

**WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL****Report by Chief Education Officer****Performance and Monitoring Review Group: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

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**Subject: Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland: West Dunbartonshire Council****1. Purpose**

**1.1** This report updates committee on West Dunbartonshire Council's (WDC) involvement in Children's Neighbourhood Scotland (CNS).

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1** Committee is asked to:

1. Note the CNS approach; and
2. Note the funding model

**3. Background**

**3.1** A strategic approach was made to WDC relating to involvement in CNS with associated information of the programme's success in Glasgow. CNS is an organisation led and managed by Professor Chris Chapman of Glasgow University and part funded by the Scottish Government.

**3.2** The Chief Education Officer was tasked with meeting CNS to discuss the proposal and consider the advantages for WDC.

**3.3** This coincided with the activity to review social work/education processes to identify areas for improvement and uses a whole systems approach which includes housing services.

**4. Main Issues**

**4.1** Through the meetings with Professor Chris Chapman and the Director of CNS the potential benefit to children and families in WDC was evident and would strengthen our efforts to improve outcomes.

**4.2** The CNS experience would build on existing strengths and enable a better co-ordinated approach to change and improvement led by communities.

**4.3** The outline proposal is attached (appendix 1) and gives further detail on the CNS approach.

**4.4** To date the following preparatory work has been undertaken:

- Initial analysis to select the first Children's Neighbourhood in West Dunbartonshire suggests the Radnor Park area. This is based on a range of data including SIMD, levels of community change, engagement with children's health services, existing strengths in the area such as the Y-Sort-It work, the work of local churches, food and clothes banks and the re-cycle room.
- It was recognised the area had and will be going through significant change due to regeneration and decline in passing footfall/local spend with closure of college resulting in a reduced clientele for local shops and cafes and the future closure of Health Centre likely to have a similar impact. It seemed timely to support the local community to engage in discussions and planning to work with others in shaping their changing neighbourhood
- A Senior Education Officer, Y-Sort-it coordinator and Children's Neighbourhood staff engaged in a scoping and familiarisation exercise of the local area. This included developing understanding of the geographical spread of the area, the range and type of housing stock and housing providers, the range of local amenities and activities available for children, young people and their families, the changing picture of the neighbourhood and the challenges faced
- Appointment of a local coordinator who is based in the Y-Sort-it base on Kilbowie Road to ensure a well-known, well used central location and to capitalise on the strengths of relationships and resources already established in the area. This is a strengths based model which aims primarily to work with existing established partners
- It is anticipated that the co-ordinator will use information on the area to engage with children/young people and their families in a range of engagement activities with new and established community partners to identify their needs and wants for the Radnor Park area and most crucially ways and means of planning, working together and influencing others to address these. (Appendix 2)

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1** The co-ordinator role is employed by University of Glasgow. A base for the local co-ordinator has been agreed at Y-Sort-it. Line Management and Professional learning would be provided by CNS.

## **6. Financial and Procurement Implications**

- 6.1** Children's Neighbourhood Scotland will provide all support and coordination involved with this activity. West Dunbartonshire Council will be required to match fund the costs of a local co-ordinator. WDC's contribution towards employee costs, including on-costs, as well as the operating budget will be £40,000 per annum. This cost will be shared equally by Education, HSCP and Housing and Communities, from existing budgets.
- 6.2** As the initiative has the potential to run for at least 3 years it is clear that recurring expenditure will soon exceed £50,000. Consequently, the

appropriate course of action would be to issue a Prior Information Notice (PIN) on Public Scotland Tender System (PSTS) to confirm that there are no other credible providers.

- 6.3** The current proposed provider is showing through the monitoring of its activities in Glasgow that a good quality service is being provided.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1** The CNS strategic partnership with WDC would be subject to monitoring and review to ensure objectives are being achieved.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1** An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and supports the view that the partnership with CNS would build on existing strengths and through joint working with WDC would lead to improving outcomes for children and young people in West Dunbartonshire.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1** Legal Services and the Section 95 Officer have been consulted in relation to the content of this report.
- 9.2** The CNS approach was discussed with the Children's Services Review Group and agreed by the Performance Monitoring and Review Group.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** The proposal to work in strategic partnership with CNS reflects the Council's strategic priorities and in particular:
- Meaningful community engagement with active empowered and informed citizens who feel safe and engaged.
  - Open, accountable and accessible local government.
  - Efficient and effective frontline services that improve the everyday lives of residents.

Laura Mason  
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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 – Children’s Neighbourhoods Scotland –  
West Dunbartonshire: An outline proposal  
Appendix 2 – Children’s Neighbourhoods Scotland area  
contextual analysis framework

**Background Papers:** None

**Wards Affected:** All