

REPORT TO: HEALTHIER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 8 JUNE 2011

SUBJECT: GOOD PLACES, BETTER HEALTH PILOT PROJECT

**BY: ANITA MILNE – VOLUNTARY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP MORAY
ANN DAVIDSON – RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROJECT**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 For information, and to provide an update on the pilot research project that is currently being undertaken in Lhanbryde by Rural Environmental Action Project (REAP) on behalf of the Scottish Government. This research is for a three-stage project that aims to engage with a local community as equal partners to identify the links between environment and health, with the intention of facilitating the empowerment of participants to effect change in their environment and lives.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **Members are asked to note the interim report which is attached to this paper. The project is on-going and a final report will be submitted to the Healthier Strategic Group when completed.**

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In October 2008 the Scottish Government launched the *Good Places, Better Health – A new approach to environment and health – implementation plan*

3.2 *Good Places, Better Health* offers an innovative approach to understanding the complexities and to finding more effective and inclusive ways to engage national and local stakeholders.

3.3 The project is being led by REAP Scotland, a local sustainable development charity based in Keith. REAP held initial discussions with Lhanbryde Primary School and Lhanbryde Community Challenge, a community organisation who manage the Lhanbryde Community Centre and engage with the local community to address issues of social inclusion and citizenship. Both local organisations indicated their interest in collaborating on this project. Additional community development and social research support is provided through the Good Places, Better Health Intelligence Co-ordinator.

3.4 The project has three distinct stages – Stage 1 – Rapid appraisal and engagement with the local community, including Lhanbryde Primary School, Lhanbryde Community Challenge, and GPs and pharmacists serving the area. Stage 2 – In depth engagement work – the focus of the work following up on the issues identified by the participants, with the facilitators holding an awareness of the four key EDPHiS themes of childhood health and obesity, asthma, accidental injury, mental health/wellbeing and seeking to encourage full exploration of these issues when raised, without detracting from exploration of other emergent issues. Stage 3 – Action - An action plan for a longer-term project will be drawn up by participants that aims to address the issues identified through the previous process. The plan will be based on practical proposals for realistic interventions that can be made within the built

environment, both external and within the home, as well as proposals for the more effective utilisation of existing assets within the natural environment.

3.5 Timescale (approx)

- Stage 1 Completed January 2011
- Stage 2 to commenced January 2011, completed May 2011
- Stage 3 to commence June 2011

4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/ Service Improvement Plan

***Good Places, Better Health* supports five of the National Outcomes**

- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- We live longer, healthier lives
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations

(b) Policy and Legal

Not applicable

(c) Financial implications

Funding for the pilot project is being provided by Scottish Government.

(d) Risk Implications

Nil known

(e) Staffing Implications

Staffing implications for voluntary sector partners engaged in the project only.

(f) Property

Not applicable

(g) Equalities

REAP and Lhanbryde Community Challenge adhere to their equalities policies..

(h) Consultations

The community of Lhanbryde and service providers.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 This project is helping to demonstrate the value of the voluntary sector in undertaking community engagement and capacity building, and provides detailed information on the links between the environment and health for the MCPP and Scottish Government.

Authors of Report: Ann Davidson - REAP
Anita Milne – Voluntary Sector Partnership
Moray/Lhanbryde Community Challenge

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