

Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee Annual Report 2010-11



<p>The year in figures.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £149,887 of funding was awarded for projects and grant applicants during 2010/11 • 35 grant applications were approved • Funding totalling £44,100 was approved for two major projects (ROAR; and Street Stuff diversionary activities) • A further £50,000 was allocated to priority playpark projects 	<p>Community Representatives</p> <p>Sandra Liddell Hugh Cameron David Woodrow Bill Campbell Joan Melville Neil Barrington John Ross R Finnie Linda Fyfe Mary McFadyen Linda Gillies John Taggart Iain Cameron Robert McNally Anthony Rush Maureen Henderson Gordon Lethorn Ian McLean Iain Wilson Jean Cumming Allan Haldane Ryan Smith James Coats Nan McBride Rebecca Garnett Jansen Healing Elizabeth Grant Lynne Meehan Marion Berekis Janet Hardie Elaine Tyrrell Stephen Hedges</p>
<p>Elected Members: Iain Nicolson (Convener) Carol Puthuchearry (Vice Convener) David Clews Audrey Doig Allan Noon Michael Holmes Iain Langlands Jim Harte James McQuade Sam Mullin</p>	

Statements by Convener and Lead Officer

Councillor Iain Nicolson (Convener)

The purpose and direction of our Local area committee has inevitably changed and evolved as time goes on. The purpose of the LAC is to inform, discuss and articulate the viewpoints of our local community groups. Our Local Area Committee has a different set of needs and issues than others and this is how it should be, as we cover a large number of Renfrewshire villages and urban areas. I would like to thank all the representatives, from a wide range of organisations, who continue to support and contribute to the work of the LAC and also to thank elected members who understand that the LAC is a forum for the community to express its view and for them to listen, learn and advise.

Ken Graham (Lead Officer)

2010 was my first year as Lead Officer for the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine Local Area Committee. As a newcomer to the LAC, I have been encouraged by the level of involvement from all of the communities within the LAC area which was reflected in the good attendance and participation at all of the meetings throughout the year.

One of the main aims of the LAC is to involve local communities in decisions that affect them and it is important that all of the communities in the area benefit from the grant funding distributed by the LAC. I think that the list of grant recipients is a positive indication that the grant funding is being spread throughout the area to organisations that benefit local communities. Good examples are grant awards to the Erskine Youth Council, Bishopton Village Nursery and the Bridge of Weir Festival Committee. Significant funding was also provided to support major projects within Renfrewshire such as ROAR, Street Stuff Diversionary Activities and priority playparks.

The meetings of the LAC have provided those attending with the opportunity to consider reports on local issues from Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and the Community health Partnership as well as from senior officers from the Council and Renfrewshire Leisure.

Looking forward, the LAC will continue to provide a route through which the local communities can have a dialogue with the Council and other public services and an opportunity to make decisions on funding projects that are important to those communities. Based on the evidence of 2010, I am optimistic that the LAC will continue work effectively despite the challenges facing public services in 2011.

LAC Grant applications

The five LACs made a total of 265 awards to grant applicants during 2010/11. In terms of feedback, against a target of 90%, 94% of applicants were either very satisfied or satisfied with the information they received; 95% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the way they were treated; 96% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the helpfulness of staff; 95% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the knowledge of staff; and 93% were either very satisfied or satisfied with the time they waited for a response. The overall satisfaction rating for the LAC grant application process was 94%.

2010/11 Community Planning Partner Reviews

Renfrewshire CHP

Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership has supported each LAC since they started by sending representatives and supplying local information and briefings. Below, I have presented information on life expectancy and breastfeeding. Life expectancy and our strive to increase it and narrow the inequalities gap is a key high level target in the Community Plan. Increased breastfeeding rates is a target for the CHP and the Single Outcome Agreement. We have previously discussed breastfeeding at LACs.

Health and Wellbeing Profiles 2010

A clear picture of health and wellbeing within Scotland's Community Health Partnerships is highlighted in reports recently published by the Information Services Division.

Renfrewshire has an estimated total population of 169,910. Male life expectancy at 73.0 years and female life expectancy at 78.4 years are both lower than the Scottish average of 74.5 years for males and 79.5 years for females.

Breastfeeding

Our target in Renfrewshire is to increase the proportion of new-born children exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks to 28.4% by March 2011. The current rate for Renfrewshire is 21.4%, which is below the Greater Glasgow and Clyde average of 24.1% and the Scottish average of 26.4%.

There are significant differences in the exclusive breastfeeding rates across Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside and Erskine. The rate in Linwood South is well below the Renfrewshire average at 10.3% whereas the rate in Houston South is 3.9 times the Linwood South rate at 40.2%.

Exclusive Breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks	
Linwood South	10.3%
Renfrewshire Average	21.4%
Scottish Average	26.4%
Houston South	40.2%

The full Profile Reports can be accessed at <http://www.scotpho.org.uk/profiles>

Strathclyde Police

Attached is a brief synopsis of the work carried out by your local Community Policing Team in the past year.

We have recently conducted brief interviews with the local community to identify their concerns.

They again identified their top 3 priorities as

- 1) Drug Use and Drug Dealing
- 2) Drunk and Disorderly Behaviour.
- 3) Assault and Violent Crime.

Actions to date

Our Officers carry out regular patrols, mainly on foot or on cycle, robustly targeting youth disorder and seizing alcohol from underage drinkers.

Serious Violent Crime is down in this area and at a record 10 year low across Renfrewshire.

We have identified local drug dealers, executed search warrants and reported offenders to the Procurator Fiscal.

Officers have searched more persons for drugs, alcohol and weapons than in any previous year.

Officers have issued more fixed penalty notices for anti social behaviour, in particular drinking in public, than in any previous year.

Local officers continue to work with partner agencies including the ASSIST team to identify youths who are starting to come to the police's attention so that early intervention can be taken to discourage anti-social behaviour.

We have carried out joint visits with Renfrewshire Council Anti Social Behaviour Team (ASIST) to the families of gang members to leave them and their families in absolutely no doubt as to the consequences of their actions.

In conjunction with ASIST Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been agreed with several gang members and where these are not complied with ASBOs are being progressed. We have also successfully obtained Bail Curfew Orders in respect of several prominent gang members, confining them to their home address between 19.00 and 07.00 hrs each night.

Several gang members are now taking part in the KANDOO gang diversion programme run by Renfrewshire council which involves presentations and discussions topics such as gangs, knife crime and conflict resolution. We have compiled a comprehensive gang's profile, identifying gang members their associates and relations, territories, vehicles and usual clothing.

Test purchase officers are regularly used to ensure that licensed premises are abiding by licensing laws. Test purchase operations have also been carried out on unlicensed premises believed to be selling cigarettes and alcohol to underage persons.

We also carried out regular checks on premises selling knives to prevent these getting into the hands of local youth. One local shop keeper has been reported to the Procurator Fiscal for illegally selling knives.

From a preventative perspective, we are also targeting the gangs issue through the schools. Campus Officers are working with head teachers to de glamorise gangs and highlight the damage such anti social behaviour causes to the community. This is a work in progress and will consist of a number of

presentations and workshops throughout the year.

Quarterly updates are placed on the Strathclyde Police Web Site where details and contact information for your local Community Officers can be found.

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue

I am pleased to be asked to give a brief outline of the ways in which personnel at your local Fire Station have been working to make our Communities safer places in which to live and work.

Our response in the event of an emergency, is the aspect of the fire service which the majority of people still identify us with, and remains a crucial part of how SFR strives to make our communities safe places to live, work and visit. Since we changed to a “fire and rescue service”, from a “fire brigade” in 2005 this has been very publicly demonstrated in our response to terrorist incidents and building collapse. However, the protection of our communities and the people within them starts long before any emergency arises.

Through education, community safety initiatives, and with the enforcement of fire safety legislation, we are working to reduce the number of emergency incidents which occur. We target our resources for prevention on a risk basis such as targeting secondary fires, anti-social behaviour and automatic fire alarm reduction.

Your Station is strategically placed with the appropriate number of fire appliances relative to the local risk, with teams of highly trained and skilled staff available on a 24/7 basis provide emergency cover to the whole of the Area. Although much of our day to day activity is spent in trying to reduce the number of emergencies which occur, when they do we want to make sure that we respond as safely, effectively and efficiently as possible whilst minimising the impact our actions have on the environment.

SFR continues to engage with our Communities and work in partnership with our community partners to deliver a wide range of educational initiatives and activities young people from your area have attended the following programmes this year.

Firereach

An initiative that has been developed by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue as part of our youth engagement strategy, to positively engage with young people. Firereach will seek to develop the core skills of young people such as self-confidence, team working and problem-solving, whilst also focussing on fire related anti social behaviour education.

Safe Kids

This event is a multi-agency experiential learning programme for all P7 pupils in Renfrewshire covering all aspects of safety including: safety in the home, drugs awareness, internet safety, fire safety and water safety.

YPAP (Young Person's Alcohol Project)

The project is a Multi-agency approach aimed at tackling alcohol misuse and is delivered to all S2 pupils in Inverclyde and Renfrewshire.

Area and Station plans as well as Fire Safety advice are all available via our website www.strathclydefire.org . In addition for a free Home Fire safety Visit please 0800 0731 999.

What we have done

2010/11 Action Plan Priorities

- In terms of community safety, the LAC awarded £20,000 towards a youth diversionary project which made use of facilities such as street football, Renfrewshire's Youth Bus, The Box, mobile skate park and gym bus. The project operates at several locations across the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine area with 1100 young people participating. Vandalism and youth disorder incidents have fallen by 19.9% compared to the first two quarters for 2009/10.
- Also in terms of community safety priorities, as part of the Clean Renfrewshire campaign the Council's graffiti removal services have been incorporated into a re-engineered StreetScene approach which is being developed by Environmental Services. This will result in 5 multi-disciplined squads of community caretakers tackling graffiti and other environmental improvement works throughout Renfrewshire. This new improved service will provide a more responsive service for local communities and will be complemented by an enhanced Wardens Service and increased community engagement activities.
- In terms of health and wellbeing initiatives, two main projects have been supported. £24,100 was awarded towards the cost of establishing two Reaching Older Adults in Renfrewshire (ROAR) clubs in the area and enhancing an existing club. Funding was also provided to support an event to develop a project aimed at helping people to live longer and healthier lives by supporting them to self-manage any long-term conditions they may have in a sustainable and proactive way (ALISS project). Progress on both these projects is provided on a quarterly basis.
- Issues relating to the misuse of drugs and alcohol had also been raised by LAC representatives. In this connection, the Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership sponsored an Alcohol Awareness Week and also referred a number of young people to the Renfrewshire Adolescent Drug and Alcohol resource (RADAR). The Alcohol and Drug Partnership provided £5,000 of funding to provide group work and diversionary activities for these young people.
- The LAC asked that an investigation into the pricing structure for halls and other community facilities be carried out. In this connection, The 'Places and Spaces' sub-group of the Active Renfrewshire Implementation Group have undertaken an audit of recreation and leisure facilities across Renfrewshire, the results of which will be submitted to all 5 LACs.
- A similar local priority was improving information and publicity about the availability of activities in the area. A presentation was made to the meeting of the LAC held in November, 2010 on the development of a community activity database by the Council's Libraries section.

Feedback from grant applicants

Healthier

“Basketball**paisley** is a large community based organisation and arguably one of the most successful Clubs in Scotland. It was honoured with the Queen's Award in 2009 for outstanding community involvement. During recent years, Local Area Committees' Funding has enabled the Programme to focus on increasing grass roots participation, whilst nurturing the sports stars of the future.

Throughout Renfrewshire thousands of young girls and boys, of all abilities, have engaged in free basketball activity, as players, coaches and officials. In doing so, they have learned new skills, worked as members of a team, developed confidence and responsibility and become fitter and healthier for modern day life. In addition, LAC Funding has continued to support partnerships with Strathclyde Police by meeting the needs of many youths through community based initiatives which strive to increase life chances and promote good behaviour.”

Lindsay Lang (Basketballpaisley**)**

(Awarded £875 to develop the Basketball**paisley** programme)

Safer & Stronger

“Get Oot Get Active funded a series of activities during the October week, providing activities for all residential children's units within Renfrewshire. Young people from all of the units took part and had a great time.”

Andrew MacLeman, Get Oot, Get Active

(Awarded £1,740 by the LAC towards the cost of developmental activities for accommodated young people)

Smarter

“The funding has enabled the group to continue their personal learning experience, through weekly sessions at the Beechwood Centre in Shortroods, Paisley. As part of this project the group has recorded a CD of Gaelic song, poetry and prose which will be used as a resource for other learners. The CD was officially launched on 17th November 2010. Preparation for the CD has involved the group in development of business, artistic, marketing and presentational skills in addition to the more obvious development of language and cultural heritage knowledge and skills. The benefit to the wider community has been through the group conducting outreach sessions to schools and local community groups to raise awareness about the Gaelic language and heritage, which we believe will be valuable in the run-up to the National Mòd which will be held in Paisley in 2013. The outreach work has also served to foster a climate of inclusion.

Alasdair Law, SONAS Gaelic Group

(Awarded £586 for the development of a Gaelic language project)

Older People

“Thanks to the funding from Renfrewshire’s LACs, we will be able to set up new ROAR Clubs in communities where they are most needed. The Clubs are a great way for older adults to get together socially. As well as a healthy lunch, Club members can experience a whole range of activities including gentle exercise, therapies, arts and crafts, themed dances and even ‘cruises’ to different countries without leaving their local area!”



Linwood ROAR event

Alison Greig, ROAR Operations Manager

(Awarded £30,300 towards the establishment of three ROAR clubs in the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine LAC area)

Healthier

Girls On The Run is an exciting new initiative designed to improve fitness and help increase self esteem and confidence of the girls taking part. There have been 5 sessions at Linwood Sports Centre unfortunately due to the adverse weather conditions the remaining sessions had to be cancelled. These will resume in the new year when the weather improves!!

The girls have been actively involved in designing the programme and will resume training in the New Year with the goal of participating in their first 5K. Funding from LAC has allowed us to design and pilot this exciting new initiative and when the pilot is finished we would hope to offer sessions in other areas of Renfrewshire.

Helen Moir, Jogging Buddies

(Awarded £2,200 towards the establishment jogging sessions for young women in the Houston, Crosslee, Linwood, Riverside & Erskine LAC area)

Safer & Stronger

Renfrewshire Street Stuff – This initiative has delivered, on six evenings per week, youth diversion activities which include street football, the Renfrewshire Youth Bus and Gym Bus to identified areas of antisocial behaviour. Locations within the LAC have included Linwood, Bargarran, Houston, Bridge of Weir and Bishopton, Over a six month period attendances at the activities have reached nearly 1100 and police statistics have shown a decrease in vandalism and antisocial behaviour of 19.9%.

The 'initiative' has been nominated for, and won several top community partnership awards both locally and nationally.



Renfrewshire Youth Bus

Safer & Stronger

148 people attended the one day gender violence community event held in Paisley Town Hall.

The Baldy Bane Theatre group presented a short play called Crush about negative influences on our young people. It went down very well with the audience who felt that it explained really well how difficult it can be growing up in this day and age because of all the influences telling them what they should think and do.

The Rosie Project from Glasgow did a short presentation then ran a series of workshops that looked at young people and how they were affected by the media, music and advertising. As parents we were shocked to hear and see the blatant advertising and music with sexual or violent undertones aimed at the 12 years plus age group.

The highlight of the day was the unveiling of White Ribbon memorial Plaque in Dunn Square. Over 100 men and women joined together to condemn violence against women and to remember those who have been murdered by a violent partner. This campaign (take the White Ribbon Pledge) will become an annual event here in Renfrewshire where we will try to increase this number year on year.

Louise Moore, Women & Children First (Awarded £1,200 towards the cost of the conference)