

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2022 – 1PM

A meeting of the Inverclyde Alliance Board will be held on Monday 5 December 2022 at 1pm within the Municipal Buildings, Greenock. Partners may attend the meeting in person or access the meeting by remote online access. Separate Webex invites have been issued for the meeting. In the event of connectivity issues, the *join by phone* number in the WebEx invitation can be used. Please note this meeting will be recorded.

Information relating to the recording of meetings can be found at the end of this notice.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minute of Previous Meeting** (copy attached)
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker** (copy attached)
5. **Nomination for Alliance Board Vice Chair** (copy attached)
Report by Morna Rae, Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships
6. **Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and Revised Action Plan** (copy attached)
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development
7. **Clyde Conversations 5 Report** (copy attached)
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development
8. **Presentation on Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership Strategy and Action Plan by Archie Dempster, Financial Inclusion Officer, Inverclyde HSCP**
9. **Local Outcome Improvement Plan Progress Report August to October 2022** (copy attached)
Report by Chair of Programme Board
Population
 - Flash report**Economy**
 - Flash report**Inequalities**
 - Flash report**Environmental, Culture and Heritage**
 - Flash report by Environment Partnership
 - Flash report by Culture and Heritage
10. **Presentation on Partnership Development by Morna Rae Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships, Inverclyde Council**

11. **Programme of Alliance Board Meetings 2023** (copy attached)
Report by Head of Legal & Democratic Services
12. **AOCB**
For noting:
Minute of Inverclyde Taskforce Group 27 June 2022 (copy attached)
13. **Date of Next Meeting – Monday 13 March 2022**

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Enquiries to – Lindsay Carrick - 01475 712114
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INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 3 OCTOBER 2022 – 1PM

Present: Councillors E Robertson (Chair), S McCabe and G Brooks (Inverclyde Council), Mr A Comrie (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport), Ms C Elliott (CVS Inverclyde), Ms S Kelly (Skills Development Scotland), Mr S Frew (Scottish Enterprise), Mr R Turnock (River Clyde Homes), Mr C McGhee (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Ms K Wallace (NatureScot), Mr R Cowan MP, Dr F Simpson (Scottish Government), Dr T Martin (NHS GGC) and Mr K Leinster (Inverclyde Alcohol & Drug Partnership).

In attendance: Ms L Long, Mr S Jamieson, Mr T McEwan, Mr S McNab, Mr G Barbour, Ms M Rae, Mr R Macsween, Ms L Carrick and Ms D Sweeney (Inverclyde Council), and Ms K Rocks (Inverclyde HSCP).

The meeting was held in the Municipal Buildings, Greenock and remotely via WebEx. Councillors Robertson, Brooks, McCabe, Ms L Long, Ms M Rae, Mr R Cowan, Mr K Leinster and Mr R Turnock attended the meeting in person.

Prior to the commencement of business, Councillor Robertson welcomed Dr F Simpson, Chief Planner for Scottish Government to the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor L Quinn (Inverclyde Council), Ms S Rae (West College Scotland) and Mr S McMillan MSP.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the previous meeting was considered.

With reference to the decision set out at “Presentation on levelling up fund proposals”, it was noted that this should read ‘that the presentation be noted and agreed to support the submission to the UK Government’.

With reference to the decision set out at the “Presentation on the Fraser of Allander Report supporting economic recovery in Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire & Argyll & Bute”, it was noted that this should read ‘that the presentation be noted’.

MATTERS ARISING

Covid 19 Partnership Recovery Plan

Ms Elliott advised the Board that good progress has been made in relation to the Covid 19 memorial work and that an update will be circulated to Members by email.

Partnership Updates

Population - Update on Eastern Gateway

Officers advised that an update report would be submitted to the next meeting.

Inequalities

It was noted that an update by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership in relation to requests made to the Scottish Government will be included as part of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Annual Report when it is considered at a future meeting of the Alliance Board.

Cultural Heritage & Environment

It was noted that an update report on tree planting will be submitted to the next meeting.

It was noted that updates will be provided on climate change in all sub-groups of the Alliance Board for discussion at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION ON DRUG RELATED DEATHS AND WORK OF THE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

The Board heard a presentation by Dr Tony Martin, (NHS GGC) Drug Death Analyst on drug related deaths and the work of the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

During the presentation, Councillor Robertson paused the meeting for a five minute recess at 13.20pm to resolve connectivity issues.

The meeting reconvened at 13.25pm without Mr D Martin and Mr C McGhee.

Councillor Robertson moved the meeting on to discuss the next item of business to permit Dr Martin to resolve his connectivity issues.

Dr Martin re-joined the meeting during discussion of the next item and the presentation reconvened after that.

Thereafter Dr Martin answered a number of questions in relation to the presentation. Following the presentation and questions, Councillor Robertson expressed her thanks on behalf of the Alliance Board to Dr Martin and Mr Leinster for their attendance at the meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the presentation be noted.

Dr T Martin and Ms K Wallace left the meeting after the presentation.

INVERCLYDE LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT – APRIL TO JUNE 2022

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Programme Board providing an update on the progress which has been made in implementing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

During discussion on this item, Councillor Robertson paused the meeting for a five minute recess at 13.55pm to resolve ongoing connectivity issues. The meeting reconvened at 14.02pm without Ms K Wallace. Dr Martin re-joined the meeting during discussion of this item.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Population

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Population Partnership Group providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the Repopulation priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in implementing the Population priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Economy

There was submitted a report by the Interim Director Environment and Regeneration, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the Economy priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Economy priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Ms S Kelly left the meeting at this juncture.

Inequalities

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Inequalities priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Mr S McNab joined the meeting at this juncture.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made in implementing the Inequalities priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Ms K Wallace re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

Cultural, Heritage and Environment

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Cultural and Heritage priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided:

(1) that the progress made in implementing the Cultural and Heritage priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted; and

(2) that a development session on Net Zero be arranged following the Alliance Board meeting to be held in March 2023.

Mr C McGhee re-joined the meeting at this juncture.

PRESENTATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE

The Board heard a presentation by Ms M Rae, Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships, Inverclyde Council providing information on (1) the development of the Inverclyde Alliance, (2) the new partnership plan (3) partnership health check, (4) the upcoming development session on locality planning with Ayrshire local authorities and (5) the Annual Alliance report.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

AOCB

It was noted that Chief Superintendent David Duncan, Police Scotland will no longer be attending Alliance Board meetings and that it was remitted to officers from Inverclyde Council to submit a report to the next meeting in relation to vice chair nominations. Councillor Robertson asked that her appreciation and thanks for the work undertaken by Chief Superintendent Duncan be recorded.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Alliance Board will take place at 1pm on Monday 5 December 2022.



Inverclyde Alliance

Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update at 5th December 2022
3.10.22	<u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u> Correction to minute of 20 June.	Complete
3.10.22	<u>Matters Arising</u> 1. Covid 19 Partnership Recovery Plan – update on Covid memorial work to be circulated by email 2. Inequalities Partnership Update - Update on requests made to Scottish Government will be included as part of consideration of ADP annual report when it is considered at a future Alliance meeting 3. Cultural, Heritage and Environment Partnership Updates (i) Report on tree planting to be provided for a future meeting (ii) A development session on Net Zero be arranged following the Alliance Board meeting to be held in March 2023	Complete – update issued 5.10.22 Scheduled for a future meeting Scheduled for a future meeting Scheduled for March 2023
3.10.22	<u>Drug Related Deaths</u> Presentation to be circulated by email	Complete – issued 4.10.22
3.10.22	<u>Development of Inverclyde Alliance New Partnership Plan</u> 1. Consultation results to be shared with partners 2. Development session focused on Partnership Plan to be arranged	Complete – issued 31.10.22 Ongoing – to be arranged

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update at 5 th December 2022
	Partnership Healthcheck – proposals to be developed	Complete – on meeting agenda
3.10.22	<u>AOCB</u> Officers from Inverclyde Council to submit a report to the next meeting in relation to Vice Chair nominations	Complete – on meeting agenda
3.10.22	<u>Workshops Held After Substantive Meeting – Involving Alliance partners and Inverclyde Elected Members</u> 1. Cost of Living Crisis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Collation and distribution of information on local work to mitigate the impact of the increased cost of living (ii) Notes on key themes to be circulated (iii) Agreed to consider the theme in relation to new Partnership Plan 2. New Scots <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Notes of key themes to be circulated (ii) Provide an update report to Alliance Board in 2023 	Complete – issued 4.10.22 Complete – issued 26.10.22 Ongoing Complete – issued 26.10.22 Scheduled for a future meeting



AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

Report To:	Inverclyde LOIP Programme Board	Date:	5 December 2022
Report By:	Morna Rae, Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae	Contact No:	01475 712055
Subject:	Nomination for Alliance Board Vice Chair		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to advise the Alliance Board on the nomination for Alliance Board Vice Chair.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Memorandum of Understanding for Inverclyde Alliance includes the role of Vice Chair. Following the resignation of the previous Vice Chair as he has moved on to a new role a replacement Vice Chair has been sought.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the LOIP Programme Board approves Ch Supt Laura Waddell as the new Vice Chair.

Morna Rae
Service Manger - Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Alliance Board agreed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the June 2021 Board meeting. The MOU sets out a governance framework to help support Community Planning in Inverclyde. It details the context for Community Planning in Inverclyde, including the legislative requirements and the guiding principles which underpin the work of Inverclyde Alliance. The Alliance's core structures are outlined in the document, along with the format of meetings, how the Alliance will be supported and the expectations of the partners organisations that make up the Alliance.
- 4.2 The MOU states that a Vice Chair for the Alliance Board should be in place, this role involves deputising for the Chair on any occasion.
- 4.3 Following a process of requests and nomination Davie Duncan of Police Scotland was appointed as Vice Chair in October 2021. As Chief Superintendent Duncan has moved on to a new role he stepped down as Vice Chair.
- 4.4 At the October 2022 Alliance meeting partners discussed the role of Vice Chair. Following this one nomination was received; Laura Waddell, who is now Police Scotland's Divisional Commander for Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Division.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the appointment of Ch Supt Laura Waddell as Vice Chair.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Legal: N/A
Finance: N/A
Human Resources: N/A
Equality and Diversity: N/A
Repopulation: N/A
Inequalities: N/A

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	5 December 2022
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community Learning and Development, Community Safety & Resilience	Contact No:	
Subject:	Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and Revised Action Plan		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and a revised action plan to the Alliance Board for approval.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 placed a requirement on each local authority to consult on and publish plans every three years containing specified information on the provision of CLD by both the local authority and its partners.
- 2.2 A new Inverclyde 3 Year Plan for 2021-24 was developed last year and was approved by the Alliance Board in October 2021.
- 2.3 An annual report has been produced to provide an update on the progress made with the implementation of the CLD 3 Year Plan during year one. This is contained within appendix 1.
- 2.4 The CLD Partnership has carried out a review of the actions contained within the CLD 3 Year Plan. As a result, a number of changes have been made to the actions to ensure that they reflect the current landscape and will best enable the CLD Partnership to achieve the priorities within the plan. A revised action plan is contained within appendix 2.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 Annual Report and the revised action plan.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 placed a requirement on each local authority to consult on and publish plans every three years containing specified information on the provision of CLD by both the local authority and its partners.
- 4.2 The CLD Regulations stipulate that each CLD planning process must identify the following information:
- How the local authority will co-ordinate its provision of CLD with other CLD providers within the area of the local authority;
 - What action the local authority will take to provide CLD over the period of the plan;
 - What action other partners intend to take to provide CLD within the area of the local authority over the period of the plan; and
 - Any needs for CLD that will not be met within the period of the plan.
- 4.3 A new CLD 3 Year Plan for Inverclyde was developed last year to meet the requirements of the CLD (Scotland) Regulations 2013 by providing a framework for CLD provision across the CLD Partnership in Inverclyde. The plan covers the period 2021-24 and was approved by the Alliance Board in October 2021.
- 4.4 The CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 was produced using a collaborative approach between the organisations that make up the CLD Partnership in Inverclyde. The following four priorities were identified as the key areas the CLD 3 Year Plan would focus its attention on:
- Development of digital services
 - Empowering communities
 - Improving the health and well-being of communities
 - Creating a workforce for the future

5.0 CLD 3 YEAR PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

- 5.1 The CLD Partnership has produced an annual report to show the progress made during 2021/22 towards achieving the four priorities within the CLD 3 Year Plan.
- 5.2 All partner organisations have contributed to the annual report to ensure that it reflects the entirety of work that is taking place across the CLD Partnership. A CLD workforce planning session was held on the 12th of October and attended by over 40 CLD practitioners from a range of organisations. Those who attended the session were asked to provide details of their organisation's key achievements within the last year and their feedback has informed the annual report.
- 5.3 The annual report contains an update on the progress that was made in achieving the four priorities during year one. The report contains a template for each priority which provides information on the progress made under each action and the rag status of the action. In addition, each template contains details of key achievements made by the CLD Partnership.
- 5.4 The annual report is contained within appendix 1 of this report.

6.0 REFRESHED ACTION PLAN

- 6.1 The CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 contains an action plan, that once implemented will contribute towards the achievement of the four priorities within the plan. At the end of the year one, it is timely that we review the action plan to take into account changes that have taken place over the last year. This will ensure that we are delivering the right actions that will contribute to the achievement of the four priorities.
- 6.2 The focus of the 3 year plan during each one was very much on recovery, given the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic had on the delivery of CLD services in Inverclyde. However, things have moved on and it is important that we make changes to the actions to reflect this.

6.3 The CLD Partnership played a key role in the review and refresh of the action plan. At the CLD planning session held in October, CLD practitioners were asked for their views on the current actions, what changes should be made and what changes they thought should be included in the revised action plan. Their feedback has informed the actions which will be implemented under each priority in the remaining two years of the plan.

6.4 The main changes that have been made to the actions under each priority are as follows:

- Development of Digital Services – in year one the focus was very much on developing the online platform Moodle and upskilling learners and communities to be able to use online learning platforms. The new actions focus on the further development of Moodle, reviewing how the CLD Partnership delivers digital services to make sure we have the correct tools and increasing participation in employment, learning and training by those who are digitally excluded.
- Empowering Communities – in year one the key areas of focus were working with Communication and Engagement Groups, piloting two Locality Planning Groups, developing locality action plans and developing a volunteering strategy. In year 2 the focus will move onto reviewing and updating community engagement and development platforms and also working to challenge stigma around poverty. The feedback from CLD practitioners at the CLD Planning session was that poverty was an area that was missing from the plan and should be included.
- Health and Well-Being – the action to develop a better understanding of the current health and well-being priorities has been made more specific and this action will now be carried out through the Young Person's Health and Well-Being Survey and the Adult Health and Well-Being Survey. Feedback from CLD Practitioners and the Co-ordinating Group suggested that we need to look at identifying best practice and this will therefore be an area of focus in year 2.
- Workforce Development – in year one the focus was on developing a programme of professional learning and development for staff, building confidence and resilience across the workforce by sharing best practice and increasing membership of the CLD Standards Council. In year 2 the focus will be on carrying out a workforce development survey, developing a two year plan to build confidence and resilience amongst the workforce and continue to increase membership of the CLD Standards Council.

6.5 A revised action plan is contained within appendix 2 of this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and is an appendix in the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24.
Population: The CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 will contribute to the achievement of the population priority.
Inequalities: The CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 will contribute to the achievement of the inequalities priority.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

N/A

9.0	LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
9.1	N/A

Community Learning and Development Inverclyde 3 Year Plan 2021-24

Annual Report 2021/22

DRAFT

Inverclyde
council

Skills
Development
Scotland



Inverclyde Alliance

INVERCLYDE
HSCP
Health and Social
Care Partnership

WEST COLLEGE
SCOTLAND

CVS Inverclyde
Community Groups Voluntary Organisations Social Enterprises



our
Library
Inverclyde Libraries
Inform • Include • Inspire

DWP
Department for
Work and Pensions

your
voice

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Foreword

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson, Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

I am delighted to introduce this Annual Report for 2021/22 which highlights the progress the Community Learning and Development Partnership has made in delivering the Community Learning and Development 3 Year Plan 2021-24.

This Annual Report provides details of the progress that it has made in achieving the four priorities in the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24. It highlights a range of partnership projects and initiatives that were implemented during 2021/22 to help us achieve our priorities.

The partnership has continued to build on the progress that it made in previous years by implementing a number of projects and initiatives aimed at improving access to digital services, empowering our communities, improving health and wellbeing and developing our workforce.

Some of the highlights include:

- The development and roll out of Moodle, an online learning platform;
- The development and implementation of a Volunteering Strategy for Inverclyde;
- The establishment of a youth hub in Port Glasgow to enable young people to access more than one service in one visit;
- The establishment of Mental Health Ambassadors in St Columba's High School to support young people, parents and staff to reduce the stigma and discrimination in relation to children and young people's mental health; and
- A continue commitment to the development of CLD practitioners across Inverclyde by providing a development session.

There is still more to be achieved and in year 2 the partnership will build on its achievements and continue to develop co-ordinated, effective, efficient services that meet the needs of our learners and communities.

I look forward to providing you with an update on our progress again next year. In the meantime, I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report for 2021/22 on behalf of the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson
Chair of Inverclyde Alliance Board

Background

What is Community Learning and Development?

Community Learning and Development (CLD) is “a field of professional practice that enables people to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities. It uses a range of formal and informal methods of learning and social development with individuals and groups in their communities” (CLD Standards Council for Scotland). CLD provision is targeted to those most in need and resources are deployed in localities to address identified needs in those communities.

The CLD Partnership in Inverclyde brings together key agencies engaged in CLD delivery across Inverclyde including Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland, West College Scotland, CVS Inverclyde, Your Voice, Inverclyde's Health and Social Care Partnership and the Department for Work and Pensions. (Please see page 2 for a full list of the organisations that make up the CLD Partnership in Inverclyde) We work across the partnership to support young people, adult learners and community groups to empower them to make positive changes to their lives through learning.

What is the purpose of the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24?

The Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 places a requirement on each local authority to consult on and publish plans every three years containing specified information on the provision of CLD by both the local authority and its partners.

The CLD Regulations stipulate that each CLD planning process must identify the following:

- How the local authority will co-ordinate its provision of CLD with other CLD providers within the area of the local authority;
- What action the local authority will take to provide CLD over the period of the plan;
- What action other partners intend to take to provide CLD within the area of the local authority over the period of the plan; and
- Any needs for CLD that will not be met within the period of the plan.

The purpose of the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24 is to meet the requirements of the CLD (Scotland) Regulations 2013 by providing a framework for CLD provision across the CLD Partnership in Inverclyde.

Our Priorities

The CLD Partnership in Inverclyde has identified four priorities it will focus on during the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24. The identification of these priorities has been informed by meaningful consultation and engagement with partners and communities and takes account of the various challenges facing both the CLD sector and communities in Inverclyde. All priorities set out in the CLD plan contribute to Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017/22 themes of population; inequalities, the local economy and environment, culture and heritage.

Priority 1: Development of digital services

Why is this a priority?

The development of digital services helps contribute to the continued recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic by helping the CLD Partnership to re-engage with service users. It also helps us to provide effective online learning and enhance the digital skills of learners, communities and our workforce and address the challenge of raising attainment for all.

Partners agree that it is critical to ensure that people have the necessary skills to be able to confidently use digital services, and that we look at providing blended learning and use digital services to engage with communities.

Learners told us that they liked online learning and would like a blended model moving forward. Feedback from engagement with over 3,000 people across Inverclyde during the pandemic concluded that digital exclusion was a key theme they wanted us to address.

Priority 2: Empowering Communities

Why is this a priority?

It is vital that we work with local communities in order to fully understand how they have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and the support they require in order to facilitate recovery. A key part of this will be continuing to build resilience and capacity within communities so that they can work in partnership with us to address issues.

Understanding what the key issues are in communities will also help us to identify what actions will best help to tackle the challenges we face such as child poverty, deprivation, health inequalities, the economy and the support needed for an ageing population.

Communities told us that they want to be more involved in decision-making and have a greater say in the issues affecting the community in which they live. Empowering communities and giving them a greater say in decision-making will help us to meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 and mainstream participatory budgeting.

The partnership understands there needs to be a greater focus placed on engaging young people, that we need to raise awareness of what is currently available and that we need to use

social media more for engagement.

The increase in volunteering during Covid-19 was one of the most positive aspects to come out of the pandemic and the partnership recognises that continued support and the promotion of volunteering will also make a meaningful contribution to recovery.

Priority 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of communities

Why is this a priority?

Identifying how we can best support young people and adults to improve their mental health and wellbeing will be another key component of recovery.

Other aspects such as development of community food growing and looking at how we keep people safe featured highly as a way of promoting positive health and wellbeing in our communities.

All six Communication and Engagement Groups also identified improved health and wellbeing as a priority for Inverclyde, including better provision of activities to promote wellbeing, especially amongst young people.

By focusing on this priority the partnership will help to address the stark health inequalities in life expectancy and other health outcomes across communities in Inverclyde.

Priority 4: Develop a workforce for the future



Why is this a priority?



Developing a workforce for the future is a priority because it is central to the overall delivery of the CLD 3 Year Plan 2021-24.

The partnership acknowledges that it is essential the CLD workforce it is supported and developed, especially in relation to digital skills where some of the workforce feel upskilling is required. The workforce must have access to the IT equipment they need to be effective and that improved access to social media would be beneficial to linking with the needs of learners and communities. The pandemic provided staff with the opportunity to work across different services, which many of them enjoyed and would like to see continue.

What progress did we make in year 1?

Priority 1: Development of Digital Services – Progress in Year 1



Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
Roll out and develop Moodle as a digital learning platform.	Year 1	All learners are confident using Moodle for their digital learning.	CLD Services	Moodle has now been introduced. It has been promoted across the CLD Practitioners Group and training has been developed and delivered.	
Upskill learners, communities and practitioners to ensure they are confident with digital learning, including sites and platforms such as Moodle. This will allow us to support and develop the community engagement and community groups/networking that took place	Year 2		Co-ordination Group / Thematic Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailored support for digital skills has been introduced with the appointment of a Digital Inclusion Outreach Officer. Free Device Advice has been re-introduced in 5 library branches, along with three Bring IT On digital assistance blocks per year (Jan-Mar, April-May and Sept-Oct) All Library staff are now trained as digital champions and are SCVO Trained (training took place over pandemic period and is now part of induction for new start front line employees. 	


during the pandemic.					
Identify and support people who are digitally isolated to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence to access digital services.	Year 1 - 400 people Year 2 - 400 people Year 3 – 400 people	400 people per year that are digitally isolated will be given access, skills and knowledge to access digital services.	Co-ordination Group / Thematic Group	<p>100 Digital Devices have been allocated to identified children and young people in schools. Local Community Centres have received allocations on additional devices to support learning.</p> <p>Inverclyde Libraries received funding for a Digital Outreach Worker who is supporting the most digitally excluded in SIMD 1 and 2 areas. Targeting those over 60 and those on incomes between £10,000 - £20,000. This funding also provides digital support for start-ups and working with CLD to support for New Scots/ EAL</p>	
Ensure that learners and communities are able to access digital equipment for employment, training and learning.	Year 2	<p>We will identify learners and members of the community who are unable engage in employment, training or learning because they are digitally excluded.</p> <p>Individuals are supported in developing their digital skills, knowledge and attributes to gain access to online learning, employment and training.</p>	Co-ordination Group / Thematic Group	Libraries are providing free at point of access resources; free access to PCs and internet for job seeking and Universal Credit claims; Access to support and advice with digital skills required for benefits and job seeking activity, clothing grants and Educational maintenance Allowance applications.	



Key achievements

- Skills Development Scotland (SDS) signposts to the digital learning offer within Inverclyde to equip individuals with the skills required to support them to develop their Career Management Skills. The service compliments these referrals with ongoing Employability or Career Guidance support.
- Inverclyde Libraries utilised research from Inverclyde's 6 localities that was undertaken after the pandemic to bid for a project funded Digital Inclusion Outreach Officer (DIOO). The research showed an uneven digital inclusion profile and identified there were issues with regards to access to digital services and a need for more support to enable people to be able to use them. The appointment of a DIOO has allowed Libraries to pro-actively work with communities in identified areas, (East and Central Greenock and Port Glasgow) and approach those who are experiencing digital exclusion within the community, (through CLD & Sheltered housing referrals). Tailored support has been developed to help people to get (and stay) connected with their local library and other vital services. This will in turn increase numbers engaging with library services.
- The Libraries Digital Inclusion Outreach Officer reviewed existing digital inclusion support and met with a number of Community Learning and Development (CLD) tutors to sit in on sessions and gain an insight into what learners are currently doing/ looking for. This enabled the DIOO to learn and adapt methods of delivery. Having identified community areas and complexes with the most suitable lounge/meeting spaces, a timetable of learning has been designed to meet the needs of individuals and groups.
- The Young Stem Leader Programme (YSLP) is an award which aims to spark greater interest and participation in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) among young people in Scotland. Youth Work staff undertook STEM leader training and are now able to offer this accreditation to local young people.
- The Council's Youth Team successfully accessed funding from Youth Link Scotland to develop a makerspace in Greenock I Youth Zone. This has provided young people the opportunity to explore creative STEM skills such as coding, robotics, electronics and 3D printing.

Priority 2: Empowering Communities – Progress in Year 1

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
Work with the six Communication and Engagement Groups to build confidence and support those that are most marginalised and facing the greatest inequalities.	Year 1	We will have identified people who are marginalised and disengaged and support them to participate in their locality Communication and Engagement Group.	Community Learning and Development Services	<p>Each of the 6 localities have established communication and engagement groups. These will become larger networks to encourage those facing the greatest inequalities to have their voice in the network without the commitment of having to attend monthly meetings.</p> <p>The Communication and Engagement Groups have been the platform for Inverclyde Wide Consultation and Engagement including the Budget Consultation, The Community Meliora Fund, the LOIP/Corporate Plan review and discussions around the local impact of poverty, affordable childcare and examining Inverclyde's historic links to slavery.</p>	
Pilot the establishment of two Locality Planning Groups to provide a forum for community representatives and public services to come together to influence service planning of health	Year 1	<p>Each Locality Planning Group will have a minimum of two community representatives and will be meeting on a regular basis.</p> <p>The community representative have influence</p>	LOIP Strategic Inequalities Group	<p>Two pilot Locality Planning Group meetings were held in October 21. One covered Port Glasgow and the other Inverkip and Wemyss Bay. Locality Planning Groups are now facilitated by HSCP.</p> <p>The Alliance Board agreed in June 2022</p>	

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
and social care in Inverclyde.		over the planning of health and social care services in their locality.		<p>to change the number of locality planning groups and have 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) These will be established by September 2022.</p> <p>The Alliance Board also agreed in June 2022 to evaluate Inverclyde's approach to Locality Planning Groups (LPG) and will benchmark against other Local Authorities good practice. Inverclyde Council's Community Learning and Development Services will support partners such as the Health and Social Care Partnership to continue to take a Community Learning and Development Approach as part of this evaluation.</p>	
Further develop and implement Locality Action Plans to tackle the challenges faced by communities and use this to inform participatory budgeting.	Review annually	<p>Communities will influence the development of six Locality Action Plans that provide information on the key challenges within each locality.</p> <p>Participatory budgeting will provide a framework to provide services that meet</p>	Co-ordination Group	Locality Action Plans are in use in each of the 6 locality areas and are used as the focal point for the Communication and Engagement Groups.	

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
		the needs of localities.			
Establish an Inverclyde wide Communications and Engagement Group for young people.	Year 1	More young people are involved in democratic decision-making.	CLD Services	<p>Young People participated in the LOIP/Corporate Plan consultation with a dedicated smart survey and an engagement event on Monday 3rd October in Greenock Town Hall.</p> <p>Young People also participated in Communications and Engagement on the Greenock Town Centre Consultation in June 2022.</p> <p>5 young people are actively contributing to the Active Inverclyde Strategy as part of the Strategy Implementation Group.</p>	
Develop and implement a Volunteering Strategy for Inverclyde.	Year 1	<p>The number of people participating in volunteering is increased.</p> <p>The quality and quantity of volunteering opportunities is increased.</p> <p>Evidence of volunteering being promoted and valued.</p> <p>More local strategies and plans will demonstrate the contribution and impact of volunteering.</p>	Thematic Group / CVS Inverclyde	Inverclyde's Volunteer 3 Year Plan was agreed by the Alliance Board and launched in March 2022. We have since developed a delivery steering group who will move this plan forward. The delivery steering group comprises of representatives from CVS Inverclyde, Inverclyde Council and other community organisations. The main function of this group will be to deliver the action plan and continue to capture the voices of local volunteers via the Inverclyde's Volunteer Survey. The data from this	

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
				annual survey will allow us to capture and gauge the changing landscape of volunteering across Inverclyde. In addition the delivery group will also develop and promote the Inverclyde's Volunteer Charter. The charter will be a standard for local volunteer involving organisations, championing best practice in volunteer management.	



Key achievements




- SDS worked with the Scottish Government to develop a measure of participation which allows us to identify the participation status of the wider 16-19 cohort. For 2022, it was reported 93.8% of 16 to 19 year olds in Inverclyde were participating in Education, Employment or Training. This is an increase of 0.5% participation since 2021. Inverclyde sits above the National average participation rate of 92.4%. Joint partnership working, particularly the approach of the Youth Outreach/Hub has contributed to improving destination data within the Local Authority, ultimately improving participation rate.
- The first Youth Hub was established in Port Glasgow. Inverclyde Council's MCMC Team, Skills Development Scotland, Job Centre Plus, CVS Inverclyde and Inverclyde Advice Services came together to provide a one stop shop where young people can access support and advice in one visit. The aim of the Youth Hub is to help young people to access employment, further education and training opportunities. 200 economically inactive young people were targeted through door knocking to encourage them to engage with the Youth Hub.
- All Library staff took part in training sessions with the Children's Rights Officer in 2021 and this culminated in an application to the Inverclyde Rights of the Child Award. Inverclyde Libraries received the award in October 2022, a demonstration of its commitment to embedding the

UNCRC into all its strategic planning and becoming a rights respecting Team. It is also a demonstration of improved services, developed with input from young people to ensure that they meet their needs.

- Inverclyde Youth Council is the recognised structure for youth engagement in Inverclyde. The Youth Council have given feedback on various consultations and supported the Inverclyde Rights of the Child award process locally. The Youth Council is currently engaging with young people to increase membership through sessions in schools and college and via promotion using social media platforms.
- We have 2 MSYPs in Inverclyde, both of whom sit on the Youth Council. The MSYPs were elected in November 2021 with 2444 votes cast by local young people as part of the election process, supported by CLD Youth Work Services. The MSYPs have participated in 2 national sittings in their time in office.

Priority 3: Improving the Health and Well-Being of Communities – Progress in Year 1

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
Develop a better understanding of the current health and wellbeing provision and identify the gaps in order to build on existing good practice.	Year 1	There will be a clearer understanding of the priorities, better co-ordination amongst partners and best practice will be rolled out.	Co-ordination Group	An exercise was carried out to gather information on all health and wellbeing provision being delivered by partner organisations. This is currently being analysed and will be used to identify gaps and areas for improvement that will be taken forward in year 2 and year 3 of the CLD 3 year plan.	
Provide support to young people within the school environment to help them manage their anxiety.	Ongoing / monitored on an annual basis	Young people in schools will know strategies they can utilize to help them cope with anxiety.	Thematic Group	<p>Home School Link Workers continue to deliver Let's Introduce Anxiety Management (LIAM) programme to young people in school who are experiencing high levels of anxiety.</p> <p>Home School Link Workers are providing a range of group support in the school environment to young people identified by the school as part of their transitions programme.</p>	

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
Provide support to young people within the school environment to help them manage their anxiety.	Ongoing / monitored on an annual basis	Young people in schools will know strategies they can utilize to help them cope with anxiety.	Thematic Group	Inverclyde Libraries are providing Reading Well books and Library of Kindness collections to schools with associated class programming.	
Develop and deliver a package of training to challenge the language and stigma around mental health and inequalities.	Training Developed in year 1	Communities, young people and the workforce will have a better understanding and knowledge of mental health and inequalities.	Co-ordination Group	<p>Community Health and Wellbeing training delivered to a small group of staff during Challenge Poverty Week October 2021.</p> <p>Training was delivered to all Front Line Library staff on Health Literacy – giving staff the confidence and the tools to effectively manage health related queries received at the desk.</p>	
Develop and implementation of a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Inverclyde.	<p>Developed and approved in year 1</p> <p>Actions implement</p>	<p>There will be an increase in the number of people participating in sport and physical activity.</p> <p>Baseline - 63% of Inverclyde residents</p>	Co-ordination Group / Thematic Group	<p>Active Inverclyde was approved by Inverclyde Alliance in October 2021.</p> <p>Libraries have initiated a Health Walk walking group as part of the adult programming for</p>	

Key Actions	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
	ed over the lifespan of the strategy.	participate in sport/ similar activity at least every two weeks (Source: Citizens Panel)		Health & Wellbeing. Part of the wider Paths for All network - a charity that champions everyday walking in Scotland: www.pathsforall.org.uk Members of library staff have completed the one day Paths for All Walk Leader training course.	




Key achievements

- Expanding Mental Health Ambassadors in St Columba's High School to continue a culture of recognising and supporting the Mental Health of our school community through working with staff and pupil Mental Health Ambassadors (MHA). MHA will involve supporting young people, parents and staff to reduce the stigma and discrimination in relation to Children and Young People's Mental Health.
- Port Glasgow High School have established a focus on outdoor learning in conjunction with the idea that nature is for nurture. Work is on-going to further develop its focus on the improvement of mental health among our community, tackling discrimination and school engagement, resourcing the school sufficiently to ensure we are meeting the emotional, social and behavioural needs of our learners in an outdoor setting.
- Man On is building on their successful Football Therapy Project to recruit, train and support YP Ambassadors, who will effectively become peer-support volunteers within our organisation and the wider community.
- We held Clyde Conversations 5 in February 2022 exploring themes around health and well-being with young people. 85% of participants in CLD lead attainment work in high schools reported improved health and wellbeing in the last academic year.

- Reporting to the Mental Health programme Board, a local Suicide Prevention Group has been established with a wide range of partners actively engaging and contributing to this. Terms of reference have been drafted, a training needs analysis is underway and an information resource detailing local sources of support has been produced, using an existing resource developed by Police Scotland in Renfrewshire.
- Building on a successful event hosted in February by CVS's Resilience Network to challenge stigma across a number of areas and subjects, a programme of local events has been introduced to raise awareness. Training on stigma is currently being developed for local use.
- Via the ADP, a review of the substance use content of the PSE curriculum in schools is being incorporated into the schools PSE network and as part of the education health and wellbeing plan implementation. Young people have also contributed to this via Clyde Conversations and the results of this will be incorporated into the wider review. A training needs analysis will be conducted with staff to identify any gaps in knowledge, skills or confidence to deliver substance education. A wider review of all topic based PSE areas is complementary to this.
- An engagement event for local sports clubs and organisations was held in June 2022. It covered the local and national perspective through an input from Sport Scotland as well an input on the Active Inverclyde Strategy. Small table discussions were held addressing key questions about taking the strategy forward. The National Schools Census on pupil health and wellbeing will be completed in term 2 of academic year 22/23 and is expected to report in term 4. This will provide data on pupil health and well-being and will help to identify priority areas and actions going forward.
- NHS GGC is conducting its latest population health and wellbeing survey. This is later than usual due to the pandemic. Fieldwork will be conducted in Autumn and Winter 2022/23 and it's expected to report in spring 2023. Inverclyde has invested in this to ensure high levels of engagement with our communities and robust local reporting that facilitates identifying priority areas going forward.
- NHS GGC Public Mental Health Remobilisation funds have been used to procure a significant number of training licences for a wide variety of staff, volunteers and community members to undertake online suicide prevention training. The course teaches trainees to recognise when someone is thinking about suicide and connect them to help and support.

- Inverclyde Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (ICMHWF) funded 20 projects at a total value of £338,301 for delivery in year 1. This resulted in a range of partner organisations receiving funding to run projects to support mental health.
- We have accessed monies from sportscotland to undertake targeted work in the Greenock East and Central area looking to work with young parents and partners with early years establishments as well as local clubs and organisations.
- Inverclyde Libraries were involved in “A Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing” Refreshed Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing Action Plan - Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (alliance-scotland.org.uk). This is a partnership approach to assisting the public support their own health conditions through access to trusted information and services. A Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing was sponsored and championed by professor Sir Gregor Smith the Chief Medical Officer for Scotland. Please view the video below to see Inverclyde Libraries contribution. <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/680276499/9800b1b812>
- Libraries have explored how they can initiate and strengthen existing partnerships with third sector organisations such as Alzheimer’s Scotland, Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland and Menopause Matter. These organisations are offering training to library staff to support them to overcome communication barriers relating to stroke or disability for example.
- Inverclyde Libraries provide the Reading Well Books on Prescription, a national scheme delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with Libraries Connected. It is endorsed by professional health bodies (see list at www.reading-well.org.uk/about) and available in our public libraries. There are 5 national Reading Well schemes; Reading Well for mental health, Reading Well for long term conditions, Reading Well for dementia, Reading Well for young people (Young Adults) and Reading Well for children.

Priority 4: Develop a Workforce for the Future – Progress in Year 1

Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
Develop a programme of professional learning and development in response to staff and volunteer needs identified from workforce development survey with a particular focus on ICT skills.	Year 1	The CLD workforce will be upskilled and receive training to meet their personal development needs.	Co-ordination Group	1 st meeting of Practitioners Group June 2022 Training input delivered on What is a CLD Approach? Draft practitioner survey to be considered at Practitioners Steering group on 19 th of September. Full meeting to follow on 29/09	
Build confidence and resilience across the workforce by sharing best practice and through peer support and evaluation.	Year 2	The CLD workforce have increased confidence in engaging with communities and learners. Self-evaluation is integrated into CLD practice and best practice is shared across the CLD Partnership.	Co-ordination / Practitioners Group	Practice sharing as part of Practitioner Group in June Inverclyde CLD Partnership Workforce development day took place 15/06. There were four 4 main themes for the day - (i) CLD Plan & Priorities, (ii) CLD Competency Framework, (iii) Presentation by John Gault (Education Scotland) and (iv) Self-evaluation. Reported back to SIG at previous meeting. Feedback session at CLD P's G in Sept	
Increase membership of the CLD Standards Council and promote the embedding of the competencies.	Increase membership – year 1 Embed competencies – Year	There is an increased number of the CLD workforce in Inverclyde who are members of the CLD Standards Council. The competencies of the	Co-ordination / Practitioners Group	Training input delivered on What is a CLD Approach? Including CLD Competences. Also delivered as part of Inverclyde CLD Partnership Workforce development day Baseline to be captured as part of Practitioner survey. CLD S's C sign-up event held by Dec	

Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?	Progress	Rag Status
		CLD Standards Council are embedded into staff performance appraisals / self-reflection.		2022	

Key achievements

- A Workforce Development survey was developed and tested in year 1 and will be carried out in year 2.
- As a result of staff feedback, training for staff around Moodle was developed and carried out.
- Support Scotland collaborated with SAMH to provide mental health training across Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Revised Action Plan 2022-24

Priority 1: Development of digital services			
Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
Further develop Moodle by improving accessibility, developing content, raising awareness and developing a training programme.	Year 2	Learners will have greater access to online learning platforms such as Moodle and will be confident using them.	CLD Services
Carry out a review of how the CLD Partnership is delivering digital services and whether our digital tools and platforms are fit for purpose.	Year 2	The range of digital provision and content being delivered will be mapped and areas for improvement identified.	Digital Sub-Group
Increase participation in employment, training and learning by those who are digitally excluded.	End of Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A definition for digital isolation will be agreed and this will enable learners and members of the community who are unable engage in employment, training or learning because they are digitally excluded to be identified. New tools will be developed to facilitate engagement with those who are identified as being digitally excluded. 	Digital Sub-Group

Priority 2: Empowering communities			
Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
<p>Review and update local community engagement and development platforms that will enable and support people to lead and participate in the implementation of action plans. Improve involvement of local people in local decisions that impact on their needs and the needs of their communities after the pandemic. This will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping out current provision and developing safe places for engagement such as conversation cafes, to encourage participation by going to places that people already attend to listen and communicate without agenda. • Creation of a partnership consultation calendar that can be planned, discussed, and progressed in a timely manner, that communities understand the relevance and feel informed enough to share their thoughts. • Hosting and facilitating thematic events based on local priorities, led by the community supported by the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of people involved in formal or informal community platforms such as Communication and Engagement Networks, Locality Planning Groups, Community Councils or Parent Partnerships will be increased, • Updated Locality Action Plans will be published that are owned and implemented by the community and local stakeholders. • There will be less “consultation fatigue” in the community as information and data will be gathered through conversations, discussion, and debate and used to establish local decision making and actions. 	Empowering Communities Sub-Group

partnership, and using a community learning and development approach.			
<p>Compassionately challenge stigma and shame around Inequalities and Poverty by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing local case studies that show multiple interventions from partner services to ensure a “no wrong door” approach to learning and development. • Creating locality thematic topics that people are interested in participating or developing that will challenge the stigma around poverty and shame - such as housing challenges, cost of living and fuel insecurity. Provide a safe space for community conversations to take place. 		<p>People will tell us there is a clear pathway for support. They will know which services to contact and what to expect.</p> <p>People who have experienced inequalities and poverty will recognise their voice in the shaping of local service provision.</p> <p>People will tell us that services meet the needs of those facing inequalities and poverty in with dignity and respect and respond timely and effectively.</p>	Empowering Communities Sub-Group

Priority 3: Improve the health and well-being communities			
Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
Develop a better understanding of the current health and well-being priorities through the Young Person's Health and Well-Being Survey and the Adult Health and Well-Being Survey.	May 2023	There will be a clearer understanding of the priorities, better co-ordination amongst partners and best practice will be rolled out.	Health and Well-Being Sub-Group
Identify and promote best practice that will improve the health and well-being of communities.	February 2023	A showcase event for the Community Mental Health and Well-Being Fund will be held to enable best practice to be identified and shared.	Health and Well-Being Sub-Group
Investigate the possibility of undertaking a small scale case study in conjunction with a university to allow new research, policy and practice to be identified and developed.	September 2023	New research, policy and practice will be identified and developed.	Health and Well-Being Sub-Group

Priority 4: Develop a workforce for the future			
Key Actions?	Timescale	What will success look like?	Who is responsible?
A workforce development survey will be carried out and the results will inform the development of an action plan to develop the workforce during 2023 and 2024.	Complete by end of March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An action plan will be developed to take forward the results from the survey. A series of partnership events will be held to address the issues from the survey. 	Workforce Development Sub-Group
Increase membership of the CLD Standards Council within the CLD Partnership in Inverclyde.	Ongoing for the duration of the plan	<p>September 22 Working for the LA – 12 Registered members – 21</p> <p>Recorded as being in the 3rd sector in Inverclyde – 17 Associates and 3 Registered members</p> <p>The baseline is 53</p>	Workforce Development Sub-Group
Develop a two year plan to build confidence and resilience amongst the workforce. This will include a series of events to enable the workforce to learn about new policy and research, best practice and share ideas and knowledge.	End of March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A two year action plan will be developed with a schedule of events. 	Workforce Development Sub-Group

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	5 December 2022
Report By:	Ruth Binks Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community Learning and Development, Community Safety & Resilience	Contact No:	N/A
Subject:	Clyde Conversations 5 Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this covering paper is to present a conference report on Clyde Conversations 5.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Community Learning and Development (Youth Work Services) supported young people to plan and deliver two events as part of Clyde Conversations 5. The first event for S1-S3 pupils was held on the 22nd of February 2022 and the second for S4-6 pupils on the 23rd of February 2022.
- 2.2 As part of the planning process, a consultation was carried out prior to the events in order to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations. S1-3 pupils indicated that, things to do in Inverclyde for young people, bullying and abuse, and alcohol, substance, smoking and vaping were the top issues affecting them. S4-6 pupils indicated that the top issues affecting them were pressure to succeed in school and SQA qualifications, school canteen issues and LGBTQIA+ issues.
- 2.3 Programmes for both the S1-3 event and S4-6 event were developed based on the feedback to the consultation. Workshops were held on each of the key areas young people said they wanted to focus in order to explore these issues in greater detail. A total of 125 young people from across Inverclyde took part in the 2 events.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- a) Notes the success of Clyde Conversations and acknowledges the participation of young people at all levels of planning;
 - b) Notes the key actions as detailed in the event report (see Appendix 1); and
 - c) Continues to endorse Clyde Conversations as a means of engaging young people on issues affecting them.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In March 2015, the first Clyde Conversations event took place in Inverclyde to provide an opportunity for young people to come together to discuss issues affecting them. 130 young people took part in 2015 and a further 100 young people participated in the second Clyde Conversations in October 2016.
- 4.2 Extremely positive feedback was received from the first two events and it was agreed to continue using this model as a means of engaging young people on relevant issues. Community Learning and Development assumed the lead for this area of work and worked with young people to plan further Clyde Conversations events in 2018 and 2019. Clyde Conversations did not run in 2020 or 2021 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 Clyde Conversations 5 was planned and delivered in line with Covid-19 recovery and due to restrictions it was agreed to run 2 events, one for S1-3 pupils and another for S4-6 pupils.
- 4.4 As in previous years, a steering group was formed to organise Clyde Conversations 5. The group consisted of young people from each local secondary school and was supported by CLD Youth Services staff. The steering group developed the initial consultation, planned and supported the events and assisted in the development of the Clyde Conversations 5 report.
- 4.5 As part of the planning process the steering group carried out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations.

For S1-S3 the main issues were:

- Things for young people to do in Inverclyde & leisure facilities;
- Bullying & abuse;
- Alcohol/drugs/smoking/vaping misuse;
- Knife crime; and
- Health & wellbeing.

For S4-S6 the main issues were:

- Pressure to succeed in schools & SQA Qualifications;
- Secondary school canteen issues;
- LGBTQIA+ issues;
- Bullying & abuse; and
- Climate change.

5.0 CLYDE CONVERSATIONS 5 REPORT

- 5.1 The Clyde Conversations steering group have produced a report to highlight the key points and actions to arise from the Clyde Conversations 5 events held in February 2022.
- 5.2 The report provides details of the following:
- The areas of strength and actions that young people would like to see in relation to the key issues, themes and topics;
 - Information about the initial consultation, the programme each day, workshop summaries and participant feedback about the events; and
 - Information about feedback sessions held following the Clyde Conversations events, including details of what young people consider to be the top priorities moving forward.
- 5.3 The report is contained within appendix 1 of this report.

6.0 NEXT STEPS

- 6.1 The feedback from the Clyde Conversations 5 process will be shared across the Inverclyde Alliance, enabling partners and stakeholders to take cognisance of relevant information/themes.
- 6.2 Partners will be asked to provide comment with regards to proposed actions that will be taken forward through an action plan in order to address the issues raised by young people. It is expected that progress will be reported at agreed intervals with partners invited to directly engage young people, where possible.
- 6.3 Progress will be fed back to young people using different methods and approaches including:
- Input at school assemblies;
 - Focus groups/workshops;
 - Social media; and
 - Padlets/newsletters.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity:
Population: The Clyde Conversations 5 report will contribute to the achievement of the population priority.
Inequalities: The Clyde Conversations 5 report will contribute to the achievement of the inequalities priority.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Clyde Conversations 5 Report.

5



Clyde Conversations

2022

Introduction



**Clyde Conversations 5 Steering Group with Ruth Binks,
Corporate Directore, Education, Communities &
Organisational Development**

Clyde Conversations is an integral part of Inverclyde Council's Youth Participation strategy and seeks to support youth voice across the Local Authority Area. Clyde Conversations has been running in Inverclyde since 2015, with a break in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Inverclyde Council was therefore keen to work with local young people again to plan and deliver Clyde Conversations in February 2022. At this time, the event was delivered slightly differently but with the same anticipated outcome: to improve the health and wellbeing of young people in Inverclyde.

Clyde Conversations 5 (CC5) took place in Gamble Halls in Gourock over two ½ days on 22/23 February 2022 with young people from S1-3 and S4-6 attending on each respective day. In total, 125 young people attended. 60 young people (33 females and 27 males) attended the S1-3 event and 65 young people (41 females and 24 males) attended the S4-6 event.

In line with previous events, 2 young people from each school were nominated to be part of the Clyde Conversations steering group, one from the S1-3 cohort and one from the S4-6 cohort. The steering group met regularly in the Greenock iYouthZone to plan and prepare for the event and were supported by Inverclyde CLD Youth Work Services.

This report, written by the Steering Group, provides a summary of the approach taken to Clyde Conversations 2022; workshop feedback from the conversations which took place; and the actions to be taken forward in order to create positive changes for the young people of Inverclyde.

The Steering Group would like to thank CLD Youth Work Services for its continued support throughout the planning process and the workshops facilitators from Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland and The Healthier Inverclyde Project. Thanks are also extended to school staff who co-ordinated and supported young people's attendance, senior officers who attended and the Gamble Halls for its practical support in hosting the event.

Finally, the steering group would like to thank the young people who attended this year's Clyde Conversations to represent the views of young people across Inverclyde.

Planning Process

As part of the planning process the steering group carried out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations. They designed 2 different short, quick questionnaires asking young people to choose the five most important issues to them as a young person in Inverclyde. The steering group anticipated some differences between the S1-3 and S4-6 cohorts. These questionnaires and their results form Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report.

For S1 to S3, the main areas focus were:

- **Things for young people to do in Inverclyde & leisure facilities**
- **Bullying & Abuse;**
- **Alcohol/Drug/Smoking/Vaping misuse;**
- **Knife Crime; and**
- **Health & Wellbeing**

For S4 – S6, the main areas of focus were:

- **Pressure to Succeed in schools & SQA Qualifications;**
- **Secondary school Canteen Issues;**
- **LGBTQIA+ Issues;**
- **Bullying & Abuse; and**
- **Climate Change**

These results gave the steering group the focus for workshops on each of the days.

Event Structure

Each day was designed to allow young people to provide their views on the topics that mattered most to them by participating in 3 workshops, each attended by 8-15 young people. The structure of each day is provided as appendix 3 to this report.

Every workshop was facilitated by a representative of the youth services or by a representative from Police Scotland or The Healthier Inverclyde Project.

The event also had a number of information stalls including one run by the Youth Council and Local MSYPs Maya McCrae and Keziah Rugumya. They promoted the Youth Council and encouraged new members by engaging with the young people that attended the event. They also gave out leaflets and pen drives to young people with more information about the Youth Council and Youth Voice in Inverclyde.

Stephanie from the CLD Team attended each event, with a stall offering free sanitary products and information on Period Poverty. Young people could access information on how to get free sanitary products across Inverclyde. Some of the young people in attendance also filled out a period poverty consultation.

Appendix 4 provides information on all the issues discussed at the workshops. The following section provides a summary of feedback, actions and good practice.



Maya from Inverclyde Youth
Council.



Stephanie from CLD
Services.

Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking & Vaping Misuse:

Area of Strength	Most young people are aware that vaping is new and are concerned about the potential impact on them and younger children.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For PSE in school to be informative/up to date. Participants across all three groups felt it needed to be more current; • The dangers of vaping should be taught in primary school. All young people felt vaping is a big problem in all schools & this was the same discussion in all 3 focus groups; • Young people felt strongly about being taught 'keeping safe' information, first aid, what to do in an emergency situation, identifying drugs/spiking and preventing spiking; and • Information needed for young people who are struggling with substance misuse about how they can access services

LGBTQIA+:

Area of Strength	Some schools have introduced gender neutral toilets.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of awareness and education on the subject was consistently identified as one of the main reasons that homophobia & transphobia exist. One adult who who attended commented they felt there could be better training for teachers on these subjects; • Pronouns seem to be poorly understood, it was agreed the LGBT Pronoun door poster could be used in schools; • Teachers need to consistently 'call out' phobic or disrespectful behaviour in classes around LGBT subjects; and • Promotion of and access to helplines/online chats for support would help young people.

Knife Crime:

Area of Strength	There was a general awareness of MVP (Mentors in Violence Prevention) but acknowledged that it could be more consistent.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people feel that Fearless.org needs to be promoted more; and. • All young people would like to be taught about Knife Crime by Police Scotland and/or those with lived experience coming into the school during PSE Classes.

Actions & Good Practice.

Things for young people to do in Inverclyde:

Area of Strength	Lots of things in Inverclyde for young people to do (waterfront/clubs/ Inverclyde Leisure/Beacon) but most of the time they are too expensive or you can only do 1 thing as the cost adds up.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better lighting in areas that young people congregate (between 5pm-9pm); • Skatepark needs lights; and • Youth Groups/iYouthZones should serve café style food & drinks.

Health and Well-being:

Area of Strength	There is evidence of Mental Health Ambassadors in some schools
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced waiting lists for CAMHS and other mental health services; For all schools to teach, through PSE, how young people should respond if someone discloses that they are struggling:. • That challenging stigma, language & gender stereotypes has the same approach as MVP in schools; and • Mental Health check-ins and support groups are provided in all schools

Climate Change:

Area of Strength	Most young people are concerned about climate change and are active in trying to improve the environment
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal of use single use plastic that is not recyclable in schools;. • More recycling bins being available in schools; and; and • Climate change being a key feature across the curriculum;

Pressure to Succeed in School & SQA Qualifications:

Area of Strength	Good practice - Port Glasgow High School's exam studying booklets/packs were identified as good practice. Others felt this should be replicated in all schools.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people feedback that they feel pressure all through school to succeed and make choices that affects their future; • Training and information is needed for parents and teachers around the impact of pressure on young people; • More support and time needed around picking subjects, exam prep and planning for the future; and • Schools need to provide more information on life skills and coping strategies etc in PSE.

Secondary School Canteen Issues:

Area of Strength	Young people enjoy the range of different meals on offer but they feel schools should offer feedback through a suggestion box/pupil inputs.
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All young people agreed that labelling of food needs to be addressed; • Young people raised the issue with pricing and quality of food; and • Young people wish to know menus and prices in advance

Bullying & Abuse :

Area of Strength	Some schools already have QR codes/text service, where they can contact a teacher for help. Another example of good practice was MVP & Mental Health Ambassadors
What young people would like to see	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people feel teachers and non-teaching staff need training to be more confident and competent; • All young people said that they would want to get taught in PSE classes about discrimination/bullying/mental health; • School's Bullying Policy needs to be clearer to young people; and • Over 50% of senior phase young people attending Clyde Conversations expressed the need for a safe youth space in schools and

Developing the Actions

Recognising that there were a lot of issues discussed on the day, the steering group then worked with young people to get their views on what they thought the main issues raised on the day were. This was done throughout May and June 2022 and engaged 40 young people.

In terms of thinking about the main issues, young people reached the following consensus:

- All young people that attended the presentations agreed that all school staff (teaching and non-teaching) should have training and become more confident and competent in terms of dealing with mental health and wellbeing and bullying and abuse. They feel staff should be trained so as to approach these issues using different methods and solutions as well as how to respond. They felt training on what is discrimination and building positive relationships was important.
- Young people felt that PSE Classes and learning relevant life-skills were very important. They felt strongly that life-skills should be facilitated by those with experience and knowledge on the topic and/or by teachers with specific training rather than sticking on a video or going through pre-made presentations.
- Young people also felt the issue around accurate labelling of food in school canteens was a key issue. In terms of school canteens they also want to know what options they have for lunch and/or snacks in advance.

The sessions for developing the main action points provided an opportunity for youth services staff to feed back to young people the number of actions that were already underway. These included:

- LGBTQIA+: The Scottish Government introduced Transgender Guidance which every school in Inverclyde had endorsed & adopted and will now implement.
- Things for Young People to Do in Inverclyde: IYouthZones are currently reviewing their services and seeking to increase the numbers accessing the facilities. As part of that they are also looking at serving cafestyle food & refreshments to young people.
- School lunch service: In secondary schools menus have already changes and the choices have increased. More healthy snack options have already been introduced which are priced attractively and available as meal deals. There is also more variety available daily to suit life-style choices. Pricing structures have been reviewed to make budgeting easier with everything rounded to the nearest 10p. We hope to install pre-order systems in secondary schools.

Next Steps

It is the intention to share the information/themes recorded as part of the Clyde Conversations process across the Inverclyde Alliance, enabling partners and stakeholders to take cognisance of relevant information/themes.

Partners will be asked to provide comment with regards to action to be taken with an action plan developed. It is expected that progress will be reported at agreed intervals with partners invited to directly engage young people, where possible.

Progress will be feedback to young people using different methods and approaches including:

- Input at school assemblies;
- Focus groups/workshops;
- Social Media; and
- Padlets/Newsletters



Health and Well-being workshop



Knife Crime workshop



LGBTQIA+ workshop

Future Planning

Clyde Conversations 6 (CC6) is scheduled to take place before end of the current academic year. Covid-19 restrictions forced a different approach to facilitation as well as use of another venue.

Based on feedback, it is proposed that CC6 will offer separate consultations and events for young people in S1-3 and those who are in S4-6 in cognisance of how priorities can vary at different ages and stages.

It is the intention that CC6 will move back to Greenock Town Hall as it offers a more central location as well as more space than the Gamble Halls. This will enable facilitators to take a more interactive approach to workshops as well as giving participants more space to move about.

It is the intention to broaden the range of facilitators at CC6 to enable partners to hear first-hand about the issues that are important to young people.

More space will allow for more information to be available to young people on the relevant topics and themes. A market place will be given consideration as part of the planning process.

Consideration will be given to whether it purposeful to offer a full day event as opposed to a ½ day.

In terms of planning CC6 partners will be asked to identify issues that they would like to consult young people on. This will be presented to the steering group for consideration in terms of inclusion in their initial consultation exercise. Partners who have areas included will be expected to support any workshop facilitation at CC6 where necessary.

A consistent approach to recording workshop feedback and outputs will be developed for facilitators to comply with at CC6 allowing for specific actions to be weighted. Use of digital technology will be encouraged to offer participants a more interactive experience.



Bullying and Abuse Workshop

Consultation

As part of the planning process the steering group carried out a consultation to identify the top issues young people would like to discuss at this year's Clyde Conversations. They designed 2 different short, quick questionnaires asking young people to choose the five most important issues to them as a young person in Inverclyde. The steering group anticipated some differences between the S1-3 and S4-6 cohorts.

Workshop ideas for Clyde Conversations S1 – S3

School: _____ Year Group: _____

What is important to you as a young person of Inverclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:

Alcohol/Drug/Smoking/Vaping misuse

Lack of the right education in PSE Classes

Period Poverty

Equal Sexual Health Education within All Schools

Bullying/Abuse

LGBTQI Issues

Secondary school Canteen Issues

Leisure facilities i.e. Football Pitches

Climate Change

Pressure to succeed in school

Health & Wellbeing

Social Media issues & Cyber Bullying

Knife Crime

Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde

Other—Please specify: _____

Are there any questions that you would like answered about your school/community/other?

Workshop ideas for Clyde Conversations S4 – S6

School: _____ Year Group: _____

What is important to you as a young person of Inverclyde? Please circle your 5 choices:

Alcohol/Drug/Smoking/Vaping misuse

Lack of the right education in PSE Classes

Period Poverty

Equal Sexual Health Education within All schools

Bullying/Abuse

LGBTQI Issues

Secondary school Canteen Issues

SQA Qualifications

Climate Change

Pressure to succeed in school

Teenage pregnancies

Health & Wellbeing

Knife Crime

Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde

Youth Employment

Finances

Police

Wardens

Other—Please specify: _____

Are there any questions that you would like answered about your school/community/other?

Consultation Results

The Steering Group received **302** responses from pupils.

262 paper responses from St Stephen's High School, Port Glasgow High School, Inverclyde Academy and Clydevew Academy.

40 online responses from St.Columba's High School .

Results from S1-3 Consultation:

denotes that some young people in S1-3 were asked to fill in the S4-6 consultation in error. The steering group felt it important to still consider this data in terms of the overall consultation

Things for young people to do in Inverclyde/Leisure Facilities - 116	Bullying and Abuse - 116	Alcohol/Substance/Smoking/Vaping misuse - 113
Knife Crime - 103	Health and Wellbeing - 96	Climate Change - 93
Social Media issues/Cyber bullying - 89	Pressure to succeed in schools - 79	LGBTQIA+ Issues - 77
Period Poverty - 72	Equal Sexual Health Education in ALL Schools - 61	School Canteen Issues - 57
Lack of the right education in PSE Classes - 38	* Police/Wardens - 35	* Teen Pregnancies - 31
* Youth Employment - 23	* Finances - 22	

Results from S4-6 Consultation:

Pressure to succeed in school & SQA Qualifications - 239	School canteen issues - 100	LGBTQIA+ Issues - 98
Bullying and Abuse - 96	Climate Change - 93	Youth Employment - 86
Period Poverty - 84	Equal Sexual Health Education in All Schools - 82	Knife Crime - 74
Health & Wellbeing - 69	Alcohol/Drug/Smoking/Vaping misuse - 65	Finances - 61
Police/Wardens - 60	Lack of the right PSE Education - 58	Teen Pregnancies - 48

Other issues determined by respondents:

Pressure to succeed in school & SQA Qualifications - 239	School canteen issues - 100	LGBTQIA+ Issues - 98
Bullying and Abuse - 96	Climate Change - 93	Youth Employment - 86
Period Poverty - 84	Equal Sexual Health Education in All Schools - 82	Knife Crime - 74

Programme - S1-S3 Event

09.15	Registration and Breakfast
09.40	Event Opening
	Welcome and Introduction – Hugh Scott, Service Manager, CLD, Community Safety and Resilience and Sport
	Background – Steering group members Hannah Brady & Erin McEleny
09.50	Workshop 1 choice *
10.20	Workshop 2 choice *
10.50	Break & Stalls—Period Poverty & Inverclyde Youth Council
11.15	Workshop 3 choice *
11.45	Evaluations
11.55	Round Up & Thank you by Steering group members Eve Loudon & Hannah Brady
	Final remarks from Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

* Workshop arrangements detailed below

Young people take part in 3 of the 5 workshops listed below:

Young people assigned their workshops at registration.

1. Alcohol/Drug/Smoking/Vaping Misuse - Facilitated by Louise Gray, Healthier Inverclyde Project
2. Things for Young People to do in Inverclyde - Facilitated by John Chapman, Youth Work Services
3. Knife Crime - Facilitated by PC Kirsty Boyd & PC Laura Stewart, Police Scotland
4. Health & Wellbeing - Facilitated By Jac Kinninmont, Youth Work Services
5. Bullying & Abuse - Facilitated By Michelle Adamson, Youth Work Services

Programme S4-S6 Event

- 09.15** Registration & Breakfast
- 09.40** Event Opening
- Welcome and Introduction – Tony McEwan, Head of Service, Communities & Educational Resources Education, Communities and OD
- Background – Steering group members Hannah Brady & Erin McEleny
- 09.50** Workshop 1 choice *
- 10.20** Workshop 2 choice *
- 10.50** Break & Stalls—Period Poverty & Inverclyde Youth Council
- 11.15** Workshop 3 choice *
- 11.45** Evaluations
- 11.55** Round Up & Thank you by Steering group members Eve Loudon & Hannah Brady
- Final remarks from Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

* Workshop arrangements detailed below

Young people will take part in 3 workshops out of 5 listed below:

Young people assigned workshops at registration.

1. Bullying & Abuse - Facilitated by Beth Doherty, Youth Work Services
2. Pressure to Succeed & Exams - Facilitated by Michelle Adamson, Youth Work Services
3. Climate Change - Facilitated by Ailee Burns & Callum Neeson, Youth Work Services
4. LGBTQIA+ - Facilitated By Jac Kinninmont & John Chapman, Youth Work Services
5. Secondary School Canteen Issues - Facilitated By Paul McGrath, Youth Work Services

S1-S3 Event Workshop Summary

Things for Young people to do in Inverclyde—Lots of shops have closed down across Inverclyde and there needs to be better shops with more choice for everyone. Different places are closing early and there needs to be more street/outdoor lighting in different areas from 5pm-9pm, including the Skate park. School pitches are also secured/locked or young people are being kicked off them during times they would use them most (school holidays and evenings). Youth Zones need to be improved with activities, promotion, serving café style food and drinks and specific workshops and activities. Travelling to places/activities can be difficult as although young people now have National Entitlement Cards that cover bus travel, bus drivers need to be trained on how to use them. Young people also prefer using the train, is there anyway that the cost could be reduced for young people?

Health & Wellbeing—Mental health is still so important, and more so because of the pandemic. There are many great supports in the community and in schools but it isn't the same for everyone. It was clear that young people weren't aware of Action for Children's Counselling Service and how to be referred to this. Young people feel that all school staff need to be trained better on early intervention, confidentiality and how to respond to situations/disclosures from young people. Young people feel that they would go to any school staff as long as they had a positive relationship with them as they are aware that teachers and guidance staff have a heavy workload. They feel that it would be beneficial for information, support and techniques be relayed to parents on mental health in young people, the stresses of school and other pressures young people face. Mental Health check-ins and support groups are needed in schools and there is a lack of information on what support is already out there. Young people would also like to be taught coping strategies as part of PSE classes every year.

Knife Crime—All of the young people that took part in this workshop, really enjoyed it and they felt it was very informative. Young people felt that they learned so much from the workshop that they would like more education on knife crime in schools during their PSE classes and youth groups but having Police Scotland and/or ex-offenders being the ones to educate them. They learned about positive peer pressure and using the By-stander approach. Many young people hadn't heard of MVP and when told about it, felt that this should be used across all schools up to the same standard. Additionally they learned about Fearless.org, which they felt needs to be advertised and promoted more.

Alcohol, Drugs, Smoking & Vaping Misuse—Drug and alcohol inputs differ between schools, young people feel that they need better and up-to-date education every year on all 4 topics and shouldn't be just 1 session. Young people felt strongly about being taught keeping safe information, youth substance first aid, what to do in an emergency situation, identifying drugs/spiking and preventing spiking. It was echoed again that these life skills should be taught every year and PSE class should be every year as they need to be taught life skills in general. Vaping is also very new, and more information and education needs to be given to young people, especially primary school age as many young people are using vapes at a very young age. Young people felt that it was important to have information on support services for young people who struggle with substance misuse as young people aren't seen as being addicts.

Bullying & Abuse— This workshop echoed points/suggestions from the Health & Wellbeing workshops, of support groups and information for parents on how to talk to their teenager and support. The young people across the board, did not know what their schools bullying policy/procedure was in their school and felt that their policy/procedure should be broad enough as it shouldn't be a 'one size fits all approach'. A 'safe youth space' in school and or youth buildings was a thought that young people felt would be beneficial. Additionally, they felt that all school staff need better training and to challenge young people when they hear offensive comments instead of brushing off as banter.

S4-S6 Event Workshop Summary

Climate Change—Young People know how important climate change is for the youth of today and aware of the threat it is posing to them as the next generation. At Clyde Conversations the young people are already starting to make changes themselves towards helping climate change but felt there was more that Inverclyde could do. Schools don't seem to be doing enough and the young people came up with great ideas such as: Separate bins for recycling, removing plastic packaging from school meals, reducing single use plastic being used, having sources of renewable energy such as solar panels and wind turbines, school clothing swap shop and being educated more on climate change not only in PSE classes but by integrating the subject in more subjects to normalise it and make it part of our everyday lives.

Pressure to Succeed in school & SQA Qualifications—This workshop was the busiest and most popular and of all. Young people feel pressure all through school to succeed and make choices that affects their future. They feedback that parents/carers and teachers put excessive and additional pressure on young people and suggested some training/support packs/webinars/information sessions to remind them of the amount of pressure young people are under and how they can best support them. The felt that more support and better advice/time for choosing subjects, exam prep and planning for the future in general. TEAMS is a great resource that teachers/students can use but it isn't used to its full potential by many of the teachers, so some further training on how to use TEAMS for teachers would be beneficial. The importance for PSE Classes is a common theme in all the workshops. The young people felt that they need to better equipped for life; study techniques/skills, relaxation/de-stressing techniques, positive mental health practices and support, life skills, money management, positive relationships.

LGBTQIA+ — *"We would like the people of Inverclyde to remember that we're human"* - Clyde Pride Group. The Clyde Pride group also had their say on this workshop topic as it relates specifically to their own experiences. The young people feel that there should be a strict policy in schools for homophobic behaviour with serious consequences. Safe youth spaces, better education, promotion of helplines/online chats to get support are ways that young people think will help combat these issues throughout Inverclyde. The education of LGBTQIA+ in schools is different in all schools, but young people feel that this should be taught so that young people can be better informed. It was highlighted that gender neutral toilets are not being used in schools the way they should and this needs addressed. There is a lot of homophobic behaviours taking place in the P.E. changing rooms which is putting people off taking part in P.E.

Secondary School Canteen— There are many issues in the school canteen that were raised including pricing, lack of quality and quantity, no vegan/vegetarian options, not displaying what the food/options are along with allergies, etc. Young people want to have more of a say in the school canteen through either feedback meetings/focus groups/partnership meetings. Could siblings get it cheaper? Young people would like a water fountain in the canteen and to bring back pre-ordering. Seeing the menu and prices in advance would encourage young people to stay in.

Bullying & Abuse — Many pupils would not go to the hubs available and suggested provision of a breathing space & to get support/advice re bullying and other issues? They suggested a system in place to report bullying to professionals with the choice of it being anonymous. Some schools already have a system in place but feel that it isn't used to its full potential and teachers use it as an excuse to not see pupils face to face. Most of the schools have a mentoring programme but most young people feel that they are tokenistic. The programmes need improved or all schools using the same model to create a standard, networking, continuous training & more use of the programme. Teachers require additional training for different approaches and methods, cultural/discrimination seminars and building positive relationships as well as ones for young people. Need to raise awareness of bullying policy and processes are in school and how young people use these

Evaluation

At the end of each event, young people were asked to answer three questions as part of the evaluation exercise. These responses will shape future Clyde Conversations events and give the steering group valuable feedback for moving forward.

What did you enjoy?

‘People my age’
 ‘Good information’
 ‘The youth workers’
 ‘Empowering for everyone’
 ‘Food’
 ‘stalls at break’
 ‘Listening to others opinions’
 ‘Open LGBT talk’
 ‘Everyone had a chance to speak’
 ‘information & solutions, open & honest’
 ‘That it was a discussion, not teaching’
 ‘Meeting pupils from different schools’
 ‘Workshops’



What would you change?

‘more interactive’
 ‘More educational’
 ‘Quite crowded’
 ‘The way it was presented’
 ‘full day event’
 ‘More discussion time’
 ‘a bit more help answering’
 ‘more workshops’
 ‘Being separated from friends’
 ‘No Vegetarian/Halal Food’
 ‘all day event with lunch’



What did you learn?

‘substances’
 ‘I have a voice’
 ‘be a better person’
 ‘to take care of myself’
 ‘My opinion matters’
 ‘there is more Mental Health Help available’
 ‘how to report someone for carrying a weapon’
 ‘understanding of resources available’
 ‘I am not alone’
 ‘To attend all workshops’
 ‘I am now more open minded’
 ‘adults aren’t aware’



Clyde Conversations

Supported by:



For more information regarding Clyde
Conversations, please contact:

Inverclyde Council

CLD Youth Work Services,

105 Dalrymple Street,

Greenock,

PA15 1HU

Tel: 01475 715450

Email: CLD.Admin@inverclyde.gov.uk

**Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership
Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan
2022 – 2024**



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Joint Foreward

Councillor Stephen McCabe, Leader, Inverclyde Council & Financial Inclusion Champion

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson, Chair, Inverclyde Alliance Board

1st October 2022

We are pleased to present the new Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 2024 which has been developed by the Financial Inclusion Partnership following a consultation and review process.

Led by Inverclyde HSCP the Financial Inclusion Partnership has worked for many years to improve the lives of the people of Inverclyde through direct support for financial literacy & planning, debt and benefit advice, support to access practical and financial resources & representation at benefit appeals.

The world has changed significantly since and as we recover from the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic we are also experiencing a cost of living crisis where low income families and young people are being impacted by rapidly rising energy and food prices. At the time of writing a third of all Scots are cutting back on essentials and more than half are spending less on non-essentials. Services are also seeing an increase in those in-work and those with mortgages as rising interest rates impact mortgages and rent.

This strategy sets out our immediate response to the rising cost of living and our longer term approaches to delivering proactive advice and education. All of these will support the people of Inverclyde to develop the skills and access the resources needed for improved financial awareness and to make informed choices. The strategy makes a Child Poverty Action Plan, Inverclyde Community Learning and Development Strategy and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

We welcome the ongoing commitment with this plan to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of Inverclyde.

(Insert Official Image)

1.0. Strategic Objectives at a Glance

1. Mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on:
 - a. children living in poverty
 - b. our most vulnerable families and households including those living with disabilities and unpaid carers
2. Engage, equip and empower a range of “trusted intermediaries” (for example, Health Visitors, Teachers, Practice Nurses) to ensure that those who are isolated or have restricted access to information and services, are provided with the support and connection to partner resources as required
3. Provide and promote the range of partner services available to Inverclyde Residents as support and responses to the impact of the cost of living crisis on their financial wellbeing
4. Provide the range of partner services via an outreach approach within local community facilities and within community focal points on a regular programmed basis
5. Promote the diverse range of partner delivered financial inclusion services and support the financial wellbeing of staff working across our services
6. Provide a programme of financial literacy and capacity building specifically targeted at young people in the 16-18 age range alongside support for schools
7. Involve those who use partner services in the design, deployment and delivery of services
8. Put in place quality assurance measures to ensure that our service provision is of the best possible quality
9. Establish a sequence and cycle of performance reporting, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the key objectives are being met

2 Introduction

***“Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows
how extremely expensive it is to be poor”
(James Baldwin)***

The Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership exists to combat poverty, maximise and stabilize household income, promote financial literacy, and build financial capacity and resilience among individuals, families and communities in the district. The Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan are enabling and contributing responses supporting the overarching objectives articulated in two high level, area wide statements of purpose: The Child Poverty Action Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. These foundation documents set out the key policy and programme aspirations for the social and economic wellbeing of Inverclyde.

The work of the Financial Inclusion Partnership seeks to support the achievement of the goals and objectives contained within these key statements of purpose. The numerous and diverse group of local and national partners comprising the Financial Inclusion Partnership aim to act in a coherent, structured and strategic way in the identification of common objectives, collaborative deployment of their services and the implementation of key projects and programmes.

Inverclyde HSCP is the lead partner and chair of the Financial Inclusion Partnership. A full list of partners is included as an appendix to this document.

The Financial Inclusion Strategy is intended to inform how best we can combine and commit our collective resources in the most effective and efficient way and so achieve our intended outputs, outcomes and impacts and protect, improve and enhance the wellbeing of Inverclyde residents.

This Strategy and Action Plan is informed by:

Identifying what most impairs the financial wellbeing of Inverclyde residents

Defining those individuals and households most at risk and setting these as priorities for our responses.

Consulting with a diverse range of individuals, voluntary organisations and statutory bodies.

Cohering around these priorities and combining and collaborating to derive and deploy responses that meet these needs.

Engaging in regular consultation with service users and monitoring and evaluating our programmes and projects to ensure that our stated objectives are being met.

This latest iteration of the Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan has evolved from consultation within the partnership and engagement with the Child Poverty Group and other key stakeholders.

These discussions took on increasing significance as 2022 moved on and the full magnitude and potential highly detrimental impacts of the emerging cost of living crisis become more apparent as each week went by. It is therefore in the context of the cost of living crisis that the review and realignment of our priorities and our anticipated deployment of resources has taken place.

Our consultations and discussions were also informed by many external sources of information, intelligence and insight. These have included papers from, among others, the UK and Scottish Governments, “Think Tanks” and research institutions, industry bodies and news reports. Across all of these sources and resources we could identify two common features:

The first was that the partnership agreed there were so many “unknowns” that nobody could predict with any degree of confidence what the rate of inflation, the level of energy prices or what the actual “cost of living” would be as little as three months away.

The second thing is that everything appears to be changing literally day-by-day, and as such, it has become more challenging to agree on the way of best mitigating the ever changing needs of an ever greater proportion of the population.

This combination of “unknowns”; volatile externalities both domestically and around the world and little clear policy as regards practical mitigation for a huge proportion of UK households (for example, recent projections suggest that between 2/3 and ¾ of households could be experiencing fuel poverty by early 2023) has informed the thinking of the partners in respect of strategic objectives and the consequential Action Plan

The cost of living crisis has therefore dominated our thinking in this round of consultation, strategy formation and action planning.

Informed and reliable commentators suggest that the current situation may well last for the coming two years. As that is the timeframe across which this revision is set, it is important to set this context out in more detail before we further set out and detail key objectives and actions.

3. Financial Inclusion

What Do We Mean by Financial Inclusion?

“Financial Inclusion is the means by which people can make their money work well for them, enabling them to maximise opportunities, move into employment, become more self-reliant and enhance physical and mental wellbeing”

(Financial Inclusion Commission, 2020)

“It is a perfect storm.....The squeeze on household finances could push more people into vulnerability and the risks of financial exclusion are set to intensify.”

(Sheldon Mills, Executive Director of Consumers and Markets, Financial Conduct Authority, 31/05/22)

Promoting and achieving financial inclusion in Inverclyde will be attained through the diverse and various actions taken by all of the partners who carry out activity within this strategic framework and contribute towards the goals set out in the Action Plan.

In practice we see financial inclusion as a combination of steps and actions that enable people to make informed choices about how best they use their money and that enables them to develop their personal capacity and build financial resilience.

Financial Inclusion matters because the absence of income and the lack of financial literacy and capacity can result in enduring disadvantage and contribute to food, fuel poverty and other contributors to deprivation, exclusion and long-term health impacts.

Financial Exclusion is the flip side of Inclusion.

Historically too many residents of Inverclyde have experienced the very negative consequences of exclusion from mainstream financial networks, products and channels. Until relatively recently a significant proportion of households did not have access to a bank account.

Similarly people did not have ready access to savings accounts and products nor did they find it easy to obtain loans from mainstream providers at affordable rates. Insurance for both personal and property assurance was often hard to obtain or absent. This lack of mainstream financial connection, the absence of savings and insurance for example, reduce the financial capacity and resilience of individuals and households.

Without savings, people find the cost of “smoothing-out” major purchases difficult and may resort to high cost, off-street, lenders as their only immediate alternative. Savings also facilitate the acquisition of personal assets such as house purchase, training and education, entrepreneurship and business start-up. Lack of both savings and affordable and ethical credit also drives people into the hands of illegal and predatory money lenders (“Loan Sharks”) as a source of financial support leaving themselves open to further exploitation and, sometimes, abuse and we know that the activity of illegal money lenders has recently increased within the area.

The lack of connection to mainstream financial circuits and networks has a negative impact on the wellbeing of residents. Making these links and building institutional connections are key parts of the remit of the Financial Inclusion Partnership.

Financial exclusion diminishes and impairs the quality of life and the wellbeing of too many Inverclyde residents. The problem is multi-faceted and requires diverse, complementary and focused responses. The Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan are contributory to and supportive of the wider Anti-Poverty approach within Inverclyde.

4. The Cost of Living Crisis

In the late summer of 2022 it became clear that the UK is facing a huge crisis in respect of the cost of living for an unprecedented number of households.

It has been suggested that the un-paralleled rise in energy prices for domestic consumers will result in between two-thirds and three-quarters of UK households experiencing fuel poverty. The rate of inflation, above 10% at the time of this Action Plan, is projected to rise even further in the coming months

This is likely to have two further detrimental effects on Inverclyde residents:

Firstly, the price of the most basic food stuffs is perceptibly increasing month-by-month at a rate well beyond the headline rate of CPI*. This hits the poorest and most vulnerable, those with children and people with disabilities hardest. Secondly, rising rate of inflation decreases the purchasing power of those on the lowest incomes. This inflationary context makes the poorest poorer, those on low paid work, those on fixed benefits income and those on a basic state pension and pension credit.

In terms of energy, despite the reduction and standing charge price cap freeze announced in September 2022, households will still continue to pay over and above this for actual fuel supply used and it is becoming increasingly obvious to services that people are indeed choosing 'food or fuel'.

The consequences for virtually all households in Inverclyde will be significant in respect of our people being materially poorer in real terms, the most vulnerable being further disadvantaged and many more households and people being drawn into poverty. One recent study** suggested that on current forecasts the proportion of UK households experiencing fuel poverty could be as high as two-thirds of all residences. In Inverclyde this could be even higher.

As the Financial Conduct Authority recently observed the consequences of this crisis will not be experienced equally. The most immediate and the most negative impacts will be felt by those who have the least in the way of financial resources or resilience, those in low paid employment and those on fixed incomes and welfare benefits.

In Inverclyde we anticipate that those hardest hit will include:

- The 2,324 thousand children already living in relative poverty
- The 2,664 children who receive free school meals.
- The 65.0% of children in households who are working in low paid employment.
- The 24.1% of our residents who are in low paid employment.

- The 20% of residents in employment paying less than the living wage.
- The 44.0% of households' already experiencing fuel poverty.
- The 22.1% of workless households
- Those on the current range of disability benefits

The strategic objectives that we have identified, and the action plan that supports those goals, are derived from our best inferences of the forecast increases in the cost of living as they will hit those who are least able to withstand and respond to their impact. The supporting action measures, whilst not exhaustive, are designed to be deployed to mitigate as far as possible the anticipated impact on the wellbeing and financial resilience of the most vulnerable children, adults and households within Inverclyde.

5. Strategic Objectives & the Financial Inclusion Action Plan

The Financial Inclusion Partnership will utilise the range of resources already available to it and others which may become available through the lifetime of this plan to support the following strategic objectives:

Objective One: Mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on: children living in poverty and our most vulnerable families and households including those living with disabilities and unpaid carers

Action:

- We will use existing information to identify all children living in poverty
- We will establish contact with all households where children are living in poverty through partner pro-active contact and through trusted intermediaries within places such as schools, children's centres and health services.
- All households where children are living in poverty will be offered income maximisation services, money and debt advice and other support as appropriate and needed.
- We will use existing data and information to identify the most vulnerable families and households already known to partners
- We will communicate via social and printed media, widely distributed and also specifically targeted to ensure those who do not currently access financial inclusion services are aware of the support available, for example in income maximisation or money advice.
- We will offer all vulnerable families and households income maximisation and money advice services
- We will act in close collaboration with local community organisations and facilities to engage at a local level with vulnerable households

- We will act through trusted intermediaries and local community facilities and agencies to engage with people who may have difficulty in accessing partner services
- We will ensure our services are accessible to the New Scots community
- We will provide a “fast track” to credit union services and sources of ethical credit

Objective Two: Engage, equip and empower a range of “trusted intermediaries” (for example, Health Visitors, Teachers, Practice Nurses) to ensure that those who are isolated or have restricted access to information and services, are provided with the support and connection to partner resources as required

Action:

- We will provide a range of trusted intermediaries with sufficient information to enable the people and households with whom they engage to access income maximisation and money advice services. This will be via a range of formats
- We will work in close collaboration with local facilities and organisations to ensure that there is a high awareness of financial inclusion services available from partners and that good channels of regular communication and engagement are established and maintained

Objective Three: Provide and promote the range of partner services available to Inverclyde Residents as support and responses to the impact of the cost of living crisis on their financial wellbeing

Action:

- We will create and regularly renew a partnership leaflet indicating how to access partner services and ensure the widest possible distribution of this information.
- We will create new and accessible channels of communication on a range of social media platforms with the aim of informing and engaging Inverclyde residents on cost of living crisis financial issues.
- We will target partner activity at spatial communities and communities of interest, for example, carers, the changing nature of national and local policy responses emerge

Objective Four: Provide the range of partner services via an outreach approach within local community facilities and within community focal points on a regular programmed basis.

Action:

- We will collaborate with local community facilities and organisations to provide our services at a local level and within easy reach of neighbourhood residents on a regular and programmed basis.
- We will work with existing partners including the credit unions, income maximisers and money advice providers to ensure that we reach those at the edges of our communities and areas and so prevent unnecessary travel and costs being incurred.
- We will work with a diverse range of local provider as well as non-traditional locations, - for example charity shops and retailers, - to advertise partner services and raise awareness among those who may not have previously required to access support or advice.

Objective Five: Promote the diverse range of partner delivered financial inclusion services and support the financial wellbeing of staff working across our services.

Action:

- We will utilise a range of workplace communication methods which provide staff information on accessing financial inclusion services, for example in income maximisation or money advice.
- Partners will work with their own HR/ OD departments to embed regular messaging around services and support available
- Where workplace wellbeing plans exist these will include actions in support of staff financial wellbeing

Objective Six: Develop and deploy a programme of financial literacy and capacity building targeted at young people in the 16-19 age range alongside a range of activity within schools

Action:

- We will seek to work with partners and specialist external organisations to develop and deploy a programme promoting financial literacy targeted at young people 16-19 years of age.
- We will seek to use the maturing Child Trust Funds as a vehicle around which to build and deliver financial inclusion and capacity building work
- We will work with young people to derive, develop and deploy new and fit-for-purpose financial literacy and capacity building approaches
- We will work with education to review and develop approaches to financial literacy which are age appropriate and build long term skills for the future

Objective Seven: Engage and involve those who use partner services in the design, deployment and delivery of those services

Action:

- We will ensure that the “voice” of service users is captured, recorded and responded to through the feedback channels within each partner organisation.
- We will seek to involve both service users, and potential service users, in helping us understand how they wish to access support, the nature and effectiveness of our provision, and how we can best improve what we do. This will include questions for the Citizen’s Panel.
- We will task specialist partners, for example “Your Voice” with convening specific consultation and involvement events, virtual and otherwise, at regular periods in the coming two years.

Objective Seven: Put in place quality assurance measures to ensure that our service provision is of the highest standard.

Action:

- We will ask each partner to contribute regular reports on the quality and effectiveness of their services to the QA reporting function at quarterly meetings.
- We will provide a central resource to support relevant partners to achieve full level 2 & 3 of the Scottish National Standards for Advice Provision
- We will put in place a “Quick, Easy & Simple” service user “instant” feedback process as a trial in early 2023.
- Ensure that the QA responses and results are published in the Financial Inclusion Partnership Annual Report 2022-2023 in late 2023.

Objective Nine: Establish a range of performance metrics and a sequence and cycle of performance reporting, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the key and stated objectives are being met.

Action:

- We will develop a performance template in support of the strategic outcomes which all FIP members will sign up to
- Reporting will be a key agenda item at quarterly Financial Inclusion Partnership meetings with each partner addressing their performance in the previous period
- The financial Inclusion Partnership will produce an Annual Report that will present, illuminate and discuss the work of the group in respect of the strategic goals and actions set out in this document in the previous operational year

6.0 ACTION PLAN – MEASURING SUCCESS

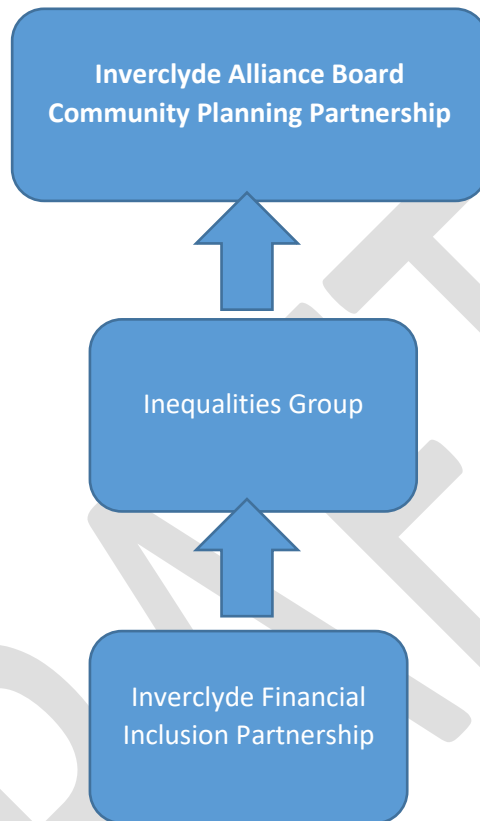
	OBJECTIVE	LINKS TO:	MEASUREMENTS	FOCUS YEAR
1.	Mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on:			
	Children living in poverty	Inverclyde Child Poverty Plan Children's plan LOIP Inequalities Action Plan Local Housing Strategy	Child Poverty Outcomes	Lifetime of plan
	Our most vulnerable families and households including those living with disabilities and carers	HSCP Strategic Plan LOIP Inequalities Action Plan Financial Fitness outcomes Local Housing Strategy	Financial gain for Inverclyde Uptake of financial inclusion/ anti-poverty services Qualitative feedback	Lifetime of plan
2.	Engage, equip and empower a range of trusted intermediaries to ensure that those who are isolated or have restricted access to information and services are provided with the support they require	Inverclyde Child Poverty Plan LOIP Inequalities Action Plan HSCP Strategic Plan	Uptake of training/ education Increase in referrals and regular feedback from these sources Qualitative feedback	Year 1
3.	Provide and promote the diverse range of partner delivered financial inclusion services to the wider Inverclyde	LOIP Inequalities Action Plan	Uptake of financial inclusion/ anti-poverty services Qualitative feedback	Year 1

	community via a range of specifically created social and printed media		Financial gain for Inverclyde No of supported debt cases	
4.	Provide the range of partner services via an outreach approach within local community facilities and within community focal points on a regular programmed basis	LOIP Inequalities Action Plan HSCP Strategic Plan Local Housing Strategy	Increased range of delivery settings Uptake of financial inclusion/ anti-poverty services	Year 1
5.	Promote the diverse range of partner delivered financial inclusion services and support the financial wellbeing of staff working across our services	HSCP Wellbeing Plan Wellbeing work within partner organisations	Uptake of financial inclusion/ anti-poverty services Qualitative feedback	Lifetime of plan
6.	Develop and deploy a programme of financial literacy and capacity building targeted at young people in the 16-19 age range alongside a range of activity within schools	Community Learning & Development Strategy Education Services	Approaches/ programmes developed Feedback/ evaluation	16-19 Year 1 Schools Year 2
7.	Engage and involve those who use partner services in the design, deployment and delivery of those services	Consultation on Strategy Citizens panel approach Your Voice Mission, Values & Purpose		October 2022-October 2024
8.	Put in place quality assurance measures to ensure that our service provision is of the highest standard.	HSCP Strategic Plan The Scottish National Standards for Information and	Local QA approach agreed	SNSIAP timescales subject to confirmation by SLAB – expect 2024

		Advice Providers' (SNSIAP) framework		
9.	Establish a range of performance metrics and a sequence and cycle of performance reporting, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the key and stated objectives are being met.	HSCP monitoring for commissioned services All agencies agreed performance frameworks	Performance metrics agreed Performance monitored and evaluated regularly and used to inform changes/ improvements to service delivery Benefits for service users are evidenced in both quantitative & qualitative measures	Lifetime of plan

7.0 Governance

The governance route for agreeing and monitoring the Financial Inclusion Strategy will be via the structure of the Inverclyde Alliance Community Planning Partnership.



APPENDIX

Financial Inclusion Partnership

<i>Inverclyde HSCP</i>	<i>Financial Fitness</i>	<i>Starter Packs</i>
<i>Wise Group</i>	<i>CVS Inverclyde</i>	<i>Your Voice</i>
<i>Department for Work & Pensions</i>	<i>Community Learning & Development</i>	<i>Inverclyde Council</i>
<i>The Trust</i>	<i>Stepwell</i>	<i>Tail 'o the Bank Credit Union</i>
<i>Port Glasgow Credit Union</i>	<i>Riverclyde Homes</i>	<i>Larkfield Housing Association</i>
<i>Citizen's Advice Scotland</i>	<i>Cloch Housing</i>	<i>Oak Tree Housing Association</i>
<i>Social Security Scotland</i>	<i>Legal Services Agency</i>	<i>Scottish Illegal Money Lending Unit</i>
<i>MPs Office</i>		

Appendix – Child poverty actions cross reference to be included

Produced and Published by Inverclyde HSCP on behalf of
Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	5 December 2022
Report By:	Louise Long, Chief Executive, Chair of LOIP Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae Service Manager Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships	Contact No:	01475 712055
Subject:	Local Outcome Improvement Plan Progress Report August to October 2022		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the LOIP Programme Board with a progress report on the implementation of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides details of the progress made between August to October 2022 in implementing the priorities within the LOIP.

- 2.2 This report provides an update on progress in the four priority areas of the LOIP:

- Population
- Local Economy
- Inequalities
- Environment, Culture and Heritage

- 2.3 Progress has been made in the last quarter and some of the highlights include:

The Population Partnership have undertaken significant partnership working in preparation for the demands of the Ukrainian refugee dispersal. A fortnightly meeting - Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group has been set up by the HSCP.

The Local Economy Partnership noted that a significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses.

The Inequalities Partnership continue to respond to the cost-of-living crisis. Remaining funding is being directed to:

- An enhanced Christmas payment of the Scottish Government Christmas child payment,
- Additional provision to cope with the increased demand for Community Care and Crisis Grant
- £100,000 Warm Hand of Friendship Funding to support local community and third sector organisations provide safe and warm spaces, warm food, and warm items of clothing such as gloves, scarves, and socks.

The Environment Partnership report Sustrans approval of the Green Connections bid for the Greenock Central Link and Lady Octavia Park. The contracts have now been awarded to the design consultant and the consultant for the Community Engagement service.

The Culture and Heritage Partnership note Inverclyde Libraries winning the Scottish Library and Information Council's Project of the Year Award for their involvement in the Climate Beacon's work.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the quarterly progress update.

Louise Long
Chair, Programme Board
Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde's LOIP was formally agreed by the Alliance Board on the 11 December 2017. This progress report provides details of the progress that has been made in implementing the LOIP during the period August to October 2022.
- 4.2 Oversight and delivery of the LOIP priorities sits with the:
- Population and Economy Partnership
 - Inequalities Partnership
 - Environment Partnership
 - Cultural Partnership
- 4.3 This report provides updates on the progress made across all priorities in the last three-month period. The following flash reports are appended to this report:
- Population Partnership Appendix 1
 - Economic Partnership Appendix 2
 - Inequalities Partnership Appendix 3
 - Environment Partnership Appendix 4
 - Cultural Partnership Appendix 5

5.0 PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

5.1 Population Partnership Update

Under the Develop the Inverclyde Brand workstream, activity continues to be broadly in line with plan.

Within the *Create Sustainable Communities, Primarily Through the Housing Offer* workstream the key highlights are as follows.

Following discussion at the Alliance Board held on 3 October 2022, the tracking of progress on the initial scope of activity relating to the Eastern Gateway has ceased. Appropriate reporting will be established once an alternative solution has been agreed.

Amber status remains for the town centre master planning activity for both Port Glasgow and Greenock. The Port Glasgow project is still at procurement phase and a draft of the report for Greenock Town Centre study will be shared with the Environment & Regeneration Committee in January 2023.

The Local Housing Strategy Steering Group has now met three times and progress is on track. This work is being project managed by consultant, Arneil Johnston, and incorporates participation from social landlords and high levels of consultation with stakeholders, including the public. A Local Housing Strategy Development conference is planned for late November 2022.

The key highlight within the *Deliver A Net Inward Migration* workstream is the ongoing activity in relation to the dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. Scotland will continue to welcome high numbers of Ukrainian refugees over the coming months (estimated > 30,000) and Inverclyde's allocation is yet to be confirmed. Areas of note are:

- Significant partnership working has been established in preparation for the demands of the Ukrainian refugee dispersal. A fortnightly meeting - Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group has been set up by the HSCP.

- The Gin House Hotel is providing an initial stay for refugees (approximately 20 families) before dispersal to more permanent accommodation.
- Local RSLs are providing details of available units to enable matching of people to properties.
- There is not a current capacity pressure for RSLs in Inverclyde to accommodate current Inverclyde tenants or potential tenants as well as new people coming to Inverclyde.

Also supporting this workstream is the Population Partnership's proposal to utilise the remaining budget allocation (£132k) to fund two temporary roles (both of which will help address retention challenges associated with young people and also Ukrainian refugees).

Appendix 1 contains more detail across each workstream.

5.2 Local Economy Partnership Update

The Local Economy Partnership Group has continued to meet and consider the actions against the updated plan.

- The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. To date the team have supported 7 businesses, with a variety of property improvements, a further six companies have offer letters issued to them.
- In relation to Employability performance has continued to improve from the difficult year of 2020/21. The tender has been concluded and contracts finalised for the 2022/23 and client delivery is progressing well across the four service providers against the contracted target figures.
- Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding. Currently employment statistics are positive however these need to be treated with some caution as the job opportunities are only for job ready clients and those furthest from the labour market with barriers to employment need support.
- A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. Over two hundred wage incentives have been issued. We have thirty six long term unemployed clients, twenty three Large Goods Vehicle clients, twenty graduates placements and two traineeships.
- The Council continues to progress well with this years' MA positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification. Following the conclusion of a number of apprenticeships there are currently 86 apprentices "in programme". The composition of the fifty new apprenticeships are ten clients in business admin, two clients in waste management, one client in vehicle mechanics, one client in vehicle stores, one client in stores at the centre for independent living, fourteen clients in horticulture, one school craft technician, and twenty clients in childcare.
- The Inverclyde Taskforce has been formed. To date there have been two meetings of the Taskforce supported by an officer group series of meetings. The Local Employability Partnership and the Economy Groups have both been refocused. The Economy Group will be expanded to concentrate on the ambitions of the Taskforce through the inclusion of local business representatives.

5.3 Inequalities Partnership Update

The rating of amber (slight slippage) is attributed to service pressures arising from the pandemic, both in terms of resourcing and service demands.

The Health and Wellbeing Group previously developed as part of Covid 19 recovery has now been subsumed into the LOIP Inequalities Group and the membership updated to reflect this.

The Naloxone Link Worker has delivered training to 251 people, distributing 322 Naloxone kits this year. This has largely focused on third sector partners.

A new Active Inverclyde strategy has been agreed. An engagement event with local sports organisations took place and the delivery plan is now being developed.

The developmental work for the Covid Memorial has started, with the team working with various groups in the community.

CVS Inverclyde have been awarded £242,085 from the Scottish Government for distribution to the community and voluntary sector in Inverclyde under the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2022/23.

The Inverclyde Policy and Resources Committee agreed to fund a series of targeted interventions to address poverty and deprivation in the areas with the greatest inequalities. This aims to address unemployment and employability, support for people experiencing difficulties with alcohol and drugs, mental health or people who are experiencing food insecurities. To respond to the cost-of-living crisis and to make best use of the remaining funding a range of proposals were agreed by the November Policy and Resources Committee, including

- An enhanced Christmas payment of the Scottish Government Christmas child payment,
- Additional provision to cope with the increased demand for Community Care and Crisis Grants,
- £100,000 Warm Hand of Friendship Funding to support local community and third sector organisations to provide safe and warm spaces, warm food, and warm items of clothing such as gloves, scarves, and socks,
- Funding to help mitigate food insecurity during the winter months 2022/23 when the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is expected to affect communities across Inverclyde. This allocation will also support local church organisations and community centres to enhance their current services during the Winter 2022/23 especially during the Christmas/New Year period and into January which is traditionally a difficult period for many people, and
- Additional support for I-heat fuel poverty payments.

5.4 Environment Partnership Update

All the actions are currently rated as amber (slight slippage) due to delays in responses to applications and tenders. The healthier lifestyles action is slightly adrift of target as there was a delay in the 3rd sector Environment Network being re-established following Covid restrictions and staff turnover. The Greenspace strategy has been put on hold due to resource restrictions. The climate change action is amber as more needs to be done collectively to address this issue. It has been agreed that this will be a standing item across all LOIP priority partnerships to raise its profile.

Sustrans approved the Green Connections bid for the Greenock Central Link and Lady Octavia Park. The contracts have now been awarded to the design consultant and the consultant for the Community Engagement service.

One application was submitted for Round 3 – Scott Street Community Growing project. However, it is now not going forward to stage 2 as, after lying redundant for 21 years, 3 companies have now registered an interest in the site in the last month and the Council will be taking bids for its redevelopment.

Inverclyde is due to get funding for coastal change adaptation in 2023/24. The funding is not ring-fenced though its use for coastal adaptation works is strongly encouraged as it will help ensure future resilience and its use for the purpose is strongly encouraged.

Inverclyde Council have been awarded £88k from the Nature Restoration Fund for rewilding and biodiversity.

Other areas of work also taking place include:

- The final report of the Peatland Feasibility Study was completed – consideration is currently underway of what actions to take forward.
- The first recruitment round for a Peatland Action project officer to take forward the Clyde Peatland Project was unsuccessful, and it is being readvertised next month.

5.5 Cultural Partnership Update

Members will note that the Heritage Strategy has a RAG status of amber (slight slippage). This is mainly down to Covid. Heritage Fund funding streams were open only to emergency Covid funding through most of 2020 and 2021 and the bulk of the Strategy Action Plan is to be funded through funding bids.

Working in partnership Inverclyde Council and the Beacon Arts Centre presented a joint programme of events for Black History Month, a first in Inverclyde. The Beacon's programme was curated by the Afrowegian, Jideofor Muotune, and events included panel discussions, music and storytelling sessions, academic talks, and plays and projections, and a new exhibition at the Watt featuring the Abolitionists who spoke in Greenock against slavery.

The Galoshans festival, now in its 8th year, is back to in-person events involving the consortium partners RIG Arts, CVS Inverclyde, Inverclyde Council, Beacon Arts Centre, TRANSCND and Magic Torch. FERAL Arts are the creative producers bringing their FERAL takeover to the programme. The festival will end with three separate street parties in Gourock, Greenock and Port Glasgow over Halloween weekend.

Inverclyde Libraries won the Scottish Library and Information Council's Project of the Year Award for their involvement in the Climate Beacon's work.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Appendix 1 Population

Appendix 1 Population

Population Partnership Flash Report

August – October 2022
Lead Officer – Richard Turnock

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
Develop the Inverclyde Brand <i>Position Inverclyde as the place to visit, work and live.</i>	Significant progress has been made, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Discover Inverclyde' branding and website and social media presence (e.g. Business Gateway Inverclyde now on Facebook) • Successful Marketing and promotion activity and events (including housing engagement event) • Towns and Villages being supported to develop their presence through Recovery Plan funding • Greenock Ocean Terminal in progress. • Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership' (new name) established group now looking to build engagement with sector. • Dedicated marketing team established. • STV advertising campaign launched. • Meliora festival created. 	The 'Discover Inverclyde' theme is the default marketing brand for tourism and visitors and existing population. The Discover Inverclyde website is considered the main, trusted reliable source of what to do in Inverclyde. Inverclyde is considered not only a tourist destination but also a place to work and live.	Continual enhancement of the marketing activity.	Council has signed up to STEAM reports for the next three years to establish baseline figures for tourism development	Ongoing	G
			Investment in the promotion activities to build the Discover Inverclyde theme		Ongoing	
			Create a new Discover Inverclyde marketing toolkit	Measure participation rates by local businesses and venues	Currently being reviewed as part of business engagement	G
			Drive use of marketing toolkit, promoting the Discover Inverclyde theme,	Measure attendance at events and participation rates		G
			Enhance social media presence, including marketing out with Inverclyde.	Measure hits/reach/ retweets etc.	Content Forward Plan in development	G
			Partnership working including Visit Scotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance + other local authorities.	Ongoing tracking by Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership	Ongoing. LOIP now includes Visit Scotland representation.	G
			Deliver targeted marketing strategy (inc. TV, Discover Scotland Expo.)	Focus on 22/23 initiatives, inc. food and drink; film and TV; outdoor activities, sports, cruise ships, heritage and walking	Delivery of cruise seminars and targeted promotion of outdoor activities.	G

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
Create Sustainable Communities, primarily through the housing offer <i>Address the private and social housing requirements, helping retain and attract new people to the area</i>	Significant progress has been made, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of a review of private housing land supply Plans to deliver > 1,000 new social housing units (> 50% completion to date) Ongoing work on the Eastern Gateway Opportunities Preparatory work on Town Centre Plans for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centre 	Short to medium term Delivery of a private and social housing solution that provides retention and attraction of new families to Inverclyde. Medium to longer term Regeneration where required; complemented by other private and social housing development in the longer term.	Delivery of Private Housing New build.	This is addressed through the Local Development Plan/SHIP.	Ongoing	G
			Delivery of Social Housing New build.	Regular measurement against planned progress for both private and social housing plans.	Ongoing	G
			Consideration of appropriate incentives (e.g. Lower council tax, subsidised nursery, leisure facilities etc.)	Uptake in any available funding	Ongoing	G
			Develop New Local Housing Strategy	Steering Group has met 3 times as at end of October. Planning activity ongoing to deliver LHS development conference later November.	Ongoing	G
			Progress Local Development Plan	Informed by changes to Scottish national planning Framework	Ongoing	G
			Progress Port Glasgow Town Centre Plan	Inverclyde Council/ Committee governance + partner input	Tender issued June 22, Still in Procurement Phase.	A
			Progress Greenock Town Centre Plan		Study due to be completed August 2022. Committee update in Jan 23.	A
			Consider other wider opportunities for regeneration and ad hoc projects.	Measures include e.g. utilisation of strategic acquisition funding (Rental Of The Shelf funding) plus any other transformational funding.	Ongoing	G
			Partnership working with appropriate lobbying activity.			

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
Deliver a net inward migration <i>Create a net flow of population through strategic initiatives</i>	Key achievements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various resettlement Schemes have enabled immigration from Afghanistan and Syria in particular. 37 new families now housed and settled within Inverclyde 	Ensure that Inverclyde is considered as a location of choice for future New Scots. Ensure we attract and retain families who settle in Inverclyde Net inward migration not only about New Scots (other population inflow predominately via supported by wider Repopulation initiatives).	Ongoing collaboration between Inverclyde Alliance partners (HSCP News Scots Team + Social landlords + Education etc. Partnership working with the Scottish Refugee Council/UK Government	Measure the extent of both initial and sustained settlement within Inverclyde.	Ongoing	G
			Support the resettlement of an additional 16 families through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) by March 2022. Assist the acclimatization, supporting the enhancement of language skills and finding work, thus enabling rapid self-sufficiency and social integration in our communities.	Ongoing delivery of any commitment to Scottish Refugee Council/ Scottish Government.	Ongoing	G
			Partnership collaboration to ensure successful dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. This includes provision of private and social housing (existing voids) together with short term accommodation e.g. hotels.	Meet the demands of dispersal within Inverclyde	Ongoing	G
			Funding of two new temporary employment roles to address retention challenges associated with Young people and Ukrainian refugees. Posts likely to be established within Inverclyde Council and Scottish Refugee Council.	Successful appointment and delivery of respective remits of both roles	Immediate recruitment phase by sponsoring bodies (assuming approval of posts)	G

Appendix 2 Economy

Appendix 2 Economy

Appendix 2 Economy

Economy Partnership Flash Report

August – October 2022

Lead Officer – Stuart Jamieson

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Promote business starts	Tripartite business gateway contract	Inverclyde business start-ups exceed the wider Renfrewshire rate	Promotion of Services	Annual review	Progress in the first quarter followed the positive trend of the 2 years	G
Property development / assistance	We want to ensure that premises are available both to indigenous companies and incoming businesses	Premises are available to suit a variety of different needs	Promotion of available properties through property searches and assistance in works	Reduce number of voids	The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. To date the team have supported 7 businesses.	G
Employability	Inverclyde Council and partners ensure that effective IREP engagement takes place.	Better engagement	Regular meetings and partnership working	Effective engagement amongst partners	The LEP has been meeting on a monthly basis from the start of the year and a draft 3 year Delivery Plan has been produced with finalisation due later in the summer.	G
Employability Pipeline	Inverclyde Council has 4 employability contracts to deliver end-to end pipeline activity.	Impact of Covid and other factors reduced to ensure maximum opportunities for all.	Contract delivery on an annual basis	Contract monitoring	Performance has continued to improve from the difficult year of 2020/21. The tender has been concluded and contracts finalised for the 2022/23. 4 contracts have been awarded for 2022/23. Performance for the final quarter resulted in full contract spend. Contract performance is satisfactory	G
Jobs Recovery Plan	Programme commenced in April 2021	Full delivery of programme by April 2023	Deployment of comprehensive Jobs Recovery Programme	Regular reporting to Committee and Alliance.	Job recovery plan continues to progress well. Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding. Over 200 wage subsidies have been issued.	G
Workforce Development	Skills gaps exist within the workforce	Skills gaps has been removed from workforce	Engagement and delivery of programmes to ensure	Delivery of programmes Regular monitoring	A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. A primary support is our Flexible Workforce Development Fund which is available for both SMEs and larger employers to upskill and reskill their	G

Appendix 2 Economy

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
			the workforce becomes more productive and efficient		workforce to meet changing organisational needs. To date the College has delivered over £500k worth of employee led training across the West Region covering a range of organisations from across the public, private and third sector who have had a demand for skills development in: Leadership and Management Masterclasses, Digital and IT skills enhancement, Mental Health Awareness, Health and Safety, Coaching and Development training, and British Sign Language'	
Modern apprentices	West College Scotland and Inverclyde Council deliver modern apprenticeship programmes	Modern apprenticeships programmes are maximised for client use	Regular liaison within IREP	Regular reporting on modern apprenticeship numbers	<p>The Council continues to progress well with this years' MA positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification.</p> <p>The council currently have 87 apprentices in programme.</p>	G

Appendix 3 Inequalities

Appendix 3 Inequalities

Appendix 3 Inequalities

Inequalities Partnership Flash Report

August – October 2022

Lead Officer – Allen Stevenson

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Alcohol and Drugs Lead officer Anne Malarkey	Drug use is one of the leading causes of death and ill health in the most deprived parts of Inverclyde	Inverclyde is a Place Where Less Harm is Caused by alcohol and drug use.	Delivery of the ADP priorities and recovery strategy Contribute to the review of the Inverclyde Licensing policy	Outcomes reported to ADP Committee Reduction in deaths Reduction in associated ill health Reduction in associated hospital admissions	The Naloxone Link Worker has delivered training to 251 people, distributing 322 Naloxone kits this year. This has largely focused on third sector partners. A SLWG coordinated a wide range of activities throughout recovery month across Inverclyde localities. These have helped to communicate a clear message of recovery and the availability of local supports. Meeting was held with staff side and CSWO and a report will be provided to Council up-dating all the actions that have been taken. Naloxene training has been offered to elected members and IJB members. There continues to be a focus on challenging stigma and showing compassion, giving a message of hope. The Early Help in Police Custody test of change commenced delivery and following Police Scotland vetting of staff, is now directly delivered from Greenock Police Custody Suite. We have published the Residential Rehabilitation Referral Pathway and are in the process of developing this project in partnership with Turning Point Scotland. We continue to assess and fund residential rehabilitation placements. We have submitted our MAT Implementation Plan to Scottish Government along with regular progress update reports and are on schedule in all actions of this plan. Correspondence was received from Ms Constance, Minister for Drugs Policy on the MAT Standards. Feedback from the MIST Q Team (who support evaluation of the standards from an experiential perspective) indicates that we are on track.	G
Poverty Child poverty Fuel poverty Financial inclusion Food poverty	Inverclyde has the most deprived SIMD area in Scotland.	Levels of poverty in Inverclyde are reduced.	Partnership working to improve employment opportunities, maximize household income	Outcome reporting on Child Poverty Action Plan. Outputs and contract monitoring from commissione	The Inverclyde Policy and Resources Committee agreed to fund a series of targeted interventions to address poverty and deprivation in the areas with the greatest inequalities to address unemployment and employability, support for people experiencing difficulties with alcohol and drugs, mental health or people who are experiencing food insecurities. To respond to the cost of living crisis and to make best use of the remaining funding a range of proposals are being made to the November Policy and Resources Committee, including	A

Appendix 3 Inequalities

Lead Officer Craig Given/ Tony McEwan			Review and deliver new financial inclusion strategy.	d services e.g. Iheat Evidence delivery of council anti-poverty programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enhanced Christmas payment of the Scottish Government Christmas child payment, • Additional provision to cope with the increased demand for Community Care and Crisis Grants, • £100,000 Warm Hand of Friendship Funding to support local community and third sector organisations provide safe and warm spaces, warm food, and warm items of clothing such as gloves, scarves, and socks, • Funding to help mitigate food insecurity during the winter months 2022/23 when the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is expected to affect communities across Inverclyde. This allocation will also support local church organisations and community centres to enhance their current services during the Winter 2022/23 especially during the Christmas/New Year period and into January which is traditionally a difficult period for many people, and • Additional support for i-heat fuel poverty payments. <p>Anti- poverty funding has been allocated to an Employability pilot – removing barriers to employment for those in recovery. This is now underway with relevant staffing now in place to facilitate this. A number of candidates have been identified for this project and work is underway with engaging with them.</p> <p>New pantry has been established in Port Glasgow and a 'food map' is being developed for communities to help them access affordable food.</p> <p>Year 4 of child poverty action plan in progress</p> <p>Delivery of child bridging payment.</p> <p>We continue to work closely with our partners at I Heat and have contracts in place for the delivery of fuel payments for people facing financial difficulty. We are also currently investigating the potential delivery of fuel poverty / winter boxes for the most in need. This is also potentially going to be in partnership with I Heat.</p> <p>The HSCP is also working in partnership with Inverclyde Council for other potential fuel poverty initiatives to be delivered in 2022/23.</p>	
Active Inverclyde Lead Officer Tony McEwan	Inverclyde residents are less likely to be active than those in the rest of NHSGGC and Scotland as a whole.	The people of Inverclyde are more active and maintain activity throughout the life course.	Work in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure, NHSGGC health improvement services, local third sector.	Evidence delivery of outcomes associated with Active Inverclyde Strategy.	<p>New Active Inverclyde Strategy agreed.</p> <p>Engagement event with local sports organisations took place and delivery plan now being developed.</p> <p>Although the strategy has been agreed by Inverclyde Alliance, the action plan is being developed in conjunction with partners and has not yet been agreed. When the</p>	A

Appendix 3 Inequalities

				Decrease in ill health associated with low levels of activity will be evidenced in local health needs assessment.	action plan is finalised, the RAG status will move to Green. It is expected that this work will complete in October 2022.	
Mental wellbeing & social isolation Lead Officer Alan Best/ Charlene Elliot	Impact of Covid has increased social isolation and negatively impacted mental wellbeing.	People of Inverclyde are supported to reconnect socially and emotionally.	Utilise recovery money, Public Mental health recovery funding and Wellbeing fund monies Develop suicide prevention plan Develop Inverclyde cares movement. Winter wellness week for Health & Social Care Staff.	Reported outcomes from associated funding streams. Self-reported outcomes from upcoming NHSGGC Health & Wellbeing Survey. Evaluation of Winter	Inverclyde Cares is progressing well against the 4 priorities 1. Bereavement & Loss 2. Stigma 3. Remembering Together- Covid Community Memorial Activity 4. Kindness Promise Covid Memorial - has started, phase 1 underway the team have been working with various groups in the community. No One Grieves Alone – has grown, working with 15 organisations, CVS received charter mark, YourVoice nearly there. Culture collective no one grieves alone spring event being organised over 1 or 2 weeks. Kindness Award – A full launch is taking place to coincide with Amnesty Day. Stigma – 3rd challenge event being held on 31st August 2022. Stigma training programme being progressed. The first facilitation group was held the week of 1st August 2022. West College Scotland have donated 36 academic hours in relation to Stigma work. The evaluation of the Winter Wellness Week has been completed. CVS Inverclyde have been awarded £242,085 from the Scottish Government for distribution to the community and voluntary sector in Inverclyde under the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund 2022/23. This is in addition to the £342,000 which was distributed to 20 local groups in FY21/22. The strategic	G

Appendix 3 Inequalities

				wellness week.	partnership group, including colleagues from HSCP, third sector and those with lived/living experience will once again support delivery of the Fund, which has a focus on prevention and early intervention. The fund will open for applications no later than 17th October 2022.	
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Appendix 4 Environment

Appendix 4 Environment

Appendix 4 Environment

Environment Partnership Flash Report

August – October 2022
Lead Officer – Kerry Wallace

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Connectivity	It is currently difficult for Inverclyde residents to engage in active travel with gaps in provision and poor infrastructure.	There will be an increase in the number of Inverclyde residents who take part in walking and cycling for everyday journeys and recreation.	Improve cycle paths and walking routes through the development of: Active Travel Strategy (complete 2018 and adopted by council – delivery of action plan in progress - Proposed Green Connections project (by 2025)	Statistics from Community Tracks; and Statistics from Bike Bothy.	Sustrans approved the Green connections bid for the Greenock Central Link and Lady Octavia Park. The contracts have now been awarded to the design consultant and the consultant for the Community Engagement service. Meetings are currently taking place with both contractors and the workstreams are due to commence. It is likely that we will ask for an extension to the project from the current June 2023 deadline through to December 2023.	A
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Healthier Lifestyles	Only four in ten (39%) adults met the current physical activity recommendations and just over a third (35%) of secondary school pupils meet the target of taking 60 minutes or more of physical activity on five or more days per week. (Inverclyde Child and Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2013).	Those living in the most deprived localities in Inverclyde will be more physically active and enjoy improved wellbeing	Establish links between health and environment professionals - Develop green gyms, community growing. Community food growing. Establish an Environmental Network	HSCP attend Environment Partnership and Environment network. Inverclyde Life could be a digital platform to raise awareness of opportunities in which communities and individuals can become involved in.	Links established with HSCP and work underway to reestablish the Environment network.	A

Appendix 4 Environment

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Land Use and Management	The percentage of derelict land increased from 17% to 51% in 2016. 80% of the increase in derelict land related to two large sites, the Former Inverkip Power Station site and Valley Park, Spango Valley.	<p>Inverclyde residents will have access to good quality and multifunctional greenspace close to where they live (the importance of this priority has been heightened as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown)</p> <p>Derelict land will be transformed in key communities to provide multiple benefits for people and nature</p>	Develop a Greenspace Strategy.	<p>By periodically measuring the number of people within a 5 minute walk of a good quality useable greenspace (this is line with a new national indicator on access to greenspace).</p> <p>Performance measures: The number of people within 400m of quality green space.</p>	<p>Greenspace strategy currently on hold due to resource restrictions.</p> <p>One application was submitted for Round 3 – Scott Street Community Growing project. However, it is now not going forward to stage 2 as, after lying redundant for 21 years, 3 companies have now registered an interest in the site in the last month and the Council will be taking bids for its redevelopment. The aim for VDL is to bring it back into productive use.</p>	A

Appendix 4 Environment

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Climate Change		Inverclyde's contribution to climate change will be well on its way to ending by 2045 and the transition to a just and net zero economy will be well established.	Inverclyde Council are developing a Carbon neutral/net zero strategy and from this we will identify actions we can take forward which is likely to include those actions we are already undertaking.		<p>The Final report of the Peatland Feasibility Study was completed – consideration is currently underway of what actions to take forward.</p> <p>The first recruitment round for a Peatland Action project officer to take forward the Clyde Peatland Project was unsuccessful and it is being readvertised next month and will cover the Glasgow City region (including Inverclyde).</p> <p>In September 2020, Scottish Government announced a new capital budget of £11.7 million for coastal change adaptation in the Programme for Government. Inverclyde is due to get funding for coastal change adaptation in 2023/24. The funding is not ring-fenced though its use for coastal adaptation works is strongly encouraged as it will help ensure future resilience and its use for the purpose is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>All CPP priorities to consider NetZero and the climate emergency in the work that they do.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council have been awarded £88k from the Nature Restoration Fund for rewilding and biodiversity.</p>	A

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Cultural Partnership – Flash Report August – October 2022 Lead Officer – Ruth Binks

Cultural Partnership - LOIP 10 Year Vision

- There will be increased attendance at cultural events and places of culture.

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Heritage Strategy	With funding from the Heritage Lottery, ICP commissioned developed, and published a Heritage Strategy for Inverclyde.	Partnership working to develop, enhance and deliver the strategy, building a network and legacy.	Funding bid to deliver elements of the Action Plan that cannot be delivered within existing resources.	Action plan priorities and objectives taken forward with identified outcomes being successfully implemented.	<p>Funds to procure a consultant to work up a funding bid (c. £250K) have been secured from Council recovery funding, and bid match funding has been secured from Council earmarked reserves. A bid consultant will hopefully be in place before the end of 2022.</p> <p>Progress reports on this bid will be brought to future Programme Board/Alliance Board meetings.</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Heritage Network</u> have continued with monthly talks on Zoom and blog posts on the IHN website with a variety of themes linked to Inverclyde. They also supported the Old West Kirk Trust SCIO to prepare a bid for the sale of the heritage site, however the bid was unsuccessful.</p>	A

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Arts and Creativity Strategy	<p>Inverclyde's Arts & Creativity Strategy launched in 2017 but did not contain an Action Plan to take the Strategy forward.</p> <p>Arts sub-group have developed an action plan to complement the Arts & Creativity Strategy.</p>	<p>Arts & Creativity Strategy and action plan being implemented with actions being delivered;</p> <p>Arts sub-group feeding in to overall Cultural Partnership and cultural delivery plan for the area.</p>	Maintain regular meetings of the Arts & Creativity sub-group, ensuring representation across Inverclyde.	<p>Meetings take place consistently and attendance by all partners remains high.</p> <p>Regular review of members of partnership.</p>	<p>Alliance Board approved the <u>Arts Action Plan</u> running alongside the Arts & Creativity Strategy on 14 June 2021.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council, in partnership with CVS Inverclyde, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, and Kayos Theatre Group successfully applied to Creative Scotland's '<u>Culture Collective</u>' funding stream for £275K over 18m to assist with delivery of many of the aspirations on the Arts Action Plan and also Covid-19 recovery. The original Inverclyde Culture Collective (ICC) project runs from March 2021-September 2022, overseen by the ICC Steering Group and the Cultural Partnership. Reports on progress will be part of Cultural Partnership reporting as the project progresses.</p> <p>Culture Collective is now being extended until Sep 2023 with Inverclyde receiving a further £198,000 of funding from Creative Scotland.</p> <p>Activities carried out in this reporting period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Artist in Residence Elina Bry worked with Your Voice Recovery as part of the Creative Practice in Health and Social Care strand. The residency was centred around the connection between recovery, the natural environment, walking practices and art. Artist in Residence Amy Bruning worked with Barnardo's Inverclyde to explore the connection between participatory art, animation and trauma informed environments. Amy has been working collaboratively with the youth steering group within Barnardo's to consider the design and curation of spaces within the building. 	G

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

- Artist in Residence Sian Yeshe worked with Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare (IFiT) utilising film and moving image to consider the thematic space of the two month period of re-entry into communities within Inverclyde.

Remembering Together: Inverclyde Covid Memorial: RIG Arts were awarded the Stage 1 contract and have started a creative consultation for the project. More information is available at:
<https://www.rememberingtogether.scot/inverclyde>

RIG Arts – highlights from this quarter include: completed work on “The Drying Green” unexpected garden. Working with partners Inverclyde Shed, Inverclyde Libraries and the local community RIG Arts transformed an area of scrubland behind South West Library. This creative growing space has reinforced South West Library’s position within the community, strengthened partner relationships and connected local people to a communal green space. 61 workshops, consultations and live events were delivered and the Drying Green was featured on the Beechgrove Garden. Filming of the Lee Jeans Sit In documentary completed – and protest songs inspired by interviewees’ stories working with 6 local musicians also completed.

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Festivals and Events	Develop calendar of current and emerging arts, culture & heritage festivals and events including those within individual communities.	<p>Work to develop, create, deliver and support arts, culture & heritage events across Inverclyde, both by ICP members themselves, and by building capacity within communities.</p> <p>Effective use of public spaces and venues to support co-ordination of events.</p>			<p><u>Galoshans 2022</u>: A consortium led by RIG Arts and CVS Inverclyde successfully received £83,441 from Creative Scotland and £4,000 from Event Scotland to run this year's festival. To be creative produced by FERAL Arts. Planned activity includes: Galoshans parades; artist workshops with schools; Galoshans Giants; Museum of Missing Myths; Backstage storytelling @ the Beacon; new work from Felix O'Brien and Kayos/Magic Torch; illuminations by TRNCND; and themed library activities.</p> <p>October also saw the celebration of <u>Black History Month</u> in Inverclyde for the first time. Jointly presented by Inverclyde Council and the Beacon Arts Centre, activities and events included: What's Watt Got to Do With It (an exploration by Dr Stephen Mullen and The Afrowegian (Jideofor Muotune) of the Watt family's links to slavery, Mixed Race and Scottish (discussion panel with mixed race artists Kim Simpson, Mark Agbi, Matt Hickman and Suzanne Bonnar); Southern Fried' a look at traditional cooking from the Caribbean, events with storytellers Tawona Sitholé and Chief Chebe, a new play 'Living Histories of Sugar' and some academic talks on the subjects of sugar and the triangular trade by Prof Emma Bond and Dr Marisa Wilson. All events are free and funded through Inverclyde's Historic Links to Slavery reparatory work.</p>	G

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Key Cultural Venues	Central Greenock has 2 major cultural venues: the Watt Institution, and the Beacon Arts Centre, and a third which will open in early 2023 - the Wyllie Gallery. Inverclyde's 6 public libraries also provide cultural spaces within communities.	All 4 centres are represented at the Cultural Partnership and will work together to maximize cultural opportunities for the people of, and visitors to, Inverclyde.		Each centre will report increasing visitor numbers. Cultural participation in Inverclyde will increase.	<p>The <u>Watt Institution</u> continues to attract visitors to existing exhibitions guest curated by Dr Emma Bond of St Andrews University and the internationally acclaimed artist Alison Watt respectively. A new exhibition featuring the Abolitionists who spoke against slavery in Greenock has launched as part of Black History Month. Work continues on the Watt Voices NLHF-funded project to redisplay and reinterpret collections, work has been undertaken to improve the display of the World Cultures collection and to simplify the layout on site as part of the process to improve storytelling. Work has also started to create a new, dedicated Egyptian gallery on site and a new dedicated digital exhibition space for use by the community.</p> <p><u>The Beacon Arts Centre –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include: presented a full and interesting programme of performances including Comedy of errors, Eddi Reader, Happiness collectors; worked with the council to deliver a programme, curated by The Afrowegian, for Black History Month; hosted several participation opportunities including Beacon Youth theatre, Creatability, Platinum Dance, Beacon Art Group, Inverclyde women Create, Beacon Befriending, key partner in the Galoshans consortium with various events planned.</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Libraries –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include: Inverclyde Libraries won the Scottish Library and Information Council's Project of the Year Award for their involvement in the Climate Beacon's work. ; sold-out 'Get it Loud in Libraries' gig in Central Library featuring Hamish Hawk; Au-some Afternoons (quiet library time for people with ASD and their</p>	<div>G</div> <div>G</div>

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

					carers) returned; events and activities to support Climate Week in Sep; Summer Reading Challenge Celebration took place in Port Glasgow Town Hall on 5 Oct – 900 children took part in 2022 and over 500 completed the challenge; Central Library began offering afternoon movies as part of the Council's Warm Had of Friendship initiative; celebrated Libraries Week; launched Menopause Mates support groups in several libraries; took part in Galoshans; and took part in Black History Month celebrations.	
Climate Emergency	<p>The culture sector can contribute creatively to the challenges of climate change and climate justice.</p> <p>Inverclyde successfully bid to be a "Climate Beacon" with funding from Creative Carbon Scotland, in an application led by the Beacon Arts Centre and involving various cultural partners including Inverclyde Libraries, RIG Arts, Belville Community Garden amongst others.</p>	The Inverclyde Climate Beacon will focus on the roles of climate change mitigation and adaptation as part of Inverclyde's recovery from Covid.	The vision for the Climate Beacon is to produce and promote an exciting programme of activities to shape attitudes, concepts, and skills to help Inverclyde achieve carbon net zero. In the lead up to COP26, the project partners will host and present participatory, interactive and social events to engage local communities in discussions on climate change.	<p>Partners jointly create or commission artistic work; engagement work; and development work to highlight the climate emergency and environmental issues.</p> <p>Awareness of climate issues is raised in Inverclyde.</p>	<p>Creative Carbon Scotland confirmed in June 2021 that Inverclyde would be 1 of 6 Scottish Climate Beacons and have provided c.£30K of funding to support the programme.</p> <p>This work is now complete and being evaluated.</p>	C

Challenges this quarter: Aug - Oct 2022

Visitor figures beginning to recover, however revenue income may take some time to increase back to pre-Covid levels.

Next steps: Nov 2022 – Jan 2023

Inverclyde's cultural sector continues to offer exciting and low cost ways for communities and individuals to participate in arts, culture and heritage.



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 11

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	5 December 2022
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Lindsay Carrick	Contact No:	01475 712114
Subject:	Programme of Alliance Board Meetings 2023		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Board to agree to a programme of dates for meetings of the Inverclyde Alliance Board to December 2023.
- 1.2 The suggested dates continue the programme of quarterly meetings of the Alliance Board, and these are set out in appendix 1 to the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board agrees the programme of Alliance Board meetings to December 2023, as detailed in the appendix to the report.

Iain Strachan
Head of Legal & Democratic Services, Inverclyde Council

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

Submission Date	Pre-Agenda Meeting	Issue Agenda	Board Meeting
Fri 10 February 2023	Wed 22 February 2023 – 1.30pm	Mon 27 February 2023	Mon 13 March 2023 - <u>1pm</u>
Fri 19 May 2023	Wed 31 May 2023 – 1.30pm	Mon 5 June 2023	Mon 19 June 2023 – <u>1pm</u>
Fri 1 September 2023	Wed 13 September 2023 – 1.30pm	Mon 18 September 2023	Mon 2 October 2023 – <u>1pm</u>
Fri 3 November 2023	Wed 15 November 2023 – 1.30pm	Mon 20 November 2023	Mon 4 December 2023 – <u>1pm</u>

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Inverclyde Taskforce Group
Monday 27 June 2022 at 2.00 pm
Via Webex**

PRESENT

Councillor Stephen McCabe	Leader of Inverclyde Council (Chair)
Louise Long	Chief Executive – Inverclyde Council
Councillor Michael McCormick	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Elizabeth Robertson	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Lynne Quinn	Inverclyde Council
Councillor Graeme Brooks	Inverclyde Council
Ruth Binks	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development – Inverclyde Council
Stuart Jamieson	Interim Director – Environment & Regeneration – Inverclyde Council
Jennifer Horn	Regeneration Manager – Inverclyde Council
George Barbour	Service Manager: Communications, Tourism and Health & Safety – Inverclyde Council
Professor Mairi Spowage	Director – Fraser of Allander Institute
Sharon Kelly	Head of Operations (West Region) – Skills Development Scotland
Paul Zealey	Regional Skills Planning Lead – Skills Development Scotland
Mark Spragg	President – Inverclyde Chamber of Commerce
David McCarrey	Area Commander – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Liz Connolly	Principal – West College Scotland
Hisashi Kuboyama	Development Manager – Federation of Small Businesses
Ronnie Cowan	MP
Stuart McMillan	MSP
Neil Bibby	MSP
Andrew Docherty	Glasgow City Region Lead – CLGU Scotland
Craig Birrell	Scotland Office
John Provan	Scottish Government Official
Ivan McKee MSP	Minister for Business, Trade, Tourism and Enterprise

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisa Mitchell	Chief Executive's Office
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APOLOGIES

Laurence Rockey	Director – Scotland Office
Councillor David Wilson	Inverclyde Council
Jamie Greene	MSP
Gavin McDonagh	Riverside Inverclyde

ACTION

1. Welcome, Apologies & Introductions

Councillor McCabe (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Councillor McCabe welcome Stuart McMillan MSP as his Joint Chair and advised he looked forward to working together to benefit the citizens of Inverclyde.

Councillor McCabe advised that the Taskforce was initiated from a meeting between Inverclyde Council's Leader and The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy (Kate Forbes).

Louise Long advised that the purpose of this meeting is for partners to work

together to improve the Inverclyde economy by creating opportunities for business and residents.

2. Terms of Reference

It was noted the Terms of Reference were approved by the Inverclyde Council Committee meeting on 21 April 2022.

Louise highlighted measurements of success contained within the Terms of Reference include maximising funding opportunities, supporting growth industries to create more green and blue jobs and returning to pre-pandemic employment rates.

The terms of reference were agreed by the group.

3. Presentation by Fraser of Allander Institute

Mairi Spowage gave a presentation on supporting economic recovery in Inverclyde. Mairi highlighted that 3 local authorities (Argyll & Bute, West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde) face similar challenges including population decline, supporting economic recovery in areas requiring regeneration and addressing issues such as inequality and poverty.

Mairi advised that a 3-stage approach was taken:

- (i) Comprehensive review of literature.
- (ii) Examination of a set of indicators (9 across 4 domains – demographics, industry, poverty and related measures) to compare Inverclyde to all other local authorities in Great Britain and to identify similar “sister” local authorities.
- (iii) Primary research carried out in “sister” areas.

It was highlighted that Inverclyde comes second lowest out of 357 councils across Great Britain in relation to population and industrial decline measures. Similar councils’ outwith Scotland are located in Wales and the North East of England.

It was noted that policymakers were interviewed and it was highlighted that policies implemented to tackle challenges centred around the following:

- policy context
- skills and knowledge economy – governments could provide incentives to education providers to offer courses that may not be in demand now but will be essential to address future challenges
- attracting investment – certain types of policies can encourage the relocation of high profile organisations to a region
- foundational economy – policymakers often neglect the side of the economy that creates and distributes essential goods and services
- infrastructure and housing – there are benefits which come from spending public money in the local economy.

Councillor McCabe thanked Mairi for her presentation and opened up the meeting for questions / comments.

Councillor Quinn asked if Inverclyde was second lowest for just those 9 indicators. Mairi confirmed that this was the case. Inverclyde was identified as needing more assistance than other local authority areas across Scotland and the UK.

Councillor Robertson highlighted that the collaboration of partners is a feature in those local authorities which are successful – this needs to be replicated across Inverclyde. Mairi advised of the importance of investing and developing skills.

Ivan McKee advised that partnerships is a key factor and university and colleges are a part of this. A success factor is about where inward investment will be focussed on. Inverclyde needs to maximise on the assets it already has.

Stuart McMillan advised that population decline in Inverclyde is the key issue. Mairi confirmed that it is a feature and young people need encouragement to stay in local areas and to engage in the local economy. How do we get the best out of young people living in the area? How do we get the labour supply we need and who has the relevant skills?

4. Challenges / Opportunities

Councillor McCabe advised of the importance of taking advantage of opportunities – the meeting was opened up for comments.

Councillors Brooks highlighted affordable housing and queried whether rules can be reviewed in relation to RSLs / stock transfer to allow for more affordable housing in Inverclyde. Councillor Brooks highlighted that the Council of Economic Transformation met last year (chaired by Kate Forbes) and ideas were suggested for economic transformation. Mr McKee advised that the 10 year strategy for Economic Transformation has been published which has 77 actions to be progressed across skills, regional development and productivity etc.

David McCarrey advised of the opportunities to join up services – it is about improving and bringing services together.

Mark Spragg reflected that we needed to stay focused on the key elements that would make the biggest impact.

Liz Connolly advised that West College Scotland are seeking a new campus investment in Greenock and thinks more partnership working can be undertaken. It is about thinking where Inverclyde can position itself for future investments.

Stuart Jamieson highlighted that appropriate office accommodation is in short supply in Inverclyde – it acts as a barrier to those companies wishing to relocate to Inverclyde. Mark Spragg highlighted that his business is unable to relocate to Inverclyde due to lack of suitable properties. Mark advised he is happy to contribute to discussions on what businesses require to relocate to Inverclyde. Councillor McCormick asked if the fiscal policy could be changed in relation to business rates?

Councillor Robertson highlighted that there is a willingness from partners to work together. Inverclyde needs to help itself but it also needs assistance with regional and national partners to move forward.

Councillor Quinn highlighted connectivity issues within Inverclyde which comes up regularly with those individuals who are working remotely. Remote worker hubs could be established to share knowledge and skills. Councillor Quinn asked if we have a review of the skills shortage – do we have further data? It was highlighted that Inverclyde has a high number of creative industries which could be expanded upon.

Ronnie Cowan advised that this group needs to come up with a shared vision and plan for Inverclyde.

Neil Bibby advised of the issues with the ferries contract with Fergusons – these are works that we don't wish to be transferred to other countries but it was highlighted that there are skill gaps in this area.

Craig Birrell advised that the Scotland Office to happy to offer assistance where possible. He suggested if the Taskforce wanted the UK Minister to attend he would advocate this on Inverclyde's behalf.

5. Focus and Frequency of Meetings

Louise thanked everyone for their contributions to this meeting. It was noted that work can be progressed in relation to place and people.

All

Paul Zealey advised that Skills Development Scotland are happy to provide support in relation to the people focus. Paul highlighted that there are labour shortages and skills shortages.

Louise advised that sub structures will be reviewed.

LL

To allow for information to be collated for the next meeting it was agreed for the next meeting to take place in 10 – 12 weeks and thereafter meetings will be arranged for every 8 weeks.

LM