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## 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

### Serious accidents

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

### Safeguarding

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



### Violence and ASB

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

### Partnership working

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



## 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 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 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.

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.

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.



Inverclyde Alliance

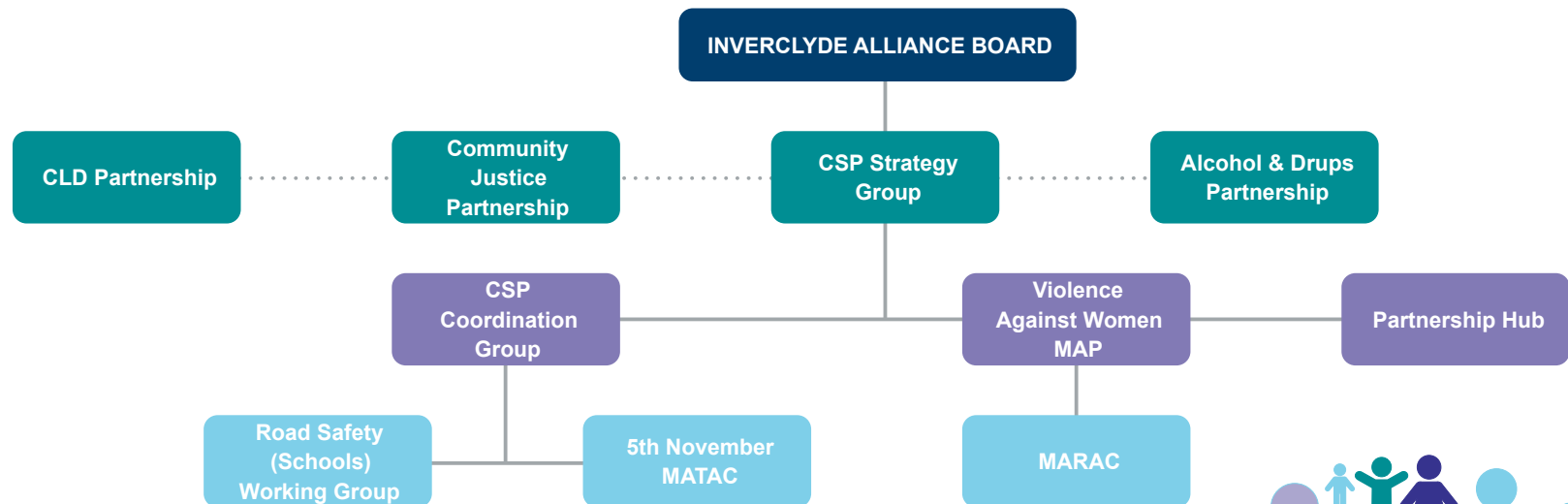


Inverclyde council





## 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;

- 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%.



- 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)



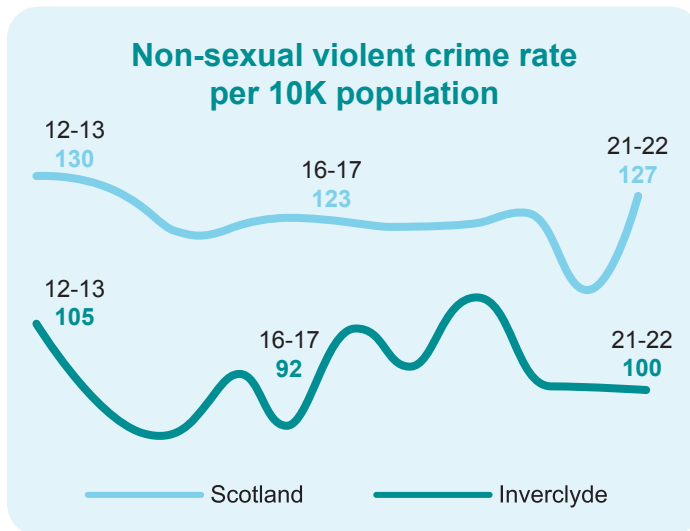
- Life expectancy – male is 75.2 compared with 77.1 nationally (2016-2018)
- Life expectancy – female is 79.6 compared with 81.1 nationally (2016-2018)
- Between 2017 and 2021, there were on average 11.4 suicides per year in Inverclyde, with 39% being female compared to 26% female in Scotland
- In Scotland 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



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



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

**85% increase** in cyber crime within Scotland between 2019-20 and 2021-22



**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) 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 five years.

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 population



Since 2012-13 antisocial offences rate ↓ **71%** and

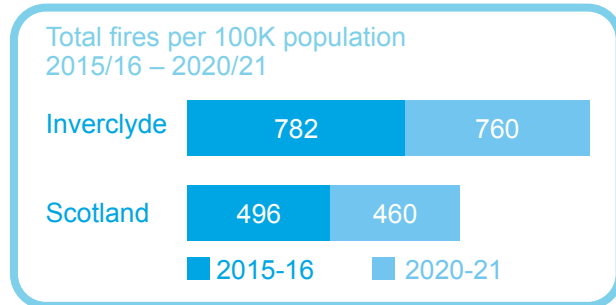
damage and reckless behaviour offence rate ↓ **46%**

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



## Fire safety

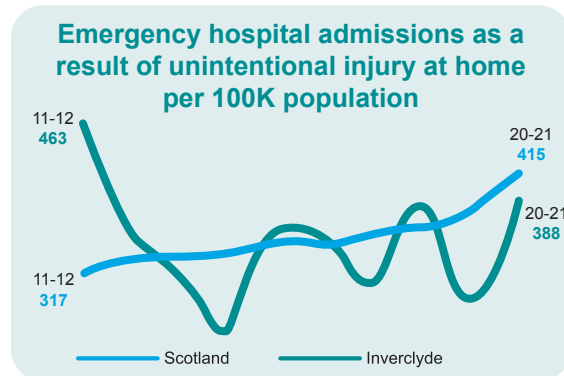
**Inverclyde had the highest rate in Scotland per 100,000 population for fires attended in 2020/21**

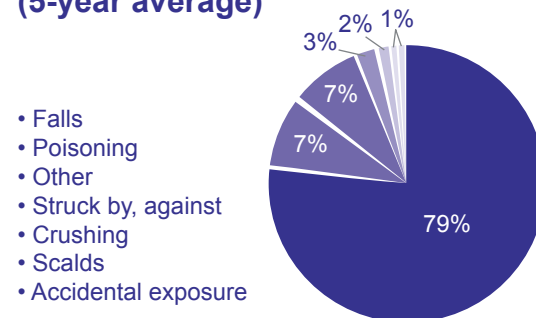

**Non-fatal casualties per 1,000 primary fires 2020-21:**  
 Inverclyde 205  
 Scotland 108




## Unintentional injuries at home



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



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

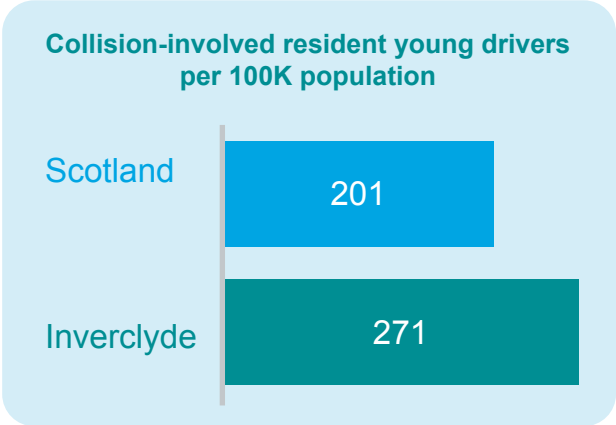
People killed or seriously injured on roads rate per 10K population



Driving under influence offences  
↑ 40% since 2012-13.

Recent rises impacted by improved drug driver testing methods.

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.



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 Government 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.





## 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.

### **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.

### **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.



## 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

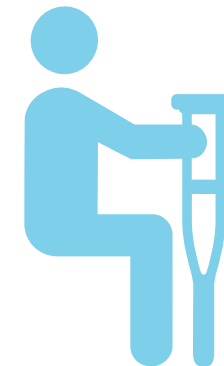
There is a reduction in the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads

### 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.

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