



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 7

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	16 June 2025
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council	Report	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae, Head of Organisational, Development, Policy & Communications, Inverclyde Council	Contact No:	01475 712845
Subject:	Partnership Development and Arrangements		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Alliance Board with an update on national work in relation to Community Planning and to present a proposal for the key performance indicators to be monitored and reported on behalf of the Alliance.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 At the March 2025 meeting of the Alliance several areas of partnership development were agreed. This included:
- Review of the Improvement Service's (IS) recently published report National CPP Self-Assessment and
 - Development of an updated set of key performance indicators (KPIs) for the Alliance.
- 2.2 An overview of the IS report is provided for the Alliance's consideration along with the proposed KPIs. The Scottish Government have also recently published a report entitled *The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Update and Findings Report*. The sections of this report relating to Community Planning are summarised for the Board's information.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board considers the national reports, consider any implications for Inverclyde Alliance and discusses the proposed key performance indicators. Future updates on the national work will be shared with the Alliance when they become available.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

IMPROVEMENT SERVICE (IS) NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING SELF ASSESSMENT

- 4.1** The IS has a role in supporting Community Planning in Scotland. This includes operating the Secretariat for the Scottish Community Planning Network. This network brings together Community Planning stakeholders from across the country to collate their experience and provide advice and guidance to leaders and policy makers on collaborative working in community planning. They are also responsible for collating and analysing the Local Outcome Improvement Plans and Locality Plans published by CPPs to find exemplary practice that can be highlighted and shared. Further work is undertaken on horizon scanning to ensure that Community Planning Managers are abreast of all future policy that may impact on their work. The Corporate Policy, Performance and Communications Manager links in with this national work.
- 4.2** In 2024 the IS developed a new approach to self-assessment for Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs). This self-assessment focussed on the strategic Board level of CPPs and is based on the well-established Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) Checklist Approach. A number of CPPs undertook the related self-assessment and the outputs have been combined in a national report. This is available at [National Community Planning Self-Assessment Overview Report 2024](#).
- 4.3** The assessment covers a range of key themes, each populated with statements that respondent's rate from strongly agree to strongly disagree. The national report finds that the most positive responses were provided in the Shared Leadership section. Similarly, Community Needs and Empowerment also had very positive feedback. The themes of Governance & Accountability, Performance Management and Impact were generally positively rated. Only one section, which is Effective Use of Joint Resources, scored under 50% in terms of 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' statements. This may reflect the challenging financial conditions that community planning partners are experiencing currently.
- 4.4** Inverclyde Alliance undertook a self-assessment exercise in 2022. This was based on the IS's Partnership Checklist and covers similar themes to the recent national exercise. This was complemented by one-to-one meetings between the Chair of the Alliance and Alliance partners. The key findings from this exercise included there are strong relationships between partners and a collective ambition and commitment to Inverclyde. Partners are positive about Community Planning and the ability to have a collective impact. Partners believe that we have a strong approach to evidence, and how this shapes our work locally. Highlighted themes for development included the delivery structures, meeting formats and performance management arrangements. These are all areas which have been improved over the period since the exercise, and there are further related proposals elsewhere on the agenda for this meeting. A 2025 schedule for the Alliance Chair, Vice Chair, and individual partners to meet is currently being developed. Any key themes arising from these discussions will be fed back to the Board. Performance management and delivery structure arrangements continue to be refined.

4.5 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT REPORT

When the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 was passed by the Scottish Parliament in 2015 it provided a legal framework to promote and encourage community empowerment and participation, by creating new rights for community bodies and placing new duties on public authorities. The Act introduced a clear statutory purpose for community planning focused on improving outcomes. Community planning became explicitly about how public bodies work together and with the local community to plan for, resource and provide services which improve local outcomes in the Local Authority area, all with a view to reducing inequalities.

- 4.6** The 2015 Act requires Community Planning Partnerships (CPP's) to:
- co-operate with other partners in carrying out community planning.
 - prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) which sets out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement.

- identify smaller areas within the Local Authority area which experience the poorest outcomes and prepare and publish locality plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities.
- review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.
- “Contribute such funds, staff and other resources as the CPPs considers appropriate” to improve local outcomes in the LOIP and secure participation of community bodies throughout community planning.

4.7 Not only did the 2015 Act expand the number of public sector bodies that are subject to community planning duties, but it also placed explicit duties to support shared leadership and collective governance on specified CPPs: the local authority, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and enterprise agencies.

4.8 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Update and Findings Report was published in March 2025 and is available at [Findings and Update Report - Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). The purpose of this report is to present the findings of in-depth reviews of parts of the Act, including community planning. This is predominantly based on the related Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee post legislative scrutiny exercise.

4.9 The assessment found that there are areas of excellence where CPPs are embedding the principles of the Act. There is demonstration of clear commitments to shared leadership, clear outcomes and aligned objectives, transparent structures that enable accountability to communities and in many areas a shift from consultation to new methods that enable greater community participation.

4.10 The following have been identified as areas to be progressed either within the dedicated community planning improvement work, or through wider, interconnected work by other policy areas:

- streamlining complex lines of accountability
- exploring Audit Scotland’s routine audit of statutory partners other than Local Authorities, regarding the effectiveness of their participation in community planning
- addressing variation in the standard and effectiveness of CPPs and sharing examples of best practice across CPPs
- helping renew CPPs’ focus on the importance of empowerment and participation through identifying opportunities to drive improvement and share best practice, such as increasing the funding provided to the Improvement Service
- refreshing the community planning guidance and ensuring legislative and policy
- coherence between community planning and priorities such as Community Wealth
- Building and increasing regionalisation of economic development
- giving early consideration to the role of CPPs in delivering the ambitions of a Community Wealth Building Bill and explore how CPPs can best contribute to increasing regional economic collaboration and encourage collaboration between CPPs within regions.
- considering amending the Act to require CPPs to invite the local Third Sector Interface and local anchor organisations to be partners
- considering whether CPPs are sufficiently funded and exploring how CPPs can direct their own resources.
- commissioning research into the impact made by CPPs in improving inequalities.
- better aligning of outcomes across the public sector, from the Scottish Government’s National Performance Framework through to local delivery by statutory partners
- fostering more sharing of and continuity in CPP leadership and exploring what training is needed to enable effective leadership of CPPs.
- incorporating the role of CPPs into the Local Governance Review work being undertaken jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA

4.11 The Committee also concluded that Scottish Government should explore how it can support community planning by resourcing a network of local community engagement officers within Local Authorities, and by encouraging CPPs to ensure they have sufficient community planning officers. They referenced the role of all partners in supporting the effective and efficient delivery of community planning, including the role of community engagement.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI)

- 4.12** Due to the strategic focus of the Alliance the main KPI reporting and scrutiny ties into the annual report on progress against the Partnership Plan outcomes. It is vital that these performance indicators reflect the joint partnership approach and so they should be drawn from across partner organisations as well as national sources. An updated KPI list has been developed and consultation undertaken with Alliance partners. This is available at Appendix 1. It is proposed the Board discusses this list and its implications across the thematic groups. It will also be used as part of the Alliance performance reporting arrangements going forward.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

Finance: None

Human Resources: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Alliance Partnership Plan: The progress updates within this report relate to outcomes within all five themes of the Partnership Plan.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1** None.

Inverclyde Alliance - Key Performance Indicator Options 2025-26

Key Indicator	Main Link Group
Empowered people	
Percentage of children living in relative poverty after housing costs	Children's Services Partnership
Percentage of children living in relative poverty after housing costs (BY AGE?)	Children's Services Partnership
Percentage of children living in relative poverty after housing costs (BY WARD?)	Children's Services Partnership
Number of families benefiting from affordable childcare	Children's Services Partnership
Average tariff score in most deprived area (SIMD Q1)	Children's Services Partnership
Literacy attainment (p1, P4, P7 combined) between most and least deprived	Children's Services Partnership
Numeracy attainment (p1, P4, P7 combined) between most and least deprived	Children's Services Partnership
Percentage of looked after people achieving a positive destination compared to area average	Children's Services Partnership
Percentage of school leavers living in most deprived areas gaining 1+ awards at SCQF5	Children's Services Partnership
Working people	
Full time median earnings for employees living in Inverclyde	Economy
Employment rate – economically active population (16–64-year-olds)	Economy
Unemployment rate for 16–19-year-olds	Economy
Number of households with no adult in employment	Economy
Business Gateway startups per 10,000 population	Economy
Number of apprenticeships	Economy
Crisis Grant applications - number received	Economy
Crisis Grant applications - number paid	Economy
Crisis Grant applications – total spend	Economy
Community Care Grants - number received	Economy
Community Care Grants - number paid	Economy
Community Care Grants – total spend	Economy
Annual participation in education/training/employment 16–19-year-olds	Economy
Percentage of unemployed people assisted into work from council programmes	Economy
Healthy people and places	
Mental Health Wellbeing Scale - male	Thriving Communities
Mental Health Wellbeing Scale - female	Thriving Communities
Healthy life expectancy - male	Thriving Communities
Healthy life expectancy - female	Thriving Communities
Healthy birth weight	Children's Services Partnership

Child healthy weight in primary 1 - boys	Children's Services Partnership
Child healthy weight in primary 1 - girls	Children's Services Partnership
Active Schools participation	Thriving Communities
A supportive place	
Reducing crime – number of crimes committed per one thousand population	Safe and Supported
Reducing crime - Number of crimes committed by young people	Safe and Supported
Improving road safety – number of road traffic injuries/deaths	Safe and Supported
Reducing racial abuse – number of race/hate crimes	Safe and Supported
Number of incidents of domestic violence	Safe and Supported
Fire safety – number of fire incidents	Safe and Supported
Reducing alcohol misuse - hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse	Safe and Supported
Reducing drug misuse - hospital admissions due to drug misuse	Safe and Supported
Alcohol related deaths	Safe and Supported
Drug related deaths	Safe and Supported
Number of sites used for community food growing	Thriving Communities
A thriving place	
Number of adult learners achieving core skills supported by CLD (SQF level 2-4)	Thriving Communities
Number of adult learners supported to improve their literacy	Thriving Communities
Adults participating in ESOL courses and New to Scotland	Thriving Communities
Digital inclusion - number of computer users at Inverclyde Libraries	Place
Digital inclusion - number of computer sessions at Inverclyde Libraries	Place
Total number of physical visits to Inverclyde Libraries	Place
Business survival rate	Economy
Carbon emissions per capita within LA area	Place
Trees planted	Place
Satisfaction rates with parks and open spaces	Place
Satisfaction with Inverclyde as a place to live	Place
Satisfaction with the neighbourhood as a place to live	Place
Number of affordable homes approved	Place
Number of affordable homes completed	Place