



Item 3

8th February 2023

Glasgow Community Planning Partnership

Calton Area Partnership

Report by Community Connector, Thriving Places Parkhead, Dalmarnock & Camlachie

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Progress report Thriving Places Parkhead, Dalmarnock & Camlachie

Purpose of Report:

To update Area Partnership members on progress in relation to the PDC Thriving Places from the period of 1st October 2022 – 31st December 2022.

Introduction

The Thriving Places PDC was introduced in the area in 2014, with a view to encourage greater community participation, increased community capacity and encourage an increase in community involvement in local decision-making. This report outlines the progress made by the Thriving Places team between 1st October 2022 and 31st December 2022, with a focus on sharing information, effective partnership working and supporting the strengthening of the community voice.

Sharing Information

The Thriving Places team consistently gathers and shares information on services, support and activities in the local area. This is done through posting on various social media pages, sending mass emails to partners and community contacts, and sharing through community group WhatsApp chats. Additionally, flyers are shared at every community event that is attended or delivered by the team. Flyers are also put up on local notice boards and in partner venues.

The team has also developed a method of gathering and collating local school holiday programmes, so that families in the area can find all of the information they need in one place.

Sharing information is key to encouraging community involvement and creating positive pathways for local people. It also supports better partnership working, that avoids duplication and highlights opportunities for collaborative work. Moreover, through mapping local services, support and activities, the team is able to identify gaps (based on community need) and work collaboratively to address them.

Between 1st October and 31st December 2023, the Thriving Places team were involved in planning, delivering or supporting various other community events and groups that involved information sharing:

- Two **community film nights** (in partnership with *The Barrowfield Community Centre*, *Friends of the Winter Garden at People's Palace*, *Glasgow Green* and *The Barrowfield Burn group*, as well as other community volunteers)
- A free **Ceilidh**, in partnership with Glasgow Life
- A weekly **Community Soup Club**, in partnership with The Halliday Foundation and with guest partners such as *SAMH*, *The Live Well Team* from *Glasgow Life*, *Homes For Good* and *HSCP*
- An inter-generational **Christmas dinner**, in partnership with *PEEK* (*PEEK* youth volunteers cooked a traditional Christmas dinner for x10 older people from the community)
- A **Christmas show**, starring local children. This planned by a community volunteer, *PEEK*, and *The Barrowfield Community Centre* and included a free buffet, snack van and appearance from Santa
- *The Celtic Foundation's* 'You'll Never Talk Alone' **information sharing event**

- A '*Creative communities: art, history and wellbeing*' event
- A community trip to **Heads of Ayr**, as well as the preceding sign-up event, which included stalls from local partners (SAMH, HSCP, Willowacre Trust's Energy Advice Officer)
- A community **Fun Day**, in partnership with Link Housing Association, with stalls from many local services and organisations, including *We Are With You* and *Glasgow Life*

Lastly, The Thriving Places team regularly invite partners to deliver sessions with the weekly Women's Group. Between 1st October and 31st December 2023, *The Centre for Good Relations* delivered some '*Community Conversations*' sessions which included storytelling, and supported sharing, and *Homes For Good* invited members of the *Women's Group* and the *Bike Repair* volunteers to take part in their consultation, in order to share their opinions and experience and receive high street vouchers.

Supporting Communities through Partnership Work

As well as signposting and referrals, the Thriving Places team also support the local community through partnership work. This includes the collaborative work that goes into every project and event delivered by the team, as well as the connections we make in the background, to address community needs. For example, when COVID19 restrictions lifted, it became clear that mental health issues and social isolation had been greatly exacerbated in the area, so the team looked for any opportunity to help improve wellbeing in the area. In the search for the next series of activities for the Thriving Places *All About You* wellbeing pop up workshops, the team, instead, helped to create a collaborative project between Glasgow Life and Helenslea Community Hall, called '*Healthy Body, Healthy Mind*' – a wellbeing programme which includes mindfulness, yoga and pilates. Thriving Places made introductions between partners, booked dates with the venue, distributed marketing materials and gathered referrals from local Community Links Workers. The initial taster sessions, delivered in November and December 2022 were successful and a new weekly session has now begun.

One of the most impactful pieces of partnership work that Thriving Places delivers is the *Rose Voucher Scheme*, through the *Alexandra Rose Foundation*. This project enables the team to give free fruit and vegetable vouchers to eligible local families with children under the age of five. The team currently has **65** families signed up to receive these weekly vouchers. Not only does this support families struggling with food poverty/poor nutrition, but this also helps support the local economy, as the vouchers are designed to be spent at local produce markets, with the funds going directly to these local businesses. Between 1st October 2022 and 31st December 2022, approximately **£4680** worth of vouchers were given to families.

Another significant piece of collaborative work that Thriving Places delivers is the aforementioned *Free Bike Repairs* project. In partnership with *The Urban Fox Programme*, the team support local volunteers to repair and return/donate bikes to people in the area, free of charge. Additionally, through taking part in this project,

volunteers gain skills and qualifications, such as Velotech Bronze and Silver awards, which enables them to train new volunteers, in turn. This gives the project sustainability and empowers participants to take ownership. This project has a positive impact for people in the area, as it helps those on a low-income to have their bikes repaired with no cost, which saves waste, reduces fly-tipping and promotes sustainable travel and healthy lifestyles. Moreover, many dis-used bikes are donated to this project, enabling the volunteers to donate these to locals who need them, after repairing and re-painting them. This was particularly impactful in the lead up to the Christmas holidays, when around 35 people attended the Thriving Places '*Ho-Ho Holiday Swap Shop*' and many families were able to get free bikes for their children. Both the Swap Shop events and the Bike Repair project seek to support people who are struggling due to the Cost of Living Crisis. The '*Ho-Ho Holiday Swap Shop*' also gave struggling families free clothes, toys and books, in advance of Christmas, while also supporting their community (by bringing donations if they wanted) and supporting the environment by reducing waste.

The team works in partnership with *Glasgow Life* regularly, for both projects and events. In November, we planned and delivered a St. Andrews/Andrzejki celebration with the *Live Well Team* (part of *Glasgow Life*). This event was planned to bring the community together and encourage people from various different backgrounds to make connections and learn about other cultures and traditions. This event was very successful, with around 65 people attending, consisting of various age-groups, nationalities and ethnic backgrounds. A great deal of positive feedback was received from the participants. This was designed as a taster event, in the lead up to some Multicultural events which will be delivered by Thriving Places, local partners and community members in the spring/summer 2023.

As well as these various partnership projects, and more, the team also plan and deliver *Quarterly Networking Events* for local partners to connect, plan and create shared plans for the future. Each event has a focused theme and set of aims to be reached by the next event, thus, we maximise the benefit to both partners and the community. Through having a clear purpose and direction, we have perceived a positive outcome in relation to effective collaborative work, access to information and avoiding duplication. Moving forward, each of these events will include a *Community Planning Forum* in the latter half of the event, which invites community members to come and meet with local services and organisations to share thoughts and ideas and have a direct influence on future plans, aims and objectives. This new model will be piloted on the 24th of January.

Community Voice

Supporting community involvement in decision-making is one of the main focuses for Thriving Places PDC. Historically, Thriving Places worked with *Glasgow Kelvin College* to complete a Community Consultation in the area, the findings of which contributed to the Locality Plan for the area. Since then, the team has continued to work towards addressing the issues outlined in this research, as well as noting new ideas/concerns that community members express. One positive example of Thriving Places working with the community, and partners, to make local improvements is the development of

the *Barrowfield Burn Garden*. With the support of West of Scotland Housing Association, Willowacre Trust and Thriving Places, the community volunteers were able to transform a derelict area of land into a thriving, multipurpose community space.

This vision began when the people of Camlachie reported issues with fly-tipping on a derelict area of land on Mountain Blue Street and some locals shared ideas on what they thought the space should be used for. Thanks to funding from *Clyde Gateway*, this led the Thriving Places team to work with local community members, the West of Scotland Housing Association and *Glasgow City Council* to clear and develop an area of land on Mountain Blue Street, turning it into a community space which is maintained and run by community volunteers, who are now in the process of forming a committee. The '*Barrowfield Burn*' garden is not only a space for growing and socialising, but is also used for developing skills, trying new activities, hosting events, creating new volunteering opportunities and sharing thoughts and solutions with regards to community issues. More and more members of the community are getting involved in this project.

As mentioned above, the team will be delivering a Networking/Community Planning event on the 24th of January. This event is designed to help strengthen the community voice by giving local people a platform on which to communicate and plan directly with multiple services and organisations. Additionally, at the event, participants will have access to information on joining local Community Councils, how to use the Community Empowerment Act to benefit their community and how to take part in other decision-making processes, for example, through *Glasgow City Council*. The theme of this event is tied closely with the Thriving Places (PDC) outcomes for 2024. The main theme is 'Pathways', which will have three sub-categories:

- Pathways to physical activity and wellbeing
- Referral pathways for services, activities and support
- Pathways to taking part in local decision-making

It is our intention that this event will support increased participation, improvements in health and wellbeing and strengthen the community voice.

Spending

Between 1st October 2022 and 31st December 2022, the total spend was **£590**. Spending includes

- Catering for weekly groups, such as the Women's Group and the Bike Repairs volunteers - **£70**
- Venue hire - **£256**
- Decorations and catering for the St. Andrew's/Andrzejki event in November - **£264**

This year, we have also received additional funding from:

- Community donations for the Bike repairs team (£20) for materials
- Clyde Gateway additional seed funding £5,000
- In kind support from Glasgow Life, equating to £3500, for cycling activities in Barrowfield and the surrounding areas for 2023

Conclusion

This information details just some of the work done by the Thriving Places team to support positive change in the area. We strive to create long-term positive impacts in the Parkhead, Dalmarnock and Camlachie area, and to work towards achieving Locality Plan Outcomes. As a team we reflect and review our work consistently – always learning and improving our practice. We feel strongly that the best work is done together, which is why we include community members and partners in everything that we do.