



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

Report To:	Alliance Board	Date:	20 June 2022
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development Inverclyde Council	Report No:	
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Subject:	Locality Planning within Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Inverclyde Alliance on the development of locality planning within Inverclyde and approve changes to this approach based on learning and feedback.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Empowerment Act 2015 and the Public Bodies (Scotland) Act 2014 set out differing requirements for locality planning. Within Inverclyde it was agreed that an attempt to align locality planning processes which met both sets of legislation would be advantageous, and Inverclyde Alliance and the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) agreed to put in place arrangements for locality planning across Inverclyde.
- 2.2 Six Communication and Engagement Groups have been established across Inverclyde and two Locality Planning Groups (Port Glasgow and Inverkip and Wemyss Bay localities) piloted with a range of feedback received and learning from this approach. Whilst this joined up approach across Inverclyde was based on good rationale, the concern is by continuing this model it may not meet either set of legislation nor meet the needs of the Inverclyde community and partners.
- 2.3 A new model is proposed which continues the six Communication and Engagement Groups governed through the Inverclyde Alliance's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Programme Board, and the development of two Health and Social Care Locality Groups governed through the Inverclyde's Integrated Joint Partnership's (IJB) Strategic Planning Group.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Alliance Board is asked to note the steps undertaken to date to develop locality planning across Inverclyde.
- 3.2 The Alliance Board is asked to approve the proposals to retain the six Communication and Engagement Groups and note the development of the two Health and Social Care Locality Groups for Inverclyde.

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4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places a statutory requirement on Inverclyde Alliance to develop locality plans for the communities of Inverclyde that experience the greatest inequalities.

The three localities of Port Glasgow; Greenock East and Central; and Greenock South and South West were identified as the key localities and locality plans were developed.

4.2 The Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014 places responsibility on the HSCP in relation to locality planning. Health and Social Care Partnerships must set up two or more localities and the localities should be established to enable service planning and utilisation of resources at a local level within natural communities.

4.3 Within Inverclyde it was agreed that an attempt to align locality planning processes which met both sets of legislation would be advantageous, and Inverclyde Alliance and the HSCP agreed to put in place arrangements for locality planning across Inverclyde. The report to the Alliance Board in June 2019 set out the establishment of six localities across Inverclyde as follows.

- Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village;
- Port Glasgow;
- Greenock East and Central;
- Greenock South and South West;
- Greenock West and Gourock, and
- Inverkip and Wemyss Bay.

The full report can be accessed here <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2019/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-17-june-2019>

4.4 The original plan was to establish six Locality Planning Groups which would involve a range of statutory and 3rd sector partners meeting on a quarterly basis, supported by six Communication and Engagement Groups, whose membership was community members living within the relevant locality area. The initial plan was to focus on establishing the six Communication and Engagement Groups and then pilot the locality planning groups.

4.5 The role of LPGs is to:

- ❖ Develop and oversee delivery of a Locality Action Plan that:
 - Meets the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015;
 - Takes account of strategic issues such as inequalities and poverty;
 - Delivers on the Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Plan objectives;
 - Delivers against the road map of 'what we expect to look like' at the end of the plan period;
 - Achieves transformation to a health and wellbeing partnership; and
 - Delivers financial and service sustainability.
- ❖ Assess progress against the Locality Action Plan which will utilise performance management processes
- ❖ Review the Locality Action Plan on an annual basis

4.6 The purpose of the Communication and Engagement groups are to:

- Ensure that local people can contribute to the planning, design and delivery of local services through effective collaboration and empowerment;
- Discuss and deliberate priorities to assist with prioritising work in communities;
- Enable local communities to have a say in use of defined budgets;
- Make it easier for communities to participate in community planning at a locality level;
- Provide a mechanism for more people to participate in decisions on how local services look; and
- Enable hard to reach groups who do not traditionally engage with services to participate and have a say.

4.7 Initial progress was made in establishing the groups which were led by different partners within the localities. The Communication and Engagement Groups have all developed at different paces, with greater success in some localities than others. The Covid 19 pandemic impacted on the continued development with changes to service delivery and the shift to online meetings.

4.8 A further report to Alliance Board in March 2021 provided an update on implementation and approved the consolidation of support for Communication and Engagement groups to be provided by the Council's Community learning and Development Service (CLD).

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers/inverclyde-alliance-board-papers-2021/inverclyde-alliance-board-meeting-15-march-2021>

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

5.1 Six Communication and Engagement Groups have been established across Inverclyde. Each of the six localities have been allocated a Community Development Worker to engage, consult, encourage participation and to support empowerment of members of the locality to actively become involved in local democratic decision making. These groups are developing at different rates and are at different stages of taking forward actions from their locality action plans. There have been challenges involving people from across communities onto Communication and Engagement Groups due to the ongoing restrictions around Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing, therefore much of the communication has taken place on line via electronic platforms. However, despite this challenge the Communication and Engagement Groups have taken part in developing the priorities within their own locality such as;

- Port Glasgow are consulting on transport and barriers to access health care;
- Inverkip and Wemyss Bay have implemented action plans to encourage use of the recycling bins in the villages and how they can work together to mitigate risks for young people using Inverkip beach during the school holiday period;
- Greenock West and Gourock worked together to host a local farmers market in Gourock, this was based on local research and requests from people living in the community. The group has also been supported to provide a bowl and soup session on a monthly basis, this not only supports people who have been socially isolating and have poor mental wellbeing but it also provides those facing financial insecurity an opportunity to receive a meal without judgement or stigma. The Communication and Engagement Group for Greenock West and Gourock are working with, and will be supported by, the two Community Councils;
- Kilmacolm and Quarriers Village are identifying further communication methods that will encourage more people to become involved in the locality Communication and Engagement Group;
- South and South West Communication and Engagement Group are working together to support the wider communities concerns around poverty and the impact of increasing cost of living. They have engaged the Wise Group to provide information and advice that they can share throughout the community. There has been ongoing engagement and learning to ensure that participation is across the locality and not contained within one community; and
- Greenock East and Central Communication and Engagement Group have had a few successful meetings online, however, further and more intensive support will be offered to increase participation and empowerment within this locality.

The Communication and Engagement Groups have also participated in Inverclyde wide consultations and engagement discussions and recently, the Communications and Engagement Groups have been the local representatives taking forward, promoting and voting on the Community Meliora Fund.

5.2 In terms of Locality Planning Groups (LPG) it was agreed that an incremental approach to establishing the six groups would be taken with two LPGs being developed in Port Glasgow and Inverkip and Wemyss Bay localities. These areas were to be pilots and learning from these would help establish future LPG development.

5.3 Both LPGs have now met and had very different approaches to how the meetings were run. The group meetings involved, in the main, community representatives from Communication and Engagement Groups with a few statutory partners. Feedback following the meetings from the community has been that many people are keen to be involved in the Communication and Engagement Groups however

they do not want to be involved in formal governance structures surrounding locality planning. In addition the differing roles of Community Councils and LPGs has been the subject of discussion and request for clarity as to their statutory status.

- 5.4 Feedback from partners included capacity concerns regarding the expected attendance at six LPGs on a regular basis. In particular it has been difficult to involve health and social care professionals e.g. GPs; pharmacists etc due to the work demands, and concerns raised as to the future requirement for their involvement in six LPGs. The role of LPGs for IJBs is to ensure service planning and utilisation of resources at a local level, therefore with key professionals missing this would prove difficult.

6.0 FUTURE PROPOSAL

- 6.1 Having piloted the Locality Planning Groups and discussed with a range of partners and community members, learning has emerged which has led to the realisation that one model may not be the best approach. Whilst this was a common sense approach, based on good rationale for a small locality areas such as Inverclyde, the concern is by pursuing this approach it may not meet either set of legislation nor meet the needs of the Inverclyde community and partners.

- 6.2 It is therefore proposed that under the Community Empowerment legislation, the six Communication and Engagement Groups will continue in the locality areas and be further developed. The communities will be supported by Inverclyde Council CLD colleagues to grow, continue to develop strong community involvement across Inverclyde, and develop and deliver locality plans for each area. They will have a key role in shaping future partnership work, including the development of the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. The governance for the groups will be to the Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Programme Board which is chaired by the Inverclyde Council Chief Executive.

- 6.3 In terms of meeting the requirements of The Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014, the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) will establish two formal Health and Social Care Locality Planning Groups- one for East Inverclyde and one for West Inverclyde (the boundary will be Baker Street, Greenock).

- 6.4 The Public Bodies Joint Working (Scotland) Act 2014 Act specifically highlights the following must be members of locality planning groups:
- A range of health and social care professionals who are involved in the care of people who use services
 - representatives of the housing sector
 - representatives of the third and independent sectors
 - carers" and patients" representatives
 - people managing services in the area of the Integration Authority

These groups will focus their agenda on service planning and utilisation of resources at a local level and their governance will be to the Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Planning Group which is chaired by the Chief Officer for Health and Social Care.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 Learning from the current model of locality planning across Inverclyde has concluded that it is not in the best interests of all partners to continue with this approach. A new model of continuing with the six Communication and Engagement Groups and the development of two Health and Social Care Locality Groups is seen as the way forward.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 A similar report has been submitted to the IJB Board held on the 13th June 2022. The six Communication and Engagement Groups will continue to meet regularly and the locality plans will be updated. The two Health and Social Care Locality Planning Groups will be developed and will be established by September 2022.

9.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Legal: none at present
- Finance: none at present
- Human Resources: none at present
- Equality and Diversity: none at present
- Repopulation: none at present
- Inequalities: none at present

10.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

- 10.1 n/a

11.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1 None