

# Poverty Leadership Panel

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**Date:** 23 May 2013

**Agenda item number:** 4

**Title:** Glasgow's Plan for Action

**Summary:** There are two papers for discussion:

- (i) the Panel's terms of reference; and,
- (ii) Glasgow's Plan for Action.

**This report is for:** Discussion and decision

**Recommendation:** The Panel agrees:

- (i) the terms of reference and Glasgow's Plan for Action
- (ii) that these documents form the foundation for the Panel's work.

## Poverty Leadership Panel

### Introduction

We are establishing a Leadership Panel on tackling poverty.

There is currently no overarching anti-poverty strategy for Glasgow. Similarly there isn't a vehicle for discussing this issue on a city-wide basis. The Leadership Panel will provide an opportunity to discuss poverty and exclusion and to generate continued momentum around the city's anti-poverty work.

Membership of the Panel is drawn from senior councillors, the third, private and public sectors and importantly, people who have direct experience of poverty. The Panel will be co-chaired by the Leader of the Council and a person with direct experience of living in poverty.

It is established on a permanent basis for the life of the current administration. It will meet three times a year.

### Terms of Reference

The most important job of the Panel is to provide leadership by articulating how each individual Panel member and their organisation will contribute to the Panel's vision and goals. As a group, it will advise on how to develop a city wide anti-poverty strategy and to make sure it translates into action.

The responsibilities of the Leadership Panel are to:

- Individually and organisationally commit to progressing the Poverty Leadership Panel's work.
- Function as an accountability mechanism for progress on this work, in terms of individual contributions as well as the Panel's collective progress.
- Make practical recommendations for policy and action to reduce poverty and exclusion in Glasgow.
- Improve co-ordination and co-operation between organisations working to address poverty and exclusion locally.
- Support the practical and meaningful participation of people living in poverty.
- Support individual members to act as champions for communicating the Panel's work.
- Maintain commitment and momentum around the city's anti-poverty work.
- Report to the Strategic Board of Community Planning as required.

### Guiding Principles

The Panel will work to the following key principles:

1. *It will use a human rights based approach to guide its discussions*

The guiding principle of the Panel will be that poverty is a denial of human rights.

Human rights place a premium on *how* rights are fulfilled. Human rights require public authorities to treat people with fairness, equality, dignity and respect. It also requires transparency in their dealings with people.

In this way, the Panel will look at how organisations working with individuals experiencing poverty can fundamentally change the relationship between service providers and individuals to be a better one.

2. *People who have direct experience of poverty will be meaningfully involved*

If poverty is to be adequately addressed in Glasgow, the knowledge and expertise of those struggling against it on a daily basis needs to be more effectively harnessed. People struggling against poverty need to be supported so they can be involved in policy development, implementation and evaluation.

The Panel will ensure there is active and meaningful participation of people living in poverty in decisions and policies affecting them. Particular care will be taken to fully include the poorest and most socially excluded people.

3. *Equality between men and women*

Women are disproportionately represented among the poor owing to cumulative forms of discrimination.

Women must have equal access to economic opportunities. The Panel will accord priority to expanding employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for women, promoting decent and productive work and improving access to finance.

This principle of gender equality headlines a broader equalities principle that recognises people often have multiple reasons for their disadvantage, for instance women with disabilities or men granted refugee status.

4. *Rights of the child*

Even short periods of deprivation and exclusion can dramatically harm a child's development. At a minimum, children are entitled to a package of basic social services that includes high-quality health care and adequate food and housing so that they can grow to their full potential.

The Panel will take cognisance of the rights of the child and will promote their right to have their voices heard in decision-making processes relevant to their lives.

5. *Leadership, commitment and co-ordination*

There is a great deal of good practice already underway but it is often poorly reported and badly integrated both within and across partners. The work will benefit immeasurably from leadership that can coordinate public commitment across the city's partners to resource and tackle specific issues over a sustained period of time.

Panel members acknowledge the relationship of poverty to all other aspects of city life. Action on poverty is not something separate from organisations' core agendas (whether health, housing, employment or education for instance). Rather, without addressing poverty in the city, these other responsibilities can't be delivered effectively and fairly. Members will be open to suggestions of doing things differently.

### **Ways of working**

The product of the Leadership Panel's deliberations will not be another critique of poverty in Glasgow. Its efforts should be towards assisting practical action, centring on developing and then monitoring an action plan for change.

Panel members will make a commitment to attending three meetings a year, but will support the work in between meetings.

The Panel will be invited at the first meeting to determine the shape of future agendas. For example, the Panel may want to take a thematic approach to each agenda.

The work of the Panel will be supported by a group of 'change makers', comprised of senior lead people nominated by community planning partners to oversee the implementation of the work within their organisation. They will work with voluntary and private sector organisations, as well as the public sector.

A number of thematic working groups consisting of people with implementation and monitoring skills, and people with direct experience of poverty, will progress the action plan. Their work will feed into the Panel's deliberations.

Papers and minutes of the Panel's discussions will be made publicly available.