

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 17 MARCH 2025

THE WATT INSTITUTION, 15 KELLY STREET, GREENOCK

Present: Councillors E Robertson (Chair), G Brooks, R Moran, L Quinn (Inverclyde Council), Dr B Von Wissman (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde), Ms C Elliott (CVS), Ms L Bayston (Skills Development Scotland), Mr S Frew (Scottish Enterprise), Mr R Turnock (River Clyde Homes), Area Commander K Murphy (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service), Superintendent P Robertson (Police Scotland), Mr J McGowan (Office of Martin McCluskey MP), Ms D MacDonald (Scottish Government) and Ms C Cunning (Renfrewshire Council).

In attendance: Ms L Long, Mr S Jamieson, Ms R Binks, Ms M Rae, Ms R Braddick, Mr T McEwan, Mr H Scott, Mr N McIlvanney and Ms L Carrick (Inverclyde Council), Ms K Phillips, Ms M Ward, Ms M McIntyre, Ms S Bryan and Ms M Coyle (Inverclyde HSCP).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Chief Superintendent R Fraser (Police Scotland), with Superintendent P Robertson substituting, Dr F Simpson (Scottish Government) with Ms D MacDonald substituting, Mr A Comrie (Strathclyde Passenger Transport), Ms K Wallace (NatureScot), Ms S Rae (West College Scotland) and Mr S MacMillan MSP.

Prior to the commencement of business Board Members and officers were given a tour of the Watt Institution which comprises the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, the Watt Library and Inverclyde Archives.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of 2 December 2024 was submitted and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no separate matters arising.

NOMINATIONS FOR INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD VICE CHAIR

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council advising the Alliance Board on the nomination for Alliance Board Vice Chair.

Decided:

- (1) that Charlene Elliott, Chief Executive, CVS Inverclyde be appointed as Vice Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance Board; and
- (2) that the Boards thanks be conveyed to Chief Superintendent Gordon McCreadie, Police Scotland who previously held the position of Vice Chair for his contributions.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD ACTION TRACKER

There was submitted an action tracker arising from previous decisions of the Alliance Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions on the tracker be noted; and
- (2) that the revised action tracker be submitted to the next meeting of the Board taking account of the comments made at the meeting.

INVERCLYDE PARTNERSHIP PLAN BIENNIAL PROGRESS REPORT - OCTOBER 2024 TO MARCH 2025

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing a progress report on the implementation of the Partnership Plan 2023-2033 which included progress updates from the Thematic Groups for (1) Child Poverty, (2) Economic Strategy and (3) Net Zero. The Board heard a presentation by the three lead officers of each group providing oversight and the delivery of the Partnership Plan. Thereafter Mr Jamieson, Mr McIlvanney and Mr Bryan answered a number of questions from members. The Chair conveyed her thanks to all officers involved in the work undertaken on the implementation of the Partnership Plan.

Decided: that progress made towards the implementation of the partnership plan be noted.

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing an update on plans to further develop Inverclyde Alliance and its meeting and reporting arrangements

Decided: that the update and plans to further develop Inverclyde Alliance and its meeting and reporting arrangements be noted.

PARTNER PRESENTATION BY CLARE CUNNING – BAIRNS HOOSE

The Board heard a presentation by Clare Cunning, Renfrewshire Council. The presentation provided information on the Bairns Hoose model which is a single-location alternative to courts, social work offices and police stations in the West of Scotland, bringing together child protection, health, justice and therapeutic support to those who have been victims or witness to abuse and to children under the age of criminal responsibility whose behaviour has caused harm. Thereafter Ms Cunning answered a number of questions from members. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Ms Cunning for attending the meeting and for the work undertaken on the Bairns Hoose model detailed in her presentation.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

INVERCLYDE STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2024

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council informing the Alliance Board of the latest updates to the Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment. The Alliance Board moved into small discussion groups to consider the key issues detailed in the assessment. Feedback from each group was gathered and it was noted that the Alliance Board will be invited to a briefing on the Strategic Needs Assessment to enable a more detailed discussion on the key issues for Inverclyde.

Decided:

- (1) that the Alliance Board notes that the Inverclyde Strategic Needs Assessment has been updated and that it is available as a partner resource on the Inverclyde Council website; and
- (2) that thanks be conveyed to Karen McCready, Corporate Policy and Performance Officer with Inverclyde Council for the work undertaken on the Strategic Needs Assessment 2024.

COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING STRATEGY: YEAR TWO PROGRESS

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing an update on progress made in relation to the year two actions contained within the Inverclyde Community Food Growing Strategy.

Decided: that the progress made during year two of the Inverclyde Community Food Growing Strategy be noted.

PARTNER UPDATES ON 2025 EVENTS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

The Board discussed partner updates, upcoming events and significant activities occurring in 2025. The discussion focussed on partners providing an overview of their partnership-based work with others. During discussion on this item, Ms L Bayston advised the Board that Skills Development Scotland have been working with the Scottish Government and partners on the post school skills reform. She noted that the Scottish Government held a consultation on the future of the post school education system in mid 2024 which followed an independent review by the Scottish Government which focussed on funding, provision of apprenticeship, learner support, simplification of the landscape and proposing the move of responsibility for all apprenticeships and national programmes to the Scottish Funding Council. The Tertiary Education and Training (Funding and Governance) (Scotland) Bill was introduced in February 2025 and is at stage 1 of the process. If passed, a 3-stage parliamentary process and proposed changes set out in the bill could come into effect in mid to late 2026. Ms Bayston stated that until such times Skills Development Scotland's delivery of apprenticeships will remain the same and confirmed that further updates will be provided to the Board.

Ms Louise Long

Councillor Moran referred to Ms Louise Long, Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council, who would shortly be leaving to take up a new post. On behalf of the Alliance Board, he thanked her for her contribution and extended best wishes to her for the future.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Alliance Board will take place on Monday 16 June 2025 at 1pm.