

- FULL MARKS FOR COMMUNITY LEARNING
- GLASGOW FORT SHOPPING PARK TO CREATE JOBS
- NATIONAL THEATRE COUP FOR GREATER EASTERHOUSE

KIDS NEED THEIR DADS FIVE-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT



Making a difference in Greater Easterhouse

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Editor's note

Welcome to PQ, Greater Easterhouse Partnerships magazine supporting events, projects and services that make a real difference to peoples lives in Greater Easterhouse.

Winter is definitely upon us and perhaps time to look for a new job or retrain? Look no further as GEDC and John Wheatley College have teamed up to offer retail and customer care training to help local residents get jobs in the new retail park taking shape in Auchinlea. Find out how you could benefit on [page 3](#).

If you or a member of your family is experiencing problems around alcohol then you might be interested to find out more about GEAAP's new befriending service – see how they can help on [page 4](#).

Improving neighbourhoods is always a top priority so we've featured some developments taking place in Ruchazie as well as highlighting the work of Streetwatch (CCTV service) promoting safer communities ([see pages 6-8](#)).

Improving services for young people in Greater Easterhouse is vital so we have decided to promote three projects working with young people to tackle unemployment, health, smoking and anti-social behaviour. Find out more on [page 10](#).


Finally, Greater Easterhouse is buzzing with the news that its £9.5m Cultural Campus is to be home to Scotland's first National Theatre – great news for Greater Easterhouse and Glasgow. Read all about it on [page 12](#).

I hope this issue gives you plenty to think about. If you have any suggestions or story ideas for the next issue please contact me either by email at this address jacqui.mackenzie@greatereasterhousepartnership.co.uk or phone Greater Easterhouse Partnership on 0141 771 9338. I look forward to hearing from you.



Jacqui MacKenzie, Editor




 Young people from Greater Easterhouse enjoying a five-a-side football tournament aimed at encouraging more proactive 'healthy parenting' – [see page 9](#)

All Change

Greater Easterhouse Partnership, which coordinates investment plans and supports community and voluntary organisations in Greater Easterhouse has appointed a new Partnership Manager.

David Fletcher who held the position for over 10 years has left to join Glasgow Housing Association as Neighbourhood Renewal Manager. David said: "I hope to support the continued regeneration of Greater Easterhouse from my new role and wish the Partnership every success for the future."

Replacing David as Partnership Manager is Jonathan Brown previously Development Officer for the past three years. Jonathan said: "I know the area and projects well and am looking forward to working with community representatives and agencies to make Greater Easterhouse a better place to live and work."

Also joining the Partnership is Alison Bissell as Monitoring & Evaluation/ Peoples Panel Officer and Lynne Bryden as Development Officer.

If you would like to make contact with the Partnership support team please call 0141 771 9338.

Jonathan Brown	Partnership Manager
Lynne Bryden	Development Officer
Gerry McHugh	Development Officer – Cultural Campus
Denise Symmington	Development Officer – Youth Issues
Alison Bissell	Monitoring & Evaluation/Peoples Panel Officer
Jacqui MacKenzie	Marketing and PR Officer
Carole Ure	Clerical Officer

Shopping for Glasgow's Future

Top retail names, 2000 jobs, a new supermarket and something to shout about – that's what the brand new Glasgow Fort shopping park will mean for Greater Easterhouse and Glasgow as a whole.

This £140 million development is the result of a joint venture between Pillar Property plc and Capital and Regional plc, who jointly own and manage over 10 million sq ft of retail space throughout the UK.

Covering over 400,000 sq ft on a 70 acre site at Auchinlea Park, when Glasgow Fort opens in autumn 2004 the big High Street names such as Next, Miss Selfridge, Wallis, Principles and Boots will be rubbing shoulders with a Virgin Megastore, Beaverbrooks and JD Sports. With negotiations with other retailers well underway, the development is already 75% pre-let.

US architects, the Jerde Partnership International, have created a scheme with an inner and outer retail terrace, mirroring the traditional High Street shopping experience. This combined with dedicated access from the M8, 1900 free car parking spaces and a new 130,000 sq ft Morrison Supermarket on adjacent land, will make this a must-visit

destination for people from as far afield as Lanarkshire and Cumbernauld. Local people will benefit from comprehensive public transport links, including a bus interchange and dedicated taxi rank.

To complement the shopping, Glasgow Fort will also feature restaurant and food outlets, a crèche, landscaped areas and outdoor seating. The first unit to open will be Mecca Leisure early next year and other exciting leisure developments are in the pipeline for the future.

Mark Stirling, Director of Pillar Property, is enthusiastic about the development and says: "This is an important project for us as it is one of our top three shopping parks. Fort Kinnaird in Edinburgh has proved a winner and all the signs are there that Glasgow will be equally, if not more, successful.

We are talking to an impressive range of retailers, many of whom would not normally

consider out-of-town locations, and anticipate that we will see several 'firsts' in this respect. All of this will help us achieve our aim of providing a quality environment that gives customers the range and choice they are looking for to make sure they keep coming back."



Opening Doors to Retail Jobs

With 2000 jobs being created at the new Glasgow Fort development at Auchinlea local people are going to be spoiled for choice in terms of retail jobs. Greater Easterhouse Development Company (GEDC) and John Wheatley College have teamed up to make sure local people get all the plum jobs by offering a new retail and customer service skills training programme.

Ronnie Saez, the new Chief Executive of GEDC says: "The retail park being developed at Auchinlea is a huge opportunity for local people to access quality retail jobs right on their doorstep. We want to make sure local people are at the top of the jobs queue by offering the

sort of training and skills that employers value."

The part-time 14 week programme offers 60 local people (anyone over 16 and who is currently unemployed qualifies) the chance to learn all about customer care, communications, basic information technology and cash handling as well as first aid, personal presentation and health and safety. The first phase of the programme is now underway with a second phase starting in November.

Ronnie continues: "It won't be long before retailers start recruiting so it's important that people start thinking about getting themselves job-ready now. I would urge anyone interested in a retail career to make contact with our

team at GEDC to access a place on this excellent programme."

Ian Graham, Principal of John Wheatley College, says: "The College has great experience in this area. We ran a similar programme, in Shettleston in partnership with Tesco, which was hugely successful and helped local people access jobs directly with their new superstore in the east end."

If you are unemployed and would like more information on this Retail and Customer Care Training Programme please contact Opportunities into Work, Shandwick Shopping Centre on 0141 771 5591.

Childcare Extra

Childcare Greater Easterhouse has secured £194,000 from the Scottish Executive's Social Justice Fund for childcare to help increase access to affordable childcare to local parents involved in employment, training or education.

→ The Hullabaloo Nursery at John Wheatley College

Colin Agnew, manager of Childcare Greater Easterhouse, explains: "The aim of Childcare Extra is to give additional and focussed support to families who still face problems in accessing local childcare services. We will be working with existing education, training and employment networks to identify ways of meeting the childcare needs of their clients as well as working with parents who are preparing to go into employment or learning."

Colin continues: "What's different about Childcare Extra is the ongoing support and advice we can offer parents through our mentoring, subsidy and holiday wrap-around initiatives. The Childcare Mentors will help parents overcome childcare related problems which might lead to them giving up a job or place at college. The Childcare Mentor will also be able to provide information and advice on the Children's Tax Credit as well as budgeting more effectively to cover the costs of childcare."



It is intended that Childcare Extra will provide ongoing support for up to six months by which time parents and children will benefit from stable childcare provision. The project will also look at supporting local childcare providers to

develop more flexible provision in response to shift and late night work patterns.

For more information on Childcare Extra contact Colin Agnew on 0141 781 9222

Cash Bonanza for Older People

Older people in the Greater Easterhouse and the wider East End area have benefited from a unique partnership project between Eastern Local Health Care Co-op and Greater Easterhouse Money Advice Project (GEMAP) with funding from Greater Glasgow NHS. The project has resulted in over 200 people receiving an income boost of more than £710,000 in one year.



The project involves local nursing staff using their unique relationship with patients to identify patients they are working with who may meet the qualifying criteria for Attendance Allowance. Once identified the patients are referred to a dedicated welfare rights officer.

Tony Quinn GEMAP Coordinator says: "This project has allowed us to work with a client group who have traditionally been reluctant to approach money advice services. Attendance Allowance is the most under claimed of all the welfare benefits and has the potential to significantly increase the income of an older person. We have built excellent relationships with the community nurses within the LHCC and look forward to continuing this work over the next year."

LHCC Public Health Practitioner Janet Tobin adds: "Low income is one of the factors involved in poor health and this project has benefited our older population directly by putting money into their pockets. This allows them to purchase goods and services to assist in their day-to-day lives and contributes to improving health. Our nurses have received very positive feedback from patients about the service and we are delighted to be working in partnership with GEMAP on this."

If you would like further information on the above project or require money advice please contact GEMAP on 0141 774 5535.

Alcohol Awareness

Greater Easterhouse Alcohol Awareness Project – better known as GEAAP – has launched a new befriending service for clients after securing just over £45,000 from Greater Easterhouse Partnerships' Key Fund, NHS Glasgow and the Robertson's Trust.

GEAAP which offers, amongst other things, a free and confidential counselling service to anyone concerned about their own drinking or affected by someone else's use of alcohol is delighted to be able offer this innovative service.

Stewart McKay, acting manager for GEAAP said: "Befriending is used in other projects throughout Scotland and we thought it would be an excellent way of supporting clients with alcohol problems."

The project, which has recently employed Mary Fisher as befriending coordinator, knows GEAAP well.

Mary says: "I first made contact with the service after experiencing my own alcohol problem. With GEAAP's help I managed to

turn my life around. The experience made me want to help others and I trained as a volunteer counsellor before moving into prevention work. I am delighted to be back with the project and feel my own experience gives me an insight and empathy into the complex issue of alcohol use."

Mary continues: "The counselling which GEAAP offers only lasts an hour a week and while this is hugely beneficial it doesn't help clients address the every-day issues. If you have an alcohol problem just getting up in the morning to make your appointment can sometimes be a struggle. Our trained befrienders act as the persons 'buddy' to help them overcome fears and access health, leisure and education services."

GEAAP is currently recruiting befrienders for the project so if you have experience of alcohol and the adverse effects it has on individuals and families please get in touch. GEAAP offers full training and expenses.

Please telephone Mary Fisher, Befriending Coordinator on 0141 773 4908

→ Mary Fisher the Befriending Coordinator for GEAAP



Cathy's Story

I want to tell you my story and what helped me.

I started drinking heavily around five years ago. I was unhappy at home, and used drink to cope.

I lost my job three years ago and that made me worse – soon I was drinking every day.

Like many people, I knew I had a problem and did everything in my power not to admit it.

The Social Work Department became involved, and the thought of losing my kids terrified me. I realised that I wanted a better life for my children and me. It was the Social Workers who told me about GEAAP.

It wasn't easy talking about to a counsellor, I found it very hard to trust and felt paranoid – sometimes I got myself into a state about silly things – gradually I learnt to trust and started being honest with my counsellor and myself.

As time went on, my counsellor told me about the Alcohol Information Service (AIS) drop in and it was great to be part of a group that understood my problems and felt the same as me.

I needed both projects and still do, now I have learnt to listen to other people with drink problems.

After I felt I had dealt with my alcohol problem I wanted to give something back and became more involved with GEAAP. I am now a Director of the Company and sit on the board with other ex-service users.

I'm now happy to say I'm proud of myself, something I didn't think I would hear myself say a few years ago.

Healthy Communities

The Greater Easterhouse Community Health Project set up over seven years ago, aims to improve the health of local residents through a range of health initiatives and projects.

→ George Murray from the Community Health Project and small helper distribute fruit at Easterhouse Health Centre



Gaille McCann, project coordinator says: "Glasgow as a whole has some pretty horrendous health statistics and Greater Easterhouse bears the brunt of this. For example, a man living in Glasgow's poorest areas is expected to live five years less than someone who comes from Edinburgh. We are trying to address these health inequalities so that people in Greater Easterhouse can enjoy the same standard of health and well-being as anyone else."

The project has three health development officers all working on initiatives to improve health in Greater Easterhouse.

Gaille continues: "One of our most successful initiatives has been our milk token and fruit cooperative. We work with local nurseries to offer families access to affordable fresh fruit and milk by cutting out the middle man. We also offer healthy eating and cooking advice through 'Get Cooking, Get Shopping' and we are currently supporting a roving chef who is working with local community cafes to offer healthier choices on their menus."

The project has also given rise to a number of other health related projects which now stand on their own. For example the Teen Health Project, H4U, GP referral system and New Horizons – the community drug

rehabilitation service – all started out under the Community Health Project's umbrella.

Gaille adds: "Working in Partnership is important to us and we work hard to involve others in our work and the work of others. We recognise that not one agency or service can solve the problems we face here in Greater Easterhouse, however together we have a far greater chance of making a real difference to local people's lives."

The Community Health project is currently looking for volunteers to help run the milk token and fruit cooperative. If you could spare a few hours each week then please call the Community Health Project on 0141 781 1566.

Community Health Centre Gets Refurb

Anyone who has visited the Health Centre recently will have noticed some big changes to its layout and physical appearance.

The Centre which is currently undergoing a five phased redevelopment – planned for completion in the autumn of next year – is celebrating a new community reception area, new clinical rooms and vastly improved pharmacy access.

Other improvements include a new welcoming entrance (as opposed to two previously) and easier access to mental health services.



Ruchazie Community Church

Ruchazie Community Church is soon to get a makeover with building works taking place in January to create a new community space fit for the 21st century.

Rev Bill Hunter says: "The Church has always been a focus for the community and is used regularly by groups like the credit union, nursery, youth clubs, Ruchazie Housing Association and the like. We really needed more modern and up-to-date facilities and are planning to have meeting rooms, office space, new kitchen and toilet facilities as well as store room and café and a new, more welcoming reception area. This means we will have a truly multi-functioning space, which can accommodate not only the needs of the church

but also a wide range of community groups and organisations."

The renovation, costing £400,000 will be funded through a partnership, including Greater Easterhouse Partnership, Ruchazie Parish Church, the Church of Scotland, the Community Fund, Lloyds TSB, various foundations and Communities Scotland.

Bill continues: "We are hopeful that all the necessary building works will be complete by May 2004 when we celebrate the Church's Golden Jubilee. We will of course be commemorating such a momentous anniversary with a huge party to which everyone is invited!"

→ Artists impression of the new Ruchazie Community Church



Putting Our Communities First

The Scottish Executive recently launched a consultation Putting Our Communities First, which aims to tackle the devastating effects of anti-social behaviour on our communities.

Greater Easterhouse Partnership recognising the importance of this issue to local residents organised a series of local meetings across suburbs, in addition to a half-day seminar, to coordinate the areas response to the Bill. Events were well attended with representatives from agencies, the community and Glasgow City Council.

The coordinated response highlighted the following issues:

Protecting and Empowering Communities

- Greater police accountability, information sharing and joint working is recommended, in addition to a more proactive approach.
- Reparation to communities, although welcome, concern was voiced over making an example of children. It was considered more important to provide educational and positive alternatives to divert young people away from negative behaviour.
- The Partnership recommends that resources be made available to communities to bring forward local solutions to encourage participation of young people and to reward active citizenship.

Preventing Anti-Social Behaviour Children and Families

- The Partnership suggests that early intervention strategies and support mechanisms for children and their families would be most effective. It was felt that parenting orders should only be imposed as a last resort. There was a concern that the new legislation would put significant pressure on services including social work, the reporter and the court system.
- With regard to the extension of Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) to children under 16, it was agreed that a child should not be looked at in isolation, and all circumstances regarding family and environment should be taken into consideration. It was generally agreed that if ASBOs be introduced for under 16s this should be accompanied by a support to both child and family.

- In connection with electronic monitoring of under 16s, it is agreed that in exceptional circumstances this may be preferable to secure accommodation.

Safe, Secure and Attractive Communities

- With regards to the enforcement of Fixed Penalty Notices it was considered important that this remit would remain with the police. Questions were raised over the ability to enforce a lot of the measures. For example, how could existing court and justice systems cope?
- There was also a question raised on the impact of legislation regarding an increased levy on landfill tax and the possible link to an increase in fly tipping.
- At present the process for the removal of abandoned vehicles can be lengthy, it is recommended that the process be simplified and allocated a higher priority.
- The Partnership feared that enforcing a ban on the sale of spray paint would be problematic and therefore resources could be better utilised towards education and early intervention.
- The Partnership welcomes proposals to tackle noise nuisance. It is recommended that enforcement should not be the remit of

one agency, but should include registered social landlords, local authorities and the police.

- It is recommended that there should be an Anti-Social Behaviour Court on the same model as the drugs courts to alleviate pressure on the existing court system.

Effective Enforcement

- The police have power under current legislation to deal with disruptive groups, and therefore the power to remove groups irrespective of behaviour is a cause for concern, it is considered this could further alienate young people from the police.
- There was a general concern that failure to respond to civil action will lead to individuals moving from civil law to criminal law and the associated impact this would have (i.e. employability prospects).
- In connection with licensed premises, police already have the power to deal with adults who buy alcohol for children therefore there is no requirement for additional powers, it was considered that community solutions would be more effective.

If you would like to see the full response to the Executives Bill please contact Greater Easterhouse Partnership on 0141 781 9338

→ The Scottish Executive's new Bill is aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour including graffiti.



Ruchazie Gets Multi-Purpose Games Area

→ Baillie Gerard Leonard officially opens the games area. Picture by Bill Nicholl



Greater Easterhouse Partnership and Cultural and Leisure services have been working in partnership over the past five years constructing multi-purpose games areas for young people throughout Greater

Easterhouse. The seventh and final games area in the programme is now complete and was officially opened by Baillie Gerald Leonard at Ruchazie Housing Association.

Bill Nichol, Director of Ruchazie Housing Association said: "It's taken a long time to find a permanent home for this high quality games facility mainly because of the comprehensive regeneration programme that has been taking place. We wanted to make sure it was situated in a place that was not only secure but also where it could be accessed by the widest possible section of our community.

The brilliant thing is that we have been able to respond to tenants requests for a local play facility while also encouraging the development of sport and leisure in the area."

Stewart McClure, a local resident and organiser of the hugely successful Festival of Football said: "Having this tremendous facility means a lot to the area. Young people now have a dedicated space for play and sport. We're making the most of it and now organise regular football sessions which seem to be breaking down territorialism and reducing gang fights in the area."



Paths to Health

A new project set up by Greater Easterhouse Community Health Project – Paths to Health – aims to get local residents out walking to improve their health and social lives!

Lindy Cameron, coordinator for the Paths to Health project explains: "Walking is something everyone can participate in whether you are five or 75. We want to encourage people to get out and about and discover the area that they live and work in. We want to open up new paths and promote walks that people can do everyday – whether it's walking to the shops, Provanhall or beyond.

As well as keeping fit, walking is a fantastic way of meeting new people. We are organising pilot walking groups in the area so that people have company and can develop new routes and open up old pathways."

The Paths to Health project is a partnership between the Greater Easterhouse Community Health Project, Local Health Care Co-op, NHS Greater Glasgow, the Environmental Trust and the Community Safety Forum. Promotional maps of the area are also being developed to publicise specific walks and new routes. Walks will also be graded to show difficulty and the time it takes to complete.

Lindy says: "We are currently looking for volunteers to train as walk leaders so if you would like to get involved we can offer training and support packages to get things off to a great start. We aim to have walking clubs running in most suburbs by the end of the pilot project next year."

If you would be interested in training as a Walk Leader and can spare a few hours each week to organise a walking club in your area then please contact Lindy Cameron, Greater Easterhouse Community Health Project, Westwood Business Centre on 0141 781 1566 or email her on lindy.cameron@btconnect.com

Garthamlock Residents Reassured

A massive £60 million regeneration project for Garthamlock has been delayed by Scottish Water's review of flood prevention measures for the East End of Glasgow.

The investment programme which was expected to commence in September 2003 involves the demolition of existing poor quality tenement properties in Garthamlock and replacing them with 800 new-build quality housing, community leisure and commercial facilities.

Planning permission, Roads Construction Consent and Building Warrants are about to be finalised prior to building work commencing later this year, however Scottish Water has identified a potential problem in water drainage for the area and requires to identify an acceptable technical solution to avoid flooding problems in the east end of Glasgow. Scottish Water is actively looking for a technical solution to the problem to avoid any further delays.

Understandably residents and community representatives are disappointed with the potential hold up but have been reassured by Glasgow City Council that the £60million investment is still on track to deliver a new and improved Garthamlock in the very near future.

Councillor Catherine McMaster, the local Councillor for Garthamlock said: "I understand the frustration that many residents feel about the hold-up but we are working very closely with Scottish Water to find a quick and practical solution to the issue. I want to reassure Garthamlock residents that this regeneration project will be delivered in full and that Glasgow City

Council and Persimmon Homes and its partners will be working tirelessly over the coming months to get this project moving."

Margaret Welsh, a local resident who sits on the Garthamlock Development Group said: "We need this issue resolved now. Residents have been waiting too long as it is and people are getting angry. Scottish Water must come back to us with a solution by the end of November – I hope that we can get the regeneration programme kick-started again shortly after this deadline."

Anna Nicoletti, Chair of Craigend and Garthamlock Community Planning Group, Greater Easterhouse Partnership said: "People in Garthamlock have been waiting a long time for these improvements and they are understandably frustrated about the potential delay this may have on the project. Local people have been actively involved in developing the master plan for the area and want to see the vision turned into a reality. We fully support the efforts of the City Council and the developer, Persimmon Partnerships Ltd, and will work with them in any way to see that Garthamlock achieves its long awaited regeneration."

Operations Team

This month the Greater Easterhouse Environmental Trust doubled its workforce!

As part of its continuing commitment to improving the environment of Greater Easterhouse, the Environmental Trust has now established an Operations Team to undertake physical environmental projects. The Team will operate on a completely not-for-profit basis while providing training opportunities for residents of Greater Easterhouse.

Councillor Ronnie Quinn of the Environmental Trust's Board explains: "The Trust's existing officers Mark Smith and Robert Piper will continue to drive the development aspect of the Environmental Trust to deliver an area-wide Environmental Strategy. Earlier this month Mark and Robert were joined by two trainers from a construction background who now coordinate the Operations Team".

Mark Smith of the Environmental Trust says: "The Operations Team will allow the Trust to deliver a complete solution to local environmental issues, while providing a path to qualifications and long term employment for local residents."

To contact the Environmental Trust email enquiries@geenvironment.org or telephone 0141 771 4994 or write to Provanhall House, Auchinlea Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow, G34 9NQ

→ The Environmental Trust Team



CCTV Streetwatch

Streetwatch Glasgow – the organisation responsible for CCTV cameras in public areas across the city – is pledging to boost links with local communities.

The company operates a state-of-the-art control centre in Blochairn to monitor the 300 cameras which are currently in operation throughout Glasgow – more than 100 of which are in the east of the city.

The centre is staffed by skilled operators working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and has direct links to Strathclyde Police headquarters in the city.

As well as using CCTV to help reduce crime and fear of crime, Streetwatch Glasgow has an important role in tackling wider community safety issues such as vandalism, graffiti and fly-posting, abandoned cars, fire-raising and fly-tipping.

Some recent examples of incidents dealt with include:

- Helping police with a murder inquiry
- Tracing a missing 12-year-old girl
- Helping police to locate a vulnerable pensioner in the early hours of the morning
- Working with police to target night-time gang fighting resulting in a greatly

reduced number of incidents

- A joint operation with the city council targeting fly-tippers leading to action being taken against 20 people

Another key role for Streetwatch is informing and encouraging community participation in decisions about CCTV in their areas.

Chief Executive of Streetwatch Glasgow, Frank Macfadden, explained: "One of the principles of Streetwatch Glasgow is to encourage local communities to have their say about CCTV in their areas. Four local forums have been set up across the city to allow communities to discuss CCTV and community representatives have been elected to the Board of Streetwatch.

"We recognise that more needs to be done and we are developing new ways of getting more information out to communities."

If you would like more information about Streetwatch Glasgow contact them on – 0141 287 9970, 130 Blochairn Road, Glasgow G21 2DU, or visit their website www.streetwatchglasgow.co.uk

Enterprising Garthamlock

The Community Enterprise Centre, part of Greater Easterhouse Development Company, and situated in the heart of Garthamlock offers a range of counselling and advice sessions for local residents covering anything from money advice and healthy living to job hunting and even how to improve your computing skills.

Danny Collins, the centre manager says: "The centre is quite well known in Garthamlock as it first started out as the Unemployed Workers Centre back in 1982. We've come a long way since then and now offer a wide range of advice and support which benefits the whole community. We even provide crèche facilities for anyone who is using the centre. Our weekly money advice sessions are popular and we continue to provide job-hunting support in conjunction with Working Links. Our new Learning Centre with 12 internet ready computers and part-time tutor is one of 15 operating in Greater Easterhouse.

"The centre also provides a focal point and base for local organisations including Craigend and Garthamlock Community Planning Group, which is an integral part of the Greater Easterhouse Partnerships Community Involvement Structures".

Danny continues: "Our whole purpose is to make sure that local residents get access to information on services, skills, jobs and training that in the long run make a real difference to their quality of life. We work with a whole range of agencies including the College, training companies and health professionals – acting as a link to the local community. For example we got involved again this year promoting healthy living during Glasgow's Health Awareness Week back in September and will continue to work with health practitioners in the area to promote healthy lifestyles."

If you want to find out more about the Greater Easterhouse Development Company's

Community Enterprise Centre just call in and ask for Danny, Lynn or Anne-Marie. The Centre is based at Barholm Square, Garthamlock or call 0141 774 6884 or email dannycollins@jwheatley.ac.uk.

→ Danny Collins manager of Garthamlock Community Centre



Full Marks for Community Learning

A recent report by HM Inspectorate of Education has praised Greater Easterhouse Partnership (GEP) and its partners including Glasgow City Council's Cultural and Leisure Services, John Wheatley College and community organisations in the delivery of an imaginative, creative and effective community learning and development plan for the area.

Community learning and development aims to strengthen communities through enhancing people's knowledge, skills, confidence and organisational capacity. It makes an important contribution towards promoting lifelong learning, social inclusion and active citizenship.

The report praises the partners in its work with both adults and young people highlighting best practice in engaging and supporting local people to access a diverse range of learning opportunities delivered in local settings.

Community capacity building was also highlighted as major strength in Greater Easterhouse with voluntary and community groups developing new skills and confidence to shape and drive change within their communities.

Councillor Jim Coleman, Chair of Greater Easterhouse Partnership said: "Working with local people, groups and organisations to build skills and confidence is a high priority here in Greater Easterhouse. We want to make sure local people have the confidence to voice their views and in doing so contribute to the future development of their neighbourhoods. It is gratifying that HMI values the investment we have made in developing local people and that we are now recognised as a best practice model

for other areas across Scotland."

The leadership provided by Greater Easterhouse Partnership and the community orientation of John Wheatley College were also seen as critical factors in the drive to develop a dynamic learning community. The recently established Community Learning Network was viewed as an excellent way to engage local people in new learning activities.

Ian Graham, Principal of John Wheatley College

said: "The Community Learning Network offers local people access to computers, the internet and ICT training in 15 local centres throughout the area. Take-up has been terrific and key to this has been the local nature of delivery. Local volunteers staff and support training sessions in the Centres. We are often the first point of contact for local people looking to access the internet, many of whom go on to access other learning opportunities in the area."

→ One of 15 Community Learning Centres operating throughout Greater Easterhouse



Kids Need their Dad's

Traditionally dad's and male carers don't get involved in their children's education and as a result are often marginalized or 'invisible' to services providing early education.

In an attempt to change this and get more fathers and male carers involved in children's early years, a pioneering Dad's Group has been set up by Quarriers Family Resource Centre. The Group, supported by the Men's Health team at Greater Glasgow Health Board aims to encourage more proactive 'healthy' parenting.

To support the programme and to get the 'male' community involved a five-a-side football tournament was organised at the beginning of October at Stepford Sports Complex.

Dad's whose children attend nurseries from throughout Greater Easterhouse competed for a trophy sponsored by Lang O'Rourke. The evening was a fun night for all, with face painting for the kids and MOT health checks for their dads. The event is expected to become an annual fixture!

Numeracy & Literacy

The Myatt Project – better know for its pioneering work with local disabled people – now offers a new literacy service for people with poor writing, reading and arithmetic skills.

Stuart McCorkindale key worker explains: "We received additional monies from the Scottish Executive via Glasgow City Council to look at supporting people with basic numeracy and literacy problems. We started last November and are now working with 37 local residents to improve basic skills.

We offer one-to-one support which is tailored to the individual and this seems to work well. Building a strong relationship right at the

beginning ensures that clients develop a learning programme that is based on their interests. For example, if someone is interested in soap operas then we use this as the basis for learning.

We work with a wide range of ages from 19 to 50 years. The biggest problem is self-confidence and getting people to admit they have a problem. Individuals have managed to fool family and friends for years; some even buying papers and books to hide their literacy problem. We offer a completely confidential service, which aims to tap into people's creative side."

If you know of someone who would benefit from the service please call Stuart McCorkindale on 0141 773 3330 or drop in to the Myatt Office at 34 Blyth Road, Balanark G33 4QS.



Positive Futures

Helping vulnerable young people between the ages of 16 – 18 overcome barriers to training, education and employment is the aim of Positive Futures – a project supported by Careers Scotland, Glasgow City Council Culture & Leisure Services, Greater Glasgow NHS, Greater Easterhouse Partnership and GEDC.

There are three key workers operating in Greater Easterhouse, each with a case load of between 25 - 40 clients. Since the project started in January 2002 it has supported 140 young people and 100 of these have moved on to places in training, further education or work.

James Crainie, key worker for the project explains: "Many young people can come out of school with their heads down – some due to confidence issues, literacy and numeracy and ongoing family problems which have adversely affected their employability. Our role is to work with individuals to build confidence and motivation to act as an advocate on their behalf. We help to open doors and prepare young people for the world of work or education. Essentially, it's all about helping young people realise their full potential"

James continues: "We actively track down young people who have dropped out of the system. We then work on an intensive one to one basis to get to know them and understand why they might be finding it difficult accessing a job, training or education. Once the relationship is established we can then start looking at addressing confidence and motivation issues by signposting young people to the services that help them progress to training, education or a job.

Each case is different and we get referrals from a range of organisations. We work closely with Careers Scotland, Training Providers, College's, Teen Health Services and the Foyer Service to access relevant information and services for our young client group. We need to work in partnership to ensure young people referred to the service get the chance of a more positive future".

If you would like more information about the work of Positive Futures please call 0141 781 2000

→ Charlene McCue received help from Positive Futures and is now working with local firm Linn Pac



Health Text Service

A new mobile phone service, which helps young people access information about health services, is being piloted in Greater Easterhouse.

The Text4U project has been set up by NHS Greater Glasgow and H4U – "health for you", the young person's health service – to give young people aged 11 to 19 information about local health services via their mobile phones.

The service went live on October 6, 2003, and allows users to text a number if they have a query about where to get help and advice on subjects such as relationships, sexuality, pregnancy, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases and rape.

All the young person has to do is enter 07781 488591 into their phone and text a key word on the subject that interests them. They can find out information about a subject by typing # before the word. For example #pregnancy or to find out what a term means type * before the key word.

Information on services and contact numbers will then be automatically sent back to them.

John Marshall of H4U said: "Young people have told us they find it difficult knowing where to go for advice and information on relationships and sexual health. This new service will make it easier for them to get in contact with the right services when they need it most."

John Marshall revealed that the service is completely confidential and young people need not worry about their mobile phone numbers being used in the future.

If this pilot is successful, NHS Greater Glasgow and H4U will look at rolling the initiative out to young people across the Greater Glasgow area. If you would like more information on H4U and the new texting service please contact John Marshall on 0141 781 2025



Twilight Zone

Getting young people off the streets, out of trouble and active was the aim of an innovative pilot project run during the summer at Easthall multi-purpose games court from 10.00pm to midnight.

The project, supported by a partnership between Easthall Residents Association, Bosco Juniors, Glasgow City Council Youth Services, GEAAP, H4U, Cultural & Leisure Services, Greater Easterhouse Partnership, Learn to Quit and the Greater Easterhouse Arts Team, targeted 14 - 21 year olds and met three times week. Qualified coaches organised sporting activities including football and basketball as a way of engaging with young people. Youth workers were also on hand to discuss problem issues such as smoking, drugs, safe sex, college and careers.

Gerry Baldwin of Easthall Residents Association says: "The timing surprised a lot of people but we found that most trouble or anti-social behaviour by young people was taking place between 10.00pm and midnight so it made sense to run a diversionary activities programme at this time."

Gerry continues: "It was a great opportunity to get young people involved and find out what they felt the problem areas were and how these could be dealt with. By the end of

the six weeks we had involved 45 young people from Easthall, Wellhouse, Provanhall, Garthamlock and Kildermorie – all wanting to know if the project would continue."

Mary Murphy from Bosco Juniors says: "The success of this pilot demonstrates the real need for more activities for young people, not when services want to run them, but when young people need and want them. We have to learn from this experience and actively look at rolling out similar programmes to other suburbs, utilising the seven multi-purpose games courts throughout Greater Easterhouse."

The pilot project ended with a celebration evening held in the Glenburn Centre attended by 20 young people who took part in various activities including DJ Skills, Hip Hop Dancing, Graffiti Arts, Photography, IT Skills, Quizzes and Smoking Cessation.

If you would like to find out more about the project please contact either Mary Murphy on 0141 773 0713 or Gerry Baldwin on 0141 771 7020.



Learning to Quit

An innovative new project called L2Q (Learn to Quit) which aims to help young people quit smoking is now running throughout Greater Easterhouse.

The project which works with 11 - 18 year olds in school and community settings run a number of 'Quit Smoking Clubs' and also offer one to one support.

The project funded by NHS Health Scotland and ASH Scotland will gather evidence on what works and what doesn't when working with young people and the issue of smoking – all of which will contribute to new national guidelines on smoking cessation and young people.

Gillian Malone, project coordinator says: "There is a lot of evidence around that suggests young people want to stop smoking but that there aren't any appropriate services to help them quit."

Gillian continues: "our overall aim is to deliver a smoking cessation service for young people in Greater Easterhouse so that young people have the confidence and knowledge to make healthier choices. We also make sure young people are involved in deciding the mix of diversionary and counselling support on offer which not only makes a real difference to their involvement but also to the success of the project."

The project recently ran a competition to give young people a chance to have their say in choosing a name for the project and designing a snappy logo. There was a fantastic response with over 400 young people submitting entries. In addition to the competition the project also runs lunchtime clubs (in local schools), a young persons buddying system as well as 'prizes for quitters' and sporting and recreational activities.

Gillian adds: "we get a tremendous amount of support from the schools and other agencies which is great but we need more people to get involved. If you or know of a young person who might benefit from one of our groups or you would like to set one up in your area then please get in touch."

If you would like further information on the L2Q project please contact Gillian Malone on 0141 781 2025 or email her at gillian.malone@glacomen.scot.nhs.uk

Youth Theatre Workshops

Greater Easterhouse Arts team are running a series of youth theatre workshops at Lochend Community High School for junior (primary 5 - 7) and seniors (S1 - S6) this autumn/winter.

Josephine McGlone, of the Arts team says: "We run buses from Garthamlock, Ruchazie, Cranhill and Barlanark to Lochend Community School every Tuesday evening so that parents

and young people don't have to worry about transport issues. The drama workshops have proved to very popular so we've extended the programme from eight to 12 weeks. Each group works towards a small performance at the end of each 12 week block."

Josephine continues: "We also offer traditional music classes in fiddle, guitar and penny

whistle at beginner and intermediate levels for adults and juniors. These are held at John Wheatley College on a Tuesday."

If you would like to find out more about the youth arts programme please contact Josephine on 0141 781 2034 or email her on jmcglone@gedc.org.uk

National Theatre Coup for Greater Easterhouse

Earlier this month Frank McAveety, Culture Minister announced that the new HQ for Scotland's first National Theatre will be located in the heart of Greater Easterhouse as an integral part of the areas new and innovative £9.5 million Cultural Campus.

The Cultural Campus - the first of its kind in Scotland - incorporates Easterhouse Arts Factory, Easterhouse Swimming Pool and John Wheatley College under one roof. Driven by Greater Easterhouse Partnership, the Campus will be operational by 2005, and will allow local and national arts groups to develop, as well as encouraging wider local community involvement and access to the Arts and learning.

CLlr Jim Coleman, Chair of Greater Easterhouse Partnership said of the announcement: "We're delighted that the Scottish Executive has decided to locate Scotland's first National Theatre here in Greater Easterhouse. We're extremely proud of the tremendous arts facility taking shape in Easterhouse and we look forward to welcoming the new National Theatre to the Cultural Campus. This decision

recognises the strength of the performing arts here in Greater Easterhouse and endorses the Partnerships vision of placing the arts at the centre of regeneration."

Robert Auld, a member of Greater Easterhouse Arts Board said: "Everyone should have access to the arts and I am delighted that the Scottish Executive supports this concept by housing Scotland's first National Theatre here in Greater Easterhouse. We have a strong tradition of arts in Easterhouse and we are committed to taking the arts to the widest possible audience."

CLlr Coleman continues: "Having the National Theatre as part of the Cultural Campus will give Greater Easterhouse an opportunity to showcase the far-reaching regeneration programme that has transformed Greater Easterhouse into a vibrant and attractive suburb of Glasgow."

So What Do You Think?

Greater Easterhouse Partnership allocates nearly £4 million a year to local community projects and works with a range of agencies to improve local facilities to enhance overall quality of life. An important part of this process is listening to the community to shape and develop new services.

We listen to the community with the help of the People's Panel. It is made up of 1,000 people living in Greater Easterhouse who give their views on things like education, housing, leisure, childcare and health services through short questionnaires or take part in informal discussions.

The People's Panel are looking to recruit new people and would like to invite anyone interested in 'having their say' to contact the Peoples Panel officer on Freephone 0800 9177 184 or alternatively contact Alison Bissell, People's Panel Officer at Greater Easterhouse Partnership, Westwood Business Centre, 69 Aberdalgie Road, Glasgow G34 9HJ

Use Your Voice and Have a Say!

Carnival Extravaganza

It was the climax of a summer of hard work for everyone involved in the Greater Easterhouse Carnival and boy 'what a day!

Over 2000 people descended on Easterhouse Sports Centre to enjoy the fun and find out more about learning and the vast range of activities going on in the community.

The carnival is all about the people of Easterhouse and your support on the day was magnificent. So to the many people from across Greater Easterhouse and beyond, young and old, who joined in the fun and created the

party atmosphere thank you for making it a special day!

With hardly a pause, the team who brought you Carnival 2003, are looking for volunteers to take the event to new heights in 2004.

If you want to get involved contact Gary Rudolph on 0141 781 2024.



YOUR CONTRIBUTION PLEASE!

Please keep your contributions, ideas and suggestions for PQ coming. Simply send or email your news, with a photo if possible, to the following address...

PQ Magazine

Greater Easterhouse Partnership
Westwood Business Centre
69 Aberdalgie Road, Easterhouse
Glasgow G34 9HJ

Email: jacquelinemackenzie@greatereasterhousepartnership.co.uk



Articles not published due to space restrictions can be found on community website www.greatereasterhouse-pathfinder.com