

Let's make poverty a thing of the past.

Poverty Leadership Panel Newsletter

March 2021

Welcome to the March edition of the PLP Newsletter. In this month's newsletter we have various updates, the latest reports, an article by CAP member Bernard and links to the PLP notes from our meeting on 2nd February.

Spring has almost sprung and things are looking more positive in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. Hopefully it won't be too much longer before we're back to what we now call the old days...that is 2019!!

COPE has produced this directory of information and services, that you may find useful. It's well worth a look.



Whits happening
issue 13.pdf

PLP meeting

Action notes from the PLP meeting held in February can be viewed at the PLP webpage, click on the link: [PLP webpage](#)

NEWS

Inside Housing are reporting that "Ministers have abandoned plans to allow social landlords to update the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) about changes to tenants' rents in bulk after testing the system for 18 months. This means that it'll be the responsibility of every tenant who lives in RSL property, for example a Glasgow Housing Association house, to notify DWP when their rent changes and by how much. Fairly straightforward if you are able to use IT, however for those who are not digitally aware it could cause rent arrears to build up, anxiety, negative impact on their credit score and potential threat of eviction.

If you're one these optimistic positive people who say that nothing is impossible, try slamming shut a revolving door!! 🙄

Your Mental Health Matters

Remember to access your Mental Health Matters from Hilda Campbell at COPE. Every day Hilda provides tips and exercises that will help keep you, your colleagues, friends and family in a good state of mental wellbeing. You can visit COPE online by clicking here [COPE](#). If you don't receive the daily "your mental health still matters" emails from Hilda, send your details to admin@cope-scotland.org and you'll be added to the emailing list.

CAP update – Bernard Rospendowski

STEM - Pathway Out of Poverty

Bernard Rospendowski is a member of the PLP's Community Activist Panel (CAP) and his passion is the promotion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) in the community and workplace as an effective means to tackle poverty by the creation of jobs and wealth based on STEM ideas generation and development. STEM promotion may involve highlighting its relevance to everyday life and disadvantaged young people in particular may then see the importance of STEM resulting in ideas generation and in educational attainment gap mitigation.

Bernard has been involved in encouraging STEM promotion in the community by getting involved with retail businesses, for example representing CAP at STEM event days in The Forge Shopping Centre in Parkhead.

Schools, colleges, universities, libraries, science centres, museums and art galleries, sport centres, community centres, and health providers, etc., can be involved in STEM promotion.

STEM may now be perceived as more relevant to everyday life by virtue of the devastating effects of the coronavirus crisis and the development, using bioscience, of vaccines, etc. In order to regenerate jobs and wealth, lost due to the coronavirus crisis, and so prevent a descent into impoverishment for many, STEM promotion will be indispensable. The green economy, including renewable energy and green transport, with its reliance on STEM may produce many jobs in the near and long term. The emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics and the coronavirus-induced increased use of digital information and communications technology will require that current and future generations be versed in STEM skills.

Restart Programme

Restart is an NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde project that supports NHS-referred individuals who are experiencing, or are recovering from, mental health issues. The project provides therapeutic and employment-oriented training, which is based at Alexandra Park, Bridgeton, Firhill, and Maryhill. Training topics include: information technology; music; catering; horticulture; woodwork; art; creative writing; digital photography; genealogy; and mathematics. Bernard Rospendowski is the Restart Maths Tutor.

Famous Quote

“Poverty is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit.” — Eli Khamarov, writer

Latest reports

The COVID-19 Crisis and Universal Credit in Glasgow: January 2021

This is the third working paper in the series on Universal Credit (UC) in Glasgow and Scotland. It uses publicly available Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) data to investigate the income crisis among low income people who access Universal Credit in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic with a focus on data at the Glasgow City local authority level. Click on the link to read the full report:

[Crisis & UC In Glasgow Jan 21.pdf](#)

The Glasgow Disability Alliance launch their Manifesto for Equality Now

The GDA's Manifesto for Equality Now is highlighting how disabled people face barriers, inequality and poorer outcomes across all areas of life. Poverty, prejudice, and lack of understanding prevent them from accessing vital services and information; accessible housing, transport, environments; equal opportunities in education, employment; civic participation and social connections. To read the Manifesto in full click on the link below to the GDA page and download the report: [GDA publications Manifesto](#)

Glasgow's Local Child Poverty Action Report 2019/2020

The LCPAR for 2019/2020 was approved by the council's City Administration Committee on 25th February, a copy can be viewed by clicking the link: [GCC LCPAR 2019/20](#)

OPFS Covid Impact Report

The latest report by OPFS detailing the experiences of lone parents through the Covid-19 pandemic is now available via this link, the latest report is Dec 20 – Jan 21

[OPFS Reports](#)

Other news

People living in the 10% most deprived Scottish neighbourhoods were 11.2 times more likely to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice than those living in the 10% least deprived Scottish neighbourhoods. [Link to article](#)

If you would like to contribute with relevant information on what is happening in your area to help tackle poverty in Glasgow please send the details to gerry.quinn@glasgow.gov.uk. I hope you find this Newsletter useful and interesting.