

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan

Annual Report

2021-2022



Inverclyde Alliance



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Foreword

Councillor Stephen McCabe

**Leader of Inverclyde Council and Chair of
Inverclyde Alliance**



“As Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance in 2021/22 I am delighted to introduce Inverclyde’s Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Report.

This report gives details of our performance in delivering the priorities in our Outcome Improvement Plan during 2021/22 in order to realise our Vision of ‘Getting it Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community’.

When reviewing the performance it is important to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic which continued to effect our community and the work of all our partners during this year. During this period Inverclyde moved into a “recovery and renewal phase” and it is important we recognise this context when reviewing our performance.

The Alliance continued to deliver the Outcome Improvement Plan while balancing the challenges presented by the pandemic. It is very encouraging to reflect on our learning and our progress. The Alliance is proud of the strength of our partnership working across organisations and with our communities.

I am pleased to introduce this Annual Report on behalf of Inverclyde Alliance Board.”



Introduction

1. Community Planning

Community Planning is about how our local public services work together with communities, the third sector and businesses to plan and deliver services that will improve long term outcomes and tackle inequalities. It is a legal duty within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The main duties for Community Planning Partnerships are:

- Working together to achieve shared aims within Local Outcome Improvement Plans
- Understanding and addressing issues and inequalities within the local authority area
- Working with communities on local priorities
- Review and publicly reporting on progress

This report explains how Community Planning partners in Inverclyde, the Inverclyde Alliance have met these duties in 2021/22.

2. The Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan

The Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan (OIP) 2017/22 sets out the outcomes that the Inverclyde Alliance will seek to improve, which in turn should improve the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Inverclyde.

A review of the OIP was carried out in 2020 to ensure that the 3 original priorities were still the right ones for Inverclyde. The review concluded that the current priorities are still very much key issues and that the local economy should be made an additional priority. The Alliance Board agreed to make local economic growth a new priority at its meeting in January 2021.

The Alliance agreed in view of the difficulties in carrying out meaningful engagement during the pandemic, the delivery of the current OIP should continue until April 2023, after which we will focus on a new plan.

There are four Inverclyde Alliance strategic priorities that reflect both the needs of our population and the aspirations of our communities, with the overall aim of reducing deprivation and inequalities.

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan

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Priority 1 - Population

Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio-economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer term population growth.

Priority 2 - Economy

Inverclyde has a thriving and diverse local economy, economic activity is increased and skills development enables both those in work and those furthest from the labour market to realise their full potential.

Priority 3 - Inequalities

There will be low levels of poverty and deprivation and the gap in income and health between the richest and poorest members of our communities will be reduced.

Priority 4 - Environment, Culture and Heritage

Inverclyde's environment, culture and heritage will be protected and enhanced to create a better place for all Inverclyde residents and an attractive place in which to live, work and visit.

3. Wider Content of the Report

In addition to having this strategic focus the, Alliance also has a responsibility to address inequalities at a local level, through Locality Planning. This involves working with communities to identify and address local issues. This report also outlines progress in relation to our Locality Planning arrangements in 2021/22.

During 2021/22, the Council and partners implemented a recovery framework to mitigate against the ongoing impact of the pandemic and to support recovery and renewal. The Partnership Plan captured the collective input of a wide range of partners and communities under the themed outcomes of 'Education, Culture and Heritage', 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'The Economy'. Action plans for each themed outcome were implemented to support recovery in these key areas. This report also includes the achievements of the Alliance under this plan.



4. Inverclyde Alliance Structure

There are four main structures which support the delivery of Community Planning in Inverclyde:

- Alliance Board
- LOIP Programme Board
- Partnership Partnerships
- Locality Planning Groups

The Alliance Board

- The Alliance Board operates strategically, takes key decisions, leads the partnership and carries out an overall scrutiny role. The role of the Alliance Board is to:
- Act as the public meeting for community planning in Inverclyde,
- Scrutinise delivery of partnership action plans and associated activity aimed at delivering outcome improvement,
- Analyse performance linked to the LOIP, supported by detailed performance monitoring,
- Ensure the CPP has the widest possible impact on and involvement of the public sector, private sector, third sector and communities,
- Promote and publicise the work of Inverclyde Alliance.
- Oversee the work of the following partnerships – Community Justice Partnership, Community Safety Strategic Group, Community Learning and Development Implementation Group, Joint Children's Services partnership and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership.

The Programme Board

The LOIP Programme Board supports the Alliance Board and oversees the delivery of the LOIP and Locality Action Plans. The role of the Programme Board is to:

- Lead and direct the implementation, delivery and on-going development of the LOIP within the Alliance
- Identify where cross working across priorities will achieve better results and avoid duplication
- Scrutinise the progress made by each Priority Group
- Ensure accountability across organisations involved in the delivery of the priorities
- Ensure the LOIP is reviewed and updated on a regular basis
- Prepare the annual LOIP performance report
- Champion Inverclyde's LOIP and publicise its achievements throughout the Alliance and the wider community of Inverclyde

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Priority Groups

There is a Priority Group to oversee the delivery of each priority in the LOIP. These are Population and Economy, Inequalities, Culture and Heritage and the Environment.

The role of each Priority Group is to:

- Bring together key officers from across community planning to develop and deliver a range of activities, collated through action plans, which support delivery of the priority;
- Report on delivery of the action plan to each meeting of the Alliance Board and LOIP Programme Board;
- Facilitate better collaboration between partners to bring about 'added value' benefits, which would not be achieved by individual partner organisations working on their own;
- Utilise policy contexts, available statistics and feedback from communities to inform the development of action plans; and
- Identify opportunities for projects which could take place across more than one priority area.

5. Performance Reporting Context

When considering performance, it is vital to remember that some aspects of performance may look very different when compared to previous data. In particular, performance in 2021/22 needs to be considered in the context of Covid-19, budgetary pressures and employee resources.

The pandemic continued to cause disruption to service delivery during the year, particularly for services that are delivered face-to-face. The emergence of the Omicron variant late in 2021, presented a new set of challenges with a surge in infections leading to increased levels of employee absence across Alliance partners. School pupil absence due to Covid-19 also increased sharply between November 2021 and January 2022 and only started to fall again in February 2022.

Budget pressures over consecutive years has resulted in changes to service provision which will have had an impact on customer satisfaction. The Inverclyde Citizens' Panel is asked for its views across a range of areas every two years and action is taken in response to the feedback. Questions are not asked annually to avoid panel fatigue on a given topic, however this means that there is a time lag with this data.



Partnership Recovery Plan

In addition to delivering on the outcomes in the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan (OIP) 2017/22 partners had an additional focus on recovery and renewal from the Covid-19 pandemic. A refreshed Partnership Recovery Plan was developed and approved by the Alliance Board in June 2021. Nine key outcomes areas were identified.

In March 2021 the Council set aside £4m through its budget process to fund Covid recovery initiatives, both within the Council and in the wider community. In addition to the Council funding, a range of national and core funding is also being utilised to fund some of the initiatives outlined in the recovery plan.

Good progress was made in 2021-22 in relation to the plan with detailed performance reports considered by the Alliance Board. Any outstanding actions not completed by March 2022 will be incorporated into the relevant Alliance or Inverclyde Council improvement plans.

Examples of key achievements under the plan in 2021-22 include:

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Outcome: All Young People in Inverclyde have a successful return to their education and any gaps in attainment or experience are addressed.

- Schools, Early Years establishments and West College Scotland ensured all risk assessments were in place and national guidance followed. The College established blended and on campus learning provision for all students - including the School College Partnership.
- A summer programme was implemented to give young people and students opportunities for experiential activities. This is in addition to all other summer programmes that would normally take place.

Outcome: Educational establishments have taken forward the lessons learned from COVID-19 to provide an improved and more flexible curriculum - especially with regard digital provision.

- The curriculum has been adapted to ensure a focus on health and wellbeing and to explore different ways of learning and teaching.
- An ambitious educational digital transformation strategy which will take place over the next 10 years was approved by the Council.
- The College supported students to be digitally equipped and given the skills and support to ensure that they can access online and blended learning. Students starting courses in January and February were provided with IT equipment and processes are in place to distribute this to any students who need it.

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-2022



Outcome: Inverclyde has held a series of arts, cultural and sporting events to promote the area - especially the outdoors. The events will promote both physical and mental health and wellbeing.

- The Culture Collective coordinated a series of cultural activities held in the community to support COVID 19 recovery.
- There was significant partnership planning in preparation for the May/June 2022 Meliora Festival. This included Gourock Highland Games, British Pipe Band Championships, Inverclyde Warrior and Meliora Arts Festival.
- Communities were encouraged to hold their own events with funding and support provided.
- There was promotion of Jubilee events across communities

Outcome: Tourism to the area will have increased and Inverclyde will have benefited from positive promotion.

- A new temporary Tourism Officer worked with partners to embed the 'Discover Inverclyde' theme with a focus on agreed local marketing priorities (food and drink; film and TV; outdoor activities and sports cruise ships; heritage and walking).
- Two cruise seminars have been held, one in November 2021 focussing on long term planning for cruise businesses. The second (March 22) focussed on the upcoming season.
- The 'Discover Inverclyde' website and social media continues to be promoted as the single trusted source of events and activity for residents and visitors to Inverclyde, Inverclyde was represented at Visit Scotland's 'Discover Scotland' buyer event (March 22), a dedicated TV advertising campaign was launched on STV (February 22) and tourism marketing data secured for the next three years with new STEAM reporting secured to identify future trends over the coming years to aid the development of tourism activity locally.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Outcome: The Inverclyde community is supported to reconnect socially to recover from the impact of COVID.

- There was a focus on supporting a social movement that promotes kindness and neighbourly communities with the establishment of the Inverclyde Cares Programme Board.
- There was additional investment in community connectors to support people to join groups and re-engage with communities. Community Connectors provided support to help people re-engage and provided passes.

Outcome: The Inverclyde community is supported emotionally to recover from the impact of COVID

- The Childrens Wellbeing Service worked with school aged children to access counsellors and mental wellbeing support in schools and promotion through the curriculum. They provided referral pathways for all children, young people and families to access early intervention mental wellbeing support.



- A trauma informed practice post was developed to work across both the Council and the HSCP. This postholder will coordinate the provision of appropriate trauma informed practice across the workforce.
- A Staff Wellbeing Plan across all Health & Social Care Workforce was implemented to support staff mental health and wellbeing.
- A Wellbeing Campaign to ensure communities know where to go to access the right support and the right time was delivered.

THE ECONOMY

Outcome: The Inverclyde Community is supported economically to recover from the impact of Covid-19.

- A rent relief scheme for businesses who are unable to meet their legal commitments was provided.
- Three events in each location to promote town centre activity took place in Kilmacolm, Port Glasgow, Greenock and Gourock for local traders.
- There was an extension of Pay and Display dispensation in town centre car parks.
- There was provision of fully subsidised training for organisations to up-skill/ re-skill their existing workforce.
- 10 additional DWP job coaches to support Inverclyde were provided.

Outcome: The Inverclyde community is supported to become more physically active to recover from Covid 19.

- There was investment in the play facilities and path infrastructure to promote physical activity and healthy pastimes.

Outcome: The Inverclyde community is supported into employment to recover from Covid 19 Jobs Recovery.

- The Jobs Recovery Plan involved a number of Council staff engaging in the workforce refresh programme. The wider employability programme includes 27 new start apprentices and two continuers, with our graduate programme involving 18 participants. The wage subsidy programme has seen 186 jobs supported with a further 10 in progress and our Kickstart programme has 27 candidates in post.
- Inverclyde Council, along with Argyll and Bute Council, and West Dunbartonshire Council commissioned the Fraser of Allander Institute to investigate what could be done to support economic recovery in Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire & Argyll & Bute.



Priority Action 1: Population

Inverclyde's population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socio-economic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer term population growth.

LOIP 10 Year Vision - Population

- Inverclyde will be a more attractive place to live and work with excellent education provision, leisure facilities, transport links, good quality housing and employment opportunities.
- A greater variety of opportunities that meet the needs and aspirations of our young people will be available so that they are encouraged to stay in the area after leaving school.
- Inverclyde's local economy will have grown and be characterised by a diverse business base as a result of an increase in the number of local entrepreneurs and inward investment.
- Communities in Inverclyde will have an enhanced sense of pride, identity and influence, resulting in improved quality of life and satisfaction with living in the area.
- Inverclyde will have a stable population with a good balance of socio-economic groups.

How are we doing?

Total Population of Inverclyde

76,700

This is a decrease from 2019 when the population was 77,800. (Source: National Records of Scotland 2020-21)

Civilian-in-Migration

1,780

This is an increase from 1250 in the previous year. (Source: National Records of Scotland 2020-21)

Civilian-Out-Migration

1,690

This is an increase from 1350 in the previous year. (Source: National Records of Scotland 2020-21)

Satisfaction with Inverclyde as a place to live

75%

Satisfaction has risen slightly from 74% in 2017/18. (Source: Inverclyde Citizens' Panel 2021-22)



**Satisfaction with neighbourhoods
as a place to live**

86%

There has been no change since 2019-20
when the figure was also 86%. (Source:
Inverclyde Citizens' Panel 2021-22)

Key Achievements in 2021-22

Revised strategic objectives in relation to Population were agreed as:

- Develop the Inverclyde brand - position Inverclyde as a place to visit, work and live.
- Create sustainable communities, primarily through the housing offer - address the private and social housing requirements, helping retain and attract new people to the area.
- Deliver a net inward migration - create a net flow of population through strategic initiatives (including our New Scots).

The **Discover Inverclyde website** brings together into one location all promotional material for Inverclyde. It informs residents, visitors, business, and potential investors and potential new residents, and provides an opportunity for all local services and companies to have a link within the site.

The ability to actively market Inverclyde during the year was however hampered by the pandemic, with key business sectors such as tourism, hospitality, culture, entertainment and recreation, all of which play a key role in attracting visitors to Inverclyde, badly affected.

Despite this the Discover Inverclyde website has continued to develop and expand. A **new marketing and tourism post** was created and the postholder worked with partners and communities. The **Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership** was established looking to build engagement with the sector. The 'Discover Inverclyde' theme encouraging visitors to Inverclyde was developed further via TV adverts, campaigns encouraging cycling and walking.

The number of people **moving into Inverclyde** has outnumbered the number of people leaving in three out of the past five years, which is an encouraging sign that the promotion of the area is having a positive impact.

A new **Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) 2022/27** was also approved during the year, setting out the key investment priorities for affordable housing in Inverclyde. It is projected that by 2029, 4 out of 10 Inverclyde households will be single person, the majority of which will be inhabited by older people who generally wish to continue living independently in home and community settings. By ensuring a supply of wheelchair housing; dementia friendly accommodation and increased use of technology such as telecare; the housing and the health needs of the population will continue to be met.



In terms of addressing the private and social housing requirements, helping retain and attract new people to the area significant progress has been made in 2021-22, including:

- Completion of a review of **private housing land supply**
- Delivery of new **social housing units**
- Preparatory work on **Town Centre Plans** for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centre

We want to ensure that Inverclyde is considered a warm and welcoming place to live for New Scots. Working in partnership Inverclyde has supported various resettlement schemes which have enabled immigration from Afghanistan and Syria, with 37 new families settled and housed in Inverclyde.

Priority Action 2: Economy

Inverclyde has a thriving and diverse local economy, economic activity is increased and skills development enables both those in work and those furthest from the labour market to realise their full potential.

LOIP 10 Year Vision - Economy

- Inverclyde will develop our local economy through increased business start-ups and business growth.
- We will increase the employment opportunities that are available locally, particularly well paid jobs.
- We will ensure that Inverclyde residents have access to high quality training and educational opportunities and that the barriers that prevent people from taking up these opportunities are removed.
- Inverclyde will increase and improve opportunities for young people to access training and employment locally that will help them to realise their full potential.



How are we doing?

Gross Weekly Pay

£570.10

The gross weekly (full-time) pay for employees living in the area has increased from the 2020-21 level of £560.90. (Source: NOMIS 2021-22)

New business start ups

180

This is a decrease from the 2019 figure of 215. (Source: ONS 2020)

The percentage of young people participating in education, training or employment

93.8%

This is an increase from 93.3% in 2020-21. (Source: Skills Development Scotland 2021-11)

Economically active population

78.6%

This is an increase from 2020 when the figure was 71.5%. (Source: NOMIS 2021)

Percentage of school leavers achieving 1 or more awards SCQF level 6 or better

75.2%

This is an increase from 74.7% in 2019-20. (Source: Insight database 2020-21)

Percentage of school leavers achieving 6 or more awards SCQF level 6 or better

37.7%

This is a decrease from 38.3% in 2019-20. (Source: Insight database 2020-21)



Key Achievements in 2021-22

Partners have had a strong focus this year in supporting and sustaining local businesses. This has included provided financial support as well as access to training, development activity and advice.

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 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. This has included Leadership and Management Masterclasses, Digital and IT skills enhancement, Mental Health Awareness, Health and Safety, Coaching and Development training, and British Sign Language.

The pandemic has brought to the fore existing economic inequalities with more vulnerable socio-economic groups such as the young, manual workers, those on low incomes and the self-employed being hit the hardest. Economic activity in Inverclyde has therefore focused strongly on the delivery of a **Jobs Recovery Plan**, supporting our **town centres** and progressing the **Glasgow City Region City Deal**, all of which are anticipated to deliver social and economic benefits for the area. Encouragingly, we continued to see a positive transition for the vast majority of our young people into work, training or further education with numbers exceeding the Scottish average.

An **Inverclyde Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021/25** was approved in June 2021, setting out our ambition for the area, balanced with deliverability. It contains five key priorities and opportunities to improve the local economy and build on recovery, while addressing the challenges posed by reduced levels of public funding and private investment for economic regeneration. Both the Strategy and Action Plan were developed in consultation with the business community and seek to capitalise on opportunities, maximise limited financial resources and to find new ways of delivering regeneration and economic development activity in future.

With neighbouring authorities, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute, the Council commissioned a report from the Fraser of Allander Institute on supporting economic recovery. The report, which was published in March 2022, sets out the challenges faced by all three authorities and a number of potential initiatives to enhance repopulation and economic recovery. The findings will inform the work of an **Inverclyde Task Force** which has been established to stimulate the Inverclyde economy, creating opportunities for businesses to help Inverclyde grow.

Inverclyde is one of eight areas in the Glasgow City Region committed to delivering an ambitious **Regional Economic Strategy**, launched in December 2021. The approach is a first in that it as well as incorporating all of the Region's Councils, the Government and wider public sector agencies have also committed to its delivery. By working together in partnership, the aim is to capitalise on opportunities over the next ten years to deliver a shared Vision that;

"By 2030, Glasgow City Region will have the most Innovative, Inclusive and Resilient Economy in the UK".

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-2022



The strategy sets out how the region will weather current and future key global challenges as well as challenges, such as high levels of economically inactive residents. It also seeks to capitalise on the strengths that exist and sets out 7 transformational opportunities with the aim of reshaping the economy for all. These opportunities are tied to 12 regional programmes which make up the first phase of the Regional Economic Strategy Action Plan including; delivering the potential of the **waterfront**; support for our city and **town centres**; building the **local skills base** and assisting businesses in their transition to **net zero**. To deliver these ambitious programmes, the region will work with investors and seek new and innovative funding solutions, designed to attract the investment required to deliver the shared Vision.



Priority Action 3: Inequalities

There will be low levels of poverty and deprivation and the gap between the richest and poorest members of our communities will be reduced.

LOIP 10 Year Vision - Inequalities

- There will be an increase in employment rates with more well-paid, permanent jobs available.
- There will be a reduction in the number of Inverclyde residents experiencing problems with debt.
- The number of Inverclyde residents living in fuel poverty will be reduced.
- There will be a reduction in the number of children living in poverty.
- There will be a reduction in the attainment gap with an increase in the attainment of pupils living in the 20% most deprived areas in Inverclyde.
- The life expectancy of males and females living in the 20% most deprived areas in Inverclyde will increase.
- A reduction in social isolation and loneliness amongst older people will result in improved physical and mental health.

How are we doing?

Percentage of workless households

22.1%

This is a decrease from 23.9% in 2019.
(Source: NOMIS 2019)

Percentage of the population with no qualification

9.6%

This is a decrease from 12.5% in 2020.
(Source: NOMIS 2021)

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Out of Work Benefits Claimant Count

4.4%

This is a decrease from 2021 when the figure was 6.3%. (Source: NOMIS March 2022)

Number of Inverclyde datazones that fall into 5% most deprived in Scotland

22

This is an increase from 2020 when the figure was 71.5%. (Source: NOMIS 2021)

Child Poverty

18.2%

This is a decrease from 23.8% in 2019-20 (Source: End Child Poverty Campaign)

Key Achievements in 2021-22

The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group (ICPAG) is a multi agency collaborative that oversees service provision development in Inverclyde in relation to child poverty. The ICPAG undertook six Inverclyde Poverty Listening Events. The events discussed what services and supports communities need and provided them with a platform to highlight their priorities to mitigate poverty and inequalities. £1 million of funding was allocated by Inverclyde Council and the Integration Joint Board to implement a range of local activities identified by the listening events. Examples of the activities supported are outlined below:

- **School based Social Workers** to improve wellbeing and improve outcomes for families.
- After the successful implementation of the Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantry in early December 2020, Inverclyde continues to support people with food insecurity through the continued development of the **food pantry** movement. This provides affordable and accessible food in a shop environment that reduces stigma and ensures people's dignity. A second Zero Waste Food Pantry opened in 2022 in Port Glasgow.
- **Starter Packs** is a small community organisation which provides those on the lowest income, including families, with a range of household products to assist with their first tenancy.
- **Home Start Inverclyde** provides a whole family approach to mentoring and coaching support for families living on low income, and who have challenges with mental health and anxiety. This project has engaged new groups of priority families who are most likely to be experiencing poverty and inequalities.

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- Support was given to create **new business start-ups** and develop existing businesses. It provided opportunities for residents in the two town centre areas to encourage entrepreneurial and self-employment opportunities.

The Inverclyde **Challenge Poverty Week**, held in October 2021, provided an opportunity for local partner agencies and groups to come together to call for action to break the grip of poverty on people's lives. Some of the initiatives delivered during the week included benefits and savings advice, information on employment opportunities and food and wellbeing guidance to help support residents of Inverclyde living with the constant pressure of poverty.

INKIND was a project established to ensure that anyone that needed help during the pandemic would receive it, bringing together Inverclyde Council and CVS Inverclyde, working alongside local services, community groups and local 3rd sector organisations to provide a co-ordinated emergency response. The initiative created opportunities for people to help each other in their area, making a difference to more than 20,000 residents - more than a quarter of Inverclyde's population.

All sectors worked together to support Inverclyde's communities in their time of need, providing a wide range of support including: volunteer recruitment and training; hot meals delivered to older people; daily/weekly calls to people living alone; support for shopping; prescription pickups and emotional and practical support and advice available via a helpline.

The strength of the partnership working has left a lasting legacy including new initiatives such as a Strong Volunteer Network, befriending initiatives and the development of both Friendship Hubs and a social movement called **Inverclyde Cares**. Other tangible benefits were also realised with volunteers expressing a deeper connection with their neighbours across Inverclyde and a strong sense of pride in what has been accomplished.

The **Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership** continued to meet throughout 2021/2022 and was mainly focused on the progress of a new National Strategy for Community Justice and its impact on delivery within Inverclyde. The Partnership has continued to support the development of Unpaid Work in Inverclyde, including a referral pathway between Criminal Justice Social Work and Inverclyde Council Community Learning and Development (CLD). The Service commissioned Action for Children (AfC) to provide Unpaid Work placements and other purposeful activity to young people aged 26 years and under. In addition to supporting these young people to complete their Unpaid Work hours the aim is to offer holistic support to help them with any barriers they are facing and in so doing help reduce further involvement with the justice system.

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In 2021 there was a reduction in the number of drug-related deaths in Inverclyde from 33 in 2020 to 16. While this reduction is welcome, we still have a challenge to further reduce this number. Over the last year good progress has been made in several key actions including:

- The inclusion of the 3rd sector to distribute Naloxone
- The development of the information sharing protocols with key partners to ensure assertive outreach within 48 hours to anyone who has had a non-fatal overdose
- Work to support those most at risk of harm into treatment and try to keep them established within treatment services via the ADRS Liaison Nursing Team who are working to improve pathways of care
- The reduction in waiting times into ADRS treatment services; the ongoing work to support service users onto appropriate doses of treatment; and the introduction of Buvidal (longer lasting injection) which, if clinically appropriate can be offered as a treatment
- The review of all drug deaths on a multiagency basis to determine any learning and improvements in practice
- The test of change of Care Navigators to work intensively with the most vulnerable service users known to Homelessness; ADRS and Criminal Justice

The Inverclyde Recovery Community, which opened in November 2021 with the support of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, is a safe place for anyone with mental health issues, those affected by alcohol and drug use and for those affected by these issues. The project is open 7 days per week and offers people affected by these issues a safe space in which they can recover, join groups /recovery meetings, talk with lived experience workers or become involved in the recovery cafes in their community.



Priority Action 4: Environment, Culture & Heritage

Inverclyde has a thriving and diverse local economy, economic activity is increased and skills development enables both those in work and those furthest from the labour market to realise their full potential.

LOIP 10 Year Vision - Environment, Culture & Heritage

- Public transport will be more accessible and it will be easier to get around Inverclyde.
- The amount of derelict land will be reduced and the land used for alternative uses that will benefit local communities.
- Adults and children living in Inverclyde will be more physically active.
- All Inverclyde residents will have pride in Inverclyde and a sense of identity and belonging to the area.
- There will be increased attendance at cultural events and places of culture.
- Those living in our most deprived communities will enjoy greater access to green space.
- The local Green Network will be improved, offering better opportunities for communities and creating enhanced habitat connections.

How are we doing?

Percentage of household waste composted or recycled

37.1%

This is a decrease from 54% in 2019-20 (Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2020-21)

Street Cleanliness Score

89.86

This is an improvement from 84.3 in 2019-20. (Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2020-21)

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-2022



Total Amount of Derelict Land

150.01ha

This is a decrease from 151.35ha in 2019 (Source: Inverclyde Council 2020)

Cultural Engagement by adults in last 12 months

80%

This is a reduction from the 2018 figure of 87%. (Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019)

Key Achievements in 2021-22

Significant investment of £4.5million, funded by Sustrans, Inverclyde Council and Transport Scotland, has been earmarked to improve the **Greenock town centre streetscape and public realm** as well as 'future proofing' the area so that it will be more compatible with sustainable forms of transport and zero-carbon targets. This work will be progressed during 2022/23.

'**Climate Beacons**' was a Scotland wide collaborative project between climate change/ environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate public engagement in the lead up to, and following, COP26. The Climate Beacons project ran from June 2021 to July 2022.

Inverclyde was one of seven hubs across Scotland designated as a 'Climate Beacon'. The project was a partnership between Inverclyde Libraries, Beacon Arts Centre, Bellville Community Garden Trust and RIG Arts with a local focus on climate change, mitigation and adaptation as part of our recovery from Covid-19. Activities carried out included:

- Fun Palaces Library Challenge where Inverclyde residents were encouraged to share their hopes and dreams for the future in a climate stable world, along with planting a bulb;
- Two climate-focused Chatty Cafes where the effects of climate change were explored;
- A climate related workshop created within the schools Libraries Inspire programme;
- A successful bid to Museums and Galleries Scotland allowed for a programme of Climate Conversations with Inverclyde Libraries.

The project has provided the opportunity to embed new green practices with Inverclyde Libraries using the impetus of being a Climate Beacon to write a Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan.

This will extend the environmental benefit further through sustainable practices which reduce the environmental impact of day-to-day operations. It has also led to disused land at South West library being made into a **reading garden**, named the "The Drying Green", which will be developed in 2022/23.

Inverclyde is fortunate to benefit from many impressive outdoor spaces and during 2021/22, Inverclyde Council took over responsibility of the local parts of the **Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park** along with the associated ranger service.

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan 2021-2022



Two of the area's most popular and valued attractions, **Lunderston Bay and Greenock Cut Visitor Centre**, were identified as a priority for investment to support the wider work of promoting Inverclyde as a visitor destination and also to encourage more local people to enjoy the outdoors, promote physical activity and support healthier lifestyles.

In total, £540,000 was assigned for investment in the outdoor areas. £250,000 of funding, including £72,000 from NatureScot was approved to enhance the existing facilities at the Cut and Lunderston Bay, whilst Inverclyde Council earmarked funding of £195,000 for a new children's play park at Lunderston Bay.

Further funding of £88,000 was later secured from the Nature Restoration Fund, to be used for re-wilding and biodiversity projects, along with habitat restoration, path improvements and tree planting, all of which will deliver benefits to Inverclyde's natural environment.

Support was provided to the Inverclyde Heritage Network to deliver **Inverclyde's first Heritage Day** as part of Local and Community History Month. The event, which was attended by more than 300 people, provided groups and individuals working and volunteering in heritage the chance to get together and promote their work to the public.

Public artworks celebrating Inverclyde's past, present and future have been installed at Greenock Waterfront. RIG Arts and artist Tragic O'Hara were commissioned to engage with the local community to deliver permanent artworks with the aim of encouraging more people to walk, wheel and cycle along the National Cycle Network Route 75 and inspire people to explore the area in a sustainable and active way.

Looking to the past, **'Yardmen'** celebrates Inverclyde's shipbuilding heritage in miniature form and represents those who built the Clyde coast. Representing the present day, **'Ebb and Flow'** is a seating installation based on the forms of kelp and sealife. The third artwork, **'Mechanical Animals'** represents what might happen if the climate and biodiversity emergencies continue unchecked.

A second tribute to Inverclyde's rich history of shipbuilding and its shipyard workers was unveiled during the year. The **'Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow'** sculpture, designed by artist John McKenna, consisting of two stainless steel 33 foot tall figures with a combined weight of 14 tonnes, was installed in Coronation Park, Port Glasgow. The sculpture was chosen following a public vote and whilst paying tribute to the illustrious shipbuilding past of Inverclyde, also serves as a modern day tourist attraction.

Partners have worked over the year to improve **cycle paths and walking routes** through the delivery of the Active Travel Strategy and proposed Green Connections project. This aims to improve connectivity and deliver real on the ground change. The project will involve working with local people to improve connectivity between neighbourhoods, the town centres and the natural, cultural and historic assets of the area. The project will help to improve quality of life, local community environments and active travel for everyday journeys in order to encourage investment, repopulation and improve health and well-being.

Two applications were successful in Stage 1 of the Scottish Government **Vacant and Derelict Investment Fund** in November totalling over £1m. The applications included Brachelston Road Greenock - This project will contribute towards the remediation of 0.98ha of derelict land and re-use it as a HSCP Community Learning Disabilities Hub through the creation of landscaping and pollinators areas. The proposal for Carwood Street Greenock would remediate 0.22ha of derelict land and re-use it as a community food growing space.



Locality Planning

Statutory Framework and Local Implementation

Locality Planning aims to empower communities by strengthening their voices in decisions about public services. Locality planning is guided by two pieces of legislation:

- The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 placed a requirement on Community Planning Partnerships to produce locality plans for smaller areas of Inverclyde and work with communities to agree what the key priorities are that should be addressed in those locality plans.
- The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 placed a requirement on Inverclyde's Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) to create at least two localities. The purpose of establishing localities for the HSCP is to provide an opportunity for communities and professionals such as GPs, social workers, pharmacists, and dentists to take an active role in and provide leadership for local planning of services.

The following six localities have been created that cover the whole of Inverclyde to ensure that every community has the opportunity to take part:

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

In 2020-21 we developed a model to enable the implementation of Locality Planning in Inverclyde. This aimed to satisfy both legislative requirements as outlined above. The model consisted of the establishment of a **Locality Planning Group** (LPG) and a **Communications and Engagement Group** (CEG) in each of Inverclyde's six localities. LPGs were forums for public services and communities to come together to design and deliver a plan for their locality. CEGs were a forum for the community to plan for the needs and aspirations of their local community and to lead community involvement and engagement activity that will be fed into the LPG.



Learning and Development

Progress was made in establishing the CEG groups which were led by different partners within the localities. The Covid 19 pandemic impacted on the continued development with changes to service delivery and the shift to online meetings.

In terms of Locality Planning Groups (LPG) it was agreed that an incremental approach to establishing the six groups would be taken with two LPGs being developed in Port Glasgow and Inverkip and Wemyss Bay localities. These areas were to be **pilots** and learning from these would help establish future LPG development. The group meetings involved, in the main, community representatives from CEGs with a few statutory partners. **Feedback from the community** has been that many people are keen to be involved in the CEGs however there was less appetite to be involved in the formal governance structures surrounding Locality Planning.

Feedback from partners included capacity concerns regarding the expected attendance at six LPGs on a regular basis. The role of LPGs for IJBs is to ensure service planning and utilisation of resources at a local level, therefore with key professionals missing this would prove difficult.

In response to this learning and feedback the Alliance Board agreed in June 2022 a change in governance arrangements. The **six CEGs will continue in the locality areas** and be further developed over 2022-23. This is Phase 2 of Locality Planning. The communities will be supported by Inverclyde Council CLD colleagues to grow, continue to develop strong community involvement across Inverclyde, and develop and deliver locality plans for each area. They will have a key role in shaping future partnership work, including the development of the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. The governance for the groups will be to the Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Programme Board.

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

Phase 3 will include learning from other areas and consulting with the community, strengthening the membership, and developing remit and partnership links of the Locality Planning structures.

Developing Local Priorities

Against this backdrop of pilots and developing governance structures there have been positive impacts in our communities through Locality Planning.

For example:

- A digital Communications and Engagement Group was established for each locality via Facebook which enabled us to stimulate discussion and debate with communities on the key issues within their locality.
- Online meetings of the Communication and Engagements were held in localities where the community were comfortable taking part in this type of meeting.



- A series of community listening events took place. These are structured and planned events, supported by a facilitator and scribe, allowing each participant the opportunity to have their say. Community listening events proved to be an effective tool in order to engage with communities virtually. Although the events were structured the approach adopted helped create a friendly, relaxed and positive environment for the participants to have their say.

A **Locality Action Plan** has been developed for each of the six localities. The purpose of Locality Action Plans is to outline the key issues in a locality that have been identified through the statistical information we hold for this locality, as well as extensive engagement with the community. The locality plan also identifies a range of actions that will be taken to address these issues by both Inverclyde Alliance and the local community working together.

Examples of Locality Planning Activity

Port Glasgow consulted on transport and barriers to access health care.

Inverkip & Wemyss Bay have implemented action plans to encourage use of the recycling bins in the villages and how they can work together to mitigate risks for young people using Inverkip beach during the school holiday period.

Greenock West & Gourock worked together to host a local farmers market in Gourock, this was based on local research and requests from people living in the community. The group has also been supported to provide a bowl and soup session on a monthly basis, this not only supports people who have been socially isolating and have poor mental wellbeing but it also provides those facing financial insecurity an opportunity to receive a meal without judgement or stigma. The Communication and Engagement Group for Greenock West and Gourock are working with, and will be supported by, the two Community Councils.

Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village identified further communication methods that will encourage more people to become involved in the locality Communication and Engagement Group.

South & South West Communication and Engagement Group worked together to support the wider communities concerns around poverty and the impact of increasing cost of living. They have engaged the Wise Group to provide information and advice that they can share throughout the community. There has been ongoing engagement and learning to ensure that participation is across the locality and not contained within one community.

Greenock East & Central Communication and Engagement Group have had a few successful meetings online, however, further and more intensive support will be offered to increase participation and empowerment within this locality.



Going Forward

In 2022-23 Inverclyde Alliance will continue to deliver on the outcomes in the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan (OIP) 2017/22 (see Appendix 2) alongside developing a new Partnership Plan to run from April 2023 onwards. We are developing this in collaboration with our communities, founded in strong community engagement and an evidence base on the issues and opportunities in Inverclyde as detailed in our Strategic Needs Assessment. We are clear as a partnership that we should be, and need to be, more focused on the inequalities in Inverclyde that we can most effectively address as a local partnership.

This is against the background of challenges across our Inverclyde communities and Alliance partners including persistent inequalities and poverty, the cost of living crisis, the legacy of the pandemic and proposed significant changes in the strategy and policy landscape.

To support the delivery of the aspirations in our new plan we will continue to develop as a partnership. We will undertake self-assessment as well as look to best practice from other areas to identify what we do well and want to capitalise on, as well as areas for improvement. We will strengthen our Locality Planning arrangements and the links between Community Planning at a strategic and community level.



Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan and Associated Documents

You can find the Inverclyde Alliance Outcomes Improvement Plan in the documents section here:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-outcome-improvement-plan>

Locality Action Plans

You can find the Locality Action Plan for each of Inverclyde's six localities here:

Kilmacolm & Quarriers Village

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/kilmacolm-quarriers>

Port Glasgow

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/port-glasgow>

Greenock East & Central

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/greenock-east-central>

Greenock South & South West

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/greenock-south-south-west>

Greenock West & Gourock

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/greenock-west-gourock>

Inverkip & Wemyss Bay

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities/inverkip-wemyss-bay>