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A CELEBRATION OF 20 YEARS OF EUROPEAN FUNDS IN WESTERN SCOTLAND

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|------------------------|--|
| Project Title | Building Brighter Futures |
| Project Sponsor | West Dunbartonshire Council |
| Programme | Clyde Waterfront URBAN II Programme 2000-2006 |

PROJECT ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT

The Community Initiative Programme document (CIP), which plans the effective use of URBAN II programme funds, identified the need to build the capacity of local communities in supporting local regeneration.

West Dunbartonshire Council identified the lack of community activity in the Clydebank South area and so established the Building Brighter Futures project received an ERDF award in January 2003.

The ERDF award supported the appointment of four members of staff: two capacity building officers; one youth involvement officer; and one information/administration officer. In addition, ERDF funds assisted:

- activities aimed at disseminating information/advice to local residents and groups
- identifying gaps in service provision and support to achieve change
- maximising resources and services in the local community
- supporting a wide range of training and development interventions aimed specifically at increasing the involvement of individuals.

PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Building Brighter Futures project aimed to increase community activity, organisation and participation, allowing local people to have a role in the decision making process which direct social and economic regeneration.

By designing training according to the needs of clients, the project was flexible to support individuals on a case by case basis. There was, however, training on core issues that affect the local community on areas such as how community activity can be more effective, designing and developing projects and also awareness raising of local and national government structures.

Increase in local participation was expected with more local people becoming involved in the regeneration of Clydebank by attending or organising more community events and supporting other localised networks.

Four jobs were created as a direct result of the project and it was hoped that a further indirect outcome would be improvement to the employment prospects of individuals within the area.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

The project and staff team at Building Brighter Futures delivered a range of support and development services aimed at:

- reducing dependency on statutory and other services in relation to community participation in regeneration
- improving access to information and advice for local people
- providing a focal point for community action and increasing community identity and organisation
- reducing individual isolation by providing barrier free opportunities for individuals to come together and discuss common issues
- supporting the contribution to local social/economic regeneration made by local people
- promoting and supporting effective communication between the public, private and third sectors
- providing training, development and support services in order to enable local people to improve their personal development, therefore removing barriers to participation in the labour market, local economy or further education.

PROJECT STRUCTURE

West Dunbartonshire Council sponsored the Building Brighter Futures project while co-finance was provided by West Dunbartonshire Partnership who also had a supervisory role.

A steering group has been set up which consists of local community representatives, the Social Inclusion Partnership officer and the URBAN II officer.

The project has four staff in total that were responsible for the operational delivery of the project. West Dunbartonshire Council and the Urban II officer held responsibility for compiling the project's claims.

PROJECT FINANCE

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|----------------------|---|
| Funding Partners | West Dunbartonshire Partnership |
| Eligible Costs (£) | £467,290 |
| ERDF/ESF Support (£) | £233,645 |
| Priority/Measure | Priority 1: Creating Capacity Measure 1.1: Local Capacity Building |

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

The project started slightly behind schedule due to difficulties in recruiting staff and difficulties in finding suitable premises for the project. Now up and running, it is on course to achieving all targets and indicators set out in its original application and have a significant and positive impact on the local community. The following table details of some of the project outcomes/results to June 2007.

| Indicator | Target | Achievement | % Target Achieved |
|---|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| No of community events/networks supported | 246 | 58 | 23.58% |
| No of community activists trained | 296 | 212 | 71.62% |
| No of community employment/learning projects supported | 24 | 37 | 154.17% |
| No of people participating in community events/networks | 699 | 1048 | 149.93% |
| Total no of gross new jobs created | 4 | 4 | 100.00% |