

Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan

Annual Report 2022-23



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FOREWORD

As Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance, I am delighted to present Inverclyde's Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Report. This report outlines our accomplishments in delivering the priorities outlined in our Outcome Improvement Plan during 2022/23, striving to fulfil our Vision of 'Getting it Right for Every Child, Citizen, and Community.' While assessing our performance, it is essential to acknowledge the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, which continues to affect our community and the efforts of all our partners throughout this year. The Alliance persevered in implementing the Outcome Improvement Plan while navigating the challenges posed by this crisis. It is gratifying to reflect on our learning and growth. The Alliance takes immense pride in the strength of our partnership, working across organisations and collaborating closely with our communities. On behalf of the Inverclyde Alliance Board, I am pleased to present this Annual Report.

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson
Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

INTRODUCTION

This is the 2022-23 Annual Report of Inverclyde Community Planning Partnership (CPP). It describes the progress of Inverclyde's CPP over 2022-23 and gives practical examples of how partners are working together to make a difference locally.

What is 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 2022-23.

Who are the Inverclyde Alliance?

Our partnership includes a range of organisations working in Inverclyde — Inverclyde Council, Police Scotland, the NHS, Scottish Fire and Rescue, West College Scotland, Local Housing Associations, the Third Sector Interface CVS Inverclyde, Skills Development Scotland, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership and the Department of Work and Pensions.

What are we trying to achieve?

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. In 2021 The Alliance Board agreed to make local economic growth a new priority.

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.

Priority 1 – Population

Priority 2 - Economy

Priority 3 – Inequalities

Priority 4 - Environment, Culture & Heritage

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 2022-23.

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in your local community and influence the work of the partnership, for example, through volunteering, joining a community council or locality group, helping to find out what matters in your area or getting involved in how decisions are made.

More information can be found on these pages:

- [HSCP Locality Planning Groups](#)
- [Inverclyde Community Empowerment](#)

POPULATION

“Inverclyde’s population will be stable and sustainable with an appropriate balance of socioeconomic groups that is conducive to local economic prosperity and longer-term population growth”



How are we delivering this?

Inverclyde: A place to live, work, and visit

Inverclyde is a great place to live, work, and visit. The marketing and promotion of Inverclyde was able to fully resume during the year and the ‘**Development of the Inverclyde brand: Position Inverclyde as a place to live, work and visit**’ was incorporated as a strategic action within the Inverclyde Alliance Population Partnership Delivery Plan, to provide partners with a more targeted focus.

Activities included:

- Promotion of new dedicated ‘Discover Inverclyde’ themed social media
- Promotion of outdoor activities and cruise seminars
- Plans are now in place to develop a new Inverclyde tourism and place marketing strategy that will focus on the promotion of Inverclyde as a visitor destination.

Affordable housing

The **Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP)** for 2023-2028 was approved. This includes a full programme of affordable

housing development proposals over the next five years.

Local Housing Strategy

Local Housing Strategy (LHS) resident and community consultation was undertaken in the Autumn and a successful Conference event was conducted in November 2022.

Supporting asylum seekers and Ukrainian refugees

The **Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine, and Refugee Operational Group** continues to work effectively with partners to support asylum seekers and Ukrainian refugees. Ukrainians have been housed across Inverclyde through various schemes and asylum seekers have been provided with hotel accommodation. Local social landlords are providing details of available units to enable matching of people to properties.

Collaborative working between Inverclyde Council and social landlords has resulted in 30 social housing units receiving funding for refurbishment to support the Ukraine dispersal programme. There is the prospect of further funding beyond this initial phase, and the potential for more social housing units to be offered to the Ukraine dispersal programme is being assessed.

“Inverclyde is a welcoming and inclusive community. We are working hard to ensure that everyone has a place to call home and that Inverclyde is a great place to live, work, and visit.”

How are we doing?

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.

Priority 1: Population

Total Population

This is a decrease from 2020 when the population was 77,060. (Source: National Records of Scotland, 2021)

76,700

Civilian-in-Migration

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

1,780

Civilian-Out-Migration

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

1,690

Satisfaction with Inverclyde as a place to live

Satisfaction has dropped from 75% in 2020-21. (Source: Inverclyde Citizens' Panel 2023)

60%

Satisfaction with neighbourhoods as a place to live

Satisfaction has dropped from 86% in 2020-21. (Source: Inverclyde Citizens' Panel 2023)

79%

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”



How are we delivering this?

Fraser of Allander Institute Report

The Fraser of Allander Institute Report, **“Supporting Economic Recovery in Inverclyde, West Dunbartonshire and Argyll and Bute”**, identified new opportunities to improve prospects for businesses and residents in Inverclyde. The report highlighted the similar challenges facing all three Council areas: population decline, economic recovery in areas requiring regeneration, and dealing with poverty and inequalities.

Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force

To address these challenges, a new multi-agency, **Inverclyde Socio-Economic Task Force** was established with representation from Inverclyde Council, key partners and the Scottish and UK Governments. The Task Force is working together with the shared aim of stimulating the Inverclyde economy and creating opportunities for business and residents to ensure that Inverclyde is a place of choice for people to live, work and thrive.

Levelling Up Fund

In addition, Inverclyde was one of 10 successful projects to be awarded funding from the UK Government’s Levelling Up Fund. The total value of the bid was £21.5million, comprising of almost £20 million from the Levelling Up Fund with the balance made up of match funding from the Council and partners. The project will deliver a major infrastructure improvement to transform Greenock town centre, including the creation of new civic spaces, improved links between various parts of the town centre and the waterfront, and opportunities for increased town centre housing and living opportunities.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Almost £3 million in core funding was also secured from the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** in 2022. An Investment Plan is being developed which will include proposals to address local need, as well as maximising opportunities identified within the Fraser of Allander Institute report and the aims and objectives of the Inverclyde Taskforce.

Inverclyde Works

‘Inverclyde Works’ is a multi-faceted **employability programme** being delivered by Inverclyde Council in partnership with local public and third sector organisations. The initiative aims to promote positive activity within the local labour market, available to all, with Fair Work at its core.

How are we doing?

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.

Priority 2: Economy

Gross Weekly Pay

The gross weekly (full-time) pay for employees living in the area has increased from the 2021 level of £568. (Source: NOMIS, 2022)

£633.90

Number of business gateway start-ups per 10,000 population

This is a decrease from the 2021-22 figure of 29.5 but well above the Scottish average of 14.3. (Source: LGBF, 2022)

25.4

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

This is an increase from 93.8% in 2022. (Source: Skills Development Scotland, 2023)

94.0%

Economically active population

This is very similar to Q4 21-22 when the figure was 77.6%. (Source: NOMIS Q4, 2022-23)

77.7%

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

This is a decrease from 75.2% in 2021. (Source: Insight, 2022)

68.3%

Percentage of school leavers achieving 5 or more awards SCQF level 6 or better

This is an increase from 37.7% in 2021. (Source: Insight, 2022)

40.0%

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”



How are we delivering this?

Warm Hand of Friendship

Inverclyde Council launched a "Warm Hand of Friendship" initiative to provide resources, advice, and support to vulnerable residents during the winter months. £100,000 funding was earmarked to support communities and to encourage communities to work together to help each other and was administered by CVS Inverclyde.

Some examples of what was delivered include:

- Warm Hand of Friendship sessions attended by 170 participants utilising Inverclyde Leisure's warm space.
- Broth and Blether sessions at St. Patrick's Primary School attended by 334 people.
- Parklea Branching Out held 110 sessions with 135 participants, including their existing service users and 95 people accessing their warm space.

The most notable outcome however is the social impact of the Warm Hand of Friendship activity, enabling local communities to socialise with those attending highlighting the value of the connections made and kindness shown.

Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group

The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group (ICPAG) is a multi-agency collaborative that oversees service provision development in Inverclyde in relation to child poverty. In 2020, the ICPAG proposed a place-based person-centred system, aiming to align local services to reduce child poverty by focusing on the child and family.

Examples of the activities supported by the ICPAG in 2022/23 include:

- Early Adopter Community Status to provide affordable childcare and support low-income families.
- A "Cash First" approach to provide cash support to families through Section 12 and Section 22 payments.
- A focus on early intervention through initiatives like the Home Start Project and Thrive Under 5.
- Ensuring that families in need can access Scottish Welfare Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Benefit Payments.
- Collaborating with the Independent Food Network to provide an online resource during Challenging Poverty Week in October 2022, offering information and self-assessment on local financial support.

The ICPAG's work is making a positive impact on the lives of children and families in Inverclyde, by helping to reduce child poverty and improve their access to essential services.



Community Justice Partnership

The Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership is working to improve community justice outcomes in Inverclyde. In addition to the four national priorities, the Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan (CJOIP) also seeks to **improve homelessness and housing outcomes** for those individuals in the justice system.

The Bail Supervision service was introduced in Inverclyde. Bail supervision is a social work or third sector service that supports people to comply with the conditions of their bail. It is intended to provide a robust and credible **alternative to remand in custody**.

The Early Action System Change Project (Women in Justice) continues to support women through the Women in Justice Support Group. The group meets weekly with a focus on desistance from offending, emotional regulation, anger management, domestic abuse, addiction, and mental health. The Project Team takes a strength-based approach with the women in the WJSG to help **build self-confidence, resilience, and coping capacities**. Engagement with the women is based on the five principles of trauma-informed practice.

Zero Waste Food Pantry

Funding was allocated to support a second Zero Waste Food Pantry to **mitigate against food poverty and reduce food waste**. The Pantry, which opened in summer 2022, helps to reduce food waste while providing members with high-quality produce at low prices. Due to the continued support from the Council and other partners, the Pantry has evolved and now helps members access additional support service dealing with issues such as welfare and benefits and mental health.

Food Growing

In conjunction with the Food Network, a new Community Food Growing Strategy was developed during the year. The aim of the Strategy is to build capacity and increase opportunities for communities in Inverclyde to

grow their own food, which in turn will contribute towards a **reduction in food poverty**.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

As part of the Recovery and Renewal Fund, the Minister for Mental Wellbeing and Social Care announced a Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (CMHWF) for adults in October 2021, with £15 million being made available in 2021-22 and a further £15m committed for 2022-23. CVS Inverclyde, as the third sector interface (TSI) administered this fund for the 2nd year, with the support of a Strategic Partnership Group of local partners who identified the local priorities and aims. The fund supported a range of **community-based initiatives** funded across Inverclyde which are easily accessible, **promote mental health and wellbeing**, help people **build emotional resilience** and prevent individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Funding of £242,085 was awarded for Inverclyde organisations and projects in 22/23.

I Promise

Inverclyde's Promise team was established in 2022 to embed the national initiative, The Promise, into local service planning. The team engages with children, young people, families, and workforce across Inverclyde with a very clear focus on improving outcomes, including attainment, for care experienced children, young people and their families by developing a culture of ambition based on strong relationships that recognise the range of difficulties experienced by children and families and provide the scaffolding to protect safe, loving and respectful relationships

During the year, more than 200 people were engaged in discussion about delivering services to young people, identifying what is working well and what needs to be done better.

Proposals for a new £10million learning disability hub, which will accommodate up to 50 adults were also progressed. The project is being funded by Inverclyde Council and the

Integration Joint Board (IJB). The aim is to provide an enhanced sensory experience for those users with complex needs, including those with co-existing conditions such as autism, visual and perceptual impairments, physical and sensory disabilities, dementia, and life-limiting conditions.

Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (IADP)

Between April 2022 – March 2023 the IADP funded Naloxone Link Worker was responsible for the delivery of a highly successful Naloxone Training Programme. The programme trained 337 people across a range of statutory services, third sector support services community representatives and members. A total of 417 Naloxone Prenoxad Kits were issued across Inverclyde to various organisations and individuals attending Naloxone Training

Your Voice, in partnership with Moving On, developed a wide Recovery Community across Inverclyde, providing personalized support for individuals with alcohol and drug dependency issues. The Recovery Hub offers a range of services including peer-led, person-centred recovery initiatives, Recovery Café's, drop-ins, and support groups. The Recovery Hub is open 7 days a week and has developed community resources across Inverclyde to ensure full access for individuals in recovery. These resources include activities such as gardening, outdoor pursuits, access to gym and leisure facilities, as well as partnerships with the Beacon Arts Centre for activities like film making, photography, and painting. During the period April 2022 to March 2023, the Recovery Hubs delivered peer support to 309 people, held 108 group sessions, and ran 298 drop-in sessions. Additionally, a case study highlighted the positive impact of the Recovery Hub on an individual named Marie, demonstrating the real-world benefits of the services provided

In September 2022, a wide range of events and programs took place to celebrate Recovery Month in Inverclyde, raising awareness of

addiction and challenging stigma around it. The events included a Recovery Vigil, a football tournament, local recovery walks, workshops, a music event, a play, and a Recovery Art Exhibition.

The Early Help in Police Custody (EHPC) service commenced on the 18th of April 2022, operating from the same premises as the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Overdose Response Team in Greenock. The service covers a 12-hour shift pattern, seven days a week, including Bank Holidays, and the staff work flexible hours, including evenings and weekends, to meet the needs of the people they support.

The EHPC team employs an outreach model that includes visiting individuals in their homes after their curfew hours when support is rarely available. The team provides harm reduction interventions, Naloxone kits, IEP, and wrap-around support, tailored to the clients' environment, which can be a TFF, a homeless service, or their tenancy

The primary focus of the EHPC service is to engage with people inside Greenock Police Custody, offering early help to individuals at the highest risk of drug-related death who are experiencing a range of complex needs. The service aims to support individuals in understanding their journey through the justice system, reinforce a sense of hope in recovery and positive change, and contribute to identifying early routes out of the justice system. From the April 2022 to April 2023, there were a total of 102 referrals across the service, with an average of 2 days from the first contact to community engagement. Additionally, 256 hours of out-of-hours in-person interventions were delivered during this time.

Compassionate Inverclyde

Compassionate Inverclyde's Realising the Value Report 2023 highlights the positive impact of the Compassionate Inverclyde movement in Inverclyde, Scotland. The report

showcases the many initiatives and outcomes achieved by the movement, including supporting people in times of crisis and loss, promoting kindness and compassion in the community, and improving wellbeing for individuals, communities, and organisations. The report also describes the key principles and design elements of the Compassionate Inverclyde program, including the use of the Collective Impact framework and the involvement of citizens and community partners. Overall, the report demonstrates the power of compassion in creating positive change in communities.

Financial Inclusion Strategy 22-24

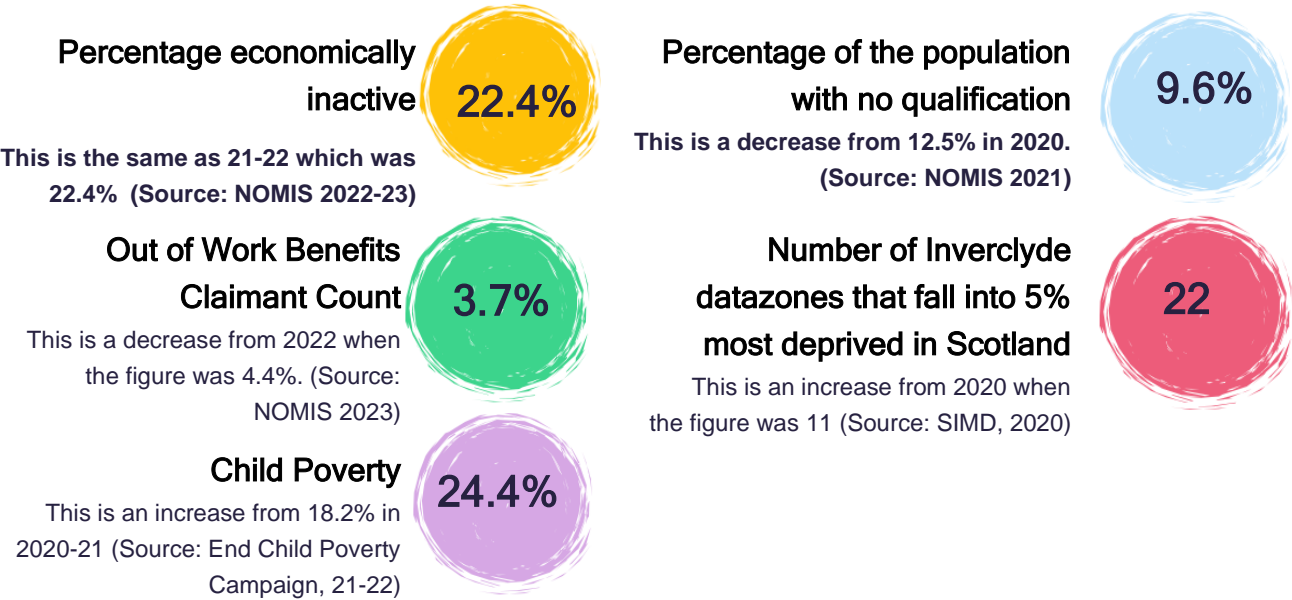
The Inverclyde Financial Inclusion Partnership presented their Financial Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan 22-24 to the Alliance Board in October 2022. The strategy outlines the strategic objectives, action plan, and governance structure to address financial inclusion and the cost-of-living crisis in Inverclyde. The plan is led by the Financial Inclusion Partnership and aims to improve the lives of the people of Inverclyde through direct support for financial literacy, debt and benefit advice, and access to practical and financial resources. The key strategic objectives of the plan are to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on vulnerable families and households, enhance access to financial inclusion services for individuals and families at risk of financial exclusion, and strengthen financial resilience and capacity building among individuals and families. The action plan outlines specific measures and actions to achieve these objectives, reflecting a comprehensive approach to financial inclusion and support for vulnerable individuals and families.

How are we doing?

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.

Priority 3: Inequalities



ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE & 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”



How are we delivering this?

Inverclyde Libraries

Inverclyde Libraries won an award in 2022 for their work on the Climate Beacon project. They also continued to offer a free programme of events for families, including den building workshops and the launch of the Inverclyde Community Food Network. In partnership with West College Scotland, they are delivering a horticulture allotment gardening course at South West Library. Additionally, they are involved in a partnership with the Scottish Libraries and Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland to assist the public to support their own health conditions through access to trusted information and services.

Inverclyde Heritage Network

Inverclyde Heritage Network hosted a well-attended Heritage Day at the Watt Institution on in May 2022, to promote local heritage engagement.

Community Safety Partnership

The Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership conducted a strategic needs assessment in

2022 and will use the results to develop new strategies for both community safety and violence against women and girls for the period 2023-26. The partnership also continued to support local community safety projects, including becoming the first local authority in Scotland to partner with UK charity The Daniel Baird Foundation to provide "control the bleed kits" to the Council's Community Wardens service and a public access cabinet containing one of the life-saving kits to Greenock town centre. Additionally, an Inverclyde water safety group began meeting in summer 2022 and will seek to establish a formal Partnership Approach to Water Safety (PAWS) group in 2023-24.



Active Inverclyde

A new Active Inverclyde strategy has been agreed, and its implementation is underway. In June 2022, an engagement event with local sports organisations was held, and an implementation group was established. The implementation group consists of stakeholders such as local clubs and organisations, the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde Council, sportscotland, and some local young sport

leaders. The implementation group is tasked with developing an action plan for 2023-24 based on the priority actions identified in the strategy.

Culture Collective

The Inverclyde Culture Collective is one of 26 partnership projects across Scotland delivering a range of community-rooted arts activity. It was originally established in March 2021 for an 18-month period but was extended until September 2023 with additional funding of £198,000.

The Collective partnership has supported over 40 artists and creative practitioners, and delivered initiatives that use art to improve health and wellbeing tailored to the needs of Inverclyde, with a focus on adult mental health, young people, community regeneration, environmental work, and engagement with under-represented audiences with low arts engagement and barriers to access.

A national evaluation of the Culture Collective programme found that it is performing significantly across the aims of the national Culture Strategy.

The Drying Green

Inverclyde Southwest library developed an idea to form a reading garden, utilising a piece of unused, derelict land directly outside the library building. This built on the idea of introducing biodiversity to the area, which had previously been identified as part of the Climate Beacon activities delivered by Inverclyde Libraries, in partnership with socially engaged Arts Charity RIG arts and other partners.

Named 'The Drying Green', it is one of twelve 'Unexpected Gardens', that were created across Scotland in 2022 as part of a nationwide growing project 'Dandelion', which aims to bring people together to 'sow, grow and share'. RIG Arts transformed the disused, outside library space, into a shared space for nurturing plants and stories, with local groups and neighbours of the site encouraged to

shape the plans on what the site should look like.

As well as accommodating a transformed Reading Garden for community and library users alike, 'The Drying Green' played host to a range of community focused activities bringing together heritage, arts and food and culminating in a Harvest Festival in Autumn 2022.

Events resumed in 2023, providing a community space where people grow their own produce and swap ideas, hosting special events and community activities that are open to everyone.



The project has been a success, providing a much-needed outdoor space for the community to enjoy, while also promoting biodiversity and sustainability. It is a great example of how libraries can play a role in bringing people together and improving the lives of residents.

How are we doing?

LOIP 10 Year Vision – Inequalities

- 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

Priority 4: Environment, Culture & Heritage

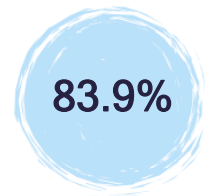
Percentage of household waste composted or recycled

This is an increase from 37.1% in 2021-22 (Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022-23)



Street Cleanliness Score

This is a decrease from 85.1% in 2021-22 (Source: Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2022-23)



Total Amount of Derelict Land

This is a decrease from 54 ha in 2021 (Source: Scottish Vacant & Derelict Land Survey 2022)



Cultural Engagement by adults in last 12 months

This is the same as 2018 figure of 87%. (Source: Scottish Household Survey 2019)



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 can 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 June 2022 Inverclyde Alliance approved a move towards a model involving six Communication and Engagement Groups (CEGs) governed through the Inverclyde Alliance's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Programme Board, and the

development of two Health and Social Care Locality Groups governed through the Inverclyde's Integrated Joint Partnership's (IJB) Strategic Planning Group - one for East Inverclyde and one for West Inverclyde. These groups will ensure that the needs of the community are met in terms of health and social care.

The next phase of locality planning will involve learning from other areas, consulting with the community, strengthening the membership, and developing the remit and partnership links of the Locality Planning structures. Engagements events are planned during 2022-23 to discuss the changes to community planning with local communities.

Community Council Review

The Community Council Review began in December 2022 and has been successful in raising the profile of Community Councils across Inverclyde with higher-than-expected engagement rates. A positive outcome from the review process is the establishment of an Association of Inverclyde Community Councils, which is a platform for representatives from all the Community Councils to collaborate.

Development of Communication and Engagement Groups

The six Communication and Engagement groups (CEGs) have developed differently to reflect the needs and capacity of the community members involved.

All 6 localities have a Facebook group which is open to any community member to join, on average there is over 200 members of each group. This provides a platform for engagement and to notify the community of any consultations.

Kilmacolm & Quarrier's Village

The Community Engagement Group (CEG) has built strong relationships with the Kilmacolm and Quarrier's Village Community Council, fostering a network of contacts that can be readily engaged when necessary. For instance, local groups seeking Meliora funding or 278 community members providing input on allocating funds for outdoor spaces at Birkmyre Park received the CEG's support.

One of the key priorities in the locality action plan was enhancing transport accessibility. A significant concern raised by the community was the potential reduction of the existing bus service. In response to the community's concerns and the Community Council's efforts, local elected officials successfully safeguarded the existing bus service for the area.

The Kilmacolm Community Council organised a community cleanup event on Saturday, April 30th, 2022, inviting residents to participate and help clear litter from the verges of roads and pathways in and around the village.

To advance the implementation of Inverclyde's participatory budgeting (PB) model in 2022/23, a PB exercise was conducted in November 2022, focusing on outdoor spaces at Birkmyre Park Kilmacolm. Public members were presented with a list of options, including an additional play area and a dog park, and were asked to prioritize them. The results of the PB exercise guided Inverclyde Council in allocating £85,000 most effectively. 296 community members from Kilmacolm engaged in this PB exercise. The primary engagement approach involved displaying large posters in the park with QR codes linked to the digital consultation.

Priority: *People living in Kilmacolm and Quarriers are involved in local democracy and decision making.*

Moving Forward: *The primary focus is to work in partnership with the Community Council to explore and maximise opportunities and reduce duplication with regards to Community engagement.*

Port Glasgow

The Community Engagement Group (CEG) continues to convene monthly, focusing on compiling information on "What's On in Port Glasgow" (venues) to showcase the available opportunities for children, families, and older adults in the community. This work aligns with the Locality Priorities and is shared among the group members. The CLD worker for Port Glasgow remains engaged and supportive of a diverse array of local community groups, serving as a channel between the CEG and these groups. The group encompasses individuals from various community sectors, including representation from the Port Glasgow West Community Council.

The Communication and Engagement Group (CEG) and Port Glasgow West Community Council collaborated to organise a public meeting addressing public transportation for hospital appointments and appointment allocation. Representatives from GGCNHS attended the meeting and addressed the community's concerns. This interaction led to modifications in the information provided during appointment scheduling and the support offered in relation to patient transportation.

Port Glasgow was selected to pilot an affordable and flexible after-school care service for primary school-aged children residing in and attending mainstream primary schools within the Port Glasgow cluster area. Through an online consultation, the Port Glasgow community provided information to assist the local authority in comprehending the challenges families face in accessing childcare. This consultation subsequently aided in shaping the model implemented to provide the service, at a cost of £131,000.

Four community organisations within the locality received Meliora funding following a participatory budgeting process. Clune Park Committee and Toddlers' Group, Charm Group and Upper Port Family Group, Parklea Branching Out, and Comet Festival, hosted

community events to augment the range of Meliora Festival events, including local celebrations commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee across Inverclyde in June 2022.

Priority: *Children and young people living in Port Glasgow will have activities and facilities that meet their needs.*

Priority: *People living in Port Glasgow are involved in local democracy and decision making.*

Moving Forward: *The initial plan involves sharing the "What's on in the Port" information as a tool to encourage wider engagement, the Community Worker will continue to be the conduit and explore opportunities to expand the group.*

Greenock East and Central

In a continuous effort to enhance community representation, a new working group has been formed in Greenock's East End, with the intention of evolving into a dedicated Community Council for the region. The organisation prioritises addressing anti-social behaviour, improving the environment and public spaces, and addressing housing concerns, striving to be a driving force for positive change.

Collaborative initiatives have been initiated with Community Safety representatives to ensure a coordinated approach to advancing identified action points. Moreover, Community Learning and Development (CLD) staff are actively involved in establishing a similar organisation for Greenock's central area. Simultaneously, a new Broomhill Tenants and Residents Association (TARA) has been formed, further expanding the community's collective efforts for their neighbourhood's betterment.

Four community organisations within the locality secured Meliora funding after engaging in a participatory budgeting process. Man on Inverclyde, Auchmountain halls, Youth Connections, and Crown Care Centre

organised community events to complement the range of Meliora Festival events, including local celebrations commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee across Inverclyde in June 2022.

The newly constructed Inverclyde Shed in East Blackhall Street was formally inaugurated on March 2023. With the assistance of the Scottish Government's Regional Capital Grant Fund, the Inverclyde Shed collaborated with Inverclyde Council to secure a successful £500,000 grant to develop a previously used building at East Blackhall Street in 2019. In March 2020, the Shed's team submitted a community asset transfer application to Inverclyde Council, which was approved by the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

Homestart Inverclyde was commissioned to provide mentoring and coaching support for 25-30 families with children under the age of five who reside on low incomes and face mental health and anxiety challenges. Homestart Inverclyde has assisted over 170 families with a range of early intervention support services, including income maximization, budgeting for families, and well-being and anxiety management.

The development of the Homestart Inverclyde Project has empowered parents: 36 parents have been trained as volunteers within the service, 23 engaged parents have received Stepwell Cooking training, 18 have participated in and engaged with support and financial advice training (CAP). Eleven parents have secured employment or started their employment journey, and eight individuals from Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities have come together to receive support in settling into Inverclyde.

Priority: *People living in Greenock East and Central have improved wellbeing.*

Priority: *Children have access to good quality, clean, tidy natural space/ parks and play areas.*

Priority: *People in Greenock East Central are more connected with each other and able to access services.*

Moving Forward: *Continue with establishing the smaller focused working groups and then explore opportunities to bring the groups together.*

Greenock South and Southwest

Efforts have been concentrated on fostering community engagement in smaller groups throughout the area. Greive Road (Southwest) was identified as a key focus, as areas such as Branchton and Larkfield have established organisations within the vicinity. A fully functional Grieve Road Committee has been formed, collaborating closely with the local Community Council. The Grieve Road Committee facilitates weekly community drop-ins, organising seasonal events like summer family sessions and Halloween parties that promote health and well-being. Over the past year, the group has secured over £20,000 to fund events and activities for the local community. Community Learning and Development staff maintain regular visits and engagements with community partners across the locality.

Branchton Community Centre has established a community gardening club and has transformed the grounds surrounding the centre into a space for community-based cultivation. This initiative emerged from community members participating in a horticultural course, delivered in partnership with West College Scotland and Community Learning and Development. Branchton Community Centre has also expanded the community's access to affordable food through its community shop and community fridge, supported by dedicated volunteers.

Four community organisations within the locality secured Meliora funding after engaging in a participatory budgeting process. Branchton Community Centre Youth Connections, Ravenscraig Sports Hub, and Cowdenknowes

Residents' Association organised community events to complement the range of Meliora Festival events, including local celebrations commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee across Inverclyde in June 2022.

The Cowdenknowes Residents' Association initiated a series of litter cleanups throughout the community. For instance, in October 2022, a team of nine adults and three young people successfully removed eight bags of litter from the Murdieston Dams area.

Priority: *Children and young people are engaged in activities in Inverclyde that promote wellbeing*

Priority: *Improve health and wellbeing for people of Greenock South and Southwest*

Moving Forward: *One of the key aims is to establish a community partnership network for the South and Southwest Locality to help support community engagement.*

Greenock West and Gourock

The Community Engagement Group (CEG) has continued to meet monthly, focusing on promoting the various warm spaces and sports hubs in the community over the past 12 months. They have created posters and community maps to highlight the various "bowl and blethers", sports clubs, and have organised dementia-friendly training. They are also working to arrange first aid training for groups across the community. In addition, the CEG regularly hosts a monthly bowl and blether and the Gourock Farmers Market, which has now become self-sustaining.

Participatory budgeting was used to determine the films that would be shown at the 2022 summer pictures in Battery Park. Over 1,321 community members participated in the process, allocating £20,000 for the event.

Literati Guide Inverclyde, supported by 1,012 volunteers, hosted 109 events, collected 1,411 bags of litter, and removed 11,700 kilograms of litter from Inverclyde. Many of the litter

collection events were held in the Greenock West and Gourock area.

Six community organisations in the area received funding from the Meliora program after participating in a participatory budgeting process. 1st Gourock Scouts, Gourock Primary PTA, Lyle Gateway, Your Voice, Inverclyde Cricket Club St Columba's, and Greenock Medical Aid hosted community events to enhance the Meliora Festival, including local celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee across Inverclyde in June 2022.

In response to a 2021-22 community consultation on public spaces, activities, and women's safety, a proposal was submitted to the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) for funding to improve lighting at Battery Park in Greenock's west end. The bid was approved this year, and work on improved lighting in the park will commence in 2023-2024.

Priority: *Children and young people are engaged in activities in Inverclyde that promote wellbeing*

Priority: *Older people living in Greenock West and Gourock can participate in their local community.*

Moving Forward: *Continue to work in partnership to promote the various warm spaces and access to food.*

Inverkip and Wemyss Bay

The organisers of Kipfest have successfully hosted two events that have brought the community together. A dedicated steering group, representing various organisations like sports groups, Scouts, churches, and the community hub, plans and coordinates the event. In 2023, the group sought feedback from the wider community, encouraging more members to join the steering group. Kipfest provides a platform for local organisations to showcase their offerings.

Six community groups in the area received funding from the Meliora initiative through a

participatory budgeting process. First Gourock Scouts, Gourock Primary PTA, Lyle Gateway and Your Voice, Inverclyde Cricket Club, St Columba's, and Greenock Medical Aid organised community events to complement the Meliora Festival, including local celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

Inverkip Church Eco Group, a community-based initiative, organised numerous litter-picking events throughout 2022, collaborating with organisations like the 85th Scout group to target areas such as Inverkip Beach and the village.

Blooming Inverkip, an inclusive community gardening group based at Inverkip Community Hub, has been actively cultivating the grounds at the Hub since its inception in 2019. The group has developed its skills, knowledge, and well-being through its gardening endeavours. Additionally, it has partnered with local groups like Inverkip Primary to share gardening expertise. For instance, in February 2023, Inverkip Primary students visited the Hub to plant herbs for the community and create a personalized planter with spring and summer greenery.

Priority: *Improve health and wellbeing for residents in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay*

Priority: *Young people living in Inverkip and Wemyss Bay have access to a range of sporting activities.*

Moving Forward: *to build upon the stakeholder group for wider community engagement and continue to partnership with the Community Council*

Communication and Engagement Groups: Next Steps

Based on the strategic and structural changes in relation to locality planning, a review of Communication and Engagement groups is required with a view to moving towards establishing a People's Network across Inverclyde to support community engagement and empowerment.

NEW PARTNERSHIP PLAN

Inverclyde Alliance partners have been involved in the development of a new community planning partnership plan during 2022-23

Development of Partnership Plan

The development process for the Partnership Plan has included:

- A strategic needs assessment.
- Public consultation.
- Engagement with Inverclyde Elected Members.
- Consideration of statutory requirements and guidance.
- Discussion with Alliance partners; and
- Research on best practice.

Strategic Needs Assessment

The strategic needs assessment was discussed at the June 2022 Alliance meeting and is available via this link. It includes a wide range of information about Inverclyde, including the population profile, overview of the economy, analysis of deprivation trends, statistics on health and environment related information. As well as giving a baseline against which we can measure progress through the implementation of the new plans the strategic needs assessment identifies issues that the Partnership Plan can aim to address.

Some of the issues highlighted include:

- An increasing concentration of older people within Inverclyde's communities, with the proportion of people aged 75+ set to increase by 55.5% over the next 20 years.
- An anticipated population reduction of 5% over the next 5 years, driven by there being fewer births than deaths.
- Emergency hospital admission and alcohol related hospital admission statistics being higher than Scottish average levels.
- Annual earnings at a lower level than the Scottish average;
- Significant deprivation issues with 45% of all data zones being in the 20% most deprived in Scotland.

- Life expectancy for males and females sitting below Scottish average levels.

Community Consultation

The consultation involved six different research methods over eight weeks of consultation. There were a total of 2801 participants. Increasing employment and improving the quality of job opportunities was ranked highly across the different consultation methods and participants. The top themes were Employment and Jobs, Community, Young People, Health and Wellbeing, and Housing.

New Vision and Outcomes

The proposed vision is '**Success For All – Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community**' and the plan will focus on the themes of Empowered People, Working People, Healthy People and Places, A Supportive Place, and a Thriving Place. It will be a ten-year plan. A midterm review will be undertaken.

The proposed high-level outcomes are:

- THEME 1: EMPOWERED PEOPLE
- THEME 2: WORKING PEOPLE
- THEME 3: HEALTHY PEOPLE AND PLACES
- THEME 4: A SUPPORTIVE PLACE
- THEME 5: A THRIVING PLACE

Next Steps

The governance and delivery structures for the Inverclyde Alliance need to be aligned with the priorities of the new Partnership Plan. This will involve reshaping the community planning delivery groups who report to the Alliance Board.