Item 8

19th September 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership
Southside Central Area Partnership

Report by Community Co-ordinator, Gorbals Thriving Place

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Progress report – Gorbals Thriving Place

Purpose of Report:

To update Area Partnership members on progress in relation to Gorbals Thriving Place work from the period of April 2023 – August 2023

This report will cover some key areas of work under the following headings:

- Locality Planning
- Community Events
- Youth Employability
- Networking Opportunities
- Children's Holiday Food Programme
- Cost of Living
- Funding
- Thriving Places Funding

Locality Planning

Back in 2017/18 Gorbals was one of ten areas in Glasgow required through the Community Empowerment Act to prepare a locality plan.

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership was asked to prepare Locality Plans for two important reasons. Firstly partnership working in a neighbourhood, using a place based approach allows partners to develop well targeted and effective approaches that reflect the priorities of the community and secondly it allows residents to become directly involved in informing decisions that affect their lives.

A revised Gorbals Locality Plan was shared with partners back in November 2019 after extensive community engagement as part of the 'Gorbals Speaks' programme and adding key information provided by the 2018 Health and Wellbeing survey but the plan requires to be updated as work has evolved over time.

It was agreed at the time that the locality plan should focus on the following 3 priorities:

- Tackling Poverty and Isolation
- Building Social Health and Social Capital
- Improving Neighbourhood Management

Three working groups made up of both voluntary and public sector partners were to make progress on these priorities and develop outputs and outcomes for each. This included the GRG Community Engagement Sub-group which was to focus on building social health and social capital.

Although there were some initial meetings held in late 2019 early 2020 the covid pandemic meant that all partner organisations had to adapt, re-focus and provide a response to the pandemic in Gorbals.

Over the last few years the main focus for all partners was providing a response to the covid pandemic but the majority of this work still covers the key priorities within the plan and with partner approval this will be added to a new updated version.

Work is underway to reconvene the three working groups and new membership has been identified for the Community Engagement Sub Group with a recent survey conducted with local partners confirming 14 organisations would like to participate in the group and will be invited to a meeting in early September.

The working groups will provide updated local action plans for each of the priorities that would include the following headings:

- Activity
- Lead Partner
- How will community be involved?
- Partner organisations involved
- Timescales

- What will be delivered?
- How will impact be measured?

Community Events

Community Coordinator led on the planning and coordination of the Annual Gorbals Fair which took place on Saturday 24th June. The event had the same format as previous year and included using 3 sites (Piazza, Rose Garden, Blackfriars PS) across the area as well as 2 facilities (The Barn, Parish Church). Around 1000 people were in attendance and it was officially opened by M.S.P Nicola Sturgeon. The event included parade as well as entertainment provided by local organisations and groups, activity zone including archery and other sports, Giggle N Grow family sessions as well as fun fair. The event also included free food along with heavily subsidised food to try and make the full day as affordable as possible for local families. A feedback survey was distributed to the local community and we have received over 300 responses and working through on collating which will provide key information on how we develop and enhance plans for the event in 2024.

Youth Employability – Workingrite Glasgow South Project

Workingrite is a youth employment charity that mainly helps 16-24 year olds who need support into sustained employment, apprenticeships or purposeful learning. Young people are individually matched into work placements with local employers.

This approach is place based and the project continues to target young people in the homes of NGHA tenants as well as young people that attend, participate or volunteer at local youth organisations.

Since the Workingrite pilot project in Gorbals in 2018 it has supported over 70 young people. The project has continued in the area via our successful funding applications from the then Council Integrated Grants Fund and now continuation funding from Glasgow Communities Fund as well as financial support from the NGHA wider action budget.

The aim continues to be about providing a flexible employability model to fit the needs of the Gorbals area

The Workingrite programme in 22/23 delivered the following:

- 14 Participants
- 8 Positive Destinations
- 4 Continued on programme
- 2 Negative Leavers
- 80% Positive Destinations

Workingrite provide quarterly reports to Community Coordinator and regular meetings take place with Community Anchor Organisation. The most recent covering April-June 2023. The report shows that there have been 4 new starts onto the programme and have been progressing through induction and work readiness certificates. The 4 new starts are young

people who have completely disengaged with school and need some support with a route into training or employment.

Networking Opportunities

The Gorbals Thriving Breakfast Network continues to operate and meetings usually take place every 6 weeks. The network provides opportunity for organisations from both voluntary and public sector working in and for the Gorbals community to come together, share practice, network and collaborate. Although the meetings are informal there is space for presentations and workshops and so far this year there has been input from Social Security Scotland, Scottish Refugee Council and HSCP Health Improvement Team.

Children's Holiday Food Programme

Council funding supports a coordinated partnership bid in Gorbals that includes the work of NGHA, TASK, Giggle N Grow, Gorbals Youth Café and Crossroads Youth and Community Association. The fund enables the organisations to deliver activity during the holiday periods with food a key part of the programme as trying to tackle holiday hunger and support families during a cost of living crisis. Most recent programme was a successful summer programme where activities were delivered over the 7 weeks, 5 days a week. Partners are currently working on monitoring returns and I will be able to provide comprehensive figures at the next partnership meeting.

Cost of Living

Community Coordinator continues to work with partners and sections within NGHA to support community where possible.

Continue to provide fortnightly (Tuesdays) community meal which takes place in St Francis Hall from 5.30 to 7.30 with the average attendance levels at 50. The meal is supported by local volunteers.

NGHA still providing support with fuel top ups, foodbank referrals, community grocery referrals and emergency vouchers where necessary.

Funding

Successful funding applications to Scottish Government Investing in Communities Programme and National Lottery Community Led Activity will enable continuation of community engagement work and participatory budgeting work by Community Anchor Organisation. The funds are for 3 years and will cover 2023 to 2026.

Thriving Places Funding

Unfortunately it has been made clear by City Council that there will be no further funiding available for Thriving Places and the programme will end on 31st March 2024. Work is underway on evaluation of the programme and all community connectors/coordinators in regular contact with Locality Planning Officer on next steps, requirements and discussion on how Locality Planning work continues from 1st April 2024.