
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	14 November 2017
Report By:	Wilma Bain, Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/26/17/MMcK
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Subject:	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Resources Committee with information on how the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2016 is used to inform service planning and the role of SIMD in the Scottish Government's grant allocation to Councils.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The SIMD is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation in Scotland. It incorporates several different aspects of deprivation, combining them into a single index. The latest version of the SIMD was published on 31 August 2016.

- 2.2 Members of the Policy and Resources Committee considered a report on main findings of the SIMD16 results at its meeting on 20 September 2016. A briefing on the SIMD16 was also provided for Elected Members.

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- 2.3 The SIMD is not an influencing factor in calculating the block grant that is paid to Councils by the Scottish Government. This is because the purpose of the SIMD is to direct and influence policy making. Also the limitations of the SIMD means that:

- You cannot pinpoint how much more deprived one area is from another, as the difference between ranks can be tiny or large,
- The SIMD is a relative ranking of all datazones in Scotland and as some improve and move in ranking, others will move up to take their place.

- 2.4 Successive Scottish Governments have however used deprivation data to target funding for specific policy measures aimed at tackling deprivation. Recent examples of this include the Attainment Challenge Fund and the Pupil Equity Fund.

- 2.5 Inverclyde Council uses SIMD data to identify and understand concentrations of multiple deprivation where our communities are likely to be experiencing poorer outcomes. Appendix 1 has been extracted from the Community Outcomes Profiles developed by the Improvement Service and shows the communities with the poorest outcomes in Inverclyde, based on SIMD16 data.

- 2.6 The SIMD is however just one tool that is used by services to inform service planning and should not be used in isolation. Datazone rankings, for example, allow you to identify the 20% most deprived datazones within the Education domain that are in Inverclyde, however in developing an approach to tackle this, you would also need to consider school attendance,

attainment, exclusions, school leaver destination results etc.

- 2.7 The complexity of the issues associated with multiple deprivation means that it cannot be successfully tackled by any one organisation. The SIMD data was used by the Community Planning Partnership to help focus resources in the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17 and will inform the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) a consultative draft of which was agreed at the Alliance Board on 2 October and will be finalised at the Board meeting on 11 December. The LOIP must demonstrate that the partnership has an understanding of which communities experience poorer outcomes and SIMD16, along with partners' own data, will be key to informing the development of this.
- 2.8 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires Community Planning Partnerships to also publish locality plans for areas where socio-economic inequality exists. Within Inverclyde it has been agreed to develop three locality plans to cover the areas of Port Glasgow, Greenock South and South West and Greenock East and Central. These areas have been chosen because the SIMD16, along with other data held across the partners supplemented by local knowledge, shows that the communities in these areas experience the poorest outcomes (Appendix 1).
- 2.9 It is important to remember that the SIMD identifies multiply deprived *areas* not individuals, so not everyone living in a deprived area is individually deprived, and not all deprived individuals live in multiply deprived areas. Inverclyde Council aims to support vulnerable individuals and communities across Inverclyde, wherever they live in the most or least deprived datazone.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- a) Note the contents of this report and the how SIMD data is used to as a tool to help inform service planning.

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4.0 SIMD BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Government's official tool for identifying small area concentrations of multiple deprivation across Scotland in a consistent way. It combines seven different aspects of deprivation into a single index namely income, employment, education, health, crime, access to services and housing.
- 4.2 Scotland is divided into 6,976 small areas, called datazones, each with a population of around 760 people. Each individual datazone is given a relative ranking from 1 (most deprived) to 6,976 (least deprived). This data can be used to target policies and resources at the places of greatest need.
- 4.3 The Scottish Government published the latest SIMD on 31 August 2016. Earlier releases of the SIMD were published in 2012, 2009, 2006 and 2004.
- 4.4 The term 'multiple deprivation' recognises that disadvantage is not just related to having a low income but also encompasses a range of problems that can arise due to lack of resources or opportunities, covering health, safety, education, employment, housing and access to services, as well as financial aspects. The SIMD uses data relating to multiple aspects of life in order to gain the fullest possible picture of deprivation across Scotland.
- 4.5 The use of data for small areas helps to identify 'pockets' of deprivation or multiple deprivation that may be missed in analyses based on larger areas such as council wards or local authorities. The data can be used to target policies and resources at the places with greatest need.

5.0 SIMD AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- 5.1 The Scottish Government has advised that the SIMD generally is not a factor in determining the block grant that is paid to Councils. This is because the purpose of the SIMD data is to direct and influence policy making. Also, the limitations of the SIMD means that:
 - It is a *relative* and not an *absolute* measure of deprivation and as such, you cannot pinpoint how much more deprived one area is from another as the difference between ranks can be tiny or large and;
 - The SIMD is a relative ranking of all datazones in Scotland (6,976 in total) and as some improve and move down in ranking, other datazones will move up to take their place.
- 5.2 Deprivation data is however used by the Scottish Government (and also previous Governments) to target funding for specific policy measures aimed at tackling deprivation. Examples of this include:
 - Social Inclusion Fund
 - Community Regeneration Fund
 - Better Neighbourhood Services Fund
 - Fairer Scotland Fund
 - Working for Families Fund
 - Workforce Plus
 - Financial Inclusion
 - Changing Children's Services Fund
- 5.3 More recently, in 2015 the Scottish Government launched the Scottish Attainment Challenge Fund, initially focused on primary schools, to focus on targeted improvements in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing in areas of high deprivation. Inverclyde was one of nine initial Challenge Authorities. The scope of the programme has now been extended to support 133 secondary schools across Scotland.

5.4 The Attainment Challenge funding was supplemented in April 2017 with the launch of the Pupil Equity Fund. This is ring-fenced funding which is allocated directly to schools and targeted at those children most affected by the poverty related attainment gap. The amount of money paid to schools is based on the numbers of pupils from P1 to S3 who are eligible and registered for free school meals, with schools receiving around £1,200 per pupil. In total, Inverclyde received £2,450,400 from the Pupil Equity Fund.

6.0 SIMD AND SERVICE PLANNING

6.1 Inverclyde Council uses SIMD data to identify and understand concentrations of multiple deprivation where our communities are likely to be experiencing poorer outcomes. Appendix 1 is taken from the Community Outcomes Profiles developed by the Improvement Service and shows the communities with the poorest outcomes in Inverclyde based on SIMD16 data.

6.2 It is important to note however that the SIMD is only one tool that is used by services to inform service planning and delivery. To ensure an informed picture, SIMD data must be used in conjunction with other datasets. SIMD datazone rankings, for example, allow you to identify the 20% most deprived datazones within the Education domain that are in Inverclyde, however in order to develop a targeted approach to improve outcomes for the people living in these datazones, you would also need to consider school attendance, attainment, exclusions, school leaver destination results etc.

6.3 The development of the school holiday lunch clubs is a recent example of where Inverclyde Council has diverted resources in order to tackle multiple deprivation in our most deprived communities. The lunch clubs were introduced in Summer 2016 in 3 venues and took place again in Easter 2017, extended to 5 venues. The purpose of the lunch clubs was not only to provide food for families on a low income but also to promote access to reading and literacy services. 73% of families that attended over the Easter holiday were from SIMD 1 or SIMD 2 (20% most deprived communities).

6.4 Targeting financial resources is just one element of the Council's approach to tackling multiple deprivation. There is a growing body of evidence that shows that positive health and social outcomes can only occur when people and communities have the opportunities to control and manage their own future, i.e. an asset based approach and this is being embedded in our work with communities e.g. an asset based approach is firmly rooted in the family support model that is being taken forward in Broomhill.

6.5 The Inverclyde Council has previously considered a report which mapped the various initiatives that the Council, HSCP and partners are delivering that are aimed at tackling poverty and multiple deprivation.

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6.6 The complexity of the issues associated with multiple deprivation means that it cannot be successfully tackled by any one organisation. The SIMD data was used by the Community Planning Partnership to help focus resources in the delivery of the Single Outcome Agreement 2013/17 which is now coming to an end. The Single Outcome Agreement will be replaced by the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, a consultative draft of which was published on 2 October 2017. The Local Outcome Improvement Plan must demonstrate that the partnership has an understanding of which communities experience poorer outcomes. It must also set out the partnership priorities and resources that will be deployed to tackle these inequalities. SIMD16 data will be used to inform this along with a wide range of data produced by all partners.

6.7 The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires that Community Planning Partnerships also publish locality plans for areas where socio-economic inequality exists. Within Inverclyde it has been agreed to develop three locality plans to cover the areas of Port Glasgow, Greenock South and South West and Greenock East and Central. These areas have been chosen because the SIMD16, along with other data held across the partners, supplemented by local knowledge, shows that the communities in these areas experience the poorest outcomes (Appendix 1). The new locality plans must be evidence

based and will set out the priorities, actions and improvements that will be taken forward by partners to improve outcomes for the communities in these areas.

- 6.8 It is important to remember that the SIMD identifies multiply deprived *areas* not individuals, so not everyone living in a deprived area is individually deprived, and not all deprived individuals live in multiply deprived areas. Inverclyde Council and the Community Planning Partnership aim to support vulnerable individuals and communities across Inverclyde, wherever they live.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 FINANCE

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

7.2 LEGAL

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

7.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

There are no HR implications as a result of this report.

7.4 EQUALITIES

The SIMD16 data will inform work on tackling inequality, which will also have an impact on targeting support for people with protected characteristics, as there can be a higher number of people experiencing inequality because of a protected characteristic.

7.5 REPOPULATION

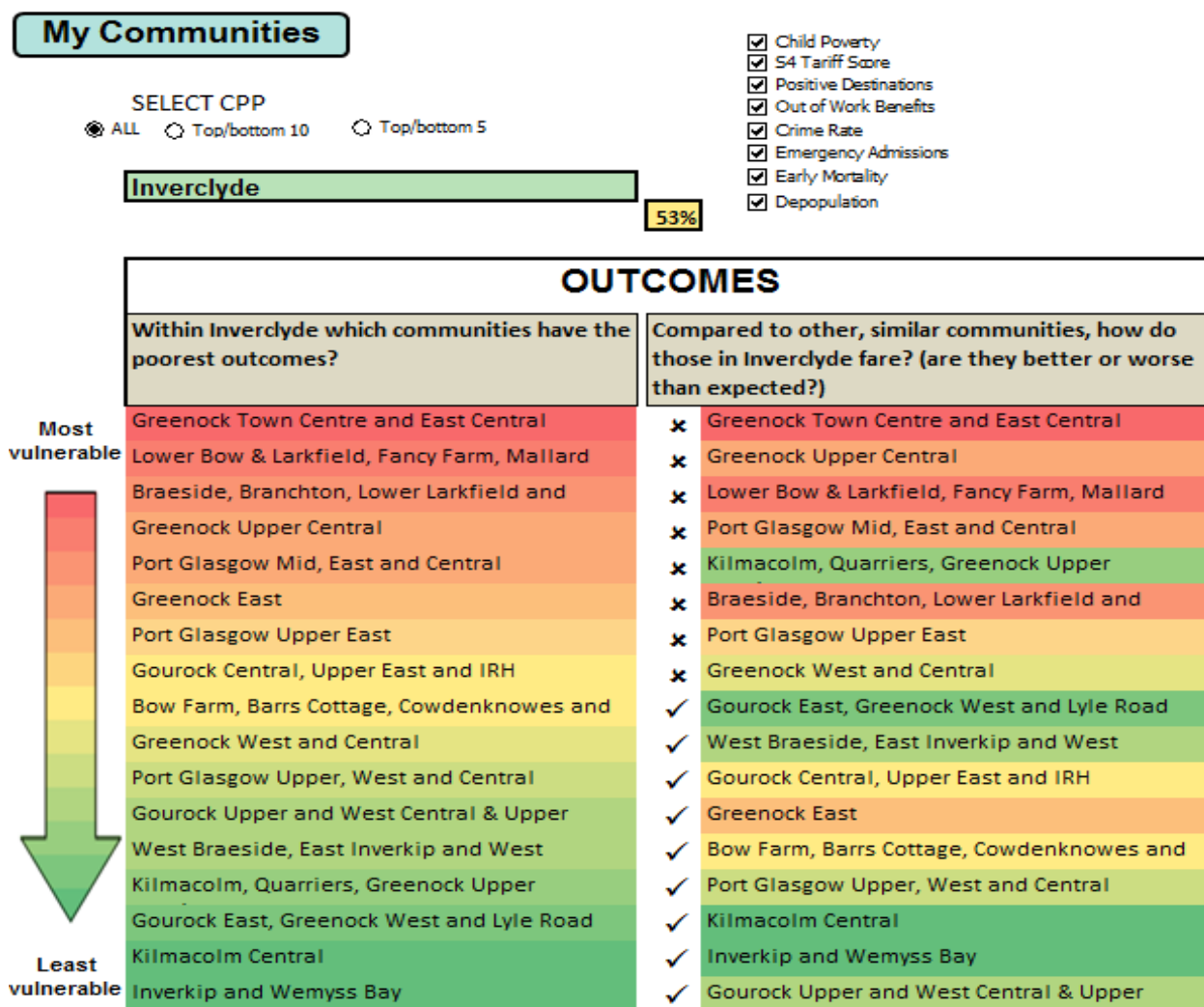
Negative press coverage of the number of Inverclyde datazones which fall into the most deprived 5%, 10% and 15% in Scotland will have implications on how people perceive the Inverclyde area, having a detrimental impact on efforts to encourage people to consider living in the area.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 Further information can be found here <http://www.gov.scot/simd>

The table below is taken from the Community Planning Outcomes profile. This is a tool which aims to show the overall pattern of outcomes and whether the life of a community is improving over time. The left hand column shows the order of communities with those in red (with the poorest outcomes) at the top, falling to green (best outcomes) based on the outcomes of Child Poverty; S4 Tariff Score; Positive Destinations; Out of Work Benefits; Crime Rate; Emergency Admissions; Early Mortality and Depopulation.

The right hand column shows the order of each community in the selected CPP according to its relative position in its 'type' (based on income, rurality and dependency). The tick and the cross indicate whether the community has, on average, better outcomes than the 'type' average. The percentage box shows how, in total, the communities in a CPP compare with the outcome(s) average of similar communities across Scotland. A score of 100% means every community in the CPP fares better, for the selected outcomes, than the average of similar communities across Scotland; a score of 0% means each community fares worse than all similar communities across Scotland; and a score of 50% suggests that the outcomes levels are in balance compared to similar communities across Scotland. Inverclyde's score is 53% (9 communities out of 17 have better outcomes than similar communities across Scotland).



Source: Improvement Service, Community Planning Outcomes Profile

<http://www.improvementservice.org.uk/community-planning-outcomes-profile.html>