

To: Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

On: 25 June 2018

Report by:

Engage Renfrewshire/Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service

TITLE:

**Improvement Service: Community Empowerment
Action Learning Programme**

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Improvement Service and Scottish Community Development Service are supporting community planning partnerships to develop community empowerment and engagement. Two Action Learning Sets were delivered spread over two days in February and May 2018 to provide a setting for community planning partnerships to share good practice and identify questions for investigation. Similar learning sets have been delivered in a number of clusters, covering all community planning partnerships in Scotland.
- 1.2 The last meeting of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities helped shape input to the second Action Learning Set session. At this session, discussion was structured around what communities might say that community planning partnerships are doing well or could improve upon and emerging themes about what enables/hinders good community practice.
- 1.3 The collated output from all the Action Learning Set clusters will be collated and circulated to all community planning partnerships. This will provide an information source regarding good practice and challenges in community empowerment and participation across Scotland.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:
 - (a) Notes the content of from the Action Learning Set and arrangements for circulating output.

- (b) Notes further action to be carried out on behalf of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership to inform community engagement.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Improvement Service and Scottish Community Development Centre delivered an Action Learning Set for community planning partnerships across Scotland at two events during February and May 2018. Renfrewshire was part of the West of Scotland cluster. The purpose of the action learning set is to enable community planning partnerships to reflect on their own experience of community empowerment and engagement and to learn from good practice in other partnerships.
- 3.2 The first meeting of the West of Scotland Action Learning Set took place on 26 February, attended by Karen McIntyre, Engage Renfrewshire and Stuart Graham, Renfrewshire Council. A follow up session took place on 21 May 2018, attended by Karen McIntyre, Stuart Graham and Sofija Tkacenko, Renfrewshire Council Chief Executive's Service.
- 3.3 The follow questions and actions were identified at the first meeting to be developed:
- Ways to engage and support disenfranchised individuals/communities to take ownership of solutions to the issues they face.
 - Ways to identify community influencers in the digital world and work through them to engage with different communities. Carry out web analysis that would identify key community influencers in the digital world.
 - Develop a summary of existing "digi" support/services within Renfrewshire.
 - Ways to have conversations with people about their aspirations for their communities.
- 3.4 Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities discussed these issues at the meeting held on 21 March 2018 in order to provide feedback for the second session on 21 May.
- 3.5 Discussions have taken place with Renfrewshire Council's communications team in order to progress the questions about identifying the key digital influencers in Renfrewshire. This work is now being taken forward to develop a better understanding of how community planning partners can connect effectively with communities in Renfrewshire through social media.
- 3.6 The second Action Learning Set session shared examples of community engagement between partnerships. The Improvement Service will now collate examples of good practice across Scotland and circulate to all partnerships to inform planning of future community engagement work.

- 3.7 Following the Action Learning Set meeting, it was agreed that the Renfrewshire attendees should follow up discussions with colleagues from Inverclyde, East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and East Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnerships. The topics to be followed up on include engagement around health issues, food provision outwith school term times and the development of an indicator for community engagement. The purpose of these discussions is to inform planning of future community engagement work.

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