

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL
HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

31 May 2021

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Report by Depute Director – Communities
(Report No. 21/68)

To provide an update on progress with Community Planning priorities since the last update to the Housing and Communities Committee on 3 February 2021.

1. LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND CONFERENCE

- 1.1 As initial lockdown restrictions eased in July 2020, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) established a Short Life Working Group to consider and reflect on the impact of COVID on services and communities. The Working Group reviewed Community Impact Assessments, as well as emerging statistical data and evidence from individual services and agencies. This information was used to develop a series of emerging priorities which CPP Board agreed would form the basis of a new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).
- 1.2 In December 2020, the CPP Board agreed five strategic priorities for the revised LOIP. There is clear synergy between Community Planning and the Perth and Kinross Offer, as Community Planning brings services and communities together to design and deliver better services that make a real difference to people's lives. The LOIP will be the CPP's unique contribution to the Offer, with a specific focus on tackling socio-economic inequality. The revised strategic priorities are:

Equalities

1. **Poverty** (inc. Child, Food and Fuel Poverty) are significant issues of inequality and ones which have been increasingly highlighted during lockdown, with levels of poverty increasing.
2. **Physical and Mental Wellbeing** have been negatively impacted as a result of COVID and lockdown. Evidence from services shows a significant increase in demand for support of this nature during lockdown.

Education

3. **Skills, Learning and Development** is of concern as a result of lost learning and the need for individuals to build their skills, confidence and resilience.

Economy

4. **Employability** is a key part of recovery and a focus on upskilling for those seeking employment and supporting young people in an increasingly competitive job market is important.

Empowerment and Fairness

5. **Digital Participation** is increasingly important as services and wider society moves online. Lockdown has highlighted issues with connectivity, technology and capacity.

1.3 An online CPP Conference was held on 28 and 29 April to begin to gather the information needed to develop the new LOIP, with contributions from all partners. The conference focused on root causes, preventative approaches and learning from positive stories from our communities to inform a series of workshop sessions. Across the two days, almost 100 colleagues and partners contributed to the conference. Key points included:

- COVID and lockdown has shone a light on some of the hidden socio-economic inequalities that people face in Perth and Kinross. These are encapsulated in the five strategic priorities and should be our collective focus;
- The strategic priorities are closely interlinked and cannot be considered in isolation – poverty lies at the heart of these inequalities;
- Broad commitment and support for designing and delivering locally-based services which focus on preventing individuals and families from falling into crisis situations; and
- There is a strong foundation of partnership working in Perth and Kinross, but more needs to be done to break down silos and maximise collaboration.

1.4 A key element of the conference were five workshop sessions, where delegates were able to focus on each of the strategic priorities. Each workshop had a specific discussion on: the issues that underpin these inequalities; the improvement in outcomes we wish to see; the work that partners and communities are already delivering in response to these issues; and new actions or interventions that are now necessary as a result of COVID and lockdown, to help realise our collective ambitions.

1.5 The outcomes of the conference are being used to develop the updated LOIP, an initial draft of which was presented to CPP Board on 21 May. A final draft of the LOIP will be brought to CPP Board and Council by September.

2. COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2024

2.1 The Council is working with partners, communities and individual service users to develop our latest Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan. CLD supports people and communities to engage in learning, personal development, and active citizenship. The plan will set out the Council's and our partner's commitments to deliver capacity building and literacy services which improve people's lives and tackle inequality. The plan will align with the

Perth and Kinross Offer, especially around education, empowerment and fairness and will also reflect the new LOIP, with specific commitments around CLD's role in delivering against the five strategic priorities. The plan will be brought to Committee before August 2021, prior to submission in September.

3. COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND 2021/22

- 3.1 The Community Investment Fund (CIF) was established in February 2018 to provide funding for community-led projects across Perth and Kinross. Across 2018/19 and 2019/20, over 200 projects were collectively awarded £1.2m to tackle local inequalities and improve quality of life in their communities.
- 3.2 In March 2020, Council agreed to an additional £300,000 for CIF in 2020/21. CIF projects rely on collaboration between community volunteers, suppliers and services and often involve specific community events. Lockdown restrictions meant that this was not possible in 2020/21 and in January 2021, Council agreed to carry the money over into the following financial year. In March 2021 a further £300,000 was committed for CIF in 2021/22, meaning that the 2021/22 CIF will have £600,000 of funding for community-led projects. A report, with recommendations on achieving greater equity in budget allocations, assessment criteria reflecting the new LOIP and changes to governance to speed up the decision making process is being taken to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 2 June 2021.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Housing and Communities Committee **notes** the progress since February on Community Planning objectives.

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