

Action notes

19th November 2015

Present:

Frank McAveety – Council Leader – co-chair

Ghazala Hakeem – Poverty Truth Commission – co-chair

Matt Kerr – Councillor Executive Member for Families, Health and Social Care

Hisashi Kuboyama – Federation of Small Business

Shaw Anderson – GCC, Democratic Services

Sharon McKechnie – Tackling Poverty Manager

Brian Scott – Glasgow Disability Alliance

Jonathan Squire - Ethnic Minorities Law Centre

June Miller – Dept. for Work and Pensions

Lorna Kelly – Glasgow centre for Population and health

Florence O’Hale – Community Activist Panel

Innocent Jakisa – Community Activist Panel

Angela Jamieson – Community Activist Panel

Steven Andrew – Community Activist Panel

David Cairns – Community Activist Panel

David Ramsay – Glasgow Homelessness Network

Beverley Downie – Glasgow City Council, Financial Inclusion Partnership Manager

Gerry Quinn – Poverty Leadership Panel Manager

Andy White – Glasgow City Council, Social Work Services Welfare Rights

Kevin Rush – Glasgow City Council, DRS

Lorna Wilson – Wheatley Group

Fiona Moss – NHS

Sheena Campbell – Glasgow City Council, Lone Parents Development Manager

Jamie Sinclair – Building Connections

David Maxwell – Volunteer Glasgow

Bernadette Monaghan – Volunteer Glasgow

Tressa Burke – Glasgow Disability Alliance

Martina Johnston Gray - Glasgow Homelessness Network

Johanna Spiers – Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector

Carol Tannahill – Glasgow centre for Population and health

Allison Eccles - Head of Business Development, Social Work Services

Apologies from:

Peter Kelly – Poverty Alliance

Stuart Patrick – Chamber of Commerce

Maggie Brunjes – Glasgow Homelessness Network

Sandra McDermott – GCC, Financial Services

Lynn Brown – Executive Director of Financial Services

Martin Armstrong – Chief Executive of Wheatley Group

Michael Igoe – Community Activist Panel

Jim McCormick – Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Jim Gray – Head of Democratic Services

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghazala welcomed everyone to the PLP event, especially the first time attendees and in particular the new co-chair Frank McAveety the Council Leader and Councillor Matt Kerr. All the attendees then introduced themselves to the chair. <p>It was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two members of the CAP group have recently secured employment – John Fisher and Jacqueline Keltie. CAP is currently recruiting. All members were asked to forward on details of people they thought would be interesting in joining the group. 	
2.	<p>Opening remarks by the Leader:</p> <p>The Leader gave a brief speech and emphasised his support in tackling poverty and his desire to make things happen, which will have an impact on the level of poverty in the city.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes and apologies- there was one minor amendment to the previous minutes and they were then agreed.</p> <p>Apologies listed above.</p>	
4.	<p>Snapshots – Work in Progress</p> <p>Stream leads provided updates of on-going work.</p>	
4.1	<p>Attitudes – Lorna Wilson presented the update. It was noted - the People Make Glasgow Fairer training on attitudes to poverty and people on benefits is ongoing. To date there have been over 1,000 staff across the Wheatley Group and the Council who have either received the on-line awareness or face to face sessions. There have also been 50 pledges placed on the PLP website.</p>	

4.2	<p>Child Poverty – Fiona Moss presented the update. It was noted that the report on the Cost of the School Day has been very well received and attracting a lot of attention. This has also led to the development of the Cost of the School Holiday report, which was presented by Mark O’Neill later in the PLP. There will be an action plan developed to take forward the recommendations from both reports. There was also assistance given to the Beyond4Walls project where 12 young people from 14 – 21 researched and presented the issues they found for young people with regard to housing. This presentation was due to be delivered at the PLP however due to technical issues the visual presentation was cancelled, but details of the project were given verbally. Action 1</p>	<p>Action 1 Gerry Quinn to issue link to Beyond4Walls presentation video</p>
4.3	<p>Housing – David Ramsay advised that Maggie Brunjes was unable to attend the PLP to deliver her update but the written update issued to all PLP members earlier covered all the key areas.</p>	
4.4	<p>Participation – Martina Johnston Gray presented the update. Martina also presented a question to the PLP “What more can be done by Glasgow City Council where privately owned land is not maintained to the detriment of the interests of the local community?”</p> <p>The Leader provided details of what the council can do with regard to this issue, for example; serve an Amenity Notice. We were also advised of the recent Community Empowerment Act, which could have a major impact on this issue, if properly funded and support provided for the local communities to understand their rights. The Leader also stated that he would discuss this issue in more details with Councillor Kerr and also asked Martina to provide the specific details of her issue. Action 2 Action 3 Action 4</p>	<p>Action 2 Martina to provide the Leader with further details of the section of land and the issues with the owner.</p> <p>Action 3 Once received the Leader will review and respond.</p> <p>Action 4 Shaw Anderson has agreed to deliver a presentation on the Community Empowerment Act at the next PLP in Feb 2016.</p>
4.5	<p>Tackling Poverty Report – Sharon McKechnie presented the update. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement and developing working relations with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community Planning Partnerships ○ Thriving Places ○ Welfare Reform Group 	<p>Action 5 Carol (GCPH) to provide the PLP with an update on the current range of work</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Foodbank Forum – this topic opened up further discussion, the main points being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A short life working group on food poverty has been set up by SG/Alex Neil, under the Chairmanship of Martin Johnstone of Church of Scotland. Nourish Scotland and the Poverty Truth Commission are leading the work strand looking at replicable and practicable alternatives to food banks and is hosting a stakeholder meeting to discuss this in Glasgow on 30/11/15 Action 5 ▪ Glasgow and Edinburgh Council Leaders will continue to work together to identify solutions Action 6 ▪ The Fairshare Initiative – consideration being given to the council obtaining a warehouse to store and distribute the food, there will also be links with the NHS nutrition programme. Action 7 ▪ Using foodbanks is demeaning for our citizens ▪ There could also be an increase in usage due to the freeze in working age benefits in 2016 ▪ Fuel poverty shouldn't be forgotten about as this also a major issue for Glaswegians ● Feasibility Testing ongoing for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data Matching ○ Better Off System ○ Policy in Practice Universal Credit system ● Pilots commenced to support Benefit Sanction appeals via SWF applications referred to Social Work ● Claimants will be advised to apply for an “income/expenditure assessment” to ensure the level of Housing Benefit overpayment deduction is affordable. ● People Make Glasgow Fairer campaign launched within GCC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Managers’ Brief cascaded throughout the organisation ○ On line learning ○ Face to face training ● Commissioned independent citizens’ consultation to test ideas. Report received 4 November and results are extremely positive, e.g. : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 99% support data matching ○ 95% in favour of further community support ○ 95% agree with additional community cooking classes ○ 95% believe an alternative to ‘rent to buy’ retailers should be explored ○ The final report will be available once it has been signed off by Lynn Brown. <p>Working in partnership with NHS and the Wheatley Group to develop joint funding bid.</p>	<p>relating to food poverty.</p> <p>Action 6</p> <p>The Leader will keep the PLP informed of the on-going work between Glasgow and Edinburgh City Council’s on tackling food in-security.</p> <p>Action 7</p> <p>Kevin Rush to keep the PLP informed of GCC’s potential purchase of a warehouse in Blochairn to support Fairshare with their food storage.</p>
4.6	<p>Welfare Reform – Allison Eccles presented the update. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welfare cuts in Chancellor’s Summer Budget considered and Welfare Reform Action Plan refreshed to address potential areas for mitigation. ● Key messages post cards, and more detailed pocket guide distributed to third sector, community groups, advice sector, libraries, social work offices, GP practices and pharmacies. ● Corporate Welfare Reform Group updated on the work being done by 	<p>Action 8</p> <p>Potential partnership between Building Connections Glasgow Action on</p>

	<p>the PLP regarding the UK Benefit changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employee/Employer fact sheet on in-work benefits and advice contacts provided to Chambers of Commerce. • Referral pathway to Social Work Services (SWS) Welfare Rights developed for Scottish Welfare Fund crisis grant applicants who have had their benefit sanctioned. • 40 welfare reform training sessions provided to third sector by SWS Welfare Rights. • Further review of the impact on Social Security benefits will be required following the Chancellor's announcement on 25/11/15. • Work is ongoing with GCPH to develop a statistics package, which should be available for the next PLP • There is an opportunity for joint working with GCVS in relation to providing benefit awareness. Action 8 • The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) will be cut by £1 million over the next 2 years, this will have a major impact for the most vulnerable of our citizens. Action 	<p>Benefits group and GCC Social Work Services. Johanna (GCVS) and Allison (GCC SWS) to move forward out with the meeting.</p> <p>Action 9</p> <p>The Leader stated that he would look into this reduction to the SWF</p>
<p>4.7</p>	<p><u>Work and Worth</u> – Kevin Rush presented the update. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Deal In-Work Progression pilot is on track for delivery from March 2016. This £600,000 programme will see the city work directly with employers and employees in the care sector to identify ways to support their progression. • The city has increased the number of registered Glasgow Living Wage payers to 390. The GLW will increase to £8.25per hour from 1st April 2016. Action 10 • The Economic Development Division in GCC is undertaking work to look at how business growth, employment and inward investment teams contribute to tackling poverty in the city. • New Work and Worth Action Plan will be brought to PLP in early 2016. The basis of the action plan will be the findings from the consultation programme undertaken with GHN. The action plan was also take account of the results from the workshops with all the DRS teams • Further discussion on this topic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a need for employers to be given more awareness on the benefit changes ○ Some employers are not paying the minimum wage and there are some who use other forms of poor employee T&Cs, such as making employees pay for uniforms. <p>Brian Scott stated we must ensure that disabled citizens are included in employability projects.</p>	<p>Action 10</p> <p>Hisashi (Federation of Small Businesses) keen to support DRS on work regarding the Glasgow Living Wage. In particular, developing a stronger understanding of the number of businesses which pay the GLW.</p>
<p>4.8</p>	<p><u>Community Activist Panel (CAP) Update</u> – David Cairns presented the update.</p>	<p>Action 11</p> <p>Johanna Spiers offered</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The membership of CAP has reduced, due mainly to some members getting employment • A recruitment exercise is underway and we will be looking at ensuring the panel is fully representative of the community • CAP members are extremely keen to be involved with the Workstreams and to contribute in policy development • CAP members are also keen to developing their skill set. Action 11 	to provide support to CAP members, if required.
5.	<p><u>Cost of the School Holiday</u>- Presentation delivered by Mark O'Neill, slides attached.</p> <p>The presentation covers the cost and availability of leisure services, cost of child care for families struggling with their finances during the school holidays. During the school holidays, there is an increased risk from food poverty, of parent's ability to work being negatively affected and of summer learning loss. Action 12</p>	<p>Action 12</p> <p>Gerry Quinn to attach presentation to email</p>
6.	<p><u>Building Connections</u> – Presentation delivered by Jamie Sinclair.</p> <p>This presentation covers the work that Jamie has been involved with in the East End of the city with local Services and Service users, working together to come up with a series of small practical projects that will have a positive impact on the individuals and the area in general. Action 13</p>	<p>Action 13</p> <p>Gerry Quinn to attach presentation to email</p>
7.	<p><u>Equality Impact Assessment Framing Document for PLP</u> – Presented by Gerry Quinn.</p> <p>A draft EqIA document has been developed and agreed in principal by the council's Strategic Policy and Planning team, however the members of the PLP should have an opportunity to review before it is signed off by the co-chairs. It was agreed that the whole approach to equalities within the PLP and its Workstreams should be discussed in more detail and a small working group formed. If you're interested in being part of the Equality Working Group please let me know by 4th December. Action 14</p>	<p>Action 14</p> <p>Gerry Quinn to issue the EqIA and obtain names of people interested in being in the working group by 4/12/16.</p>
8.	<p><u>Any other business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCPH – Developing a volunteering charter, looking at additional support for those we find hardest to reach out to • Volunteer Glasgow - The NHSGG&C Employability Public Social Partnership for Individuals in Recovery from Substance Misuse was formed in October 2015 following a 12 month consultation process with over 50 organisations and individuals. The objectives of the PSP are to improve employment opportunities for individuals with multiple barriers to employment, through partnership working, using resources more 	

	<p>effectively and developing new programmes to address identified areas of unmet need. PSP members include NHSGG&C and over 30 key organisations from the third sector, employability, volunteering, personal development and education sectors that provide a range of opportunities to individuals in recovery to move towards and sustain employment. Four work streams have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteering and Placements • Mentoring and Personal Support • Training and Education • Social Enterprise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format of future PLP meetings – if you have any views or ideas that you feel would improve the PLP event, please forward them to Gerry before 4th December. There will be a meeting with the co-chairs after the 4th to discuss your proposals. Action 15 	<p>Action 15</p> <p>PLP members to submit proposals for improving the PLP</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be on <u>Thursday 11th February 2016</u>, the venue and time have still to be confirmed. Action 16</p>	<p>Action 16</p> <p>All to note</p>