

BLACKBURN PRESENT AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ‘COMMUNITIES ACROSS SCOTLAND TAKING ACTION ON ALCOHOL HARM’

Community members from Blackburn were invited along to Glasgow on 8 December to inform 200 delegates at the first ever national community conference on community engagement and action around alcohol issues, about the work being taken forward by the community to address the identified issues and concerns around alcohol, health and community life choices in general.

With the importance of working with and supporting communities in making positive choices now being fully recognised across the country the event was organised to look at how partnership working which actively involves community members can significantly reduce levels of alcohol-related harm and antisocial behaviour in local communities.

Three of last years P7 schools representatives from Blackburn, Murrayfield and Our Lady of Lourdes primary, Rachel Dodd (Bathgate Academy), Tammy Keenan (St Kentigern’s Academy) and Jamie McBeth (Bathgate Academy), who were assisted by Alison Kerr, Blackburn Community Council and Tricia Paterson, Head Teacher, Our lady of Lourdes primary, provided an exceptionally informative account of their involvement in the preparation and delivery of the primary 7 Conference and the work that has been progressed as a result of the concerns raised by the school children.

Rachel, Tammy and Jamie were a shining example of responsible citizens and not only a credit to themselves but also to their schools and the community. Their input has left a lasting impression on the delegates who have now identified the need and the importance of seeking information and support from all age groups in their work within communities. The delegates also provided glowing reports in the conference evaluation sheets, two of the comments made were

“The P7’s were brilliant, what an opportunity for them, which will stay with them for along time.”

“I have been inspired today by the work going on in Blackburn, especially with the young people and the local schools.”

