
SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

1. Summary

- 1.1. The Council as the lead agency for Community Planning has a duty to coordinate and report on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). The Scottish Government has issued guidance that the annual report for 2009/10 should be submitted by 30th September 2010.
- 1.2. This report presents the progress being made by partners on delivery of the SOA and developments being made in partnership working to facilitate a more partner based approach to service delivery.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Management Committee:
 - Agree the proposed format for the Single Outcome Agreement report
 - Consider pursuing a budgeted SOA with partners for future years
 - Agree to accommodate partner updates to the report prior to its submission to Scottish Government
 - Agree to the finalised report being forwarded to the Scottish Government by 30 September 2010.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement was approved in 2009. It identifies a series of local outcomes that contribute to the 15 national outcomes set out by the Scottish Government. These local outcomes relate to the priority themes of the Community Plan:
 - Outstanding Environment
 - Vibrant Communities
 - Forward looking
- 3.2 The Single Outcome Agreement binds partners in a joint agreement to deliver services collectively in the best interests of the communities and individuals in Argyll and Bute. Identifying clear measures that facilitate that approach has been challenging, but is enabling a picture to emerge of service provision across the area and highlighting areas where joint working could be strengthened to improve services.
- 3.3 The SOA does not currently identify public sector spend in any of the service

areas and this is an area where, if the partnership is to shift towards real and integrated service delivery, further development is required in the longer term.

- 3.4 Scrutiny of SOA performance is undertaken quarterly at the Community Planning Management Committee. Data collected, however, often demonstrates a time lag where, for example, national statistics are collected on a 3 yearly basis. This presents a challenge when planning action to take in managing the issue and the impact of those actions.
- 3.5 There are some significant areas of achievement in progress on the SOA, with key successes in increased spend in the area as a result of Homecoming, renewable energy developments, continuing reduction in fatal and serious road casualties, increases in recycling and the implementation of curriculum for excellence.
- 3.6 Areas of challenge are emerging in areas such as the net out migration of young people from Argyll and Bute, reduction in business VAT registrations. These are issues that are also being experienced in other areas.
- 3.7 The budget situation will have a significant impact on the planning of services, with the Council already having identified a funding gap of between £9m and £13m over each of the next 3 financial years. Joint working with partners and close engagement and involvement with communities will be essential to minimising the impact on communities. (see 3.10 below).
- 3.8 The Independent Budget Review identifies the need to move towards a more outcomes-based approach to public service management and to improve the quality, availability and application of evaluation, monitoring and reporting data and information in relation to outcomes across the public sector in order to ensure that resources are applied to full benefit. This emphasises the need for the partnership to continue to improve the Single Outcome Agreement as a tool to plan, manage and scrutinise service delivery performance in Argyll and Bute.
- 3.9 The Partnership has made changes over the past year in developing the structure of partnership groups to support better integration and delivery of services as well as improved local consultation and engagement in the planning process.
- 3.10 The development of an Executive Sub-Group of public sector partners has been established by the Community Planning Partnership to facilitate early discussions at a strategic level between the key public sector partners. This group is exploring public sector spend issues at an early stage, considering actions such as shared services, shared accommodation and potential cross service budget implications. The group reports regularly to the Management Committee on progress.
- 3.11 The development of Local Area Community Planning Groups is resulting in a closer liaison with partners in the local level and the development and prioritisation of outcomes in the local areas. These groups are still at a

developmental stage and continued work is required by partners to support and encourage active participation and contribution to our outcomes. Local partners in some areas are keen to contribute to outcomes achieved, particularly from the 3rd sector. Although this is still at an early stage, it demonstrates in some areas a clear understanding and buy-in by partners at a local level to delivering jointly on outcomes.

- 3.12 Community Engagement is closely aligned to the Local Area Community Planning Groups, where consultation and engagement on activities and service priorities is supported. The Community Engagement Strategy and Framework, approved in June 2009 sets out clearly the commitment being made by partners to stakeholders and the communities on engagement. Working with the Scottish Government's Better Community Engagement Project is supporting a best practice approach to engagement and bringing challenge to our approach.
- 3.13 The progress made in establishing a 3rd sector partnership enables the partnership to identify the capacity building needs of the community and coordinate delivery of that support. Specifically in the social enterprise sector the Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network is working closely with the Council's recently established social enterprise team. This coordinated approach will strengthen the sector's skills base and facilitate effective opportunities for service delivery to move to 3rd sector delivery. The Council has identified a 3rd sector spokesperson and is working closely with Carnegie Trust to build capacity in the sector.
- 3.14 The Council's current approach to its overall budget consultation, bringing the big issues to the local table and encouraging wide feedback is a clear example of strategic community leadership and engagement. The Forward Together events, held in each of the 4 local areas and planned for regular implementation have focussed on identifying priorities for each of the areas amongst Community Groups. These priorities are being considered as part of the Local Area Plans and will contribute to focussing on the local contribution to agree outcomes. The next series of events will consider the budget situation in greater detail, with an opportunity for further discussion, debate and comment on the proposed budget cuts and managing the impact on local areas.
- 3.15 A number of other key consultations about service delivery have taken place in 2009/10 including the redesign of mental health services and the review of learning disability. In addition to the target stakeholder groups, the Local Area Community Planning Groups have been a focus for discussion on the impact of service change at a local level.
- 3.16 The Thematic Groups based on joint delivery of the key themes in the Community Plan have had some successes in identifying and delivering on shared outcomes. All are heading towards clear and planned joint outcomes.
- 3.17 In strategic terms, the Partnership is considering a revised vision '*Realising our Potential, Together*' which articulates our joint responsibility to deliver

services in partnership with our communities. This is currently being consulted on in Local Area Community Planning Groups and is receiving positive feedback.

- 3.18 This revised vision will be accompanied by a set of shared values for partners stating our commitment to the way that we go about service delivery in our communities.
- 3.19 A further strategic action, as identified in the Community Planning Action Plan will be the amalgamation of the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement. This will result in a simplified approach to identifying local outcomes and measuring success.
- 3.20 The Council, in line with reviewing its Corporate Plan, will lead the Partnership in this review process and articulate its own commitment to achieving our local outcomes through our Planning and Performance Management Framework.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 The Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership is progressing well in its implementation of the Single Outcome Agreement, with areas of success in service outcomes.
- 4.2 The continued improvement, review and engagement will enable the Partnership to continue developing a joint approach to achieving local outcomes, an approach which is vitally important as the public sector financial challenge takes effect.

5 IMPLICATIONS

PERSONNEL	None
POLICY	None
FINANCIAL	The Single Outcome Agreement sets the framework for services delivered in Argyll and Bute in accordance with budget allocations.
EQUALITY	None
LEGAL	None

For further information, please contact:

Jane Fowler
Head of Improvement and HR
Tel: 01546 604466