

THRIVING PLACES DRUMCHAPEL

COMMUNITY CONNECTING PLAN 2021 - 2024

Aim:

- To support the personal and collective empowerment of the people of Drumchapel.

Objectives:

- To respond to the research report “Living in Drumchapel”
- To connect local people to services available
- To feed into the Drumchapel Locality Plan
- To promote and exercise participatory democracy
- To stimulate critical citizenship
- To make Drumchapel a happier place to live
- To help the people of Drumchapel become all that they can be.

Our Research “Living in Drumchapel”

The Community Connecting Plan will contribute towards increasing local community empowerment so that local people can participate actively in tackling the different manifestations of poverty experienced in the community. Our research showed that many of the issues experienced by local people arise from feeling disenfranchised and powerless as regards to their personal and collective future in Drumchapel. We perceived this in our conversations where one resident said: *“Back in the day, there were people who made decisions about this area who actually lived here and they would get things done. If you needed something done you would see them about it.”* In response to these issues, we will organise regular community gatherings based on relevant issues which are affecting the local community. Issues around the use of vacant and derelict land and the future of community facilities under local control, are key to the development of Drumchapel. However, long standing issues like racism, homophobia and sectarianism did come to light in our research and we will bring the community together to engage in discussions around these issues, promoting a zero-tolerance approach. The underlying drive to these gatherings is to bolster and promote local people having more say about the future of Drumchapel and how more local people can become involved in the social, economic, political, and cultural development of their place.

A key issue which emerged was financial hardship, experienced by many residents in Drumchapel, both for those “in-work” and for those on benefits, as one person said: *“I am only ever four weeks from financial disaster. I have no savings if anything goes wrong.”* A wide range of issues result from financial hardship among which are literacy and isolation, on many occasions linked to mental health, as another person said: *“I feel like a prisoner in my own*

home sometimes; it's not good for me." In response to these issues we propose a series of educational and recreational activities among which are an increase in literacy classes, with additional support for asylum seekers and refugees through ESOL classes; a regular newsletter about activities and organisations in Drumchapel, distributed to all 7858 households on a regular basis, and outings to different places in Scotland to increase links between neighbours, contributing to making Drumchapel a more welcoming and caring place to live and work.

The research conducted from October 2017 to June 2018 focused on gathering data around the main issues local people wanted to see included in a Community Connecting Plan, which we list below. While recognising that all issues are important, we also are aware that we cannot attend to all of them. Consequently, we have prioritised those which have been mentioned most by local people, proposing relevant activities and how these activities will be delivered, over the next three years.

Drumchapel Community Connecting Plan: August 2021 – August 2024

Issue	Activity	Delivery	Timescale
Financial hardship	Support with income maximisation and IT skills	*Channel residents to DMAC * Offer access to free IT classes to support with Universal Credit	August 2021 – August 2024 August 2021 – August 2024
Literacy	Promote literacy sessions for a wide range of groups	*Increase the offer of ESOL classes locally *Organise literacy classes for general public	August 2021 – August 2024 August 2021 – August 2024
Zero Tolerance	Promote positive messages on race, ethnicity & sexuality	*Support community gatherings on these themes *Produce marketing material (billboards, leaflets) *Engage in thematic campaigns	August 2021- August 2024

Drumchapel News	Inform every household in Drumchapel about services, activities, and organisations available in Drumchapel	*Produce 4 newsletters per year to every household in Drumchapel	August 2021 – August 2024
Shopping Centre	Generate more positivity and community connectivity taking advantage of this space	Promote seasonal community events in the shopping centre area	2021 - 2024
Community Participation & Power	Generate more local awareness and control over the development of Drumchapel	Organise 2 community gatherings per year (thematic or general)	August 2021 – August 2024
Skills building	Increase local people's ability to intervene in society	<p>*Engage with schools on relevant research</p> <p>*Deliver 3 GU "Activate" courses in Drumchapel</p> <p>*Broaden community budgeting in Drumchapel</p> <p>*Engage in participatory research activities</p>	<p>October 2021 / June 2023</p> <p>September 2021, 2022, 2023</p> <p>September 2021 and March 2022</p> <p>September 2021, 2022</p>
Environment	Promote awareness and activities about the physical and social environment	*Organise seminar on strategic plans for Drumchapel	May 2022
Isolation	Increase connectivity between local people	*Organise 2 outings per year	2021 -2024

		*Engage with asylum seekers & refugees through weekly gatherings *Support specific celebratory events	September 2021 – August 2024 Christmas & EID 2022, 2023, 2024
Community Hub	Support the creation of a variety of community spaces under local control	*Continue to promote Thriving Places in the Chest, Heart & Stroke shop *Support the Community Council in a decision-making process regarding a future community hub	September 2021 – August 2024 September 2021 – March 2024

All of these activities will be open, indiscriminately, to the participation of the entire community of Drumchapel. To date, the Thriving Places methodology in Drumchapel has been one of direct contact with, and involvement of, local people, building capacity in the local community so that local people can develop a critical reading of their reality and engage in constructive processes to transform that reality, and consequently their own lives.

Aware of the effects of the covid 19 pandemic, we will conduct, with active involvement of residents, a participatory action research process, after the first year of delivering the Plan. The research will gather data on the level of recovery of the community from the pandemic and adjust the Community Connecting Plan accordingly.

Our Structure

We have a community connecting team of three workers, the community connector, employed by Cernach and two self-employed workers, funded through the National Lottery Community Fund.

Breakfast & Blether is a space where the agencies meet and where we update everyone on the progress being made.

The Community Connecting Team has a daily presence in the shop at CHSS in the shopping centre, attending to local people with a variety of issues, supporting and signposting where appropriate.

We receive support and meet on a regular basis with the CGC Community Planning and HSCP Northwest Health Improvement Team representatives, as and when required.

Regular updates are submitted to the Cernach Housing Association Management Committee as well as to staff at the Association.

Our Outcomes & Outputs

Outcomes

- More localised financial support on a weekly basis
- Improved IT skills and more local people with the ability to maximise their income
- More localised access to literacy activities, including ESOL
- Asylum seekers attending ESOL classes and other local people up-skilling their reading and writing thus better prepared to participate in society
- More information about Drumchapel and the activities ongoing in the area through the Drumchapel News and the community gatherings
- Local people more aware of places, services, and organisations available in Drumchapel
- More possibilities of free recreational activities to support people suffering from mental health issues as well as support for poorer families who are on low incomes and do not have the financial resources to visit other parts of the country or different cultural venues
- More opportunities to discuss the future of Drumchapel through the community gatherings
- More opportunities to challenge certain stereotypes and stigmas existing in the community, for example sectarianism, racism, homophobia
- Increased awareness around issues of discrimination of any sort
- A more friendly and welcoming shopping centre promoting different cultural events
- Increase in partnership delivery of services
- Increased sharing and solidarity between asylum seekers and indigenous residents
- Less isolation and more connectivity between neighbours and community members in general.

Outputs

- 12 Literacy sessions organised yearly in partnership with Anniesland College or another relevant partner
- 12 issues of the Drumchapel News delivered to all 7858 households over the three years
- 2 community gatherings per year promoted around relevant themes, chosen by local people
- 6 outings organised over the three years to tackle isolation
- Several sessions, in partnership with Children's Neighbourhood Scotland, in 5 primary schools and 1 High school on relevant issues and research projects delivered in Drumchapel
- Paid work for 2 local people, on a self-employed basis, as part of the community connecting team, actively involved in the delivery of the plan
- Regular meetings, as required, between Glasgow City Council CPP, the NWHIT and the community connecting team
- Yearly activities and financial reports produced within agreed deadlines
- Reproduction and dissemination of the Community Connecting Plan to local people and organisations.

Moving Forward

The Community Connecting Plan is open to all organisations and local people wishing to engage in the personal and collective empowerment of local people. Thriving Places will engage with and support, where and when possible, the wide range of initiatives which relate to the Plan's aim and objectives. We will keep the wider community informed of the activities being delivered. The wider public, including those who do not participate in these organisations, irrespective of their tenancy or any other social determinant, are all welcome to take part in the Community Connecting Plan.

Drumchapel, Glasgow

August 2021