

Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Craigroyston

Education, Children and Families Committee

21st June 2012

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The Edinburgh Partnership has agreed to develop a multi-agency whole systems approach in the Craigroyston High School cluster to tackle the complex needs of some of the families in that area and improve the life chances and outcomes for the children and young people involved.
- 1.2 This report describes progress towards meeting the outcomes described in the initial work plan agreed by the steering group on 30th January 2012 and seeks approval for a further interim workplan.

2 Background

- 2.1 The chosen area focuses on Craigroyston Community High School and the local primary and nursery schools – Craigroyston, Pirniehall and Forthview. In respect of St David's Primary School, children who live in the area and attend that school will be included. Outcomes for children and young people in a number of important areas compare unfavourably to the city as a whole and need to be improved.
- 2.2 The key principles for re-shaping services to meet the complex needs of client groups such as this take account of individual circumstances, alongside more universal provision. This means that services must be customer and client focused and delivered to meet needs on a more personally relevant basis and from a user perspective. These transformations in service delivery are contingent, therefore, upon a full engagement with the service users themselves, as well as fundamental changes to the ways in which services are planned, delivered and funded.
- 2.3 An inaugural meeting was held between the Edinburgh Partnership, The Forth Neighbourhood Partnership and the Total Craigroyston Steering Group on the 19th March. This meeting was very well received and served as a useful initial consultation, identifying several themes for attention. These include; developing better and quicker access to services, especially services that support mental wellbeing; developing partnership approaches; ensuring good communication, including a commitment to engage with people on their own territory; ensuring

that good information is readily available at local level; recognising the strength of the community and improving the physical environment, co-locating staff to strengthen existing relationships and tackling the perception that young people have that there are few places where they can meet socially.

- 2.4 The Total Craigroyston Manager has now been appointed and several key service department staff have been allocated time to work on the initiative. (Appendix1).
- 2.5 A community engagement process which will take place over May and June has been developed with the support of the Snook organisation. This will enable local people and local staff to provide input to the design of the initiative. Key areas for service transformation will be identified to ensure that services are delivered in a way that is more personally relevant to the service user. The result of this work will be the development of a 'road map', which will set the direction of the initiative over the longer term.
- 2.6 Evaluation Support Scotland has been engaged to assist the local management team create an evaluation plan and in the longer term an outcome map which will assist identifying short, medium and long term outcome indicators to ensure that activity on the ground is coherent with the long term strategy.
- 2.7 Through initial consultation with key partners the Total Craigroyston Team has identified a number of areas where immediate issues can be addressed to provide some momentum around the initiative. An important part of this early work is to ensure that agreed structures and processes agreed as part of the GIRFEC arrangements are in place and working effectively.
- 2.8 A Team around the Cluster meeting was held to plan P7 / S1 transition support for 30 children identified as giving cause for concern. Subsequently, transition plans have been established for all of them, involving a wider range of partners than was previously available. A further meeting identified a range of more strategic approaches that could be developed including the reorganisation of learning support in Craigroyston High to provide more intensive support to a vulnerable group of S1 students. In addition, some issues have been identified in relation to supporting children at primary level, which will be addressed before the start of the new session in August.
- 2.9 Within the wider 'Learning Community' , a programme of co-ordinated after school activities designed to support children's learning and development is being organised to ensure that children have access to a range of 'enrichment activities' throughout the week. In addition, a co-ordinated summer programme is being devised aimed at children, young people and families. The youth agencies have agreed to ensure that these programmes are widely advertised to combat the perception that there are few places that young people can meet.
- 2.10 A summer 'campaign', to emphasise the importance of the parental role in the development of early literacy and its importance in school readiness has been planned and a longer term strategy for this area of work will be developed as part of the overall Total Craigroyston Plan.

- 2.11 The Children and Families Social Work team is reviewing the support that is in place for looked after children to ensure that an appropriate level is in place for each child.
- 2.12 In 2010/11 there were 25 young people from Craigoyston who left school without a positive destination and the 16 plus positive destination group at Craigoyston is planning proactively with partners to bring this figure down this year
- 2.13 Several areas of concern have been identified within housing services that require attention. These include: providing better support to 16/17 year olds who present as homeless and the provision of better housing options for young people leaving care, especially in the light of the forthcoming changes to housing benefit; reducing the incidence of homelessness for families with children and those who are fleeing violence and intimidation.
- 2.14 The reduction of domestic abuse and its effect on children will be a key aim of the initiative and police colleagues are currently analysing the incidence of domestic abuse within the community and identifying families where this is an issue. As a start, we will be examining how we can implement the Bystander Approach (violence reduction programme) that is currently being piloted in the Portobello area. It is likely that initial briefing and training will be offered to local staff after the summer break.
- 2.15 The approach will incorporate several key elements, all of which involve contributions from partner agencies. Some early discussions have taken place to secure the support of senior managers within these agencies to develop this proposal and to establish Craigoyston as a pilot site.
- 2.16 Central to Total Craigoyston will be taking a holistic view of the child or young person and a whole system approach to achieving and sustaining the necessary changes to support the family. Those working within the pilot need to be empowered to make local decisions based on assessment of need, and be given the authority and scope to 'do what it takes' to redesign local services on the basis of evidence of success with the target group.

3 Main report

Work Plan

- 3.1 The following table details the key objectives, updated timescales and status of progress to date:

Key Objectives	Timescale	Status
Secure the secondment of a senior to take forward the approach for the next 2 years.	February 2012	Completed
Establish a local base for Total Craigoyston at the North Edinburgh local office.	Feb/Mar 2012	Completed
Design a programme and content for the joint meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership Executive and Forth Neighbourhood Partnership – including pre-meetings with	19 March 2012	Completed report circulated

representative groups involved in Forth Neighbourhood Partnerships.		
<p>Design the role and remit of the multi-agency local implementation team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare job descriptions • Recruit local team members • Agree local manager contribution to governance • Co-locate staff where possible 	April 2012	<p>Basic dedicated team established and initial areas of work agreed. Staff co-located in the North Neighbourhood Office</p> <p>Local management group established.</p>
<p>Develop a coherent engagement plan and strategy for the initiative, based on further content and discussion with key individuals, local groups and agencies including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected Members • Voluntary sector groups • Headteachers • NHS • Police, Fire and Community Safety • Local practice teams • Community groups 	May/June 2012	Plan developed and currently being implemented
<p>Develop a statistical profile and research base with partners, identifying the nature and scale of inequalities experienced by children and young people in the target area e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement and attainment • Physical and mental health • Child abuse and neglect • School leaver destination • Youth offending 	From Feb 2012 onwards	Ongoing
<p>Define the specific objectives and intended outcomes for taking full cognisance of findings from local consultation and analysis of issues affecting children and young people intake cluster group.</p>	August / Sept 2012	Outcome of local engagement will be developed into a plan that will be presented at the next joint meeting of the Edinburgh Partnership,

		Forth neighbourhood partnership and the Total Craigroyston Steering Group on 3 rd Sept.
Develop a project plan utilising a 'total place' approach to deliver agreed objectives and share the ambitions within that plan with all key stakeholders including local Elected Members	August / Sept 2012	Ongoing

4 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications at this stage.

5 Equalities

5.1 This initiative will impact positively on the outcomes for children and families in the Craigroyston area.

6 Environmental Impact

6.1 There are no adverse environmental impacts and the action to improve the social and economic prospects of children and young people will contribute positively to the council's commitments to a range of national priorities.

7 Conclusions

7.1 This report sets out the progress made towards the initial work plan agreed for the Total Craigroyston initiative and provides an updated timescale for the development of a longer term plan. Cross sector and partner agency commitment is essential to achieve the outcomes agreed for the initiative. The governance and management proposals have been designed to achieve this. In addition there must be a commitment to ensuring that there is ongoing commitment from all partners to engage with service users and the wider community in the long term, to ensure that services can remain 'light on their feet' in relation to achieving the agreed outcomes.

8 Recommendations

8.1 It is recommended the committee:-

- a) Notes the approach to improving outcomes for children and young people in Craigroyston as set out in this report.
- b) Notes the initial work plan for February to September 2012.
- c) Seeks a further progress report in October 2012.

Appendices 1 Staff team

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Wards affected

Single Outcome Agreement National Outcome 3 - We are better educated, more skilled, more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
National Outcome 4 - Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
National Outcome 5 - Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
National Outcome 6 - We live longer, healthier lives
National Outcome 8 - We have improved life chances for children, young people and families at risk
National Outcome 9 - We live our lives free from crime, disorder and danger
National Outcome 11 - We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

Background Papers Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People in Craigroyston Education, Children and Families Committee 11 November 2011

Appendix 1

Total Craigmoynton

Contributions to the staff team

Organisation / Department	Staff member	Areas of work
CEC Children and Families	Christine Mackay (full time)	Manager
	Allan Hosey (half time)	Community Development within the learning community, enrichment activities, co-ordination of holiday programmes, transition support to schools
	Sarah Low (half time)	Community development, work with parents, community engagement and participation.
	Naomi Stewart (6 hours per week)	Transition support and 1:1 support
CEC Services for Communities	Tim Packer (full time)	Housing options for care leavers and 16 and 17 year olds) homelessness reduction (focus on families with children).
CEC Corporate Governance	Pamela Roccio	Community engagement and participation. Links to Edinburgh Partnership and other EP initiatives
NHS Lothian	Diane Devlin (7 hours per week)	Linking with local health services, ensuring that Getting it Right arrangements are robustly applied, training and awareness raising re Getting it Right.
	Cathy Wood	Addressing health inequalities with an early years focus
Lothian and Borders Police	Sgt Craig Stephen	Community Safety, violence reduction, reducing anti social behaviour