Assistant

Apologies:

Jean Forrester, Poverty Truth Commission; Kirsty Birkner, Glasgow Disability Alliance; Ailsa McKay, Glasgow Caledonian University; Aileen Collieran, Executive Member for Communities; Colin Borland, Federation of Small Business; Jonathon Squire, Ethnic Minorities Ethnic Law Centre, Catriona Lindsay, DWP; Lynn Brown, Financial Services, GCC, Richard Brown, Development and Regeneration Services, GCC; Jim Gray, Democratic Services, GCC.

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome, apologies and introductions</p> <p>Gordon Matheson introduced Councillor Malcolm Cunning as the new Executive Member for Social Care.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes - agreed</p> <p>Actions arising - update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed that refreshed versions of the Action Plan would be circulated 3 times a year with other Panel papers for the Panel meetings. • The April meeting will be an opportunity for each Panel member to demonstrate how they have obtained organisational commitment to the action plan. • Stream leads are pursuing which organisations, other than the council, can take the lead in some of the actions. • The easy read version of the action plan is still in progress – GHA, TSF and the Wee Panel are working on this. <p>Actions outstanding – October meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of welfare reform more broadly would benefit from a human rights based approach, with a focus on getting decisions right in the first instance. • DWP will discuss issues relating to sanctions for particular groups such as pregnant women and those with young children. • DWP will work with partners to gain a more consistent approach to appeal letters by GPs. • The Panel could consider a less punitive approach to welfare reform for Glasgow, which for example, would not penalise people for volunteering, on a similar basis to the Thames Gateway model. • The Plan could be more ambitious – rather than ‘mitigating’ welfare reform, the Panel’s priority should be ‘challenging’ welfare reform. • There will be some consideration given to options for reduced fares/ free transport for children and those with young families, and how this interacts with the provision of ‘free’ services. • Further work will promote ways other than the Living Wage to help make a difference to income levels • Wheatley/ GHA will work with the City Advisory Panel to share their experience of working with Scottish Power to secure lower tariffs for their customers and staff. • The work by the Digital Inclusion Partnership/ Financial Inclusion Strategy and the work of the Sustainable Food Group will be included in the appendix of the Plan. 	<p>TSF</p> <p>SHRC/ DWP</p> <p>DWP/ Child Pov group/ NHS</p> <p>JRF/DWP /GCC</p> <p>GCC</p> <p>LO</p> <p>Child Pov Group</p> <p>FSB</p> <p>GHA/ CAP</p> <p>LO</p>
3.	<p>Progress on Action Plan</p> <p>Comments were sought from the Panel on the substantive work, and also on the presentation in the ‘snapshot’ summary document.</p> <p>A report on the ‘All In’ survey returns was circulated before the meeting. This</p>	

	<p>paper will be considered in more detail at the April meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report on the six work streams in one snapshot document was too concise. For subsequent meetings, one page reports for each work stream will be produced. • Issues that need highlighting or questions for the Panel will be included in each work stream's snapshot document. This will help the Panel better engage with the high level progress reports. 	<p>LO</p> <p>LO</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Child Poverty</p> <p>Fiona Moss, stream lead for the child poverty priority, provided an overview of this work stream.</p> <p>Cost of the School Day: A sub-group of the child poverty group is looking at how to ensure that schools do not stigmatise or discriminate children on the basis of their parents' income, for instance in how free school meals are administered or school outings organised. This group has met several times and recently heard from the co-ordinator of this work in the north east of England.</p> <p>Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some of the most significant players who encourage participation and build confidence with children are those who provide afterschool support. It might be useful to have some voluntary and charitable organisations involved to speed up the process and help redress power imbalances. • there may be linkages to the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools work. <p>Discount schemes: these may provide an alternative route to engage with children in the city, outwith schools.</p> <p>There is work to be done about how we can build on existing discount schemes and whether we are reaching the right people.</p> <p>Healthier, Wealthier Children: the service was open to families not only in crisis but on the basis that having a child fundamentally changes people's financial situation.</p> <p>A sub group is being established to begin to look at how HWC could be further developed in Glasgow and other partners to be involved. This group will need to develop a business case using families' experiences of the service.</p> <p>There is a committed mainstream resource in the NHS to continue this work, but the evaluation indicates there is a lot more than can be done. We are reaching only a fraction of the families who could benefit from this service.</p> <p>Co-Designing Services: The project (with the JRF) aims to use action research with young people (age 14-25), to identify housing issues for this group and to provide practical solutions which the Wheatley Group can progress. A workshop will take place in December to look at the process.</p>	<p>DW to send FM info</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Resources</p> <p>Agreed: The Panel supported the recommendations in the paper.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Gordon Matheson spoke about the announcement regarding free school meals in England, and that Scotland will receive an allocation of money from Westminster to provide the same service. Glasgow should receive £7M of the</p>	

	<p>Scottish allocation for the start of the academic year in 2014, but that will be determined by the Scottish Government. It Glasgow receives this money, it will spend it on free school meals and the administration of free school meals.</p> <p>Gordon Matheson proposed that the Panel could have an important advocacy role speaking out on this and other issues, to influence public attitudes as well as political decisions. He emphasised that if we are looking to make social change, it will require the prioritising of resources towards tackling inequalities.</p> <p>Points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have an opportunity to influence where national resources go and the Panel has a responsibility to change the balance for the city. The Panel's moral authority could represent the interest of our citizens in a way that is strategic and considers how resources should be re-routed. • The Panel should agree to do this on the basis of some agreed principles (eg maximising the anti-poverty impact of public sector spend). The Panel can then intervene in specific issues that chime with the Panel's work. • FSM is an important starting point for any advocacy. It doesn't make sense that in the city there is a need for food banks and yet we can do more around free school meals. • It is important that we also scrutinise the allocation of resources within the city, and are able to call fellow Panel members to account. <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Matheson will circulate his communications about Glasgow's free school meals financial allocation. • the one page work streams' progress summaries would provide an opportunity for stream leads to highlight to the Panel any issues that may benefit from the Panel's advocacy role. • the Leader's Office would develop a position paper on the Panel's advocacy role, with Panel's members input. 	<p>LO</p> <p>LO</p> <p>LO</p>
6.	<p>Next meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 10 April 2-4pm (location TBC), with a themed focus on welfare reform.</p>	