



To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board

On: 26th November 2015

Report by:

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Tackling Poverty Commission Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the Safer and Stronger Thematic Board on some of the work being carried out to tackle poverty in Renfrewshire arising from the recommendations contained in the Tackling Poverty Commission report.
- 1.2 Community Resources is leading on three projects within the Tackling Poverty agenda:
 1. Delivery of an enhanced breakfast club provision within key areas,
 2. The recruitment of young people into roles as Special Constables and Special Wardens,
 3. The expansion of the current StreetStuff programme.
- 1.3 A project team has been established for each of the three projects with a wider Project Board taking place every three weeks to review progress against key milestones. In addition to ensuring that appropriate governance arrangements are in place, the project lead for each of the projects will report to the wider Tackling Poverty Project Boards on a monthly basis.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Board
 - a) notes the content of this progress update report.
 - b) requests further updates on progress be brought back to future meetings.

3. Additional Breakfast Club Provision

- 3.1 An enhanced breakfast club provision is being developed and will run within a number of key locations in parallel with the existing breakfast club provision.
- 3.2 The objectives of the project are:
 - To ensure that children and young people have access to nutritional food and advice as part of a wider curriculum,



- To provide access to information and opportunities for parents and children, that they otherwise would not have,
- To demonstrate the links and relationship between food, culture, health and the environment,
- To help develop a child's relationship with food from a health benefit perspective.

3.3 The programme will commence in January 2016.

4. Introduction of Special Wardens and Special Constables

4.1 The Council and Police Scotland have been working on a partnership approach that will provide training and development and temporary employment for up to 16 young people in Renfrewshire as Special Constables or Special Wardens. Young people will be employed for up to 11 months and will receive a range of training and development opportunities that they might not otherwise be able to access.

4.2 The objectives of the project are:

- Improved social inclusion and access to facilities for young people, who otherwise would not be able to experience the services provided by the programme,
- Volunteering and employability opportunities to support community safety in key locations,
- To better equip young people for future employment opportunities which may arise.

4.3 Both posts have been advertised and an information day was held on the 11th November 2015. A 6-8 week employability course will commence on 1st December 2015 with successful candidates commencing full employment at the end of the employment programme in March 2016.

5. Expansion of Street Stuff Programme

5.1 Street Stuff is a youth engagement programme which seeks to interact with children and young people in their own communities, through the deployment of mobile resources, including football pitches, youth bus and shipping containers with various equipment (games consoles, dance mats, exercise equipment) to areas where low level offending and anti-social behaviour is taking place. Street Stuff is staffed by professional coaches who are employed by St Mirren Football Club.

5.2 The objectives of the project are:

- Improved social inclusion and access to facilities for children, who otherwise would not be able to experience the services provided by the programme,
- Provision of nutritional food and education around healthy eating and healthy lifestyles,
- The deployment of activities in areas chosen to increase the range of positive destinations for young people and close the attainment gap across Renfrewshire.



- 5.3 The expanded programme commenced during the October School Holidays in the Gallowhill and Glenburn areas. Football and dance camps were delivered between 10am and 3pm each day with lunch being provided. A full programme of activities has also been scheduled for the festive period which will also include food.
- 5.4 An extended weekly programme commenced on week beginning 9th November 2015 in Shortroods and Gallowhill Community Centres 4pm – 6.30pm with Football, Dance and Box activities and the provision of a hot meal. Activities and suitable locations in Linwood, Johnstone, Foxbar and Glenburn are also being developed.
- 5.5 Two additional youth buses have been sourced to support the expanded programme this year. The first bus will be operational by the end of November and 2nd by the end of December 2015.

6. Background

- 6.1 A Tackling Poverty Steering Group has been set up which comprises senior officers across the Council and Community Planning Partners. This group will meet quarterly and will drive the delivery of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan. Tackling poverty is a long-term aspiration, and cannot be achieved in the next two years. The focus of our Strategy and Action Plan will be to build a more robust evidence base for the anti-poverty impact of the work we are already doing, and to test the new approaches recommended by the Commission. This will allow us to produce a long-term, evidence-based and sustainable approach to tackling poverty in 2017. The Community Planning Partnership will report annually on its progress implementing Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission's recommendations and the success of the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.
- 6.1 In addition to leading on the projects above, Community Resources play a key role in other tackling poverty projects such as Private Landlords and Money Advice.

7. Resources

The Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Action Plan identifies the resources requirements for each individual action.

8. Prevention

The Action Plan framework allows the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board to plan resources and direct investment towards prevention and early intervention.

9. Community Involvement/Engagement

The Action Plan has been developed through the Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Board and sub groups whereby the third sector is widely represented.

For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid, Head of Public Protection, Renfrewshire Council on 0141 618 7352, oliver.reid@renfrewshire.gcsx.gov.uk