



To: **Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities**

On: **17 November 2015**

Report by:

Chair of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities

**Renfrewshire Forum For Communities Development Day, 30 September 2015**

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities held a development session for members on 30 September 2015.
- 1.2 The consensus at the development session was that Forum members valued participation in the Forum, considered that good progress had been made since the Forum was established in May 2013 and saw a significant role for the Forum in addressing emerging issues within the context of the Community Planning Partnership.
- 1.3 The community planning outcomes that the Forum is responsible for and the Mission Statement agreed by the Forum in May 2013 were considered to have continued relevance for the future.
- 1.4 Forum members identified a set of core issues to be addressed, but recognised that contribution to the outcomes of the other thematic Boards should also be developed. Proposals for progressing this work and developing a revised Action Plan were identified.



## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities:
- (a) Agree the key points from discussion at the Development Day on 30 September outlined below.
  - (b) Agree the list of core items for Forum business identified in paragraph 3.7.
  - (c) Agree that the Forum invite members of other Boards to a development session to discuss the contribution of the Forum to other thematic agendas.
  - (d) Agree the approach to development of the Forum Action Plan as outlined in paragraphs 3.9-3.11
  - (e) Ask the members of the Forum originally co-opted for the duration of the Advice Services review to confirm that they wish to retain their place on the Forum, following the conclusion of the review.

## **3. Key Points From The Development Day**

- 3.1 Forum members discussed the key issues regarding its operation to date and future operation identified in Appendix 2 below.
- Mission Of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities
- 3.2 Members of the Forum agreed that the community plan outcomes and the Mission Statement identified at the first meeting in May 2013 (see Appendix 2 below) are still relevant and appropriate.
- 3.3 Members of the Forum agreed that the group had made significant progress on a number of issues since it was established in May 2013, including raising discussion of the Living Wage within the third sector, progressing the Advice Services Review and raising the Living Streets issue.
- 3.4 It was proposed that the Forum should seek to identify emerging themes and trends over the next ten years and take more issues to the Community Planning Board for discussion and action in the future. Suggestions included emerging themes in the health and social care agenda and principles for community engagement.
- 3.5 It was considered valuable in a strategic sense for the members of the Forum to be exposed to issues other than those that their organisation would normally be involved in. Events organised with partners around Social Enterprise and the Clinical Services review were regarded as examples of the value of widening learning and contacts through the community planning partnership and events that have been organised through partners.
- 3.6 Forum members present at the workshop were in agreement that they saw value for their organisation in continued membership of the Forum going forward and noted that other members may require to be recruited in response to any emerging issues. Following the conclusion of the Advice Services Review, it was agreed that members



originally invited onto the Forum for the duration of this issue (from Renfrewshire Citizens' Advice Bureau, Renfrewshire Law Centre and Linstone Housing Association be invited to remain as members of the Forum, if they wish to do so.

#### Key Strategic Developments

- 3.7 Members of the Forum considered the key strategic developments identified that the Forum requires to be involved in over the coming years. It was recognised that tackling poverty is the overarching issue that and that, in addressing other strategic issues, tackling poverty should always be the key consideration. The following strategic issues were identified over the coming period as forming the core of the work of the Forum and Forum members were identified as the key link(s) for each one as follows:

<b>Strategic Issue</b>	<b>Forum Member</b>
Tackling Poverty	Kay Taylor, Alan McNiven, Ian McLean
City of Culture	Alan McNiven
Community Empowerment Act	Alan McNiven
Health and Social Care	Ian McLean, Alan McNiven, Stephen Cruickshank, Stephen McLellan
Digital Participation	Alan McNiven
Children's Services Inspection	Lynne O'Brien
Community Justice	Stephen Cruickshank
Response To The Syrian Humanitarian Crisis	Alan McNiven

- 3.8 In addition to these core issues, it was recognised that the Forum should take account of the agendas of the other five Community Planning Partnership thematic boards in order to determine the third sector contribution to these agendas. It was proposed as an action that the Forum invite all other Boards to a workshop event in order to identify in a co-ordinated way how the Forum and the wider third sector be engaged in the work of the other thematic Boards.

#### Outcomes, Targets and Actions

- 3.9 It was recognised that the Forum's current Action Plan had been ambitious when it was developed in 2013 and now requires to be realigned with the emerging issues outlined in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7.
- 3.10 It was also proposed that actions for the Forum members and organised should be separated from those within the sphere of operation of Engage Renfrewshire only.
- 3.11 A refreshed Action Plan will be circulated to members of the Forum for comment and approval.



## **Appendix 1**

### **RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

#### **DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**30 SEPTEMBER 2015**

#### **KEY QUESTIONS**

##### **Review of Forum to date and Mission Statement**

1. What issues do you feel that Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities has achieved most on over the last two years?
2. Are there issues that you feel the Forum should be more involved in?
3. What changes, if any, do you think are required to the mission statement agreed in May 2013?

##### **Key Strategic Developments**

1. On which of the key strategic developments do think the Forum has the greatest contribution to make?
2. How should the Forum contribute to the key strategic developments?
3. Which aspects of the key strategic developments should the Forum take the lead on?
4. Are there any other developments that the Forum should play a key role on?

##### **Outcomes, Targets and Action Plan**

1. Looking at the four outcomes of Renfrewshire Forum For Empowering Communities, what does the Forum need to do to achieve these?
2. Are any changes or amendments required to the community planning targets?



3. What changes are required to the existing action plan to accommodate future priorities while being deliverable?
4. What changes, if any, are required to the targets that the Forum is responsible for achieving?

### **Operation of the Forum**

1. Does the Forum require any additional members?
2. In addition to standing items, are there any items of business that the Forum should address over the period September 2015 to March 2017?
3. What are your views on the content of Forum meetings and communications?
4. How should the Forum involve or communicate with other organisations not currently represented on the Forum?
5. What are your views on the representation of the Forum on thematic groups and the support offered to Members?



## Appendix 2

### **RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**

#### **MISSION STATEMENT (MAY 2013)**

The members of the Forum will:

- Support the development and implementation of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Develop and oversee the implementation of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Raise public awareness and positively influence public opinion around key issues for the Community Planning Partnership on behalf of Renfrewshire's Forum For Empowering Communities.
- Influence and oversee the Community Planning Partnership's public outreach and education events, including lectures, workshops and Community Planning Conferences.