

**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER THEME GROUP ON 19 FEBRUARY 2009**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

**BY: MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 To provide the Safer and Stronger theme group with an update on the establishment of the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 **It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Theme group note the establishment of the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the Safer and Stronger theme group meeting held on 13 November 2008 it was agreed that a Social Inclusion Co-ordinating Group be established to take forward the Social Inclusion Strategy.
- 3.2 The group have met on three occasions and at the first meeting agreed a role and remit for the group based on the outline provided by the Safer and Stronger Theme group, see **appendix 1**.
- 3.3 The group has membership from the Moray Council's Chief Executives office, Community Services and Educational Services, Skills Development Scotland, Grampian Police, the NHS, MVS0 and HIE.
- 3.4 The group will have responsibility for the co-ordination of operational groups that include the Employability Group, formerly called More Choices More Chances group, which has been merged with the Workforce plus initiative.
- 3.5 The group will have operational management of the Fairer Scotland Fund

- 3.6 The group recognises that in order to achieve the aims set out in the Social Inclusion Strategy the Partnership will need a mechanism to ensure that the initiative is cross cutting and that the partnership as a whole is involved and engaged in its implementation. It is likely that the group may respond and provide papers to other theme groups for example on employability to the Wealthier and Fairer group and around the 16 + learning choices initiative to the Smarter group.
- 3.7 At the meeting held on 21 January 2009 the group discussed equalities and the issue raised by the Moray Equalities forum around the need for training in equalities. The group felt that joint partnership training should be undertaken with representatives from the equality forum and agreed that this be raised with the Partnership

#### 4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The Community Plan commits the Partnership to developing the Social Inclusion Strategy. The Partnership will ensure that the key principles set out in the Strategy are reflected in all strategies, policies and actions plans where appropriate.

The Strategy will apply across all thematic groups however the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group has the appropriate remit to oversee the Strategy. The Single Outcome Agreement contains a number of actions that contribute to the Strategy and have been listed in the attached Outcome Statement.

The Fairer Scotland Fund is closely aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and the investment will allow the Partnership to invest in actions outlined in the SOA.

##### (b) **Policy and Legal**

The Scottish Government views on the use of the fund are outlined in 3.6 of this paper. The Moray Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government in Scotland Bill 2003 part 2 section 16(1) to initiate, maintain and facilitate the process of Community Planning. The introduction of a 'Duty of Community Planning' through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 emphasises the importance of considering social inclusion in the community planning process. As outlined in the Strategy document, the Partners have a number of strategy and policy documents that impact on social inclusion and social justice. The former Scottish Executive issued a series of targets, "Closing the Opportunity Gap", and these are considered within the Strategy. There are a number of National Priorities issued by the Scottish Government and contained within Moray's Single Outcome Agreement that the Strategy seeks to address. The Scottish Government announced as part of the Concordat between it and Local Government that the Fairer Scotland Fund would be established to assist tackle poverty and deprivation across Scotland. Moray Community Planning Partnership has been given an allocation over the next three years to assist in tackling deprivation and poverty in Moray.

**(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

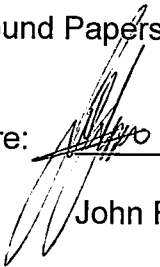
Adoption of the Strategy and associated Outcome Statement commits the Partners to specific actions however these form part of the SOA. The Fairer Scotland Fund allocation for Moray will assist in tackling specific issues and can assist in supporting the Strategy. The financial and personnel management issues will be subject to the financial and personnel regulations of the Moray Council.

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The Social Inclusion Implementation Group has been established and the Safer and Stronger Theme Group is asked to note the progress**

Author of Report: John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Officer

Background Papers:  
Ref:

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date : 6/2/09

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