



Inverclyde Alliance

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

Report To:	Inverclyde Alliance Board	Date:	2 December 2024
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development, Inverclyde Council	Report No:	
Contact Officer:	Morna Rae, Head of Organisational Development, Policy & Communications, Inverclyde Council	Contact No:	
Subject:	Inverclyde Alliance Draft Annual Report 2023-2024		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Alliance Board with the draft Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report for 2023-2024.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires CPPs to demonstrate through annual progress reports how they are working effectively in partnership to improve outcomes.
- 2.2 This report demonstrates the commitment of the CPP towards achieving the vision of achieving Success for all – Getting it right for every child, citizen and community.
- 2.3 The report is structured around our strategic priorities and presents examples of partnership activity and performance data. Previous annual reports are available on the website at [Community Planning Partnership - Inverclyde Council](#)

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Alliance Board approves the Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report 2023-2024.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Inverclyde Alliance's Partnership 10-Year Plan was formally agreed by the Alliance Board at its meeting on 13 March 2023. This report provides details of the progress that has been made in implementing the first year of the plan, during the year 2023-2024.

4.2 The development process for the new Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan included a strategic needs assessment, public consultation, consideration of statutory requirements and guidance, and research on best practice.

4.3 The Plan's aim mirrors the Council's vision of '**Success for all – Getting it right for every child, citizen and community**'.

It sets out the outcomes that the Inverclyde Alliance will seek to improve, which in turn should improve the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Inverclyde.

It focuses on five key themes and related outcomes:

- **Empowered people**
 - Communities can have their voices heard and influence the places and services that affect them.
 - Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced.
- **Working people**
 - More people will be in sustained employment, with fair pay and conditions.
 - Poverty related gaps are addressed, so young people can have the skills for learning, life and work.
 - Businesses are supported and encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and develop green jobs.
- **Healthy people and places**
 - People live longer and healthier lives.
 - Supportive systems are in place to prevent alcohol and drug misuse.
 - Our natural capital is looked after, and we are effectively adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.
- **A supportive place**
 - 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.
- **A thriving place.**
 - Growth in our working age population by encouraging people to stay here and attracting new people to settle here.
 - Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need.
 - Homes are energy efficient and fuel poverty is reduced.
 - Increased use of active travel and sustainable transport options
 - Easy access to attractive and safe public spaces, and high-quality arts and cultural opportunities.

4.4 These five themes are considered by six umbrella groups, all of whom include representation from across our partner agencies:

1. Economic Board
2. Children's Services Partnership
3. Safe and Supported Communities Partnership
4. Community Learning and Development Partnership
5. Inequalities Partnership

6. Place Partnership

The groups have met regularly over the reporting year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal: None
Finance: None
Human Resources: None
Equality and Diversity: None
Alliance Partnership Plan: The update within this report relate to outcomes of the Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan for the year 2023-2024.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 None

Community Planning Partnership Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report 2023-2024

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Foreword

As Chair of the Inverclyde Alliance, I am delighted to introduce the Inverclyde Alliance Annual Report 2023-2024.

This report covers the first year of our new 10-year partnership plan and shows the positive changes and incredible impact we can have when we work together to improve long term outcomes and tackle inequalities.

In the report you will read about the current delivery landscape, see how the partners have progressed over the last year, the challenges they faced, and aims for the future.

The Partnership acknowledges that inequality and poverty continue to be overarching issues impacting our local communities and will continue to address these issues through partnership working and delivering the priorities set out in the new 10-year plan.

I am heartened to see Inverclyde Alliance partners collective achievements and note their efforts in 2023-2024 towards our aim: 'Success for All - Getting it Right for Every Child, Citizen and Community'.

Councillor Elizabeth Robertson

Chair of Inverclyde Alliance

What is Community Planning?

Community Planning is about how our local public services work together with communities, the third sector and businesses to plan and deliver services that will improve long term outcomes and tackle inequalities. It is a legal duty within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

Inverclyde Alliance is the name of our local Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The main duties for Community Planning Partnerships are:

- Working together to achieve shared aims within the local community partnership plan.
- Understanding and addressing issues and inequalities within the local authority area.
- Working with communities on local priorities.
- Review and publicly reporting on progress.

This report explains how the Inverclyde Alliance has met these duties in 2023-2024.

Who is the Inverclyde Alliance?

The Inverclyde Alliance is a strong and ambitious partnership. We work well together and have a clear focus on making a positive impact on the lives of local people. The Partnership is overseen by the Inverclyde Alliance Board. The Board operates strategically, takes key decisions, leads the partnership and carries out an overall scrutiny role.

Our partnership includes a range of organisations working in Inverclyde:

- Police Scotland
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHS GGC)
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)
- Strathclyde Partnership Transport (SPT)
- West College Scotland (WCS)
- River Clyde Homes (RCH)
- Inverclyde Council
- The third sector interface - CVS Inverclyde (CVS)
- Skills Development Scotland (SDS)
- Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
- Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)
- NatureScot (NS)
- Scottish Enterprise (SE)

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved in your local community and influence the work of the partnership, for example, through volunteering, joining a community council or locality group, helping to find out what matters in your area or getting involved in how decisions are made.

More information can be found on these pages:

- [CVS](#) – help with local charity work, volunteering opportunities and social enterprise activities.
- Find out more about [how to join a community council](#).

- Have your say on local issues by taking part in our [Community Conversations and local consultations](#).
- Get involved in improving your community spaces by submitting a [Local Place Plan](#). You can submit ideas for better green spaces, housing, leisure opportunities and activities for young people. Your ideas will feed into our longer-term Local Development Plan.

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Our new 10-year plan

The previous Inverclyde Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) ran from 2017 to 2022, with an extension to 2023.

After a significant amount of public and partner consultation, our new plan was approved on 13 March 2023.

Developing the new plan

The development process for the new Inverclyde Alliance Partnership Plan included a strategic needs assessment, public consultation, consideration of statutory requirements and guidance, and research on best practice.

Over 2800 people gave us feedback on the key priorities for Inverclyde and how we might achieve them.

Some of the issues highlighted included:

- An increasing concentration of older people within Inverclyde's communities, with the proportion of people aged 75+ set to increase by 55.5% over the next 20 years.
- An anticipated population reduction of 5% over the next 5 years, driven by there being fewer births than deaths.
- Emergency hospital admission and alcohol related hospital admission statistics being higher than Scottish average levels.
- Annual earnings at a lower level than the Scottish average.
- Significant deprivation issues with 45% of all data zones being in the 20% most deprived in Scotland
- Life expectancy for males and females sitting below Scottish average levels.

A separate report on the consultation is [available on our website](#) and on request via our contact details at the end of this document.

Our 10-year vision

The Partnership Plan 2023-2033 aim mirrors the Council's vision of '**Success for all – Getting it right for every child, citizen and community**'.

The Plan sets out the outcomes that the Inverclyde Alliance will seek to improve, which in turn should improve the wellbeing and quality of life of the residents of Inverclyde.

It focuses on five key themes and related outcomes:

- **Empowered people**
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- **Healthy people and places**
 - People live longer and healthier lives.
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2. Children's Services Partnership
3. Safe and Supported Communities Partnership
4. Community Learning and Development Partnership
5. Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership
6. Place Partnership

The delivery landscape

Inverclyde is an area which enjoys a stunning location on the banks of the Clyde and has a proud history and heritage linked to the river. The cultural offering in the area is growing and our school's estate is one families can be proud of.

However, Inverclyde faces a very challenging financial picture. Community Planning partners themselves experienced inflationary pressures and a real terms reduction in funding which is now impacting the way in which services are delivered.

Inverclyde as an area, has many significant challenges which impact community planning, particularly around poverty, depopulation, health and social care. Our six umbrella partner groups understand the stark reality of the situation in Inverclyde and continue to progress multiple partnership plans to tackle these issues at a local level.

Population

The Partnership's strategic needs assessment for the new 10-year plan acknowledged the increasing concentration of older people within Inverclyde's communities and an anticipated population reduction.

To help understand the landscape Inverclyde Alliance encountered in 2023-2024, we can look to the National Census Report, conducted in 2022.

Inverclyde's estimated population on 20 March 2022 was 78,426, this is a decrease of 3.7% from the Census 2011 population figure, 81,485. A reducing trend in population has been observed for some time and has a significant impact on how partners will need to plan.

Inverclyde's population presented by 5-year age groups, 2011 and 2022



The trend in an aging population has also been noted for some time. Apart from the 30-34-year age group, all age bands in Inverclyde under the age of 55, decreased in population compared to 2011, whilst Inverclyde's population aged 55 and older has increased across all age bands.

Both locally and nationally, people aged 65+ outnumber those under 15 years. These changes will put greater demands on Inverclyde's health and social care services and need to be reflected in partners plans.

Health

Whilst the health and social care sector continues to recover from the impact of the COVID19 pandemic, the national cost-of-living crisis has added considerable difficulties both for communities and services. These factors continue to have a significant negative impact for many people in Inverclyde. The physical and mental health of our communities has been negatively impacted, and the national cost-of-living crisis has deepened the longstanding inequalities in Inverclyde.

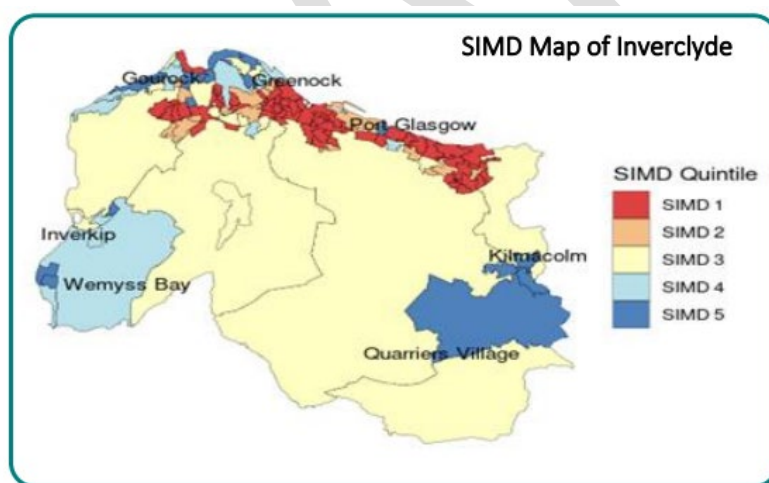
Life expectancy for both male and females in 2023-2024 is also lower than that of the Scottish average. In Inverclyde, women have a life expectancy of 78.7 (against 80.7 across Scotland), with male life expectancy reported as 74.6 (with 76.5 reported for Scotland).

Poverty

According to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), the levels of poverty and deprivation in Inverclyde continue to be, proportionately, amongst the highest in Scotland.

It reports that 43% of local people live in areas that are among the most deprived in the country (SIMD 1). This is second only to Glasgow, where 44% of the population live in SIMD 1 areas.

People living in those areas are more likely to experience several adverse outcomes, including physical health challenges, complex long-term medical conditions, negative mental health and wellbeing, social exclusion, and food insecurity. These are all areas of work the Partnership continues to focus on.



As figure 2 shows, areas of high deprivation are not dispersed evenly across Inverclyde, instead high deprivation areas are clustered across specific communities, particularly in Port Glasgow and the East End of Greenock. This links in with the Partnerships locality planning work, to consult, engage and deliver at a micro-community level.

In addition, child poverty in Inverclyde is amongst the highest in Scotland, with almost 1 in 4 of local young people affected. Similarly, the percentage of children living in absolute poverty in Inverclyde is 18.1%, higher than the Scottish figure of 17.1%.

This is a significant area of attention for the Partnership and has links across multiple partner groups and action plans.

Employment

The Census Report from 2022 also shows that of Inverclyde's population aged over 16 (66,415), 35,342 people were economically active (excluding full time students).

Economic inactivity is 4.5% higher than the Scottish average. However, there are a variety of reasons to explain where the inactivity lies.

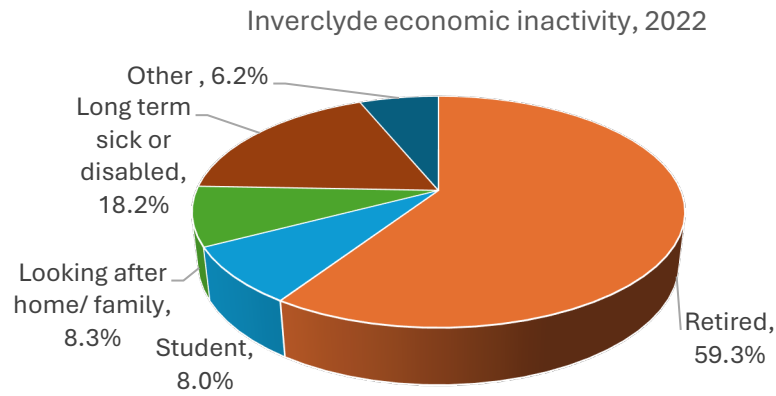


Figure 3 shows that retired people made up the largest proportion of Inverclyde's population that were economically inactive in Inverclyde in 2022, accounting for 59.3%.

Long terms sickness or disability, looking after home/family and students made up the remainder of the inactive population.

The Local Employability Partnership group, which is made up of both local and national agencies, continues to concentrate on ways to support and advance employment opportunities for the people of Inverclyde.

Community Planning Outcomes Profile

The Community Planning Outcomes Profile is coordinated by the Improvement Service with oversight provided by the Outcome, Evidence and Performance (OEP) Board. The Board includes representatives from Scottish Government, SOLACE, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Skills Development Scotland, Scottish Enterprise, What Works Scotland and the third sector.

It is a tool which assists Community Planning Partnerships to assess if the lives of people in their community are improving. It includes a set of core measures on important life outcomes including early years, older people, safer/stronger communities, health and wellbeing, and engagement with local communities. It provides a consistent basis for measuring outcomes and inequalities of outcome in our area. It is available at [CPOP](#)

When comparing Inverclyde's performance against similar Community Planning Partnership areas, Inverclyde performs well in relation to the following indicators:

- Healthy birthweight
- Attainment of pupils
- Crime rate
- Early mortality

The areas in which Inverclyde's performance is not as good as other similar Community Planning Partnership areas include:

- Child poverty
- Median earnings
- Out of work benefits
- Unplanned hospital attendances

To address these themes, Alliance partners are supporting a range of work.

Detailed graphs can be found in the online tool, [CPOP](#).

Additional performance indicators

In addition to the Community Planning Outcomes Profile a range of other performance indicators assist with our understanding of progress against outcomes. These are from various national sources such as the Scottish Household Survey, the Local Government Benchmarking Framework, and NOMIS. These are supplemented by local data and research.

Examples are included throughout this report.

A snapshot of how we are doing

Percentage of children living in relative poverty (after housing costs)

26.1% (2022-23) (latest available)

An increase from the 21-22 figure of 24.4.%.

The 5-year trend is declining performance.

Adults who have done formal volunteering in the last 12 months

29%

There has been an increase in these levels to this high. The previous two annual values were 19%.

Influencing decision making

24% Agree or strongly agree

The number of residents who agree they can influence decisions affecting their local area.

This was also 24% in 2020/2021.

Total Amount of Vacant/Derelict Land

147.45ha

This was 156.01 in 2020 and 151.35 in 2019.

Percentage of the population with no qualification

9.2% (Dec 2023)

This has been decreasing, with recent figures of 12.5% in 2020 and 9.6% 2021.

Economically active population

77.7% (March 2023)

Previous levels were 71.5% in 2020 and 78% in 2021.

Claimant count as a percentage of 16-24 population

4.7%

This has decreased from 6.4% in 2021/22 and 4.8% in 2022/23. The 5-year trend is improving performance.

Median earnings for employees living in the area (all full-time workers)

£718.50

This has gradually been increasing and the 5-year trend is improving performance.

Claimant count as a percentage of the working age population

3.6%

This has decreased from 5.3% in 2021/22 and 3.9% in 2022/23. The 5-year trend is

The percentage of young people participating in education, training or employment.

93.5% (2023-24)

While this is a reduction from 94% in 2022-23 the 5-year trend is positive.

Participation in sport and physical activity

80%

This is an increase in the previous two year's values of 70% and 73%.

CO2 emissions area wide per capita.

3.6t

This is reduction from the previous figure of 4.06t with an improving trend.

Percentage of adults feeling very or fairly safe when walking alone in their area after dark.

77%

This is 81% at a national level.

Missing people

+3.3%

156 missing people

(Police Scotland, 01/04/23 to 31/12/23)

Satisfaction with neighbourhood as a place to live.

79%

This is a reduction from the previous figure of 86%. There is a declining performance.

Recorded domestic abuse incidents

95 incidents per 10,000 population

This is a reduction from the previous year of 102 per 10,000. There were 116 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the police in Scotland per 10,000 population in 2023-2024.

Cultural engagement levels

88%

The previous two year's values were 87%.

Population Estimate

78,330

This is a decrease of 20 from the 2022 estimate. The 5-year trend is worsening performance.

Theme 1: Empowered people

Related outcomes

- Communities can have their voices heard and influence the places and services that affect them.
- Gaps in outcomes linked to poverty are reduced.

Linked groups

- Thriving Communities
- Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership
- Children's Services Partnership

Key achievements

HSCP Community Link Work

The cost-of-living situation, post-pandemic and housing issue have significantly impacted Inverclyde residents. From September 2023 to March 2024, during the winter months, 1307 patients were seen by a Community Link Worker, with 2193 reasons giving for referral to see a Community Link Worker.

Top referral reasons include financial problems accounting for 307 referrals, stress related problems generating 296, housing problems noted for 253 referrals and social prescribing support for mental health from 196 of those referrals.

The service continues to have a high engagement rate of 92%.

The Community Link Workers work closely with a range of Alliance partners to provide holistic support and advice.

Resettlement

Partners throughout Inverclyde have continued to work together to successfully deliver a range of resettlement schemes in the area.

In 2023-2024 Inverclyde supported 17 Afghan families, 32 Syrian families, and 7 Sudanese families.

There are currently 143 Ukrainians residing with host families or in temporary accommodation across Inverclyde – all of whom have been supported with a range of local and national partners involved.

The Partnership, through Your Voice and a range of other local and national third sector organisations, supported both the refugees and the people seeking asylum to ensure they continue to be linked locally into activities and the community.

Examples of partner interactions with New to Scotland residents:

- The Beacon delivered a Woman’s Art & Conversation Class. This created a positive opportunity to develop English language, learn new skills, integrate with the local community, and reduce isolation.
- Cycling UK and the Council’s CLD arranged weekly tutor-led bike rides. Bikes were provided by Belville Community Gardens and Community Tracks. This created opportunities to improve physical activity, familiarise themselves with the local community and have fun.
- Your Voice also supported asylum seekers living within Inverclyde. Weekly football sessions were held at Lady Octavia. Twice weekly gym sessions were organised and attended in partnership with the local community gym, Urban Fit. This created a positive routine for the men as well as the opportunity to improve physical/mental health.

<breakout box>

Case study

One individual who moved from Iran, met with The Inverclyde Shed group. He has a passion for crafting, which draws on his background in interior design and his experience playing guitar in Iran. He has now constructed guitars from scratch, creating a tartan guitar he named Caledonia.

Two further individuals, who are enthusiastic about fitness, received support to compete in The Gauntlet Fitness Competition at SECC at the end of 2023. This was an achievement that represents the culmination of their participation in the gym session at Urban Fit where they have become popular members.

Stakeholder feedback

“The weekly meetings at the voice changed everything, we felt boundless support, we found understanding, we felt love. Thank you so much for your help, we really appreciate it.”

“Our family is extremely thankful to the Your Voice team for providing us with the chance to interact, integrate, and adjust to new place and county.”

<breakout box ends>

Food growing

Whilst community food growing is already well established in Inverclyde, there have been some fantastic projects and events this year which have increased the opportunities available for local communities to participate.

Inverclyde’s food growing activities are supported by many local agencies and delivered through vital partnership working. These partners include The Inverclyde Shed, Parklea Branching Out, Belville Community Garden Trust, Inverclyde HSCP, Inverclyde Council’s Community Learning and Development Service and the Bluebird Family Centre.

The area has several community gardens and allotments where local people can participate in community food growing. The community gardens are all very welcoming and offer a great way to make friends, improve physical and mental health and enjoy the outdoors.

- In 2023-2024, Inverclyde Community Food Network produced a food map of Inverclyde which provides details of where communities can access the area's growing sites, food banks, pantries, excess food donations, school gardens, allotments and cooking sessions. The food map can be accessed via the Inverclyde Community Food Network website at www.icfn.org.uk/food-map
- Also, this year, two new food growing sites were introduced by partners in Branchton Community Centre and Inverclyde Shed and smaller community sites were developed at Craig End and Port Glasgow Health Centre.
- The Community Food Network achieved some great results in 2023-2024 including training 50 local people in community cooking and the establishment of community fridges. The network was also successful at hosting several events including a moveable feast to which our New to Scotland residents were invited events to promote food growing such as Potato Week.
- Belville Community Garden joined in and set up weekly "soup and a blether" activities.
- The busy year continued with the establishment of the Food Network Strategy and the appointment of the Invergrow worker in November 2023.

iPromise

Alliance partners are committed to keeping The Promise and ensuring children and young people have good childhoods. As part of their work this year, a children's hearing event was held in the Beacon to provide an opportunity for relationship building with all partner agencies and to discuss how children's hearings for our children, young people and families can be improved.

The iPromise in Hearings Steering group, has been instrumental in progressing change. Each person was invited to discuss their role in preparing for a hearing and young people's views were shared.

Investing In Communities Enterprise project (ICE)

The ICE project, led by CVS, was another success story from 2023. They engaged with local communities to understand local need, create new volunteer led groups and support the development of social enterprises.

To date the project team have supported this by growing funding for 20 existing social enterprises through education, developing 10 new social enterprises, engaging with communities to create eight new volunteer led groups and discussed climate change volunteering opportunities with three local schools.

Theme 2: Working people

Related outcomes

- More people will be in sustained employment, with fair pay and conditions.
- Poverty related gaps are addressed, so young people can have the skills for learning, life and work.
- Businesses are supported and encouraged to reduce their carbon footprint and develop green jobs.

Linked groups

- Children's Services Partnership
- Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership
- Economic Board

Key achievements

Employability actions

This year, Inverclyde Local Employability Partnership (ILEP) provided financial support to augment the Council's internal Modern Apprentice Programme, with over 75 apprentices in post during the year.

In addition, employability support was provided to over 100 local employers through wage subsidy programmes and Employer Recruitment Incentives (ERIs) to help them hire local people into local jobs and support was provided to employers to upskill their existing workforce.

Later in the year, ILEP organised 2 Inverclyde Jobs Fairs, attended by 830 residents and supported by over 50 employers and training providers.

No One Left Behind (NOLB)

In 2023-2024 Inverclyde Council, on behalf of ILEP, used NOLB funding to procure four employability services, delivered by one national and three local third sector organisations. These services provided a range of pre-vocational and vocational training opportunities, work experience programmes and life skills support.

ILEP used also NOLB funds to develop a 1-year paid Job Creation Programme for parents/kinship carers in partnership with 10 local, third sector employers. It also provided Key Worker support to residents looking to gain the confidence and vocational skills to move into work, including parents, those with low skills, long term unemployed and those with a health condition or disability.

The programme engaged with over 560 individuals between April 2023 and March 2024.

Early Adopter Community

One of the key priorities of the Child Poverty Action Group is to increase income by prioritising and supporting families living in poverty to access and maintain employment by offering a range of training and learning programs to enhance their skills and employability opportunities range and choice of opportunities.

To further improve access to affordable childcare, the Early Adopter Community has provided financial support to both childminders and eligible parents in the Port Glasgow area. Currently, there are three childminders operating in Port Glasgow, and the partnership aims to significantly increase this number to provide greater choice for local families. This collaborative effort has enabled funded placements within childminding settings and six children are currently in funded placements with childminders in Port Glasgow.

Attainment

While overall attainment in primary schools in 2023-2024 saw a modest 0.5% increase, the most significant gains were made in schools based in the most deprived areas.

10 out of 12 previously identified schools (typically located in areas of deprivation) improved attendance compared to last year 2022/23.

This positive trend is further exemplified by Newark Primary school, a school in a high-deprivation area, which continues to make significant strides.

Two out of six secondary schools saw attendance gains and it's noteworthy that both these schools are situated in areas of highest deprivation. St Columba's, with a 0.8% improvement, focused on data-driven solutions to identify and address attendance barriers alongside an engaging school environment and extracurricular activities.

There remains a clear need to further address attendance, particularly for children impacted by poverty. A local authority plan is already in place to tackle this challenge.

Enterprise Project for Investing in Communities (EPIC)

Throughout 2023-2024 community planning partner, CVS Inverclyde continued to host projects that work with local communities to build capacity and employability.

Their EPIC project provided support and training to new and existing social enterprises, to grow their funding capacity and increase local support and employment.

Theme 3: Healthy people and places

Related outcomes

- People live longer and healthier lives.
- Supportive systems are in place to prevent alcohol and drug misuse.
- Our natural capital is looked after, and we are effectively adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Linked groups

- Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership
- Thriving Communities Partnership
- Safe and Supported Communities Partnership
- Place Partnership

Key achievements

Active Inverclyde

The Active Inverclyde Strategy is supported by multiple partners across Inverclyde including local clubs and Community Sports Hubs, young people, Inverclyde Leisure, Inverclyde HSCP, sport Scotland, and other local services.

This year, the working groups have completed vital consultations to identify needs and barriers to increasing and maintaining active lifestyle.

Feedback from the public consultation highlighted the need for better awareness of local opportunities to be active. As such, the Active Inverclyde Working Group (AIWG) are moving forward with creating a portal which will allow groups/organisations to put information on a public, digital platform.

CVS are currently developing the portal and will be attending the working group to share progress and take feedback. Prior to the portal being launched the AIWG are planning to do community road shows within each locality to raise awareness of the portal so that groups/organisations can ensure they are included.

Remembering Together

In 2023, it was announced that the area would receive Scottish Government funding as part of the Remembering Together initiative. This project looks to co-create memorials which will honour the people we have lost, mark what has been lost and changed in our lives and preserve the best of what we have learned and created together during the Covid pandemic.

Rig Arts have led the project and through community consultation, concluded that five labyrinths in park settings throughout Inverclyde are to be installed as part of the Remembering Together project. These will be unveiled later in 2024.

Inverclyde Alcohol and Drug Partnership (IADP)

In 2023, work began on a new ADP Strategy and Delivery Plan for 2023 – 2026. The ADP will take a phased approach in terms of producing the new documentation for a roll out of a new strategy and delivery plan in summer 2024.

Plans were also published about a new IADP website, as the existing site doesn't comply with current UK accessibility and disability laws. The ADP Communications Working Group will take this forward in consultation with service users, service providers and family members.

A Mental Health and Substance Use delivery group was also established to deliver on the Improving Our Response programme in Inverclyde – the work of this delivery group will now be embedded with the IADP. The delivery group recognised the need for greater collaboration and co-ordination among services to support prevention and long-term recovery for people with multiple and complex needs, particularly those with mental health and substance use support needs.

Tree planting actions

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.

Inverclyde Council has now identified more than 200 target locations where new woodland creation will link up important habitats, making the wildlife that rely upon them better able to cope as the climate changes.

Work with the Green Action Trust this year has also identified over 900 site opportunities.

Compassionate Inverclyde

Compassionate Inverclyde is a multi-award-winning social movement established in 2017 as the first Compassionate Community in Scotland.

In 2023, the Inverclyde Alliance approved a report highlighting the wide range of benefits for people, communities and for the health and care system. It showed the social value realised over the five years Compassionate Inverclyde has been fully operational.

The first initiative was the introduction of No One Dies Alone (NODA) companions to support people in the last hours of life, initially in hospital then gradually extending to care homes and at home.

<breakout box>

“My father sadly passed away last week after a long stay in IRH. During his last few days, he and the family were supported by NODA volunteers. My brother and I would like to express our gratitude for the help and comfort we were all given during this time. The volunteer companions were understanding and supportive and totally non-judgemental about the amount of time the family were able to spend with my father, allowing us to also spend time at home looking after our mother.”

<end of break out box>

NODA directly benefits the people who are supported at the end of their life, and families who may be living at some distance or juggling other caring responsibilities and are reassured that their loved one is being cared for.

Another example of how Compassionate Inverclyde has provided much needed help is through their Back Home Boxes. In partnership with Inverclyde Royal Hospital, Back Home Boxes are supplied to all who return home from hospital alone. The boxes contain essential items such as tea, milk, bread and tinned food so recipients don't have to worry about shopping.

The boxes also contain a get-well card made by local children and a hand-knitted blanket from members of the local community. People, businesses, organisations and groups across Inverclyde donate the contents of the boxes.

Back Home Boxes directly benefit recipients and their family members and touch the lives of thousands of people of all ages across Inverclyde who knit the blankets, make cards and donate goods as a community act of kindness for the "a wee box of love".

The Back Home Boxes are universally well received. The contents have helped to facilitate timely discharges and help to reduce the need for a social care visit immediately after discharge.

Community Learning and Development (CLD) 3 Year plan 2021-2024

The CLD Partnership has made significant progress over the last year in achieving its four key priorities. Highlights include:

- The Moodle digital learning platform which has seen a rise of 115% in course completions and visits to the website to undertake learning have risen 500%.
- The engagement with stakeholders as part of the review of Community Councils which ran from December 2022 to November 2023. Engagement levels have been high with over 1,200 votes received during stage 2 of the consultation.
- An increase in the membership of the Inverclyde Practitioners Forum (IPF) which now has over 250 members, representing 40 organisations.

Theme 4: A supportive place

Related 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.

Linked groups

- Safe and Supported Communities Partnership
- Children's Services Partnership
- Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership

Key achievements

Crime prevention education

In 2023-2024, Police Scotland carried out a range of talks within Inverclyde's primary and secondary schools by its recently established Preventions & Interventions team. The topics covered included online safety, hate crime, consent, general safety, fire safety, and cybercrime/bullying.

As a result, schools have begun to utilise Police Scotland's Partners Intelligence Portal (PIP) to build on their approach to public protection. PIP is a secure and confidential electronic system that allows partner agencies to safely and securely share important information with the police that allows them to develop intelligence about threat, risk, and harm. The system has been piloted by Lomond View Academy, and further roll out is planned to other schools and youth work services.

VAWG Strategy 2023-2026

A new Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy was introduced in June 2023.

Several events and campaigns were supported throughout 2023-2024.

As part of efforts to address underrepresentation of women and minority groups in power and politics, a 'Gather' event was hosted by the Women's Forum on the 24th of June 2023.

In November, the Partnership supported 16 Days of Activism to Eliminate VAW.

Inverclyde Women's Aid (IWA) hosted a Coffee Morning at their new office, displaying artwork developed by women supported through the service who were part of a focus group. They also delivered a 'Red Shoe Display' to signify lives lost to GBV at the Beacon Arts Centre and Gourrock Train Station and promoted information at West College Scotland.

Inverclyde Alliance held an event to discuss the 'Imagine' poem, written by Myra Ross for '16 Days' about imagining a world without GBV.

The Watt Institution hosted an event to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on the 8th of March 2024. An informative talk, was delivered by the Council's Archivist, explored the real women behind stories of witches and witchcraft in Inverclyde. The event proved very popular and was at full capacity and feedback from attendees was very positive.

Safer roads

In 2023-2024, the Road Safety (Schools) Multi-Agency Working Group responded to concerns raised by the Inverkip Primary School community regarding the safety of their school exit points at the end of the school day.

Members of the team implemented a series of measures including structural works to improve the main school entrance and working with the school to embed an alternative single point exit route which provides a safer road crossing for pupils at the end of the day.

New Inverclyde Children's Services Plan 2023-26

In October 2023, the Board approved a new Children's Services Plan for 2023-2026.

Over the course of 2023-2024, there were some key achievements. These included a variety of training opportunities across Partners, including a series of seven-minute training briefings to staff covering: - professional curiosity - child sexual exploitation - child criminal exploitation - Care and Risk Management and Assessment of Care training via a multi-agency team from the HSCP and Barnardo's.

A locality-based holiday programme also ran in October 2023 offering 27 activity sessions over the week. Through the five venues there was 421 attendances from 192 young people from P1-S1 taking part in sport and physical activity with 16 Sports Leaders involved in the delivery. Partner camps had a further 295 attendances from 108 young people.

Another positive achievement through the Partnership included the community sports hub continuing to grow in 2023. This has seen new partnerships developing between local sports clubs and wider community organisations.

Trauma Informed

Work to develop trauma informed practices within the Partnership, saw important steps forward in 2023-2024. In June 2023 it was agreed for Inverclyde Council to adopt the Leadership Pledge of Support to become a trauma informed organisation.

This pledge built on a wealth of existing progress towards developing trauma informed and responsive services across Inverclyde.

Police Scotland have also been a key partner in Inverclyde throughout 2023/24, engaging with the wider group and the TIP Lead Officer to research what trauma informed developments are taking place within Police Scotland at a national level.

Education Services also started on the road to ensuring trauma informed practice is embedded consistently. Throughout session 2023-2024, all establishments have included trauma informed practice planning on their service improvement plans, and there was a significant roll out of training across Inverclyde's education establishments.

Community Safety Strategy 2023-26

A new 3-year Community Safety Strategy was launched in June 2023 with a 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'.

Local community safety partnership hubs are meetings designed to address anti-social behaviour and welfare concerns.

In 2023, the partners around the hub meeting undertook joint training between Registered Social Landlords (RSLs), Police Scotland, and Inverclyde Council Community Wardens on specific antisocial behaviour (ASB) topics, such as cuckooing. This training has enhanced knowledge among RSLs and their customers, enabling them to better identify potential instances of this practice in their communities and connect with partners for appropriate responses.

Additionally, a recent focus group involving RSLs, and other partners was organised to share experiences related to tackling ASB, discuss barriers, and outline actions taken to achieve resolutions. This initiative was well received and is now planned to be held annually.

River Clyde Homes (RCH) have continued to allocate a budget for additional warden patrols in identified "hot spot" areas. By sharing intelligence with RCH, these efforts have led to positive outcomes for RCH customers, contributing to a safer community.

Inverclyde Fire Skills Course

A group of young people enjoyed a week learning new skills alongside firefighters at Port Glasgow Community Fire Station.

Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) and Inverclyde Council partnered to deliver a five-day Fire Skills Course in Port Glasgow during March 2024, with nine young people participating in the program. The course focused on developing essential life skills, including safety, discipline, respect, CPR, communication, and teamwork. Inputs from Police Scotland also formed part of the course.

Participants received a Fire Skills certificate upon completion. Following the course, attendees received support from CLD youth work service to develop their CVs and link their experience to the Dynamic Youth Award. Successful completion of this award could pave the way for achieving a Bronze Youth Achievement Award in their senior year.

Police Scotland Preventions & Interventions Team

During 2023-2024 Police Scotland set up a new 'Preventions & Interventions' team to operate within K Division, which covers both Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

It is a small team who aim to deliver partnership prevention work across the local authority areas, reaching out with a range of inputs including hate crime, missing persons, fire safety, young drivers, weapons, antisocial behaviour, internet safety, sexual consent, and scams.

The team deliver to a diverse range of people within a variety of settings such as care homes, schools, and community groups, and will often collaborate with other partners on joint inputs such as Scottish Fire and Rescue.

Battery Park Lighting Project

Inverclyde secured UK Government funding to enhance the lighting in Battery Park in a bid to make people feel safer during darker mornings and evenings. The step was taken after safe walking spaces were highlighted as a concern in a Public Space, Activity and Women's Safety Survey, which prompted the council to seek improvements.

Inverclyde Council followed up that survey with a further public consultation on the Battery Park in Gourrock, with over 500 respondents during summer 2023 and 90% of them agreeing that lighting the park would increase their perception of safety and they would use it more.

The works have been ongoing throughout 2023-2024 and are due for completion mid-2024.

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Theme 5: A thriving place

Related outcomes

- Growth in our working age population by encouraging people to stay here and attracting new people to settle here.
- Development of strong community-based services that respond to local need.
- Homes are energy efficient and fuel poverty is reduced.

Linked groups

- Tackling Inequalities and Improving People's Lives Partnership
- Thriving Communities Partnership
- Place Partnership

Key achievements

Locality plans reviewed

As part of the community planning element of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Inverclyde Alliance has a responsibility to develop locality plans for those areas of Inverclyde which experience the greatest inequalities.

Following a review in 2023 of the previous Community Engagement Groups, the Inverclyde Alliance Board approved a new approach and a shift towards a new Locality Plan engagement model. This will embrace technology and empower residents to actively shape Inverclyde's future.

The redesign of the Locality Plan engagement model in 2024 will mean a move towards an Inverclyde-wide engagement network, based on a mixture of online and locality-based face-to-face engagement. This model will be branded as "Inverclyde People's Network".

Active Inverclyde public consultation

The Partnerships Active Inverclyde Strategy has a key role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of the population of Inverclyde. A consultation was run in 2023 to establish baseline activity levels. A prize draw incentive was attached to the survey with local partners donating prizes. The consultation focussed on identifying activity trends amongst individuals aged 11 and above.

Over 1000 people completed the survey.

Next steps include investigating the 25% of those surveyed who are not meeting NHS activity guidelines and considering what can be done to get them involved in activity. An Active Inverclyde committee was also formed in 2023 to take forward the work of the implementation group.

Active Travel

The Council is committed to promoting and investing in active travel at a local level. Active travel contributes to transport as well as health, social equalities and environmental outcomes. The natural coastal and moorland areas surrounding the area offer a unique opportunity for walking

and cycling routes in addition to our suburban areas. Inverclyde Council has worked with partners throughout 2023-2024 to deliver new and improved active travel routes in the area.

These include:

- Ardgowan Street and Customhouse Way – pavements widened and segregated to accommodate a cycle path – in partnership with Cycling Walking & Safer Routes (CWSR), Transport Scotland and Sustrans.
- N75 Lady Octavia to Dubbs Road – improvements to surfacing and lighting of the route – in partnership with CWSR and Sustrans.
- Gourock Station – route through Gourock Station segregated to include both walking and cycling paths – in partnership with Sustrans.

Culture Collective

During 2023-2024 the Evaluation Report for the Inverclyde Culture Collective final year of activity was published. This report reflected the success and reach of the Culture Collective partnership which included the Council as the lead partner alongside CVS Inverclyde, RIG Arts, the Beacon Arts Centre and Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos). All partners in the Culture Collective are also members of the Inverclyde Cultural Partnership (ICP), making the ICP a natural forum for progress reporting and information sharing.

Through Inverclyde Culture Collective:

- 32 projects were funded
- 791 creative sessions were held, engaging with well over 2,000 participants
- An estimated 56 community partners were involved
- 116 freelance opportunities were created undertaking 2,625 hours of paid work.

Of the 22 projects that took place in the final year of the Collective, 73% focused on working with individuals who had previously had low engagement with the arts or were impacted by known barriers to access. Participatory sessions took place in 38 unique locations across Inverclyde and half of the work delivered was in areas in the first decile of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) – communities amongst the most deprived 10% of all data-zones in Scotland.

In February 2024, the opportunity arose for Inverclyde Council to apply for further funds from Creative Scotland to secure the legacy of the Inverclyde Culture Collective. An application was submitted and successful, with legacy funding disbursed across all Culture Collective key partners. The success of the Inverclyde Culture Collective and the knowledge and outputs generated and shared through the ICP are now being used to inform the development of a refreshed Inverclyde Arts and Creativity Action Plan to launch in 2025.

Locality Planning

Community Planning Partnerships are required to participate in locality planning, have plans agreed at a locality level and report on progress against them. At the June 2024 Alliance meeting 6 updated plans were agreed. This followed a process of community engagement and research.

The plans will provide a key focus to support the locality-based community conversations planned as part People's Network approach to community engagement and empowerment.

Progress will be reported to the Thriving Communities Partnership which feeds directly to the Inverclyde Alliance Board.

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Looking Forward

Inverclyde Alliance partners will continue their strong partnership working to deliver the priorities within the Partnership Plan.

In 2024-25 the new delivery groups will embed and the thematic action plans will be developed.

The new approach to locality planning will strengthen relationships between the Alliance and our communities. This will facilitate a better understanding of local challenges, ambitions and opportunities.

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