

Poverty Leadership Panel

Action notes

20 August 2015

Present:

Gordon Matheson – Glasgow City Council, Leader
Ghazala Hakeem – Poverty Truth Commission
Malcom Cunning – Glasgow City Council, Executive Member Health and Social Care
Peter Kelly – Poverty Alliance
Hisashi Kuboyama – Federation of Small Business
Meriem Timizar – Scottish Refugee Council
Shaw Anderson – Glasgow City Council, Democratic Services
Brian Scott – Glasgow Disability Alliance
Ethnic Minorities Law Centre
Helen Tomison – DWP
Lorna Kelly – GCPH
Stuart Patrick – Chamber of Commerce
John Ritchie – Community Activist Panel
John Fisher – Community Activist Panel
Florence O’Hale – Community Activist Panel
Innocent Jakisa – Community Activist Panel
Angela Jamieson – Community Activist Panel
Steven Andrew – Community Activist Panel
Jacqueline Keltie – Community Activist Panel
Meriem Timizar – Community Activist Panel
David Cairns – Community Activist Panel
David Ramsay – Glasgow Homelessness Network
Beverley Downie – Glasgow City Council, Financial Inclusion Partnership Manager
Sandra McDermott – Glasgow City Council, Financial Inclusion 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
Maggie Brunjes – Glasgow Homelessness Network
Fiona Moss – NHS
Sheena Campbell – Glasgow City Council, Lone Parents Development Manager
John Dickie – Director of Child Poverty Action Group
Jamie Sinclair – Building Connections

Item	Discussion	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last PLP meeting the Conservative party had secured a majority UK Government. • The summer budget had been announced, with significant cuts to public spending. • Sheena Campbell has taken up post as the Lone Parent Development Manager • Gerry Quinn has taken up post as the PLP coordinator • Malcolm Cunning noted his apologies for the last meeting. 	
2.	<p>Minutes- agreed</p>	
3.	<p>Snapshots – Work in Progress</p> <p>Stream leads provided updates of on-going work. Five projects were discussed:</p> <p><u>Child Poverty</u></p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cost of the School Day report is due to be published on October 2nd. • Cost of the School Holiday work is underway. Focus groups and an online survey are being administered by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG). • Feedback on this piece of work will be provided at the next PLP meeting. <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 citizen advocates have been recruited to provide peer support to people experiencing housing issues. • GHN will provide an update at the next PLP meeting on the headline figures and common issues emerging from the project . <p><u>Participation</u></p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A one year lease has been secured at the Whitby Play area. Liability insurance has not been secured as of yet. • 100 people attended a gala day at Parkhead and Priesthill and 15 adults are keen to participate further in community based work. 	

Welfare Reform

It was **noted** that:

- Key messages regarding changes to the benefit system have been refreshed and will be distributed throughout the city. They will also be put online.
- Social Work Services Welfare Rights Team have been working with the Chamber of Commerce to identify opportunities to engage with employees regarding their entitlements to welfare support.

Work and Worth

It was **noted** that:

- The Clyde Valley City Deal will provide significant employment opportunities for the people of Glasgow.
- On the 25th of June, 130 people from across the city came together to discuss employment in the city. Six key messages were identified (see Making it Work Report).
- The findings of the event will be presented to the Community Activist Panel.

Credit and Debt

It was **noted** that:

- Four new modern apprentices have started at GEMAP in their Peer Support team. The original four modern apprentices will support the new cohort.

Attitudes

It was **noted** that:

- The People Make Glasgow Fairer initiative is underway at Glasgow City Council, the NHS and Wheatley Group.
- The project is focused on working with staff to improve attitudes and dispel popular myths regarding welfare claimants.
- Further training on the areas above will be provided to staff in the upcoming months.

<p>4.</p>	<p>Tackling Poverty Strategy</p> <p>Sharon McKechnie presented to the group. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tackling Poverty team has been tasked with focusing on alleviating the impact of poverty in four key areas: child poverty, lone parents, in-work poverty and food insecurity. • An extensive scoping exercise has highlighted opportunities to work with partners on several projects to tackle poverty in these areas. • It is important that any work completed by the Tackling Poverty Team and partners does not duplicate existing work in the city. • Targeted support for the most vulnerable people in the city is needed, including disabled people. • An area based approach may be useful for testing the feasibility of the identified projects. • Strong relationships are needed with partners within and outwith the PLP for this work to be a success • If members have any questions, to contact Sharon McKechnie. <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Tackling Poverty Team will continue its work and present progress at the next PLP meeting. 	<p>GCC – Tackling Poverty</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Community Finance Review</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GCC and Wheatley commissioned a review of community finance, which was completed by Salford University. ○ The review aimed to increase understanding of how the affordable credit sector was serving financially excluded citizens compared to the high cost credit sector. ○ Further work is needed to ensure the most vulnerable people in the city are supported. 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Impact of Welfare after the budget</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summer budget has resulted in significant changes to the welfare state. • A range of benefits will be impacted in the next 2-3 years (see Andy Whites presentation). 	

<p>7.</p>	<p>Senior Staff Mentoring Programme</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The senior staff mentoring programme involved residents of the city and senior management meeting four times over a six month period. • The project was a success with all attendees highlighting the range of learning and improved understanding they achieved through working together. <p>It was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme is rolled out into a second phase. 	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Other Business</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordon Matheson, the co-chair of the PLP will be stepping down from his role as the Leader of Glasgow City Council. The new Leader will take his position at the PLP. • Further discussions are needed regarding the PLP’s role in lobbying and/or influencing national policy. • The new DWP district manager (Etta Wright) is committed to improved customer care at all jobcentres and is keen to work closely with the PLP and partners. • Work is needed to ensure people are given the opportunity to engage with the PLP and its work. New voices are needed to ensure the PLP fully represents the broad demographic profile of the city. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>19th November 2pm-4pm Lighthouse, Mitchell Lane Lunchtime seminar by Beyond Four Walls (12pm – 2pm)</p>	