



In this issue...

- 2 Introduction from the Chair
- 3 Johnstone Nursery
- 3 EAT
- 4 CV Learning Awards
- 4 Have a Heart
- 5 Celebrating Success Awards
- 6 Workforce Plus
- 7 Gala Days
- 8 Ferguslie Footie Camp

www.paisleypartnership.com

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the Partnership News. We hope you find the articles interesting. If you have any comments on the newsletter you can contact our Marketing Officer on 0141 887 7707 or email info@paisley-partnership.co.uk

Alternative Formats

Partnership News is for residents in Renfrewshire's regeneration areas. We want to make sure it is accessible to all.

To receive the newsletter in another format please contact our Marketing Officer on **0141 887 7707** or email

info@paisley-partnership.co.uk

Cover Story

Playing it Safe

I-r: Jack Convery, Zoe Millar, Luke Smith

PPRC operates with support from Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership, Communities Scotland and the Scottish Government's Community Regeneration Fund.



Please recycle this newsletter

Introduction by Councillor Derek Mackay,

**Chair of the
CRF Oversight Group**



Welcome to Issue 10 of the Partnership News, my first as Chair of the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) Oversight Group.

Renfrewshire's CRF programme supports a wide range of projects that aim to tackle the obstacles that are faced by residents in Renfrewshire's target regeneration areas. Inside you can read more about some of these projects.

In this issue we have highlighted the 2008 Celebrating Success Awards. If you know an individual, group or organisation who you feel deserves some recognition then go to page 5 and have a look at the categories for the 2008 Celebrating Success Awards. Now in its second year, we have increased the number of awards for 2008 from eight to eleven to recognise the great work going on across Renfrewshire. This is a great opportunity to thank those in our communities who really are making a difference so remember to submit your nomination form.

Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership's Regeneration Outcome Agreement annual report has been commended by Communities Scotland for demonstrating our commitment to regeneration and the progress being made in this area. We want to build on these improvements to make the whole of Renfrewshire a thriving and attractive place to live and work.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and find the articles of interest. If you'd like to find out more about anything inside you can contact the projects directly or contact PPRC who will be able to provide you with more information.

Councillor Derek Mackay,
Chair of CRF Oversight Group

Playing it Safe

Bright new soft play areas have been installed at Johnstone nursery thanks to the Community Action Fund. The eye-catching surfaces give the children the chance to play outdoors in a safe environment.

"The children are really delighted with the soft play area and will benefit from it for a long time to come. It's great to see them playing outside in a safe environment," said Alison Bowers, Acting Head at the Nursery.

She continued, "On behalf of all the children and staff I'd like to thank the parents' committee and PPRC for all their efforts, it really is a fantastic addition to the nursery."

The soft play area has been funded by a £3800 grant from the Community Action Fund.

The fund issues grants up to a maximum of £8000. Grants are given to community groups in regeneration areas whose projects make a difference to their community in one of the following categories:

- Building strong, safe and attractive communities
- Getting people back into work
- Improving health
- Raising educational attainment
- Engaging young people

If you'd like to find out more about the fund and how to apply contact PPRC on 0141 887 7707.



Employment Matters

The Employment Action Team hosted its first Employment Matters event in September to raise awareness of the services the team offers to local employers.

Service Delivery Coordinator Claire McGowan said, "The cost of recruiting new staff can be expensive and time-consuming for businesses. We work with employers to reduce these burdens by providing job ready candidates for interview who we know are suited to the job.

"We also encourage work placements to ensure individuals are suited to jobs before interviews take place. Many of the employers we currently work alongside have found this a hugely beneficial way of finding the right staff."

The event, held at India of Inchinnan, was attended by employers across a range of industries. Claire went on, "We were delighted to see so many employers take time out of their busy schedules to attend the event. We are always looking to forge new relationships with local employers and this event has offered an excellent way of networking and meeting new companies to ensure we can match out of work residents with employment opportunities that are suitable to them."

The Employment Action Team works with unemployed residents looking to get into employment or training. Assistance can be provided with confidence building, interview skills, job search, access to funding and much more.

To find out more about the Employment Action Team call 0141 887 7707 or email EATTeam@paisley-partnership.co.uk



Hats off to the learners!

It was hats off to the learners at a recent event to commend local residents on their learning achievements.

Over 150 people have participated in around 40 training courses through Renfrewshire's Community Voices Programme over the past year.

Iain Cunningham, Senior Development Officer with the Community Action Team praised the participants saying, "The aim of the Community Voices Programme is to encourage more people to become involved in their local communities and improve their skills and knowledge. We'd like to congratulate everyone who has undertaken training and wish them all the best with their continuing studies."

The informal ceremony, held in the Tannahill Centre in Ferguslie Park, was hosted by the Community Action Team with Denis Docherty from Reid Kerr College and Alan McNiven from PPRC presenting individuals with their certificates. Denis Docherty offered his support to the ceremony saying, "Reid Kerr College is delighted to work in partnership with

PPRC to deliver training in local venues that increases knowledge and skills for the benefit of both the students and the local community".

Since being established in 2006, a wide variety of training courses have been set up through the programme to suit a range of abilities. Working closely with Reid Kerr College, SFA, Community Learning and Development and RAMH,

residents have taken part in a range of courses including arts & crafts, mental health first aid, committee skills, IT, youth work and football coaching. Anyone looking to find out more about accessing training in their local community can contact PPRC's Community Action Team on 0141 887 7707.

Pictured below are: Denis Docherty, Reid Kerr, Davina Hepson, PPRC, Sam Graham, Learner and Alan McNiven, PPRC



Health checks in Ferguslie Park

Local health project Have a Heart Paisley is offering free heart health checks to everyone living in Ferguslie Park who was born between 1945 and 1960.

"This service is specifically for the people of Ferguslie Park and is being run at the community wing of the Tannahill Centre," explained Have a Heart Paisley's Heather Sloan. "The health check involves asking some simple questions and taking a few measurements, such as blood pressure. From this, we can work out if someone is at risk of developing heart disease and advise them on what can be done to reduce that risk."

Have a Heart Paisley is also offering a range of free activities to help local people make healthy changes.

"In response to suggestions from people taking part in the health checks, we've set up local walking groups, a tai chi class, a weight management service and a stop smoking group," said Heather.

"We've also linked into other local services to make it as easy as possible for people to access the help they'd like."

Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Ferguslie Park's Have a Heart Paisley team by dropping into FLAG Room 3 at the Tannahill Centre or calling 0141 843 4002.



Celebrating Success Awards 2008

The 2008 Celebrating Success Awards follow on from the success of the first ceremony which took place in March this year. The awards have been set up through Renfrewshire's Community Voices programme to congratulate and thank local groups and individuals who have made a positive impact in Renfrewshire's regeneration areas.

Award Categories

Group Learner Award

A group of people who have made marked progress or improvement to their individual or group circumstances through training or education.

Individual Learner Award

An individual who has made marked progress or improvement to their individual circumstances through training or education.

Recognition Award

An individual or group who has clearly shown a long-term commitment to improving their community.

Into Work Award

An individual who has shown the focus and determination needed to make a successful transition into employment.

Community Action Fund Award

A group that has utilised money from the Community Action Fund to make a substantial impact on their local community and its residents.

Community Voices Group Award

A group of people who have accessed training organised or funded through Community Voices and used this training to benefit their community.

Community Voices Individual Award

An individual who has accessed training organised or funded through Community Voices and used this training to benefit their community.

Outstanding Achievement in Social Action Award

A social economy organisation or SME voluntary/community organisation that is making a significant impact in voluntary sector action.

Greatest Achievement through Trading Award

A social enterprise that has made a significant impact in terms of trading ability.

Young Social Enterprise Award

A new social enterprise that has made significant impact early on in its existence.

Workforce Plus Employer Award

A Renfrewshire Employer who has shown commitment to supporting Renfrewshire's Workforce Plus clients in making a successful and sustained transition into employment.

Nominations

To nominate a project, organisation or individual please provide the following information and supporting materials up to a maximum of two A4 pages. Photographs may also be included.

Joe Ferrie, Community Action Manager, PPRC, 10 Falcon Crescent, Paisley, PA3 1NS

by Friday 14 December 2007.

Name of project/individual being nominated:

Nominee's address:

Nominee's phone number:

Award category:

Nominator's name:

Nominator's address:

Nominator's phone number:

Why are you nominating this project/ individual?

Alternatively call 0141 887 7707 and ask for a nomination form or download a copy from our website, www.paisleypartnership.com.

The Celebrating Success Awards are supported by PPRC, Renfrewshire's Community Planning Partnership, Communities Scotland, the Scottish Government's Community Regeneration Fund, Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire Council's Economic Development Department, Jobcentre Plus, Reid Kerr College, WH Malcolm.

Helping Renfrewshire residents back into work



Work is underway to support 4500 Renfrewshire residents off benefits and back into the workplace.

The Renfrewshire Employability Action Plan has been developed to help people who are claiming Incapacity Benefit; Job Seekers Allowance and Income Support make the move back into work.

“People are faced with many barriers to employment such as childcare difficulties, low confidence and lack of skills. Renfrewshire’s Workforce Plus Partnership want to introduce new and innovative ways of removing these barriers to ensure people can unleash their own potential, which in turn will benefit our communities,” said Bill Anderson, Renfrewshire’s Workforce Plus Manager.

He continued, “We are working closely with partner agencies, local employers and communities to make sure we provide residents with the services and skills they need to get back into employment.”

Young residents who leave school without engaging with support agencies will also be helped through the plan. These young people could, with the right support and training, be active participants in society.

Tommy McDade’s role as NEET coordinator is to help young people achieve their own potential, he said, “Many young people leave school and think there is no one out there to help them. What we want to do is work with schools, partners, employers, parents and pupils to highlight what services are already out there that they can access. We also want to listen to young people and find out what support they would like us to offer them.”

To find out more about the Employability Action Plan call Bill Anderson on 0141 842 5470 or email bill.anderson@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Foxbar facing a brighter future

A new agreement has been launched to help take forward the regeneration of Foxbar.

The Estate Management Agreement brings together the community and a number of organisations to work together to ensure residents can benefit from an improved area.

The partners involved in the Foxbar agreement include the local community, Renfrewshire Council, Paisley South Housing Association, Strathclyde Police and Communities Scotland.

Services and issues covered in the estate management agreement include: housing, land maintenance, street cleaning, community policing, roads and pavements, utility services, and ways of enabling the community to have a greater responsibility for the local environment.

Foxbar is the third community in Renfrewshire to have an estate management agreement following on from Ferguslie and Moorpark. The agreement was introduced as part of Renfrewshire Council’s Housing Management Strategy.

To find out more about the agreement call Andrea Ritchie, Estate Management Coordinator on 0141 840 5133.

Pictured here are: Andrea Ritchie, Renfrewshire Council, Councillor Brian Lawson and Nancy Clements from Foxbar West Tenants & Residents Association



Out and about

The summer sunshine may have stayed away but that didn't stop families making the most of this year's gala days.

Thanks to the hard work of community groups Ferguslie, Johnstone Castle, Fountain Gardens and Glenburn all hosted fun filled gala days with a whole host of entertainment, activities and information for people of all ages.

The events all received funding from the Community Action Fund, turn to page 3 to find out more about the fund.



Working for a Healthier Renfrewshire

It was standing room only at Renfrewshire Community Health Initiative's recent AGM. The AGM was used to launch a promotional DVD highlighting the great work that the team at RCHI carry out and was met with real enthusiasm from those attending.

Frances Bryce, Project Coordinator with RCHI was delighted with the support received, "It was great to see so many people attending the AGM. We were particularly pleased that Council leader Derek MacKay and Fiona MacKay from the Community Health Partnership took the time to offer their support. We hope to continue to develop the project to help residents in Renfrewshire to achieve more healthy and active lifestyles."

RCHI reaches over a thousand local people a year with its programmes of health related activity.

The impact the team has had in our neighbourhoods has been fantastic. Karen Likely is one person who has been encouraged to change her lifestyle with the help of RCHI, she said, "I used to sit in and watch the telly all the time – now I am never in." Chris Guthrie's life has changed completely with the help of the team, "I was 20 stone and never went out now I am 9 stone lighter and chairperson of this group."

If you would like to find out what activities are available in your area you can contact RCHI on 01505 815 943.



Footie fun in Ferguslie

There was no stopping the young people from Ferguslie when they were offered the chance to take part in a week long football camp with St Mirren coaches.

Over 100 kids enrolled for the five day footie camp at Ferguslie Sports Centre. "We were blown away with the response to the camp, said Darryl Ramage, who manages the Sports Centre. "The kids all had a great time and were chuffed to bits that the coaches from St Mirren were overseeing the camp. It's heartening to hear them being so positive about taking part. Events like this one are exactly the type of thing that we want to see in the sports centre."

The kids not only got the chance to train with the coaches from St Mirren they also took part in workshops highlighting the dangers of smoking, the benefits of healthy eating and also the serious consequences fire raising has in our communities.



Frazer Robertson, St Mirren Community Coach was delighted to be involved, "The football camp went really well and it was brilliant seeing so many enthusiastic young people from Ferguslie taking part. With St Mirren's move to Ferguslie imminent it's great to get involved with the local community, which is something we aim to develop in the future."



To find out what's happening at Ferguslie Sports Centre call 0141 848 6600.

Breaking the habit

Giving up smoking can be a daunting task, particularly when you've had a 40-a-day habit for almost 45 years. But that's exactly what Irene Ritchie and James Hampson have done with the support of their buddies at the Ferguslie Park Stop Smoking Group.

"I was smoking 40 plus a day and even more at weekends, said 58 year old James, "The group was fantastic, we all had the same goal and we would bounce ideas off one another, like how do you keep busy with your hands and not think about smoking. I would recommend group support to anyone thinking of stopping."

Successful quitter Irene has saved the money she would normally have spent on smoking and bought a new 3 piece suite and had her home redecorated.

The Ferguslie Park Stop Smoking Group, led by Alan Curley, is an open group, allowing people to attend for as long as they require rather than sticking to a rigid six-week course. The group is also open to smokers who are only contemplating giving up and works closely with local GPs.

To find out what support is available to you call Alan Curley at the Good 4 U Health Inequalities Project on 01505 821 622.

