

Management Committee

Date: 27th March 2015

Public / Private: Private



Prevention: Inequalities, Poverty and Deprivation – Highlights from appropriate forums

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Management Committee members of the activity currently happening in established forums which addresses one or more of the themes of addressing prevention, inequalities, poverty or deprivation.

2.0 Recommendations

The Management Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Note at this stage, the activity happening across the many forums that tackle issues of inequalities, prevention and deprivations
- 2) Consider any action it can do to assist with the challenges noted in the Early Years section, Local Access Forum section, Argyll and Bute Advice Network and the Health and Wellbeing Network section.

3.0 Background

The Community Planning Partnership's Chief Officer Group, identified a need for the CPP to be informed and take relevant action where required to address prevention, inequalities, deprivation and poverty. Key existing forums were identified and the information from these will be presented to the Management Committee in both March and June 2015 for consideration and discussion.

The CPP anticipates that by receiving this information at its meeting in March and then again in June, it will be able to better make an assessment of any gaps that need to be addressed at a strategic level through partnership working.

There are a number of existing actions within the delivery plans of the SOA which show how Community Planning partners are working to reduce inequalities and focus on prevention and reducing poverty/ deprivation through for example actions relating to health, welfare reform and housing. It is recognised that the number of

actions is much more, but that this is not gathered in full by any one group so as to fully identify gaps.

The forums contacted included Welfare Reform, employability, Argyll and Bute's children and Community Safety. A full list is attached for reference.

4.0 Information from Forums

Early Years

The Early Years Collaborative has been actively promoting the Healthy Start Voucher Scheme. Staff in the Kintyre area set an aim to increase to 80% the number of pregnant mums and their children eating more fruit and vegetables and to encourage healthy eating and cooking at home. As a result the Campbeltown Community Orchard and Garden both accept and promote the £3.10 weekly healthy start vouchers. Homestart alongside a number of other promoters and initiatives also promoted the vouchers in local shops increasing the uptake of the vouchers to 80%.

The CPP could assist in addressing child poverty through the following:

- Improve money/benefits advice targeted to high priority populations (SIMD data zones)
- Improve the uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers by eligible and entitled families across the partnership
- Encourage key employers to adopt a living wage standard

Argyll and Bute Local Access Forum

The Local Access Forum has been instrumental in developing the Argyll and Bute Core Paths Plan, which should be adopted later this year.

There is a current issue in recruiting new members. A number of members have been on the forum since its inception and it is particularly difficult to recruit new members from a land management back ground. A majority of members also fall within the retirement age bracket.

There is currently no elected Member sitting on the forum as the representative for Argyll and Bute Council; also the NHS rep is a corresponding member and has not attended a meeting for some time. They have plans to put a paper before committee later this year to seek the appointment of an elected Member, but would be keen for the Management Committee to encourage attendance by partner organisations.

It is hoped that over the coming years the LAF will work towards helping to promote the core paths network and the benefits of outdoor access and recreation. A number of members are currently in the process of gathering information on paths that will eventually be published on the core paths interactive map hosted on the Councils web page.

Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Preventative activity during 2014 included:

- The development of an area wide position statement for increasing physical activity.
- Evaluation of health and wellbeing small grant fund. Findings show this fund of approximately £71k supports health improvement, enables co-productions of local services and builds capacity in the 3rd sector. For more info see - <http://healthyargyllandbute.co.uk/health-and-wellbeing-grant-makes-a-difference/>

Reducing inequalities

- The Joint Health Improvement Plan for 2013-2016 has 8 strategic priorities for improving health, one of which is to reduce health inequalities. This underpins all strategic health improvement activity. The 7 health improvement networks consolidate this at a local level. During 2015/16 a total of 48 funded projects identified their project would address inequalities by targeting activity at those most in need.

Challenges

- It is a continual struggle to get good attendance from partners at health and wellbeing partnership meetings.
- The strain on public sector budgets may impact on the amount available to support the small grant fund in years to come. Partners are being asked to consider supporting this funding stream from their budgets since the evaluation described above resulted in such positive feedback.

Violence against Women Partnership

There have been sporadic and insufficient systematic approaches to the Violence Against Women (VAW) agenda in Argyll and Bute across all agencies and communities. A reformed VAW partnership is now in place. All services need to deliver on their responsibilities on this topic.

The objectives of the partnership are to:

- Ensure our agencies and organisations are aware and responsive to VAW issues (policies, procedures, protocols, training etc and specifically to:
 - Develop a suite of policies, procedures and guidance for staff
 - Develop a tiered framework for focus and content of training
 - Develop training packs and related materials
 - Develop a sustainable model for delivering training and awareness raising for staff of partner agencies

This work will report to the VAW Partnership and CPP Management Committee via SOA reporting on Outcome 6 of SOA.

There is a need to agree joint funding with Louise Long, Head of Children and Families for 6 months project management of the partnership.

Argyll and Bute Advice Network

The on-line referral system and directory of services has expanded to cover 60 agencies with 131 user locations. It facilitates inter-agency referrals and ensures that vulnerable people can be directed to appropriate specialist services.

The development of the system is hampered by the inconsistent approach of key partners and it would be to the benefit of clients if all key partners were fully engaged with the system. Promotion of the advice directory to the public is also a challenge.

Strategic Housing Forum

Recent house condition research commissioned for the Atlantic Islands has highlighted the higher than average levels of fuel poverty particularly in those island communities. This represents a major challenge. Our successful partnership working on the Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland – Area Based Scheme (HEEPABS) programme and delivery of income maximisation targets via Welfare Rights services, among other measures, provide a positive response.

Also extensive research into the housing & support needs of the ageing population – a key cohort of the local population who are (overall) potentially subject to higher than average levels of poverty/deprivation has just been completed and we are now developing strategic response to these issues.

The Housing Options approach to the prevention of homelessness is now subject to statutory monitoring on a national level and we are therefore able to quantify the outcomes arising from our intervention and prevention activity.

Community Safety Partnerships

The update for this meeting focuses on highlighting the work of the Bute Antisocial Behaviour Problem Solving partnership. This is a multi-agency partnership (and Sub group of the Bute Community Safety Forum) involving Police, Registered Social Landlords, Third Sector Personal and Housing Support Agencies and Council Services (Governance and Law, Environmental Health, Social Work, Housing Services) which meets regularly to undertake case work in response to antisocial behaviour complaints. Often these cases involve issues of alcohol and drug use, poverty and deprivation. The services involved share information and undertake joint action not only to tackle the immediate problem but also seek to address underlying causes and to prevent offending behaviour and antisocial behaviour. This work is in keeping with the Scottish Government's framework for tackling antisocial behaviour based upon early intervention and away from a narrow focus on enforcement.

There have been a number of cases where success has been achieved although when analysing this case work a recurring issue is the ability to sustain success over the medium to long term. Reasons for this include resource demands as well as individuals who are the subject of the casework, lapsing into previous habits and behaviour.

Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership

Through the Argyll and Bute Employability Partnership (ABEP), £321,880 Employer Recruitment Incentive grant funding was secured for Argyll and Bute from the Scottish Government's Youth Employment Scotland Fund (YESF) in order to offer employers across Argyll and Bute a recruitment incentive to help unemployed 16-29 year olds back into work. Employers who employ a young person that has been unemployed for up to six months are entitled to claim back 50% of the wage costs for that individual. In addition, all jobs created should be additional to the existing workforce and should be offered on the basis that the opportunity is sustainable.

The Council's Employability team has been instrumental in the day-to-day operational delivery of the funding. The Council's Business Gateway and partner organisations who sit on the ABEP have actively and successfully promoted this initiative. The target of 100 jobs created on or before 31st December 2014 has been achieved resulting in the receipt of an additional £16,900 of grant support to fund a further five jobs on or before 31st March 2015. Total YESF grant support = £338,780.

The ABEP continues to update its Youth Employment Activity Plan on a quarterly basis and submits this to Skills Development Scotland who are managing the planning activity on behalf of the Scottish Government. This plan provides key actions from partner organisations to support young people into sustainable employment.

5.0 Conclusions

This report provides the Management Committee with an overview of the current activity happening across a wide range of forums with a focus on addressing prevention, inequalities, deprivation and poverty.

A further update will come to the June Management Committee meeting where it is anticipated that the Management Committee will be able to better make an assessment of any gaps that need to be addressed at a strategic level through partnership working.

6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	This report covers all outcomes of the SOA
Consultations, Previous considerations	None
Resources	Issues in the report highlight a need for resources in terms of partner contributions to meetings, notably participation in Health and Wellbeing Partnership, VAW and Access Forum.
Prevention	This report highlights preventative action being carried out across the various forums
Equalities	This report highlights how the activity in each of the forums address the issue of inequalities

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References

Full list of forums contacted.

Forums and contacts:

- Community Justice partnership – Jon Belton/Kirsteen Green
- Welfare Reform working group – Judy Orr
- Employability Partnership – Ishabel Bremner
- Argyll and Bute Strategic Housing Forum – Moira MacVicar
- Argyll and Bute's Children – Pat Tyrell/ Kathryn Bell
- Argyll and Bute Child Protection Committee – Moira McKinnon/ Liz McDonald
- Argyll and Bute Adult Protection Committee – Rebecca Barr/ Scott MacDonald
- Argyll and Bute Advice Network – Moira MacVicar
- Argyll and Bute against Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women partnership – Louise Long/ Elaine Garman
- Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Alison McGrory
- Argyll and Bute Local Access Forum
- Community Safety Partnerships – Robert Cowper
- Alcohol and Drugs Partnership – Carol Muir
- Early Years – Liz Strang