

**To: Safer and Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board**

**On: 30 March 2017**

**Report by:**

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**Renfrewshire Community Safety Partnership Tackling Poverty Initiatives**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 In September 2015, Council approved a Tackling Poverty Strategy for Renfrewshire, which sets the £6 million Council investment within the context of the current opportunities and challenges that Renfrewshire will face in coming years.
- 1.2 The additional investment within areas of Community Resources has allowed the delivery of:
- The roll out of an alternative breakfast club model in schools to 10 Schools across Renfrewshire,
  - The expansion of the award winning Street Stuff diversionary programme, including the provision of meals to the children attending the activities,
  - An employability initiative for young people to train as Special Wardens and Trainee Community Safety Officers,
  - Enhanced arrangements for registration, regulation and enforcement of private landlords.
- 1.3 At the Council meeting on 16 February 2017 additional funding of £1.5m was allocated to the Tackling Poverty projects. An allocation will be made to allow Community Resources to continue work on Breakfast Clubs, Street Stuff and Landlord registration.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Safer & Stronger Renfrewshire Thematic Board;
- Notes the progress with the four workstreams impacting on the Safer and Stronger action plan within the Tackling Poverty Action Plan.



- Notes the additional £1.5m for the Tackling Poverty initiatives and that Community Resources will be continuing work on Breakfast Clubs, Street Stuff and Landlord registration.

### **3. Background**

3.1 As part of the £6 million Renfrewshire Council investment within the Tackling Poverty Strategy over £600,000 has been allocated to the four workstreams within Community Resources with a summary of each workstream provided below.

#### **Alternative Breakfast Club Model (£120,000)**

3.2 A new model of breakfast club provision for the start of the school day was introduced in order to increase engagement with parents and children in areas of identified poverty, and improve knowledge of food to young people and the impact it can have on their health and well-being.

3.3 The initial roll out of the programme to a small number of schools has now been significantly expanded to include 10 schools in total, 9 primary schools and 1 secondary.

3.4 A full evaluation of the project is due to be completed by the end of June 2017 to build on the initial positive feedback from teachers and parents and to establish how this can be sustained going forward.

#### **Expanded Street Stuff Programme (£250,000)**

3.5 The provision of £250,000 tackling poverty funding has allowed the expansion of the Street Stuff programme to take place, ensuring the service can be provided on a more flexible responsive basis, directing resources to areas of need.

3.6 The additional funding aimed to improve social inclusion and access to facilities, provide education around healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and deploy activities in areas of need to increase positive destinations for young people.

3.7 As part of the expanded programme, sessions have been delivered between 3.30pm and 6.00pm across all five Local Area Committee areas. Since the introduction of the expanded programme in October 2015 there have been almost 50,000 attendances at the programme.

3.8 The tackling poverty funding also allowed for the purchase of 4 street stuff buses in addition to the introduction of additional sessions, to expand the Street Stuff



offer. The buses are now in operation across the area providing greater flexibility to the programme to take the activities in to the areas where they are required, whilst also providing additional facilities such as gaming and cultural activities to further enhance the range of activities provided.

#### **Employability Initiative (£135,000)**

- 3.9 The introduction of a number of Special Wardens and trainee Community Safety Officer posts for young people provides employment and training for young people to equip young people and prepare them for future long term employment opportunities which may arise. The opportunities have allowed these young people to develop on the job training and experience in a range of activities, including dealing with members of the public and better understanding the close links between poverty and low level anti social behaviour.
- 3.10 The programme has so far successfully recruited 7 Special Wardens and 4 trainee Community Safety Officers to the programme. All trainees have made a positive contribution to tackling anti social behaviour and have undertaken wide ranging training and CV building activities which will equip them for future long term employment.
- 3.11 There are 3 trainees who have since left their temporary positions to successfully gain permanent employment elsewhere while the remainder of the trainees have had their temporary contracts extended to continue their development.

#### **Private Landlords Registration and Enforcement (£30,000)**

- 3.12 Community Resources have carried out a review of Renfrewshire Council's registration, regulation and enforcement arrangements of private landlords.
- 3.13 This review has considered the current powers available to the Council as well as their current use and options to further utilise these powers in order to improve both physical conditions and management standards within the sector. As part of the review a temporary Private Sector Housing Officer has been recruited to work with the existing team to ensure the enforcement of the sector is as robust as possible and rogue landlords are challenged and necessary action taken. This additional post, as funded by the tackling poverty programme has allowed for an enhanced enforcement regime to be delivered, ensuring residents concerns are addressed quickly and appropriate enforcement action is taken against those landlords who continue to breach private landlord registration requirements.

**For more information about the report, please contact Oliver Reid,  
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