

## Total Craigroyston Briefing Note for local partners

April 2012

Total Craigroyston has been established to improve outcomes for children and families in the neighbourhood around Craigroyston Community High School. Our initial focus will be on looked after children to ensure that all necessary support has been identified to ensure that they have the best opportunity to succeed in their lives. We will also be working to reduce the need for children to become looked after, and that means finding ways to offer support at an earlier stage and in a variety of ways.

The idea is to take a holistic approach – ensuring that all of the local resources in both the statutory and the voluntary sectors are on the same page, facing the same direction and contributing to the agreed outcomes. Crucially, people who are using services and those who live in the area will be involved in deciding what is required and contributing ideas about where and how it should be delivered. Local staff who know the community, its strengths and challenges, will be also central to the development.

It is important to think of Total Craigroyston as an approach rather than a project! We know there is lots of excellent work going on in the area and we will build on that. However we must be brave enough to acknowledge that there is duplication within the system. When necessary, removing this duplication will allow us to re-invest those resources in services that can be offered earlier to prevent the need for children to become looked after in the first place. To us this means building on community strengths, engaging earlier and more effectively with service users, doing more preventive work, creating better linkages between partners, improving communication and developing parity of esteem between organisations - among other things!

Between now and the end of June an organisation called *SNOOK* is helping us to engage with local people and local staff. We have asked *SNOOK* to help us think about how our services are delivered, staff and community perceptions of their delivery and to identify where we may be able to make improvements and work at an earlier stage. We want to involve the widest range of people in coming up with solutions to the issues we face - this is a time to bring all your creative ideas about doing things differently to the fore!

I will be in touch with you again to let you know the key dates for the *SNOOK* events.

There is a small team of staff working on Total Craigroyston – Christine Mackay, Tim Packer, Diane Devlin, Cathy Wood, Craig Stephen, Sarah Low and Allan Hosie. (not all full time!). We are based at the local neighbourhood Office in 8 West Pilton Gardens. Tel no 0131 529 5050. email [Christine.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Christine.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk). Please contact us if you'd like more information.

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