
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	8 September 2015
Report By:	Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities	Report No:	EDUCOM/65/15/MP
Contact Officer:	Maggie Paterson	Contact No:	01475715450
Subject:	International Women's Day		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- advise Committee of action taken to recognise formally and mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2015; and
- seek approval for proposed activities developed in support of International Women's Day in future years.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 At their meeting on 19 February 2015, Inverclyde Council decided that:

- 2.2
- The Council agree to recognise formally and mark International Women's Day on 8 March 2015 by the flying of the International Women's Day flag, through appropriate action by the Council's Senior Management Team to celebrate the economic, social and political achievements of women locally and nationally and also by making this an annual event; and
 - That a report be submitted to the appropriate Committee on proposed activities which can be developed in support of International Women's Day in future years.

2.3 A series of events took place to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2015. These are summarised below. At these events and through follow-up discussions with participants, proposals have been developed for activities to celebrate International Women's Day in future years. These are outlined at Section 5 below.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that:

3.2 The Committee notes the activities put in place to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March 2015; and

3.3 The Committee approves the proposals developed for activities to celebrate International Women's Day in future years, specifically:

- Establish an International Women's Day Planning Group
- Continue and expand activities involving school pupils
- Support women in the community to form a group to take forward issues identified
- Bring forward costed proposals for the expansion of activities.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Following the agreement by Full Council to recognise formally and mark International Women's Day 2015, a number of activities were developed and delivered. These are summarised below.

4.2 Celebrating women's achievements

Throughout the academic session 2014-15, leading up to International Women's Day on 8th March, Inverclyde's 6 secondary schools were engaged in projects researching and celebrating influential (mainly local) women. The projects involved mainly S2 and S3 pupils, and were co-ordinated by the English Departments in the schools. Each school selected a woman / women, and then researched the contribution they had made in their chosen fields. The research papers, interviews, artwork and DVDs produced by the pupils were then exhibited in the McLean Museum at an event held on the afternoon of Friday 6th March.

The event was attended by 60 pupils from the 6 local secondary schools, as well as a further 30 adults: Elected Members, teachers, representatives from the council and other partner organisations and members of the public including a number of the women selected by the pupils as their research subjects.

Margaret McEleny, Palma Allan, Polly Beck, Janice Hendrie and local author Cathy McPhail joined the pupils. Councillor Vaughan Jones spoke of the importance of International Women's Day and paid tribute to the work undertaken by the pupils. Cathy McPhail addressed the young people on the theme of Setting Their Sights High.

The afternoon was supported by colleagues in River Clyde Homes who were partners in the planning and organisation of the event. The work of the pupils remained in the museum, continuing the marking of International Women's Day and the work of our pupils, for a further week.

4.3 Enterprise Education

With support from Enterprise Education staff, pupils from S5 at Port Glasgow High made purple ribbons which were sold at International Women's Day events, raising £26 for Women's Aid in Inverclyde.

4.4 'Make it Happen' Event for local women

On Friday 6 March, 58 local women met in Greenock Town Hall to celebrate women's achievements and discuss how to 'Make it Happen' in keeping with the theme for International Women's Day 2015. Guest speaker from the 50:50 campaign, Johann Lamont MSP, set the scene, followed by workshops to discuss the following:

What are the issues for local women in our community?
What would you like to see change/develop?
How are we going to make this happen/developing women's voices?
What's next for local women?

A 'marketplace' offering information on a range of local services for women was also available.

The event was organised and facilitated by CLD Service Community Work staff. The full findings from the workshops were written up and forwarded on to all participants. A summary of the findings and a breakdown of participants is provided at Annexe 1 below.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 Planning Group

Officers and organisations involved in the above events agreed it would be valuable to establish a planning group to identify and co-ordinate activities to celebrate International Women's Day as well as to support the implementation of ideas and initiatives arising from the Day. The group would be led by the Education, Communities and OD Directorate and membership is likely to include:

- CLD Service
- Education Services
- Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership
- Libraries & Museums
- River Clyde Homes
- Safer Communities
- Third Sector representation.

5.2 Activities in schools

Following on the success of activities in 2015 involving school pupils, it is proposed that this would be continued and expanded in subsequent years. The Planning Group would play a key role in supporting and developing these activities.

5.3 Women in the Community

Many of the women who attended the 'Make it Happen' event expressed an interest in continuing to meet throughout the year to take forward action on the issues they had identified. It is proposed that support and capacity building for this group is included within CLD Service Community Work Staff work planning.

5.4 Funding the expansion of activities

The costs associated with activities in 2015 were subsumed within Service budgets. River Clyde Homes contributed funding for the catering for the event at the McLean Museum. However, if the Committee wishes to expand the scale of activities on the day, additional dedicated funding may be required. It is proposed that the Planning Group bring forward costed proposals to the November Committee.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1 None within this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 None

Human Resources

6.3 None

Equalities

6.4 A key focus of International Women's Day and associated activities is tackling the inequalities experienced by women.

Repopulation

6.5 None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 The 'Make it Happen' event provided an opportunity to consult local women on taking forward planning for International Women's Day in Inverclyde.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Not applicable.

Annexe 1

Summary of Discussions at 'Make it Happen' Event

What are the issues for local women in our local community?

- Unequal pay
- Gender stereotyping
- Affordable childcare
- Violence against women

What would you like to see change/develop?

- Women better represented in decision making, management and local and national government
- Encouragement for women to take up non-traditional careers
- Employers take more responsibility for the provision of childcare

How are we going to make this happen/developing women's voices?

- Promote awareness of legal rights
- Provide strong role models for girls and young women
- Lobby for change in funding and provision of childcare
- Tackle the culture and stigma of violence against women

What's next for local women?

- More events bringing local women together to celebrate success and tackle issues
- Women supporting women to campaign and lobby for change – establish steering group
- Identify role models
- Instil confidence in future generations of women

Participants by organisation

Community Members	17
River Clyde Homes	9
Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership staff and carers	8
West College Scotland	1
Inverclyde Carers Centre	6
Inverclyde Council	8
Young People	3
Your Voice	1
Inverclyde Council on Disability	5
TOTAL	58