

The Future of Inverclyde Cares

Reporting Officer: Vicki Cloney, CVS Inverclyde

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Background

Inverclyde HSCP Strategic Plan 2019-2024 outlined Six Big Actions and how they contribute to improved outcomes for the people of Inverclyde. Big Action Six of the plan focused on building on the strengths of our people and our community, and it is recognised that the skills, resources, and relationships of people within our communities are key to the successful delivery of these improved outcomes. In response, a new public health approach called Inverclyde Cares was developed and ran between June 2020 and June 2023. Hosted by CVS Inverclyde, this initiative brought together communities, statutory services and Third Sector partners with the aim to promote inclusive communities that support residents to live active and fulfilling lives while also celebrating the positive stories about Inverclyde that often go unnoticed.

Between 2022 and 2023 Inverclyde Cares was a vehicle used to strengthening the bridges between all those who have a role to play in making Inverclyde the best possible place to live and work. In partnership with Inverclyde HSCP and Ardgowan Hospice, the programme lead for Compassionate Inverclyde was seconded to CVS Inverclyde in May 2021 to become the programme lead for Inverclyde Cares. Four workstreams were developed, which addressed bereavement, kindness, challenging stigma and remembering together after the Covid-19 pandemic. In the Spring 2023 the Inverclyde Cares Programme Board began to discuss the future of Inverclyde Cares. Compassionate Inverclyde received support from Ardgowan Hospice, CVS Inverclyde and Inverclyde HSCP to become an independent charity. Much of the four workstreams transitioned to the new organisation, with Challenge Stigma remaining with the Resilience Network hosted by CVS Inverclyde. This change brought a new discussion about where Inverclyde Cares fits within the wider governance structure in Inverclyde. It is recommended that this work becomes a subgroup of the HSCP's Inequalities Group due to the close alignment of their shared priorities. As a subgroup, the aims and objectives of Inverclyde Cares report into the Inverclyde Alliance Board via the Inequalities Group, now known as the Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives thematic group.

Inverclyde Cares Reimagined

The Partnership Facilitator from CVS Inverclyde was appointed the chair of Inverclyde Cares. She invited third sector partners to come together in November 2024 to discuss the aims and ambitions of Inverclyde Cares as a new subgroup within the Inverclyde Alliance governance structure. It acknowledged that any action plan for this group needed to be based on the needs of local communities, and Your Voice and CVS Inverclyde were tasked with reviewing previous community engagement data to understand what residents had already told us. This work identified that Inverclyde's third sector is embedded across all six of the Alliance Thematic Groups, which fed into a discussion during the next Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives partnership meeting where the future of Inverclyde Cares was considered. The Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development, the Interim Chief Officer of Inverclyde HSCP and the Partnership Facilitator from CVS Inverclyde had a further discussion, where it was agreed that the aims and objectives of Inverclyde Cares have been met. Likewise, it was acknowledged that many of the potential workstreams for Inverclyde Cares already exist among the Alliance's Thematic Groups.

Next Steps

The recommendation from these discussions is that Inverclyde Cares group is disbanded to avoid future duplication of work. This brings an opportunity to look closely at the Alliance Thematic Groups to understand where third sector work feeds into the strategic governance structure. While there is a strong sense of positive cross-sectoral partnership working locally, CVS Inverclyde will conduct a mapping of third sector work in relation to the six Thematic Groups to evidence the third sector's contribution to an integrated Inverclyde. This work will be completed during Summer 2025 and will be reported to the Alliance Board in due course.