

# Inverclyde



**Community Renewal works to transform the wellbeing of communities by engaging and supporting people to get involved in community activity and to improve health, learning and employment**

**February 2008**



Community Renewal has been in Port Glasgow since August 2006 when we set up in Boglestone Community Centre and then at 24 Moss Road.

Port Glasgow is a strong, well established community but also has its problems. A high proportion of the population is not working and many are in poor health – typically over 30% of the working age population is not in work.

## What We Do and Why we do it



Physical improvements alone will not succeed in sustaining regeneration. These must be accompanied by a **transformation** in the lives of individuals and families to enable them to better cope with modern insecurities. Our objective is to **support people into meaningful activity** – work, training, volunteering, but also through this process to address other issues of poor health, family difficulties, confidence and self esteem.

We use a unique process of **community based engagement** (listening surveys). We employ small teams of community animators in each area whose aim is to engage with **every household** (mainly by door knocking).

**Our local bases are** layed out in an open and friendly way where people can drop in for a cup of tea. We do not inhibit people by rigid appointment systems. Also we do not just signpost people on.

**We support them personally throughout their journey** for as long as it takes and arrange to bring in others when needed. That way people have a consistent friendly person to turn to when they need it.



## How does it Work?



The Partners we work with include Jobcentre Plus, Careers Scotland, Working Links and Inverclyde Employment Initiative

## Our Results

Results for Port Glasgow (August 2006 - January 2008.)

	Target (March 08)	Achieved (Jan 08)	
People Contacted	1900	2060	108%
No. of clients engaged in seeking work/Training/	185	356	192%
Job Outcomes	110	191	173%
Training/Education outcomes	30	50	170%
Additional Volunteering Outcomes	5	6	120%
Additional Community Involvement Outcomes	30	41	137%
<b>Total Outcomes</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>165%</b>

## A Holistic Approach

Health problems are not confined to those on incapacity benefit. Half of all people we work with have **health related issues** including depression, which, along with low self confidence, contributes to difficulties in gaining or sustaining work. Many of the **young people** we work with also have a range of personal and family issues which need to be dealt with first or alongside training or work support.

Community Renewal has developed a **holistic assessment technique** - an in depth interview process between our case manager or other workers and resident. The holistic assessment goes **deeper into barriers that are holding a person back** and works towards a plan to overcome them.

In Port Glasgow we employ a Health Case Manager for this work.



## Economic and Social Impact

32 % of those who got an outcome were on JSA – the other **68% on other benefits** or none and 26% of our outcomes are with **young people aged 16-17**

Community Renewal keeps information on **types of jobs and wage levels** gained. **77% of jobs gained were full time** and **sustainability is also at 77%** (still in work in Jan 2008)

At 77% sustained jobs this will have so far **increased the post tax earned income into Port Glasgow by £1,250,000 per year**



**£1,250,000 per year**

 Here are real examples to illustrate our work (not real names)

**“Mark”**



Mark engaged with us in March 07 but was not getting far with job search. He accepted an offer to see our Health Case Manager for an assessment. He had low self esteem and confidence and admitted to a gambling addiction and debt problems. We brought in an addictions counsellor and Money Matters. The CR employment team continued to work on his skills and he went on a retail course. Encouraged by his new found skills and confidence he applied for a job at a new superstore in the town. Mark was very anxious so we talked him through a typical interview via role play. He got the job and we continue to follow his progress.



**“Mary”**



Mary is a 35yr old single mum who said she wanted a job. It became apparent that there were multiple issues. We carried out a holistic assessment through our Case Manager. She had a history of drug misuse and was battling her addiction. She disclosed that she had recently been raped and had no support with this. She had debt issues and was struggling. We brought in Money Matters and Working Links who were able to provide financial help allowing her to buy clothes for an interview which she attended but was unsuccessful. The lone parent adviser at JCP was also brought in. We supported her with individual counselling which helped her combat her addiction. Mary is currently still receiving therapy and is drug free. She has since set up her own small business from home and is doing well.



 For information about our work contact:

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Community Renewal has projects in Glasgow, Paisley, Johnstone, Port Glasgow, Clydebank, Dumbarton, Airdrie, and Wishaw.

By January 2008 we had supported about 1300 people into work and a further 480 into training or education. We have been particularly successful with people with health problems and with young people.

*The Inverclyde Project is funded by Inverclyde Alliance and European URBAN 2.*

