

Date: 28th November 2012

Title: Update Report on Area Community Planning Groups

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1** This report summarises progress which area Community Planning Groups are making as they progress to becoming key partnership groups for local areas to plan and monitor aims and objectives and delivery of services within local communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Partnership note the progress which the area Community Planning Groups are making.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The area Community Planning Groups have had a very positive round of recent meetings, with all of them being better attended by partners and also by community groups and representatives. Their agendas have been focussed on items of partnership significance to areas, and on items brought forward by community groupings, resulting in meetings which have engaged in lively and positive debate.
- 3.2** The September MAKI meeting had extensive and useful updates provided by both NHS and Scottish Water, and had the biannual update provided by Alistair MacGregor, CEO of ACHA. The information brought to the group by ACHA resulted in detailed conversation regarding the impact which lack of availability of affordable housing has on other key partners, including NHS.
- 3.3** Bute and Cowal's September meeting addressed a number of issues raised by the Caucus of Community Councils regarding Community Council by elections and training initiatives which could be run on a partnership basis. They were also provided with service update information from Scottish Water.
- 3.5** The Oban, Lorn and the Isles meeting in September focused on updates on service delivery and development issues from Scottish Water and other partners and also the BID4OBAN group, and received feedback from the sub group set up to improve the community engagement strand of the group's work, resulting in the CPG deciding that meetings of the group due to be held in June and December each year will be held in the evening to facilitate easier attendance by members of the Community. They also agreed a number of other changes to the layout and structure of the agenda, and to a focus on "user friendly" language in papers

and reports associated with the meetings and the CPG's work. It was further agreed that the changes being agreed by the group would be reviewed after 4 meetings have taken place to assess the impact which they have had on improving community involvement in the CPG.

- 3.6** The September meeting of the Helensburgh Lomond Group was well attended, with excellent information being discussed and shared by all attending partners. A number of issues raised by the Grey Matters Community Group were also progressed by various attending partners.
- 3.7** In addition to the matters noted above, items which were discussed at all of the meetings included the Community Resilience Project, the opportunity to have Area Forums as part of the Community Planning Partnership Community Engagement Strategy, and the detailed information brought forward by the IHR service of the Council in regards to Population Decline. Agendas are now being formulated for the next round of meetings; items which are common to each area will include the updating of the Council's Economic Development Plan, NHS Screening Programmes, and updates by ACHA. In addition the groups are considering the format, structure and purpose of the proposed Area Forum event due to be held annually in each area, starting in November 2013.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Area community planning meetings will continue to focus on issues of local concern which reflect local priorities and provide partners and community representatives with the opportunity to oversee local service issues. The generally positive momentum which the groups have developed over recent months will continue to be built on in the expectation that this will further enhance attendance by both partners and community representatives.

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