



Your Moray - Your Community

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GROUP ON 5 NOVEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY SUPPORT UNIT

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1. The report seeks to update members of the Community Engagement Group on the progress of the Community Support Unit

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group note the progress of the Moray Council Community Support Unit**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the meeting of the Community Engagement Strategic Group on 13 August 2009 the development of the Community Support Unit was discussed.
- 3.2 Staff are currently undertaking a detailed phased assessment of community group support needs which it is envisaged will be complete by the end of November. This consultation will provide the basis of a unit plan.
- 3.3 At the meeting of the Community Engagement group held on 13 August 2009 it was reported that a series of meetings would be held to discuss the impact of the new unit on adult learning provision.
- 3.4 Meetings were arranged with partners and other stakeholders in Elgin Library and Forres Community Centre on 1 September 2009; Keith and Buckie partners meetings were arranged in Buckie on 4 September 2009, with the Milnes and Lossiemouth meeting being held in Lhanbryde on the same day. Due to very poor levels of response, only the Elgin and Forres meetings were able to go ahead. There were not enough people to make the meetings elsewhere worthwhile and they were cancelled.
- 3.5 At the Elgin meeting, which had a good attendance, there was concern that targeted learning was affected in Elgin and that there is still a gap in Family learning, parenting and in targeting the more disadvantaged individuals. The existing courses and classes had been allowed to run their course.

- 3.6 Partners were asked if they could identify within their own resources a way of meeting this particular need, particularly for young parents and those who lacked the confidence to enter even informal learning. There was a feeling that the skills of CLD staff were required to carry out this particular kind of work. This issue will be discussed by the Community Learning and Development Group and by the Lifelong Learning Forum.
- 3.7 Given the poor turnout, it is proposed that stakeholders are contacted to identify why turnout was so poor and to engage how partners can be more actively involved identifying a solution.
- 3.8 Adult learning work continues within the unit, firstly in the form of Adult literacy, and English as a second or other language. Unit staff still have responsibility for support to the Adult Literacy Partnership. This work remains unaffected.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

a) **Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**

This initiative will contribute to National Outcome 11 in the Single Outcome Agreement; "we have strong resilient communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others" and to National Outcome 15; "our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs".

b) **Policy and Legal**

The Local Government Scotland Act 2003 requires that the community Planning Partnership engage with community bodies and organisations as part of the Community Planning process. In April 2008 the Scottish Government (SG) and Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) issued a joint statement of commitment to community empowerment.

c) **Consultations**

Consultations with staff and trade unions have taken place and the staff are currently engaged in meeting with Community groups across Moray to determine the level of need and service required from the unit. Meetings have been held with stakeholders in the provision of targeted learning across Moray. Further consultation will be sought

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **It is recommended that the Community Engagement Group notes the progress on developing the Community Support Unit.**

Author of Report: John Ferguson Community Planning & Development Manager
Background Papers:

Signature: 

Date: 21/10/09

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