

**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC THEME GROUP ON 21
MAY 2009**

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND – MORAY YOUTHSTART

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

One of the key objectives of the Fairer Scotland Fund Submission indicates a requirement for improved coordination and integrated working among services supporting disadvantaged groups. The Fairer Scotland Fund team now needs to consider how to develop this.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Theme Group ask the Social Inclusion Implementation Group to carry out an investigation into the feasibility of the Moray Youthstart Partnership being used to develop initiatives to improve coordination and integrated working among services aimed at young people.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Fairer Scotland Fund submission was presented last year by the Moray Community Planning Partnership (MCPP) to the Scottish Government and outlines the MCPP's approach to the use of the Fund in tackling poverty and deprivation in Moray. It seeks to address how the Fund could be used to assist in regenerating our most disadvantaged communities, improving the life chances of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage and improving employability, particularly for young people and other hard-to-reach groups.

3.2 The Fund is intended to be used as a catalyst to influence service planning and delivery and direct mainstream resources to best effect in tackling poverty and disadvantage. It has been agreed that the Fund should not be promoted as a grant scheme or bidding process. Rather it would use the partnership structure to allow the process to be linked into the partnership's priorities in the Single Outcome Agreement and objectives around social inclusion. This also takes account of the 'cross-cutting' nature of the process of tackling poverty and disadvantage.

3.3 Within the Fairer Scotland Fund submission it recognised that there is a need to look at current networking and communication structures. Previous research has highlighted that although improvements have been made in this area, more work is required including the need to develop a clearer understanding between partners of their respective roles. The Fairer Scotland Fund team is currently investigating how best this objective can be achieved.

- 3.4 In recognition of the strong desire among partners not to create another partnership group the Fairer Scotland Fun team would like to investigate as a first step the feasibility of utilising the existing Youthstart partnership as a catalyst to develop this work. It is recognised that the Smarter Theme group has a central role in developing cross cutting work in relation to the Smarter theme. There is currently no group addressing young people's issues across all the themes.
- 3.5 The Youthstart partnership was historically responsible for the delivery of the Regeneration Outcome Agreement (ROA) 2005/2008. This agreement adopted a thematic approach to tackling disadvantage with a focus on young people. During 2008 the partnership was seeking to identify what contribution they could make within the new community planning structures. An external evaluation of the work of the partnership was commissioned by Youthstart and recommended that; the Youthstart partnership should continue, that it could effectively support developments within the new community planning structure and it should continue to promote effective communication and integrated working among services. It also highlighted one of the key strengths of the partnership as being the cross cutting nature of its work.
- 3.6 The Youthstart partnership has not been discussed by the Community Planning Partnership, however the Youthstart partners have indicated a desire to continue to operate as a partnership working towards improving communication and integrated working among services and across themes with a priority on vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. It is on this basis that the Fairer Scotland Fund Team would like to investigate the feasibility of utilising this partnership.

4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans

One of the key objectives of the Fairer Scotland Fund submission includes 'Improving life chances of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage' and part of this includes the requirement for ongoing developments around networking and communication. The Fairer Scotland Fund submission is aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and will enable investment in actions to achieve the priorities outlined in the SOA.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Fairer Scotland Fund has been established to assist tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland, as part of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities.

(c) Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)

There are no resource implications resulting from this report.

(d) Consultations

The Social Inclusion implementation group were consulted on this issue.

The Youthstart partnership and other Community Planning Partners will be consulted as part of the investigation.

The Safer and Stronger theme group are being consulted.

5 CONCLUSION

Development of the Fairer Scotland Fund key objectives is required. Utilising existing partnerships where appropriate can be regarded as best practise and avoids creation of additional groups increasing resource requirements. The Youthstart partnership has been recognised as potentially being able to support the development of Networking and Communication and this requires to be investigated further.

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Background Papers: Fairer Scotland Fund Submission

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