

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: Motherwell Area Committee	Subject: MOTHERWELL COMMUNITY FORUM - UPDATE OF MEETING OF 22 FEBRUARY 1999	
From: Liaison Director		
Date: 9 March 1999	Ref: CE012/023/010	

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the presentation and discussion at the Motherwell Community Forum of 22 February 1999.

2.0 Background

2.1 At the initial Community Forum meeting of 29 June 1998, a programme for forum meetings and presentations was agreed.

2.2 At each of the Community Forum meetings, from September 1998 until December 1998 the subject of young people was raised in discussions as diverse as Community Safety, Ravenscraig Development, Poverty and Deprivation.

3.0 Community Forum Meeting - 22 February 1999

3.1 It was proposed (by the Convener) that as a result of these previous discussions the focus of the February meeting be on Young People. An agreement was reached with the Education Department that a presentation on the 'Raising Achievement' Strategy take place.

3.2 The presentation was undertaken by the Education Departments, Adviser: In Guidance.

3.3 A note of the meeting is appended to this report.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 The presentation was well received by those Forum members present and the level of debate which took place at the meeting highlighted the efforts being made by the Council to work with young people to raise self esteem, confidence, educational attainment and tackle truanting.

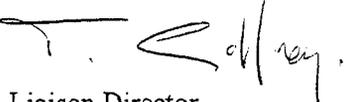
4.2 In consideration of the imminent departmental restructuring and the proposed changes in departmental responsibility for supporting the development of Area Committees and Community forums, no further meeting of the Forum has been arranged.

4.3 It is proposed that a meeting of the key members of the Community Forum be organised with the Convener, Vice-Convener, Liaison Director and Chief Executive's departmental representative to discuss the continued development on the Motherwell Community Forum.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommend that Committee:

- a) approve the organisation of a further meeting of the Motherwell Community Forum in order to discuss proposals for the future development of the Forum; and
- b) otherwise note the content and enclosures to this report.



Liaison Director

MOTHERWELL COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

MONDAY 22 FEBRUARY 1999
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE, MOTHERWELL

<u>In Attendance:</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Councillor M Ross	Convener - Motherwell Area Committee
Eleanor Murray	Social Work Department
Archie Ferguson	Education Department
Bill Davidson	Community Education Service
Annie Johnstone	Community Forum Member
James Gordon	Strathclyde Police
James Penman	Cathedral Primary School
Felix Mulholland	Cathedral Primary School
Stephen Robertson	Dept of Leisure Services
Paul Carty	Strathclyde Police
Scott McCutcheon	Strathclyde Police
David Cowan	Jerviston Tenants and Residents Association
Harry Morton	Ladywell Primary School Board
Jonathan Smith	Housing Department
Mary Costello	St Lukes
Bill Rintoul	Greenacres Residents Association
Harry Clifford	Near Not Dear Food Co-op
Edward Morton	Clyde Valley Tenants Association
William Merrit	Clyde Valley Tenants Association

Apologies

Provost Mathieson
Councillor Wilson
Councillor McLaughlin
Councillor W Martin
Councillor Connolly
Councillor Scott
Councillor Craig

Introduction

Councillor Ross (Convener of Motherwell Area Committee) welcomed all in attendance to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to highlight the Education Departments' 'Raising Achievement' Strategy.

Presentation

Archie Ferguson the Adviser: In Guidance for the Education Department was invited to give the presentation. Mr Ferguson highlighted a number of aspects to the Strategy including the following issues:

- the clear links between deprivation and lack of achievement
- deprivation and disaffection with school
- high absence and truancy rates in some areas
- low career aspirations by young people suffering from deprivation

Mr Ferguson suggested ways in which the 'Raising Achievement' Strategy would assist in tackling these issues:

- improving the quality of teaching and teacher morale
- teachers need to value young people
- targeting resources to combat underachievement
- celebrating success in North Lanarkshire Schools

What is meant by achievement?

- multiple intelligences
- improving self esteem
- improving motivation
- improving on determination
- improving on sporting achievements
- improving on previous best

A booklet had been produced by North Lanarkshire Council which highlighted a list of the good practice within the authority area. This had been distributed by local authorities throughout Scotland

The Education Department has put in place a number of initiatives to assist the 'Raising Achievement' Strategy:

- an early intervention programme
- expansion of the early years service
- Summer and Easter schools to support young people
- swimming programmes
- authority awards
- supported study
- schools shows
- outward bound courses for the majority of pupils
- home school partnership; and,
- targeting success

Many of the Education Departments targets are already being met including Early Years targets which include is looking at the role of parents as prime educators. In particular the parents role in homework tasks.

The presentation included a number of other proposals including young people's links to the Careers Service, Drug Awareness inputs and links with other agencies to highlight issues for young people.

Discussion

A wide range of points were raised by Forum members relating to the Raising Achievement Strategy, these included:

- concern about the increasing importance of targets within schools
- the number of teachers on temporary contracts
- multi-agency initiatives to raise awareness of the drug problem
- the role of the parent in raising issues
- staff development

Main Issues

Councillor Ross summarised the discussion and the main issues that had emerged from the evening. He also highlighted the Council's developing Strategy for Young People including the programme of consultation events which had been well attended by young people across North Lanarkshire.

This Strategy was at the developmental stage and it was anticipated that after a final consultation meeting a draft Strategy would be presented to the new administration.

Next Forum Meeting

No date has been set for the next Forum meeting, details will follow.

Conclusion

Councillor Ross advised that a note of the meeting would be sent to forum participants and again, thanked everyone in attendance for participating in the discussion. He then closed the meeting.