



## **Scotstoun Area Information (as at Sept 2009)**

Baseline reports for each GoWell study area were produced in 2006 to provide a description of the areas against which change over time could be monitored. This short summary provides information about the Scotstoun multi-storey flats (MSFs) at Plean Street and Kingsway Court and the wider surrounding area. Some of the recent changes to the area and future plans are described. Information has been drawn from the original baseline report, produced in 2006, and from semi-structured interviews with key informants in Scotstoun which took place in August/September 2009.

### **LOCAL ENVIRONMENT**

Scotstoun is located around five miles west of Glasgow's city centre, bordered to the west by the neighbourhood of Yoker, to the south by the river Clyde, to the east by Whiteinch and to the north by Knightswood. Scotstoun and Yoker are both neighbourhoods that were closely associated with Glasgow's former shipbuilding industry and experienced loss of employment when the industry declined in the 20th Century.

The area is easily accessible from the city centre. Dumbarton Road, one of Glasgow's main arterial transport routes runs through Scotstoun to the West End of Glasgow with a number of regular bus routes operating along it, linking in with the city's subway at Partick. There are also good rail services.

Although the wider Scotstoun area has good amenities and facilities, housing quality in the multi-storey flats (MSFs) in the area is poor as is the physical environment immediately surrounding them although a multi-purpose sports arena has recently opened providing facilities for football and basketball for young people. There is a play park with swings for younger children and a new play park is planned. The nearest large park is Victoria Park, approximately one mile from the study area, which is popular and well maintained.

### **HOUSING**

Housing is varied comprising a mixture of tenements, MSFs and low rise housing. Tenure is mixed and much of the housing is popular and of reasonable quality. Buy to let is fairly common in the area. There are eight MSFs: two blocks are situated in Plean Street, Yoker; the other six are located a few minutes walk away at Kingsway Court, Scotstoun. The Plean Street MSFs are scheduled for demolition and almost all tenants have been rehoused. The Kingsway Court MSFs are currently being considered as part of a 'Housing Futures Assessment' by GHA and further refurbishment will take place once this has been completed. These MSFs contain a high proportion of refugees and asylum seekers.

A programme of refurbishment has been taking place in the low level housing in the study area with properties receiving new roofs, kitchens, bathrooms and central

heating. A programme of new build housing is also about to commence. The photographs below show some of the housing within the wider surrounding area.

## TRANSPORT LINKS

Scotstoun has very good public transport provision during the day with buses running along Dumbarton road into the city centre every five to ten minutes and a rail service every 15 minutes from Scotstounhill station. Evening services are less frequent. The Dumbarton Road Corridor Drug Addiction Forum runs a community minibus which is used extensively by groups to overcome the lack of public transport in the evening.

## SHOPS

The area is very well served by local shops and supermarkets. Locally accessible supermarkets include: Morrisons (Anniesland and Partick); Liddell (Yoker); and Sainsbury's (Drumchapel). There are a wide range of local shops near Kingsway Court including grocers, takeaways, a chemist, newsagent, off-license, as well as solicitor's and accountant's offices. Many of the shops accept the vouchers provided to asylum seekers.

## SCHOOLS

The area is served by several primary schools. There are two local secondary schools: Knightswood Secondary which hosts a National Dance School and St Thomas Aquinas, a denominational secondary school, built seven to eight years ago. Both secondary schools have excellent reputations.

## COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Three libraries, Whiteinch, Knightswood and Anniesland, are accessible from Scotstoun. There are two main community centres: Yoker Community Campus which contains a learning centre with offices, training accommodation, childcare support, an internet centre and café and Knightswood Community Centre which is used by a number of community groups. There are three local churches which are also well used by community groups: Knightswood Congregational Church; Scotstoun Parish Church which hosts a range of activities and Anniesland Church. Scotstoun Leisure Centre is easily accessible by public transport from the study area and provides very good sports and recreational facilities including a large swimming pool. It is currently being upgraded to be one of the Commonwealth Games sporting venues. Other sports facilities include Yoker Sports Hall, Scotstounhill Bowling Club, Laurel Park Sports Club, Peterson Park Sports Complex and Knightswood Swimming Pool which contains a café and halls that can be hired out.

In relation to health services, there are a number of GP surgeries and pharmacies. The needle exchange centre for the West of Glasgow is situated in the area. A refurbished, multi-purpose health centre opened in May 2009 in Plean Street. Partick Health Centre provides physiotherapy and chiropody services for the area. There are also local clinics on Dumbarton Road and Sandy Road.

## EMPLOYMENT

Scotstoun council ward area compares relatively well compared with other GoWell study areas in relation to employment levels although the decline of shipbuilding on the Clyde in the 20th Century impacted on employment in the area. One large remaining ship yard - BVT Systems - is a primary source of employment. Other

employers include the retail industry, and public and voluntary sector employers. Voluntary organisations are used as routes back into employment, for example, a local disability project (ENABLE) operates in the area seeking work placements for people to reintroduce them to the job market.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

The area has a mixed reputation with several distinct communities each with their own identity. Some streets are regarded as having stable, cohesive communities but there are several hotspots in the neighbourhood where violence and anti-social behaviour can flare up. Alcohol, drug abuse, petty crime and territorialism have all been identified as problems in particular communities. A 'Hotspot team' was based in Kingsway Court MSFs for a limited period to help address neighbourhood problems and the team was perceived to have a positive impact even though the initiative was only funded for a limited period. The concierge service in the MSFs and activities of local housing officers are also thought to help promote community safety and stability. Asylum seekers in the area are housed in the MSFs. There appears to be some resentment towards the asylum seeking and refugee communities as they are perceived to receive resources and tenancies ahead of local tenants.

The area has a range of community groups and organisations. There is a Youth Health Project which works with the local regeneration agency on employability schemes. Community flats in Kelso Street and Scotstoun are used as a drop in by the Youth Health Project and there is a senior citizens' community flat at the base of Anniesland Crescent. An 'Active Seniors' social network meets regularly organising an annual event in Victoria Park. Kingsway Health and Well-being is a local voluntary organisation and runs a number of groups including one on literacy. Kingsway Womens' Group links with victim support agencies. An integration network working with asylum seekers is based in Drumchapel High School. Dumbarton Road Corridor Addiction Forum, based near Kingsway Court MSFs, provides a range of services in relation to addiction issues and runs a peer education programme in local schools.

We are continually working to keep our information about this area up-to-date. If you know of anything which has happened in the area recently (for example things opening up or closing down) please get in touch and we will update our information. To do this contact Jennie Coyle on 0141 287 6268 or at [jennie.coyle@drs.glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:jennie.coyle@drs.glasgow.gov.uk)