

Poverty Leadership Panel

Date: 23 May 2013

Agenda item number: 1

Title: Panel members' biographical information

Summary: The attached paper presents some biographical information on each Panel member.

This report is for: Information

Recommendation: The Panel notes the attached information.

Poverty Leadership Panel membership

Biographical information

<p>Gordon Matheson, Leader of the Council</p>	<p>Gordon was elected Leader of Glasgow City Council in May 2010, having joined the Council in 1999 as a Councillor.</p> <p>In May 2012 he led the Scottish Labour Party to victory, securing an overall majority in Glasgow in the local government elections.</p> <p>As Leader, Gordon Matheson has established the Commonwealth Jobs and Graduate Funds; approved a scheme to reduce Glasgow's landfill by 90%; introduced winter fuel payments to pensioners, and embarked on the refurbishment or rebuild of every school in the city.</p> <p>Gordon says that he copes with his busy schedule by taking his full complement of annual leave and holidaying in the sun whenever possible, especially in Italy.</p>
<p>Ghazala Hakeem, Poverty Truth Commissioner</p>	<p>Ghazala has been involved in the third sector for the past ten years working directly with grassroot communities and serving on management committees and boards.</p> <p>Ghazala has been involved in anti-poverty work for many years; she was one of the original testifiers with the Poverty Truth Commission. She has a long record of volunteering in Glasgow, including for instance with Amina – the Muslim Women's Resource Centre and for the Govanhill Festival. She has been on the management committee of the Govanhill Housing Association and the Govanhill Community Development Trust, among other organisations. She has also served on the Children's Panel.</p> <p>Ghazala recently won the Scottish Muslim Women's Award for Contribution to Community Work.</p>
<p>Aileen Colleran, Executive Member for Communities</p>	<p>Aileen was first elected in 1999 and now serves the multi-member ward of Partick West.</p> <p>She worked in various community libraries across the city before being elected, She brings that experience, as well as a background in trade union representation, to her remit as a Councillor.</p> <p>She is the Executive Member for Communities and Chair of Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.</p>
<p>Matt Kerr, Executive Member for Health and Social Care</p>	<p>Matt was elected as a Councillor for the Craigton ward in 2007. Upon his election, he became the Council's representative on the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty and since June 2011, he has served as the Chair.</p> <p>Matt has worked as a postman in Govan, as well as having been active in the Co-op Party.</p> <p>In 2010 he became the Executive Member for Social Care; a position he was delighted to retain after being re-elected in May 2012. Matt is also the political lead for Glasgow's response to Welfare Reform.</p>
<p>Sandra Collins, Pearce Institute</p>	<p>Sandra was born and brought up in Govan. She is currently involved in a women's support service in Govan.</p> <p>She is also working with Oxfam Scotland to create a community café in the Pearce Institute.</p>

<p>Jean Forrester, Poverty Truth Commission</p>	<p>Jean was one of the original testifiers with the Poverty Truth Commission.</p> <p>She is Treasurer for the Kinship for the Futures North Group. She is also one the panel of residents that meet every month to discuss housing issues with the Queen’s Cross Housing Association.</p>
<p>Kirsty Birkner, Glasgow Disability Alliance</p>	<p>Kirsty is a disabled woman, born with cerebral palsy living in Govanhill, Glasgow. She is a keen disability rights activist and a member of the Glasgow Disability Alliance, Inclusion Scotland, Scottish Disability Equality Forum and Glasgow Access Panel.</p> <p>Kirsty’s aim is to make Glasgow a fairer, more inclusive society for all its citizens and in particular, to help Glasgow’s disabled community have its voice heard in decision-making processes.</p>
<p>Blair Green, Poverty Truth Commission</p>	<p>Blair was one of the original testifiers with the Poverty Truth Commission.</p> <p>He has his own business in landscape gardening. When needed, Blair uses his business van to help people in domestic abuse situations leave their house with their possessions. He is heavily involved in local campaigns.</p> <p>Blair is also a stand-up comedian.</p>
<p>Paul Mulgrew, Poverty Alliance</p>	<p>Over the past seven years Paul has been active with a number of organisations in a voluntary capacity. He is a Board member for Flourish House.</p> <p>His interests include the issues of addictions, homelessness, unemployment and mental health issues.</p> <p>Paul is currently working as a carer with BUPA.</p>
<p>Steven Andrew, Glasgow Disability Alliance</p>	<p>Steven Andrew is a director of Glasgow Disability Alliance (GDA). He has been a member of the GDA for five years and has been on the board for eighteen months.</p> <p>Over the last five years, he has become increasingly active in trying to improve the rights for disabled people through the GDA.</p>
<p>Martin Johnstone, Third Sector Forum</p>	<p>Martin is a Church of Scotland minister. He currently coordinates support for the Church’s work in Scotland’s poorest 60 neighbourhoods, two-thirds of which are in Glasgow.</p> <p>Martin is Chief Executive of Faith in Community Scotland and Secretary of Scotland’s Poverty Truth Commission. He currently chairs Glasgow’s Third Sector Forum and is a member of the city’s Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board.</p> <p>It is the commitment to tackle poverty that gets Martin out of his bed in the morning –not just the alarm clock!</p>
<p>Peter Kelly, Director, Poverty Alliance</p>	<p>Peter has been active in campaigns for social justice for more than 20 years, both as a worker and activist. He joined the Poverty Alliance, Scotland’s anti-poverty network in 2002, first as a Policy Manager then becoming Director in 2004. He has a strong interest in issues around labour market inequality, including in-work poverty and low pay, and civic and community activism.</p> <p>Peter also represents the Alliance in a variety of forums and networks. He is currently Vice President of the European Anti-Poverty Network.</p>

	<p>He has been a member of a number of official advisory forums including the Scottish Government's Tackling Poverty Program Board and the DWP's Social Inclusion Advisory Group.</p> <p>Before joining the Alliance he worked at the Scottish Low Pay Unit, helping to campaign against low pay and for the introduction of the National Minimum Wage.</p>
<p>Colin Borland, Head of External Affairs Federation of Small Business</p>	<p>As the Federation of Small Businesses' Head of External Affairs in Scotland, Colin leads the organisation's policy, public affairs and field staff teams across the country. He also writes regularly on small business and enterprise matters in the national press and commentates on business and finance issues for both radio and television.</p> <p>The FSB is the UK's largest direct-member business organisation. In addition to providing a range of benefits to its members, the FSB campaigns for an economic, social and political environment in which small businesses can thrive.</p> <p>The Scottish team is currently promoting the findings of its 'Micros Untapped' report, which examines how additional job opportunities could be created by realising the recruitment potential of our smallest businesses.</p>
<p>Duncan Wilson, Head of Strategy and Legal, Scottish Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>Duncan is Head of Strategy and Legal at the Scottish Human Rights Commission. In this role he has responsibility for the Commission's research, policy, legal and strategic work.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Commission, Duncan was Research Coordinator to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education. He has also headed Amnesty International's global work on economic, social and cultural rights and held a leading role in the development of Amnesty's global campaign on poverty and human rights.</p> <p>Duncan has been a part-time lecturer in the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex and has led ad hoc teaching and training in a range of universities, civil society and public bodies.</p> <p>Duncan has a law degree from the University of Edinburgh, and a Masters in International Human Rights Law from Lund University in Sweden.</p>
<p>Tressa Burke, Director, Glasgow Disability Alliance</p>	<p>Tressa is the first Chief Executive of Glasgow Disability Alliance- a member-led organisation with almost 2000 disabled members. GDA is a collective, representative voice of disabled people, promoting equality, human rights and social justice.</p> <p>Tressa has worked in social work and voluntary organisations promoting equality, rights and citizenship for disabled people. She has written a number of publications including GDA's Toolkit for involving disabled people and GDA's Charter of Rights for Independent Living.</p> <p>A disabled person herself, Tressa acts as advisor on a number of working and task groups. She is currently working collaboratively with Glasgow Community Planning Partnership on an Independent Living Strategy to improve the lives of disabled people in Glasgow.</p>
<p>Ailsa McKay, Professor of Economics,</p>	<p>Ailsa is Professor in Economics at Glasgow Caledonian University. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of the economics of the welfare state, the reform of current social security measures and</p>

<p>Glasgow Caledonian University</p>	<p>the economics of gender inequalities.</p> <p>She has written a number of articles focused on exploring how a basic income could promote greater gender equality.</p> <p>Ailsa is a founding member of the Scottish Women's Budget Group and is a member of the Scottish Government's Equality and Budgets Advisory Group.</p>
<p>Martin Armstrong, Chief Executive, Glasgow Housing Association</p>	<p>Martin is Group Chief Executive of the Wheatley Housing Group. Martin has over 20 years public sector experience.</p> <p>Over the past few years he has successfully led the transformation of GHA to become the top performing social housing landlord in Scotland, a recognised and valued partner at local and national level.</p> <p>More recently Martin has led the creation of the Wheatley Housing Group; a group created from GHA and the first of its kind in Scotland. The Wheatley Group comprises GHA, Cube Housing Association, West Lothian Housing Partnership, YourPlace Property Management and Lowther Homes.</p>
<p>Carol Tannahill, Director, Glasgow Centre for Population Health</p>	<p>Carol is Director of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, a research and development centre. Established in 2004, the Centre aims to generate insights and evidence, propose new ways forward, and provide leadership for action to improve health and tackle inequality.</p> <p>Carol has contributed to a wide range of policy and strategy developments, including the Scottish Government's Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities and the Glasgow Health Commission. Carol previously held the posts of Director of Health Promotion at Greater Glasgow Health Board, and Senior Adviser in Health Development in the Public Health Institute of Scotland.</p>
<p>Linda De Caestecker, Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Linda is Director of Public Health with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. She is a joint Director of Public Health with Glasgow City Council.</p> <p>She was previously a consultant in public health with a special interest in maternal and child public health. Her clinical background is in obstetrics and gynaecology and she held a variety of posts in this specialty in the UK and in West Africa.</p> <p>Her research interests are in early childhood interventions and in the management of change in large organisations. She is an Honorary Professor of the University of Glasgow.</p>
<p>Jim McCormick, Advisor, Joseph Rowntree Foundation</p>	<p>Jim became Scotland Adviser to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in November 2007. He was previously director of independent think-tank the Scottish Council Foundation for five years.</p> <p>He is co-founder of a research partnership, McCormick-McDowell, and an ippr Research Associate. His main professional interests include tackling poverty, schools reform and policies for older people.</p> <p>Jim works with other organisations on issues relating to the job market, education and ageing, including dementia.</p>
<p>Jonathon Squire, Convenor of the</p>	<p>Jonathon is the Convenor of the Board of Directors Ethnic Minorities Law Centre and a General Member of the Mental Health Tribunal Scotland.</p>

Board, Ethnic Minorities Law Centre	<p>He worked as a Clinical Advisor to the Director of Mental Health Services NHS Glasgow and Clyde for many years before retiring.</p> <p>Jonathon has an MBE for Community Relations.</p>
<p>Fraser Falconer, Head of Children in Need Scotland</p>	<p>Fraser has been the Head of the BBC Children In Need Appeal in Scotland since 1990. His main responsibilities cover the devolved management of the grant-making procedures in Scotland.</p> <p>He has just completed a second term as Convener of the Scottish Grantmakers Group that includes 33 of the main Grant Making Trusts in Scotland with active links to major Trusts and Foundations throughout the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Fraser has been involved continuously in voluntary and community action, ranging from being a youth and community worker in the 1970s, at home and overseas, to also now being a Board member of Youthlink.</p>
<p>Lynn Brown, Executive Director, Financial Services, GCC</p>	<p>Lynn was appointed the Director of Finance in June 2003 and is responsible for an annual budget of £2.6 billion and a pension fund of £11 billion.</p> <p>Lynn grew up in Belfast and came to study history at university in Scotland, over 30 years ago, and never went back.</p> <p>She trained with the National Audit Office and then worked as an accountant for the City of Edinburgh Council before taking up her post in Glasgow.</p> <p>She is currently the chair of the CIPFA Director of Finance Section, which includes all Heads of Finance in Scottish Local Authorities.</p> <p>Outside of work, Lynn enjoys the cinema, reading novels and visiting anything historical.</p>
<p>Richard Brown, Executive Director, Development and Regeneration Services, GCC</p>	<p>Richard Brown was appointed Executive Director of Development and Regeneration Services at Glasgow City Council in March 2012.</p> <p>He is a qualified General Practice Chartered Surveyor and Member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.</p> <p>Richard began his career in local government in 1988 working with Strathclyde Regional Council. During his career, Richard has held the positions of Managing Director of Glasgow Community Planning Ltd and the Managing Director of City Property (Glasgow) LLP.</p> <p>As Executive Director for DRS, Richard's role is to drive forward the pace and progress of regeneration in the city, in partnership with a broad range of organisations.</p>
<p>Jim Gray, Head of Democratic Services, GCC</p>	<p>Jim is Head of the Democratic Services section of the Corporate Services Department of Glasgow City Council. He is in overall charge of a group of staff teams that provide support services to a range of Council and Community Planning Partnership structures. Jim is also the lead officer for support to the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.</p> <p>He has a long-standing interest in addressing the issue of poverty, as a former Welfare Rights Officer and then Law Centre solicitor.</p>