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| <b>Report To:</b>       | <b>Education and Communities Committee</b>                                                   | <b>Date:</b>       | <b>14 June 2022</b>    |
| <b>Report By:</b>       | <b>Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b> | <b>Report No:</b>  | <b>EDUCOM/33/22/TM</b> |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> | <b>Tony McEwan</b>                                                                           | <b>Contact No:</b> | <b>01475 712828</b>    |
| <b>Subject:</b>         | <b>Communities Update Report</b>                                                             |                    |                        |

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

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

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Updates are provided on the following:

- Review of crawl spaces in 3G pitches;
- Child Poverty Local Action Report;
- Affordable Holiday Hubs;
- Young Scot Annual Report;
- Access to Free Sanitary Products;
- Culture Collective Update; and
- Free Swimming for Under 16s

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee notes the content of this report.

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director**  
**Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## 4.0 Updates

### 4.1 Review of crawl spaces in 3G pitches

Crawl spaces / crawl holes have been installed at the 3G pitches operated located at Inverclyde Academy, St Columba's High School and Port Glasgow Community Campus. The installation of crawl spaces were as a result of the Education and Communities Committee's agreement to pilot community access for young people when the pitches were not being let. None of our primary school pitches have crawl-spaces installed due to the nature of the location of the pitch within primary school grounds. The Council also has a number of outdoor football pitches across Inverclyde which are free to access whenever they are not being let.

Crawl spaces are also in place at the Inverclyde Leisure managed facilities at Parklea and Broomhill. Since May 2021, a dedicated resource was allocated to opening and closing the 3G pitches at Inverclyde Academy and Drumshantie Road in Gourock. These crawl spaces required to be closed at night due to past concerns over anti-social behaviour and damage to the pitches occurring overnight, rendering them unsafe. The cost of providing this open and closure service was estimated at £18k per annum and the service allocated a dedicated resource to undertake this.

Although the intention was to report the evaluation of the installation of crawl spaces on IL managed pitches in January 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued longer than anticipated and a delay to the evaluation was reported to committee in January 2022. There was also sufficient resource in place to allow the pilot to be extended to the end of April 2022.

There is no question that the provision of crawl spaces is welcomed by young people wishing to access local facilities when they are not being let, particularly in school holiday periods. We know this due to the number of enquiries we have received when the crawl spaces are closed for repairs. However, the Council must balance the free use of such high quality provision with the financial cost of ensuring the facilities remain safe to use and are well-maintained.

There are inevitable tensions of providing crawl spaces and maintaining a high quality and safe provision for club lets. Crawl spaces make the pitches more accessible and there have been some reports of anti-social behaviour, broken glass, litter and vandalism on and to the pitches. It is critical that the Council resources the daily checking of pitches to ensure that they are safe and free from damage. There have also been occasions where adult teams have accessed the pitches through the crawl-spaces instead of paying for a let. While these events are infrequent, they almost always result in the pitches being completely closed while repairs are carried out to make the pitch safe again for use, or as a deterrent for adult teams using the crawl spaces.

Over the past few years, young people in Wemyss Bay, and to a lesser extent, Inverkip have been unable to access any 3G pitches in their communities as the only nearby pitch is connected to Wemyss Bay Primary School which, in line with current policy around primary school pitches, provides no community access. The service is confident that the current £18k allocated to support community use of pitches at Drumshantie Road, Inverclyde Academy and Broomhill could also be used to support the opening and closing of the Wemyss Bay Primary School pitch, thus ensuring that all young people in Inverclyde have access to a 3G facility when they are not let.

It is therefore proposed to continue with the provision of crawl spaces for young people to access the locations listed below, and for the dedicated annual £18k resource to open the crawl space in the morning and close at dusk.

- Inverclyde Academy, Greenock;
- Broomhill, Greenock;
- Drumshantie Road, Gourock; and
- Wemyss Bay Primary School (new).

The service will continue to monitor community use of the pitches and also incidences of

vandalism or anti-social behaviour which may render the pitches unsafe.

#### 4.2 **Child Poverty Action Report**

The Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group is currently finalising the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Child Poverty Local Action Report (CPLAR). This is a statutory report developed in partnership with Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS Board and submitted to Scottish Government annually. The 4<sup>th</sup> report will recommend that the proposed services and plans will be implemented to 2025 to enable time for the actions to develop, implement and monitor against success with annual progress reporting. This report will be subject to approval from Inverclyde Alliance Board and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board. The main actions in the report will consist of:

- increasing income from employment by offering a range and choice of opportunities for priority parents to help them access and maintain employability and employability, learning and training;
- increasing income from benefits to ensure systematic whole family approach for families more likely to be living in poverty and facing financial insecurity;
- mitigating the cost of living by providing accessible and affordable child care, activities and food for children in priority families; and
- developing and our approach to communication and participation. We will do this by working collaboratively with families with lived experience to ensure services respond effectively and meet their needs.

Once agreed by the Alliance Board, a link to the report will be provided to Education and Communities Committee.

#### 4.3 **Affordable Holiday Hubs**

Inverclyde Council will receive £131,000 to offer Affordable Holiday Hubs in the summer of 2022 to families in work and living on low income. It is proposed to deliver a three tier model that targeting families facing the greatest inequalities:

Inverclyde Leisure will continue to provide the universal playscheme service for all children in 6 hubs of Inverclyde, this will be a universal service which will be subsidised by £1.50 from Inverclyde Council for all children, who attend during the school summer holiday period. This playscheme will consist of two sessions 9am-12.30pm then 1.30pm-4.30pm and will be based in Kilmacolm Primary School, Newark Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School, Moorfoot Primary School, Aileymill Primary School and Inverkip Primary Schools.

There will be an extended playscheme service which offers longer sessions allowing parents and carers on low income more flexibility to work, train or study. The extended universal playscheme will open from 8.30am until 5.30pm and offered for the first 4 weeks of the summer holiday period and will also include a healthy lunch for the children who attended. Although the extended playscheme service would be open to all families, those who are on a low income or in receipt of free school clothing grants will be prioritised. The extended playscheme service will be based in Newark Primary School, St Patrick's Primary School and Aileymill Primary School.

An enhanced playscheme will be offered by Wellington Children Services for children who have additional social and emotional needs or autistic spectrum disorder and would benefit from a less busy environment. The enhanced playscheme will operate over 3 weeks of the summer holidays from 9.00 – 4.30pm. It will provide 24 placements for children and young people. This service will be 100% subsidised for families living on a low income, in receipt of schools clothing grants/free school meals. This service will offer transport if required and lunch to those who attend.

This provision will be an enhancement to the existing provision at Play 4 All in Craigmarloch School. There will be an additional 6 places for children aged 5 – 18 years. This service will operate for 4 weeks of summer holidays.

All children age over 12 years will continue to have access to a range of free youth work and

active schools services which will be delivered throughout the summer 2022 period.

#### 4.4 **Young Scot Annual Report**

Inverclyde Council works in partnership with Young Scot, the national youth information service for Scotland, to deliver a range of services to young people in our authority. Young Scot has worked with Councils to encourage as many Local Authorities to sign a partnership agreement between Young Scot and each Authority. This partnership agreement outlines Young Scot's commitments to provide a suite of services and meet the expectations of the respondent local authority.

Young Scot offers a range of services and products aimed at supporting young people and the youth work sector.

These resources are varied and include:

- Young Scot NEC Card;
- Young Scot Online;
- Infoline;
- Young Scot outreach team; and
- Consultation services

A copy of the most recent annual report can be accessed here. It shows that in Inverclyde, 10,555 young people have a Young Scot NEC. This represents 84% of the estimated population of 11 to 25 year olds in the area and compares very favourably with national trends.



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#### 4.5 **Access to Free Sanitary Products**

The Council was awarded £89,000 in 2021/22 to make free sanitary products available across Inverclyde and encourage uptake. In 2021/22 the service:

- expanded the number of community locations which stock products;
- worked with local pharmacies across Inverclyde to make them a pick up point for free sanitary products;
- developed a marketing campaign to promote an online ordering service which led to an increase in orders;
- provided vulnerable groups with access to the products, with Health Visitors, Learning Disability Nurses, Family Nurse Practitioners and Family Support Workers now giving products to the families they work with;
- became the only local authority enhancing the Scottish Government app to provide information on all locations in Inverclyde where free sanitary products are available;
- offered a 'first period kit' to every female pupil in primary 6 and 7 across Inverclyde; and
- implement an approach in secondary schools to promote the online ordering facility due to feedback that some pupils are too embarrassed to ask for products and would prefer a more discreet method of accessing them. A4 posters and A6 flyers were distributed across secondary schools to make girls aware of the online ordering facility and a QR code was developed so that girls can very quickly access the facility on their phones.

The service has been notified that a slightly reduced grant has been received from the Scottish Government for 2022/23 which may have an impact on our ability to offer the very good service provided in 2021/22. The service will continue to monitor uptake and will bring back a future report to the Education and Communities Committee later in the year.

#### 4.6 **Culture Collective Update**

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.

Activities carried out in this reporting period include: continuing artist and writer residencies; and offering a further 7 opportunities for creative practice in relation to health and social care (x2 residencies working with Inverclyde Faith in Throughcare and Your Voice); outdoor arts (x2 residencies based at Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park); and community practice (x3 residencies working in Greenock East and Central (with Barnardos); Greenock South and Southwest (Grieve Road) and Port Glasgow (Coronation Park).

It has now been confirmed that the national Culture Collective programme will be extended for a further year with Inverclyde receiving an additional £198,000 of funding from Creative Scotland. This will allow us to re-contract our Creative Producer and Activities Co-ordinator for a further year; provide additional funding for our consortium partners CVSI, the Beacon, RIG Arts and Kayos Youth Theatre; provide further local artist development bursaries; support Galoshans 2022; host a residency celebrating black history and culture at the Watt Institution; host a residency in Greenock town centre; run several creative events by and for young people; and carry out significant work using art to improve health and wellbeing in partnership with the Inverclyde HSCP.

#### 4.7 **Free Swimming for Under 16s**

Following a significant increase in the uptake of Free Swimming for Under 16s in 2021/22, a report will be submitted to this committee in September 2022 which will set out options for the continuation of free swimming in future years.

### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

#### 6.1 **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         |                |                  |                   |                               |                |

### 6.2 Legal

N/A.

### 6.3 Human Resources

N/A.

### 6.4 Equalities

#### Equalities

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

|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | YES                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| ✓ | 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. |
| ✓ | 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. |
| ✓ | NO                                                                                                                    |

### 6.5 Repopulation

N/A.

## **7.0 CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 N/A.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 N/A.