



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	7 October 2019
Report By:	Aubrey Fawcett Chair of Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Gail Baxter	Contact No:	01475 712746
Subject:	Progress on Child Poverty Local Action Report 2019/20		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Alliance Board of the feedback from the workshop that was held on child poverty in June 2019 and the progress of the two projects which receive Anti-Poverty funding 2019/20.
- 1.2 This report will also outline the proposals to be delivered as part of the Challenge Poverty Week that will take place from 7 to 13 October 2019, which will incorporate the “Deep Dive” workshop into data which was approved at the Alliance Board meeting in June 2019.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 One in four children in Inverclyde is living in poverty increasing to one in three in some of our communities. (Source: End Child Poverty) Services and Organisations in Inverclyde recognise that child poverty and deprivation limits opportunities and choice and that by tackling child poverty; alleviating the financial strain on low income households and improving the living standards of families in poverty we will help to improve outcomes for our children and young people.
- 2.2 Inverclyde Alliance hosted a Child Poverty workshop session in June 2019 to raise awareness of some of the work that has been undertaken in Inverclyde and to seek approval from the Board for the Child Poverty Local Action Report (CPLAR) which was submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2019. Information was delivered by national partners including Scottish Poverty and Inequalities Research Unit (SPIRU), the Poverty Alliance and NHS Scotland to provide an update from the Scottish Government perspective. Inverclyde Council’s Child Poverty Policy Officer provided details on the content of the report, including actions and local evidence surrounding child poverty from a local perspective.
- 2.3 NHS Scotland requested Inverclyde Alliance to approve a local initiative to take a deep dive into the data around child poverty in Inverclyde to identify that the right services are meeting the needs of people living in poverty at the most appropriate times of their lives. This deep dive into data will involve local experts in information systems who can extract evidence and analyse the results this will be matched with the data that is extracted and analysed nationally to provide a whole systems report on the prevalence of poverty in the area.
- 2.4 The Poverty Alliance highlighted that the partners of Inverclyde Alliance could engage with people who have lived experience of poverty and they offered support through the “Get Heard Scotland” project, it was also suggested that Inverclyde Alliance could use “Challenge Poverty Week” 7-13 October 2019 to raise awareness of what is being done to tackle poverty locally.

- 2.5 Inverclyde Council has provided an anti-poverty budget to fund two projects within the CPLAR: the introduction of a pre-apprenticeship training programme and the upskilling and awareness training for twelve “Cost of the School Day Champions”.
- 2.6 The Pre - Apprenticeship project started in the week beginning 9 September 2019. Ten young people from S4 cohort, from the six secondary schools have been identified by their head teacher, to participate in the 40 week programme, which is a mix of vocational units and college/class time to build self-confidence, skills and knowledge to enable them to become work ready. The programme is delivered in partnership between Economic Development, Education, West College Scotland and Morton in the Community and the expected outcomes are that the 10 young people become work ready and more employable at the end of their journey.
- 2.7 The Cost of the School Day training to twelve teachers who will become advocates and champions to implement the knowledge and learning across all educational establishments took place during the last week of Summer Term 2019. Currently the training guides are being edited to suit the needs of Inverclyde Council and the group has participated in a further meeting to devise a plan to raise awareness to all school staff, support staff, parents/carers and pupils.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
1. Notes the outcomes from the Child Poverty Event in June and the progress made in regard to the projects funded by the Inverclyde Council Anti- Poverty Fund.
 2. Notes the range of activities proposed during Challenge Poverty Week from 7-13 October 2019 including the development and implementation of the Deep Dive into data workshop that will take place during this week.

Aubrey Fawcett
Chair, Programme Board
Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Under the new Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 there is a requirement for all local authorities and relevant Health Boards across Scotland to reduce child poverty. The Act sets out four national statutory income based targets to be achieved by 2030. The four targets are:
- Fewer than 10% of children are in relative poverty
 - Fewer than 5% of children are in absolute poverty
 - Fewer than 5% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
 - Fewer than 5% of children are in persistent poverty
- 4.2 Inverclyde Alliance hosted a Child Poverty workshop session in June 2019 to raise awareness of some of the work that has been undertaken in Inverclyde and to seek approval from the Board for the Local Child Poverty Action Report (CPLAR) which was submitted to the Scottish Government on 30 June 2019.
- 4.3 Inverclyde Council has provided an anti-poverty budget to fund two projects within the CPLAR: the introduction of a pre-apprenticeship training programme and the upskilling and awareness training for twelve “Cost of the School Day Champions”.

5.0 FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOP

- 5.1 Information and research were delivered by national partners including the Scottish Poverty and Inequalities Research Unit (SPIRU), the Poverty Alliance and NHS Scotland to provide an update from the Scottish Government perspective. Inverclyde Council's Child Poverty Policy Officer provided details on the content of the CPLAR, including actions and local evidence surrounding child poverty from a local perspective.
- 5.2 NHS Scotland requested Inverclyde Alliance to approve a local initiative to take a deep dive into the data around child poverty in Inverclyde to identify that the right services are meeting the needs of people living in poverty at the most appropriate times of their lives. This deep dive into data will involve local experts in information systems who can extract evidence and analyse the results this will be matched with the data that is extracted and analysed nationally to provide a whole systems report on the prevalence of poverty in the area.
- 5.3 The Poverty Alliance highlighted that the partners of Inverclyde Alliance could engage with people who have lived experience of poverty and they offered support through the “Get Heard Scotland” project. It was also suggested that Inverclyde Alliance could use “Challenge Poverty Week” 7-13 October 2019 to raise awareness of what is being done to tackle poverty locally.
- 5.4 The majority of those who attended the workshop advised that they found the presentations useful, however, they felt more time could have been given to the event to enable more in-depth discussion. Attendees were asked what they would like to see happen during Challenge Poverty Week in October; examples included:-
- Involve Communities / those with lived experience of poverty
 - Interactive sessions involving children and families
 - Raise awareness of ‘in-work’ poverty
 - Showcase of good practice

6.0 CHALLENGE POVERTY WEEK PROPOSALS

- 6.1 The Challenge Poverty week will take place between 7th October – 13th October 2019 to raise awareness across the community of the impact of poverty on children and families. The proposals for the week will include: Challenge Poverty Media Coverage including local case studies and blogs, participation in the “Hard Edges” lived experience event, Family Events within Branchton Community Centre, and East/Central Greenock, and Deep data dive workshop.

7.0 PROGRESS ON ANTI-POVERTY FUND

- 7.1 Edinburgh Council provided training on Cost of the School Day to 12 teachers. Training packs and presentations were provided and are currently being edited to suit training within Inverclyde. It is envisaged the 12 teachers will liaise with all nursery, primary and secondary schools and upskill

nominated staff members who in turn will train staff and raise awareness to parents/carers and pupils. This work will be ongoing and impact will be measured.

- 7.2 The Pre - Apprenticeship project started in the week beginning 9 September 2019. Ten young people from S4 cohort, from the six secondary schools have been identified by their head teacher, to participate in the 40 week programme, which is a mix of vocational units and college/class time to build self-confidence, skills and knowledge to enable them to become work ready. The programme is delivered in partnership between Economic Development, Education, West College Scotland and Morton in the Community and the expected outcomes are that the 10 young people become work ready and more employable at the end of their journey.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: none at present
Repopulation: repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.
Inequalities: the Locality Partnerships will be working specifically to tackle inequalities on a geographic basis.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 n/a

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 n/a