

## **SE19. Following the Public Pound - Poverty and Equality**

The committee considered a report by the Director of Corporate & Housing Services presenting updates on each of the external organisations funded by Corporate & Housing Services which provide services in relation to poverty and equality which fall within the Following the Public Pound reporting and monitoring arrangements.

Annual reporting statements were provided for each of the 8 organisations. These were:-

- LGBT Youth Scotland
- Falkirk CAB
- Grangemouth & Bo'ness CAB
- Denny & Dunipace CAB
- Armed Forces Project – Denny CAB
- MacMillan Money Matters
- Action Group
- Central Scotland Regional Equality Council

Members asked why some of LGBT Youth Scotland's work related to areas which would benefit all young people but was not being offered to all. Mark Meechan stated that there were a variety of projects which supported young people more widely. However, he advised that the young people who engaged with LGBT Youth Scotland were often found to be unwilling to engage with the services offered by other groups. It was therefore important that this specific service was provided. The issues covered by LGBT Youth Scotland were raised by service users.

The committee then discussed the Central Scotland Regional Equality Council (CSREC). Members discussed that Clackmannanshire Council had removed their funding contribution but still received service provision. The view was put forward that the organisation's work should be funded by Police Scotland or the Scottish Government. Discussion also considered the difference between criminal behaviour and inappropriate behaviour but that both needed to be tackled and educated against. It was felt that the work of this organisation covered extremely important areas and that the focus should not be taken off this. A question was asked on what the £42,000 from Forth Valley Language Support was to encourage the learning of English as a second language to assist with integration. Following this discussion Fiona Campbell stated that CSREC used to be the racial council and the Council dealt with a range of other organisations serving the needs of other protected groups. Further she advised that Forth Valley Language Support was a trading company which provided translation services. The work of this company was to create an income stream for the organisation.

### **Decision**

**The committee approved the reports and acknowledged progress by the following organisations in meeting Council priorities:-**

- (1) LGBT Youth Scotland**

- (2) Falkirk Citizens Advice Bureau**
- (3) Grangemouth & Bo'ness Citizens Advice Bureau**
- (4) Denny & Dunipace Citizens Advice Bureau**
- (5) Armed Forces Project – Denny Citizens Advice Bureau**
- (6) MacMillan Money Matters**
- (7) Action Group**
- (8) Central Scotland Regional Equality Council**