
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	25 January 2022
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/06/22/TM
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Subject:	Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on developments pertaining to the Communities part of the Committee.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Updates are provided on the following areas:

- Return to youthwork;
- Return to adult learning;
- Return to sport;
- 16 Days of activism 2021;
- CLD SQA centre accreditation;
- Affordable Childcare Hubs;
- Use of Emergency Powers for grant award;
- Update on services for children with autism;
- Culture Collective; and
- Successful bid to the Public Library Improvement Fund

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee notes the updates set out in this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 Updates

4.1 Return to Youth Work

Youth Work Services is delivering SAC programmes in all Secondary Schools and Senior Phase programmes in most of our Secondary Schools. Young people are working on programmes aimed at improving confidence and self-esteem, literacy and numeracy, and health and wellbeing.

In terms of community based youth work, Port Glasgow and Greenock youth zones are operating 3 nights per week. Staff are seeking to engage with young people in Port Glasgow to plan a programme of youth work opportunities from January 2022 onwards. Greenock is being used for targeted/thematic youth work opportunities and we are engaging with Inverclyde Youth Council, Clyde Pride (LGBTI), Clyde Conversations steering group and a new ESOL group for young people.

The youth services team has delivered holiday programmes to local young people throughout 2021 and the team is working to secure funding via Cashback for Communities to plan and deliver holiday programmes in 2022 during the Easter, Summer and October school breaks. Holiday programmes this year have been delivered through the partnership with the Council's Summer of Fun, recovery funding Active Schools, Action for Children and Castle Semple. A mix of outdoor activities, multi-activity days in local schools and events in local facilities including Elev8 Trampoline Park; Cinema; Ravenscraig Climbing Centre; and a Pride Picnic at Battery Park.

Detached Youth Work has been delivered during Covid since December 2020 and continues to operate on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening where youth workers seek to engage young people in and around the area, giving information, advice and guidance on relevant topics, seeking to reduce involvement in risk taking behaviours and anti-social behaviour. In addition, the detached team planned and delivered an end of summer event in the Battery Park which attracted over 200 young people. The team have plans for similar events in 2022. The work of this team is planned in liaison with other community safety partners such as Police Scotland and the Community Wardens Service.

Youth Work Services also recently facilitated a successful SYP Elections in collaboration with all Secondary Establishments across the area. 2444 votes were cast in the process to elect 2 new MSYPs for the Inverclyde area. The MSYPs will now undertake duties as appropriate including supporting local youth voice via Inverclyde Youth Council.

In terms of Youth Voice the team are currently working with young people from each of the High Schools to plan and develop the Clyde Conversations Event which is due to take part in Feb 2022.

The service has recently recruited a CLD Youth Worker to develop its digital youth work offer and its online presence and build on the good work on its social media platforms throughout the pandemic.

Lastly, the team has also supported various schools with inputs on various topics such as sexual exploitation, cyber safety and drugs and alcohol.

4.2 Return to Adult Learning and Literacies

The focus for the Adult Learning and Literacies Team has been on recovery and re-engagement with its service users. The Team's delivery has focused on adult learning, adult literacies, English for Speakers of Other Languages and support for New Scots. The priority has been the most vulnerable adults with ongoing assessment of need informing engagement and delivery approaches.

Alongside our family learning programmes and adult literacies provision, 'Get Connected' provided ICT skills programmes in small groups or 1:1 depending on learners' prior

knowledge. A number of New Scots and Speakers of Other Languages were also supported to develop their English language skills and support integration.

Health and wellbeing programmes for adults and parents have resumed with some learners also undertaking SQA awards in mental health and wellbeing. Inverclyde is the first Council to be providing and getting this course fully accredited through on-line learning.

The service has resumed other courses on line including, introduction to Food Hygiene, Simple Cooking; National 4 literacy award, Employability Award and John Muir Awards.

Following the successful development of our online learning site the service also supported the initial stages of development of a national Moodle platform for the adult learning field, led by Scottish Adult Learning Partnership (SALP). They also supported Dumfries and Galloway, East and North Ayrshire councils to set up their own Moodle sites.

4.3 Return to Sport

The Active Schools and Sports Development (ASSD) team has successfully re-engaged with all schools across the authority offering a wide and varied extra-curricular programme of sport and physical activity to young people at lunch times and afterschool. The programme includes activities such as netball, athletics, football, tennis and hockey. In addition, the team is rolling out our core programmes across the area which target P1-P3s in areas such as multi-skills, mini-athletics and possession games. Our extra-curricular programme is delivered by a range of different deliverers including young sport leaders, volunteers, local clubs, school staff and paid coaches.

The Team is currently facilitating a number of leadership opportunities for young people across the authority via the Playmakers programme at primary level and Sports Leaders at secondary level. Sports Leaders have also supported the delivery of holiday camps locally. We are supporting a netball leadership programme at NDHS, liaising with CLD Youth Work Services in terms of offering accreditation to young people involved. In addition to these leadership opportunities, the team supports the Youth Ambassador programme and is supporting Sport Councils and Sport Captains in the relevant establishments.

In terms of current projects the ASSD Team is currently supporting work with care experienced young people in partnership with HSCP. The Proud2BActive group meets weekly and attracts 12-20 young people per week. Our Sport 4 All project engaged young people with disabilities and continues to grow following a successful summer programme. We are also working in Clydeview offering alternative curriculum opportunities to young people who are struggling to engage in the mainstream curriculum. This will roll out to PGHS and SCHS next term. The team has also offered Active Girls Days in the PG Joint Campus and in Clydeview Academy, both of which were successful. Friday night football at Port Glasgow Campus continues to be very popular with around 70 attendees aged from 6-12 years old.

The service has sought to build capacity across the sport and physical activity network in Inverclyde by recruiting new volunteer and paid coaches to the team. Through our club accreditation scheme we offer clubs and organisations support to ensure the high standards in safeguarding and health and safety are achieved. We currently have 14 accredited clubs with others ongoing through the process and seek to roll this out further. Our Football Development Officer is delivering 6-8 course online per month as part of the SFA Coach Education programme as well as supporting various clubs across the area operate in the context of Covid-19. The team has contributed to CPD for teachers running successful sessions on outdoor learning in partnership with the 3rd sector.

The team has facilitated the return of swimming lessons to all P4s across Inverclyde. This year we have also enabled lessons for P5 classes who missed out on this learning last year due to Covid-19. Block one is almost complete with Blocks 2 and 3 plans agreed and in place. This work has been developed in partnership with schools and Inverclyde Leisure.

Our Social Media presence continues to grow with the team promoting opportunities for

children and young people as well as celebrating achievement. The team plans to run with #InverclydeSchoolsMove engagement in February 2022 following the huge success of the one delivered in 2020.

Our Community Sport Hub Officer continues to support the 3 Community Sport Hubs. We have supported the return to sport with Hubs by offering funding to hold events and offer activities as a way of increasing participation, especially amongst those impacted by poverty. In addition we have offered training and development to support the return to sport, including social media training in partnership with sportscotland.

4.4 16 days of activism update

The '16 Days' campaign in 2021 campaign commenced on 25 November with (International Day Against VAW and White Ribbon Day) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The two dates symbolically link to emphasise that Violence Against Women is a violation of human rights. The United Nations campaign is recognised across the globe as '16 Days of Activism to Eliminate Violence against Women.'

This year, campaign information which was developed nationally by the Improvement Service and promoted across Scotland, was displayed on Inverclyde Council's ICON system and on social media during the 16 Days, to ensure consistency of messages across all council areas. Infographics, animations and interim headlines from the Inverclyde Public Activity and Women's Safety Survey were also incorporated into the national messages to give local context to the issue. Additionally Police Scotland shared messages across social media throughout the campaign.

4.5 CLD SQA update

CLD supports young people and adults to gain qualifications as well as delivering accredited training for staff. As part of this it is an accredited SQA centre which offers over 60 awards at SCQF levels 1- to 8. These range from awards such as Personal Achievement Award; Employability Award, Personal Finance, ESOL For Everyday Life, Communication, Problem-Solving; Mental Health and Wellbeing Award; to PDA Leadership Award, British Sign Language (BSL); and An Introduction to Adult Literacies Learning In Scotland.

Following a recent Systems Verification visit, SQA gave 'high confidence' ratings across all 6 measures for the systems in place which support the maintenance of SQA standards within the centre.

4.6 Affordable Childcare Holiday Hubs

The Access to Childcare fund was established by the Scottish Government to support accessible and affordable childcare for families and to reduce the barriers for parents in accessing employment and training. These barriers include the cost of childcare, flexible hours, accessibility for children with additional support needs and the cost of transport.

Inverclyde Council delivered the Affordable Holiday Hub provision to support children living in families on low income and more likely to be living in poverty. The service provided a range of play and learning experiences and access to food for children during the holiday period and helped to reduce barriers to employment for parents. Inverclyde Council was one of fifteen projects across Scotland who were successful in applying for £250,000 to provide School Holiday Provision as a one year pilot.

Data collected from the applicants for both the Summer 21 and October 21 Hubs reaffirms the findings from the Spring 21 session in that the majority of applicants were from low income households (less than £25,000p/a), lone parent families and predominately women. Many of the families indicated they would be more likely to be living in poverty, having English as a second language, there being disability in the family or have three or more children to support. It can be concluded therefore that the Affordable Holiday Hubs supported some of the most disadvantaged families in Inverclyde to enable parents to continue to engage in employment or training in the holiday period.

4.7 Use of Emergency Powers for Grant Award

On 25 November 2021, Councillors McCabe, Clocherty and Robertson, the Chief Executive, the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services and the Interim Director of Finance and Corporate Services agreed to a one-off grant payment of £25k to be made to Rankin Park Bowling Club to allow it to make minor repairs and upgrades to its facilities. This grant was made in recognition of the cooperation of Rankin Park Bowling Club to advance the development of the new Indoor Tennis Facility on its site.

4.8 Impact of COVID-19 on services for children with autism

The CLD service has continued to offer support for services for children and young people. The Youth Connections' group 'Connect' has restarted, providing support to over 30 young people and operates on Monday and Wednesday evenings. 'A-Team' has not restarted yet due to its ongoing issues with recruiting staff and volunteers but has indicated that it is hoping to restart early 2022 following an offer of support from the CLD Services within Port Glasgow I Youth Zone. Friends4you has not given any indication of when its service might resume, however CLD youth work and Active Schools have increased the participation of young people with Autism within both community and schools' settings.

4.9 Culture Collective

In March 2020, Creative Scotland commenced a pilot programme to establish a network of creative practitioners, organisations, and communities, working together to create a positive difference locally and nationally in response to Covid-19. A consortium of Inverclyde partners including Inverclyde Council, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, CVS Inverclyde and Kayos Theatre Group successfully bid to be one of the 26 projects across Scotland who shared £6m in funding. Inverclyde's project received £275,000 for 18 months' of arts activity across the area (March 2021 – September 2022).

The aim of the project is to investigate key areas identified by the Arts Sub-Group of the Inverclyde Cultural Partnership and specific to the needs of Inverclyde – health and social care (and in particular, adult mental health); young people; community regeneration; environmental/outdoor/site-specific work; and engaging with under-represented audiences with low arts engagement and/or barriers to access. The project will support over 40 artists and creative practitioners.

The project interim report, outlining progress since the funding was initially received, was recently submitted to Creative Scotland. In total, 26 artists have been contracted to deliver aspects of the project, including project staff, *Galoshans* artists, a writer and artist in residence, a creative researcher, various development bursaries, a visual artist in residence at the Beacon, various artists contracted by RIG Arts, and clowning and puppetry artists contracted by Kayos Youth Theatre. Looking ahead, the overall programme is likely to contract at least 37 more artists in 2022.

Activities carried out so far include artists working in collaboration with communities to develop new work for the *Galoshans* festival; kite-making workshops; weekly visual art sessions; workshops to support local young people's creative ambitions; intergenerational creative workshops using Auchmountain Glen to explore the connection between community greenspaces and mental health recovery; using creativity as a means of self-expression to support recovery, manage symptoms, and build self-esteem; and clowning and puppetry workshops for young people.

Project officers are currently arranging access training to be available to all creative practitioners in Inverclyde in 2022. This training will cover good practice in the areas of anti-racism, diversity, inclusion, LGBTQI, disability, neurodiversity, aging, and autism.

4.10 Public Library Improvement Fund

Administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on behalf of the Scottish

Government, the Public Library Improvement Fund (PLIF) supports creative and innovative public library projects throughout Scotland. Inverclyde Libraries was recently awarded £17,600 from the fund to support *Play Together @ Inverclyde Libraries*, which will see the development of a toy and play library for children from birth to teens.

The overarching aim of the project is to reach the heart of communities and engage with new audiences within Inverclyde by collaborating with Barnardo's to bring a new resource to the whole family. The project contributes to Scottish Government's Play Strategy and is in line with Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The project seeks to address Covid-19 recovery in the creation of a resource which will support literacy, numeracy and child speech and language development. The project aims to bring toys, play and outdoor learning opportunities to families who may not otherwise have access to them, ensuring that the sustainable agenda is embedded within library programming.

The project has 3 main aims:

- To connect with community groups and the wider community by providing a family play library. A free-to-use play library will provide access to toys and activities to educate and enjoy;
- To improve wellbeing post-Covid by providing expert led sessions providing time for families to meet and take part in activities together;
- To contribute to the Sustainable Agenda 2030 and to bring the Outdoor Play agenda to the library sector, encompassing climate-friendly activities.

The Toy and Play Library will be available to borrow from any Inverclyde branch library or via library outreach work. In addition, a new Family Library Toolkit will be created for targeted groups in conjunction with our partner Barnardo's. This will provide families with relevant library service information and signposting to other partners.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.2 Legal

None

5.3 Human Resources

None

5.4 Equalities

Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
x	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO

5.5 **Repopulation**

None

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 N/A

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None