

Total Craigroyston – Update for partners

December 2012

As we approach the Christmas break we thought it would be a good time to update you on some of the progress that we have made with the Total Craigroyston initiative since the Autumn.

Our Road Map was finalised in September and that sets out the direction that the Total Craigroyston initiative will be taking. It identifies seven themes and a number of changes that people would like to see take place over the coming months. We held a number of events to feedback the content to those involved and took the opportunity to ask for pledges of support. The offers of help were very welcome.

For example, the North Edinburgh Youth Issues Forum undertook to produce a youth and children's activity calendar and this is now available on the Neighbourhood Partnership website and on the Total Craigroyston Blog (more of which later). Our young people were also involved in a project with Snook where they explored how they could be more involved in decision making. As a result they produced a newspaper called The Matter, which outlined all their ideas. We are hoping to have a second launch in the New Year and will invite local partners to hear their ideas. You can see a copy of The Matter on our Blog.

We have appointed a teacher to help with implementing the Getting it Right for Every Child framework within the area and she has been working with schools and other partners to streamline and embed the approach in our day to day work. A practice development session for staff was held on Wednesday 12th Dec. It focussed on real life issues and helped 35 staff from a whole range of organisations to discuss how they could work better together to support children and families. Two more sessions are planned for January and February 2013 and we would urge other staff to take up the opportunity where possible.

Our primary schools have agreed a joint plan to improve literacy and numeracy and have been working closely with Craigroyston Community High School in taking this forward.

Social Work colleagues have reviewed all the arrangements for children who are looked after by the local authority to ensure that there are good support structures in place for them and are working closely with schools so that they do as well at school as possible.

In the health service, our school nursing colleagues have re-organised themselves so that one school nurse can focus his attention on the schools in the Craigroyston Cluster and provide more consistency. Staff from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service are now involved with us and our health visiting colleagues will soon be re-establishing the 27 month check for young children.

One issue that was raised consistently in our consultation was the need to try to offer more consistent support to families facing challenges at an earlier stage so that problems do not become crises. We have been exploring ways that we can do this and we will be testing out a few ideas in the coming months. If these ideas prove to be successful then we try to apply them more widely.

Two new partnership groups have been established; the first one to identify and support young people who have left school and who are not yet in employment or training and the other one is to

explore how we can reduce offending and improve community safety. Both these groups are in the early stages but show signs of filling a gap.

Plans continue to be developed for the regeneration of Muirhouse and one thing that local people identified was how unsightly the gap site is. Subsequently, wild flowers and bulbs have been planted (thanks to the Council's Regeneration Team and the Centipede project) so hopefully by the spring the area will look much better.

The condition of the shopping centre came up again and again as a concern. Recently the doors have been removed and there are plans to remove the roof early in the New Year. However, it will be difficult to make any long term improvements until the new development has at least started.

The Regeneration Team has taken over the old butcher's shop to display information about the redevelopment plans and the Council has taken the opportunity to circulate some information to local residents about the forthcoming changes to housing benefit and other welfare changes. Muirhouse Link up is also using the shop in the period before Christmas to promote community activities.

We have identified a number of areas that we want to explore with colleagues in housing that we think will improve things for local residents and reduce disruption for people who are facing housing problems. We are also involved in identifying changes that should be made to housing options for young people leaving care.

Several new community groups have been established through the Muirhouse Link Up Project, including bingo, a children's party group and community cinema. Ideas for the New Year include archery and chess! Three new well attended homework clubs have started, a regular 25 children attend a community drama group run by the Lyceum and taking place in North Edinburgh Arts and another 24 are involved in the North Pole group – an outdoor activity group run by MYDG's My Adventure. Craigroyston Community High School is now open on a Tuesday evening for sports activities for young people again run by MYDG.

We are also working with groups of parents and community members to improve the range of information available in the area and early years staff will be running a Raising Children with Confidence course for the parents of babies and young children early in the new year.

There are many areas still to take forward but we hope that this briefing will give you a flavour of the range of work that is going on just now.

In the meantime we have set up the Total Craigroyston Blog and will be using that to post news, information and events.

If you register on the Blog (it's very easy), you will receive an email to tell you when new information is posted.

Go to www.totalcraigroyston.co.uk and follow the subscription details.

We hope you have a good Christmas and New Year!