



PLEASE NOTE VENUE OF MEETING

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 19 JUNE 2023 – 1PM

RIVER CLYDE HOMES, CLYDE VIEW, 22 POTTERY STREET, GREENOCK PA15 2UZ

Please note the timings below:

- 12.00pm – Arrival at River Clyde Homes Office, Clyde View, 22 Pottery Street Greenock PA15 2UZ
12.10pm – Visit to RCH's Biomass Plant at Broomhill to highlight the importance of district heating systems. (Please note that travel to and from the site will be provided).
1.00pm – Return to RCH Office. The Alliance meeting will then run until around 3:30pm.

Please note that this will be an in person meeting only.

BUSINESS

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Minute of Previous Meeting** (copy attached)
3. **Matters Arising**
4. **Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker** (copy attached)
5. **Active Inverclyde Strategy 2021-24 Action Plan** (copy attached)
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
6. **Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 & Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023-26** (copy attached)
Report by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council
7. **Resettlement and Wider Dispersal in Inverclyde** (copy attached)
Report by Chief Officer Inverclyde HSCP
8. **Tree Planting in Inverclyde** (copy attached)
Report by Director, Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council
9. **Local Outcome Improvement Plan Quarterly Progress Report February to April 2023** (copy attached)
Report by Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council and Chair of LOIP Programme Board
10. **Partner discussion on Net Zero commitments and ambitions**
Discussion Points
 - What is your organisation currently doing in Inverclyde to meet your Net Zero commitments and promote biodiversity?
 - What is your organisation planning for future implementation in Inverclyde to meet your Net Zero commitments and promote biodiversity?

- What are the barriers and the challenges?
What are the partnership opportunities?

11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 2 October 2023

Enquiries to – **Lindsay Carrick** – 01475 712114

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD

MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 – 1PM

Present: Councillors E Robertson (Chair), S McCabe, G Brooks and L Quinn (Inverclyde Council), Superintendent L Gibson (on behalf of Chief Superintendent L Waddell, Police Scotland), Mr A Comrie (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport), Ms V Cloney (CVS Inverclyde), Ms S Kelly (Skills Development Scotland), Mr S Frew (Scottish Enterprise), Mr R Turnock (River Clyde Homes), Mr D McCarrey, (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) and Ms K Wallace (NatureScot).

In attendance: Ms L Long, Mr S Jamieson, Ms R Binks, Mr T McEwan, Mr H Scott, Mr S McNab, Ms M Rae, Mr R MacSween, Mr G Barbour, Ms L Carrick and Ms D Sweeney (Inverclyde Council), Ms K Rocks and Mr I Hanley (Inverclyde HSCP).

The meeting was held in the Municipal Buildings, Greenock and by video-conference. Councillors Robertson, Brooks, McCabe, Ms L Long, Ms M Rae, Mr I Hanley and Superintendent L Gibson, (Police Scotland) attended the meeting in person.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Chief Superintendent L Waddell (Police Scotland), Ms C Elliott (Chief Executive, CVS Inverclyde) and Mr S McMillan MSP.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting of 5 December 2022 was submitted and approved.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no separate matters arising.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE BOARD ACTION TRACKER

There was submitted an action tracker arising from previous decisions of the Alliance Board.

Decided:

- (1) that the actions on the tracker be noted; and
- (2) that the revised action tracker be submitted to the next meeting of the Board taking account of the comments made at the meeting.

COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING STRATEGY

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council, presenting the Community Food Growing Strategy for approval.

Decided: that the Community Food Growing Strategy be approved.

INVERCLYDE COMMUNITIES MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING FUND

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive, CVS Inverclyde, providing an overview of the initiatives funded to date by the Inverclyde Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund and appending a list of projects which received funding.

Decided:

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) that it be remitted to officers to submit and evaluation report to a future meeting.

LOCAL OUTCOME IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2022 TO JANUARY 2023

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the LOIP Programme Board providing an update on the progress which has been made in implementing the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in implementing the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted; and
- (2) that it be noted that a separate report on the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan is included in the agenda for this meeting.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

Population

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Population Partnership Group providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the Population priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Population priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Economy

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment and Regeneration, Inverclyde Council, providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in implementing the Economy priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Economy priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

Inequalities

There was submitted a report by the Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership, providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Inequalities priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided:

- (1) that the progress made in implementing the Inequalities priority of the LOIP 2017-22 be noted; and
- (2) that the Active Inverclyde Strategy be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

Cultural, Heritage and Environment

There was submitted a report by the Chair of the Environment Group providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Environment priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Environment priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the delivery and progress which has been made in the implementation of the Cultural and Heritage priority of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022 and including a flash report.

Decided: that the progress made in implementing the Cultural and Heritage priority of the LOIP 2017-2022 be noted.

INVERCLYDE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2023-33

There was submitted a report by the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council, presenting the vision, themes and high-level outcomes for the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33 for approval.

Decided:

- (1) that the vision, themes and high-level outcomes for the 2023-33 Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan be approved;
- (2) that (a) the review of the delivery structures be approved, and (b) the development of actions and performance indicators be remitted to the thematic groups;
- (3) that it be agreed that the designed Partnership Plan materials are progressed and consulted upon with Alliance partners;
- (4) that it be agreed consideration be given to the Action Plan and performance indicators at the next meeting; and
- (5) that the Board's appreciation be extended to all officers and partners involved.

INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Chair of Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership providing an update on the work of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership in relation to the delivery of a Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan and presenting the Inverclyde Community Justice Annual Report 2021-22.

Decided:

- (1) that the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that the decision by the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership to publish the new Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan during 2023 be endorsed;
- (3) that the content of the Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Annual Report 2021-22 be noted; and
- (4) that it be noted (a) that a report will be submitted to a future meeting on the draft Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, and (b) that the Alliance Board will assist in the finalising of the Plan.

PRESENTATION ON NEW APPROACH TO LOCALITY PLANNING

The Board heard a presentation by Ms Morna Rae, Service Manager, Corporate Policy, Performance and Partnerships, Inverclyde Council, providing information on the proposed principles to shape locality planning in Inverclyde. There followed discussion on key plans and strategies.

Decided: that the presentation be noted.

INVERCLYDE TASK FORCE UPDATE

There was submitted a report by the Director Environment and Regeneration, Inverclyde Council providing an update on the Inverclyde Task Force.

Decided: that the activity of the Task Force be noted.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Alliance Board will take place at 1pm on Monday 19 May 2023 within the offices of River Clyde Homes, Clyde View, 22 Pottery Street, Greenock.



Inverclyde Alliance Board Action Tracker

Inverclyde Alliance

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
3.10.22	<p><u>Inequalities Partnership Update</u> Update on requests made to Scottish Government will be included as part of consideration of ADP annual report when it is considered at a future Alliance meeting (Kate Rocks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for a future meeting. Date of planned ADP annual report to be confirmed.</p>
3.10.22	<p><u>Cultural, Heritage and Environment Partnership Updates</u> (i) Report on tree planting to be provided for a future meeting (Stuart Jamieson) (ii) A session on Net Zero be arranged following the Alliance Board meeting to be held in March 2023 (Morna Rae/Stuart Jamieson)</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2023 Scheduled for June 2023</p>
3.10.22	<p><u>Workshops Held After Substantive Meeting – Involving Alliance partners and Inverclyde Elected Members</u> Support provided to New Scots - Provide an update report to Alliance Board in 2023 (Kate Rocks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2023</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>CLD Annual Report and Revised Action Plan</u> Information on sub-groups to be circulated (Hugh Scott)</p>	<p>Membership being reviewed. Confirmation will be circulated in April following a CLD Partnership Event.</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>Clyde Conversations 5 Report</u> Update to be provided to a future meeting (Ruth Binks)</p>	<p>Scheduled for a future meeting. Date of next Clyde Conversations event to be September.</p>
5.12.22	<p><u>Presentation on Partnership Development (Morna Rae)</u></p>	

Date of Meeting	Action	Progress Update
	<p>Progress the following over 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop approach to Locality Planning Thematic workshops to be arranged, and variety of Board meeting locations and visits to be arranged 	<p>Internal discussion ongoing, approach being developed and report to be brought to a future meeting</p> <p>June meeting to be hosted by River Clyde Homes, October meeting to be hosted by West College. February workshop on Partnership Plan. June workshop on Net Zero.</p>
13.03.23	<u>Inverclyde Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund</u>	
13.03.23	<p>Evaluation report to be submitted to a future meeting</p> <p><u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Progress Report</u></p>	Scheduled for October 2023
13.03.23	<p>Update on <u>Active Inverclyde</u> to be provided to the next meeting</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan</u></p> <p>Review of the delivery structures and development of actions and performance indicators</p>	<p>Scheduled for June 2023</p> <p>Draft updated delivery structure created, will be further developed. Actions from existing LOIP that require to be carried into new action plan have been identified through the performance report on this agenda.</p>
13.03.23	<p><u>Inverclyde Community Justice Partnership Update</u></p> <p>Report to a future meeting on the draft Inverclyde Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan, and Alliance Board to assist in the finalising of the Plan.</p>	Scheduled for October 2023



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 5

Report To: Inverclyde Alliance Board **Date:** 19 June 2023

Report By: Ruth Binks **Report**
Corporate Director of Education,
Communities and Organisational
Development, Inverclyde Council

Contact Officer: Hugh Scott, Service Manager Community **Contact No:** 01475 715450
Learning and Development, Community
Safety & Resilience, Inverclyde Council

Subject: Active Inverclyde Strategy 2021-24 Action Plan

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Active Inverclyde Strategy Action Plan to the Alliance Board for approval.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Alliance Board previously approved the Active Inverclyde Strategy and noted the intention to develop a detailed action plan in consultation with local communities.

2.2 The Active Inverclyde Strategy concentrates on four main themes that reflect the areas we believe are pivotal to achieving a reduction in health inequalities and an increase in levels of physical activity. These are:

- Active People;
- Active Communities;
- Active Partnerships; and
- Active Environment

2.3 An action plan in relation to the Active Inverclyde Strategy has been developed by an implementation group comprising local clubs and Community Sports Hubs, young people, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde HSCP, **SportScotland**, and other local services. The action plan focuses on the four Active Inverclyde themes to identify gaps and future areas for development. The plan contains greater detail of the actions and initiatives that will be implemented by partner organisations, including a recent public survey undertaken to help with understanding of activity levels within Inverclyde.

2.4 The action plan will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- approves the Active Inverclyde Strategy Action Plan; and
- agrees the annual review and reporting on action plan progress.

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Active Inverclyde strategy was developed to provide a framework for community planning partners in Inverclyde to work together to increase participation in physical activity, including sport. A range of key stakeholders were engaged in the development of this strategy including local Elected Members, local communities, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde HSCP, **SportScotland**, and other local services.

4.2 The Active Inverclyde Strategy is organised into four main themes that reflect the areas partners have identified to achieving a reduction in health inequalities and an increase in levels of physical activity. These are:

- Active People;
- Active Communities;
- Active Partnerships; and
- Active Environment

4.3 The Alliance Board has already approved the Active Inverclyde Strategy and noted the intention of the implementation group to develop a detailed action plan in consultation with local communities.

5.0 ACTIVE INVERCLYDE STRATEGY – ACTION PLAN

5.1 Partners have worked positively together to develop the action plan which has been attached as an appendix to this report.

5.2 The implementation group is made up of local clubs and Community Sports Hubs, young people, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde HSCP, **SportScotland**, and other local services and is led by the Council's Communities Service. Work has also been undertaken with key partners in relation to the promotion of the strategy and groups' involvement in it. So far, the following key actions have been achieved and some are ongoing:

- An event being held to present the strategy to local sports and physical activity groups and wider stakeholders;
- Active Inverclyde implementation group meeting on a 4-weekly basis;
- Launch of a survey on review of sport and physical activity levels within Inverclyde;
- Work commencing on a directory of sport and physical activity within Inverclyde;
- Promoting Active Inverclyde to wider partners, including sports and physical activity groups;
- Enhanced the role of community sports hubs; and
- Beginning to develop a communication plan to promote Active Inverclyde

5.3 Partners have identified that a key action within the plan is understanding the participation levels in physical activity across Inverclyde. A survey was launched on 21 May 2023, the results of which will be used to inform the ongoing implementation of the Active Inverclyde Strategy.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: none at present

Finance: none at present

Human Resources: none at present

Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment was undertaken during the development of the strategy

Repopulation: The Active Inverclyde Strategy and action plan will contribute to the achievement of the population priority.

Inequalities: The Active Inverclyde Strategy and action plan will contribute to the achievement of the inequality's priority.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 Ongoing with several key partner agencies and community members.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Active Inverclyde Strategy 2021-24

Active Inverclyde 2021 – 2024 Action Plan

APPENDIX 1

<p>Theme: Active People</p> <p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key partners understand where the greatest inequalities exist in relation to physical activity and sport; 2. There is an increase in physical activity levels and improved health and wellbeing amongst residents living in the least active areas of Inverclyde; 3. We have developed new opportunities for people to engage in sport and physical activities as coaches, officials and/or volunteers, building local capacity; and 4. Elite pathways have been developed locally. 			
Key Actions	Timescale	Who is responsible?	
Design and launch Active Inverclyde public consultation to establish baselines and understand needs and barriers to participation	June 2023	Implementation Group	
Identify and engage organisations that work with groups who rarely participate in physical activity, to understand needs and potential barriers	Aug 2023	Implementation Group	
Map relevant local opportunities to participate in physical activity, identifying groups, clubs and organisations and gaps in provision	September 2023	Implementation Group	
Develop an Active Inverclyde portal/resource through 'Discover Inverclyde' to promote local opportunities, facilities, resources and the benefits of being active / more active	September 2023	Implementation Group Corporate Communications	
Develop information/campaign materials using local visuals and opportunities to define being active and promote the benefits of being active	June 2023	Implementation Group Corporate Communications	
Develop a process for working with accredited sports clubs to establish and publicise elite sporting pathways	Aug 2024	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport	

<p>Theme: Active Communities</p> <p>Key outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We have engaged with communities to identify the barriers that prevent them from being more active and/or participating in physical activity, including sport; Targeted groups and individuals are represented across all partnerships have been involved in the design of physical activities and sport opportunities; Our Community Sports Hubs establish local networks that engage with and empower local communities to improve levels of physical activity; and Inverclyde celebrates success and champions its local sports competitors and volunteers to help instill pride and raise participation levels. 		
Key Actions	Timescale	Who is responsible?
Using data from mapping exercise and public consultation, begin active engagement with community-based organisations around improving participation and reducing barriers	June 2023	Implementation Group
Map local community-based assets and facilities and publicise on 'Discover Inverclyde'	September 2023	Implementation Group
Develop information/campaign materials using local visuals and opportunities to promote volunteering opportunities.	Oct 2023	Implementation Group Corporate Communications
Highlight and celebrate local role models at all levels through campaigns and events	Ongoing	Implementation Group Corporate Communications
Promote inspiring/good news stories relating to physical activity, including sport.	Ongoing	Implementation Group Corporate Communications
Identify opportunities for communities to work together to offer local citizens, especially marginalised groups, the opportunity to become more active	Ongoing	Implementation Group Corporate Communications

<p>Theme: Active Environment</p> <p>Key outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All educational establishments have been supported to design and implement a sustainable plan which supports active travel; 2. Our parks and open spaces provide safe, accessible and well-maintained environments which actively encourages our citizens to increase their physical activity levels and sense of wellbeing; 3. Digital innovation is used to increase physical activity; 4. 'Active Design' principles are central to the development of new housing and buildings; and 5. Our sports infrastructure and assets continue to be invested in to support physical activity and participation in competitive sport. 		
<p>Key Actions</p> <p>Engage with relevant services/agencies around active travel plans</p> <p>Develop information/campaign materials using local visuals and opportunities to promote use of our natural environment, built assets and/or facilities which can promote and improve physical activity and wellbeing</p> <p>Working across the partnership, continue to develop spaces in which our residents can access and feel safe while improving levels of physical activity</p> <p>Work with key partners and services to promote the use of Active Design in all new developments</p> <p>Continue to work collaboratively with key partners such as Environment Scotland, Sustrans and Sportscotland to access funding to increase access, build capacity and improve infrastructure.</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>Aug 24</p> <p>September 2023</p> <p>Aug 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Who is responsible?</p> <p>Active Schools</p> <p>Implementation Group Corporate Communications</p> <p>Implementation Group Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport</p> <p>Implementation Group</p> <p>Implementation Group</p>

Theme: Active Partnerships

Key outcomes:

1. Identify the strategic partners, networks and champions required to create robust and meaningful partnership working at national and local level;
2. Ensure the voices of targeted groups and individuals are represented across all partnerships;
3. Tackle inactivity using effective local networks which engage with and empower local people to increase their activity levels including Community Sports Hubs;
4. Ensure physical activity and sports priorities are reflected in other emerging plans and strategies;
5. Influence and secure further investment in our sports infrastructure; and
6. Ensure linkages with all relevant local and national policy and frameworks.

Key Actions	Timescale	Who is responsible?
Continue to broaden participation in the Active Inverclyde Strategy implementation through the positive engagement of stakeholders.	Feb 2023	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and Sport
Develop clear responsibilities for partners in taking forward the Strategy and Action Plan	Jan 2023	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Report progress on the implementation of the strategy to Inverclyde Alliance Board on an annual basis	Ongoing	Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Ensure all stakeholders in the strategy are supported to be actively engaged in the implementation of the action plan	Ongoing	Service Manager, Community Learning & Development, Community Safety & Resilience and

			Sport
Continue to develop and invest in Community Sports Hubs (CSH) in partnership with sportscotland	Ongoing		SportsScotland Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Engage Sport Governance Boards about strategy and seek support for local initiatives and/or facilities.	Ongoing		SportsScotland Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources
Access funding to increase opportunities, build capacity and improve infrastructure.	Ongoing		Implementation Group



AGENDA ITEM NO: 6

Report To: Alliance Board **Date:** 19 June 2023

Report By: Ruth Binks **Report No:**
Corporate Director, Education,
Communities and Organisational
Development, Inverclyde Council

Contact Officer: Hugh Scott, Service Manager **Contact No:** N/A
Community Learning and
Development, Community Safety &
Resilience, Inverclyde Council

Subject: Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 & Violence Against Women and
Girls Strategy 2023-2026

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline a proposal to the Inverclyde Alliance Board in respect of the separation of the Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy 2023-2026, and to seek the approval of the Alliance Board for both strategy documents.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In 2019 the Alliance Board approved a single community safety strategy encompassing both community safety and VAWG issues. This strategy document was approved in 2020 and acted as a bridging strategy as at that point the VAW strategy period extended to 2022.
- 2.2 In preparation for development of a new strategy a strategic needs assessment was undertaken during 2022 to identify the community safety priorities within Inverclyde.
- 2.3 After evaluation of the strategic needs assessment and consideration of the current community safety landscape, it was considered that merging the two strategies could weaken their individual focus and objectives. Furthermore, there were concerns that gender-based violence, an important issue, might not receive the required priority attention.
- 2.4 The Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 and VAWG Strategy 2023-2026 have been developed as separate documents and are presented in the appendices to this report.
- 2.5 Subject to approval of the strategies, the documents will be remitted to the CSP Coordinating Group and VAWG Multi-Agency Partnership to create an improvement action plan. The improvement action plan will be subject of an annual report and will be reported to the Inverclyde Alliance Board at a future meeting.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the separation of the Community Safety Strategy and VAWG strategy documents; and
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 and the VAWG Strategy 2023-2026.

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director of Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its meeting on 9 December 2019, the Inverclyde Alliance Board endorsed changes to the governance structure of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Inverclyde, leading to the preparation and future publication of a single community safety strategy for Inverclyde.
- 4.2 The strategy was presented to the Inverclyde Alliance Board on 5 October 2020 and acted as a bridging strategy as at that point the Violence Against Women (VAW) Strategy period extended into 2022.
- 4.3 The period of the Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Violence Against Women Strategy ended in 2022, and a strategic needs assessment was undertaken during 2022 to inform the development of a Community Safety Strategy and Violence Against Women Strategy for Inverclyde. The results of the assessment were presented to the Community Safety Partnership in October 2022 and formed the basis for an Alliance Board workshop on 5 December 2022.
- 4.4 The aim of this assessment was to:
- review partnership achievements over the previous strategic plans period;
 - review current needs assessment within context of the current policy landscape;
 - emerging themes and issues as well as local data analysis; and
 - identify and agree future priorities for the Community Safety Partnership

5.0 STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The strategic needs assessment considered a range of data across six key community safety themes:
- Crime and antisocial behaviour;
 - Violence against women;
 - Home safety;
 - Fire safety; and
 - Water safety
- 5.2 The results of the analysis identified several issues that should be considered within the development of strategic priority outcomes including violent crime, weapons possession, deliberate fire-raising, sexual crimes, online safety, public safety perceptions, young drivers, driving under the influence, falls at home, accidental dwelling fires, protecting vulnerable people, and gender-based violence.
- 5.3 The results of the assessment were presented to the Community Safety Partnership in October 2022.
- 5.4 An Inverclyde Alliance online workshop was held in December 2022 to seek members' views on the vision, proposed priority strategic outcomes and potential partnership actions that would follow the strategy development.

The workshop provided some insights to be considered in the development of the strategy including:

- the vision should make it clear that Inverclyde is already a safe place to live, work, and visit
- the vision should make it clear that community safety is everyone within the community's responsibility;
- the strategy should consider people's perceptions of safety;
- the strategy and vision should refer to people who are at-risk rather than those who are vulnerable; and

- there should be ongoing dialogue with communities in relation to the community safety issues that matter to them.

5.5 After evaluation of the strategic needs assessment and consideration of the current community safety landscape, it was considered that merging the two strategies could weaken their individual focus and objectives. Furthermore, there were concerns that the critical issue of gender-based violence, might not receive the required priority attention.

5.6 The results of the strategic needs assessment and feedback from the workshop were used in the development of separate Community Safety Strategy 2023-26 and VAWG Strategy 2023-2026.

6.0 INVERCLYDE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2023-26

6.1 The strategy document presents the national and local context around community safety, summarise the results of the strategic needs analysis, outlines the underpinning themes which set out the fundamental aspects of our approach in sustaining safe communities in Inverclyde, and puts forward the vision and priority strategic outcomes for the Community Safety Partnership

6.2 The vision for Inverclyde's Community Safety Partnership is that 'Inverclyde continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit, where everyone works together to support our people, particularly those who are more at risk'.

6.3 The strategic outcomes for the Community Safety Partnership are:

- there is a reduction in the level of violence and antisocial behaviour within our communities;
- there is a reduction in the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads;
- communities in Inverclyde feel safe and are protected, particularly those most at risk; and
- strong and effective joint working arrangements across the community planning partnership are developed to promote a holistic approach to community safety

6.4 An annual action plan will be produced by the CSP to sit alongside the strategy. The actions will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

6.5 A copy of the draft strategy document is contained within appendix 1 of this report.

7.0 INVERCLYDE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY 2023-26

7.1 The strategy has been updated to incorporate 'Girls' in line with the Equally Safe Scotland's Strategy to prevent and eradicate Violence Against Women and Girls.

7.2 The strategy sets out our strategic vision to make this local authority area safe for anyone who is living, working, visiting, and travelling in Inverclyde. It builds on the nationally recognised best practice work that has been happening across Inverclyde since the launch of our first VAWG strategy in 2012, and it will be accompanied by a robust annual action plan which will outline the steps the VAWG Multi Agency Partnership will take to achieve its objectives. The approach will use this strong foundation to continue our priority to end VAWG.

- 7.3 The VAWG Strategy mirrors the priorities of the national strategy Equally Safe, to work collaboratively with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls. The priorities are:
- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls;
 - women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically, and politically;
 - interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children, and young people; and
 - men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response.
- 7.4 A copy of the draft strategy document is contained within appendix 2 of this report.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Legal: none at present
Finance: none at present
Human Resources: none at present
Equality and Diversity: An equality impact assessment has been undertaken and is available to view at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2023>
Population: The Community Safety and Violence Against Women Strategy 2023-2026 will contribute to the achievement of the population priority.
Inequalities: The Community Safety and Violence Against Women Strategy 2023-2026 will contribute to the achievement of the inequalities priority.

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 n/a

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Community Safety Strategic Needs Assessment 2022



Inverclyde Alliance

APPENDIX 1

Keeping Inverclyde Safe Together
Inverclyde Community Safety
Strategy
2023 – 2026



Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	3
NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT	4
STRATEGIC CONTEXT.....	5
UNDERPINNING THEMES	11
STRATEGIC OUTCOMES.....	14
MEASURING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS	16

INTRODUCTION

Over time, the definition of community safety has evolved to encompass a wider range of concerns. While originally centred on preventing and reducing crime and antisocial behaviour, it now includes all factors that contribute to people feeling safe and secure, whether at home, work, or in public spaces. This expanded definition includes issues such as gender-based violence, community justice, public perception of safety, and home and fire safety, among others.

It is widely acknowledged that community safety is intertwined with broader efforts to empower and strengthen communities, and that social, economic, and physical factors all impact safety.

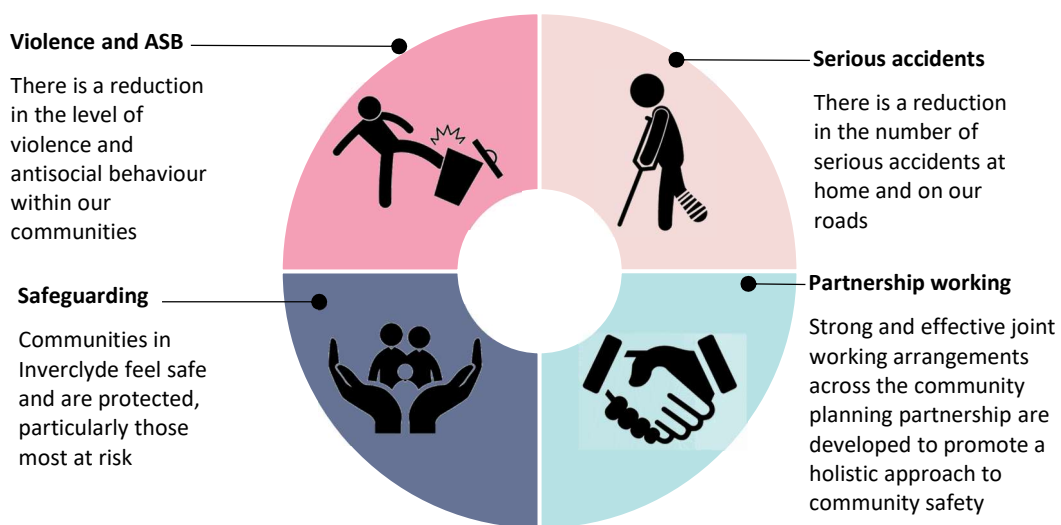
The Community Safety Partnership’s current strategic approach focuses on collaboration between relevant agencies to address shared priorities and take targeted action. This plan emphasises the importance of working closely with communities to achieve shared safety goals at the local level in Inverclyde.

This strategy will be accompanied by a robust action plan which will outline the steps we will take as a partnership to achieve our objectives. Our approach will use this strong foundation to continue our priority to keep Inverclyde a safe place.

Our Shared Vision

“Inverclyde continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit, where everyone works together to support our people, particularly those who are more at risk

Strategic Priorities



NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

National Outcomes

The National Performance Framework sets out:

11 National Outcomes and 81 National Indicators

Publicly available on the [National Performance Website](#)



The Community Safety outcome is outcome 11: “We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe” This incorporates the previous Safer and Stronger outcome, while acknowledging that to deliver Community Safety services effectively we need to consider what makes a safer community, which includes elements such as community engagement and cohesion, social relationships, and community empowerment as well as issues of poverty, health, and education. This approach is evident nationally in other drivers such as: -

Community Empowerment Act

Promoting community empowerment and participation by focussing on empowering communities via involvement in decision making at a local level.

The Vision for Justice in Scotland

The focus has shifted towards community justice, aiming for “A just, safe, and resilient Scotland”. The objective is to create safe, cohesive, and resilient communities, with a focus on prevention, early intervention, improved wellbeing, and life opportunities. The justice system and interventions should be fair, proportionate, and effective, with services that are person-centred

The Place Standard / Principle

All those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to

improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.

Public health priorities

A foundation for the whole system, for public services, third sector, community organisations and others, to work better together to improve Scotland’s health, and to empower people and communities.

Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan 2023-33

The vision for the partnership plan is ‘Success For All – Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community’ and the plan focuses on the following themes:

Theme 1: Empowered people

Theme 2: Working people

Theme 3: Healthy people and places

Theme 4: A supportive place

Theme 5: A thriving place

Theme 4 focuses on these high-level outcomes:

- Vulnerable adults and children are protected and supported, ensuring they can live safely and independently
- We recognise where people are affected by trauma, and respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery
- Public protection and community safety are improved through targeting our resources to reduce the risk of offending and harm

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

CSP Overview



Inverclyde Alliance

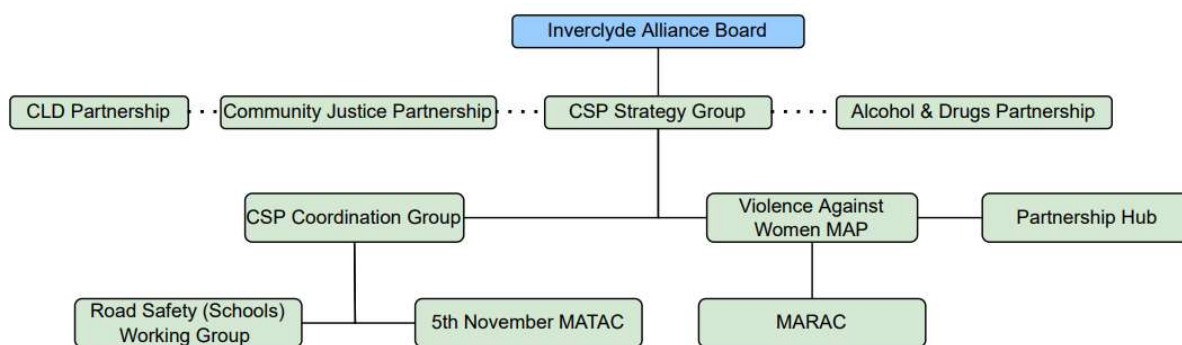
Inverclyde Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is a strategic delivery partnership of the Community Planning Partnership, Inverclyde Alliance. The CSP also has strategic oversight of the Violence Against Women Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP). The CSP involves a wide range of partners including, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue, Inverclyde HSCP, HMCG, Inverclyde Council, local housing associations, and the voluntary sector.

The partnership hub is a daily multi-agency meeting that has proven to be an effective mechanism for partnership working, combining swift sharing of relevant information around emerging concerns and encouraging a joint early intervention approach, which is contributing to achieving positive outcomes within Inverclyde.

The Inverclyde CSP Strategy Group has the overall responsibility for the delivery of community safety activities in Inverclyde. The Strategy group sets the outcomes and themes on behalf of the overall community safety partnership and monitors the progress of the work carried out by the Inverclyde CSP Coordinating Group and Inverclyde VAW MAP.

Strong partnership arrangements have been in place in Inverclyde for several years, providing a vehicle for partners to collectively meet the needs of local people especially for those people in most need. These robust partnership arrangements will provide the foundations to build stronger links across partners and areas to improve how we work together as a community planning partnership to improve community safety in Inverclyde.

CSP Current Structure



There are several local strategies and plans that community safety plays a key role in, which reinforces the far-reaching impact of community safety and its inter-connectedness across different policy areas, including but not limited to:

- Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan
- Community Learning & Development Strategy
- Local Housing Strategy
- Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy
- Antisocial Behaviour Strategy
- Local Development Plan
- HSCP Strategic Plan
- Local Police Plan and Local Fire & Rescue Plan



Strategic needs assessment

A strategic needs analysis was undertaken to support the development of this plan. assessment has involved analysis of a detailed evidence base across a broad range of areas and includes information and feedback from a public survey. The aim of this exercise was to:

- Review partnership achievements over the previous strategic plan period;
- Review current needs assessment within context of the current policy landscape, emerging themes and issues as well as local data analysis; and
- Identify and agree future priorities for the CSP;

Population

- The population of Inverclyde is 76,700 in 2021 and is projected to decrease 14.6% by 2043
- 16% of the population are under 16 compared with 17% nationally
- 62% of the population are working age (16-64) compared with 64% nationally
- 22% of residents are 65+ compared with 19% nationally
- 10% of residents are 75+ compared with 8% nationally
- By 2043 it's estimated the number of people 75+ years will have risen by 55%.



Deprivation

- 21 datazones (15% of the population) are in 5% of the most deprived areas in Scotland
- 51 datazones (43% of the population) are in 20% most deprived areas in Scotland
- According to the 2019 Scottish House Condition Survey 28% of people in Inverclyde are living in fuel poverty compared to 24% nationally
- 13.6% children (aged under 16) living in relative low-income families 2020/21 (21st highest nationally)



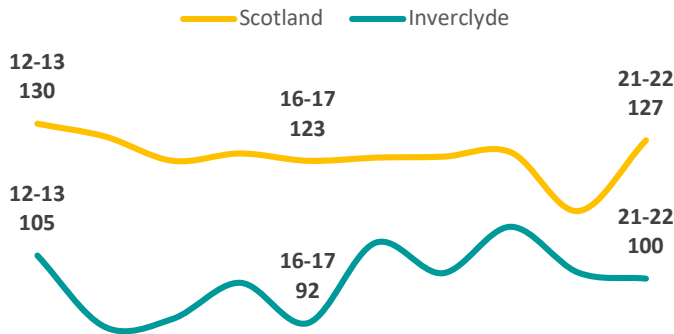
Health & Wellbeing

- Life expectancy – male is 75.2 compared with 77.1 nationally (2016-2018)
- Life expectancy – female is 79.6 compared with 81.1 nationally (2016-2018)
- Between 2017 and 2021, there were on average 11.4 suicides per year in Inverclyde, with 39% being female compared to 26% female in Scotland
- In Scotland suicide deaths were more than three times more likely among those living in the most deprived areas than among those in the least deprived areas.
- The Inverclyde rate of alcohol related hospital stays (EASR per 100K population) fell from 1154 in 2015/16 to 804 in 2020/21 compared with a reduction across Scotland of 674 to 614
- The Inverclyde rate of drug related hospital stays (EASR per 100K population) fell from 409 in 2015/16 to 341 in 2020/21 compared with an increase across Scotland of 196 to 235
- The rate per 100K population of drug deaths per year in Inverclyde was 21 in 2021 compared to 24 in Scotland



Crime and antisocial behaviour

Non-sexual violent crime rate per 10K population



Since 2012-13 crime rate ↓ 17% and offence rate ↓ 55%

2021-22 ranked 12th highest local authority for crime rate and 25th for offence rate

Decreasing rate of crime in Inverclyde and nationally. Violent crime remains an issue in Inverclyde. The average rate of violent crime has been 104 per 10,000 population across the past 5 years

Weapons possession has been increasing nationally and locally. Since 2012-13 in Inverclyde weapons possession (not used) ↑ 34% and since 2017-18 weapons possession (used) ↑ 18%

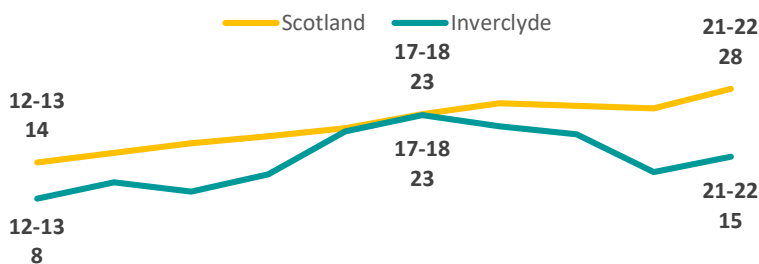
2021-22 Inverclyde ranked 3rd highest local authority for weapons possession (not used)

85% increase in cyber-crime in Scotland between 19-20 and 21-22

Since 2012-13 antisocial offences rate ↓ 71% and damage and reckless behaviour offence rate ↓ 46%

Public nuisance and noise comprised 57% of ASB incidents reported to Inverclyde Council in 2021-22

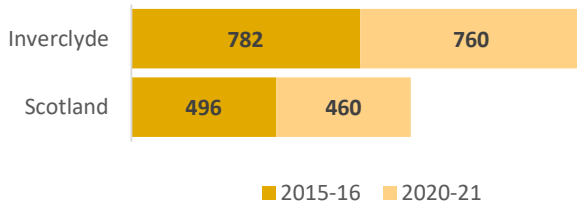

Sexual crime rate per 10K population



The rate of sexual crimes has almost doubled since 2012-13, although in Inverclyde it has decreased from a ten-year high rate in 2017-18

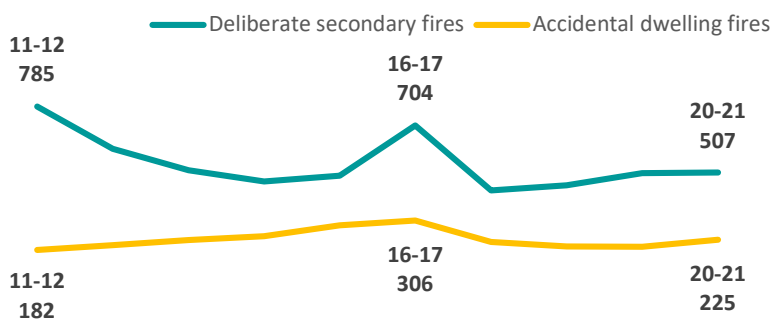
Fire safety

Total fires per 100K population, 2015/16 – 2020/21

Inverclyde had the highest rate in Scotland per 100,000 population for fires attended in 2020-21

Deliberate secondary fires per 100K population & accidental dwelling fires per 100K dwellings



Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 primary fires 20-21

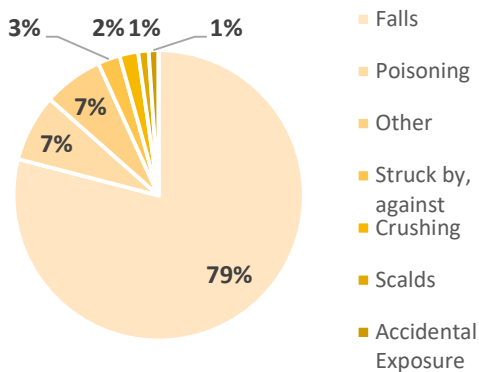
Inverclyde 205

Scotland 108

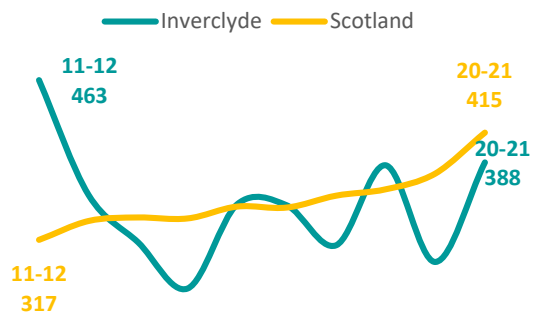

Deliberate secondary fire rates per population have increased by 17% between 2017-18 and 2020-21

Unintentional injuries at home

Reason for admissions as result from unintentional injury at home (5-year average)



Emergency hospital admissions as a result of unintentional injury at home per 100K population

Emergency hospital admissions because of unintentional injury at home has decreased from a ten-year high in 2011-12. However, there has been a degree of fluctuation since 2014-15. On average, falls make up the majority (79%) of unintentional injuries at home, and over half are within the 75+ age bracket.

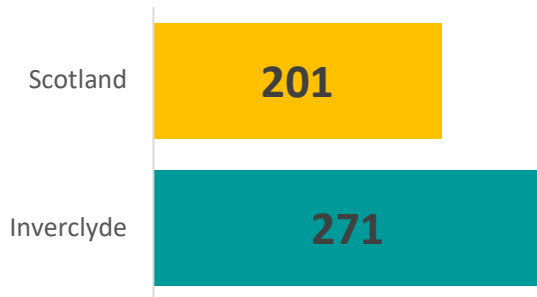
Road safety

People killed or seriously injured on roads rate per 10K population



Rate of people killed or seriously injured on our roads is on a decreasing trend. However, there was an increasing trend of emergency hospital admissions because of a road traffic accident in the period between 2016-17 and 2019-20, before a sharp decrease in 2020-21.

Collision-involved resident young drivers per 100K population



Driving under influence offences ↑ 40% since 2012-13. Recent rises impacted by improved drug driver testing methods.

Water safety



While there is limited data available around water safety incidents at authority level, accidental fatalities around water have increased nationally and we need to be vigilant and proactive in prevention of water-related accidents and suicide attempts due to being a coastal location which also has several inland water bodies.

Public safety perceptions

Scottish Household Survey 2019

71% of residents in Inverclyde feel very/fairly safe when walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark. For Scotland this figure is 83%.

Inverclyde Citizens Panel 2021

94% of people said they feel safe outside during the day, while 70% of people said they feel safe in their neighbourhood outside at night.

Scottish Governments Equally Safe strategic priority 2 ‘Women and girls thrive as equal citizens: socially, culturally, economically and politically’ highlights that fear for personal security in public places can place a constraint on the mobility of women and their participation in public life as they factor personal safety into routine decisions and activities. In April 2021 Inverclyde Council carried out a public survey to determine if women and girls perceive any safety impediment in undertaking activities in public spaces.

94% of survey responses stated that they had on at least on one occasion been put off undertaking activities due to public safety concerns.

The survey highlights that the fear of crime and intimidation can impact on women feeling safe when undertaking social and leisure activities in public, particularly on dark evenings in poorly lit, overgrown, or isolated areas, and around groups of males/youths. Travelling, or waiting, on public transport was also highlighted as a concern.

What activities have you been put off undertaking due to your personal safety concerns?



UNDERPINNING THEMES

The wide range of evidence has informed the key strategic priorities that will help achieve our vision that **'Inverclyde continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit, where everyone works together to support our people, particularly those who are more at risk'**.

Acknowledging that resilient, inclusive, and tolerant communities are crucial for individuals to thrive and prosper, ensuring community safety requires a collaborative effort from all partners and community members. Our priorities are guided by key themes that outline the essential components of our approach to fostering safe communities in Inverclyde.

Effective community engagement and involvement

We will support and enable communities to identify and tackle issues that are most important to them. We recognise the involvement and participation from communities and individuals within communities is pivotal to creating safer communities. We also recognise that it may be challenging for some individuals and communities to have their voice heard, and that some people may face barriers to engagement. We will endeavour to ensure a range of engagement methods that optimise involvement from all, with a particular focus on creating conditions in which communities that experience exclusion are supported to be involved and have real control and influence over decisions that are made.

Cost of living crisis and poverty

Poverty and the cost-of-living crisis are closely linked to community safety issues, and the existing deprivation levels in local areas are expected to worsen. Financial vulnerability may increase crime levels, with households at greater risk of scams, theft, exploitation, violence, and other criminal acts.

Risky behaviours related to alternative energy usage, such as bypassing meters, using counterfeit or poor-quality goods, and disposal BBQs for cooking, can lead to fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. Vulnerable individuals may face the difficult decision between heating and eating, which can result in illness, falls, and hospital admissions. The use of electric blankets, hot water bottles, and flasks may also cause scalds and burns. Additionally, community safety

concerns extend to road safety if vehicle maintenance is affected.

Community safety and public health

A range of factors interact to create and influence health, beginning with genetic and constitutional factors of individuals, through individual lifestyle factors, social and community networks, living and working conditions and up to wider socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions. There are obvious links between safer communities positively influencing these factors and improving health outcomes.

Community Safety and Community Justice

Community safety and community justice share the goal of promoting safety and wellbeing in communities. Community safety aims to prevent crime and promote social order, while community justice addresses the root causes of crime and aims for a more equitable society. Both involve collaboration among stakeholders and a multi-disciplinary approach. They are interdependent, with community justice initiatives preventing future crime and promoting community safety, and community safety creating a stable environment for community justice initiatives. A comprehensive approach that considers both is needed for long-term success in building safer and more just communities

Strong partnership working, functional governance and productive decision making

Community safety is complex and multi-faceted and to sustain safe communities we need to take a universal approach in addressing the needs of

people and communities. Interventions in one area can result in improvements in other outcomes, reinforcing the need for effective integrated partnership working across a broad range of areas. Strong leadership within a wide range of stakeholders including education, planning, health, community safety, and community justice can lead to a whole-system public health response to community safety.

Tackling inequalities

Persistent inequalities continue to exist within Inverclyde's communities, despite advancements in several important areas. National evidence suggests that the gap between different groups is widening, with poverty, gender, connectivity, health, and age all contributing factors. Additionally, certain groups tend to feel less safe alone at night and worry more about crime in Scotland, highlighting the need to reflect on how different people in society use and experience the spaces within their communities, and how this affects their safety perceptions and decision-making.

As a partnership, we are dedicated to addressing these inequalities and improving outcomes for everyone. Our efforts and resources will be targeted towards the communities that need them the most. This will be achieved through collaborative working, recognizing that the communities and individuals who require the most support often come into contact with various services for different reasons. We believe that effective support is universal and should address needs across all services, taking a whole-system approach.

Challenging safety perceptions

Public perceptions of safety can often be characterized by a negative viewpoint, specifically the absence of safety and a nearly exclusive focus on threats and risks. The positive sensations of safety can be frequently disregarded. We will seek to better understand people's safety experiences, both positive and negative, to help inform innovative ways to tackle our communities' insecurities and fears

about safety perceptions in public spaces and within their homes.

Prevention and early intervention

Prevention and early intervention are central to supporting people to change their behaviours, reduce risk and achieve sustainable long-term changes in communities and amongst individuals and families. We will focus on acting at an early stage working closely with partners to help build capacity and resilience in communities and amongst individuals to create healthier and safer communities.

Harnessing data to support those most at risk

The experience of the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated that the public and health sectors store a lot of information that can be used to identify and support people who are most at risk. We are committed to building on those experiences to share and use data in innovative ways to meet the current community safety challenges facing our communities.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) / Trauma-informed practice

The Scottish Government has committed to preventing ACE's, building resilience, and reducing the negative impact of ACEs on communities. Links have been identified between higher experience of ACE's and community safety issues such as offending, violence, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

There is a growing recognition of the importance of embedding trauma-informed practice into our local services as it can be effective and benefit both trauma survivors and staff. For trauma survivors, trauma-informed services can bring hope, empowerment and support that is not re-traumatising. Moreover, such services can help close the gap between the people who use services and the people who provide them.

Impact of drugs and alcohol

The links between substance misuse and community safety are evident in several areas, from alcohol related crime, injury prevention, youth issues, and domestic abuse. The CSP will continue to work in partnership with the

Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to explore opportunities for joint action and continue to seek preventative and early intervention approaches.

CSP joint action groups

Thematic working, or action, groups are key to achieving the priorities set out within this strategy. We will regularly review the joint action groups that sit beneath the Community Safety Coordination Group to ensure that the structure is conducive to achieving the partnerships strategic aims.

Community Safety and VAWG

Community safety and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) are closely connected, as VAWG encompasses various forms of violence that disproportionately affect women and girls and can impact the safety of individuals and communities. To promote community safety, support and resources must be provided to victims of VAW, and efforts must be made to raise awareness and address the social, cultural, and economic factors that contribute to it. Addressing VAWG can also help prevent other forms of violence in communities, as there is often overlap between different types of violence. Thus, addressing VAWG is crucial for creating a safe and secure environment for all.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES



Strategic Outcome 1

There is a reduction in the level of violence and antisocial behaviour within our communities

We will do this by:

- Collaboratively promoting local and national campaigns which focus on crime prevention
- Develop and coordinate a programme of partnership activities to tackle violence, deliberate fire raising, carrying weapons, and antisocial behaviour through a prevention and education model
- Identify opportunities for joint engagement activities and programmes for young people
- Work with partners to prevent, reduce and solve crime and antisocial behaviour

What difference will this make?

Reducing violence in communities is essential for various reasons. To begin with, violence can result in severe physical harm, injuries, and even death, leaving lasting emotional and physical scars. Additionally, violence can harm community cohesion and trust, which are crucial for a peaceful and harmonious society. Moreover, violence can cause economic consequences, including property damage and increased law enforcement and healthcare costs. Therefore, reducing violence can lead to a safer, more secure, and prosperous community, promoting social cohesion, trust, and resilience.

Reducing antisocial behaviour can have numerous benefits for communities. It can improve the quality of life by creating a more peaceful and secure environment, promote social cohesion, and enhance physical and mental health. It can also lead to increased economic growth and better educational outcomes. Reducing antisocial behaviour can create a more harmonious, safer, and healthier community, which is beneficial for everyone



Strategic Outcome 2

There is a reduction in the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads

We will do this by:

- Work with partners to deliver interventions that target those most at risk from unintentional injury and fire at home, and promote referral pathways
- Continue to educate children, young people, and adults on the risks from fire and other safety risks in the home
- Continue to deliver road safety education in school
- Improve driver behaviour and reduce injury through engagement and proportionate enforcement of legislation
- Strengthen partnership working across road safety and road crime

What difference will this make?

Reducing serious accidents at home and on roads is important for several reasons. Firstly, accidents can cause physical and emotional harm, even leading to death. By reducing accidents, we can prevent negative outcomes and improve overall community safety and wellbeing. Secondly, accidents can result in economic costs such as medical treatment, lost income, increased insurance premiums, and property damage. By reducing accidents, we can help mitigate these costs and create a more financially stable community. Lastly, reducing accidents can promote community cohesion and trust by creating a safer environment that encourages people to engage in community activities and build social connections, ultimately fostering a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. Reducing serious accidents can lead to a more secure, prosperous, and connected community.



Strategic Outcome 3

Communities in Inverclyde feel safe and are protected, particularly those most at risk

We will do this by:

- Increasing awareness of community safety and ensure it is important in the local landscape
- Increase positive community messaging and engagement to improve safety perceptions
- Sharing information to identify vulnerability and work together to reduce risk and prevent harm
- Supporting campaigns, initiatives, and projects that focus on, or increasing feelings of, safety
- Raise awareness of scams, bogus callers, online exploitation, and digital safety
- Build confidence amongst victims and the community to report their experiences

What difference will this make?

Ensuring that communities feel safe and protected is crucial for a variety of reasons. One reason is that it fosters community cohesion and trust, which enables people to participate in community activities and establish stronger social ties. Another reason is that it has a positive effect on individuals' mental and physical wellbeing, leading to a happier and healthier life. Lastly, it can provide economic advantages by attracting businesses and investors and reducing law enforcement and social services expenses. Ultimately, improving community safety and protection can create a more dynamic, healthy, and prosperous community for all.



Strategic Outcome 4

Strong and effective joint working arrangements across the community planning partnership are developed to promote a holistic approach to community safety

We will do this by:

- Strengthening relationships with communities and actively seeking to engage stakeholders in our work to tackle community safety
- Empower residents by providing them with tools and resources they need to protect themselves and their communities
- Implementing joint working arrangements and projects between the community safety partnership and other community planning partnerships, such as Community Justice
- Support locality partnerships across Inverclyde in responding to community safety issues that impact localities and their communities.

What difference will this make?

Effective community planning partnership joint working arrangements are important for promoting collaboration, building trust, and ensuring that community planning reflects the needs of local residents. Such arrangements bring together different stakeholders to work towards common goals, leading to a more coordinated and integrated approach to community development. This can ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently. Joint working can also help to build trust and relationships between stakeholders, leading to more effective decision-making and resource allocation. Finally, involving community groups and individuals in the planning process can lead to more responsive and tailored community services and initiatives, better meeting the community's needs. Overall, these arrangements can create a healthier, more prosperous, and vibrant community for everyone.

MEASURING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS

Monitoring and Evaluation

Robust effective monitoring and evaluation systems are required in order to measure our progress as a partnership towards achieving our key strategic outcomes. To help us measure progress achieved a range of key indicators have been identified. These outcome measures will be monitored on an ongoing basis through the Community Safety Partnership.

The Community Safety Coordination Group and associated sub-groups will develop, review and update action plans. Action plans will be reviewed and agreed by the Community Safety Partnership.

Reporting

Progress will be monitored by the Community Safety Coordination Group. Updates will be provided to the Community Safety Strategy Group on a quarterly basis. Progress will be reported formally on an annual basis by the Community Safety Partnership to the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

Publication

Please contact us if you would like an alternative format of this document.

Community Safety & Resilience Team, Inverclyde Council Education and Communities, Enterprise Centre, Port Glasgow Community Campus, Kilmacolm Road, PORT GLASGOW, PA14 6PP

 community.safety@inverclyde.gov.uk



Inverclyde Alliance

Inverclyde Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2023 - 2026



Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?	4
3. NATIONAL CONTEXT	11
4. THE LOCAL PICTURE	15
5. APPROACH TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.....	18
6. OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.....	19
7. MEASURING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS.....	29

1. INTRODUCTION

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) in any form has no place in our vision for a safe, strong, and successful Scotland. It impacts adversely on health and wellbeing, limits freedom of potential and violates human rights.

VAWG is perpetuated at epidemic levels, affecting all areas of women's lives, and the workplace is no exception. Every year, three million women in the UK experience some form of violence, whether it be domestic abuse, sexual harassment, sexual violence, or another form. Many more live with past experiences of abuse.

Nationally we know that on average two women are killed every week by a current or former partner and one in three women report some form of sexual violence in intimate partner relationships. There were 118 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2021-22. At a local authority level, Inverclyde recorded 109 per 10,000 population, placing them in the middle of the Scottish table of local authorities.

In many instances VAW remains hidden and under-reported, but it is not inevitable and collectively we can end it. This strategy sets out the role we can all play in ending VAW as part our coordinated community response.

This partnership strategy sets out our strategic vision to make this local authority area safe for anyone who is living, working, visiting, and travelling in Inverclyde.

✳ This strategy builds on the nationally recognised best practice work that has been happening across our authority since the launch of our first VAWG strategy in 2012.

✳ This strategy will be accompanied by a robust action plan which will outline the steps we will take as a partnership to achieve our objectives. Our approach will use this strong foundation to continue our priority to end VAWG.

✳ This strategy contributes to the vision of the Inverclyde Alliance partnership plan 'Success For All – Getting It Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community', that focuses on:

Theme 1: Empowered people

Theme 2: Working people

Theme 3: Healthy people and places

Theme 4: A supportive place

Theme 5: A thriving place

This strategy is of most relevance to theme 4, which centres on these high-level outcomes:

- Vulnerable adults and children are protected and supported, ensuring they can live safely and independently
- We recognise where people are affected by trauma, and respond in ways that prevent further harm and support recovery
- Public protection and community safety are improved through targeting our resources to reduce the risk of offending and harm

2. WHAT IS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS?

What is Violence Against Women and Girls?

Locally we have adopted the Scottish definition of Violence Against Women and Girls from Equally Safe¹ which includes (but is not limited to):

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual Violence (including harassment, sexual assault and rape, incest, and child sexual abuse)
- Commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography, and trafficking
- Child sexual exploitation
- So called “Honour” based violence, including dowry-related violence, female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages and honour crimes.
- Sexual harassment and intimidation at work, online, at home or in public

VAWG encompasses a wide range of abusive and violent acts that are directed towards individuals of all genders but predominantly affect women and girls. It acknowledges

that these acts have a disproportionate impact on women and girls.

The various forms of VAWG include physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuse. These abuses can occur in public places, like sexual harassment, or in private settings such as intimate partner violence, which can escalate to serious harm and even homicide.

VAWG can also manifest as technology-based abuse, such as internet stalking, or be motivated by economic factors such as international trafficking of women and girls. Harmful practices like Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriage are also included under the umbrella term of VAWG.

Although the experiences of these abuses may vary, they are all rooted in the misuse of power and control. Additional definitions can be found below.

Type of abuse	What does this mean?
Domestic abuse (including coercive control)	This is when a partner or ex partner has power and control over their victims and uses abuse to maintain it. Abuse can be physical, emotional, economic, psychological and/or sexual.

¹ Scottish Government, 2018, Equally Safe: Scotland’s strategy for preventing and eradicating violence against women and girls

Type of abuse	What does this mean?
Rape and sexual violence	Rape is sex without consent. This means that rape isn't just people being physically forced into a sexual act, it also includes pressure that makes someone feels like they have no choice but to have sex or a sexual act.
Female genital mutilation	This is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons.
Early and Forced marriage	This is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities or reduced capacity, cannot) consent to the marriage as they are pressurised, or abuse is used, to force them to do so.
So called "honour" based violence	This is abuse and violence which is carried out to protect or defend perceived "honour" of the family and/or community.
Spiritual abuse	This is abuse which uses religion and faith systems to control and abuse a victim. It is often a pattern of coercive or controlling behaviour within a religious context.
Sexual harassment	This is unwanted behaviour of a sexual nature which violates someone's dignity, makes someone feel intimidated, degraded, or humiliated and/or creates a hostile or offensive environment.
Stalking	This is a pattern of persistent and unwanted attention that makes someone feel pestered, scared, anxious or harassed.
Modern Slavery	This is an umbrella term for human trafficking and servitude. It is used when somebody is forced or controlled to do something, and another person gains from this.
Forced prostitution/sexual exploitation	This is where someone is being coerced or forced into selling sex or sexual acts.

What about violence against men and boys?

The particular approach we are taking through Equally Safe brings a strategic focus to the issue of men's Violence and abuse . A gendered analysis does not exclude men, but rather recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by particular forms of violence that they experience because they are women and girls.

Many men and boys are victims of violence and abuse. Some boys experience the forms of abuse outlined already in relation to children and young people, whilst some men are victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

The prevailing societal view of what constitutes masculinity can make it difficult for men to identify themselves as experiencing violence or abuse and can prevent them from seeking help. More fundamentally, masculinity and femininity are part of the underlying social construct of gender that contributes to the continuing prevalence of VAWG in society.

We condemn all forms of violence and abuse, whilst recognising that particular forms are disproportionately experienced by one gender and require a strong strategic focus. Men have a critical role in challenging violence and abuse, breaking down gender norms and in helping to ensure greater gender equality in society – they are also entitled to support when they experience violence and abuse.

What causes Violence Against Women and Girls?

Numerous explanations have been proposed for the occurrence of VAWG, such as substance abuse, mental illness, anger problems, exposure to abuse during childhood, cultural customs, and stress. However, while these factors may play a

role, none of them can be pinpointed as the direct cause of violence or abuse. Research has demonstrated that gender inequality is a significant driver of VAWG². The Council of Europe identifies three fundamental factors that underlie this issue:

Cultural Factors	Legal Factors	Political Factors
<p>Sexist views and the idea that men can have more power over women and children, results in abuse being used to maintain this power. Gender stereotypes reinforce this inequality and creates an acceptance of violence and abuse.</p>	<p>Although abuse is illegal, sadly we see many victims/survivors blamed for the abuse and low sentences for perpetrators . This results in low reporting and abuse being allowed to continue.</p>	<p>The under-representation of women and minority groups in power and politics means they have fewer opportunities to shape the discussion and to affect changes in policy, or to adopt measures to end VAWG.</p>
<p>For example: the belief that men must be tough, strong, and always in control can result in them exerting control over a partner. These attitudes are harmful to all genders.</p>	<p>For example: In Scotland only 51% of rape and attempted rape trials result in a conviction, compared to a 91% overall conviction rate. In 2020-21 there were 2,176 rapes and attempted rapes reported to the police, but only 152 prosecutions and just 78 convictions.³</p>	<p>For example: In 1989 the Scottish Criminal Appeal Court held that a man could be guilty under Scottish Law of raping his wife while they were still cohabiting and Domestic Abuse was recognised as an offence under the Domestic Abuse Act 2018.</p>

VAWG transcends boundaries of race, social class, age, sexual orientation, and disability. However, it is acknowledged that encounters with racism, class discrimination, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, and ableism can render individuals more susceptible to abuse due to the additional obstacles they encounter in obtaining assistance⁴. Our approach acknowledges the significance of comprehending the challenges people confront and how they intertwine with one another and with their experiences of violence and abuse.

² UN, 1992: General Recommendation 19, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

³ Scottish Government (2021) *Criminal Proceedings in Scotland, 2019-20*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/criminal-proceedings-scotland-2019-20/documents/>

⁴ McCarry, M., & Kervin, A. (2017). A national scoping study on the intersection of violence against women and abuse of children with complex needs: Final Report. Edinburgh: Scottish Government.

What are some of the common myths about VAWG?

Myth

To stay safe, women should not go out late at night.

Fact

Women should not have to restrict their lives to be safe. We need to tell abusers to stop the abuse, not tell women to restrict their freedoms. Telling this to women is victim blaming. It is important to note that staying at home doesn't necessarily mean women will be safe either. Statistically, women are more likely to be harmed in the home than on the street. Telling women to change behaviour does not address the root cause of violence/abuse and will not result in change.

Myth

Violence against women and girls only affects certain groups of women.

Fact

Research has repeatedly shown violence and abuse can affect women from all social, economic, cultural, and family backgrounds.

There is no evidence to suggest that violence and abuse is more prevalent in some communities more than others. Instead, barriers to accessing support can increase vulnerability. Experiencing racism, ableism, or homophobia can influence someone reaching for support. This is why an intersectional approach is important.

Myth

Abuse is the result of an anger problem, use of substances or mental ill-health.

Fact

There is no research to support this. Abuse and violence are about power and control. Perpetrators choose when they abuse, often where there are no witnesses. We know that substance misuse or mental health issues do not cause abuse as many people who use substances or have a mental health conditions do not abuse. However, they can make existing abuse worse. It's important to offer perpetrators wider support, but there is no excuse for abuse.

Myth

Women involved in prostitution cannot be raped or sexually assaulted.

Fact

Women involved in prostitution can and do experience rape and sexual assault. Women involved in prostitution face discrimination and are often blamed for the abuse. This is not acceptable, and everyone should be supported.

Myth

Forced marriage only happens in South Asian communities.

Fact

Forced marriage affects a wide range of communities from different cultural backgrounds. It affects men and women all over the world, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion. Stereotyping it as a problem for 'certain' communities risks the reduction of support being accessible to all.

Myth

Leaving an abusive relationship sees an automatic end to the abuse.

Fact

There are many barriers to leaving an abusive relationship, and access to support and resources plays a significant role. Even after leaving, victims/survivors are still at serious risk of perpetrators of abuse continuing to stalk and harass them, breaching bail conditions and using child contact to continue abuse. Support for victims/survivors must therefore always be long-term.

Myth

Violence against women and girls is an issue that only concerns women and girls

Fact

It is important to note that men, boys, and non-binary people also experience the types of abuse set out in this strategy. Although we recognise that VAWG disproportionately affects women and girls, violence and abuse can affect anyone, and approaches will be inclusive of everyone who needs support. Men and boys also play an important role in ending VAWG.

Myth

There is nothing we can do to stop violence against women and girls.

Fact

VAWG is the product of learned attitudes and behaviour that have gone unchallenged along with a sense of entitlement. By eliminating gender stereotypes and promoting a culture of respect and equality at home, at work, in communities, and across society we can work together to end VAWG.

Myth

Sexual violence is more likely to be committed by a stranger.

Fact

A study carried out in 2018 by Researchers from Glasgow University said it was a popular misconception that most attackers were strangers.

The study looked at the 991 women in Scotland who went through an advocacy programme and found that just 9% of perpetrators were strangers to the victim. In the same study 23% of women were assaulted by a partner or ex-partner.

Myth

VAWG is mainly about physical violence.

Fact

VAWG extends beyond physical violence. It is about the different ways that victims/survivors are controlled, intimidated, humiliated, or threatened. VAWG is about being denied human rights, which can include, but is not limited to physical violence.

Myth

COVID-19 has caused violence against women and girls.

Fact

VAWG is the result of the misuse of power and control and has long been considered a hidden pandemic. COVID-19 has shone a light on VAWG and had an impact on how people have experienced it.

3. NATIONAL CONTEXT

Equally Safe Strategy

Safety of women and girls is a key area of focus for Scottish Government and is now integrated into wider government work on tackling violence against women and girls, and the attitudes that support this violence and abuse. This is not limited to physical abuse, it also includes sexual harassment, bullying and intimidation in any public or private space. The Equally Safe strategy provides a strategic framework for the delivery of the Scottish Government's Equality Outcome on tackling violence against women and girls.

The vision of Equally Safe is for 'A strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse - and the attitudes that help perpetuate it. The aim of Equally Safe is to work collaboratively with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls.' (Scottish Government, 2016).

The Inverclyde Violence Against Women and Girls Multi Agency Strategy 2023-2026 aims to implement the national strategy priorities at a local level tailored to the needs of Inverclyde. It will serve as a focal point giving clear direction to all partners in our pursuit of a strong and flourishing Inverclyde where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse.

DELIVERING EQUALLY SAFE

Police Scotland VAWG Strategy

The Police Scotland Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy⁵ aims to drive change through the development of effective prevention strategies, the pursuit of perpetrators and the creation of safe spaces for everyone to live freely and safely.

The strategy is based on four key objectives: supporting women and girls, preventing harm, and securing justice, creating safe spaces, and building trust and confidence in the police. These objectives are designed to address the complex and interconnected nature of VAWG and provide a coordinated and holistic approach to addressing the issue.

The objective for supporting women and girls endeavours to collaborate with justice partners to provide holistic, trauma-informed services that acknowledge individuals' experiences and respect their perspectives.

The objective for preventing harm and securing justice prioritises using police powers to specifically target men who cause harm to women. This involves partnership efforts to prevent the occurrence, escalation, or continuation of men's violence against women and girls.

⁵ Police Scotland (2023) *Violence Against Women And Girls Strategy 2023*. Available at: <https://www.scotland.police.uk/spa-media/ofufdhff/violence-against-women-girls-strategy-v4.pdf>

The creating safe spaces objective aims to consolidate data and resources to confront and combat men's violent, threatening, and inappropriate behaviour, whether it takes place in public spaces or online.

Finally, the trust and confidence objective concentrates on implementing a strong response to sexism and misogyny, ensuring that individuals who exhibit discriminatory beliefs or have committed violent or harmful acts are removed from the police force.

The strategy also identifies emerging issues which may be of concern into the longer term as well as some which present more immediate challenges. These include cyber-flashing, up skirting, romance fraud, and the rise of contemporary men's rights movement.

SafeLives Research 'The Whole Picture'

SafeLives conducted a research project called "The Whole Picture: Mapping the Intersection of Domestic Abuse and Mental Health" in 2018. The research aimed to understand the experiences of individuals who have experienced both domestic abuse and mental health issues, and to identify gaps in service provision and areas for improvement.

The research involved interviews with 106 survivors of domestic abuse and mental health issues, as well as professionals working in the field. The findings of the research highlighted the complexity of the intersection between domestic abuse and mental health, and the need for a holistic and coordinated response. Some of the key findings of the research include:

- Domestic abuse and mental health issues often co-occur, with survivors experiencing a range of mental health issues because of the abuse.
- Victims/survivors often face multiple barriers to accessing support for both domestic abuse and mental health, including stigma, lack of awareness, and lack of coordination between services.
- Many victims/survivors reported feeling re-traumatized by their experiences of seeking help for both domestic abuse and mental health, due to negative or unsupportive responses from professionals.
- There is a need for better training and awareness among professionals about the intersection of domestic abuse and mental health, and for more integrated and coordinated responses.

Based on these findings, SafeLives recommended several actions to improve the response to domestic abuse and mental health, including:

- More integrated and coordinated responses between domestic abuse and mental health services.
- Better training and awareness for professionals about the intersection of domestic abuse and mental health.
- Greater focus on victim/survivor-centred approaches, including trauma-informed care and support for victims/survivors to navigate complex systems of support.
- Addressing the root causes of domestic abuse, including inequality and gender-based violence.

Overall, the research highlights the need for a whole-picture approach to domestic abuse and mental health, which recognizes the complex interplay between these issues and the need for coordinated and victim/survivor-centred responses.

White Ribbon Campaign

The White Ribbon Campaign in Scotland (WRS) supports Council areas to Work towards ending Violence Against Women (VAW) by engaging men and boys to take action and achieving White Ribbon status. WRS accepts the Scottish Government's gendered definition of VAW and is committed to playing its part in the delivery of the 'Equally Safe' strategy. The skills and experience of men in communities is used to educate and inspire other men to change attitudes in society, address gender inequalities and challenge violent and abusive perceptions of masculinity.

The award requires local areas to commit to developing projects, supported by WRS staff, resulting in them taking ownership and receiving recognition for their commitment to involving men in addressing VAW. The intention is that after a successful first year the involvement of men would become an integral, but not dominating, part of the local VAW delivery plan, thereby ensuring that the ongoing involvement of men becomes the legacy of achieving White Ribbon Status. This sends out a clear signal to the general public that if everyone plays their part in changing attitudes and behaviour there can be a real positive difference in levels of VAW. On successful conclusion of the project, councils are presented with an award which recognises the work carried out and confirms the attainment of White Ribbon Status.

Trauma-Informed Practice

A trauma-informed practice toolkit has been developed as part of the National Trauma Training Programme in Scotland to support all sectors of the workforce, in planning and developing trauma informed services.

The voices of trauma victims/survivors, staff and leaders in the field are used throughout the document to define the steps organisations can take and the barriers that might get in their way. Case studies are drawn from settings across Scotland, namely general practice, mental health, residential care, police, criminal justice social work, addiction services and education.

Findings have been translated into a set of questions to guide organisations in their self-assessments. A set of resources is offered to provide practical help with implementation. Together, these comprise a toolkit for Scotland, aiding organisations on their journey towards becoming trauma-informed. The toolkit can be found at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/trauma-informed-practice-toolkit-scotland>.

Safe and Together Model

Safe and Together is a child-centred model, providing a framework for working with domestic abuse victims/survivors and intervening with perpetrators to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children. It does so by promoting partnership with the non-abusive parent and holding the abusive parent accountable for their abuse which is framed as a parenting choice.

The model includes providing training to social work staff and Family & Children teams to build confidence in identifying a perpetrator's pattern of behaviour, to partner' with the victim/survivor and to hold perpetrators to account.

Routine Enquiry

In Scotland, VAWG routine enquiry is a recommended practice for healthcare providers. The Scottish Government's Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Prevention Programme recommends that all healthcare providers should routinely enquire about experiences of violence and abuse as part of their standard care.

The VAWG Prevention Programme provides guidance and resources for healthcare providers to support the implementation of routine enquiry. This includes training materials, toolkits, and information on referral pathways to specialist support services.

The Scottish Government recommends that healthcare providers should adopt a trauma-informed approach to VAWG routine enquiry, ensuring that patients are asked about their experiences in a safe and supportive environment. Providers should also ensure that patients are aware of their rights and options for support and that their confidentiality is respected.

Routine enquiry can help to identify cases of violence and abuse early, provide support to those who have experienced abuse, and help prevent further harm

Caledonian System

The Caledonian System is an integrated approach to addressing domestic abuse. It combines a court-ordered programme for men, aimed at changing their behaviour, with support services for women and children. It is the ambition of The Scottish Government (National Strategy for Community Justice 2022) to expand the coverage of existing national programmes that support public protection (MF2C and Caledonian), that match the risk and need profile identified nationally. At the time of publication there has been no confirmation on the details of the expansion of the Caledonian System across Scotland.

The Impact of Covid-19 and Women in a Justice Setting

There is evidence to suggest that COVID-19 has had a direct impact on women in the justice system across Scotland in a number of ways, including on:

- Women appearing at court
- Alternatives to remand and supported bail
- Throughcare support to women in prison
- Support for women on release from prison
- Women on community orders
- Where they exist, the impact on the provision of any dedicated women's support services
- Resourcing issues.

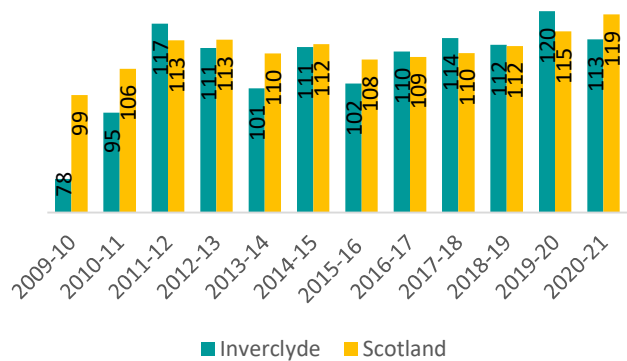
In relation to women appearing at court, there is a substantial backlog of cases still to be dealt with in the court system. The Scottish Government put in place the 'Recover, Renew and Transform' (RRT) programme of work. This aims to enable the justice system to both operate again at pre Covid-19 levels and prepare for future transformation. The Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) estimates that the criminal courts backlog will return to pre-pandemic levels by March 2024 for summary sheriff cases. It estimates that high court cases will be brought back down to pre-pandemic levels by March 2025 and sheriff solemn cases by March 2026. The effect of this means that many cases of domestic abuse have been deferred for lengthy periods of time which can cause further concern and increase risks for victims.

4. THE LOCAL PICTURE

The difficulty of capturing an accurate statistical picture of VAWG is nationally recognised. This is for a range of reasons including the hidden nature and underreporting of VAWG issues, alongside inconsistent approaches to data collection across organisations. Our data picture is therefore only the tip of the iceberg

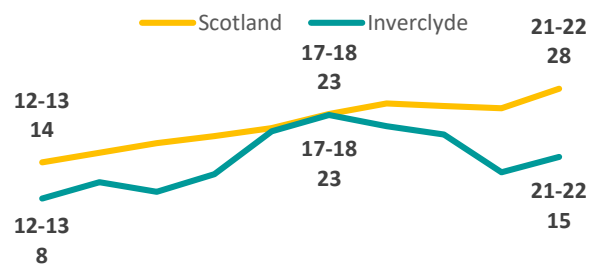
The rate of incidents of domestic abuse has increased 45% over the eleven-year period between 2009-10 and 2020-21. In 2020-21 the Inverclyde figure sits below the national average, but this is subject to annual fluctuation.

Rate of incidents of domestic abuse recorded by police per 10K population⁶

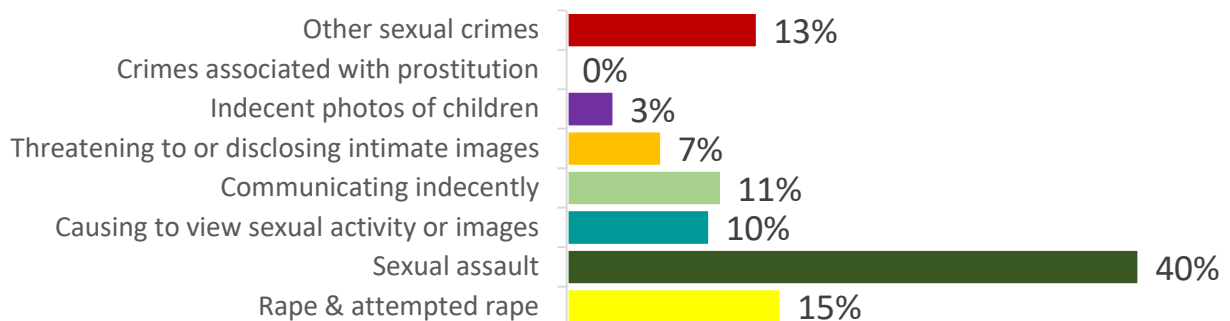


The rate of sexual crimes has almost doubled since 2012-13, although in Inverclyde it has decreased from a ten-year high rate in 2017-18

Sexual crime rate per 10K population⁶



Breakdown of crime type within sexual crimes grouping 2021-22 (Inverclyde)⁶

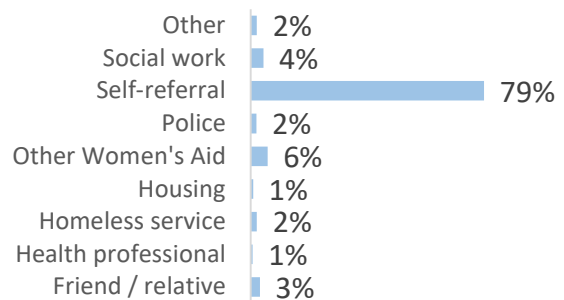


⁶ Scottish Government (2022) *Recorded Crime in Scotland, 2021-22*. Available at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/recorded-crime-scotland-2021-2022/documents/>

Inverclyde Women’s Aid (IWA) SCIO is a charitable organisation established in 1985. They provide specialist domestic abuse services to women, children & young people who are experiencing, or have experienced domestic abuse, sexual assault, rape, and childhood sexual abuse. They offer support in relation to: Crisis, Advocacy, One-to-One, Housing, Follow-On, Outreach, Refuge and Children & Young Persons. IWA provides IDAAs (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates) that support victims/survivors who are referred to MARAC and are not being supported through the court process.

In 2020-2021 there were 235 women who accessed the IWA Women’s Service, and 1674 telephone support sessions were delivered over the year. There were 574 one to one support sessions delivered, the majority (79%) originating from self-referrals

Breakdown of referral source for Inverclyde Women’s Aid 1:1 support session, 20-21

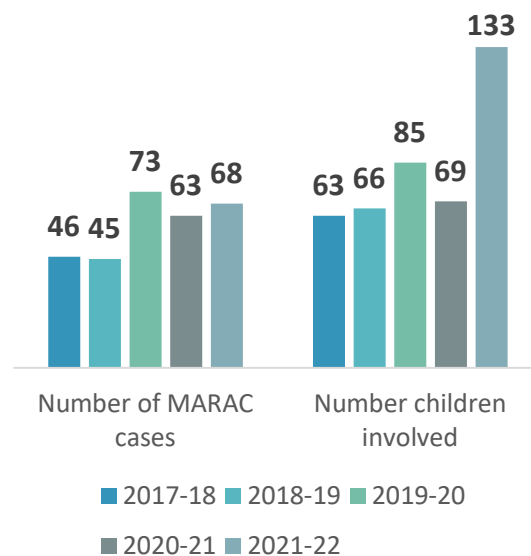


Inverclyde MARAC is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of Police Domestic Abuse Incident Units, NHS, housing providers, , ASSIST (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates, Court Advocacy, Advice and Support Service), Adult Protection, Social Work Children & Families/Criminal Justice, Alcohol & Drugs Services, Mental Health Team, (IDAAs) homelessness, Barnardo’s, SPS, Education, Scottish Fire & Rescue and the Royal Military Police.

In 2021-2022 there were 68 referrals to MARAC with a total of 133 children involved from the households.

The bulk of the referrals were received from Police Scotland and ASSIST that supports victims/survivors through the court process with additional referrals from other MARAC partners.

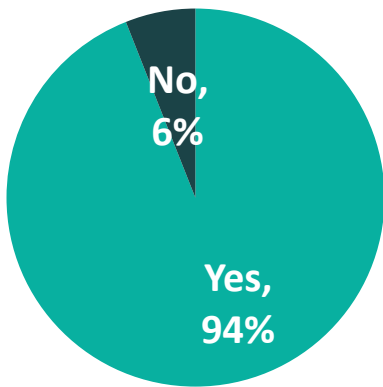
Inverclyde MARAC numbers, 17/18 – 21-22



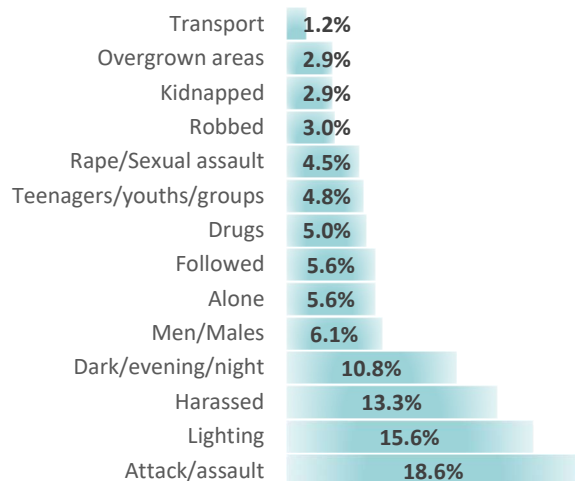
ASSIST offers specialist independent domestic abuse advocacy and support service focused on reducing the risk to and improving the safety of victims of domestic abuse. It aims to ensure that all victims are safe, informed and supported throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system. The service provides both an individual and institutional advocacy service, thereby ensuring that all victims of domestic abuse benefit whether they are an ASSIST client or not. ASSIST provides IDAAs (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates) that support victims/survivors who are referred to MARAC and are going through the court process.

In addition, we undertook a residents' survey to determine if women and girls perceive any safety impediment in undertaking activities in public spaces. From the 489 female responses, the following was highlighted:

Have you ever been put off undertaking an activity in public due to safety concerns?



What personal safety concerns do you have about undertaking activity in public places?



What activities have you been put off due to safety concerns?



5. APPROACH TO ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Our multi-agency approach:

A multiagency approach to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is crucial in providing a comprehensive response to this issue. It involves collaboration and coordination between various agencies such as the police, health and social care providers, housing services, education providers, and voluntary organisations. This approach recognises that no single agency can effectively address VAWG on its own and that a coordinated response is needed to ensure that victims/survivors receive the appropriate support and services. The aim of a multiagency approach is to improve information sharing, provide consistent responses, and ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the necessary support to keep them safe. By working together, agencies can also identify patterns of abuse and take action to prevent further harm.

The Inverclyde Violence Against Women and Girls Multi-Agency Partnership (MAP) convenes every two months and includes various local services. Through the VAWG MAP, regular training and briefing sessions are conducted to enhance the knowledge and consciousness of VAW among staff from Inverclyde services.

The diagram below highlights some of the agencies and services that participate in our multiagency response.



6. OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Our vision and strategic priorities stem from the national Equally Safe strategy

Vision

A strong and flourishing Scotland where all individuals are equally safe and respected, and where women and girls live free from all forms of violence and abuse – and the attitudes that help perpetuate it

Aim of Equally Safe

To work collaboratively with key partners in the public, private and third sectors to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls. The priorities are:

- Scottish society embraces equality and mutual respect, and rejects all forms of violence against women and girls
- Women and girls thrive as equal citizens – socially, culturally, economically and politically
- Interventions are early and effective, preventing violence and maximising the safety and wellbeing of women, children and young people
- Men desist from all forms of violence against women and girls, and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Strategic Approach

Equally Safe is a strategic framework in Scotland aimed at preventing violence against women and girls. The framework sets out the scale of the problem, highlights the need for prevention, and emphasizes the importance of collaboration with partners. The framework is aligned with Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights and has a clear governance framework to support delivery. The framework is intended to help organizations and partners align their work towards the vision of reducing violence against women and girls, with action plans being developed to inform the implementation of the strategy.


There are several local strategies and plans with links to our VAWG agenda, including but not limited to:

- Community Safety Strategy
- Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan
- Community Learning & Development Strategy
- Antisocial Behaviour Strategy
- Local Development Plan
- HSCP Strategic Plan
- Local Police Plan

Priority One: Communities in Inverclyde embrace equality and mutual respect and reject all forms of violence against women and girls

Community attitudes towards violence against women and girls can influence both perpetration and victimisation. Gender stereotypes also play a significant role, with discriminatory attitudes being more likely to tolerate violence and abuse against women and girls. The criminal justice system can shape community perceptions by imposing strong legal sanctions against violence and abuse. The media has a powerful influence on attitudes and norms, with sexualised violence and abuse in the media linked to increases in violence towards women and girls. However, cultural change cannot be achieved through media campaigns alone, and community development initiatives that reinforce messages at the local level can increase the effectiveness of such campaigns.

Communities in Inverclyde embrace equality and mutual respect and reject all forms of violence against women and girls

Priority One	How will we achieve this outcome?	What difference will this make?
	<p>Promoting positive gender roles through campaign awareness raising prevention programmes and training/briefing sessions.</p> <p>Promoting healthy positive relationships through community engagement and promotion of cultural/appropriate language change with local services and the wider community</p> <p>Helping children and young people develop an understanding of safe, healthy, and positive relationships from an early age</p> <p>Helping individuals and communities to recognise and challenging violent and abusive behaviour</p>	<p>Communities come together to challenge harmful attitudes.</p> <p>Everyone understands their role in responding to and ending VAW.</p> <p>Increased community awareness about the prevalence and impact of violence against women and girls in communities. This can help reduce stigma and promote a culture of respect and zero tolerance of violence and abuse. .</p> <p>Stronger and more cohesive communities.</p> <p>Promoting a safer and more peaceful society.</p> <p>Healthier relationships between men and women, based on respect, equality, and mutual support</p>

Spotlight on local practice

Mentors In Violence Prevention (MVP)

A key aspect of preventing VAWG is working with young people in educational settings to raise awareness of healthy relationships. Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is ongoing in high schools, adopting a whole school approach to addressing Gender Based Violence and culture change. The MVP Bystander Approach frames men's abuse of women as a societal problem that's roots lie in the institutional structures and cultural practices of a male-dominated society. This approach is partly based on the premise that men's silence in the face of other men's abusive or violent behaviour gives "implicit consent" to such behaviour. Thus, the MVP approach emphasises changing social norms as the key to prevention.

- To change attitudes and behaviour around the violence agenda particularly in relation to gender-based violence and bullying prevention.
- to support and empower peers in schools, to speak up, challenge violence and change social norms.
- To support all High Schools in Inverclyde to develop and deliver MVP on an ongoing basis.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

There are clear links between child abuse, childhood neglect and domestic abuse and women's involvement in CSE. Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) contribute to the acceptance of objectification of women in society, also perpetuating Violence Against Women and Girls.

Inverclyde Council passed a resolution to licence SEVs in Inverclyde, with effect from 9 June 2022, in order that both performers and customers benefit from a regulated environment. The Council believes that introducing this regime promotes securing public safety and preventing crime and disorder. The Council's view is that if SEVs are not licensed in Inverclyde this activity would be unregulated and due to not being controlled could have a detrimental impact on public safety, local businesses and from those involved in these types of activities.

The Council is required to set the number of SEVs permitted in their area and for each relevant locality. The responses to a public consultation were considered and the Council have determined that the appropriate number of SEVs within the entirety of Inverclyde will be zero.

While there are no formal venues there is still activity locally which is a concern for vulnerable young women who are at risk in our communities and men who are exploiting them.

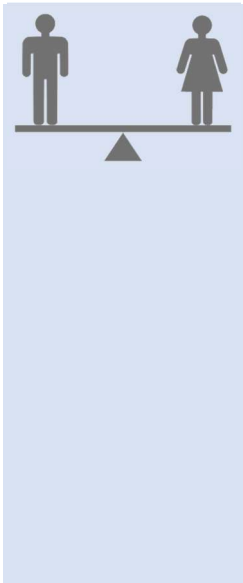
Priority Two: Women and girls in Inverclyde thrive as equal citizens: culturally, economically, and politically

The relationship between gender equality and levels of violence against women and girls in society is that societies with greater gender equality tend to have lower levels of violence against women and girls. When women and girls are empowered and have more opportunities for economic, social, and political participation, they are less likely to be subjected to violence and abuse. However, simply achieving gender equality in terms of workforce participation is not enough, as attitudes and structures that underpin violence and abuse must also be addressed. Addressing unpaid care work, poverty, alcohol and drug misuse, and women's safety in public spaces are also important factors in reducing violence against women and girls.

Reducing poverty among women is necessary to address gender power imbalances. The Scottish government plans to improve women’s access to decision-making structures and processes, increase political representation, and tackle occupational segregation. They want women to have the same opportunities as men, including economic independence and equal opportunities in all sectors and levels of the labour market. This requires addressing barriers to work, eliminating the pay gap, and increasing the representation of women in senior positions. The government also aims to ensure women feel safe where they live and work and can go about their lives without fear.

Women and girls in Inverclyde thrive as equal citizens: culturally, economically, and politically

Priority Two



How will we achieve this outcome?

Working towards development of communities where women and girls are safe, respected, and equal.

Working towards development of communities where women and men have equal access to power and resources.

What difference will this make?

Higher economic prosperity and reduced poverty

Better health outcomes for women and their children.

More diverse and inclusive perspectives, leading to better decision-making and a more equitable distribution of resources.

Greater political and social cohesion.

Stronger and more stable communities and workplaces

Spotlight on local practice

Inverclyde Council Corporate Equalities

The Inverclyde Council's Corporate Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025 plan outlines actions to prevent VAWG in the area, with a focus on: achieving Bronze accreditation for Equally Safe at Work; improving housing outcomes for women and children impacted by domestic abuse, led by COSLA; improving outcomes for women with learning disabilities who have experienced domestic abuse, led by NHS Scotland; and identifying safety issues for women and girls in the community. The Council's Violence Against Women and Girls Coordinator is involved in working groups to implement these priorities

Public space, activity, and women's safety survey

In accordance with Scottish Government's Equally Safe strategic priority 2, which aims to ensure women and girls are equal citizens socially, culturally, economically, and politically, Inverclyde Council conducted a public survey in April 2021 to identify safety concerns of women and girls when participating in activities in public spaces.


The survey results indicate that the fear of crime and intimidation has discouraged a majority of female respondents from participating in social and leisure activities, especially in poorly lit, overgrown, or isolated areas, during dark evenings, and around male/youth groups. Safety concerns on public transportation were also identified.

Respondents, especially young people, expressed fears of kidnapping, stalking, and physical assault. Harassment and unwanted sexual attention from males were reported across all age groups, with younger females experiencing more harassment from adult males than from their peers. These findings underscore the ongoing need to address gender-based issues in society that disproportionately impact women, including public lighting, policing, and sexualised experiences.

Priority Three: Interventions are early and effective, prevent violence and maximise the safety and wellbeing of women, children, and young people

Collaborative working between the third sector and public services through multi-agency activity has been productive in providing support to those affected by gender based violence. Women, children, and young people may have different support needs depending on the form(s) of violence experienced and individual circumstances. Early identification and intervention are essential to eliminating violence and its negative consequences in women and children’s lives. However, only a minority of those affected by violence report it to the police or seek help from specialist women’s services. Reporting remains an issue despite ongoing work by both women and children’s organizations and statutory agencies, including the police.

Interventions are early and effective, prevent violence and maximise the safety and wellbeing of women, children, and young people

Priority Three	How will we achieve this outcome?	What difference will this make?
	<p>Ensuring that women, children, and young people have access to relevant, effective, and integrated services.</p> <p>Service providers competently identifying violence against women and girls and responding effectively to women, children and young people affected.</p>	<p>Violence and abuse is identified and support is offered.</p> <p>A joined-up approach is created with agencies working together.</p> <p>Victims/Survivor’s holistic needs are met and services are trauma informed</p> <p>Victims/Survivors’ voices are heard and shape responses.</p> <p>Responsive services are supporting those identified as high risk</p> <p>Victims/Survivors can access support through multiple routes.</p> <p>Processes are in place to ensure a positive initial response and referral to appropriate specialist support if needed.</p> <p>Professionals are well trained and feel competent and confident to respond.</p>

Spotlight on local practice

Inverclyde Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC)

MARAC is a process established to respond to victims of Domestic Abuse at very high risk of Serious harm and domestic homicide and is recognised nationally as best practice for addressing this level of cases. The MARAC process allows strategic and voluntary agencies to respond in a consistent and structured way to manage high risk perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. It allows relevant agencies to share information and decide upon the most appropriate way to reduce or manage risks for cases discussed at MARAC. The model uses multi agency working very effectively as no one agency or individual can see the complete picture of the life of a victim, but all have insights that are crucial to their safety of themselves and their children. The views of the victim are represented by an Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDAA) who speaks on their behalf.

Using the MARAC process and knowledge and expertise of different agencies, the identified risks will be either reduced or managed in the most appropriate way. The aims of the MARAC are to:

- ✓ Share information to increase the safety, health and well-being of victims
- ✓ Determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any individual or the general community
- ✓ Jointly implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and reduces harm
- ✓ Reduce repeat victimisation
- ✓ Improve agency accountability
- ✓ Improve support for staff involved in high-risk domestic abuse cases
- ✓ Identify situations that indicate a need for Child Protection or Adult Support and Protection procedures to be initiated

Domestic Abuse Screening


Domestic Abuse screening takes place between Social Work Children & Families and Police Scotland every fortnight. All domestic abuse related referrals are discussed, regardless of whether these are low level (verbal abuse), where the child(ren) were present or physical assaults witnessed by the child. This screening considers the need for a referral to the Children's Reporter if repeated patterns are emerging and non-engagement with Social Work Services is identified as an issue. The Children's Hearing system is a forum in which legal orders can be considered when a child has a close connection to or resides in the same household as the perpetrator of domestic abuse. This can look at any specific conditions required to be attached to the legal order such as no contact or no unsupervised contact between the child and the perpetrator and any other measures to ensure safeguards are in place.

Priority Four: Men are challenged to desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

The justice system plays a crucial role in preventing violence against women and girls through detection and prosecution of domestic abuse, sexual crimes, stalking and harassment and other forms of VAWG. However, barriers to prosecution still exist, and prosecution alone is not enough to eradicate the problem. Perpetrators must be supported to change their behaviour, and early identification and intervention is important.

The Scottish government is committed to preventing violence against women and girls and ensuring that victims receive support and justice. They aim to reduce delays in court processes, hold perpetrators accountable, and improve support for victims/survivors throughout the justice system. They also want to enforce laws that reflect the true nature of violence and abuse and consider using technology to better protect vulnerable witnesses. Additionally, they plan to research factors that influence jury decision making in criminal cases.

Men are challenged to desist from all forms of violence against women and girls and perpetrators of such violence receive a robust and effective response

Priority Four	How will we achieve this outcome?	What difference will this make?
	<p>Ensuring justice responses are robust, swift, consistent, and coordinated</p> <p>Identifying men early who carry out violence against women and girls and the criminal justice system holding them to account</p> <p>Making relevant links between the experience of women, children, and young people in the criminal and civil system</p>	<p>Justice for victims/survivors.</p> <p>Perpetrators know that their behaviour will not be tolerated.</p> <p>Perpetrators will change their behaviour, reducing harm to others.</p> <p>Risks in the delivery of Restorative Justice are considered and understood</p> <p>Positive role models for other men and boys help promote a culture of respect and zero tolerance of violence and abuse and inspire other men and boys to become allies in the fight for gender equality.</p>

Spotlight on local practice

Up2U Programme

In response to the varied challenges relating to domestic abuse in Inverclyde, including childhood trauma and emotional deregulation, learned behaviour, attitudes that support gender differentials, poor conflict resolution and the use of power and control, Inverclyde HSCP made the decision in 2019/2020 to deliver Up2U: Creating Healthy Relationships programme; a cognitive behavioural programme for perpetrators of domestic abuse. The Up2U Programme was developed by Portsmouth City Council. The Up2U Programme is for people who use domestically abusive and unhealthy behaviours in their relationships. It seeks to reduce the incidents of domestic violence and prevent the cycle of abuse. It is an assessment-based programme and can run from a minimum of 6 to over 40 sessions (dependent on assessed need). The Up2U programme can be tailored to work with both males and females from the age of 16 and can be delivered to people in same sex relationships or couples where both partners use abusive behaviours. A total of 20 social work personnel were trained initially in the delivery of the programme: half from Criminal Justice and half from Children and Families Services. As a precursor to this training, 44 staff were trained in the most recent version of SARA (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment).

A further 8 staff have been trained in 2023 in Criminal Justice. Criminal Justice staff in Inverclyde use the SARA and Up2U Assessment Module to identify the level of intervention required to promote the reduction of risk and need for those involved in the Justice System. The programme is then tailored to each individual.

New Attitudes Service

Inverclyde Council provides funding to Inverclyde Women's Aid New Attitudes Service to assist in the provision of a service for young people who are beginning to display signs of violent and abusive behaviour, to address the long-term prevention of the cycle of violence and its potential to blight the lives of the next generation.

The New Attitudes Project offers one-to-one support to young people who have been identified as starting to display anti-social, violent or abusive behaviour. The programme is open to young people between the ages of 11 and 16, or up to 18 for those still attending education. For the young person to be considered for the programme, they have to be in full-time education.

This programme is usually carried out on a weekly 1-1 basis within the school environment. The programme runs over 10-12 weeks, excluding any holiday or absences. It is only available to young people who live in the Inverclyde area.

Early Action System Change Project

Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership (HSCP) is hosting an Early Action System Change Project “Women involved in the Justice System”. The Project is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. Following local research into the rates of female offending in Inverclyde and the drivers for this. A literature review carried out by the project indicates that:

- Problematic relationships appear to be of significance to female offending with abusive relationships frequently associated to female offending.
- It appears that women involved in offending are more likely than men to be at risk of sexual abuse, domestic abuse, and mental health issues.
- There are links between women involved in offending and abusive relationships with victimisation recognised as a contributing factor to female offending. Self-reported statistics suggest that a significantly higher proportion of women than men in prison in Scotland have experienced domestic abuse.
- A Scottish review of evidence found links between persistent offending in women and their relationships with men who are also involved in offending. It also found that women are more likely than men to connect their reasons for trying to stop offending to their relationships with other people (e.g., children, friends not involved in offending, a job etc.).
- Evidence suggests that routine enquiry about domestic abuse should be carried out by criminal justice agencies as it increases the opportunities for women to make a disclosure and access support as well as reduce their chance of re-victimisation and potential related offending. It is essential that staff responses are not dismissive and involve clear referrals for support.
- Services should be trauma-informed with staff trained to understand the drivers of behaviour. Whilst criminal justice services should not aim to tackle the trauma, they should understand the impact trauma has on the behaviours they aim to address with service users.

The project has developed two tests of change, firstly, for the workforce across Inverclyde HSCP and two local third sector partners to become trauma trained and trauma responsive and secondly to strengthen referral pathways for women within the Justice System, or at risk of coming into the Justice System, into supportive community resources, i.e., volunteering, training, and employment. The project also works with a group of women with lived experience of the Justice System to re-design systems and services to produce better and more positive outcomes for women.

7. MEASURING AND REPORTING ON PROGRESS

A yearly action plan will be produced to go alongside the VAWG Strategy 2023-2026. The actions will be monitored on an ongoing basis throughout the year and an outcomes report will be produced to provide updates and progress and presented to the VAWG MAP at the start of the new financial year. At this point the action plan will be refreshed for the next year. The chair of the VAWG MAP will provide an update to the Community Safety Strategy Group on a quarterly basis to update on current work. In addition, the VAWG Coordinator produces an update report to the Council's Chief Officers Group on a two monthly basis.

Publication

Please contact us if you would like an alternative format of this document.

**Community Safety & Resilience Team, Inverclyde Council Education and Communities,
Enterprise Centre, Port Glasgow Community Campus, Kilmacolm Road, PORT GLASGOW,
PA14 6PP**

community.safety@inverclyde.gov.uk



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	19 June 2023
Report By:	Kate Rocks Chief Officer, Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Alan Best	Contact No:	01475 715212
Subject:	Resettlement and Wider Dispersal in Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Inverclyde Alliance Board on Resettlement and Wider Dispersal.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 Inverclyde has worked in partnership with the Home Office and other partners to successfully deliver a range of resettlement schemes within Inverclyde and to date there are over 80 families being supported within the Inverclyde community.

2.2 53 men seeking asylum are currently accommodated within a local hotel, and in addition to this contingency hotel, the Home Office has commenced wider asylum dispersal. Inverclyde partners are working with Mears Housing (Home office contractor) to ensure all proposed private properties are suitable for use.

2.3 A local hotel is being utilised by the Scottish Government for Ukrainian families through the Super Sponsor Scheme and proposals for locally matching them into local hosts and/or homes is underway.

2.4 The numbers coming into Scotland through the Super Sponsor scheme for Ukrainian Displaced People (UDPs) was higher than expected and the scheme is currently suspended. A partnership approach to all resettlement and asylum work is underway with a range of local and national partners involved.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Note the range of support provided by a range of partners in Inverclyde

**Kate Rocks
Chief Officer
Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership**

4.0 Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Schemes

4.1 Since 2014, Inverclyde has participated in a number of refugee resettlement schemes and currently support the following families:

- 17 Afghan families - 85 individuals (under two Afghan schemes)
- 32 Syrian families - 138 individuals (under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme)
- 7 Sudanese families- 25 individuals (under the Vulnerable Children's Scheme)

A number of families have chosen to move to Glasgow, the main reasons cited for this include proximity to a mosque, to be closer to family/ wider community and availability of employment.

4.2 The National Transfer Scheme for UASC (Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children) Scheme has resulted in 5 young people being supported within Inverclyde. Each young person is supported by a designated Social Worker.

5.0 Ukrainian Resettlement

5.1 In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the Scottish Government has participated in the Homes for Ukraine Scheme and the Ukrainian Super Sponsor Scheme (Warm Scottish Welcome). There are currently 143 Ukrainians residing with host families or in temporary accommodation across Inverclyde. 39 individuals have returned to Ukraine.

5.2 Locally the Scottish Government has commissioned the Gin House Hotel in Greenock to provide accommodation. Currently there are 4 family groups (10 individuals) accommodated within the hotel and Scottish Government have decommissioned 6 rooms at the hotel. All hotel residents receive health assessments and are registered with a GP and are supported to access to other health services as required. Initial £200 monetary payments have been made and the Advice team supports the Integration Team to ensure applications for Universal Credit and a range of other appropriate benefits are made. Children are enrolled within local schools and employability support is in place to encourage the Ukrainian adults to seek employment. The majority of families have settled in well and Your Voice Community Connectors help familiarise the residents with the local community. River Clyde Homes have 14 properties in the process of upgrading 14 properties to be available at the end of June and Oak tree Housing have 18 properties now available.

6.0 Asylum Seekers

6.1 There are currently 52 males within the Holiday Inn Express. The Asylum Community Team provide twice weekly support which includes individual health assessments, support to access wider health services and signposting to other community support. This team recently won the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Pride of Inverclyde Awards ceremony. The HSCP works closely with the Home Office and CoSLA in planning arrangements and with a range of local partners in ensuring individuals being accommodated in Inverclyde are safe and supported.

6.2 Inverclyde is now replicating Glasgow's Housing Procurement protocol which involves Mears Housing identifying private properties they wish to consider utilising for wider dispersal, and appropriate checks being undertaken by the local partners to identify the suitability of these properties; landlord registration; police concerns and the proximity to education and availability of services. The number of spaces available in each local authority is agreed in partnership with CoSLA and the Home Office.

6.3 If an asylum seeker receives a positive outcome of their asylum application they have 4 weeks to move on from their Mears property. If they receive a negative decision, they have No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and this may place additional pressure on the local authority to support on a short term basis. There have been no negative decisions in Inverclyde to date. The HSCP has provided two payments of £250 (total £500) via the use of Section 12 payments in supporting the immediate needs of individuals seeking asylum.

7.0 Capacity

7.1 To cope with the increasing resettlement, the New Scots Integration Team is increasing in capacity to include a new team leader, additional Integration workers; a Child and Family worker and finance/administration support. Each of the refugee resettlement schemes receive different funding allocations with additional education resources being allocated through the Ukraine schemes.

7.2 Your Voice and a range of local and national 3rd sector organisations are supporting both the refugees and the people seeking asylum to ensure they are linked locally into activities and the community.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Legal: None
Finance: None
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Alliance Partnership Plan: None

9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 NA for the purpose of this report

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	19 June 2023
Report By:	Director, Environment & Regeneration, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	IA/23/06/01/SJ
Contact Officer:	Stuart Jamieson	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	Tree Planting in Inverclyde		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Inverclyde Alliance Board with an update on the tree planting activities undertaken by the Council over the course of the last year as well as providing commentary in respect of potential future opportunities.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Trees provide a significant contribution to the biodiversity of Inverclyde and for a number of years the Council has participated in the Metropolitan City Region Initiative - the Green Network Partnership. In addition they can significantly contribute to the carbon reduction agenda.
- 2.2 Earlier this year the Council agreed to be a signatory in a concordat agreement with the Clyde Climate Forest committing to help plant 18 million trees by 2031 within the Metropolitan City Region.
- 2.3 Officers have been investigating ways in which trees can be introduced to appropriate locations in a sustainable manner, the most ecologically efficient manner identified has been for seed collection from within Inverclyde and grown in Inverclyde.
- 2.4 A total of eight hundred and twenty three trees or hedge plants have been planted within Inverclyde in the last year. These have been predominantly native species and have varied in age from barefoot whips to 45litre standard specimens. Planting has been carried through the activities of rangers and grounds staff in a total of sixteen locations.
- 2.5 Engagement has been undertaken with consultant support to identify, via a desktop exercise, woodland planting; individual tree planting; tree groups and parkland planting; street trees; and woodland management opportunities. These opportunities will be further developed, including funding sources, to help mitigate the Councils carbon footprint and presented to a future meeting of the Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:
- a. Note the activity associated with tree planting in the last year and recognise that this agenda will be further developed through the Councils Committee process.

Stuart W. Jamieson
Director – Environment and Regeneration

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 As well as being aesthetically pleasing trees provide many diverse benefits to our society. From something as simple as shade, to biodiversity and carbon sequestration they provide much amenity.

4.2 The Clyde Climate Forest (CCF) is an ambitious initiative that aims to increase woodland cover in Glasgow City Region over the next decade. Earlier this year the Council signed up to a concordat with a target of planting 18 million trees in both urban and rural areas, the CCF aims to build on current enthusiasm for tree planting and encourage new planting projects that will deliver a broad range of climate and ecological benefits.

The Clyde Climate Forest is seeking to increase tree planting in three areas: -

- Canopy - street trees in urban trees
- Connectivity - native woodlands for habitat connectivity and to reverse fragmentation
- Carbon - planting for sequestration and to reduce downstream flooding

4.3 The Clyde Climate Forest also aims to connect up the region's existing woodlands. Over many decades the region's broadleaved woodlands have been reduced in scale and increasingly fragmented. More than 200 target locations have been identified where new woodland creation will link up these important habitats, making the wildlife that rely upon them better able to cope as the climate changes.

4.4 Work with the Green Action Trust has identified over 900 site opportunities under the following broad headings:-

- Woodland planting
- Native woodland planting
- Tree groups and Parkland planting
- Individual trees
- Street trees

In addition the study has identified and noted the following features

- Woodland management opportunities (existing woodland on Council land)
- Limited potential (sites with limited opportunities for additional tree planting)
- Built environment/ hard standing (sites where tree planting is impractical)

Woodland planting and native woodland planting opportunities will involve the use of smaller nursery planting stock which will require protection from herbivores such as rabbits, hares, voles, and deer. Dependant on the, location and extent the proposed planting areas, protection is likely to take the form of individual tree shelters, tree guards, and/or protective fencing.

4.5 Discussion with colleagues in the CCF has been ongoing to maximise funding opportunities for external funding for roll out on a number of sites.

4.6 A total of eight hundred and twenty three trees or hedge plants have been planted within Inverclyde in the last year. These have been predominantly native species and have varied in age from barefoot whips to 45litre standard specimens. Planting has been carried through the activities of rangers and grounds staff in a total of sixteen locations centred around schools, parks and play areas.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 It is proposed that tree planting activity will continue with a “grow your own” approach including involving local schools providing potential tree nursery locations and further detail will be provided to the Council’s Environment and Regeneration Committee in due course.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: None
Finance: None at this stage
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Repopulation: None
Inequalities: None

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 None

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None



Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	19 June 2023
Report By:	Louise Long, Chief Executive, Chair of LOIP Programme Board	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae, Interim Head of Service (OD, Policy and Communications)	Contact No:	07385434459
Subject:	Local Outcome Improvement Plan Quarterly Progress Report February to April 2023		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Alliance Board with a progress report on the implementation of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) 2017-2022.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides details of the progress made between February and April 2023 in implementing the priorities within the LOIP.

- 2.2 This report provides an update on progress across the priority areas of the LOIP:

- Population
- Local Economy
- Inequalities
- Environment
- Culture and Heritag

- 2.3 Some of the highlights include:

The Population Partnership have undertaken significant partnership working in relation to the Ukrainian refugee dispersal. A fortnightly meeting, Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group has been set up by the HSCP.

The Local Economy Partnership noted that a significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses.

The Inequalities Partnership continue their work in various workstreams, these include:

- Offering assertive areas of service delivery to engage with harder to reach individuals finding it difficult to remain or engage in treatment within Inverclyde who are experiencing harm from alcohol and/or drugs,
- Development of the Child Poverty Local Action Plan Year 4,
- Development of Active Inverclyde Strategy Action Plan, and
- Undertaking a mental health and wellbeing consultation.

The Environment Partnership's focus continues to be the Green Connections projects. The draft analysis for new cycling infrastructure to connect Lady Octavia Sports Centre and Greenock Town Centre has been submitted with final route report due by end of June.

The Culture and Heritage Partnership have overseen RIG Arts being awarded £344,478 from the Investing in Communities Fund. This Scottish Government funding will support a part time engagement officer and a greening officer and a regular programme of creative interventions for the community with no barriers to access.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board:

- a. Notes the quarterly progress update.

Louise Long
Chair, Programme Board
Chief Executive, Inverclyde Council

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Inverclyde's LOIP was formally agreed by the Alliance Board on the 11th of December 2017. This progress report provides details of the progress that has been made in implementing the LOIP during the period February to April 2023.
- 4.2 Oversight and delivery of the LOIP priorities sits with the:
- Population and Economy Partnership,
 - Inequalities Partnership
 - Environment Partnership
 - Cultural Partnership
- 4.3 This report provides updates on the progress made across all priorities in the last three-month period. The following flash reports are appended to this report:
- Population Partnership Appendix 1
 - Economic Partnership Appendix 2
 - Inequalities Partnership Appendix 3
 - Environment Partnership Appendix 4
 - Cultural Partnership Appendix 5
- 4.4 It should be noted that this is the final version of this reporting format due to the implementation of the new Partnership Plan. The outstanding actions from this report will be included in the new Action Plan.

5.0 PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

5.1 Population Partnership Update

Under the *Develop the Inverclyde Brand* workstream, activity continues to be broadly in line with plan. Within the *Create Sustainable Communities, Primarily Through the Housing Offer* workstream the key updates are as follows:

- The town centre master planning activity for both Greenock and Port Glasgow is rated Amber based on project delay. A report for the Greenock Town Centre study will be shared with the Environment & Regeneration Committee in June 2023. A paper on the Port Glasgow review will be presented following the summer recess.
- There is excellent progress with the development of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). A summary of the LHS was presented at an All Members' Briefing in May and all key social landlords participated in Q&A.

The key highlights within the *Deliver a Net Inward Migration* workstream include:

- Significant partnership working continues through the fortnightly Inverclyde Asylum Dispersal, Ukraine and Refugee Operational Group,
- There are approx. 144 Ukrainians living across Inverclyde through various schemes; and approx. 56 asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation,
- Local social landlords are providing details of available units to enable matching of people to properties,
- As at May 2023, collaborative working between Inverclyde Council and social landlords has resulted in 30 social housing units receiving funding for refurbishment to support the Ukraine

dispersal. There is the prospect of further funding beyond this initial phase, and we are assessing the potential for more social housing units to be offered to the Ukraine dispersal programme, and

- Part of the remaining budget has been earmarked to support a 'Refugee Integration Officer' post. This is ranked Amber due to delays in developing proposals for this budget.

5.2 Local Economy Partnership Update

The Local Economy Partnership Group has continued to meet and consider the actions against the updated plan.

- The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. In the last financial year the team supported 9 businesses,
- The review of the first year of the contract term for employability is underway,
- Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding,
- A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. Over two hundred wage incentives have been issued,
- The Council continues to progress well with this years' MA positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification. Following the conclusion of a number of apprenticeships there are currently 73 apprentices "in programme",
- The Inverclyde Task Force has been meeting. The Economy Group will be expanded to focus on the ambitions of the Task Force through the inclusion of local business representatives, and
- The shared prosperity fund allocations of £2.9m against core activities and £600k for multiply have been made.

5.3 Inequalities Partnership Update

The Inequalities Partnership continues to work well, with all areas of activity having a green status.

Some highlights include the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership are continuing to offer assertive areas of service delivery to engage with harder to reach individuals finding it difficult to remain or engage in treatment within Inverclyde who are experiencing harm from alcohol and/or drugs.

Officers continue to meet to deliver specific projects to mitigate poverty across the authority area. The progress and impact of these projects are reported to the Inverclyde Policy and Resources Committee.

The Active Inverclyde Strategy Action Plan has now been developed and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Alliance.

The Suicide Prevention Group has been meeting since September 2022 and a development session held in March 2023 will result in an action plan for 23-24.

5.4 Environment Partnership Update

The Environment Partnership's focus continues to be the Green Connections projects. The draft analysis for Route A for new cycling infrastructure to connect Lady Octavia Sports Centre and Greenock Town Centre has been submitted with final route report due by end of June.

Community consultation of Route B (connecting Greenock Cut with Greenock Town Centre) is currently underway see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZDSongnS5w>. The survey ends on 14 May and Atkins will develop an outline design once survey feedback is complete. A request for an extension of

the development phase till the end of September has been submitted to Sustrans for approval due to slippage.

The Peatland Project Officer for the Clyde Peatland Project is now in place and discussion regarding progressing the feasibility studies is underway. The Levelling Up funding which was announced last quarter will help deliver across a number of our priorities.

The climate change action remains amber as more still needs to be done collectively to address this issue. It was agreed that this will be a standing item across all LOIP priority partnerships to raise its profile.

5.5 Cultural and Heritage Partnership Update

The Cultural and Heritage Partnership is advancing its work and has a variety of different work streams. Some of these include:

- The Watt Institution continues to attract visitors to existing exhibitions “Community Voices”, ‘Clydebuilt’ exhibition(Watt Hall) and ‘Language of Dreams’ (Art Gallery) following redecoration,
- Culture Collective: No One Grieves Alone, is a space to come together to creatively explore themes of death, grief and loss as part of a collaboration between Inverclyde Culture Collective and Inverclyde Cares,
- Queen Margaret University Edinburgh who are evaluating Culture Collective as a whole (26 projects) has chosen Inverclyde Culture Collective to be one of the six case studies,
- The Beacon Arts Centre’s Creative Minds Festival has taken place. Regular classes, existing and new community groups and organisations worked with artists on the festival resulting in a community takeover of every space at the Beacon,
- Inverclyde libraries continue to offer a free successful programme of events for families over holiday periods across all libraries. The Drying Green Garden at South West Library was utilised for den building workshops and on 6th April (Potato week) to launch of the Inverclyde Community Food Network. A horticulture allotment gardening course is being delivered in partnership with West College Scotland from this venue cementing its presence as a sustainability hub, and
- RIG Arts were awarded £344,478 March 2023 from the Investing in Communities Fund. This Scottish Government funding will support a part time engagement officer and a greening officer and a regular programme of creative interventions for a wide range of the community with no barriers to access.

The remaining Amber RAG status relates to the procurement of a consultant to draft a Recovery Funding bid.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Legal: none at present

Finance: none at present

Human Resources: none at present

Equality and Diversity: none at present

Repopulation: repopulation remains a key priority within the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Inequalities: the Locality Partnerships will be working specifically to tackle inequalities on a geographic basis.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/a

Appendix 1 Population

Population Partnership Flash Report

February – April 2023
Lead Officer – Richard Turnock

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
<p>Develop the Inverclyde Brand</p> <p><i>Position Inverclyde as the place to visit, work and live.</i></p>	<p>Significant progress has been made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Discover Inverclyde’ branding and website and social media presence (e.g. Business Gateway Inverclyde now on Facebook) • Successful Marketing and promotion activity and events (including housing engagement event) • Towns and Villages being supported to develop their presence through Recovery Plan funding • Greenock Ocean Terminal in progress. • Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership’ (new name) established group now looking to build engagement with sector. • Dedicated marketing team established. • STV advertising campaign launched. • Meliora festival created. 	<p>The ‘Discover Inverclyde’ theme is the default marketing brand for tourism and visitors and existing population.</p>	Continual enhancement of the marketing activity.	Council has signed up to STEAM reports for the next three years to establish baseline figures for tourism development	Ongoing	G
			Investment in the promotion activities to build the Discover Inverclyde theme		Ongoing	
			Create a new Discover Inverclyde marketing toolkit	Measure participation rates by local businesses and venues	Currently being reviewed as part of business engagement and a new refreshed tourism strategy (action plan submitted to Policy and Resources Committee in January)	G
		Drive use of marketing toolkit, promoting the Discover Inverclyde theme,	Measure attendance at events and participation rates			G
		Enhance social media presence, including marketing out with Inverclyde.	Measure hits/reach/retweets etc.	Social media dedicated to Discover Inverclyde theme in place and being actively promoted.	G	
		Partnership working including Visit Scotland, Scottish Tourism Alliance + other local authorities.	Ongoing tracking by Discover Inverclyde Tourism Partnership	Ongoing. LOIP now includes Visit Scotland representation. Seeking more private sector partner involvement Meetings of local partnership group currently on hold due to lack of attendance by private sector partners – plans to renew in 2023 based on focussed themes.	G	
		Deliver targeted marketing strategy (inc. TV, Discover Scotland Expo.)	Focus on 22/23 initiatives, inc. food and drink; film and TV; outdoor activities, sports, cruise ships, heritage and walking	Delivery of cruise seminars and targeted promotion of outdoor activities is now complete.	G	

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
<p>Create Sustainable Communities, primarily through the housing offer</p> <p><i>Address the private and social housing requirements, helping retain and attract new people to the area</i></p>	<p>Significant progress has been made, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of a review of private housing land supply Plans to deliver > 1,000 new social housing units (> 50% completion to date) Ongoing work on the Eastern Gateway Opportunities Preparatory work on Town Centre Plans for Port Glasgow and Greenock Town Centre 	<p>Short to medium term Delivery of a private and social housing solution that provides retention and attraction of new families to Inverclyde.</p> <p>Medium to longer term Regeneration where required; complemented by other private and social housing development in the longer term.</p>	Delivery of Private Housing New build.	This is addressed through the Local Development Plan/SHIP.	Revised SHIP approved at January 2023 Environment & Regeneration Committee.	G
			Delivery of Social Housing New build.	Regular measurement against planned progress for both private and social housing plans.		G
			Consideration of appropriate incentives (e.g. Lower council tax, subsidised nursery, leisure facilities etc.)	Uptake in any available funding	Ongoing	G
			Develop New Local Housing Strategy	LHS finalised in May 2023.	All Members' Briefing on LHS in May.	G
			Progress Local Development Plan	Informed by changes to Scottish national planning Framework	Ongoing	G
			Progress Port Glasgow Town Centre Plan	Inverclyde Council/ Committee governance + partner input	Paper to Environment & Regeneration Committee anticipated after summer recess.	A
			Progress Greenock Town Centre Plan		Paper due to be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee in June 2023.	A
			Consider other wider opportunities for regeneration and ad hoc projects.	Measures include e.g. utilisation of strategic acquisition funding (Rental Off the Shelf funding) plus any other transformational funding.	Ongoing	G
			Partnership working with appropriate lobbying activity.			

Area of Activity	Where are we now	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG status
<p>Deliver a net inward migration</p> <p><i>Create a net flow of population through strategic initiatives</i></p>	<p>Key achievements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various resettlement Schemes have enabled immigration from Afghanistan and Syria in particular. 37 new families now housed and settled within Inverclyde 	<p>Ensure that Inverclyde is considered as a location of choice for future New Scots.</p> <p>Ensure we attract and retain families who settle in Inverclyde</p> <p>Net inward migration not only about New Scots (other population inflow predominately via supported by wider Repopulation initiatives).</p>	<p>Ongoing collaboration between Inverclyde Alliance partners (HSCP News Scots Team + Social landlords + Education etc. Partnership working with the Scottish Refugee Council/UK Government</p> <p>Support the resettlement of an additional 16 families through the Afghan Citizens Resettlement Scheme (ACRS) by March 2022.</p> <p>Assist the acclimatization, supporting the enhancement of language skills and finding work, thus enabling rapid self-sufficiency and social integration in our communities.</p>	<p>Measure the extent of both initial and sustained settlement within Inverclyde.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of any commitment to Scottish Refugee Council/ Scottish Government.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>As at May 23, there are approx. 144 Ukrainians living across Inverclyde through various schemes; and approx. 56 asylum seekers living in hotel accommodation.</p> <p>As at May 23, Scottish Government funding has been approved to refurbish 30 social housing homes.</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p>
		<p>Partnership collaboration to ensure successful dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. This includes provision of private and social housing (existing voids) together with short term accommodation e.g. hotels.</p>	<p>Partnership collaboration to ensure successful dispersal of Ukrainian refugees. This includes provision of private and social housing (existing voids) together with short term accommodation e.g. hotels.</p>	<p>Meet the demands of dispersal within Inverclyde</p>	<p>Multi agency approach is ongoing.</p>	<p>G</p>
		<p>Funding of two new temporary employment roles to address retention challenges associated with Young people and Ukrainian refugees. Posts likely to be established within Inverclyde Council and Scottish Refugee Council.</p>	<p>Funding of two new temporary employment roles to address retention challenges associated with Young people and Ukrainian refugees. Posts likely to be established within Inverclyde Council and Scottish Refugee Council.</p>	<p>Successful appointment and delivery of respective remits of both roles</p>	<p>The Refugee Integration Officer Post has been developed and will be presented to the Environment & Regeneration Committee. The Young Person Housing Officer has not progressed.</p>	<p>A</p>

Appendix 2 Economy

Economy Partnership Flash Report

February – April 2023

Lead Officer – Stuart Jamieson

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Promote business starts	Tripartite business gateway contract	Inverclyde business start-ups exceed the wider Renfrewshire rate	Promotion of Services	Annual review	A total of 196 businesses were created under the business gateway banner. To date there have been 15 starts in April.	G
Property development / assistance	We want to ensure that premises are available both to indigenous companies and incoming businesses	Premises are available to suit a variety of different needs	Promotion of available properties through property searches and assistance in works	Reduce number of voids	The team continue to support businesses in relation to their property. The team supported 9 businesses in 22/23.	G
Employability	Inverclyde Council and partners ensure that effective IREP engagement takes place.	Better engagement	Regular meetings and partnership working	Effective engagement amongst partners	The LEP has been meeting on a monthly basis from the start of the year and a draft 3-year Delivery Plan has been produced with finalisation due later in the summer.	G
Employability Pipeline	Inverclyde Council has 4 employability contracts to deliver end-to end pipeline activity.	Impact of Covid and other factors reduced to ensure maximum opportunities for all.	Contract delivery on an annual basis	Contract monitoring	4 contracts have been awarded for 2022/23. Performance for the final quarter resulted in full contract spend. Contract performance is satisfactory with full evaluation underway.	G
Jobs Recovery Plan	Programme commenced in April 2021	Full delivery of programme by April 2023	Deployment of comprehensive Jobs Recovery Programme	Regular reporting to Committee and Alliance.	Job recovery plan continues to progress well. Job vacancies continue to be advertised locally and shared with local employability partners under the Inverclyde Works branding. Over 200 wage subsidies have been issued. The Council has 22 graduates in programme along with a further 4 supported by riverside Inverclyde.	G
Workforce Development	Skills gaps exist within the workforce	Skills gaps has been removed from workforce	Engagement and delivery of programmes to ensure the workforce becomes more productive and efficient	Delivery of programmes Regular monitoring	A significant number of Inverclyde organisations are accessing workforce development opportunities from short one day training initiatives to bespoke upskilling courses. A primary support is our Flexible Workforce Development Fund which is available for both SMEs and larger employers to upskill and reskill their workforce to meet changing organisational needs. To date the College has delivered over	G

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
					£500k worth of employee led training across the West Region covering a range of organisations from across the public, private and third sector who have had a demand for skills development in: Leadership and Management Masterclasses, Digital and IT skills enhancement, Mental Health Awareness, Health and Safety, Coaching and Development training, and British Sign Language’.	
Modern apprentices	West College Scotland and Inverclyde Council deliver modern apprenticeship programmes	Modern apprenticeships programmes are maximised for client use	Regular liaison within IREP	Regular reporting on modern apprenticeship numbers	<p>The Council continues to progress well with this years’ MA positions and continues to support those from previous years and those who are post qualification.</p> <p>The council currently have 73 apprentices in programme.</p>	G

Appendix 3 Inequalities

Inequalities Partnership Flash Report

February to April 2023

Lead Officer – Kate Rocks

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Alcohol and Drugs Lead officer Anne Malarkey	Drug use is one of the leading causes of death and ill health in the most deprived parts of Inverclyde	Inverclyde is a Place Where Less Harm is Caused by alcohol and drug use.	Delivery of the ADP priorities and recovery strategy Contribute to the review of the Inverclyde Licensing policy	Outcomes reported to ADP Committee Reduction in deaths Reduction in associated ill health Reduction in associated hospital admissions	Continue to offer assertive areas of service delivery to engage with harder to reach individuals finding it difficult to remain or engage in treatment within Inverclyde who are experiencing harm from alcohol and/or drugs. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) standards 1 – 5 now implemented within ADRS. The service will now work towards implementation of MAT 6-10. Healthcare Improvement Scotland (HIS) are working across Inverclyde to develop and test integrated approaches to mental health and substance use to improve interface between services.	G
Poverty Child poverty Fuel poverty Financial inclusion Food poverty Lead Officer Craig Given/ Tony McEwan	Inverclyde has the most deprived SIMD area in Scotland.	Levels of poverty in Inverclyde are reduced.	Partnership working to improve employment opportunities, maximize household income Review and deliver new financial inclusion strategy.	Outcome reporting on Child Poverty Action Plan. Outputs and contract monitoring from commissioned services e.g. Iheat Evidence delivery of council anti-poverty programmes.	May 2023 - Inverclyde Child Poverty Action Group continues to meet on a quarterly basis to identify areas of good practice and report on the key drivers of Child poverty. The Child Poverty Local Action Report Year 4 was approved by the Alliance Board in June 2022 outlining a 3 year plan which would provide annual updates. This will be reported to the Alliance Board in October 2023 with actions and improvements against the key drivers and the priority family areas. The Inverclyde Anti Poverty Officers group continue to meet to deliver specific projects to mitigate poverty across the authority area. The progress and impact of these projects are reported the Inverclyde Policy and Resources Committee. The funding and governance responsibility for the projects is reported to CMT and food insecurity is included in the progress reports. Inverclyde Council provides additional funding to Inverclyde Community Development Trust to deliver two zero waste Food Pantries in the area. The food pantries provide people with dignity	G

					and choice around food that is fresh and affordable. Inverclyde also provides funding to Glasgow Fare Share for the provision of two large deliveries of food to the pantries. The local food banks received additional money throughout the pandemic and this continued into Winter 2022/23 to ensure the communities facing the greatest food inequalities could access basic food.	
Active Inverclyde Lead Officer Tony McEwan	Inverclyde residents are less likely to be active than those in the rest of NHSGGC and Scotland as a whole.	The people of Inverclyde are more active and maintain activity throughout the life course.	Work in partnership with Inverclyde Leisure, NHSGGC health improvement services, local third sector.	Evidence delivery of outcomes associated with Active Inverclyde Strategy. Decrease in ill health associated with low levels of activity will be evidenced in local health needs assessment.	The Active Inverclyde Strategy Action Plan has now been developed and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Alliance. The Action Plan has been developed in partnership with the stakeholder group.	G
Mental wellbeing & social isolation Lead Officer Alan Best/ Charlene Elliot	Impact of Covid has increased social isolation and negatively impacted mental wellbeing.	People of Inverclyde are supported to reconnect socially and emotionally.	Utilise recovery money, Public Mental health recovery funding and Wellbeing fund monies Develop suicide prevention plan Develop Inverclyde cares movement. Winter wellness week for Health & Social Care Staff.	Reported outcomes from associated funding streams. Self-reported outcomes from upcoming NHSGGC Health & Wellbeing Survey. Evaluation of Winter wellness week.	Suicide prevention group has been meeting since September 2022 and a development session held in March 2023 will result in an action plan for 23-24. Reported via MHPB. Health and Wellbeing survey still underway. As of 1 st May, Inverclyde has completed 1098 from a target of 1177 interviews. Across GGC, we are closest to our target. Fieldwork will finish 15 th May 2023 with priority analysis report expected 15 th June 2023. Main NHSGGC report expected 28 th July 2023 and local Inverclyde report 29 th September 2023.	G

Appendix 4 Environment

Environment Partnership Flash Report

February to April 2023
Lead Officer – Kerry Wallace

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Connectivity	It is currently difficult for Inverclyde residents to engage in active travel with gaps in provision and poor infrastructure.	There will be an increase in the number of Inverclyde residents who take part in walking and cycling for everyday journeys and recreation.	<p>Improve cycle paths and walking routes through the development of:</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy (complete 2018 and adopted by council – delivery of action plan in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposed Green Connections project (by 2025) 	<p>Statistics from Community Tracks; and Statistics from Bike Bothy.</p>	<p>As previously highlighted Levelling Up funding has been awarded to Greenock Central of £19,390,00 for a transformational Town Centre Regeneration Project seeking to address fundamental place-based challenges created by the negative legacy of roads infrastructure and will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demolish the elevated A78 dual-carriageway that currently runs through the town centre, along with 40% of the existing Oak Mall retail space to remove severance and associated negative place perceptions, adverse environmental quality, rebalance retail space requirements and put the ‘heart ‘ back into the town centre. - Replace with a new high quality urban public realm, based around public squares and greenspace animated by activity created by mixed-use development, with priority given to pedestrian movement, place-making, and opportunities for follow-on investment. - The elevated A78 trunk road will be replaced by an at-grade street with full active travel integration, remodelled as an urban signalised junction incorporating pedestrian / cycle crossings. This work and plans should connect up with the Green Connections project. 	A
Healthier Lifestyles	Only four in ten (39%) adults met the current physical	Those living in the most deprived localities in Inverclyde will be	Establish links between health and	HSCP attend Environment	There has been some slippage in the project programme. The request to	

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
	<p>activity recommendations and just over a third (35%) of secondary school pupils meet the target of taking 60 minutes or more of physical activity on five or more days per week. (Inverclyde Child and Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2013).</p>	<p>more physically active and enjoy improved wellbeing</p>	<p>environment professionals - Develop green gyms, community growing.</p> <p>Community food growing. Establish an Environmental Network</p>	<p>Partnership and Environment network.</p> <p>Inverclyde Life could be a digital platform to raise awareness of opportunities in which communities and individuals can become involved in.</p>	<p>extend the Green Connections project to Mid-September 2023 has not yet been approved by Sustrans. The draft analysis for Route A for new cycling infrastructure to connect Lady Octavia Sports Centre and Greenock Town Centre was provided to the steering group with final route report due by end of June. Community consultation of Route B (connecting Greenock Cut with Greenock Town Centre) is currently underway see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZDSonqnS5w. Survey ends of 14 May and Atkins will develop outline design once survey feedback complete. Steering group now meeting every two months.</p>	<p>A</p>
<p>Land Use and Management</p>	<p>The percentage of derelict land increased from 17% to 51% in 2016. 80% of the increase in derelict land related to two large sites, the Former Inverkip Power Station site and Valley Park, Spango Valley.</p>	<p>Inverclyde residents will have access to good quality and multifunctional greenspace close to where they live (the importance of this priority has been heightened as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown)</p> <p>Derelict land will be transformed in key communities to provide</p>	<p>Develop a Greenspace Strategy.</p>	<p>By periodically measuring the number of people within a 5 minute walk of a good quality useable greenspace (this is line with a new national indicator on access to greenspace).</p> <p>Performance measures: The number of people within 400m of</p>	<p>See Green Connections update above. Greenspace Strategy is still on hold due to resource restrictions. Clyde Peatland Project Officer is now in post and discussions are on progressing the feasibility studies are underway.</p>	<p>A</p>

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
		multiple benefits for people and nature		quality green space.		
Climate Change		Inverclyde's contribution to climate change will be well on its way to ending by 2045 and the transition to a just and net zero economy will be well established.	Inverclyde Council are developing a Carbon neutral/net zero strategy and from this we will identify actions we can take forward which is likely to include those actions we are already undertaking.		All CPP priorities will now consider Net Zero and the climate and nature emergency in the work that they do.	A

Appendix 5 Culture and Heritage

Cultural Partnership – Flash Report

February to April 2023
Lead Officer – Ruth Binks

Cultural Partnership - LOIP 10 Year Vision

- There will be increased attendance at cultural events and places of culture.

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
Heritage Strategy	With funding from the Heritage Lottery, ICP commissioned developed, and published a Heritage Strategy for Inverclyde.	Partnership working to develop, enhance and deliver the strategy, building a network and legacy.	Funding bid to deliver elements of the Action Plan that cannot be delivered within existing resources.	Action plan priorities and objectives taken forward with identified outcomes being successfully implemented.	<p>Funds to procure a consultant to work up a funding bid (c. £250K) have been secured from Council recovery funding, and bid match funding has been secured from Council earmarked reserves. Procurement process has begun.</p> <p>Progress reports on this bid will be brought to future Programme Board/Alliance Board meetings.</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Heritage Network</u> have continued with monthly talks on Zoom and blog posts on the IHN website with a variety of themes linked to Inverclyde. A date has been confirmed for 2023 Heritage Fair an opportunity to encourage more people to engage with local heritage, as Saturday 20th May 2023 at the Watt Institution</p>	A

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
<p>Arts and Creativity Strategy</p>	<p>Inverclyde's Arts & Creativity Strategy launched in 2017 but did not contain an Action Plan to take the Strategy forward.</p> <p>Arts sub-group have developed an action plan to complement the Arts & Creativity Strategy.</p>	<p>Arts & Creativity Strategy and action plan being implemented with actions being delivered;</p> <p>Arts sub-group feeding in to overall Cultural Partnership and cultural delivery plan for the area.</p>	<p>Maintain regular meetings of the Arts & Creativity sub-group, ensuring representation across Inverclyde.</p>	<p>Meetings take place consistently and attendance by all partners remains high.</p> <p>Regular review of members of partnership.</p>	<p>Alliance Board approved the Arts Action Plan running alongside the Arts & Creativity Strategy on 14 June 2021.</p> <p>Inverclyde Council, in partnership with CVS Inverclyde, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, and Kayos Theatre Group successfully applied to Creative Scotland's 'Culture Collective' funding stream for £275K over 18m to assist with delivery of many of the aspirations on the Arts Action Plan and also Covid-19 recovery. The original Inverclyde Culture Collective (ICC) project runs from March 2021-September 2022, overseen by the ICC Steering Group and the Cultural Partnership. Reports on progress will be part of Cultural Partnership reporting as the project progresses.</p> <p>Culture Collective is now being extended until Sep 2023 with Inverclyde receiving a further £198,000 of funding from Creative Scotland.</p> <p>Activities carried out in this reporting period include:</p> <p>Creative Practice in Health and Social Care: Exploring Health, Illness, Disability and Long-Term Conditions in Inverclyde Aniela Piasecka was selected to embark on a creative listening and response project working with, Port Glasgow Health Centre and the health improvement team to inquire and respond to themes of Health, Illness, Disability and Long-Term Conditions in Inverclyde.</p> <p>Creative Practice in Health and Social Care Settings (Inverclyde Cares) "No One Grieves Alone" Research and Development Residency Responding to themes of loss, grief, or death as part of Inverclyde Cares 2023 "No One Grieves Alone" event programme. Steven Anderson and Laura Bradshaw - They will use Visual art, painting, performance, dance and voice work. (see below further information about No One Grieves Alone Event)</p> <p>Attempts: Events by Young People Alice Dansey-Wright is working in collaboration with young people on RIG Arts OPEN STUDIOS to explore ideas of scale, model</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">G</p>

					<p>making, scenography and the possibilities and potentials of "studio practice". She will also be looking to connect with the broader Inverclyde Culture Collective partners as a way to view and practically explore these themes in a variety of ways.</p> <p>Artist Development Bursaries (X2)</p> <p>Leva Grigelionyte – Gourock based artist will be using the bay leave to explore ideas of motherhood, compassion to host a gathering with other mother/artists.</p> <p>Stella Rooney – using the medium of the Super8 Camera to research local heritage at the Watt Museum and collaborate with local participants.</p> <p>'AI' - Africansin Inverclyde - Artist Residency - Jideofor Muotune, aka Theafrowegian, will produce photographic and audio/visual content based on the stories of Africans in the past, present and imagining their future in Inverclyde. The content will be presented through interactive and immersive exhibits at venues tbc. which may include the Watt Institute, Beacon Arts Centre, Rig Arts and James Watt Marina. The content will engage African or African diasporic communities in Inverclyde with a focus on building digital capacity around 'authentic storytelling'. The residency will have the added output of encouraging nuanced inclusive debate around the legacies of slavery in Inverclyde.</p>	
Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status

<p>Festivals and events</p>	<p>Develop calendar of current and emerging arts, culture & heritage festivals and events including those within individual communities.</p>	<p>Work to develop, create, deliver and support arts, culture & heritage events across Inverclyde, both by ICP members themselves, and by building capacity within communities.</p> <p>Effective use of public spaces and venues to support co-ordination of events.</p>			<p>Meliora 2023 No funding was available centrally for this festival this year, but partners have agreed to brand summer activity under this festivals logo and all events will be listed on Discover Inverclyde.</p> <p>Outdoor Arts Feasibility Study- Artist Residence Consultation February - March 2023 Funded by the Scottish Government 2022/2023 LAG Co-operation Challenge Fund An intensive community consultation in Inverclyde, focusing specifically on Gourock, Kilmacolm, Wemyss Bay and Inverkip, about the potential for a programme of outdoor arts residencies in rural spaces in Inverclyde was conducted. It was led by RIG Arts, supported by Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and FERAL. The report was written by Sarah Longfield</p> <p>Bay St Mural August 2020 – March 2023 Funded through River Clyde Homes Cycling Scotland’s Social Housing Fund 2020-2023 The co-designed mural at the Bay St garages, Port Glasgow was installed 31st March 2023. Artists ran external creative consultations & online workshops with local residents and with members of Port Glasgow West Community Council throughout 2020/2021. RCH staff also gathered residents opinions and the Bay St shops concept was selected to stimulate memories of the bustling street and the many businesses that traded there. A Port Glasgow Art walking trail sign is being installed by RIG the end of April. RCH are creating a small community garden area at the site.</p> <p>Remembering Together July 2022 to April 2023 Funder Greenspace Scotland Remembering Together is a project to co-create community memorials that will honour people lost, to mark what has been lost and changed in people’s lives and to preserve the best of what was learned and created together during the Covid pandemic.</p> <p>From to July 2022 to February 2023 42 creative consultation sessions took place across Inverclyde and 446 participants physically took part, 188 people contributed online through surveys</p>	<p>G</p>
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	-----------------

					<p>and 179 members contributed via a closed Facebook Group. The consultation gathered opinions from a diverse demographic.</p> <p>The final report detailing the results of Inverclyde’s consultation on what could represent Inverclyde as a co-created covid memorial has been submitted to the projects Steering Group and Greenspace Scotland on the 17th April 2023 for review</p> <p>Inside Out June 2021 - August 2023 Funder Inverclyde Culture Collective Culture Collective Creative Scotland via Inverclyde Council Alan Potters artist residency/commission commenced 11th April 2023 with a series of community stone carving sessions at the Auchmountain Glen Project Hall . The artist has been in discussion with community members to identify sites and is taking ideas and designs from the first years creative community consultation to design way markers, benches and small sculptures for the Auchmountain Glen.</p> <p>GIG@RIG 15th April January 2023 – December 2023 Funder Creative Scotland YMI</p> <p>Rock School’s first public gig at the RIG studio giving the 5 newly formed bands of young people 13 – 20 an opportunity to perform alongside better known young local bands coached by professional musicians.</p> <p>Sitting Tight - Lee Jeans Documentary The documentary on the Lee Jeans sit in was showcased as part of Govanhill Baths Community Trust’s Exhibition: Women in the Archive. 7th – 10th April’23</p> <p>RIG Arts & Galoshans Festival 2023/2024 National Lottery Extended Programme Funding Creative Scotland An application has been submitted by RIG to cover 2 years of the Galoshans Festival 2023 & 2024, with a programme of rolling activity. The Galoshans proposal focuses on the parade in Greenock and creative activities across Inverclyde. The Galoshan consortium partners remain Inverclyde Council Libraries, Beacon Arts Centre, CVS Inverclyde, Magic Torch & TRANCND.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	---	--

Area of activity	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we get there (including timescale)?	How will we know we are getting there?	Progress	RAG Status
<p>Key Cultural Venues</p>	<p>Central Greenock has 2 major cultural venues: the Watt Institution, and the Beacon Arts Centre, and a third which will open in early 2023 - the Wyllie Gallery. Inverclyde's 6 public libraries also provide cultural spaces within communities.</p>	<p>All 4 centres are represented at the Cultural Partnership and will work together to maximize cultural opportunities for the people of, and visitors to, Inverclyde.</p>		<p>Each centre will report increasing visitor numbers.</p> <p>Cultural participation in Inverclyde will increase.</p>	<p>The <u>Watt Institution</u> continues to attract visitors to existing exhibitions “Community Voices”, ‘Clydebuilt’ exhibition(Watt Hall)- ‘Language of Dreams’ (Art Gallery) both following redecoration. Greenock Art Club Exhibition installed for 1st April opening. Exhibition developed and exhibited on ‘American Abolitionist in Inverclyde’ and Digital exhibition on Carlo Naya launched. Work continues on a program of 3D scanning collections and making these accessible to the public.</p> <p>Launched additional resources on the Bloomberg Connects. NMS undertook initial collections review of the Africa Collection as part of a national review of the status and importance of collections. Running activities as part of the national ‘Wild Escapes’ campaign promoting our natural heritage and our natural sciences collections.</p> <p><u>The Beacon Arts Centre –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include: a full and interesting programme of performances including local productions - In conversation with evenings with Lulu, Paul Young and Marti Pellow; Hosted 6 performances of Kidnapped from National Theatre of Scotland; Exhibitions from Willie Sutherland, Margaret Borthwick, Ken McClymont and William Dick ; Beacon Jazz Club (performances from Helena Kay, Ant Law & Alex Hitchcock, Ali Affleck); Outdoor performance and easter egg hunt with Adrenalism theatre (The Good, The Bad and The Poultry); Hosted International Women’s Day events; Partnered with Playwrights Studio on their Coorie in sessions Sold out performances from Janey Godley, Magic of the Beatles, Lulu</p> <p><u>Inverclyde Libraries –</u> Highlights from the previous quarter include:</p>	<p>G</p> <p>G</p>

				<p>Family Crafternoon sessions took place during the February school holiday with 118 children and 94 adults attending. 70 children and 35 adults attended the Silent Disco in Greenock Central Library. A series of messy play sessions for 0-4 year olds and their families were delivered by Play Talk Read. Intergenerational Bookbug sessions with children from Wellpark Children's Centre and residents from John Galt House- took place .</p> <p>A successful free Easter programme of events took place across the libraries -Crafternoon sessions took place in all libraries ; extended Lego Club programme.; family sessions has run in the Drying Green Community Garden at South West Library. Rig Arts delivered the fully booked sessions ranging from Den Building to foraging. Funded by the SLIC Public Library Improvement Fund Play Together project</p> <p>The distribution of the Bookbug explorer bags is due to take place after the Easter holidays with over 680 bags ready to be gifted within early years settings to children in their ante-pre-school year. This gifting is enhanced by the invitation to early years centres to visit their local library to take part in a special Bookbug explorer session linked to the books gifted in the bags.</p> <p>In Feb-March there was a series of reminiscence events including talks from local authors and from the Inverclyde Heritage Network as well as a silent chair disco. Six of the events were based in Port Glasgow Library and two in Greenock Central Library. Invited to these events were sheltered housing residents as well as the public. The events were well attended with 65 people attending these events.</p> <p>Two Live Literature Sessions were delivered_at HMP Greenock in February. These sessions focused on storytelling and a comics workshop and were partly funded by the Scottish Book Trust.</p> <p>6th April in the Drying Green Garden at South West Library an event was held to celebrate national potato week and the launch of the Inverclyde Community Food Network - From 27th March till 19th June in the Drying Green Garden at South West Library allotment gardening course delivered in partnership with West College Scotland</p> <p>There also will be ten week mindfulness singing therapy session starting on 19th April in this space.</p>	
--	--	--	--	--	--

Climate Emergency	<p>The culture sector can contribute creatively to the challenges of climate change and climate justice.</p> <p>Inverclyde successfully bid to be a “Climate Beacon” with funding from Creative Carbon Scotland, in an application led by the Beacon Arts Centre and involving various cultural partners including Inverclyde Libraries, RIG Arts, Belville Community Garden amongst others.</p>	<p>The Inverclyde Climate Beacon will focus on the roles of climate change mitigation and adaptation as part of Inverclyde’s recovery from Covid.</p>	<p>The vision for the Climate Beacon is to produce and promote an exciting programme of activities to shape attitudes, concepts, and skills to help Inverclyde achieve carbon net zero. In the lead up to COP26, the project partners will host and present participatory, interactive and social events to engage local communities in discussions on climate change.</p>	<p>Partners jointly create or commission artistic work; engagement work; and development work to highlight the climate emergency and environmental issues.</p> <p>Awareness of climate issues is raised in Inverclyde.</p>	<p>Creative Carbon Scotland confirmed in June 2021 that Inverclyde would be 1 of 6 Scottish Climate Beacons and have provided c.£30K of funding to support the programme.</p> <p>This work is now complete and evaluated. Create Carbon Scotland announced in December a potential funding opportunity that to distribute to the Climate Beacon partnerships to fund further work - TBC.</p> <p>Meeting took place April 17th 2023 with Inverclyde Climate Beacon Partnership and Lewis Coenen-Rowe from Creative Carbon Scotland about funding for Legacy work. CCS have hired a fundraiser Liz Sutton who will visit ICP to discuss and support funding applications in the future.</p> <p>RIG Arts were awarded £344,478 March 2023 from the Investing in Communities Fund, Scottish Government Funding will support a part time engagement officer and a greening officer and a regular programme of creative interventions for a wide range of the community with no barriers to access - Delivering 5 workshops per week under the themes of Youth, Older Adult, Mental Health, Climate Mitigation/Adaptation, and Green/Growing. All workshops will be underpinned by a commitment to wellbeing, skill building, and community empowerment. Workshops will be delivered in rolling blocks co-designed and co-produced with the community.</p>	C
--------------------------	--	---	--	--	---	---

Challenges this quarter: Feb 2022- Apr 2023

Visitor figures beginning to recover, however revenue income may take some time to increase back to pre-Covid levels.

Next steps:

Inverclyde’s cultural sector continues to offer exciting and low cost ways for communities and individuals to participate in arts, culture and heritage.