
Report To:	Inverclyde Integration Joint Board	Date: 2 November 2020
Report By:	Louise Long Corporate Director (Chief Officer) Inverclyde Health & Social Care Partnership	Report No: IJB/60/2020/LMcV
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Subject:	Anti-Poverty Initiatives	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the IJB with an update on the proposals on the Anti-Poverty initiatives to be progressed in the current financial year.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 As part of the 2020/21, Budget the Council and IJB allocated £1 million for Anti-Poverty initiatives and in March 2020 a process was agreed through the Alliance Board and the Policy & Resources Committee as to how the sum was to be allocated and the use determined. The new funding would reinvest £750,000 funding from Inverclyde Council, supplemented by £250,000 from the Integration Joint Board (IJB), to create a £1million investment in our communities living in poverty. The intervention of the Covid pandemic changed matters and made progression of the process to identify the use of the originally approved £1 million impossible. Additionally, extra funding from the Council and Scottish Government has supported a number of interventions during the Covid period to those most vulnerable within the community.
- 2.2 Considerations have been given to a range of options to deliver proposals to help drive a real reduction of levels of poverty and deprivation within Inverclyde totalling £1.5million and would largely be delivered over the next 12 months.
- 2.3 Throughout the Covid period, the Council and partners have been delivering a wide range of support to vulnerable individuals and families around food, direct financial, digital and humanitarian aid. The funding for these initiatives has come from a cocktail of sources including the Scottish Government, Council and IJB and has been significantly enhanced by the involvement of Community Groups and a large number of volunteers.
- 2.4 The key proposals are:
- Employment opportunities and Employability £657,000
 - Food Insecurity £210,000
 - Welfare Support £370,000
 - Digital Connectivity £60,000
 - Strengthening the Community/3rd Sector Base £200,000

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board:

- I. Notes the proposals in the report for the utilisation of the Anti-Poverty £1million and other funding received from the Scottish Government.
- II. Notes that further progress reports providing more detail around the proposals will be brought back to a future meeting of the Alliance Board and thereafter to the IJB.

Louise Long
Chief Officer

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A report was presented to the Inverclyde Alliance, the Integration Joint Board (IJB) and the Policy & Resources Committee in Spring 2020 which proposed a timescale and methodology for identifying projects on both a locality and Council-wide basis but unfortunately due to the impact of Covid this timetable and process were unable to be progressed.
- 4.2 Throughout the Covid period, the Council and partners have been delivering a wide range of supports to vulnerable individuals and families around food, direct financial, digital and humanitarian aid. The funding for these initiatives has come from a cocktail of sources including the Scottish Government, Council and IJB and has been significantly enhanced by the involvement of Community Groups and a large number of volunteers.
- 4.3 Whilst the number of Covid cases has greatly reduced within the population, the impact of the 4 month lockdown and the gradual withdrawal of Government funding will result in a high level of need within the Inverclyde Community for some time to come.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is recognised the current need to get a balance between proposals which provide a sustainable improvement in the lives of those impacted by poverty and deprivation whilst also recognising that the need for many is immediate and therefore short term interventions will also have a significant part to play. The proposals which will utilise the £1 million from Inverclyde Council and IJB are included in the following paragraphs.

Employment Opportunities and Employability £657,000

- Offer the pre-apprenticeship programme for a second cohort of twelve pupils from across Inverclyde and offer a level 2 apprenticeship to the year 1 cohort in the area of last year's development over a period of 18 months from August 2020.
- Offer the five modern apprentices who are due to finish on the Council's existing modern apprenticeship programme a two year contract at an entry level post to allow them time to gain further experience and enhance their job prospects.
- Create an Inverclyde Furlough Scheme which would support 20 employees with 50% of their wages for 6 months in those sectors where jobs are most at risk.
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Food Insecurity £210,000

- In addition to the £25 per fortnight payment to every child/young person entitled to receive free school meals throughout the Covid period until 28th August, a one-off payment be made in the middle of December to each child/young person in receipt of free school meals and would allow qualifying families to buy healthier food over the Christmas period.
- Continue the Fare Share Community Food initiative for a further 12 months with an annual membership. This will continue to provide food aid through local community organisations to people living in communities and localities that need it.
- Establish a local Food Pantry within one location in Inverclyde working closely with the Scottish Food Pantry to develop a local community shop which displays a variety of good quality food, sourced from FareShare Glasgow, where members of the community can choose from a

subscription and/or membership fee. The pantry model targets those on a low income and/or recovering from crisis, providing fresh and healthy food at a price that is affordable.

Welfare Support £370,000

- It is proposed to award DHP up to 100% of the difference between Universal Credit Housing costs or Housing Benefit entitlement capped at £200 per month with the payment being made for a period of no more than 6 months.
- The Council maintained the payment of Crisis Grants throughout the Covid period and took the decision in March to increase payments by 20% to provide greater financial support to those in most need. It is recommended that the 20% enhanced payment is continued for the remainder of 2020/21.
- In addition, it is proposed that the Community Care Grant which assists with individuals setting up home be paid to not only high priority cases but also medium priority cases. This will allow payment to be made to more individuals and for additional items for the home including washing machines, floor coverings and additional furniture.

Digital Connectivity £60,000

- The Council has received an allocation of £433,000 from the Scottish Government to ensure that all secondary school pupils in receipt of free school meals have access to an appropriate device and connectivity. This makes significant inroads into many households suffering from digital exclusion.
- The Council has previously approved an £80,000 investment from the Anti-Poverty earmarked reserves to provide free Wi-Fi for a five year period in 8 Community Centres in addition to the existing infrastructure within the Council Libraries estate.
- Provide individuals who are engaging in learning, development and training with an opportunity to receive a device to complete their learning.

Strengthening the Community/3rd Sector Base £200,000

- It is proposed to build on the excellent Community response to the Covid pandemic to improve capacity and resilience and creates a fund to receive applications for support to allow projects which support the vulnerable and isolated to continue.

5.2 A report on the development of a Food Pantry and 3rd Sector will be brought to a future meeting

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

FINANCE

6.1 It would be proposed that any unspent sums from the £1million allocated to Anti-Poverty initiatives in 2020/21 at 31 March, 2020 be added to the Anti-Poverty Earmarked reserves and would sit within the Inverclyde Council budgets.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

LEGAL

6.2 None at present

HUMAN RESOURCES

6.3 None at present

EQUALITIES

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

6.4.1 How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	This allocated funding will have a positive impact on poverty and people living on low income.
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	This allocated funding will have a positive impact on poverty and people living on low income.
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	N/A
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	Discussion has taken place with communities through locality planning processes.
HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	N/A
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are maximised.	N/A
Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	N/A

CLINICAL OR CARE GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

6.5 There are no clinical or care governance implications arising from this report.

6.6 **NATIONAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES**

How does this report support delivery of the National Wellbeing Outcomes?

National Wellbeing Outcome	Implications
People are able to look after and improve their own health and wellbeing and live in good health for longer.	This initiative will have a positive impact on poverty and people living on low income.
People, including those with disabilities or long term conditions or who are frail are able to live, as far as reasonably practicable, independently and at home or in a homely setting in their community	
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	This initiative will have a positive impact on poverty and people living on low income.
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	This initiative will have a positive impact on poverty and people living on low income.
People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including reducing any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and wellbeing.	
People using health and social care services are safe from harm.	
People who work in health and social care services feel engaged with the work they do and are supported to continuously improve the information, support, care and treatment they provide.	
Resources are used effectively in the provision of health and social care services.	The funding will impact on early interventions and health inequalities.

7.0 DIRECTIONS

7.1

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both	Direction to:	
	1. No Direction Required	x
	2. Inverclyde Council	
	3. NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde (GG&C)	
	4. Inverclyde Council and NHS GG&C	

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 N/A.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 N/A.