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**Social Affairs Thematic Group Update Report**

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**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report summarises the continued progress made by the Social Affairs Thematic Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Management Committee note the progress made by the Social Affairs Thematic Group.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 At the group's most recent meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 a number of key issues were discussed and scrutinised including; Community Learning and Development Youth Work, Social Affairs Scorecard and Consultation feedback from the Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan.

In addition, a number of presentations were made, including; Curriculum for Excellence – Lochgilphead Joint Campus, and Provisions of the new Alcohol (Scotland) Act 2010,

- 3.2 A presentation was given which highlighted the budget challenges being faced in the public sector and how these pressures impact on the Third Sector. The presentation highlighted the need for effective partnership working to ensure knowledge and resources are shared effectively to better meet the needs of our communities.
- 3.3 The group were given a presentation on progress made in relation to the implementation of 'Getting It Right For Every Child' (GIRFEC), a key government policy initiative which promotes emphasis on early intervention and improved outcomes for children.
- 3.4 After consideration of the Choose Life strategy which updated the group on Health Improvement across Argyll and Bute, the CPP agreed to give support, in principle, to the forthcoming draft strategies for Health Improvement and Mental Health Improvement. The group also gave a commitment to the 'See Me'

Pledge which aims at eliminating the stigma and discrimination of mental ill-health.

- 3.5 The group were given an update of examination results for 2011 by Chris Shirley, Quality Standards Manager. Comparative data was presented for both national and local comparisons which highlighted that Argyll and Bute is performing relatively well in a national context.
- 3.6 Discussion took place around the new combined Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) 2012-13. The new plan will bridge the year from the end of the current SOA to the end of the current community plan. Although new outcomes have been agreed the CPP Themes will remain the same and many of the success measures already being used for the current thematic scorecards will still be relevant to the new outcomes.
- 3.7 The next meeting of the Social Affairs Thematic CPP group will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and will feature presentations from Catriona McEntagart from Happy To Translate, on promoting equal opportunities through overcoming language barriers; and Raymond Flanagan (Youth Worker) on the Learning and Development Youth Work service.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Significant progress has been made over the year in achieving the group's objectives and this progress will continue throughout the following year through the development of strong partnership links and increased scrutiny and development of the Social Affairs Thematic Group scorecard.

#### **For further information contact:**

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