

# **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

## **Report by the Interim Executive Director of Corporate Services**

**Community Participation Committee: 22 February 2012**

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**Subject: Community Planning Progress Update**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to highlight programmes funded and delivered through West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) that contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).

### **2. Background**

- 2.1** Community Planning is defined as a process “by which the public services provided in the area of the local authority are provided and the planning of that provision takes place” (Local Government in Scotland Act 2003). Local authorities have a duty to initiate, maintain and facilitate this process and Scottish Ministers have a duty to promote and encourage the use of Community Planning.
- 2.2** In West Dunbartonshire, the CPP is the leading vehicle for bringing all statutory and other partners together to address the key issues facing communities and citizens.
- 2.3** In 2007, a Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Government set out the terms of a new relationship - a key element of this is the development of Single Outcome Agreements. The Single Outcome Agreement is the means by which Community Planning Partnerships agree their strategic priorities for their local area.
- 2.4** After a wide consultation process, West Dunbartonshire submitted its revised SOA for 2011-14 to the Scottish Government. The delivery of the SOA is being monitored through Covalent, which all partners have agreed to use as the shared CPP Performance and Financial Monitoring Framework.

### **3. Main Issues**

- 3.1** Locally, community planning is a way of working in which major providers of public and voluntary services in our area work in consultation with our communities to deliver better services.

- 3.2** Community engagement is an essential way of working within Community Planning. West Dunbartonshire uses a variety of successful methods to co-ordinate community engagement.
- 3.3** Partner organisations are working together to a joint community engagement action plan. Examples include a Partner Engagement Calendar and training in engagement and consultation skills for employees, informed by training needs analysis. West Dunbartonshire Citizens' Panel provides the opportunity for partners to commission surveys jointly. Response rates continue to be high and 74% of panel respondents agree that our Feedback newsletter demonstrates CPP partner agencies are listening to what communities say about developing and delivering services.
- 3.4** Community Forums are an important part of CPP structures and are operating in Clydebank, Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven. Membership of the three Forums in general is growing. A well-received programme of training has been delivered to Community Forum members. For the first time, Community Forums will host public budget consultation events during November, to help inform the process for developing the Council's budget proposals. This is a valuable addition to the budget consultation process. The January public meetings will present more specific options for consideration.
- 3.5** CPP investment has been used as a catalyst for improved partnership working in the planning and delivery of services and for attracting other sources of funding to West Dunbartonshire, for example, European Funding.
- 3.6** For 2011/12, the total CPP investment for programmes and projects is £3,398,560. At its meeting of 30 March 2011, Council took a decision to allocate additional one off non-recurring funds secured from Supporting People resources to the CPP. Some of this additional funding was earmarked by Council for specific projects including Welfare Rights (Advice Services), Care and Repair and Shopmobility to the value of £153,000. After allocation to specific projects a remaining sum of £137,000 was made available to the CPP for investment.
- 3.7** Being mindful of the criticism of the previous process, the Executive Group agreed to delegate greater power on the use of these funds to the Strategic Board. A transparent process was set up, which allowed recommendations from CPP Thematic Groups to be presented to the Strategic Board. The process was based on a set of criteria, including contributing to the CPP Priority Areas of Supporting Children and Families, Strong Safe and Involved Communities and Work and Benefits, as set out in the West Dunbartonshire SOA for 2011/14.

**3.8** The success of this pilot exercise has prompted a decision to process all CPP investment through the Strategic Board. Under new arrangements, thematic groups will now make recommendations to the Strategic Board for consideration. The Strategic Board will then make its recommendations for funding to the Executive Group.

**3.9** This report highlights some of the excellent work that is being taken forward to achieve better outcomes for West Dunbartonshire residents through CPP investment. For purposes of clarity and ease of reading, the details of CPP achievements are presented in Appendix 1.

#### **4. People Implications**

**4.1** There are no personnel issues in this report.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

**5.1** There are no financial implications in this report. The budget for funding CPP programmes has already been allocated for 2011/12.

#### **6. Risk Analysis**

**6.1** It was not necessary to carry out a risk assessment on this report. Risk analysis is embedded within the CPP Performance and Financial Monitoring Framework.

#### **7. Equalities Impact Analysis (EIA)**

**7.1** An EIA is not required because this is an update report and not a new or revised policy, carrying out a public function or a financial decision. It is noted that the 2011/14 SOA was subjected to an EIA.

**7.2** It is further noted that any new or revised policies, functions or financial decisions that involve service planning and delivery need first to be screened for relevance and, if found to be relevant, must undergo an EIA at an early stage.

#### **8. Strategic Assessment**

**8.1** This report fits with the Council's strategic priorities for 2011/12, namely Social and Economic Regeneration, Financial Strategy and Fit for Purpose Services, through the implementation of the SOA. The SOA is the overarching plan which is linked to the Council's Corporate Plan and Service Plans.

## **9. Conclusions and Recommendations**

- 9.1** Committee members are invited to note the contents of the main body of this report and the details in Appendix 1.

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**David Amos**  
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**Date: 14 December 2011**

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**Appendix 1:** Key achievements – WD CPP

**Background Papers:** West Dunbartonshire SOA 2011/14  
CPP Partnership Agreement

**Wards Affected:** All wards

## Appendix 1: Key achievements – WD CPP

The examples in this appendix illustrate some of the key achievements of West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in delivering the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and addressing the strategic priorities of *Supporting Children and Families* and *Safe, Strong and Involved Communities*. A new strategic approach to the *Work and Benefits*, delivered through the Employability Programme and Strategic Skills Pipeline, was reported to the CPC at a recent meeting.

Effective partnership working is at the heart of all CPP programmes to ensure that individuals, families and communities benefit in such a way as to improve their overall quality of life in West Dunbartonshire. Many of the projects and initiatives have cross-cutting links with all three CPP strategic priorities.

### CPP PRIORITY: SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

#### (a) *Supporting Children and Families Programme:*

This is a large, complex multi-agency programme. Its purpose is to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable and deprived families through early intervention and more effective, integrated service delivery. It has a long term preventative aim in terms of supporting children to achieve their potential as adults, thereby reducing future dependency on public services.

The partnership working within this key CPP programme includes mainstream health, social care, education, Community Learning and Development and some third sector organisations - Y sort-it, Save the Children and the Tulloch Trust.

One of the major barriers to personal progress for some residents in West Dunbartonshire is a lack of educational attainment or achievements. The *Supporting Children and Families* Community Planning Programme makes an important contribution to the SOA focus on improved educational attainment.

The programme also provides support to children with disabilities. Additionally, it offers support to parents that helps to improve skills such as budgeting, parenting, building resilience in children and reducing risk taking behaviours in children.

Some of the key achievements of this programme are:

- The educational attainment of the lowest performing secondary children has improved by 13%
- The total number of exclusions from primary and secondary schools has been reduced by 12%
- The attendance rates in both primary (93%) and secondary (85.1%) schools have been improved to close to the national average, being 94.8% and 91.1% respectively.

- The number of referrals to the Children's Reporter on care and welfare grounds has been reduced by 15%
- The number of children involved in group work has seen a threefold increase
- The number of children being "Looked After" by the local authority entering a positive destination increased by 10%
- The number of children needing to be placed in specialist residential schools has been reduced by 2%
- The number of children with a disability offered a specialist sport and leisure activity or respite break has been increased
- The number of targeted adults doing a literacy and numeracy course has increased by 10%.

The real impact of interventions under the *Supporting Children and Families* CPP programme on the quality of life for children, young people and families in West Dunbartonshire is very impressive, as the qualitative Case Studies in the SOA Progress Report show.

(b) *More Choices More Chances (MCMC)* Programme:

The purpose of this programme is to reduce the number of young people aged 16-19 moving into negative destinations and prevent them from being in the category, "not in education, training or employment".

The programme works collaboratively with a range of partners by aligning CPP and a range of funding streams to achieve positive outcomes. MCMC works closely with initiatives within Supporting Children and Families programme, as well as linking with the Employability Programme.

MCMC offers a range of interventions geared to the needs of individual participants and identifies potential beneficiaries through a Risk Matrix tool. In terms of sharing of good practice, the West Dunbartonshire Risk Matrix has been added to the National SEEMIS framework (schools' management information system), with Glasgow City Council funding the development costs. Recent data shows that there has been a considerable improvement in the number of young people going into positive destinations.

The latest School Leaver Destination Report for the academic year 2009/10 showed an impressive increase of 5.1% in positive destinations in West Dunbartonshire. This meant that 88.1% of young people were in a positive destination in September 2010 at the point of the survey, which is above the national average of 86.8% and made West Dunbartonshire one of the most improved areas. There were increases in the percentage moving onto further and higher education and training, while employment figures fell.

Of particular note was the reduction in the percentage of young people in the unknown category, down from 2% to 0.2%. This shows the impact of good partnership working between education staff and Skills Development Scotland

(SDS), and the level of commitment to evidencing better outcomes for young people. The improved relationship between Skills Development Scotland and Educational Services represents a transformational change in the way staff in both agencies view their respective roles and take joint responsibility to plan and deliver services, at a strategic and operational level. This is having a direct impact on the quality of the services available and translating into better outcomes for young people in West Dunbartonshire.

(c) *WD CPP Youth Services Programme:*

Youth work and youth issues are undergoing a strategic change in the current period. The emphasis is on ensuring that youth services are cross-cutting across the three strategic CPP priorities. A new multi-agency West Dunbartonshire Youth Partnership is being established to drive this forward, led by Community Learning and Development (CL&D) and involving a range of third sector and public sector service providers.

The recently published Social Return on Investment (SORI) evaluation report on the 2009-2011 West Dunbartonshire Youth Services Programme highlights the positive impact achieved and the added value created. The evaluation estimated that for every public £ invested it created an added value of £2. The report suggested that the added value may be even higher than that. The survey results from the SROI evaluation revealed the following positive outcomes experienced by young people who accessed the range of services within the Youth Services Programme. These included young people stating that they felt more confident, more interested in volunteering and attending college, doing more exercise and developing better communication skills.

Towards the end of last year, a very impressive showcase event took place in Dumbarton Burgh Hall, which allowed the various contributors to the Youth Services Programme to show how their partnership working has an impact on the lives of vulnerable young people. It demonstrated extremely well the cross-cutting nature of the work, the significant long term commitment needed to support some young people and the requirement for a mixture of approaches and activities to respond to the preferences and needs of the community. Case studies were used to illustrate this complex area of work.

The Youth Services programme has been greatly enhanced by the involvement of key voluntary sector projects, such as Y Sort-it and Tulloch Trust.

*Y Sort-It* – West Dunbartonshire Youth Information and Support Network - celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. The project is run by young people for young people across West Dunbartonshire. Its main centre is based in Clydebank and it has a Mobile Information & Cyber Centre (MICS), which is also used by a range of partners. Y Sort-it has received national and international recognition for the good practice work that it carries out. Last year, its Depute Co-ordinator, Gillian Kirkwood,

was awarded National Youth Worker of the Year. Recent successes for Y sort-it include:

- The excellent Young Carers Groups now operating in Clydebank and Dumbarton, which also supports the commitments of the Council and its partners to young carers. The project was successful in gaining external funding to provide, amongst other things, a summer camp which gave young carers some respite from their caring responsibilities and opportunities to mix with their peers. A guide for Young Carers was also produced, which has raised the profile of young carer issues, and is being distributed to every secondary school in the area. The Y Sort-It Young Carers Group is the first of its kind in West Dunbartonshire. The Princess Royal Trust for Carers estimates that 12% of all young people in Scotland are carers. If this was applied to West Dunbartonshire, there are an estimated 1,800 young people who may be a Young Carer.
- Y Sort-it received international recognition through its young people's Management Committee attending a European funded poverty conference in Italy. With the support of WDC cultural services' SPARC initiative, they produced and acted a play about issues faced by young people in West Dunbartonshire. It has realigned its services to meet new CPP priorities
- The project has also worked closely with the Environment Trust and Blue Triangle Housing Association to convert the back gardens of its Clydebank base into an urban garden/allotment. Additionally, Y Sort-it's young people have been working as volunteers with the CPP-funded Community Involvement in Neighbourhood initiative to clean up local neighbourhoods.

*Tullochan Trust:* provides a range of youth activity in West Dunbartonshire Council schools by supporting pupils through group work interventions and helping them to deal with some of the issues and pressures they face. This is funded through a range of sources and forms the core of the Trust's work. The CPP investment of £20,000 for 2011/12 was awarded specifically to improve partnership working by co-ordinating a summer programme of youth diversionary activities. This involved an impressive range of activities and events provided by the Tullochan Trust, Y Sort-it, Streetlinks, The Pulse, WDC Sports Developments and SPARC.

(d) *Club, Coach and Volunteer Sports Development initiative:*

The Club, Coach and Volunteer Development Project commenced in August 2006 through a partnership of West Dunbartonshire Council, the West Dunbartonshire Community Planning Partnership, West Dunbartonshire Youth Trust and SportScotland. The initiative employs one co-ordinator who has the responsibility to coordinate the education and training of local sports leaders, volunteers, coaches and clubs that provide sustainable services to local residents. This project has a focus on the SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) data zones in West Dunbartonshire with the principle aims of the project aligned to the Community Plan



2007-2017 and the SOA. The target areas of the Club, Coach and Volunteer Development Project can be split into four inter-linking categories:

- Club Development
- Coach and Volunteer Development
- Community Capacity Building
- Physical Activity

The project achieves its objectives by developing very strong local partnerships and is real value for money. The initiative has recently received further CPP investment to extend the benefits of this excellent initiative to develop the community-led Dunbartonshire Disability Sports clubs. The Club, Coach and Volunteer Sports Development Initiative has continued to build on its existing well-established work, recruiting sports volunteers to work within deprived communities, providing coach education for members of the community and the development of both the Sport Youth Group and the Disability Sports Club. Links with schools and community groups and clubs continue to be a real strength.

#### **CPP PRIORITY: SAFE, STRONG AND INVOLVED COMMUNITIES**

There are a number of successful programmes that fall within this CPP Priority, which have already been presented to the CPC at a previous meeting. The following examples provide a flavour of the good work being delivered in West Dunbartonshire.

(a) *West Dunbartonshire Violence against Women Partnership (WDVAWP):*

This partnership draws together voluntary and public sector partners to address all forms of male violence against women.

Current CPP investment for 2011-12 supports:

- The CARA (Challenging and Responding to Abuse) Children's Services – counselling and advocacy services for children and young people affected by all forms of gender-based violence.
- Combined CARA/ Rape Crisis West Dunbartonshire Services – advocacy and counselling for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse, rape and sexual assault
- The CEDAR (children experiencing domestic abuse recovery) Project – piloting a concurrent groupwork programme for children and their mothers and working alongside the Scottish Government's national CEDAR.
- The three new services for women, children and young people have expanded significantly during 2010/11 as a result of CPP investment. This has resulted in increased visibility among local agencies and the general public. There has also been a substantial increase in the numbers of referrals and appointments.
- The Reduce Abuse Project – this highly successful project undertakes abuse-prevention work in local primary and secondary schools and in a variety of other youth settings, including looked-after and accommodated children and young people. The Reduce Abuse Project has received national recognition for its work

by winning a national WISH award. It is also chair of the National Children and Young People's Prevention Network. The lead role of the project has resulted in the production of two new dramas for use in schools to raise awareness and resource packs to sustain this beyond the live performances. The resource packs were launched at a Scottish Government event in Edinburgh in June 2011.

(b) *Reducing Anti-social Behaviour and Violence Programme:*

There is a range of initiatives under this programme. The initiatives are based on a collaborative, problem-solving approach, informed by the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment. It is also informed by intelligence collected through the Public Reassurance community engagement technique. The Public Reassurance Initiative continues to be an effective platform for integrated local working between partners who deliver joint action plans based on community views gathered through interviews, surveys and public consultations.

Some examples of positive impacts on West Dunbartonshire communities include:

- Clydebank - Faifley: initiatives include the installation of re-deployable CCTV cameras for an initial 6 month period, environmental clean-up operations, action in relation to small off-licences and addressing the issue of drinking in public places.
- Dumbarton - Westcliff: after consultation with local residents, a Public Reassurance programme was introduced, with an action plan to address the area's needs and issues. Residents have seen crime rates drop by 40 per cent in less than a year. Partners working together to improve the area include individual residents, Castlehill and Westcliff Housing Regeneration Group, politicians, the local community policing team, the Council and other partners. As well as a 40 per cent reduction in crime, street lighting and environmental upgrades have been introduced to improve the area. This mirrors the success of the Public Reassurance Model carried out in the Whitecrook neighbourhood of Clydebank, which experienced a 50% reduction in local crime.

The *Public Reassurance* initiatives are proving highly successful. The WDC team are visiting each area on a regular daily basis, and additional Strathclyde Police presence is also noted. Joint working around the Midnight League involving young people from the Public Reassurance areas, with transport provided, has also continued. A dedicated vehicle with Public Reassurance signage is now operational and proving very effective in maintaining a visible presence, in addition to the deployment of the CCTV van during the day.

(c) *Home and Road Safety Programme:*

Within the home safety element of this programme, the *Care and Repair* project (a voluntary sector registered charity) continues to install security items free of charge to elderly and disabled people and to vulnerable families with young children. It works closely in partnership with WDC Social Work, Community Safety Partnership, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and Registered Social Landlords.

The achievements for Care and Repair Project include:

- Client satisfaction remains high
- 95% rated the service as very good with 5% rating the service as good
- 95% said they would not have been able to organise the work themselves
- 100% said they now felt safer and more secure in their homes
- 100% said they would use the service again

Care & Repair has made over 30 referrals for fire safety visits to Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and completed the final phase of talks to fire crews in Clydebank and Dumbarton so that fire fighters can make cross-referrals to Care and Repair. Care and Repair continue to be partners in the 'No Cold Callers' initiative and has developed a Trusted Trader Scheme in a bid to combat rogue contractors/bogus callers. The local Victim Support service can also make referrals to Care and Repair when appropriate.

(d) *Environment Trust and the Community Involvement in Neighbourhoods initiative:*

The *Open Space Connectivity and Use* CPP programme runs a number of projects at individual sites to deliver improved play facilities and improved open space connectivity. Engaging with specific communities and neighbourhoods, the programme is being delivered by The Environment Trust, a community-led charity. To date, the Trust has undertaken regeneration projects worth over £3.5 million and it has a long track record of working with local residents, schools and communities to deliver a range of projects from regeneration of green spaces through to the creation of learning and play spaces and improved street spaces.

Some examples of the successful work done to assist communities to address their priority issues and regenerate the local environment include:

- **Castlehill, Dumbarton - Cumbræ Crescent Junior Play Space:** This former housing site was unused for many years. The surrounding neighbourhood had a high proportion of children with few opportunities to play. Working with local residents through the Regeneration and Housing Action Group, the site was transformed into a valued play space. The Trust has continued to work with the Group in partnership with Dunbritton Housing Association and Community Links and has undertaken a youth arts project. In consultation with the young people, a sculpture has been installed as a landscape feature on Castlehill Road.
- **Haldane Primary School – Garden and Growing space:** this transformed a neglected school courtyard into a stimulating natural space for learning, play and biodiversity for children and various stages of development
- **Dalmuir – Street space, Durban Avenue:** this site was formerly used for parking and garage lockups. These had been removed some time ago, creating a degraded urban space of little aesthetic or practical value to the local

community. Following consultation with the local community, the site was transformed into a useful, attractive community space for amenity and play.

- **Sport spaces: *Whitecrook Park Mountain Bike and Cycle Trails*:** The Whitecrook Park Group has worked in partnership with the Trust and Whitecrook Community Council to regenerate their local park. This year, local residents have worked hard to turn the area from neglected grassland into a popular community garden. Following this success, the group sought funding from BAA Glasgow Airport to create a mountain bike skills track on a former disused fitness trail.

The *Community Involvement in Neighbourhoods (Community Volunteer) Initiative* is part of the *Open Space Connectivity and Use* programme. This project is delivered through Community Planning investment across West Dunbartonshire and has developed a framework which engages community volunteers in developing services to improve their local environment. It is building on the successes of last year, with high levels of community participation and engagement across the authority.

One excellent example is in Faifley, where community volunteers along with volunteers from local schools and nurseries helped transform a site into a garden where local people can grow their own fruit and vegetables. The range of activities is being supported by a dedicated officer.

The initiative has also been involved in environmental improvements carried out through the Community Payback Scheme under the Safe, Strong and Involved Communities Thematic Group. Overall, the initiative has been successful in encouraging local residents to take ownership and responsibility for improving the look of their neighbourhoods through volunteering.

- (e) *Waste Fire Reduction Initiative*: this is a partnership initiative between West Dunbartonshire Council Waste Management Services and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. It has dealt with 150 incidents over the last 12 months and has significantly reduced the risk of fire to householders. It received a COSLA Bronze Award for the significant improvement it had made to people's lives within the West Dunbartonshire community. This successful initiative has now been integrated into mainline Waste Management Services.