



cowdenbeath area

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

2015/16

Introduction

Our ambition is to make a lasting difference to the Cowdenbeath Area - an area where all citizens work together to achieve their aims; innovation and entrepreneurship is encouraged; people live in fuel-efficient, affordable housing; public transport is accessible and affordable; High Streets thrive; and people receive the care that they need when they need it.

Foreword



Councillor William L Clarke
Cowdenbeath Area Committee Chair

The coming years will require partners across the public and voluntary sectors together with private enterprise to work together in ever more creative ways as financial pressures increase. By collaborating effectively through local community planning we can address the issues that are of greatest importance to local communities, helping to reduce inequalities while making the Cowdenbeath Area a better place to live, work, visit and do business in.

Strategic Context

A Strategic Assessment was undertaken in late 2014 to provide the evidence base for identifying priorities for the Fife Community Planning Partnership – down to 7 area level – for the next three years (2014-2017). These priorities help to inform future work plans and area priorities, and provide a solid foundation for any future refresh of the Fife Community Plan and associated documents, including the Single Outcome Agreement.

The Strategic Assessment assists the prioritisation of issues both across Fife and within its seven committee areas, providing a robust, wide-ranging evidence base that allows Area Committees to make informed decisions and to set priorities that require medium to long-term action.

For the Cowdenbeath Area, the following issues were identified as potential high-level priorities:-

Changing the Mind Set and Aspirations of Young People

- Work with parents, carers and teaching staff to develop a culture of confidence in supporting children and young people to, 'be all they can be'.
- Identification of young people likely to require support in finding a positive destination at an early stage to support choices.
- Regular events to encourage employability and changing aspirations which is also connected to school attendance and the curriculum.
- Improved links between education and employment, including those to local businesses.
- Marketing and sharing opportunities with young people for employment and training.
- Supporting young people to attain employment through assistance with costs where possible.
- Consultation with young people to identify the barriers to changing mind sets and to work with them to create a strategy on tackling this.
- Supporting young people with mental health issues into employment with directed support from services and within local communities.

Community Empowerment (town centre, healthy lives, community care)

- Mapping exercise to identify 'true communities' across Cowdenbeath to support meaningful consultation.
- Consider various mediums by which consultation can be carried out and what will yield the most effective results.
- Town centre consultation to identify how the community would best use the area and what is required.
- Making use of community facilities to support local groups in early year's activities, education and training opportunities and healthy lives.
- Making use of the range of excellent community facilities in local villages and towns to provide access and training linked to Welfare Reform.
- Consultation with those affected by mental health issues to support services in decision-making and to allow communities to form their own support systems.
- Use of community facilities for alternatives to medication for persons suffering mental health issues.

Transportation

- Improved transport links to Fife's colleges which support course attendance.
- Incentives for businesses to provide suitable transport links for employees.
- Support for young people to travel to employment and for apprentice schemes.
- Community consultation on transport options and requirements.
- Affordable transport linked to the Welfare Reform Action Plan.
- Transportation options attached to community events to allow attendance.
- Work to influence effective routes within the Cowdenbeath area that reduce time to travel.
- Transport which allows Cowdenbeath to operate as an area rather than siloes within towns and villages.
- Transport to support people with mental health issues to take part in activities and access support

Priorities for the Cowdenbeath Area

Cowdenbeath Area Committee considered the evidence provided by the strategic assessment at its meeting on 28th January 2015. The Committee emphasised the importance of the issues identified within the assessment and stressed the need to:-

- continue to support Fife-wide work to maximise transformational change via the Early Years Programme;
- invest in measures to increase Employment; and
- consult on a vision for the future of Cowdenbeath Town Centre.

It was agreed to retain the three aims of the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan.

Improving Health & Wellbeing (Provision of quality care and support to all ages and all needs)

Reducing Poverty & Inequality (No barriers to aspiration, attainment and achievement)

Developing a Vibrant Economy (Maximising employment opportunities via innovation and regeneration)

A partnership working group led by an Area Committee Champion has been established for each of these aims. The three working groups are reviewing their work plans and these work plans will form the basis for reporting progress on the delivery of the Cowdenbeath Area Local Community Plan. Progress will be reported to the Area Committee; to partners; and to the wider local community.

ACTION PLAN 2015-16

Improving Health & Wellbeing				
PROJECT	ACTIONS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	LEAD (in bold) & Partners
Improve Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving community and professional knowledge of local services and support including self-help Physical activity programmes Social and Cultural Prescribing Positive role models Addressing mainstream service delivery 	Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB Active Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waiting lists for psychological referrals Reduce anti-depressant prescription rates Increase activity and employment among target groups 	NHS Community & Corporate Development (CCD) CLD Social Work Homestart Fife Gingerbread Urban Therapy Dunfermline Advocacy
Reduce Unplanned Teenage Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Get On My Level (Peer Support) Programme at Lochgelly High School 	Education & Children's Services Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced unplanned teenage pregnancies in Lochgelly High School catchment area 	Education & Children's Services CLD NHS
Drug and Alcohol Advice and Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving community and professional knowledge of local services and support including self-help Measure 'Next Steps' contract 	Safer Communities Budget Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced dependency on drugs & alcohol 	Fife Alcohol & Drug Partnership NHS CCD
Active Lifestyles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of and use of 3G pitches Delivery of four skate parks Development of public parks and Greenspace Provision of cycling routes and cycle loop Development of sport & leisure facilities 	Capital Programme Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB Section 75 monies External grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased physical activity Increased aspiration 	Fife Sports & Leisure Trust CLD CCD Transportation & Environment

Reducing Poverty & Inequality				
PROJECT	ACTIONS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	LEAD (in bold) & Partners
Reduce Child Poverty & Improve Children's School Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Early Years and Family Nurture Approach Improve uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers Increase Breakfast Club provision Childcare Vouchers 	<p>Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB</p> <p>Education & Children's Services Budget</p> <p>Welfare Reform budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children attend school ready to learn Improved attainment 	<p>Education & Children's Services</p> <p>CLD</p> <p>CCD</p> <p>NHS</p> <p>Social Work</p> <p>Homestart</p> <p>Fife Gingerbread</p>
Community Provision & Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish local food banks Develop local credit unions Undertake Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Develop Participatory Budgeting (PB) Support the delivery of Local Action Plans 	<p>Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB</p> <p>Welfare Reform budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food banks in Benarty & Cowdenbeath Increased Credit Union membership ABCD in Cowdenbeath PS catchment area Five PB events Community ownership of issues 	<p>CCD</p> <p>CLD</p> <p>Education & Children's Services</p>
Increasing Adult Literacy & Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop local Adult Basic Education (ABE) & ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Increase Digital Inclusion 	<p>CLD Budget</p> <p>Welfare Reform Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved literacy & numeracy Increased digital inclusion 	<p>CLD</p> <p>CCD</p>
Reducing Fuel Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering more affordable and fuel-efficient housing 	<p>Housing Revenue Account</p> <p>Welfare Reform budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of affordable and fuel-efficient homes 	<p>Housing</p>

A Vibrant Economy				
PROJECT	ACTIONS	RESOURCES	OUTCOMES	LEAD (in bold) & Partners
Thriving Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to deliver on Lochgelly regeneration programme Developing a strategy for Cowdenbeath Town Centre Promoting inter-generational work Developing cultural opportunities 	Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB Night & Day Challenge Fund Capital Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better facilities & 'offer' for visitors to local High Streets and Town Centres Engaged local retailers Inter-generational engagement and initiatives 	Economy, Planning & Protective Services (EPPS) CCD
Investment in Innovation & Entrepreneurship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage & invest in innovation and entrepreneurs 	Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB Business Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New services & businesses Increased employment opportunities 	EPPS CCD
Increased Youth Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing opportunities for Young People Building on Lochgelly High School Employability Initiative Development of work experience and modern apprenticeship provision 	Education & Children's Services Budget Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB Fife Community Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased employment opportunities Better-prepared Young People 	Education & Children's Services EPPS CLD CCD
Cleaner, Safer Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Communities Work Greenspace Action Plan Road Safety 	Area Committee Social & Economic element of LCPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued reduction in Anti-Social Behaviour Improved environment 	Area Services CCD CLD Housing Police Scotland Transportation & Environment