

Agenda Item 7. National Community Planning Group

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Chair of the National Community Planning Group, Pat Watters, wrote to the Community Planning Partnership on 17 July 2014 providing an update on the work of the National Group following their meeting on 10 June 2014.
- 1.2 This report highlights the key points from the letter, highlights the work that Argyll and Bute Council is undertaking and may need to undertake to progress with addressing prevention and inequalities, and asks whether the Partnership wishes to respond to feedback any suggestions it feels the National Community Planning Group could best support.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee

- 2.1
 - 1 Note the main content of the letter as set out in paragraph 3.2.
 - 2 Note the key principles on how CPPs can continue to maximise their impact set out in paragraph 3.3.
 - 3 Consider the question of what further national leadership the National Community Planning Group can provide to support CPPs' on-going efforts to progress with community planning and challenging issues and agree any response.
 - 4 Agree updates from the National Community Planning Partnership are a standing item on the CPP Management Committee agenda.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The National Community Planning Group was established in 2012 to provide coordination and collaboration at the national level. Its membership comprises strategic leaders in public services and the wider community. Appendix 1 contains background information with the full list of members and Terms of Reference of the

Group.

3.2 The letter received on 17 July 2014 highlights:

- That this is a significant time for community planning given its central role in public sector reform.
- Discussion points of the National Community Planning Group highlight good practices in approach being adopted.
- Their Officer Group has been tasked to consider what further national leadership the National Community Planning Group can provide to support CPPs' on-going efforts to progress with community planning and challenging issues.
- What Works Scotland was launched on Thursday 26 June 2014 and is a three-year initiative to build evidence of how to deepen the impact of public service reform.

3.3 The good practice identified in the letter relates to a set of key principles on how CPPs can continue to maximise their impact:

- The themes of prevention, joint resourcing and community engagement and co-production are intrinsically inter-connected.
- CPPs should focus their collective energy on where their efforts can add most value for their communities, with particular emphasis on reducing inequalities.
- Multiple negative outcomes tend to befall the same communities. These inequalities are most stark when disaggregated to small neighbourhood level, showing the value of targeting and customising services to particular communities, and on building community capacity.
- While current public services work well for many households and communities, they tend to have worked less well in terms of outcomes for more disadvantaged households and communities, which has resulted in the inequalities that we see.

3.4 Argyll and Bute CPP is addressing these by recognising that prevention, inequalities and engagement are important thematic areas to be part of the overall Governance structure of the CPP as is set out in the draft refinement of the structure, agenda item 8.

3.5 Further work is required by the CPP to understand the extent of inequalities across Argyll and Bute. It is anticipated that this is something a thematic group looking at

addressing inequalities, as identified in the draft Governance structure, can advise on.

- 3.6 Although the question of what further national leadership the National Community Planning Group can provide to support CPPs' on-going efforts to progress with community planning and challenging issues, is set for their respective Officers Group it may be worth Argyll and Bute CPP considering this and delegating the Chair to respond based on any views the Partnership has on this.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The National Community Planning Group is providing updates on key points from its meetings to Community Planning Partnerships. The update provided from their meeting on 10 June 2014 highlights key principles for CPPs to maximise their impact on addressing inequalities.
- 4.2 Argyle and Bute CPP is seeking to address inequalities linked to prevention within its revised governance structure. The Management Committee is asked to note the content of the report and to consider whether there are comments it wishes to make on the question of what support the National Community Planning Group can provide to further assist CPPs.

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Attachments:

Appendix 1 – National Community Planning Group members and Terms of Reference

Appendix 1: NATIONAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE.

Pat Watters CBE	Chair
John Swinney MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth
Alex Neil MSP	Cabinet Secretary for Health and Well Being
Derek Mackay MSP	Minister for Local Government and Planning
Cllr David O'Neill	President, COSLA
Cllr Michael Cook	Vice President, COSLA
Cllr Drew Hendry	Leader of SNP Group, COSLA
Cllr Mark MacMillan	Leader of Labour Group, COSLA
Cllr Angus Campbell	Leader of Independent Group, COSLA
Cllr Allan Wright	Leader of Conservative Group, COSLA
Cllr Martin Kitts-Hayes	Leader of Liberal-Democrat Group, COSLA
Cllr Maggie Chapman	Leader of Green Group, COSLA
Cllr Aileen Colleran	Chair, Glasgow CPP
Cllr Gary Robinson	Shetland CPP
Vic Emery	Scottish Police Authority
Sandy Watson OBE	Chair, NHS Tayside
Andrew Robertson OBE	Chair, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
John McClelland CBE	Chair, Skills Development Scotland
Dr Lena Wilson	Chief Executive, Scottish Enterprise
Shulah Allan	Convener, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations
Douglas Sinclair (as observer)	Chair, Accounts Commission

COMMUNITY PLANNING/SOAs NATIONAL GROUP

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

1. This paper, prepared by officials in Scottish Government and COSLA, sets out terms of reference for the new national community planning/SOA group to be created following the recent review of community planning.

Background and context for the group

2. The Scottish Government and COSLA remain committed to the outcomes focussed and partnership-based approach to the delivery of public services agreed in 2007. The findings of the Christie Commission found that this approach had made substantial impact to date and should be built upon to meet the significant cost and demand pressures upon public services.

3. However to accelerate the pace of change, a review of Community Planning and Single Outcome Agreements was initiated in January 2012. This joint Scottish Government and COSLA review produced a Statement of Ambition for Community Planning which was published on 15 March. This set out clear, shared aspirations for Community Planning to be a cornerstone of public service reform and set out how the existing framework needed to develop to meet these aspirations.

4. Scottish Government Ministers and COSLA Leaders subsequently agreed core proposals to give the Statement of Ambition practical effect, including the creation of a National Group. These proposals were set out in the joint letter to CPPs and appropriate partners from the Scottish Government and COSLA dated 10 May 2012. These three key elements comprised:

- Strengthening duties on individual partners through a new statutory duty on all relevant partners to work together to improve outcomes for local communities, whether acting nationally, regionally or locally, through participation in community planning partnerships and the provision of resources to deliver the SOA;
- Formal requirements of Community Planning Partnerships to ensure they operate as genuine Boards in order to facilitate more effective partnership working and planning, resourcing and delivery of local priority outcomes through the SOA; and
- Establishment of a joint group at national level to provide political and strategic leadership and guidance to support effective delivery and the building of capacity at a local level.

Purpose and Remit of the Group

5. The National Group will provide the strategic leadership needed to drive the step change in Community Planning that has been set out in the Statement of

Ambition for Community Planning agreed by COSLA and Scottish Government. It will consider opportunities and challenges, including finding appropriate balances between local and national priorities, and set associated expectations and requirements in order to create an environment in which community planning will flourish.

6. Once constituted, it will be for the National Group to determine and agree the arrangements it will require, including the production of work plans to focus activity over time. However, in broad terms it will focus its actions on the following areas:

- Ensuring that the vision and key principles for community planning set out in the Statement of Ambition are embraced and given practical expression in community planning partnerships throughout Scotland;
- Ensuring that actions, cultures and resources across public services are in place to enable an effective framework for community planning to take place within, including the production and reporting of SOAs,
- Ensuring that the CP/SOA framework promotes, contributes to and is embedded within the wider PSR agenda, including proper engagement between CP and other policy initiatives/areas;
- Building and maintaining the capacity of CPPs, including knowledge sharing and best practice, including identifying performance issues that have a national dimension; and
- Brokering and resolving any tensions between national and local priorities and providing an authorising environment within which the arrangements for Scottish Government sponsorship of public bodies can be used to help secure effective engagement by appropriate bodies in community planning and the production of SOAs.

7. In summary, by providing strategic leadership, and by mobilising resources and expertise to support local CPP capacity-building and SOAs, the group will enable the conditions for success required to deliver the overarching vision for community planning and SOAs, whilst guarding against any prospect that these national arrangements become prescriptive or interventionist.

8. However, CPPs will not be formally accountable to the new national group, nor should these arrangements restrict the focus on localities that is properly delivered through CPPs. Such arrangements should instead help focus the efforts and resources of relevant partners consistently and over time to improve outcomes for communities including in relation to priorities such as early years, health inequalities, youth unemployment or economic growth. The group will therefore support the efforts of partners, particularly in relation to agreed national priorities, alongside, and in support of, relevant national groups such as the Early Years Taskforce and the Ministerial Strategic Group for Health and Community Care.

9. A key initial output of the Group's activities will be to enable the development and issue, accompanied by appropriate awareness and engagement activity, of guidance for CPPs on new SOAs. The expectation is that such guidance will be produced by early autumn 2012 to enable new SOAs to be in place for 1 April 2013 as has been agreed by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Group Membership

10. As announced on 12 June, Pat Watters CBE, immediate past President of COSLA and co-chair of the community planning/SOA review, will chair the group. Membership of the group will be drawn from strategic leaders in public services and the wider community including:

- **the Scottish Government's Cabinet Sub-committee on Public Service Reform;**
- **the COSLA Presidential team and political group Leaders;**
- **two Chairs of NHS Boards;**
- **an appropriate public body Chair;**
- **a Chair of a Police and a Fire Board respectively;**
- **a senior 3rd sector representative; and**
- **chairs of two community planning partnerships.**

11. The Board will be supported by a secretariat provided jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA.

Frequency of Meetings

12. It is envisaged that the group should normally meet quarterly, with the first meeting taking place in August. Some additional meetings are expected to be required in the initial phase of implementation, in particular to ensure that appropriate timescales for putting new SOAs in place are met.

Relationship with Community Planning Project Board

13. The National Group's work will inform and complement the work of the Community Planning Project Board, which reports to the COSLA President and Minister for Local Government and Planning and is tasked with overseeing the delivery of the review proposals. The National Group's decisions will provide strategic direction to the Board and it will receive reports on the activities and progress of the board. The national group will adopt relevant workstreams once these are initiated, in order to assume its role as the body responsible for directing community planning and providing leadership and guardianship going forward. The relationship between the Project Board and the national group will remain under review to ensure that appropriate cascading of work items and priorities takes place.