

Glenrothes Area, Fife

Community Consultation on Anti-Poverty



September 2015

Report produced by Assist Social Capital CIC

Research demonstrates that communities with high levels of social capital tend to benefit from lower crime figures, better health, higher educational achievement and better economic growth. Investing in the social capital of communities and networks plays a crucial role in the community's ability to solve problems, act for the future and participate in decision making. Social Capital also has a powerful connection to issues such as solidarity and openness, image of an area and access to support and services and employment. It is well documented that the greater the social capital available, the greater the resources available to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes within a community.

Understanding of social capital can provide an underpinning framework to ensure replicability together with appropriate contextualization alongside the opportunity to gather evidence of outcomes and impact.

ASC was set up to act as a bridge between the academic evidence of the benefits of social capital and its practical application, to promote and develop understanding of social capital in practice and to investigate new ideas and approaches that will enhance community resilience and wellbeing.

This report has been collectively reviewed by Assist Social Capital, Fife Council and the participants in the community consultation.



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***Poverty is not natural.
It is man-made and
can be overcome
and eradicated by
the actions of human
beings.***

Nelson Mandela, 2005



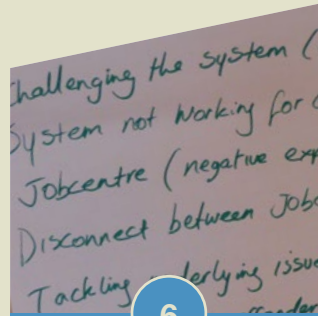
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Executive Summary



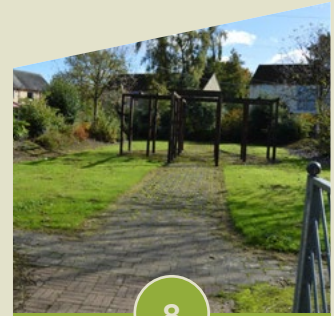
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Glenrothes Area is composed of the town of Glenrothes itself and the surrounding villages of Leslie, Markinch, Coaltown of Balgonie, Milton of Balgonie, Thornton and Kinglassie. The population of Glenrothes Area is approximately 51,000 (2011 Census). At that time in 2011, over a quarter of households (26.5%) were defined as living in poverty i.e. living with less than 60% of median household income. In 2012 over 1 in 5 children were in poverty, 23% compared to Fife average of 19.1%. Glenrothes Area has several datazones that appear in the worst 20% of Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation areas.

In April 2015, the Fairer Fife Commission made a public call for evidence on this issue as part of the process of creating a Local Welfare Action plan. The Glenrothes Area Committee decided to make their own submission by working with the community in a range of ways including a Community Consultation in Rothes Halls in Glenrothes on 29th of September 2015. The aim of the event was to engage with citizens and local organisations in a conversation about their vision for the area. The results will inform the Fairer Fife Commission, which will be published later this year. The results will also be used to create a local action plan.

Outcomes

The event gave local people the opportunity to discuss their vision for Glenrothes Area. Seven key points were identified as goals for the Glenrothes Area to move towards.

The 7 goals are listed below, together with suggestions for action made by the delegates in response to the themes as they emerged during the discussions. (A full list of all the suggestions can be found in the Appendix)

1

ACCESS TO INFORMATION & SUPPORT

There is a need for more 'joined-up' working. There is already a lot happening, so it is about bringing those people together and to reach out to more people.

2

DIRECT PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT

This is about getting a better sense of local issues. Local sessions with local people – we need to get back to direct engagement, knowing local people

3

EMPLOYABILITY, JOBS & INVESTMENT

Invest in more mutual economy: an economy of mutuals and social enterprises

Support for business start-ups

Increased employment opportunities in Glenrothes area alongside social enterprises that help tackle deprivation

Help people to start their own businesses

Volunteering leads to jobs

Apprenticeships

More & better housing; help for people to remain there (e.g. evictions)

4

YOUTH

Getting young people work ready

Provision of real life work experiences at schools and colleges, getting children ready whilst still at school

5

CROSS-ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Networking events are very important (intra- and inter-service collaboration) – it is about making those connections

6

RE-EVALUATION & CHANGE OF ATTITUDES & VALUES

About getting towards developing a local vision for a fairer local place

Use local people as advocates & 'champions'

7

PROVISION OF SPACE

More access to services, e.g. community hubs

Using empty buildings for community

Comments & Recommended Action Points

The Glenrothes Community Consultation has provided the opportunity for wider debate around anti-poverty in the Glenrothes Area. This report confirms that there are many initiatives already underway that can be recruited as part of a positive plan for change in a way that will encourage the community's natural skills, knowledge and strengths. Collectively this can be used to cultivate a co-owned vision for Glenrothes.

Some overarching themes emerged in the areas of Youth, Information & Access to services and support, Connectivity between services & across sectors, Participation in decision-making locally and making good use of community spaces.



The key next steps which now need to be taken, to develop a local Action Plan are:

- The Goals and Action Points to be passed on to the Fairer Fife Commission
- The 7 themes to form the basis of a local Action Plan to create a route map for investing in local assets
- The Actions suggested at the event to be finalised
- Initiatives already underway which align with the goals, e.g. (those in Appendix) to be identified and engaged with
- Activities and Timeframes for the local Action Plan to be agreed with short, medium and long-term outcomes identified
- Follow up event(s) to take actions forward and explore progress

The table below summarises the an outline for suggested action on the themes emerged in the areas of youth, information sharing and access to services and support, connectivity between services & across sectors, participation in decision-making locally and making good use of community spaces.

The table represents an outline of the actions that the delegates would like to see emerge as a result of the process. It requires further development to clarify the next steps, who should take them and by when.

GLENTOATHS AREA LOCAL ACTION PLAN			
GOALS	ACTIONS	ACTIVITIES	TIMEFRAME
1 ACCESS TO INFORMATION & SUPPORT	Bring people together and to reach out to more people		
2 DIRECT PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT	Sessions to develop the Local Action Plan with local people		
3 EMPLOYABILITY, JOBS & INVESTMENT	Increase employment opportunities in Glenrothes area through support for business start ups, including social enterprises that help tackle deprivation		
4 YOUTH	Support young people to be work ready		
5 CROSS-ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES	Creating new connections through intra- and inter-service collaboration		
6 RE-EVALUATION & CHANGE OF ATTITUDES	Develop a local vision for a fairer local place		
7 PROVISION OF SPACE	Increase access to services, through community spaces/hubs		

Glenrothes Area

Glenrothes is one of Scotland's new towns, developed during the 1950/60s and located in Central Fife. In recent years, the area has suffered from issues of poverty as the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation indicates (SIMD 2012). The Index highlights areas within Glenrothes Area that struggle with persistent multiple deprivation especially in terms of income and employment.

Glenrothes Area is composed of the town of Glenrothes itself and the surrounding villages of Leslie, Markinch, Coaltown of Balgonie, Milton of Balgonie, Thornton and Kinglassie. The population of Glenrothes Area is approximately 51,000 (2011 Census). At that time there were over a quarter of households (26.5%) defined as living with breadline poverty i.e. living with less than 60% of median household income. In 2012 over 1 in 5 children (23%) were in poverty w(compared to Fife average 19.1%).

Fife Council has acknowledged these aspects together with the need within the local communities to tackle the challenge of poverty and deprivation.

In 2014, the independent Fairer Fife Commission was established to take a strategic account of the scale, scope and nature of poverty within the Fife area. In April 2015, the Fairer Fife Commission made a public call for evidence as part of the process of creating a Local Welfare Action plan.



Glenrothes Community Planning Partners wished to see what could be done at a local and practical level to tackle poverty. The Area Committee decided to make their own submission by working with the community in a range of ways including holding a Community Consultation in Glenrothes, with the outcomes to be included as evidence in the report of the Fairer Fife Commission.

A Welfare Reform Area Action Plan (WRAAP) was approved in 2014 and a Glenrothes WRAAP steering group, made up of representatives from DWP, Fife Council, Citizens' Advice and Rights Fife, Scottish Welfare Fund and Clued Up, promotes partnership working, shares news and information of common interest, resolves issues and shares/develops ideas for future working and delivery of services.

Assist Social Capital (ASC), a social enterprise with a track record in working in public participation was invited to work with a cluster of local individuals and agencies interested in taking an asset-based approach to developing a local action plan that could help to nurture equality, health and wellbeing in the Glenrothes Area.



A Community Consultation on Tackling Poverty

The main objectives of the Glenrothes community consultation were to:



highlight good practice in the Glenrothes area and where we could work better



inform service development across partner agencies



identify specific actions that would make a difference to the lives of people affected by poverty



support the setting up of local ambitions on tackling poverty

The overarching objective is for this Report to form the basis for a local Action Plan to be used as a route map for investing in local assets such as networks, initiatives and other activities, which, in turn, could lead to new opportunities to respond positively to tackling poverty in the Glenrothes area. The findings of this report will also inform the work of the Fairer Fife Commission.



Summary of the Consultation

The recommendations of the Christie Commission (2011) included empowering individuals and communities, the integration of service provision, the prevention of negative outcomes and improving efficiency.

The consultation event on 29th of September in Rothes Halls was an opportunity to create a positive platform through which to explore what is already being done in and nurturing positive momentum by identifying activity that is already underway. This is the basis of an asset-based approach which helps build ownership, confidence and a community's capacity to respond to current and future challenges.

The local CLD team contacted a range of local stakeholders on multiple occasions to raise awareness of the event. These included local councillors through Glenrothes Area Committee; members of the Reducing Poverty and Social Inequality group - colleagues from CLD, Locality Support, Housing, Family and Community Support Team (Education) - as well as service users, NHS contacts, the FoodBank, two local churches and the local police.

Social media was used extensively to ensure that the information about the event was promoted as widely as possible. To achieve this, the Local Area team and ASC posted information on facebook and twitter using #Glentoegether. It was felt that social media was a particularly good way to engage the younger generation.

The half-day session used participatory processes to enable structured conversation in small groups. This ensures everyone's voice is heard. ASC facilitated the discussions focusing on relevant topics that helped keep the focus of the conversations positive. A plenary session at the end pulled together the conversations, with the actions and opportunities gathered from the conversations. This information has been collected and forms the basis of a mutually understood direction that forms the basis of this report.

The participatory nature of the process was continued beyond the event itself by involving participants in the generation of the final report by inviting them to provide feedback on the draft report. This gave the delegates the opportunity to further deepen ownership of the process and ensure the Final Report is a living document with short, medium and long-term goals agreed in partnership and co-produced by the wider group that attended the event itself.

This Report will inform the development of a Local Action Plan to be used as a route map for investing in local assets (networks, activities, initiatives) that in turn will lead to new opportunities to respond positively to tackling poverty in the Glenrothes Area.

The event was held on Saturday, 29th September 2015, at the local community venue Rothes Halls, in Glenrothes, which provides a community space familiar to the participants (see Appendix for agenda).

Overall, there were 39 attendees at the event and there were representatives from: a range of Fife Council services and elected members; the Voluntary Sector – FoodBank, Gingerbread, YMCA, local churches and Boards; members of the Job Clubs and Glenrothes Youth Forum. (See Appendix)



Welcome & Purpose of the Event

Norman Laird (Area Services Manager) welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Councillor Fiona Grant (Chair of the Local Area Committee, Fife Council) who introduced the purpose of this community consultation. Councillor Grant highlighted that poverty rates have drastically increased across Scotland. This is reflected in the use of foodbanks where, within four years (2011/12 until 2014/15), the number of people accessing foodbanks has increased twentyfold. Councillor Grant believes that this community consultation will on the one hand, provide evidence on the effects of poverty in this area whilst, on the other, present “constructive, highly practical, deliverable projects that the area Committee can consider supporting”. For that reason, Councillor Grant and the Chair of the Fairer Fife Commission were hoping for at least ‘one positive thing’ to emerge out of this event.

JP Easton (CLD Team Leader, Auchmuty Learning Centre) – provided an introduction to the perspective of the local council and where they are at in terms of tackling poverty at the moment. He referred to several of the initiatives that are currently funded by Area Committee and the work of the Reducing Poverty and Social Inequality Group. (See Appendix).

- We are not just waiting for the Fairer Fife Commission to report on what we can do but we feel that it is important to contribute to it
- It is about changing the way we work – about providing the tools to people – help people to know what they can do / how they can make the most of what we’ve got
- There are already many initiatives – we want to do more than this
- We are aware that we do not have all the answers – therefore we want to have this conversation about making the best of what we can do



Community Conversations

In this section of the report we have tried to capture some of the comments that were made during the discussions to give a sense of the mood and feel of what took place. Full lists of the responses to the questions can be found in the Appendix.

Conversation 1: What is already happening that responds to anti-poverty actions?

Fifty-six projects and initiatives that already exist in the Glenrothes Area were identified showing the abundance of local initiatives working on this theme.

Delegates felt that as a general rule of thumb, greater respect should be shown to people who found themselves in difficult circumstances through poverty.

- “We should try and have a positive view of a person rather than just making assumptions”
- “We could look into a person’s individual background – that is where you can make the difference”

Conversation 2: What other Issues could be addressed?

This question proved harder for the delegates to engage with. There was general agreement that while not everything that could be done was being done, identifying the gaps was hard. People were aware that there were many things happening that the people in the room didn't necessarily know about, so it wasn't possible know exactly what was missing.

- “It [the question] is making us think a lot more”
- “(...) and I just sat down with him and went over it, edited it. He just needed the confidence to do it. Sometimes that is just it.”
- “That’s the thing: people are ashamed to ask for help, to say that they are poor”
- “You have to know who to ask”
- “it is about people working together with services to get there”

Conversation 3: What is your vision for making Glenrothes area a fairer place?

This question provided a positive space for the groups to begin to really use their knowledge of the area and their imagination to create a vision of what they would like to see in their own community.

Seven overarching themes emerged out of the discussion (see Appendix).

1. ACCESS TO INFORMATION & SUPPORT
2. DIRECT PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT
3. EMPLOYABILITY, JOBS & INVESTMENT
4. YOUTH
5. CROSS-ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES
6. REEVALUATION & CHANGE OF ATTITUTES & VALUES
7. PROVISION OF SPACE



Final thoughts about the event/any other comments

Before drawing the event to a close, Colin Campbell of ASC asked delegates to voice their thoughts on the event and whether they had found it to be a positive experience.

- *“Pleased about the turnout of local people here as well as from public sector/work”*
- *“A lot of people from different areas, different walks of life – enjoyed that – also the networking aspect of different agencies and bringing them all together”*
- *“Need a coordinated approach for services – networks support that by bringing them together”*
- *The Police officer offered for people to contact him about any of the projects they were involved in that he might be able to help with or any other matter.*
- *Local representative: “great to hear the ideas/ different perspectives from people > often people feel that Glenrothes doesn’t get what it needs but if we can get groups like this together than we can make it better > we need to make sure that the money we get is invested where it is needed”*
- *“Can this be rolled out around/across communities?”*
- *“This event bringing people together, including a whole range of people – this should just be the beginning, there is a lot already going on > is not making the impact we want > how can we work together”*
- *“These events should happen everywhere, maybe also happen yearly – many don’t know what is happening in other places > need to come together”*
- *“Big issue of getting young people real life ready”*
- *-“Some form of info board for events on what is happening would be helpful – information could also be sent in with feedback to the draft report and could then be sent out to everyone on the list”*

Finally, JP handed out a form which provided the opportunity for delegates to express: as a result of participating in the Consultation Event what they will do; establish if they would like to be more involved in developing Anti-Poverty projects; asking for contact details and to make any other comments. In effect, they were pledges and 34 “I Wills” were completed and returned. The expressions of interest and the comments made will be taken into consideration when producing the local Action Plan. (See Appendix)

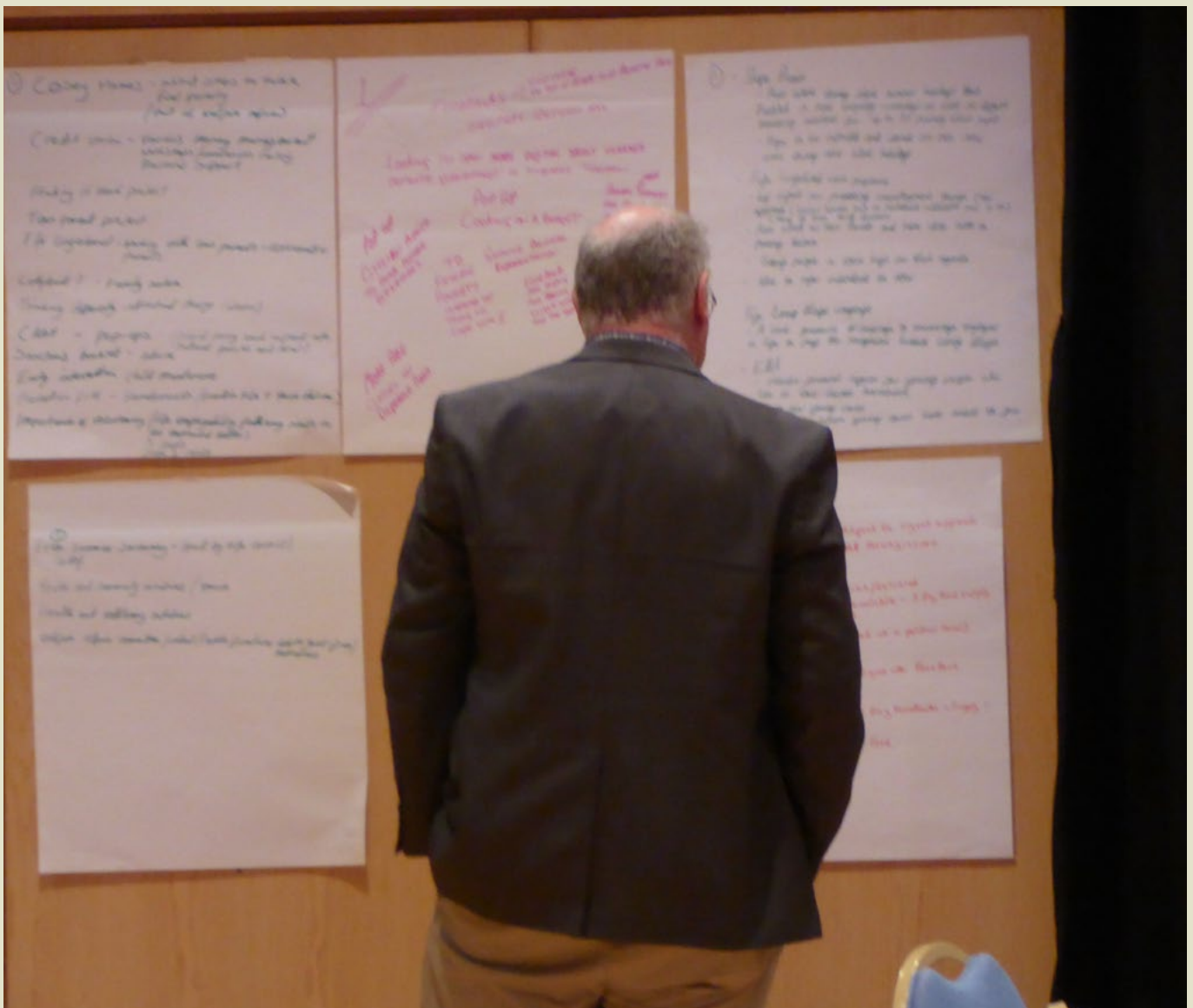


The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act was passed by the Scottish Parliament on the 18th June 2015. It is intended to enable the people of Scotland to have greater involvement in local decision-making and to make better use of the assets in their communities.

According to the Government, the Bill “reflects the policy principles of subsidiarity, community empowerment and improving outcomes and provides a framework which will empower community bodies through the ownership of land and buildings and strengthening their voices in the decisions that matter to them; and support an increase in the pace and scale of public service reform by cementing the focus on achieving outcomes and improving the process of community planning.”

The main objectives of the Glenrothes community consultation:


- To highlight good practice in the Glenrothes area
- To highlight where we could work better
- To inform service development across partner agencies
- To identify specific actions/ changes that would make a difference to the lives of people affected by poverty
- To identify local issues and challenges in tackling poverty in the area
- To support the setting up of local ambitions on tackling poverty








This event therefore aligns well with what the Act proposes and its intention to strengthen community planning, providing a positive response to the wider debate around anti-poverty in the area of Fife and how the community's skills, knowledge and strengths can be used to bring a vision about in Glenrothes


The challenge now is for the next steps to be taken in order to develop a co-produced local Action Plan. These are:


- 

The Goals and Action Points to be passed on to the Fairer fife Commission
- 

The 7 themes to form the basis of a local Action Plan to create a route map for investing in local assets
- 

The Actions suggested at the event to be finalised
- 

Initiatives already underway which align with the goals, e.g. those in the Appendix, to be identified and engaged with
- 

Activities and Timeframes for the local Action Plan to be agreed with short, medium and long-term outcomes identified
- 

Follow up event(s) to take actions forward and explore progress

Agenda

11:30	Arrival, Registration & Networking	
12:00	Welcome & housekeeping. Purpose of Event	Norman Laird Cllr Fiona Grant
12:20	Check-in	Colin Campbell
12:30	Where we are at the moment	JP Easton
12:50	Conversation 1	Small Groups
13:15	Conversation 2	Small Groups
13:40	Conversation 3	Small Groups
14:05	Plenary Feedback	Full group
14:25	Check-out	Popcorn
14:30	Close & Lunch	

List of Attendees

Alister Baker	Keiran Cown
Amy Nicol	Lesley Ross
Cllr Bill Brown	Linda Thomson
Bryan Tasker	Maggie Skelly
Cllr David Ross	Mandy MacEwan
Eileen McMillan	Mandy Temple
Cllr Fiona Grant	Margarey Neish
Fiona Purdon	Mark Hay
Frank Pitt	Mary Hill
Gordon Nicolson	Mary Siskou
Graham Beard	Mary Philpott
Iris Sauer-Derricutt	Norman Laird
James Farrel	Patricia McAuley
James Harper	Ralph Dean
Jane Hawryliw	Richard Barnett
Janet Land	Rowan Brunton
Jessica O'leary	Sagara Taddie
Jim Galloway	Sheila McHugh
JP Easton	Tony Mitchell

Facilitators

Colin Campbell
Licia Claveria
Claudia Fernandez

Summary of Conversation 1

What is already happening that responds to anti-poverty actions?

Scottish Welfare Fund

Council Local Office

Welfare Support Crisis Grants

Housing Associations

Welfare Support Assistance

Tenants & Residents Associations

Welfare drop-in clinic/sessions

People's Assembly (Tam Kirby)

Community Care Grants

Elected members

Credit Union – various money management workshops/ awareness raising/ practical support

Welfare Reform Committee

(funded Castle Furniture)

Castle Furniture

Fife Living Wage Campaign – local grassroots campaign to encourage employers in Fife to pay the recognised Scottish Living Wage

Community Café/shops

Charity Shops

Salvation Army

Foodbank – food issued/delivered & vouchers available

EMA – valuable financial support for young people living in low-income households

Support for young carers

Trial project where young carers have free access to public transport

Cooking on a budget

Libraries

Work within libraries – welfare help/ advice

Social Clubs

Family Law Centre

Kinglassie Institute – Village Hub

Sanctions Booklet – Advice

Churches

CARF – pop-up clinics

St. Vincent de Paul – respond to urgent appeals

CV building sessions

Churches Together – supplying food

Confidence-building classes

Community Police – advice & keeping people safe

Pop-up citizens advice – to reach outside Glenrothes

YMCA – Youth and Community Initiatives

Pop-up – cooking on a budget classes

Prevention First – Homelessness (Frontline Five & YMCA deliver)

ESOL Adult Classes

Digital Skills – IT ABE

Health & Wellbeing Initiatives

More ABE classes in deprived areas

Keep well (NHS)

Job Club (very busy)

Creating Balance/ 7 habits

FEAT (Fife Employment Access Trust)

FC – committed to helping anti-poverty

Common Weal

Volunteering Opportunities

Opportunities Fife

Importance of Volunteering (Fife Employability Pathway needs to be explained better), 5 steps/ stage 3 ready

Cosy Homes – initial steps to tackle fuel poverty (part of welfare reform)

Travel vouchers for job clubs/trainings

Thinking differently – changing attitudes (alcohol)

Free travel – Fife Young Carers

Breakfast Clubs – Schools

People meeting, talking, identifying what needs to happen to help people – people committed

Breakfast Uniform

School Meals

Shape Project – scheme during school summer holidays providing meal every day & interesting activities for up to 30 pupils (hope that it will be expanded)

People meeting, talking, identifying what needs to happen to help people – people committed

Fife Gingerbread Work Programme (Making it Work)

big impact on avoiding unemployment through 5-tier approach

they work with teen parents & close links to Poverty Alliance

Giving people a voice is high on their agenda

Able to refer individuals to others

School Meals

Free Summer Swimming (Kids) – paid by Fife Council

Early Intervention Child Maintenance

Ladybird – Family nurture

Summary of Conversation 2

What other issues could be addressed?

Volunteering

Challenging the System (Sanctioning)

Training people to cook on a budget

Employment – more help and less sanctions

An equal Living Wage for all people regardless of age (contrasted to the new UK government NMW or 'Living Wage) and also a living wage that matches levels set by the Living Wage Foundation

Tackling underlying issues

Persistence of Poverty Trap

Zero hour contracts to be demolished – or only for students

More control on Pay Day loans

System not working for employers (Job Centres pushing people to apply for unsuitable jobs)

Living Wage – employers worked with to encourage this

Wages not covering rent (zero hour contracts)

Greater support for employers to take on young people

Time between coming off benefits and pay at a new job – not enough support in transition periods

Real Cost to taxpayer of sorting crises rather than previous benefits needed calculated in work poverty

Budgeting help only once a month before benefits

Publicise to individuals in advance about benefit changes to prevent crises

Welfare Fund not funding basic household items

Job Centre – negative experiences, changes in customer service

Poor living conditions in rented accommodation

Increased training for job centre staff – on issues

surrounding mental health issues (with there being such a negative feeling within job centres)

More money for local communities

Isolation/specific needs

Mental Health Issues (Employee Discrimination)

Job Centre to learn the 7 habits

Making people apply for jobs they do not have the qualifications for & wasting people's and employers' time with jobs they cannot possibly do

Mental Health Awareness

An increase in diagnosis of mental health issues – particularly for those who are in areas of high deprivation

Disconnect between job centres and job clubs

Health Conditions (Job unsuitability)

Supporting ex-offenders (no immediate support i.e. food)

Inter-linking services (job centres need more knowledge & services/charities available to help)

Give people confidence instead of putting them down

Using local money & resources to support young people in maintaining a job (e.g. through paying transport fees)

More networking between other local organisations (e.g. Gingerbread, Parish Church)

Future of Breakfast Clubs uncertain – when temporary funding ends

Greater recognition of a Fife employability pathway in job centres

Local Morrisons is not contributing to Foodbank

Still information/communication gaps

Getting information to people & getting word out to inform people what help is out there for them

Youth-specific issues:

- Lower wages/hour
- Housing issues
- Employment chances

Information at school	stigma associated with poverty
Campaigning Opportunities for people in poverty to influence policy	Councillors can help by visiting schools
Capacity-building to allow folk to contribute	Life skills in schools for young people to include budgeting, for example, amongst other things
Give kids the advice they promise in school	Transition lessons for those farthest away from training and education
Expensive school trips – who can afford this?	More involvement from the private sector
Co-ordination of different projects which help support	Life skills in schools for young people to include budgeting, for example, amongst other things
School uniforms must be affordable – blazers, make some items free e.g. ties	
Information not all in the same place –available to public directly & available non-digitally	
Kids should not have to pay for woodwork, home economics, etc.	
People on benefits can receive vouchers but low-incomers may not meet the criteria	
Give more advice/help to young people approaching work age group – the ones not going to university	
More schemes to put school leavers into work place	
Double our job-seeker allowance to help household income	
Cost of phone calls vs. length of waiting times on the phone	
Take services where folk already are	
Ensure that young people can read & write and aren't left behind, giving them a better chance	
More work experience	
More Volunteering	
More debate	
School uniforms must be affordable – blazers, make some items free e.g. ties	
Good Practice needs sharing	
Prepare people to help tackle and challenge the	

Summary of Conversation 3

What is your vision form making Glenrothes area a fairer place?

Theme	Sub-Themes	Explanations & Suggestions
Access to information & support	Availability of information	<p>Better awareness of what services are already available.</p> <p>Information does not reach people – need more joined-up working as there is already a lot happening, it is about bringing those people together to reach out to more people.</p> <p>In regards of participation & engagement, some things are already happening but many people do not know about it but would engage if they were aware.</p> <p>Better access to training and opportunities</p> <p>Practical measure = phone points, free calls</p> <p>Support folk with mental illness rather than just formal diagnosis</p>
	Training and opportunities	
	Accessibility of services	
	Support for people with mental illness	
	Intergration of ex-offenders	
	Police & community offices	
Direct participation & engagement	Representation	<p>Support ex-offenders to get back into society</p> <p>More police walking the streets</p> <p>For police and community officers to become more engaged & visible in the communities for them to know each other, to be aware who to approach & who to talk to</p> <p>More people who present 'us', to have a good representation of poverty</p> <p>Better representation of real local issues through representatives</p>
	Localised Job Centres & Stakeholder Involvement	
	Direct Participation	
	Inclusion in decision-making processes	
	Direct engagement with local people	
		<p>A fairer job centre through reforming the UK sanctioning agenda through localising the Job Centres control by giving stakeholders a greater input in the running of the Job Centres</p> <p>Increase participation on a very local level & local political decision-making</p> <p>More/better engagement with political processes</p> <p>Question of participation at the local level & local level decision-making > this is about increased engagement and getting a better sense of local issues</p> <p>Local sessions with local people – we need to get back to direct engagement, knowing local people</p> <p>Building bridges between local decision-makers (policy & politics) and local people</p>

<p>Employability, jobs & investment</p>	<p>Reducing unemployment – bring work to Glenrothes</p>	<p>Investing in Life Skills Increased employment opportunities in Glenrothes area alongside social enterprises that help tackle deprivation Help people to start their own businesses Volunteering leads to jobs Apprenticeships</p>
	<p>Job Centres</p>	<p>More training provided to the people who are dealing with people in poverty i.e. job centres, CSA Better knowledge of what funds are available Be able to change circumstances at the job centre</p>
	<p>Living Wages</p>	<p>Entice more employers to commit to living wage Issue of zero hours</p>
	<p>Funding</p>	<p>Better funding opportunities for training, also for people being ‘stuck’ in certain jobs Funding proportionate to other areas</p>
	<p>More inward investment</p>	<p>More focussed inward investment to reduce unemployment Encourage a night time economy Get the Kingdom Centre to attract more shops – lower rents: attract smaller shops Bring in more industry</p>
	<p>Social Economy</p>	<p>A much more mutual economy: an economy of mutual and social enterprises</p>
	<p>Social Housing</p>	<p>Increased numbers of council/social housing to tackle homelessness More & better housing; help for people to remain there (e.g. evictions) Lower rents and rates</p>
<p>Youth</p>	<p>More guidance for young people</p>	<p>Investing in Life Skills Opportunities for young people to better understand issues such as budgeting, personal finance, etc. – to be discussed in schools</p>

	Schools & education	<p>Getting young people work ready</p> <p>Provision of real life work experiences at schools and colleges, about getting children ready whilst at school</p> <p>Reviewing of what we value – it is not just about academics, “we also need chefs, hair dressers ...”</p> <p>Issue of fragmentation of services, third sector etc.</p> <p>Require better joint working & information sharing</p> <p>Networking events are very important (intra- and inter-service collaboration) – it is about making those connections</p> <p>Encourage e.g. street events (where from one street people/ neighbours come together) – letting people to get to know each other > about including very small, practical, local steps</p> <p>Support/ encourage volunteering</p> <p>Place bigger importance and value, gives people self-esteem, learn life skills</p> <p>Let people volunteer to help others, to help build confidence, helps to prepare for work</p> <p>About getting towards developing a local vision for a fairer local place</p> <p>Local Post Code Lottery awarded for best kept street, garden, neighbourhood etc.</p> <p>Use people advocates & ‘champions’</p> <p>Better community spirit: meet your neighbours; know your neighbours & chap a door</p> <p>People being classed as individuals not statistics</p> <p>Abolish sanctions/ stop sanctioning – vulnerable people who want to work, challenge the ones who won’t work</p> <p>Change people’s attitudes towards poverty</p> <p>People in poverty treated with respect – improvements in face to face conversations, the way they are spoken to between attendees and DWP, more kindness, less judgement for everybody</p> <p>Issue of tabloid media being divisive: have/have not</p>
Cross organisation- al activities	Networking & exchange across similar services/ projects and different sectors(third & public sector)	
	Encourage networking between individuals	
Reevaluation & change of attitudes & values	Voluntary sector	
	Fostering pride in the area to raise morale	
	Individuals vs. statistics	
	Sanctions	
	Stigma on Poverty	

	Discrimination of certain jobs	<p>Not discriminating certain jobs = every job is valuable</p> <p>Reviewing of what we value – it is not just about academics, “we also need chefs, hair dressers ...”</p>
Provision of space	Social space	<p>More access to services, e.g. community hubs</p> <p>Using empty buildings for community</p> <p>The issue of the town centre being privately owned – restricts access for e.g. small local culture: shops/arts > some of the shops in shopping centre are empty – could be used for that</p> <p>Keeping the libraries open – some are really busy but keep getting closed</p> <p>Nothing for Youth to do</p> <p>Overall more social opportunities required</p>
	Hubs	<p>Encourage more hubs throughout the town</p>
	Infrastructure	<p>Better transport provision</p>

Glenrothes Area Proposed Programme of Anti-Poverty Work in 2015 – 16

Commitment has been given to funding towards the TOASTIE Project and the Glenrothes FoodBank Van. The following provides a breakdown of initiatives and projects for 2015-16:

- Job Clubs and Digital Skills Provision - Further decentralisation and development of Job Clubs and Digital Skills courses, increasing the opportunities for Welfare support and guidance to people, increasing the number of community venues used, providing necessary infrastructure (ICT) and contributing to running costs of community venues, Additional hours for ABE Tutor support provided at Job Clubs for more vulnerable people; (£25,000)
- Cooking on a Budget Courses delivered across the Glenrothes Area, includes pots and pans/utensils, a grocery/food voucher on completion of courses, delivered in Community Kitchen and range of Community venues, linking with Foodbank and Foodbank users, Delivery of Financial Capability Training/Budgeting courses to maximise peoples spending power, Training of Food Champions and volunteers and Partners; (£10,000)
- Confidence and Resilience building courses – Helping people take control of their lives, delivered around the Glenrothes area in conjunction with key partners and agencies e.g. Foodbank, Homestart, YMCA, Fife Gingerbread; Providing positive adult role models/mentors for young people in SIMD areas; (£15,000)
- Working with and supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged adults and families - Contribution towards the running costs for residential caravan which provides short breaks for disadvantaged families, Child care provision enabling parents to participate in Courses, Projects and Learning opportunities; Developing subsidised opportunities for families learning and playing together, Subsidised Physical activities for children, families and disadvantaged individuals from SIMD areas; (£15,000)
- Partnership working with Housing Services - Tackling Fuel Poverty; Promoting Digital Inclusion amongst Sheltered Housing residents in Glenrothes area; (£12,500)
- Glenrothes Consultation on Poverty - Including Stakeholders Event 29th August; (£6,500)

The above will complement and contribute to the Glenrothes Welfare Reform Area Action Plan.

Not all the funding has been committed as we want to be in a position to be able to respond to, and develop initiatives that are identified through the findings of the Glenrothes Poverty Consultation and Fairer Fife Commission.

I will Template

Following today's Poverty Consultation Event I will:

I would like to be involved in developing Anti-Poverty projects:

Yes

No

You can contact me via :

Any other comments:

Glenrothes 'Poverty Survey'

Glenrothes Community Planning Partners want to see what can be done at a local and practical level to tackle poverty. Your experience and views can help and will be treated in confidence. Please take some time to complete this brief survey.

1. Which of the following best describes you or your circumstances? (Please tick one box)

- I am not working at present
- I am a student/volunteer
- I work and receive Tax Credits
- I work in the voluntary/third or public sector (NHS, Council, etc.)
- Other (please describe) _____

2. Can you say how Poverty affects you? (Please tick as many boxes that apply to you)

- I have difficulty paying for the 'basics' (food, bills, etc.) regularly
- I have difficulty paying for the 'basics' (food, bills, etc.) sometimes
- It doesn't really affect me – I can manage my money
- I work with people affected by poverty regularly
- Other (please say how) _____

3. What services do you use/have you used? (tick any you have used)

- Glenrothes Food Bank
- CARF
- Scottish Welfare Fund
- Job Clubs/Digital Skills
- Other (please list any agencies you have used) _____

4. From your experience – What do you think could be done at a local level that would improve life for people affected by poverty in the Glenrothes area?

(Please continue over the page)

a.

b.

Thanks for your help and your time with this survey. If you'd like any more information please contact JP Easton jp.easton@fife.gov.uk 01592 583474.

