

### 1. Name of SOA case study

**Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership – Anti-Poverty Strategy**

### 2. What was the local need addressed by this SOA case study?

The 2006 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation estimates that 26,321 people in Renfrewshire (15.4% of the population) live in the most deprived 15% of areas in Scotland. In addition to a relatively high level of deprivation compared to other local authority areas, there are significant variations of poverty and deprivation at a spatial level within Renfrewshire.

The SOA national outcome 7 is: “We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society” and the Renfrewshire local outcome is “Reduced levels of deprivation”.

### 3. What was done – and by which partners?

In order to reduce the levels of deprivation in Renfrewshire, partners agreed in 2009 to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy. The purpose of the anti-poverty strategy is to ensure that partners work together effectively to provide support to people experiencing poverty and to support their routes out of poverty. The strategy will be focused on preventing poverty, intervening where it is known poverty exists, assist those in poverty and seek to ensure that any action taken is sustainable in the long term. This is particularly important at a time when the numbers of people experiencing poverty are increasing due to the economic downturn and recession and increasing levels of indebtedness.

Partners involved in the Anti-Poverty Strategy include Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Council for Voluntary Services,



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Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership, Jobcentre Plus and Housing Associations.

#### 4. What is the evidence of the benefits for communities – or if the benefits are still to be delivered, what is the timeline for that?

The benefits that the strategy will deliver for communities will be:

- Help people into work
- Improved qualifications
- Maximise income and reduce indebtedness
- Give children the best start in life
- Support vulnerable families
- Address health inequalities
- Address fuel poverty
- Meet housing quality standards
- Promote equalities
- Develop transport infrastructure and support economic activity
- Improve physical environmental conditions in deprived areas
- Reduce crime

Addressing poverty will be a long-term process. The strategy will be monitored on an annual basis with a report prepared and submitted to the Community Planning Partnership.

#### 5. What added value has the SOA process brought to the delivery of these benefits?

The Single Outcome Agreement process enabled partners to formally agree that tackling inequalities in Renfrewshire is one of the highest local priorities in Renfrewshire.

The Wealthier and Fairer Community Planning Group provides a forum to enable partners to address inequalities through

agreement of a joint strategy and action plan. The Wealthier and Fairer Community Planning Group is chaired by the Leader of Renfrewshire Council, who is also chair of Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership. The SOA and community planning process together have provided the policy commitment and brought together the appropriate officer resources to enable poverty to be addressed across partners.

#### 6. What next steps are you taking to meet this local need?

The Anti-Poverty Strategy will be presented to the Community Plan Leadership Group for agreement on 23 September 2009. An Action Plan will be developed by October 2009, which will then be implemented through the Wealthier and Fairer Community Planning Group, which has responsibility for delivering the inequalities aspects of the Single Outcome Agreement.

Following agreement of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, an Anti-Poverty Summit will be held on 9 November 2009. The purpose of this summit will be to launch the strategy and action plan and to agree the contributions that partners will make towards addressing poverty in Renfrewshire.

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