
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 in developing as key partnership groups for local areas and play an increasing role in considering services for local communities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1** That the Management Committee note the progress which the Area Community Planning Groups are making.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1** The Area Community Planning Groups have had their December round of meetings, with all of them being generally well attended by partners and also by community groups and representatives, though the attendance of community representatives in Helensburgh Lomond was very low at this meeting cycle. Agendas continue to focus on items of partnership significance to areas in regards service development and delivery by partners, and on updates relating to specific local service issues, again provided by a cross section of partners, resulting in meetings having a general balance of debate about matters which are for the future, and on current local issues which are being resolved and updated around the CPG table.
- 3.2** Matters which were discussed across all 4 areas included an update on mental health issues and the work of the Choose Life project, as a result of which this item is being taken to other partnership forums for consideration and dissemination. The Third Sector Asset Transfer process was also discussed at each meeting, providing community groups with good information on how to progress taking an asset into community ownership. Consultation on proposed changes to senior staff resource within Police Scotland in Argyll and Bute also took place, and update information was presented in regards the development of the Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust.
- 3.3** Specific local items progressed in Bute and Cowal included work in resolving issues raised by the caucus of Community Councils, and updates provided by third sector partners including the Children's Befriending service. In addition the group discussed the forthcoming community planning consultation events for both Rothesay and Dunoon.

- 3.4** The MAKI group received the first highlight/exception reports from both the Mid Argyll Partnership and the Kintyre Initiative Working Group following the September decision for these local groups to become key strategic partnerships of the CPG. They also received a very detailed update on changes to service delivery across the CHP. The meeting also discussed the postponement and rescheduling of the community planning consultation events for MAKI.
- 3.5** The Helensburgh Lomond Group continues to be well attended by most key partners, but at the December meeting only 2 community groups were represented. Updates were received on progress of development of HM Naval Base Clyde, and on the development of youth forums, and in addition the group received the regular update from ACHA on housing issues and developments within Helensburgh Lomond.
- 3.6** The Oban Lorn and the Isles CPG meeting was held in the evening and was attended by 8 core partners and by 11 community councillors. Items discussed included new transport arrangements for pupils attending Oban High School, the regular service update from ACHA, information on the working of the elderly befriending service, and the conclusion of a piece of work which the group has undertaken in regards the effective integration of local transport networks and links to walking routes in the Lorn area.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1** Area community planning groups are continuing to provide opportunities for partners and community representatives to discuss matters which are strategic in nature and relate mainly to potential service development for the future, and matters which are often quite local and specific to particular communities or parts of an area. The generally increased and sustained level of attendance demonstrates that people feel that attending the group is worthwhile and that groups are becoming more confident in their ability to deal with matters and resolve local issues. Building on the regular attendance of strategic partners will continue to develop this momentum, as will the continued drive to develop agendas which reflect matters raised by local communities and groups. The planned Area Forum events which are due to take place in each area by mid February will continue to build this partnership approach to developing local service delivery, in particular in relation to the overarching issue of de-population and regeneration.

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