
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	21 May 2024
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/25/24/MR
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Subject:	Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ☐ For Decision ☒ For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee with developments in relation to the Communities part of the Committee.

Updates have been provided on the following areas:

1. Alliance Board Partnership Plan Delivery Structure;
2. Locality Plan Progress and Review;
3. Inverclyde Fire Skills Course;
4. International Woman's Day;
5. Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare; and
6. Child Poverty Accelerator Funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee notes the updates provided in this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 UPDATES

3.1 Alliance Board Partnership Plan Delivery Structure

At its meeting on 18 March the Alliance Board approved the multi-agency delivery structure designed to achieve the outcomes within the Partnership Plan 2023-33, which is a strategic plan developed by the Inverclyde Alliance to address local inequalities in partnership, as required by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The plan focuses on five themes: Empowered People, Working People, Healthy People and Places, Supportive Place, and Thriving Place. Each theme has specific outcomes linked to them. Thematic groups are responsible for producing and delivering action plans against these outcomes, with progress reported through performance reports and periodic presentations to the Alliance Board. The report can be accessed from this link <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/16972/07-Inverclyde-Partnership-Plan.pdf>

3.2 Locality Plan Progress and Review

The Board members also approved a proposed new approach to community engagement in the review and development of revised Locality Plans. To address challenges identified within the current Communication Engagement Group (CEG) model, the report proposed a new model called the Inverclyde People's Network (IPN). This network will combine online and face-to-face engagement methods and be available for gauging community opinion within and across localities. Online engagement will utilise social media and the Inverclyde Community Choices platform, a localised version of a citizen participation tool. A key feature of the IPN is the "Community Conversation Week." Each locality will hold one annually, providing residents with a dedicated opportunity to participate in shaping their Locality Plan. This week will be supported by both digital and face-to-face engagement activities. The report can be accessed from this link <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/16974/09-AB-Locality-Action-Plans-Review.pdf>

3.3 Inverclyde Fire Skills Course

Inverclyde Council partnered with the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) to deliver a 5-day Fire Skills Course in Port Glasgow during March 2024, with nine young people participating in the program. The course focused on developing essential life skills, including safety, discipline, respect, CPR, communication, and teamwork. Participants received a Fire Skills certificate upon completion. Following the course, attendees received support from CLD youth work service to develop their CVs and link their experience to the Dynamic Youth Award. Successful completion of this award could pave the way for achieving a Bronze Youth Achievement Award in their senior year. An evaluation found the course yielded positive personal results. Nearly all participants reported improvements in decision-making regarding risky behaviour, skill acquisition, self-respect and respect for others, participation confidence, teamwork abilities, and positive relationship building. Parents of participants also indicated a real sense of pride and accomplishment in their children. [Young people take part in Fire Skills course - Inverclyde Council](#)

3.4 International Women's Day

Inverclyde Council marked International Women's Day with an event in Greenock Central library facilitated by Andy Clark, an Associate with Newcastle Oral History Unit & Collective of Newcastle University. The talk celebrated the women who stood up collectively for workers' rights during the 1981 seizure of the Lee Jeans factory. On 8 March 2024, the Watt Institution hosted a free talk on Witchcraft in Inverclyde and included stories of historic accusations of witchcraft made against women in Inverclyde. The Watt Institution was at the same time hosting an exhibition called 'Witches in Word, Not Deed' by artist Carolyn Sutton, which remembers the real women who were persecuted as witches across Scotland under the Witchcraft Act of 1563. Attendees at the event had the opportunity to view the display after the talk. The exhibition represents 13 women accused of being witches, each wearing a dress printed with words which were used against them, including testimony from their witch trials. The installation aims to highlight the loss of identity and life suffered by these women and the enduring power of words.

3.5 Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare

The Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare has continued to provide the after-school care program, for 36 families (42 children) from low-income backgrounds or belonging to at least one of the child poverty priority groups. This service will continue to operate four days per week until June 2024. A new partnership with Morton in the Community has been developed to bring their "Extra Time" program to St. Francis Primary School every Friday afternoon, children meeting Early Adopter Community criteria receive priority registration for this program, and transport is available for those attending schools beyond a one-mile radius until June 2024.

Scottish Government confirmed funding in March to deliver a holiday service for the Easter break from Newark Primary School, this provision supported on average 26 children per day, all families received most of the days that they required. A tender process has now begun to provide a four-week service during the summer holiday period, this is to ensure Inverclyde Council is offering best value and a quality childcare service to the families using the service.

Scottish Government funding is required to continue the Affordable Childcare service from August 2024, a decision on the amount and conditions of funding will be received in the coming months.

3.6 Child Poverty Accelerator Funding

Inverclyde Council received a grant of £29,000 for the period 2023/24 to deliver activities linked to the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund from Scottish Government. The funding will be used to help provide early intervention parenting support for priority families living in poverty and facing inequalities around mental wellbeing and have at least one baby/child under the age of 5 years. The service will provide an integrated system of support including a financial wellbeing assessment to maximise household income and employability support ensure that Families' needs are met through flexible family-centred support and that family friendly pathways are created. Families will be engaged in the co-design the service to ensure it meets their needs. The funding will also be used to commission an external organisation to conduct monitoring, evaluation, and research of the whole systems approach, detailing and recommending the areas that should be implemented to mitigate child poverty.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

4.2 Finance

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					

4.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

4.4 Human Resources

N/A

4.5 Strategic

N/A

4.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

N/A

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights.

4.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

4.8 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A