

FORTH

NEIGHBOURHOOD  
PARTNERSHIP



# Forth Neighbourhood Partnership

## 2014 – 2017 Local Community Plan

### Potential Priorities

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#### Introduction:

Local consultation and engagement has been carried out with a view to identifying potential priorities for the new 2014 – 2017 Local Community Plan. This process has helped to identify high level themes as follows:

- **Healthier community**
- **Opportunities for children and young people**
- **Cleaner, greener and more attractive environment**
- **Community safety**
- **Employment and Training opportunities – particularly for young people**

Within each theme, a range of comments and suggestions were put forward and these have been examined further with a view to identifying potential priorities.

The potential priorities will allow for greater partnership based approaches to help tackle specific issues. Similarly, innovative methods can be tried and tested with a view to developing good practice.

It is clear from the engagement process that there are issues associated with neighbourhood services provided by the Council's Services for Communities, and these will continue to be tackled as part of the ongoing local service delivery. It is also recognised, as part of this, that two-way communication needs to be improved. A suggested format for this is provided later alongside suggested activities around the development of an Forth NP communications strategy.

#### Next Steps:

It is the intention of the Partnership & Information Team to undertake more detailed engagement with relevant stakeholders and key community groupings with a view to discussing the potential priorities outlined below and to agree the best structures to take these forward.

This will then allow further refinement, or where necessary change, before being presented to the NP in August 2014 for adoption.

## Proposed Priorities:

**Priority:** Increase Opportunities for all to live healthy lifestyles

**Themes:** Health/Tackling Obesity / Heart health / Physical Activity / Community Growing / Improved Mental Health

**Description:** An opportunity exists to encourage and support more people, of all ages, to engage in activities and programmes designed to improve lifestyles. By doing so, longer term benefits will include improved educational attainment, reduction in reliance on health based resources and increases in life expectancy.

**Justification:** The Forth Neighbourhood has a population of 33,211<sup>1</sup>. Over 5,172 individuals identified themselves as having fair to very bad health.

**Links:** The Edinburgh Partnership – Community Plan (SOA) 2013 – 2016: Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing with reduced inequalities in health.

**Potential actions:**

- Identify opportunities to increase the number of programmes of accessible physical activity aimed at all age groups
- Plan and develop local initiatives aimed at supporting healthy eating
- Develop events aimed at increasing awareness of existing support projects

**Partners:** Edinburgh Leisure, NHS Lothian, CEC Environment (Parks), Pilton Community Health Project, Spartans CFA, Community Learning & Development, Local Community Centres, Community representatives.

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**Priority:** Improve employment opportunities – with a particular focus on young people

**Themes:** Employability/training/further education/apprenticeships

**Description:** A number of developments are taking place locally and across the city which may provide positive opportunities to increase the number of local people accessing employment or training opportunities. Total Craigroyston also supports opportunities for local young people.

**Justification:** Long term sick: 1,346   Unemployed (16 – 24): 433   Never worked: 210  
Long term unemployed: 638

**Links:** The Edinburgh Partnership – Community Plan (SOA) 2013 – 2016: Edinburgh's economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all.

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<sup>1</sup> Scottish Census 2011

**Potential actions:**

- Engage with local regeneration activity to identify and support employment opportunities, especially apprenticeships and training;
- Engage with city opportunities e.g. St James' development proposals to identify and support employment and training opportunities across a range of sectors;
- Undertake local community survey to identify barriers preventing access to employment, training or further education opportunities and thereafter implement appropriate actions;

**Partners:** City of Edinburgh Council – Employability & Skills, Capital City Partnership, Local Regeneration Programme Manager, Total Craigroyston, Edinburgh College, Voluntary Sector, Community representatives

**Note:** *It is suggested that this priority can be managed and developed via the Total Craigroyston Community Connections Group*

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**Priority:** **Positively engage and support young people**

**Themes:** Engagement / decision-making / intergenerational work /tackling youth ASB

**Description:** Young people of all ages need to be better engaged with local community life, be better placed to have a say on decisions that affect them and be able to engage positively in a range of activities.

**Justification:** The Forth Neighbourhood has a young people population aged 0 – 11 of 5,260 and 12 – 18 of 2,642<sup>2</sup>.

There have been a number of incidents involving young people engaging in risk taking behaviour.

**Links:** The Edinburgh Partnership – Community Plan (SOA) 2013 – 2016: Edinburgh's children enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential.

**Potential actions:**

- Identify an appropriate youth group to manage and develop a wider youth engagement initiative to gather the views and opinions of young people in respect of local facilities and activities.
- Identify a range of actions to improve opinion and engagement levels.
- Engage with all service providers to promote and implement positive change.

**Partners:** CEC Community Learning and Development, Forth Voluntary sector, Total Craigroyston, Forth Youth Forum, Community representatives, Police Scotland, Children's Services Management Group Coordinator, City wide Voluntary Organisations

**Note:** *It is suggested that this priority can be managed and developed via the Total Craigroyston Guardians Group*

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<sup>2</sup> 2011 Census - Census Scotland

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<b>Priority:</b>	<b>Improve the way we engage with and support our communities</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	Communications/Capacity building/Social/Increased Access to services/Promotion
<b>Description:</b>	The Forth neighbourhood has a wide variety of organisations providing many different services which with greater promotion and reporting can help to increase participation at a number of levels.
<b>Justification:</b>	Many local residents and the Forth NP have indicated as part of the initial engagement and consultation that more needs to be done to promote 'community life' and opportunities to engage. The area is undergoing large scale redevelopment and opportunities to engage and inform the wider community must be in place if the process is to succeed.
<b>Links:</b>	The Edinburgh Partnership – Community Plan (SOA) 2013 – 2016: Edinburgh's communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.
<b>Potential actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and deliver annual capacity building programme in conjunction with a range of partners;</li> <li>• Develop a detailed communications strategy outlining themes, specific opportunities across the community for promotion and make better use of available tools.</li> <li>• Produce 'You said, we did' materials more regularly as part of wider strategy and improve reporting on single service issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Partners:</b>	Ad hoc

# Suggested Future Reporting Activity:

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## **Single service issues**

As mentioned previously, many issues raised as part of the initial engagement linked directly with services provided by the Council's local Services for Communities (SfC) service. In tackling these issues, there is limited scope for true partnership approaches.

It is recognised by the North Neighbourhood Team that without any specific clean, green and safe action group, a commitment to provide opportunities for two way dialogue must be identified. It is suggested that a new quarterly report is created which will outline performance around the core SfC business. The report will be widely circulated to Community Councils and key community groups. Further circulation will be defined as part of the new communications strategy.

It is intended that a member of the SfC management team will attend Community Council meetings to present the report and to listen to and act upon any local concerns. Once into a quarterly cycle, the reports will contain updates on progress made against local service performance and the concerns raised.

## **Communications Activity**

A new Communications Strategy will be produced to support the work of the 2014 – 2017 Local Community Plan. The strategy will use the baseline survey information currently being carried out as part of the Contact in the Capital pilot initiative and will ensure that the correct methods will be used to engage and inform as many people as possible.

The Strategy will be presented at a later date, once the priorities have been agreed by the NP.

## **Reporting to NP Board**

Once a Strategy has been agreed by the NP, updates will be presented on quarterly basis to highlight progress over the life of the plan.