
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	14/08/12
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR066/12/AH/MMcK
Contact Officer:	Miriam McKenna, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager	Contact No:	01475 712042
Subject:	Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements - Update		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present an update to the Policy and Resources Committee on the 'Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements'.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Scottish Government and COSLA carried out a review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) earlier this year, and are now in the process of implementing actions arising from that review.

2.2 The first Implementation Newsletter has been received and is attached at Appendix One.

2.3 The proposals developed by the Scottish Government and COSLA to implement the conclusions of the review are:

- a new statutory duty on individual partners to work together to improve outcomes for local communities through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver SOAs;
- placing formal requirements on CPPs to ensure that collaboration is made as effective as possible; and
- establishment of a joint national group to provide strategic leadership and guidance to CPPs.

These proposals have been designed to strengthen Community Planning as a core part of the public service reform agenda.

2.4 Key actions to have taken place to date include the:

- establishment of a National Community Planning and SOAs group
- establishment of a Community Planning Project Board
- public consultation on the Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill

2.5 The next steps for the review will include the development of a number of frequently asked questions in regard to what the proposals mean for Community Planning Partnerships.

2.6 The Scottish Government and COSLA would welcome any comments, questions or

suggestions to help shape the programme of engagement with CPPs and other stakeholders and this can be done by emailing the team at cpimplementation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. Note the progress made in implementing the recommendations from the Review of Community Planning and SOAs
- b. Consider if the Council have any comments, questions or suggestions to be submitted to the Scottish Government and COSLA in regard to the programme of engagement

Albert Henderson
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Scottish Government and COSLA carried out a review of Community Planning and SOAs earlier this year, resulting in a number of recommendations, including the need to communicate with CPPs to ensure they remain up to date with developments.

4.2 The first of a series of Implementation Newsletters has just been released and is attached at Appendix One.

4.3 The proposals from the Scottish Government and COSLA which were developed in order to implement the reviews recommendations are:

- a new statutory duty on individual partners to work together to improve outcomes for local communities through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver SOAs;
- placing formal requirements on CPPs to ensure that collaboration is made as effective as possible; and
- establishment of a joint national group to provide strategic leadership and guidance to CPPs.

These measures are intended to strengthen Community Planning as a core part of the public service reform agenda. Progress that has been made to date is outlined below.

4.4 National Community Planning and SOAs Group

- The establishment of a national Community Planning and SOAs Group, chaired by Pat Watters, with membership drawn from local government political leaders, relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, senior leaders from public bodies e.g. local government, NHS and the 3rd sector and two community planning partnership chairs.
- Terms of reference for the group are currently being developed.
- The group is expected to have its first meeting in August
- Early priority is to develop fresh SOA guidance, expected to be produced in Autumn 2012, for refreshed SOAs to be in place for April 2013.

4.5 Community Planning Project Board

- Project Board set up including senior officials, led by the Scottish Government and COSLA, including members of SOLACE, Audit Scotland, the Improvement Service, the NHS and the Third Sector
- Remit is to oversee implementation of the proposals arising from the review.
- Terms of reference can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/communityplanningreview/projbrdtor>
- First meeting 19 June
- Immediate priorities are developing effective communication and engagement, and work to establish new national group
- Other work streams include
 - deepening and extending community engagement;
 - leadership and culture change to secure more effective partnership working;
 - embedding partnerships with the Third Sector;
 - developing the proposed new duties on partners and CPPs;
 - facilitating development of new SOA guidance by the national CP/SOA group;
 - scrutiny of CPPs (around the proposals developed by the Accounts Commission);

- guidance for public bodies on the importance of engagement with community planning and SOAs;
 - analysis and use of evidence by CPPs in the preparation of SOAs and wider community planning activity;
 - building capacity of CPPs to make a decisive contribution to delivery of better local outcomes; and
 - the interface between community planning and other public service reform initiatives, to ensure that they are mutually supportive and do not cut across each other.
- Next meeting 25 July

4.6 **Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill**

- New statutory duties will be required to fulfil the recommendations of the review
- Scottish Government have launched a consultation on the proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill
- Possible vehicle for proposed changes to statutory duties on community planning
- Deadline for responses extended to 19 September 2012.

4.7 **Next Steps**

It is envisaged by the Scottish Government and COSLA that the recommendations of the review can be implemented quickly and given this pace they will develop some frequently asked questions regarding what the proposals mean for CPPs.

They are also gathering views on the process and any comments, questions and suggestions to help shape the programme of engagement with CPPs and other stakeholders can be sent to cpimplementation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

5.0 **PROPOSALS**

5.1 It is proposed that the Committee take note of the developments to date in regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the Community Planning and SOAs review, and consider if it has any questions or comments to be sent to the implementation group.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 Legal: The Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill will have legal implications for the Council and the CPP in the future.

Finance: none at present

Personnel: none at present

Equality and Diversity: none at present

7.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

7.1 N/A

8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 'Review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements', Inverclyde Alliance, 26 March 2012

REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENTS



IMPLEMENTATION NEWSLETTER: ISSUE 1

This is the first of a series of reports on progress in implementing actions arising from the review of community planning and Single Outcome Agreements, led by the Scottish Government and COSLA, that was conducted earlier this year.

At the heart of the review has been the desire to establish a genuine step change in the outcomes approach and partnership working across public services in Scotland. Expectations of the process are therefore justifiably high and all those with a direct or indirect interest in community planning, including of course community planning partnerships and their members, will be keen to remain up to date with the developments that are taking place following the review.

This bulletin is intended to provide the first step in that process. We hope that you will find it helpful and informative, but would welcome any suggestions for improvement, comments or queries.

Background

Public services in Scotland face unprecedented challenges: to improve outcomes for the people of Scotland and reduce inequalities at a time of increased demand, by ensuring the best use of increasingly limited resources.

As the report of the Christie Commission made clear, many of the answers to these challenges are to be found in public agencies focusing on communities and working more effectively together to reduce demand pressures through a significant shift to prevention, early intervention and a stronger and much more integrated focus on 'place'.

Both the Scottish Government and COSLA have clearly endorsed that message, and recognised that the building blocks of that approach already exist through the framework of community planning partnerships and Single Outcome Agreements.

The Scottish Government and COSLA therefore agreed to carry out a joint review aimed at improving the ability of community planning partnerships and SOAs to respond to and deliver the Christie recommendations and the objectives of the public service reform programme. This included agreement that new SOAs would be put in place after the local elections in May 2012.

The review was conducted earlier this year and produced a Statement of Ambition setting out a vision and key principles for the future of community planning, which was endorsed by the Scottish Government and COSLA and published on 15 March. The Statement of Ambition can be found at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/soa>.

The Scottish Government and COSLA subsequently agreed a set of proposals to implement the review's conclusions, which were published on 10 May and are at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/cpreview>.

Those proposals are:

- ***a new statutory duty on individual partners to work together to improve outcomes for local communities through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver SOAs;***
- ***placing formal requirements on CPPs to ensure that collaboration is made as effective as possible; and***
- ***establishment of a joint national group to provide strategic leadership and guidance to CPPs.***

This set of practical measures is designed to significantly strengthen community planning as a core part of the public service reform agenda.

Ensuring that the conclusions of the review are fully delivered therefore presents major opportunities to achieve a real step change in the outcomes approach and partnership working across the public sector.

What's happening now

As the review moves from the design to the delivery stage, the main priority has been to begin to put in place structures to drive the process forward, resolve any remaining issues, and assess the progress that is made. The actions that have been taken so far are described below.

National community planning and SOAs group

The review has recognised that appropriate coordination and collaboration at a national level can have an important role in bringing partners together to deliver the Statement of Ambition locally, and that a new national group should be formed to take that work forward.

It was announced on 12 June that the national group will be chaired by Pat Watters, immediate past-President of COSLA. Its membership will be drawn from strategic leaders in public services and the wider community, including local government political leaders and relevant Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers, as well as senior leaders from public bodies, including local government and the NHS, and the 3rd sector. Two community planning partnership chairs will also be invited to join the group. The group's detailed terms of reference are in the final stages of preparation, and will be published once they have been finalised.

The group is expected to have its first meeting in August and is set to have a pivotal role in implementing and communicating the overarching vision for community planning and Single Outcome Agreements, identifying and addressing issues that have a national dimension, and building the skills and capacity of partnerships.

An early priority for the group will be the development and issue of fresh SOA guidance. The expectation is that this guidance will be produced by autumn 2012 to enable new SOAs to be in place for 1 April 2013, accompanied by appropriate awareness and engagement activity. Scottish Government and COSLA officials will work closely across local and national government, the NHS, public bodies and the third sector to help develop proposals for consideration by the national group.

Community Planning Project Board

A Project Board of senior officials, led by the Scottish Government and COSLA and also including members from the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, Audit Scotland, the Improvement Service, the NHS and the Third Sector, has been set up to oversee implementation of the proposals arising from the review. The Project Board's remit is set out in its Terms of Reference, which can be found at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CP/communityplanningreview/projbrdtr>

The Board had its first meeting on 19 June, at which it discussed how it will manage the implementation project, including an outline work programme, and identified priorities for early action. The most immediate priorities were agreed to be developing and implementing activity for effective communication and engagement with stakeholders – of which this Newsletter is one example – and work to establish the new national group. Other work streams that will be developed and taken forward as part of its work programme include:

- *deepening and extending community engagement;*
- *leadership and culture change to secure more effective partnership working;*
- *embedding partnerships with the Third Sector;*
- *developing the proposed new duties on partners and CPPs;*
- *facilitating development of new SOA guidance by the national CP/SOA group;*
- *scrutiny of CPPs (around the proposals developed by the Accounts Commission);*
- *guidance for public bodies on the importance of engagement with community planning and SOAs;*
- *analysis and use of evidence by CPPs in the preparation of SOAs and wider community planning activity;*
- *building capacity of CPPs to make a decisive contribution to delivery of better local outcomes; and*

- *the interface between community planning and other public service reform initiatives, to ensure that they are mutually supportive and do not cut across each other.*

The Board will have its next meeting on 25 July.

Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill

Although progress to address the Statement of Ambition can of course be made without legislative change, new statutory duties will be required to fulfil the recommendations of the review.

On 6 June the Scottish Government launched an initial public consultation on its proposed Community Empowerment and Renewal Bill. Although no final decision has been taken, the Bill is seen as a possible vehicle for the proposed changes to the statutory duties on community planning that emerged from the review. The proposed Bill covers a wide range of issues, including a number of questions on community engagement with community planning. The consultation can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/06/7786>.

It was recently announced that the deadline for responses to the consultation has been extended: it will now run until 19 September 2012. As part of that process, COSLA and the Scottish Government are scheduling a series of road shows to help frame views. Responses to the consultation will then be considered to inform preparation of the draft Bill, which is expected to be the subject of formal consultation in Summer 2013.

Next Steps

It is believed that the recommendations of the review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements can be implemented reasonably quickly, especially as they do not involve restructuring, and do not cut across existing governance and accountability arrangements across the public sector. Given the pace of the review, and that the agreed ambition for Community Planning stretches across the public sector, CPPs will of course have questions about what the proposals mean for them. We are therefore developing a set of frequently asked questions and answers, which we will publish shortly. We will continue to update and develop these as the implementation of the review progresses.

Your views

In the meantime, we would welcome any comments, questions or suggestions that would help shape the programme of engagement with CPPs and other stakeholders that will now be taken forward. You can provide these by emailing the team at: cpimplementation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk