



Rough Guide to Total Craigroyston

May 2013

Background

Total Craigroyston has been set up to improve outcomes for children and families in the communities around Craigroyston Community High School in North Edinburgh.

The initiative is about delivering the changes to the way that public services work that were outlined by the Christie Commission – that is, moving towards prevention and early intervention and away from ‘crisis interventions’, changing the relationship between public service providers and the local community.

Where we started

Last May we undertook an extensive consultation process which involved over 200 local people and local staff from 35 different organisations. From that exercise we have developed our Road Map which sets the direction for Total Craigroyston by identifying **seven themes** where people want to see action.

Our Road Map is available on our website at www.totalcraigroyston.co.uk.

A place to belong

A place to thrive

A place you know

A place to bring up a family

A safer place

A place to learn

A place to live

At local level the Total Craigroyston Management Group has been established to provide local leadership. This involves local managers from all the key organisations working in the area, including the voluntary sector.

We are involving local residents, making sure we work closely with the Forth Neighbourhood Partnership, and creating new and different ways of involving people who live in the community. One way that we are doing this is by encouraging people who use our services to tell their stories of what that feels like and to give us their ideas about what they would like to see change and how they want to be involved.



The Edinburgh Partnership oversees the work of Total Craigroyston and a steering group, chaired by Gillian Tee, Director of Children and Families manages the work on it's behalf. All key organisations including Lothian Health, The Police, The Council and voluntary sector have signed up to support the initiative. They have said we should do 'whatever it takes' to make improvements.



Who are we?

The Total Craigroyston team is based in the North Neighbourhood Office and the following people are involved:

Christine Mackay
Manager

Tim Packer
Senior Project Manager

Joanne Thomson
Getting it Right Facilitator

Tracey Devenney
Administrator

We also have several staff who have some of their time allocated to work

Allan Hosey
Community Learning
& Development

Sarah Low
Community Learning
& Development

Julie Crawford
Muirhouse Link Up
Project

Pamela Roccio
CEC Corporate
Governance

Diane Devlin
Children's Service
Management Group
Co-ordinator

David Happs
Lothian & Borders
Police

Billie Dunleavie
Save the Children

Clare Gibson
Youth Worker

What have we done?

Over the last six months we have been working closely with partners to put some of our ideas into action for example:

- ⇒ Working with local schools to improve the way in which local staff work together to support children and their families.
- ⇒ Providing joint training for local staff to strengthen their knowledge and develop better partnership working.
- ⇒ Agreeing a joint plan with local primary schools to improve ability in reading, writing and numbers.
- ⇒ Supporting the local community to run Play Out Days to improve children's access to outdoor play and we intend to do more of that during the Summer break.
- ⇒ Improving the co-ordination of clubs and activities for children and young people in the community, over 90 activities happening each week!
- ⇒ Encouraging groups to use Join in Edinburgh (www.joininedinburgh.org) so that local people can find out more easily what is on in the community.
- ⇒ Improving the arrangements for children moving from Primary 7 to S1.
- ⇒ Finding ways to support young people who are coming to the attention of the police and working together to keep them out of trouble

What Next?

Over the coming weeks we will be creating different ways of working with the local community through the use of Facebook, Twitter and developing local 'community conversations' about specific issues (the first one is about crime).

We have identified some families who receive support from several of our services and are looking at ways that we can improve joint working to ensure that the families themselves feel more in control of how their support is delivered. We hope by doing this work with a few families we will be able to identify ways of making services more preventative and positive for those involved.

We are looking at how we can support families to tackle housing concerns earlier to try to reduce the number of families becoming homeless. We also want to improve access to health services and other supports for families that are in temporary accommodation. With Early Years colleagues, we are testing out a more streamlined approach

"What makes young people get involved in crime?"

"What can be done about it?"

"Sometimes we find out there are ten different professionals going into a family home in a week" - Social Worker

Challenges

Some of the issues that have been raised so far are:

- ⇒ Difficulty in sharing information easily between organisations.
- ⇒ Staff feeling that the time they have to actually work with people is being eroded by the 'burden' of day to day administration.
- ⇒ Staff feeling that they can't be as creative in their work as they might be.
- ⇒ Supporting and developing effective community involvement.
- ⇒ Families feeling that they lack control over the processes they are involved in.
- ⇒ Changing the relationship between public services and local residents so that we can deliver services that are more effective and support real change in people's lives and the wider community.

"I'm not sure how to make change happen here. I think I need a qualification and I don't really understand how community councils work" - Local Resident

No-one imagines that achieving the kinds of changes we need to make is going to be easy – it needs everyone involved to be as creative and flexible as possible. We have been encouraged to do 'whatever it takes'. Let's take up that challenge and see what we can do.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

(Margaret Mead, anthropologist)

Contact us:

See our blog www.totalcraigroyston.co.uk

follow us on Twitter @TCEdin

Or contact Christine Mackay or Tim Packer on 529 5056,
or Julie Crawford on 315 6405