

Let's make poverty a thing of the past.



Poverty Leadership Panel Newsletter



Dec 2020

Welcome to the Poverty Leadership Panel's first Newsletter. This Newsletter has been introduced following discussion with our Community Activist Panel members to help improve communications and maintain links to the PLP partners. It will be produced monthly except for the month that the PLP meeting is held. If you would like to contribute with relevant information on what is happening in your area to help tackle poverty in Glasgow please send the details to gerry.quinn@glasgow.gov.uk. I hope you find this Newsletter useful and interesting.

What is the Poverty Leadership Panel (PLP).

The PLP was established in 2013 by a range of partners from across the city that represented groups who were likely to be disproportionately affected by changes to the social security system. The PLP is made up made up of decision makers from the public sector, the 3rd and voluntary sector and importantly people with lived experience of poverty.

For further information and copies of the People Make Glasgow Fairer (Tackling Poverty) Strategy and the two PLP Progress Reports can be viewed and downloaded from here: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17559/Poverty-Leadership-Panel>

The PLP and members of CAP have been visited by a number of other community groups to gain valuable information and experiences that they have used to help set up similar challenge poverty organisations, namely in Edinburgh, Falkirk and Dundee. This demonstrates the high regard that colleagues from across other organisation hold the PLP in for the work they do.

The PLP meetings return...

The PLP held its first meeting on 17th November since the lockdown, the delay was due to IT issues where we have been unable to hold a virtual meeting that all partners were able to attend. There have been a number of changes to the membership:

- Councillor Allan Gow, City Treasurer and co-chair of the PLP has been replaced by Councillor Richard Bell as the Treasurer and PLP co-chair.
- Sandra McDermott, Head of Financial Inclusion has retired and has been replaced by John Sherry, Corporate Service Reform Manager.
- Rosie Illet Child Poverty co-ordinator at CPAG has been replaced by Anna Baillie.

Our meeting was held via Microsoft Teams and we had over 25 members present. We heard from Gena Howe on the development of the Local Child Poverty Action Report, then from Hilda Campbell from the charity COPE on the mental health issues brought about by Covid and from David Ramsay of Homelessness Network Scotland on their latest project to avoid homelessness.

Notes and presentations from the meeting and previous meetings can be found at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/article/17559/Poverty-Leadership-Panel>

Community Activist Panel (CAP)

It was agreed from the outset of the PLP that the voices from those with lived experience of poverty was essential for the PLP to have any authenticity and to help in the identification of issues and the development and delivery of successful new or amended services. These volunteers, known as the Community Activist Panel has around 10 members, one of which is the co-chair of the PLP quarterly meetings.

CAP members are offered an insight into how policies and decisions are made within public sector and have over the years helped design those policies. Members are offered a series of training and development opportunities to help them in their volunteering tasks and over the years around 25% of them have gone on into full time employment.

If you are interested or know of someone who may be interested in being a CAP member please contact David Ramsay for further information at DavidR@homelessnetwork.scot

Meet the PLP Co-chairs.



Innocent Jakisa from the Community Activist Panel



Councillor Richard Bell, the City Council Treasurer and co-chair of the PLP



Mental health and Wellbeing

One of our partners in the PLP is COPE, which is run by Hilda Campbell. Hilda is an inspirational character and every weekday morning issues an email to all interested parties on how to keep good mental health through these difficult times, with useful tips, advice and links to organisations and support groups. If you would like to be included in Hilda's daily "Your mental health still matters" emails, please contact Hilda at hilda@cope-scotland.org

Scottish Social Security update

The Scottish Social Security has published its annual report, available via this link [Annual Report and Accounts](#).

Some of the highlights from the report are:

They now administer 10 benefits:

- Carer's Allowance Supplement
- Best Start Grant Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Best Start Grant Early Learning Payment
- Best Start Grant School Age Payment
- Best Start Foods
- Funeral Support Payment
- Young Carer Grant
- Job Start Payment
- Child Winter Heating Assistance
- Scottish Child Payment.

Over **£346.7 million** was paid to clients in devolved Scottish Social Security benefits in the last financial year.

This added to the £190.9 million we paid in our first seven months from September 2018 to March 2019 and the £6.9 million in Best Start Food payments that we made on behalf of Scottish Government in 2019/20 totals over **£540 million** in benefit payments since we launched.

One Parent Families Scotland (Glasgow) aims to put a smile on over 1,500 children's faces through its '12 Weans of Christmas Appeal'. OPFS are able to help you to offer this support to the single families that you work with. Our package of Christmas support includes:

- Supermarket Vouchers
- New Toys and Gifts
- Baby Essentials
- New Warm Clothing

We also have a very limited number of Mobile Phones with 6 months connectivity and Fuel Crisis Grants for single parents, some conditions apply e.g. parent must register with OPFS Services to gain access to these resources. If you are supporting a single parent family, living in Glasgow and could do with a little extra help this Christmas, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us. **Closing date for referrals Monday 14th December at 12 noon.** For further information please contact:

Michelle Morgan E: michelle.morgan@opfs.org.uk

Bank on Us

The Bank on Us Toy Appeal is calling on Glaswegians to donate toys to youngsters throughout the city and take pressure off the hard working mums, dads and guardians who are facing an uncertain festive period due to the Covid-19 crisis. While shops are closed due to lockdown, donations can be handed in to:


Riverside Hall
29-31 Clydebrae St,
Govan, Glasgow G51 2AJ

This has been an unforgettable year, I suspect for most of us for the wrong reasons. Let's hope that the new year and a vaccine brings about good health and a return to a more "normal" way of life and may we never hear the word unprecedented again in my lifetime.

I hope you all have a safe, happy and healthy Christmas and keep looking out for one another.

All the best

Gerry



Hoping you all have a healthy,
happy Christmas and New Year.

