



**Item 7**  
4<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership**

**Calton Area Partnership**

**Report by Acting Executive Director of Corporate Services**

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**PARKHEAD/DALMARNOCK/CAMLACHIE: THRIVING PLACES UPDATE**

**Purpose of Report:**  
The purpose of this report is to provide the Area Partnership with an update on the Thriving Places approach in Parkhead/Dalmarnock/Camlachie.

**Recommendations:**  
Members of the Area Partnership are asked to note this update on Thriving Places.

**Glasgow Community Planning Partnership priorities:**  
Specify which priorities this report is in relation to and which underlying principles support the development activity.

SOA   Alcohol	Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOA   Principle <i>Early Intervention</i>	Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
SOA   Vulnerable People; <i>Preventing Homelessness</i>	Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOA   Principle <i>Equality</i>	Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
SOA   Vulnerable People; <i>In-Work Poverty</i>	Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SOA   Principle <i>Sustainable Change</i>	Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>
SOA   Youth Employment	Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>If other priority, please provide details here:</b> .	
SOA   Thriving Places	Yes / No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> / <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Priority	Yes / No <input type="checkbox"/> / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

## Background

1. The Thriving Places approach is part of Glasgow's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) - an agreement between the Scottish Government and each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in the country that sets out how the CPP will contribute to achieving national outcomes. Glasgow CPP agreed to focus on 3 priorities over the next 10 years where partners felt they could make a difference by working more closely: those priorities are alcohol, youth employment and vulnerable people.
2. The CPP also agreed to focus on a small number of neighbourhoods where more intensive partnership working and working more closely with communities, would take place to improve overall outcomes – the Thriving Places approach.
3. This approach was introduced to help address the issue of inequality in the City, where many neighbourhoods are consistently in the bottom 5% most deprived in Scotland. This has remained unchanged since 2004. Residents in these neighbourhoods have not seen the improvements that the City as a whole has seen. The Thriving Places approach seeks to work, over a period of up to ten years, with communities to change this.
4. Thriving Places activities support existing community organisations and activity and stimulates new opportunities for local people to get involved in their community. The long term goal is for local people to have much more influence on how local services are designed and delivered. The following characteristics help to describe the Thriving Places approach:
  - a willingness and ability to respond to local needs in a flexible way, and change the way in which resources are allocated if required
  - a long term focus on partnership working (up to 10 years if required)
  - joint working at a very local community level – more local than many previous approaches
  - a focus on building the capacity of local communities and working with established community and voluntary organisations
  - a focus on co-production between communities and organisations, ie. where service providers and local people who use those services work together to improve the services and develop solutions to issues facing communities; and
  - intensive activity to build social capital ie. to support and develop the relationships among people who live and work in a particular area, and empower communities, making the most of the assets in a neighbourhood to do this, be they the buildings, the organisations or the people
5. CPP partners working together and with local people in this way, over ten years, should make the Thriving Places communities:
  - more stable, thriving and growing, and people are proud to live in
  - have more aspiration and more influence over local services

- more able to work in partnership with CPP partners to develop services for local residents; and
- more aware and confident of demanding the type of services they need.

### **Thriving Places Areas in the North East**

- Members may recall that the three Thriving Places areas in the North East are
  - Parkhead/Dalmarnock/Camlachie,
  - Easterhouse, and
  - Springboig/Barlanark
- These areas were selected by the North East Sector CPP based on a range of evidence that included levels of income and employment, child poverty, misuse of alcohol and youth employment rates.
- Activities began in Parkhead/Dalmarnock/Camlachie in 2014 but since the appointment of a Community Organiser and the realignment of staff in the local Health Improvement Team, activities have grown and developed. A wide range of work with communities and public services has taken place, building relationships and trust. **More information on this work is attached as Appendix 1.**
- The approach taken by the Community Organiser and the Health Improvement Team has been to engage anchor organisations and local people to understand their needs and begin to address local issues. This is an ongoing process which will inform Thriving Places action plans. The team's approach to engaging with communities is to firstly look to address a particular local issue that residents have raised. In supporting that activity, the team build relationships with those involved and other issues begin to come forward that may not have been raised through traditional consultation methods. Appendix 1 provides practical examples of this.
- It's expected that, through these relationships, people can be re-connected to the services they need, for example around parenting, adult literacy and numeracy, welfare rights and health improvement. The local partnerships are there to ensure that such connections are made and supported.

### **Outcomes and Action Plan**

- Consultation with local people has taken place through the ongoing conversations mentioned above and through a consultation exercise which was conducted over the summer of 2015. A number of issues have been raised by local people through this, including:
  - The need to focus on facilities and community usage
  - Growing concerns over food poverty

- iii. The need for greater family support and improved educational attainment
  - iv. Community safety concerns
  - v. More quality services for children;
  - vi. Improvements to the environment and local amenities.
12. Partners are working together on an action plan to ensure these and other local issues and needs are addressed.

### **Summary**

13. Thriving Places is a long term approach based on statutory and voluntary organisations working closely with local communities to improve the overall social and economic position in the areas concerned. There is no significant additional budget for this – it is about making the most of existing resources and assets.
14. The team’s approach to date has been to understand communities by developing relationships with them, create projects to address gaps in service, sustain existing programmes that the communities see as beneficial and support relationships across the community, third and public sector to work together on common goals.
15. Successful projects will be supported, expanded and repeated across the Thriving Places area and the needs and aspirations of local people will continue to be at the heart of the process as the work on Thriving Places continues to grow.

### **Recommendation**

16. Members of the Area Partnership are asked to note this update on Thriving Places.

## **Project summaries**

### Family meal and homework club

52% of children in Parkhead and Dalmarnock live in poverty, a stark 62% higher than the national average for Scotland. We know that poverty severely impacts families' ability to access adequate, nutritious food. Barnardo's found that *'Families struggling to afford food are being forced to take a variety of measures, including adults skimping on meals to protect their children from going without, and shoppers moving away from more expensive fruit and vegetables to processed foods.'* We also know that poverty is inextricably linked with poor educational attainment with pupils from better off areas being more than twice as likely to do well in numeracy by age 12. We know too that children from deprived households leave school earlier and that low school attainment has long-term effects on job prospects.

Discussions with a local primary school depute head informed us about the issues the school experienced in supporting children with homework, where there was little interface between school and families and where families may be facing a range of additional challenges.

In order to address the above, and to create a social space for the community to come together, build relationships with each other and with Thriving Places staff, we instigated a family meal and homework club. The club provides help with homework for primary school age children whilst parents take part in a cookery programme. Each session ends with everyone sitting down to eat together. Dalmarnock Primary school depute head provides help with homework, while AXIS (a community health project funded by health improvement) run the cookery. Bridgeton Community Learning Centre provide the venue and are an integral partner to supporting the on-going running of the club. To date 49 children and their parents and carers have attended with an average weekly attendance of 29. The creation of this community space allows the team to engage with families in a longer-term, in-depth process of relationship and trust building leading to real understanding of the issues affecting families and also, crucially, of their own skills, experiences, interests and hopes for addressing these issues.

Our vision for the club is that it is eventually run by parents themselves, with participants being confident to cook together, to help their children with their homework and to develop the club in whatever way best serves their needs. To this end, partners will continue to support activity, building the confidence of participants to become volunteers and then 'owners' of the club itself. This has begun to happen, with participants themselves setting the format for the club and agreeing to share some of the responsibility for its smooth running.

### **Learning**

- We need to seek to roll out this model as it's regarded as highly successful by all participants and partners.
- Building relationships over time leads to increased engagement with volunteering and support services.

- Families are struggling to feed themselves, particularly during school holidays, due to poverty and poor access to healthy food as well as a lack of confidence in cooking.
- Having identified literacy and numeracy issues with parents attending we will introduce support to address this
- Children attending will also receive support and guidance in improving IT skills.
- Schools represent one of the community's greatest built assets. Increasing community access to schools is essential to support the community to thrive.

### Breakfast Club

*Eating a good breakfast can lead to better academic performance and a higher enjoyment of school. Also, children who regularly skip breakfast are more likely to be disruptive in class or to be absent from school.*

Dalmarnock Primary School told us that they recognised the impact that missing breakfast, or eating a high-sugar snack for breakfast, had on children's performance in the classroom and that despite having around 200 children entitled to free breakfast, only 10 or so children accessed this. On visiting the school and speaking with pupils we discovered they felt there was little appeal to the breakfast club due to there being no opportunity to play or interact with each other. We worked with PEEK to provide free, fun, child-led activities to take place in the breakfast club and saw attendance immediately soar to above 50 regular participants. PEEK have since mainstreamed this provision and are sustaining it beyond their original short term funding and are working with children to develop after school and drama activities. Our longer term ambition is to support this club into community ownership so that it is run by parent volunteers, freeing our capacity to instigate similar programmes in other primary schools. PEEK have now begun a similar programme in one other school and have introduced a further activity at the end of the school day focusing on art and drama.

### **Learning**

- It is relatively simple to increase pupils' engagement with breakfast clubs via the partnership with a skilled third sector partner.
- We need to increase school communities' ability to develop and deliver breakfast activity, particularly where there are complexities around the use of school kitchens.

### Baltic Street Adventure Play (BSAP)

Baltic Street Adventure Playground is a new adventure playground at 427 Baltic Street in Dalmarnock. Kick-started by a Velocity Public Art Commission in Spring 2013, the project has been developed in partnership with the People's Development Trust and construction training centre First Steps Future Skills, with the support of countless other individuals and local organisations. The project set out to meet an immediate and pressing need (there were no parks, playgrounds or children's services within walking distance of Dalmarnock's residential area when the project

began) and explore what adventure play can offer to children growing up in an urban environment of relative scarcity.

The team made an early connection with this project who regularly cook for and with local children on their campfire, in this community where many families experience food poverty. Since June 2015 a member from the health improvement team has had a weekly presence in BSAP, providing healthy food and preparing this with children and local parents. This is the beginning of an ongoing relationship with BSAP and crucially with the children and parents accessing the space. We are particularly keen to support BSAP with their ambitions around food and growing. BSAP experienced a gap in funding and the Community Organiser worked with staff to gain short-term funding from the local housing sector and health improvement raising £15,000 to meet their shortfall. Discussions are ongoing to link the project into developing a solution to the long standing problem of match day parking, allowing the project to generate funding.

### **Learning**

- Thriving Places needs to ensure the long term viability of its existing assets
- We need to understand food poverty and conceive an approach to tackle it, alongside measures to increase household income.

### Parkhead Play Café

This project is led by Health Improvement, Glasgow East Arts Company, Glasgow Life and PEEK to bring creative activity sessions for under 5's and their adults to Parkhead. Based at Parkhead Library it augments the already successful programme of family activities already in place, the sessions have attracted 39 adults and 52 children with an average of 11 adults 15 children per week and include a healthy lunch, a chance to meet and chat with other parents and carers, and a variety of high quality creative experiences. This work is part of a wider commitment to develop a family hub within the local area where families can access facilities, information and support for parenting and general wellbeing as well as specific health services, such as antenatal classes. The team has recently gained funding for local parents to work with an artist to make the library space more child friendly and useable for parents and carers.

### **Learning**

- We need to support parents to support each other and develop local holistic services co-produced with parents.
- Local organisations often experience challenges in being able to sustain their work due to funding and support.

### Tea Dances

The first Tea Dance was established on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 by the Community Organiser and the host organisation, West of Scotland Housing Association, in the G31 Centre within the Barrowfield area, every Wednesday, from 1pm to 3pm. The organising team is focussed on providing a high quality experience for all those who

attend, many of whom are elderly. We have a large group of adults with additional support needs who attend from the local John Orr Day Care Centre. As people have settled in and got to know one another, we have seen a lovely integration with these two groups, where the elderly often seek out dance partners from the John Orr Centre and help them to negotiate the steps around the floor. Pupils from the local secondary, St.Mungo's Academy, have also attended to volunteer. Whilst they have helped to serve tea and cakes, they have also been more than willing to join in with the dances. More recently pupils from our refugee and asylum seeking communities have attended and were committed and enthusiastic volunteers and dancers. This has been a really positive intergenerational and multi-cultural experience.

There is a crèche that operates within the G31 centre and on occasions the children are brought in to join the activities. Bingo sessions now take place every Wednesday prior to the dance and we are exploring with AXIS, health improvement's commissioned community health provider, the development of a lunch club in the centre which may later evolve into a social enterprise community café. This tea dance is now being supported by the Community Development Officers and local volunteers, freeing the Community Organiser and health improvement staff to begin a new tea dance based in Parkhead Congregational Church.

## **Learning**

In building relationships with participants over time we learned that there was

1. A desire to be more digitally connected and this has led to an IT class delivered in the centre by Glasgow Kelvin College.
2. An unmet need to support people with bereavement, this has led to a community remembrance project, in partnership with local funeral directors and churches, to begin this autumn. This may in turn lead to a project to increase social support for people experiencing bereavement.

## Building Connections Glasgow

The Thriving Places team have been working closely with a short-term project developed in response to the ongoing reforms to welfare - the **Building Connections Glasgow** project - which is funded by the Scottish Government and is delivered as a partnership between Glasgow City Council and Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector.

Service providers were brought together with local people to publicise their work, gain a better understanding of the range of services in the area and to explore opportunities for strengthening joint work. As a result, around 30 small scale pieces of work have emerged from this which should support people through the changes to welfare. These projects will be taken on board as part of the Thriving Places action plan to provide a level of sustainability.

## Community Breakfasts

Taking place every two months in the Thriving Places area and hosted by partner organisations, these informal sessions bring together voluntary and statutory

organisations and community representatives to hear about each others' services, network, generate improved working relationships and new partnerships. They attract around 50 people per event and have led to countless connections being made which in turn have generated new projects. Community breakfasts allow the team to; map the wealth of activity taking place in the area, identify gaps in provision, connect organisations together and understand the complexity of the issues facing local people.

## **Learning**

- There is an incredibly vibrant community sector in the area.
- Community breakfasts lead to tangible outcomes for existing projects and produce new ones

## **In progress**

### **Police and Housing Work**

We are continuing to work with Police Scotland, Community Safety and local housing to improve joint working and communication. The focus is on building personal relationships and examining the protocols that are in place that allow joint actions. We are about to embark on a practical exercise examining recent police activity and how the procedures in place were implemented.

### **Bereavement Action**

Meaningful consultation within those who attend the tea dance raised the issue of coping with bereavement and loss. The Thriving Places team have further consulted with faith organisations, funeral businesses and The Salvation Army on this subject and are currently working with Bridgeton Community Learning Centre to progress a community remembrance ceremony. We aim to enabling peer support and sign posting to relevant services and to make this a series of regular community events.

### **Match Day Issues**

The Thriving Places team is involved in community initiated action to resolve some long standing issues on match days at Celtic Park. A partnership of the community councils and local councillors are investigating all the issues around parking on match days. We have carried out observations and recorded pictures on match days, and discussed the issue with local businesses. Police Scotland and Community Safety Services are assisting. We have met with Road Safety and are discussing serious proposals to introduce a residents' parking scheme. In addition we are progressing with Police Scotland, Community Safety Glasgow and Councillor Redmond in the use of the vacant land adjacent to Baltic Street Adventure Play for match day parking, generating revenue directly for the play space. We are also working in partnership with Parkhead Housing Association, Media Co-op and a local resident to produce a short film on the issues of fans' behaviour, aimed at establishing a dialogue between fans and the local community.

### Foodbanks

We are working closely with staff in the Trussel Trust foodbank at Calton Parkhead Church and are progressing with SPT a proposal for free travel for people to access foodbanks.

### Athletes Village

We attend and are represented on the Local Housing Forum who are tasked with overall care of the new community. We have used our connections to attract diversionary activities and projects into the village to address some issues of disorder.