

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE - 13 JUNE 2005

REPORT ON: ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION (APSI) ACTION PLAN

REPORT BY: HEAD OF COMMUNITIES

REPORT NO: 384-2005

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To endorse the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Action Plan which has been produced by a Dundee Partnership Working Group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) endorses the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Action Plan at Appendix 1 and Appendix 3.
- b) notes the value of Partner contributions to the production and implementation of the Plan.
- c) requests 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.

3.3 The policy framework (Appendix 2 Section 1.2), which was previously approved by Committee, will continue to present significant challenges.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Action Plan aims to reduce poverty, isolation and exclusion. Implementation of the Action Plan will contribute to active citizenship, participation, promotion of dignity and an improved quality of life.

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. CONTEXT

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 2) 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.
- 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. In addition, the recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report "Monitoring Poverty and Social Exclusion in Scotland 2004" gave some local analysis of change over time and differences between groups in the population. The local findings from this report have been analysed with a view to incorporating them with the Action Plan as appropriate.

7.0 ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

- 7.1 As the Community Planning process developed, key themes emerged which reflect the Scottish Executive priorities, but also highlighted the need for a different approach to social inclusion originally identified as a specific Community Planning Theme. The Dundee Partnership Management Group decided to establish the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group as a cross-cutting Working Group. Their intention in doing this was 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 has achieved this by working closely with Community Planning Theme Groups and Partners while they were reviewing and evaluating their work. This helped to identify existing strategies which linked closely with Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion issues identified during the review.

Some of the existing strategies and initiatives addressing poverty in Dundee include:

- Working for Families
- Literacies Initiatives
- Promoting healthy eating and exercise in schools and communities
- Identify support needs of black and minority ethnic communities
- Improve career advice, training opportunities and access to jobs for excluded groups

This process 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 will be implemented by the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group.

The Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group will ensure there is a mechanism in place for monitoring the impact of policies on poverty and social exclusion (See Action Item 13 on Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Plan).

- 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 (Appendix 3). This will be facilitated by lead officers from the Anti-Poverty/Social Inclusion Working Group linking with departments and agencies.

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. Regular monitoring and reviewing of both the Plan and the Group's remit will ensure that this remains an effective method for tackling poverty and social exclusion in Dundee.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executives (Finance and Support Services) and all members of the Council's Management Team. The Dundee Partnership Building Stronger Communities Theme Group and the Dundee Partnership Co-ordinating Group will be 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.

Signed: Stewart Murdoch
Head of Communities

Date: 3 June 2005

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (3rd DRAFT - May 2005)

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	APSI LEAD OFFICER
1. Ensure anti-poverty input to the review of the Common Debt Recovery Policy	Building Stronger Communities	Social Work Finance Dundee Advice Workers Forum	Joan Conlin-Ramsay Jim Milne
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	Olive Smiles
3. Establish integrated access the Council services ensuring entitlement to welfare benefits and concessions	Building Stronger Communities	Corporate Planning	Rod Crawford
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	Communities Anti-Poverty Forum	Olive Smiles Jim Milne
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 Communities Social Work	Olive Smiles Jim Milne
6. Raise Poverty Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot interactive CD ROM trainings • Establish a referral service to specialist support agencies 	Building Stronger Communities	Communities Anti-Poverty Forum	Olive Smiles Jim Milne

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	APSI LEAD OFFICER
7. Improve local residents access to bulky uplift facilities by <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	Jim Laing Jim Milne
8. Support vulnerable young people and their families by maximising the opportunities presented by the Integrated Community Schools Programme	Lifelong Learning	Education	John Lannon Karen Tinney
9. Review the support arrangements for people under 16 years of age who are not in school	Lifelong Learning	Education Communities	John Lannon, Karen Tinney
10. Review the CBIP Pilot in order to mainstream "Community Benefits" into the procurement of Council Services.	Economy and Enterprise	Support Services Social Work Communities	Neil Gunn Olive Smiles
11. Promote family friendly employment policies	Economy and Enterprise	Economic Development Communities	Olive Smiles
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, Communities Social Work	John Lannon, Karen Tinney

ANTI-POVERTY/SOCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN SUMMARY (DRAFT) – continued

ACTION ITEM	COMMUNITY PLANNING THEME	LEAD DEPARTMENT/AGENCY	APSI LEAD OFFICER
<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>Communities Department</p> <p>Corporate Planning</p> <p>Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum</p>	<p>Neil Gunn</p> <p>Olive Smiles</p> <p>Rod Crawford</p>
<p>14. Identify and deal with the specific poverty/social exclusion issues experiences by older people</p>	Cross-Cutting	<p>Communities</p> <p>Dundee Anti-Poverty Forum</p> <p>NHS Tayside</p> <p>Social Work</p>	<p>Olive Smiles</p> <p>Jim Milne</p> <p>Lucy Rennie</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	Jim Milne

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

**DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP
ACTION PLAN FOR TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION**

Aim: Maximise involvement in Community Planning processes

Objective: To provide a framework and support mechanism to ensure the most isolated/excluded citizens are provided with the opportunity to raise their concerns/issues and contribute to the Community Planning agenda

Community Planning Theme: Cross Cutting Issue

Identified gap need or issue	What will happen (output)	What results must be achieved (outcomes)	Inputs	By When	Lead Responsibility (named officer and Department or Agency)
<p>People who are isolated/ disadvantaged are not engaged in the Community Planning processes.</p>	<p>Identify groups/communities of interest</p> <p>Bid for funding to support process</p> <p>Establish framework for participation</p> <p>Link framework for participation to Dundee Partnership Community Involvement Strategy and local community engagement strategies</p>	<p>Increased levels of participation by disadvantaged individuals and groups in community planning.</p> <p>Framework for involving disadvantaged individuals and groups in community planning embedded in the Dundee Partnership Community Involvement Strategy and local community engagement strategies.</p>	<p>Dundee Anti Poverty Forum.</p> <p>Voluntary Sector Agencies</p> <p>Communities Department</p>	<p>January 2005</p>	<p>Dundee Anti Poverty Forum.</p>