

CLIENT: University of the West of Scotland

DATE: 27 March 2019

PUBLICATION: Paisley Daily Express

CIRCULATION: 4,378

PRINT: (1 of 1)

BIG

PRESS CUTTING

PAISLEY
DAILY EXPRESS

New group will boost Paisley's 2021 legacy

KENNETH SPEIRS

Paisley's cultural regeneration has been given a major boost by the setting up of a new centre that aims to build on the town's 2021 bid legacy.

A Centre for Culture, Sport and Events (CCSE) launched at the University of the West of Scotland with the aim of further establishing the town as a centre for excellence in these fields.

The centre is a partnership between UWS and Renfrewshire Council and will focus on collaborative research which will shape policy decisions relating to the regeneration of Paisley and the wider area.

The two organisations say research conducted will directly influence Renfrewshire Council's current thinking and will be used to influence policy and practice in relation to culture, sport and events at a local, national and international level.

Professor Gayle McPherson, Events and Cultural Policy at UWS' School of Media, Culture and Society and CCSE director said: "CCSE will provide a space for collaborative and interdisciplinary research that has impact at a local, national and international level.

"Research evidence produced through the centre will contribute to academic excellence and influence policy makers and practitioners working in culture, sport and events and social policy and change.

"The centre will utilise a range of robust and innovative methodologies to undertake research and work with key beneficiaries in the production of research outputs."

The partnership also includes the creation of three fully-funded



Centre launch Pictured at the event are, from left: Hadrian Garrard from Create London; Leonie Bell, from Renfrewshire Council; artist Mandy McIntosh; Professor Gayle McPherson, from UWS; Professor Kate Oakley, of the University of Glasgow and Professor David McGillivray, also from UWS

PhD student scholarships which are jointly-funded by UWS and Renfrewshire Council.

The students' research will include how culture and the media transform the impression of place; an investigation into how poverty and health plays into culture-led regeneration; and an assessment into the value of arts, culture and festivals to Paisley's economy.

They will also spend time working in Renfrewshire Council, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde's arts programme and the Paisley

Culture, Arts & Social Care Network.

Renfrewshire Council leader Iain Nicolson said: "I am delighted that Renfrewshire Council and the University of the West of Scotland are working in partnership on the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events.

"The UK City of Culture bidding process firmly established the idea that Paisley's culture and heritage can be used to transform its future.

"The research that will be undertaken by the CCSE

will be hugely beneficial to Renfrewshire and will continue to demonstrate the impact that cultural regeneration has in our communities, and will help to establish Paisley as a centre of excellence for cultural regeneration."

Professor Craig Mahoney, principal and vice-chancellor of UWS, also welcomed the new centre.

He said: "Paisley was a powerhouse in the 19th century, instrumental in the success of

Scotland's textile industry.

"Culture has always played an integral role in the identity of this town and UWS is proud of its involvement in the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events, in particular its work in research, supporting policy making and PhD studentships, which will underpin Paisley's transformation and herald an exciting next chapter for the town."

For more information about the Centre for Culture, Sport and Events visit <http://ccse.uws.ac.uk/>