

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 11 June 2007

REPORT ON: Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion (Apsi) Action Plan

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 166-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report progress on the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Action Plan produced by a Dundee Partnership Working Group, and to suggest changes to the plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

2.1.1 notes progress on the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Action Plan summarised within Appendix 1

2.1.2 approves the revised Action Plan at Appendix 2.

2.1.3 notes the Policy Framework for Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion as outlined in Appendix 3.

2.1.4 receives a progress report on the Action Plan in 12 months time.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

3.2 External funding will be sought for any projects which cannot be sourced through existing budgets.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sustainability Policy Implications

The APSI Action Plan will improve the Council's ability to achieve the Community Plan's underpinning principles of sustainability social inclusion and active citizenship.

It supports activities to improve employability in a sustainable manner, linking to eg the Social Economy Action Plan which is promoting the development of "green business" enterprises locally.

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

This report falls outwith the scope of a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

The Action Plan aims to reduce poverty, isolation and exclusion. It includes initiatives aimed at meeting needs, improving the economic position and promoting social inclusion for those living in poverty.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Key target groups identified in the Action Plan include older people, young people, disabled people, lone parents and minority ethnic groups. The Plan recognises that social exclusion affects these groups disproportionately and includes actions aimed at combating this.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 National Policies and Priorities

- 6.1.1 The national policy context for anti poverty/social inclusion work includes the UK Social Inclusion Action Plan and the Scottish Executive Social Justice Strategy "A Scotland Where Everyone Matters". The Scottish Executive priorities include:

- Building stronger, safer communities
- Getting people back into work
- Improving health
- Raising educational attainment
- Engaging young people
- Effective community engagement

6.2 Local Policies

- 6.2.1 Local responses to issues of poverty and social exclusion include the production of Dundee City Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy 1999 which set out a policy framework (Appendix 3) for the development of an action plan. The Dundee Community Plan also identified a number of key issues and actions as part of its work on the Social Inclusion Theme.
- 6.2.2 Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum have produced a qualitative research paper entitled "No Room for Dreams" which draws on local people's experiences of living in poverty. It identified a number of key areas for potential development of project-based initiatives to tackle poverty and social exclusion. This has been supplemented by further research in to the social and personal needs of people working and living in poverty.
- 6.2.3 The new Scottish Deprivation Index data, along with census figures and small area statistics, provided detailed information about how and where Dundee's communities are affected by poverty and social exclusion.

7.0 ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

- 7.1 The Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group is a cross-cutting Working Group which works to facilitate the mainstreaming of Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion issues into all aspects of the Partnership's work.
- 7.2 The Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group draws its membership from:
- the six Community Planning Theme groups/Dundee City Council service departments.
 - Tayside NHS Board/Dundee CHP
 - Communities Scotland

- Scottish Enterprise Tayside
- Local Community Regeneration Fund members
- the Xplore Partnership
- the Equality and Diversity Partnership
- Job Centre Plus
- Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum

7.3 The group was remitted to:

- review the existing Anti-Poverty Strategy
- review national and local policy and research
- incorporate new data into the planning process as appropriate
- produce an Action Plan for tackling poverty and social exclusion in Dundee

7.4 The group identified which Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion priorities were not being addressed by other partnership, strategies or frameworks. These priorities formed the basis of the Action Plan which has been progressed by the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group.

7.5 The group has also identified the key department, agency and partnership structure best suited to progressing each action and has put in place monitoring and review procedures to ensure effective implementation and updating of the Plan. This report summaries progress to date on the action plan at Appendix 1.

7.6 It also notes where actions have been completed, superseded or linked to other initiatives, and suggests change to the plan, summarised at Appendix 2.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 The Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Action Plan has established a mechanism for the mainstreaming of Anti-Poverty and Social Inclusion measures into all aspects of the Community Planning process. This report shows that significant progress has been made and suggests that the method for implementation monitoring and reviewing of the plan is working satisfactorily.

9.0 CONSULTATION

9.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and all members of the Council's Management Team have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents. The Dundee Partnership (Building Stronger Communities Theme Group and the Co-ordinating Groups) together with the Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum have been consulted prior to presentation to Council.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following back ground papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

Dundee City Council Anti-Poverty Strategy - 1999
 "Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland 2004" - Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2005.

**STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
JUNE 2007**

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2007

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	PROGRESS
1. Ensure anti-poverty input to the review of the Common Debt Recovery Policy	Building Stronger Communities	Social Work Finance Dundee Advice Workers Forum	The Common Debt Recovery Policy is currently being reviewed by the re-established Advice Workers Forum
2. Produce a comprehensive financial inclusion strategy (which includes credit union services and targets ethnic minority groups) the local implementation of Scottish Executive Action Plan	Building Stronger Communities	Social Work Discovery Credit Union Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum	The Financial Inclusion Strategy has been agreed, a co-ordinator appointed and several new projects have been funded
3. Establish integrated access the Council services ensuring entitlement to welfare benefits and concessions	Building Stronger Communities	Corporate Planning	The newly-developed CATS information system, funded via The Financial Inclusion Strategy is soon to be up and running
4. Establish a framework for involving isolated individuals and groups in community planning by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commissioning consultants to devise a plan • setting up a steering group to implement the plan 	Building Stronger Communities	Leisure & Communities Anti-Poverty Forum	New research by Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum has identified key issues on this which are to be presented to Community Planning Theme Group and the relevant bodies. These actions should be monitored by the APSI group
5. Review Local Transport Strategy in order to:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the needs of isolated children and families • Establish a demand responsive transport system • Overcome transport barriers stopping people getting into work • Audit the Council's facilities for personal transport 	Building Stronger Communities	Planning and Transportation Leisure & Communities Social Work	The Local Transport Strategy is being co-ordinated by a specialist officer appointed in the Planning and Transportation Department. All of the action points are being addressed through his section. Report on progress should continue to be made to the ASPI Group

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2007 (Continued)

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	PROGRESS
<p>6. Raise Poverty Awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot interactive CD ROM trainings • Establish a referral service to specialist support agencies 	Building Stronger Communities	Leisure & Communities Anti-Poverty Forum	Poverty Awareness training material has been finalised. This will be combined with the Financial Education training programme to ensure the widest audience
<p>7. Improve local residents access to bulky uplift facilities by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing a service user profile • targeting the service towards people experiencing poverty and deprivation 	Building Stronger Communities	Waste Management Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum	There has been limited progress on this issue. It is suggested that a meeting of key stakeholders be convened to agree a way forward
<p>8. Support vulnerable young people and their families by maximising the opportunities presented by the Integrated Community Schools Programme</p>	Lifelong Learning	Education	The Integrated Community Schools programme is progressing and is mainstreaming initiatives aimed at vulnerable young people. It is suggested that this item be combined with items 9 and 12. This would become an action to devise and implement a Youth Inclusion Strategy, overseen by the APSI group on behalf of the Integrated Children's Services Group
<p>9. Review the support arrangements for people under 16 years of age who are not in school</p>	Lifelong Learning	Education Leisure & Communities	The Integrated Community Schools programme is progressing and is mainstreaming initiatives aimed at vulnerable young people. It is suggested that this item be combined with items 9 and 12. This would become an action to devise and implement a Youth Inclusion Strategy, overseen by the APSI group on behalf of the Integrated Children's Services Group

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2007 (Continued)

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	PROGRESS
10. Review the CBIP Pilot in order to mainstream "Community Benefits" into the procurement of Council Services.	Economy and Enterprise	Support Services Social Work Leisure & Communities Finance	New DCC Corporate Procurement Strategy 2007 - 2010 has been produced. Decisions to date suggest that the Community Benefits aspect of this should be linked to the Social Economy Action Plan
11. Promote family friendly employment policies	Economy and Enterprise	Economic Development Leisure & Communities Personnel	This item has been progressed through the 'Working for Families' initiative. It is suggested that it be removed from the APSI plan
12. Establish a shared, clear and well focussed framework to reduce poverty and social exclusion experienced by the children and young people of Dundee.	Cross-cutting	Education, Leisure & Communities Social Work	The Integrated Community Schools programme is progressing and is mainstreaming initiatives aimed at vulnerable young people. It is suggested that this item be combined with items 9 and 12. This would become an action to devise and implement a Youth Inclusion Strategy, overseen by the APSI group on behalf of the Integrated Children's Services Group

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 2007 (Continued)

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	PROGRESS
<p>13. Establish mechanisms for measuring/monitoring the impact of community planning partners policies on poverty by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewing current practice • ensure mechanism are in place for monitoring the outputs and outcomes of the APSI plan • conducting surveys of committee reports • reviewing service planning guidance with a view to including the Anti-poverty Strategy Framework • further develop mechanisms for the scrutiny of committee reports/service plans from an anti-poverty perspective 	Cross-Cutting	<p>Leisure & Communities</p> <p>Corporate Planning</p> <p>Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum</p>	<p>All APSI Action plan items are now monitored and regularly updated via the Dundee Partnership's Strategic Plan Monitoring Database.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-Poverty implications of Committee Reports considered under Local Agenda 21 heading. • Anti-Poverty/social Inclusion Framework included in Dundee City Council Service Plan Guidelines.
<p>14. Identify and deal with the specific poverty/social exclusion issues experiences by older people</p>	Cross-Cutting	<p>Leisure & Communities</p> <p>Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum</p> <p>NHS Tayside</p> <p>Social Work</p>	<p>Key items of concern to older people have been identified. These will be incorporated into the APSI plan, implemented by appropriate agencies and groups and monitored via the database</p>
<p>15. Establish a working group to identify and deal with the unmet social or personal needs of economically inactive people</p>	Cross-Cutting	Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum	<p>New research on this, and item 4, has been conducted by Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum. Action points identified from this should be reported as appropriate to Community Planning Theme Groups and relevant agencies.</p>

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN SUMMARY
REVISED FEBRUARY 2007

Action Item	Community Planning Theme	Lead Department/ Agency	APSI Lead Officer
1. Ensure anti-poverty report to the Common Debt Recovery Policy.	Building Stronger Communities.	Dundee Advice Workers Forum	Jim Milne Craig Mason
2. Work with Financial Inclusion Strategy Group to ensure co-ordination of actions and sustainability of initiatives as appropriate.	Building Stronger Communities.	Leisure and Communities Corporate Planning	Olive Smiles Lynn Cunningham
3. Oversee implementation of identified actions to involve isolated individuals and groups in community planning.	Building Stronger Communities.	DAPF Leisure and Communities Corporate Planning	Jim Milne Olive Smiles Rod Crawford
4. Implement Anti-Poverty Awareness Training Programme.	Building Stronger Communities.	DAPF Leisure and Communities Corporate Planning	Jim Milne Olive Smiles Lynn Cunningham
5. Convene a meeting of key stakeholders to discuss how access to bulky uplift services for those on low income might be improved.	Building Stronger Communities.	DAPF Waste Management Leisure and Communities	Jim Milne Jim Laing Olive Smiles
8. Develop a Youth Inclusion Strategy to address items 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.5, 7.1.10, 7.1.11 and 7.1.12 of the Integrated Children's Services Plan.	Building Stronger Communities.	Leisure and Communities Corporate Planning	Olive Smiles Bert Sandeman
9. The following social exclusion issues affecting older people should be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fuel poverty - improve access to information on social tariffs offered by utility companies. - Monitor uptake of welfare benefits advice by older people via MACS system. - Ensure plain English and clear print used in publications. - Financial education - produce material relevant to older people. 	Building Stronger Communities.	Leisure and Communities Corporate Planning	Olive Smiles Lynn Cunningham

DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP	
POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION	
<i>Aims and objectives</i>	<i>Examples</i>
1. Meeting needs	
1.1 Delivering services which meet needs Providing specialised services which go to groups or people who are particularly likely to be poor, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • old people • children and families in need • people who are chronically sick or disabled • homeless people or • services to help people while they are unemployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential care • Community care • Domiciliary support • Adult guidance
1.2 Targeting resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redistributing resources to those who are poorest • providing general services for groups of people who are particularly likely to suffer from poverty • ensuring that general services are available to those who are poorest • providing services specifically for people in poverty • targeting geographical areas and population groups where there is evidence of poorer health status and outcomes • allocating ring-fenced funding taking into account the direct relationship between deprivation and health status and outcome • prioritise investment towards tackling health inequalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to make policies accessible to people on low incomes eg sports concessions • Pilot studies in unmet need
1.3 Directing people towards resources and services available from other agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enabling people to meet their own needs • providing information and advice • helping to obtain resources through representation, aid and advocacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Community Learning • Welfare Rights
2. Improving economic position	
2.1 Economic development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development in general • Economic development of poorer areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development
2.2 Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing employment • Developing employment prospects • Protecting people who are marginally employed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Economy Initiatives • Employment training
2.3 Mobilising resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtaining external funding or grant aid • Maximising personal income • Securing resources in kind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Rights • Housing Benefit • Credit Unions
3. Social Inclusion	
3.1 Developing participation in society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing personal capacity, interests and opportunities • Integrating the person in a supportive social environment • Involving people in social and cultural activities • Preventing factors which make people vulnerable to poverty • Ensuring safety and security • Engaging with disadvantaged communities and hard to reach individuals/groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • Social Work • Arts; Leisure • Measures against substance abuse or crime
3.2 Empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in decision making • Collective action with others • Engagement in the political process, and representation of interests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation • Empowerment
3.3 Developing the communities on which inclusion depends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and extending social networks within communities • Developing skills and competences within communities • Developing and regenerating the infrastructure on which communities depend • Share Anti Poverty Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Regeneration • Neighbourhood Development • Community Capacity