

**AUDIT SCOTLAND REPORTS – COMMUNITY PLANNING AND HEALTH  
INEQUALITIES**

---

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Audit Scotland has this year issued national reports on Improving Community Planning and Health Inequalities in Scotland. The Audit Committee considered a report at the June Audit Committee and agreed that a further management report would be submitted in September in respect of progress in relation to the two Audit Scotland National Reports on Health Inequalities and Improving Community Planning.
- 1.2 This report updates the Audit Committee on the progress that is being made toward implementing the recommendations in the national reports.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Audit Committee notes the progress that is being made and that the recommendations identified by the national report and quality assurance process will be integral to the development of the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement.

**3 DETAIL**

**3.1 Improving Community Planning**

As reported to the June Audit Committee, the Argyll and Bute Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) was changed significantly from its initial draft, following the publication of the 2011 census which identified Argyll and Bute as the local authority with the highest rate of depopulation and exhibiting a higher than average rate of aging.

- 3.2 The Community Planning Partnership revised the SOA to address this strategic issue and the SOA has subsequently been approved by Council agreed by the Scottish Government. The Quality Assurance process by the Scottish Government resulted in recognition by them that the significance of our depopulation presents real challenges to the Argyll and Bute CPP and must be addressed carefully. A timetable of further activities was agreed to develop the detail of the SOA before it becomes a finalised, measureable document. The Scottish Government have noted that:

*The SOA has a strong and coherent structure, highlighting a commitment to focus on priorities over both medium-term (3*

*year) and long-term (10 year) horizons.*

3.3 The Argyll and Bute SOA has an overall objective as follows:

**Argyll and Bute's economic success is built on a growing population.**

This is supported by 6 long term outcomes:

In Argyll and Bute:

- The economy is diverse and thriving.
- We have infrastructure that supports sustainable growth.
- Education, skills and training maximises opportunities for all.
- Children and young people have the best possible start.
- People live active, healthier and independent lives.
- People live in safer and stronger communities.

Each of these outcomes will be driven by an outcome lead, who will be responsible for putting in place the mechanism for delivering on these outcomes and will be accountable for their delivery.

3.4 In terms of the Audit Scotland report, 5 areas were identified for improvement:

These areas are:

- leadership
- improving governance and accountability
- establishing clear priorities for improvement and using resources more effectively
- putting communities at the heart of community planning and public service reform
- supporting CPPs to improve their skills and performance.

As part of the next stage of SOA development, the ABC Community Planning partnership will be using these improvement areas as core guidance and notes that they are recognised in the development plan in place and agreed with the Scottish Government.

### 3.5 **Health Inequalities in Scotland**

Tackling health inequalities in Argyll and Bute is a priority for the Community Planning Partnership and is integral to the SOA. In collating a response to the recommendations contained in the Audit Scotland National Report earlier in 2013, it was evident that improvements could be made to the cross partnership management and reduction of health

inequalities. This was highlighted in the response from the Scottish Government to the partnership's Single Outcome Agreement submission.

3.6 The Quality Assurance agreement with the Scottish Government identifies the following area for action:

- ***Inequalities and prevention:*** *The CPP recognises that it needs to develop and more clearly demonstrate how it will take forward efforts on reducing inequalities and on prevention. In particular, the CPP should set out how it will address distinctive demographic challenges facing its communities, including population dispersion and isolation, but also key needs facing its larger settlements*

3.7 The agreed action plan sets out the following:

Area for Improvement	Improvement Activity	Timescale
Inequalities and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Process agreed for development of inequalities and prevention plans.</li> </ul>	September 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement activity carried out as part of development of SOA delivery and action plan to improve understanding of inequalities.</li> </ul>	January 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity targeted at prevention and inequalities identified through development of SOA delivery and action plans.</li> </ul>	February 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of SOA delivery and action plans identifies prevention activity and area and partner level.</li> </ul>	February 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention and inequalities plans agreed through process of development of SOA delivery and action plans.</li> </ul>	March 2014
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrangements for measurement and monitoring of prevention plan and inequalities plan established following development of SOA delivery and action plans.</li> </ul>	May 2014

3.8 The Single Outcome Agreement will therefore prioritise the issues raised in addressing health inequalities as an integral element of two outcomes for Argyll and Bute:

- Children and young people have the best possible start
- People live active, healthier and independent lives.

3.9 Complementing this is the commitment in the SOA to tackling inequalities:

- economic
- geographical
- health

3.10 The Community Planning Partnership Chief Officer Group will meet in September to agree the processes for development of the Inequalities and prevention plans. This will take account of the detailed recommendations in the Audit Scotland report.

3.11 As outlined above, the approach that is being taken by the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership to deliver on the Single Outcome Agreement is to embed accountability and delivery of outcomes with Outcome Leads. The outcome leads for the two outcomes that address health inequalities will be putting in place a clear and measurable plan to ensure that there is delivery on tackling health inequalities by the partnership.

## **4 CONCLUSION**

4.1 Progress is being made by the Community Planning Partnership in implementing the improvements recommended by the two national audit reports. However detailed work is still to be implemented to demonstrate that this has been put in place, which will be evident once the SOA development and improvement work is completed.

## **5 IMPLICATIONS**

5.1	Policy	In delivering on the 6 outcomes in the SOA, there may be a requirement for policy changes to be implemented
5.2	Financial	None
5.3	Personnel	None
5.4	Legal	The Council has a duty to facilitate Community Planning
5.5	Equal Opportunities	The SOA complies with the Equality Act 2010
5.6	Customer Service	None
5.7	Risk	There is a strategic risk to the council in relation to ongoing population decline.

Jane Fowler, Head of Improvement and HR  
Tel: 01546 604466