

Notice of Meeting and Agenda Forum for Empowering Communities Group

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	14:00	online via Teams,

MARK CONAGHAN
Head of Corporate Governance

Membership

F Garabedian, Active Communities; M Mathieson, Barnados; A Thomson, Bridgewater Housing Association; J Gonani, DEAR; A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; J Wilby, Paisley West & Central Community Council; G Sergeant, Police Scotland; S McLellan, RAMH; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau; C Forbes, ROAR; and C Masson, Save the Children.

Chair

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire.

Further Information - online meetings only

This meeting is on-line only but is a meeting which is open to members of the public by prior arrangement. A copy of the agenda and reports for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the Customer Service Centre, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley and online at <http://renfrewshire.cmis.uk.com/renfrewshire/CouncilandBoards.aspx>

For further information, please email democratic-services@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Items of business

Apologies

Apologies from members.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare an interest in any item(s) on the agenda and to provide a brief explanation of the nature of the interest.

- 1 Minute of Previous Meeting** **1 - 4**
Minute of previous meeting held on 15 November 2022.
- 2 Matters Arising**
- 3 Rolling Action Log** **5 - 6**
Report by Clerk.
- 4 Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund Update**
Update by Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund Officer, Engage Renfrewshire.
- 5 Partners Intelligence Portal (PIP)**
Presentation by G Sergeant, Police Scotland.
- 6 Update On Inquiry Into Community Planning**
Report by Chief Executive, Renfrewshire. (Not Available - To Follow)
- 7 Update on the Fairer Renfrewshire Programme**
Update by Social Renewal Lead Officer, Renfrewshire Council.
- 8 Update on Local Partnerships and Grant Awards**
Update by Partnerships Manager, Chief Executive's, Renfrewshire Council.



Minute of Meeting Forum for Empowering Communities

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 15 November 2022	14:00	Remotely via Teams

Present

M Mathieson, Barnados; J Gonani, DEAR; A McNiven, Engage Renfrewshire; S Cruickshank, Renfrewshire Access Panel; M Fotheringham, Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau; C Forbes, ROAR

Chair

A McNiven, Chief Executive, Engage Renfrewshire, presided.

In Attendance

R Robertson, Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership; A McBride, Engage Renfrewshire; D Lockyer, CAB; D Pole and S Graham (both Renfrewshire Council).

Apology

A Thomson, Bridgewater Housing Association;

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest intimated prior to commencement of the meeting.

1 MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Renfrewshire Forum for Empowering Communities Group held on 27 September 2022.

DECIDED: That the Minute be approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING

DECIDED: That the updates be noted.

3 ROLLING ACTION LOG

The Rolling Action Log was submitted for approval.

DECIDED:

- (a) That the update be noted; and
- (b) That the Rolling Action Log be approved.

4 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

A McBride, Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund Officer, Engage Renfrewshire, gave a presentation relative to an update on the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund.

She advised that applications for the Fund closed on 31 October 2022 and successful groups would be notified early December.

DECIDED: That the verbal presentation be noted.

5 WINTER CONNECTIONS

S Graham, Partnership's Manager, Chief Executive's, Renfrewshire Council gave an update relative to the Winter Connections project.

He advised that the Winter Connections project was a network of local places and spaces where people could connect to others in their community this winter. The project was free and open to all in every neighbourhood. £50k Winter Connections funding had been agreed in September and had mostly now been allocated across 24 local projects. A further £20k had been agreed by the Council's Leadership Board to 'top-up' the fund as well as £10k for a programme of activities from OneRen. He advised that the current focus was on targeting geographical 'gaps' and extending provision throughout January and February.

DECIDED: That the verbal update be noted.

DECIDED: That the verbal presentation be noted.

6 UTILITY COSTS

A McNiven led a discussion with the Group on rising utility costs and the possibility of having to pass those costs on to clients.

DECIDED: That the discussion be noted.

7 FORUM WORKPLAN

The Chair led discussion on the development of agenda items for the Forum for the coming year. It was noted that an email had been sent to members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed that the following items would be submitted as future items on the agenda for the Forum for Empowering Communities Group with regular updates being provided for Ethnic Diversity of Renfrewshire and Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme. This was agreed.

- **Ethnic Diversity of Renfrewshire** – Updates from IN-Ren will be supplied on a regular basis;
- **Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme** – Updates will be supplied on a regular basis till conclusion (activity ceasing around December 2023);
- **Voluntary Sector Groups and impact of crisis** - There is a tension between agencies seeking to help while perhaps having costs cut – for example, a rent freeze will impact on housing associations potential to do additional support work. This point should be shared with the Executive group as an ‘alert’ – a danger that local agencies are under ever increasing pressure with less and less resource;
- **Supporting the workforce** within 3rd Sector and Voluntary Organisations - Many of us are employers – what additional actions can we take to ensure our staff are supported during this time;
- **Reaching those with real need versus organisations staying within financial constraints (living wage/procurement/hardship funds)** - We need to act to ensure that phrases like ‘warm banks’ are not normalised – the Forum should be vocal around this issue;
- **Winter Connections Programme** - network of local places and spaces where people connect to others in their community this winter.
- **Providing Confidential Support** - the importance of delivering services unobtrusively; the delivery of community services should be dignified, without stigmatisation and should be a service of ‘choice’; and
- **The Positivity of Connectiveness** – the opportunity when delivering services such as designed to tackle the #CostofLivingCrisis to also tackle social isolation and increase connectiveness.




DECIDED: That the list of agenda items be submitted as future items on the agenda for the Forum for Empowering Communities Group with regular updates being provided for Ethnic Diversity of Renfrewshire and the Community Mental Health & Wellbeing Programme.

8 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS FOR THE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO DECEMBER 2023

There was submitted a report by the Director of Finance & Resources relative to the timetable of meetings for the Forum for Empowering Communities Group for the period January 2023 to December 2023.

DECIDED: That the timetable of meetings from January 2023 to December 2023 as indicated within the report be agreed.

**RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL
RENFREWSHIRE FORUM FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES GROUP
ROLLING ACTION LOG**

	Action is on track	KEY
	Areas for concern that will impact on completion date if not fixed. Action required to bring up to satisfactory level	
	Past deadline date and action required.	

Action No.	Action	Action Owner	Status	Expected Date of Completion	Actual Date of Closure	Update & Comments
<u>RFG 03.09.20(4)</u>	MUTUAL SUPPORT (a) Discussion/Support group support sessions to be set up; and (b) Members to notify the Chair of their interest in participating in the Group.	AMcN/ALL				RFG 17.11.20 Meeting will take place on 2 nd December and further update will be given to Members after that date RFG.11.03.21(2) Members were updated and advised more meetings in diary for 2021.. RFG 9.9.21(2) It was intimated that a meeting was held in September and A McNiven would be writing to participants
<u>RFG180621 (5)</u>	SOCIAL RENEWAL PLAN Agreed that an update be submitted to a future meeting	AMcN				RFG 24.4.22(4) Members were given an update
<u>RFG291022(6)</u>	REFRESH OF COMMUNITY PLAN Copy of the report to be circulated to members after Council meeting on 29 August 2022	CMacD			19/10/22	Circulated to Members
<u>RFG291022(7)</u>	WORKPLAN DEVELOPMENT List of possible agenda items to be circulated to members for further refinement and agreement.	CMacD			19/10/22	Circulated to Members

Updated 28/02/2023

