
Report To: Inverclyde Integration Joint Board **Date:** 21 June 2021

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Inverclyde Health & Social
Care Partnership **Report No:** IJB/29/2021/LL

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Subject: ANTI-POVERTY

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Integration Joint Board an update on a series of proposals on the deployment of funds allocated to anti-poverty in Inverclyde, including governance and interventions.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 In the 2020 Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) report a number of data zones within Inverclyde are highlighted as amongst the worst in Scotland, with Greenock Town Centre rated number one in Scotland.
- 2.2 Prior to the SIMD 2020 being published, the Council and its Alliance Partners had already identified three of Inverclyde's six localities (Port Glasgow, Greenock East and Central, Greenock South and South West) as having the greatest level of inequalities, poverty and deprivation in Inverclyde.
- 2.3 The Council, along with the Integration Joint Board, have allocated £1million for specific action to address these inequalities and this papers sets out a range of potential targeted interventions to address these inequalities, along with proposals on governance to support the management of the intervention. The 1 million anti-poverty fund was agreed in 2020 with 750,000 funded from the Council and 250,000 funded by Integration Joint Board.
- 2.4 The Council allocated extra funding for Scottish Welfare Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments in 2017. In recent years this funding has not been required. It is proposed to vire the unallocated £80,000 from the Welfare Reforms Budget to the Anti-Poverty Budget thus increasing the annual sum available to £1.08m.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 It is recommended that;

- The Integration Joint Board note the proposals and governance structure.

Louise Long
Chief Officer

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Government published the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) report on 28 January 2020. The SIMD is a Scottish Government tool for identifying places in Scotland suffering from deprivation. It uses data relating to multiple aspects of life (income, employment, health, education, access, crime and housing) in order to gain the fullest possible picture of deprivation across Scotland.
- 4.2 Inverclyde is the area with the largest local share of deprived areas, with 45% of data zones among the 20% most deprived in Scotland. Greenock Central is ranked as the most deprived data zone in Scotland.
- 4.3 Prior to Covid -19 pandemic the Council, along with the Integration Joint Board, allocated £1million for specific action to address inequalities and deprivation with a focus on initiatives to address unemployment and employability, support for people experiencing difficulties with alcohol and drugs, mental health or people who are experiencing food insecurities.
- 4.4 The issues faced by the affected by the targeted client group are often complex and multi-generational – so in order to address this a holistic approach across the three Directorates of the Council was adopted via the formation of a senior officer Anti-Poverty Group.
- 4.5 The Anti-Poverty Steering Group provides strategic leadership, monitoring and guidance on the multifaceted challenges associated with this local priority. The Anti-Poverty Steering Group comprises of the Chief Officer for the IJB, Corporate Directors and the two Interim Service Directors, Head of OD, Policy & Communications.
- 4.6 In March 2021, Inverclyde Council completed a series of Community Listening Events and Community Survey Monkey across the 6 Localities, to discuss with key stakeholders what needs to change to offer better support and to meet the needs of people living in Inverclyde and specifically within the most deprived communities. Key themes include;
 - Employment, life skills and apprenticeships for young people and people who are most marginalised from the job market, offer intensive on going and follow up support. Quality employment opportunities for those who have lost their jobs or been furloughed. Ensuring co-ordination and communication so that people who need support for benefits or employment know where to access it and that the services are sharing information for the benefit of the individual.
 - Mental Health and Isolation was discussed at every community listening event and more support is required at grass root level for people to build their resilience and skills. The stakeholders agreed that having safe community spaces would offer local services that were easily accessed and relevant to the community.
 - Food and Utility Insecurity are a concern of many of the stakeholders who participated, food insecurity was affecting those living in poverty prior to Covid 19 pandemic and this has been exacerbated during the lock down period, especially for those who are not entitled to the additional benefits but have experienced a reduction in their income.
 - Asset Based Community Support – People within the smaller localities have worked together to develop services and volunteering opportunities to meet the short term needs of the community with kindness and compassion. These immediate needs include food, clothing, utilities and digital access, which are accumulating and adding to family stress and mental health.

Collaborative service support for those who are on the poverty margin but do not qualify for the benefits available was highlighted across many of the localities.

5.0 PROPOSALS AND GOVERNANCE

- 5.1 It is proposed that the implementation, management and monitoring of the day to day interventions of the Anti-Poverty initiatives will be the responsibility of a 0.6 dedicated team leader this will be situated in the council. Two year budget - Costs for backfilling the redirected hours- £72,000.
- 5.2 Delivery, governance and monitoring of the interventions will be the responsibility of the Implementation Group, consisting of Service Manager – Regeneration, Service Manager - Business Support Engagement, Financial Inclusion and Workforce, Finance Manager – Education and Exchequer, Service Manager Policy, Performance and Partnership and HSCP Service Manager Strategy and Support Services, This group will be Chaired by Head of Culture, Communities & Educational Resources.

The Anti-Poverty Steering Group will lead the strategic overview including reporting on anti-poverty initiatives to Inverclyde Council Policy and Resources Committee. The Anti-Poverty Steering Group will be Chaired by Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development. An organigram of this proposed structure is attached as appendix 1 of this report.

The Anti-Poverty team leader post will be responsible for the collation of project updates, but not responsible for the delivery of each individual project. The project lead will help those involved with the projects to monitor delivery and evaluation of the projects as well as anticipated medium term outcomes. Updates will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis. It should be noted that longer term outcomes and longitudinal impact on poverty will be harder to measure for many of the projects.

Regular reports to the council Policy and Resources committee and an annual report to Integration Joint Board on the impact and outcomes.

INTERVENTIONS PROPOSED

5.3 **Employment - £1,037,000**

It is proposed to implement two local Employment pilots to offer support to a cohort of 20-30 year old males who are unemployed with alcohol or drugs dependencies, often with mental health issues. Males tend to make up at least 70% of the alcohol and drug service population and these clients do not engage effectively with the Council or other support services due to their chaotic lifestyle which often includes crime. It is proposed to provide a pipeline of three dedicated Grade 6 outreach support posts for 24 months to these individuals; to engage with them, gain their trust, provide intensive activities through a diversionary approach with a view to making them job ready after one year and provide them with one years' worth of paid employment in year 2, with appropriate ongoing support. An initial pilot will target Greenock Town Centre clients with a second pilot following in Port Glasgow Town Centre, each pilot will support 15 clients. In the SIMD 2020 figures Inverclyde's most deprived data zone, which is located in Greenock town centre, has an income deprivation rate of 48% and an employment deprivation rate of 44%. Further analysis of our most deprived town centres datazones has identified a cohort of 20-30 year old males with complex barriers to employment, often mental health and addictions,

and involved in crime. There are major challenges to be overcome in relation to reducing poverty and deprivation, increasing employment opportunities, improving health and reducing health inequalities. To be successful in tackling this issue it will need to be delivered through stronger, more targeted collaborative working which we consider these pilots capable of achieving as well as the added benefit in year two of paid employment being reinvested in the community.

5.4 **School Linked Social Workers £202,000**

Based on the findings of the CELSUS work around early intervention and child neglect and the links to poverty it is proposed to allocate two full time social workers to the most deprived school cluster areas in Inverclyde. The service will be piloted for an initial two year period and the social workers can be redeployed at the end of this period if the pilot stops.

5.5 **Business Start Up - £167,000**

Employ a dedicated business development officer for a two year period to provide business start-up and business development support in the most deprived data zones. (SIMD 2020). This funding will be allocated between employment costs £92,000 salary / support development costs £75,000.

5.6 **Food Insecurity - £124,000 for two years**

The first Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantry opened in early December 2020 and the membership has steadily increased to more than 400 members at the end of March 2021. The table below provides an update of the location members of the pantry

Postcode	Members
PA14	37
PA15	98
PA16	244
PA18	3
PA19	20

Providing a total of £60,000 towards the running costs of the Pantry for the next 2 years which will offer the Inverclyde Community Development Trust with medium-term financial security for the existing pantry whilst it bids for other funding sources to help support and expand the Pantry longer term.

Inverclyde Council has two annual memberships to Glasgow FareShare to supply food to key stakeholder organisations and to the Inverclyde Zero Waste Food Pantry who distribute to their local service users. The cost of the two Fare Share membership will be £64,000 for two years.

5.7 **Fuel Insecurity - £200,000**

Combining the anti-poverty fund with hardship funding will enhance local partnerships with the third and community sector organisations such as IHeat to provide service support for households who are financially insecure. IHeat already support older people over 75 years to ensure that they do not have debts because of utility bills. IHeat currently offer advice, information and funding of £75 for utilities. During Covid -19 pandemic lock down this was increased to £150 of grants because older people were shielding or self-isolating and therefore would be likely to use more gas and electricity. This will be scaled to include people over 70 years with an annual cost of £80,000 per annum.

5.8 In addition, Inverclyde households will receive support through the Wise Group Energy Crisis Fund (IHeat) to ensure that their energy supply is sustained whilst working with the household to equip them with the tools, skills and knowledge to manage their energy usage in future.

- Households with prepaid meters: will receive a £49 top up grant funding provided up to three occasions for households who have prepaid metering that is in or in danger of self-disconnection.
- Households who pay by quarterly credit or monthly budget will receive a one-off charitable grant of £50 that will be allocated to the Customers energy billing account.
- Households with a prepaid meters will be given the opportunity to discuss the option of changing to a lower tariff that meets the needs of the household. This option will be in discussion and at the discretion of the energy provider depending on any outstanding debts. It is likely that the utility company will carry out a credit check prior to agreeing to change the meter however, IHEAT energy advocacy will support the customer to ensure the best utility deal is offered.

5.9 **Financial Fitness - £60,000**

Inverclyde Council provide Financial Fitness with £30,000 of grants per year to offer support in benefits advice and financial management, this provides people across the community with a choice of services for them to seek support and assistance regarding their finances. This cost was previously met from the Welfare Reform Budget.

5.10 **Starter Packs - £74,000**

Starter Packs is a small community organisation who provides those on the lowest income with a range of household products to assist with their first tenancy. Starter Packs also receives £14,000 towards rent for a two year period. This cost was previously met from the Welfare Reform Budget.

5.11 **Early Intervention Support and Mentoring for Families - £104,000**

To provide mentoring and coaching support for families living on low income, and who have challenges with mental health and anxiety. This proposal will provide £52,000 of funding per year to employ staff for a 24 month period to establish and develop a local referral service support for families requiring early intervention support. The funding will equate to supporting approximately 25 to 30 families in Inverclyde in the first 12 months of the initiative.

5.12 **Tail o'the Bank Credit Union - £8,000**

To support Tail o'the Bank with funding for non-domestic rates relief for the period 2021/23.

5.13 **Other Anti-Poverty Initiatives**

These proposals are not the only initiatives or services that will work towards mitigating poverty and deprivation in Inverclyde. The council has a number of policies and plans such as Attainment Challenge, the Child Poverty Action Report, Inverclyde Outcome Improvement Plan and the Recovery Plans all take cognisance of poverty,

deprivation and inequalities as a priority. Many services that the Council provides have either a direct or indirect impact on trying to alleviate families and residents from the impact of poverty including:

- Employability Schemes
- Scottish Welfare Fund/Discretionary Housing Payments
- Attainment Fund
- Early implementation of universal provision of P4 School Meals
- More generous qualifying criteria for FSM and Clothing Grants
- More generous free School Transport eligibility for FSM recipients
- Free internet access in many Council Facilities
- Heating support/grants for the over 75s

5.14 The proposed initiatives in this report take into account the recovery period post Covid-19. Beyond the initial 2 years of this plan, consideration needs to be given to ensure that Inverclyde Council and Integration Joint Board support takes into account the national context and any future Scottish Government initiatives that are put in place. The longer term sustainability of any interventions needs to be taken into account.

5.15 **Summary of Finance**

Proposal	Two year budget
Dedicated team leader (0.6FTE)	£72,000
Local Employment pilots	£1,037,000
Dedicated business development officer	£167,000
School linked Social Workers	£202,000
Food Insecurity Year 2 Pantry and Fare Share Membership	£124,000
Fuel Insecurity	£200,000
Financial Fitness	£60,000
Starter Pack	£74,000
Early Intervention Support and Mentoring for Families	£104,000
Credit Union	£8,000
Total Allocated	£2,048,000
Contingency	£112,000
Total funding	£2,160,000

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 FINANCE

Financial Implications

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Anti-Poverty	Various	2021/23	800k		£112k remains unallocated over 2021/23

Annually Recurring Costs / (Savings)

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

6.2 LEGAL

There are no legal implications other than those highlighted in the report.

6.3 HUMAN RESOURCES

Any HR implications are highlighted in the report.

6.4 EQUALITIES

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X	YES
	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.

How does this report address our Equality Outcomes?

Equalities Outcome	Implications
People, including individuals from the above protected characteristic groups, can access HSCP services.	The services that will be delivered using the £1 million Anti Poverty fund will directly target the most disadvantaged in our communities.
Discrimination faced by people covered by the protected characteristics across HSCP services is reduced if not eliminated.	People with protected characteristics who are more likely to be living in poverty will receive the services directly when they need them.
People with protected characteristics feel safe within their communities.	
People with protected characteristics feel included in the planning and developing of services.	The recent Community Listening Events implemented in Inverclyde asked people with lived experience of poverty and services who support people living in poverty their recommendations, thoughts and key points to take forward to plan and develop the proposals for the Anti-Poverty Interventions. Specific listening events were taken forward and discussed with Care Experienced Young People, people with mental anxiety through Man On and the Adult Learning Community including communities where English is their second language.

HSCP staff understand the needs of people with different protected characteristic and promote diversity in the work that they do.	
Opportunities to support Learning Disability service users experiencing gender based violence are maximised.	
Positive attitudes towards the resettled refugee community in Inverclyde are promoted.	

6.5 CLINICAL OR CARE GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

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.	Specific initiatives that will be funded with the £1million Anti Poverty fund will promote positive wellbeing, mitigate food insecurity through low cost fresh food available in communities.
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	Support offered to change lifestyles of the most marginalised and those who have been most affected by financial insecurity.
People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected.	The initiatives funded by the Anti Poverty money will target those who require support and have protected characteristics as identified within the Equalities Act and the Child Poverty Act.
Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services.	Improving the quality of life for the most marginalised, deprived and those living in poverty is central to all the initiatives proposed within these interventions.
Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities.	Improving the quality of life for the most marginalised, deprived and those living in poverty is central to all the initiatives proposed

	within these interventions.
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.	Improving the quality of life for the most marginalised, deprived and those living in poverty is central to all the initiatives proposed within these interventions.
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.	Improving the quality of life for the most marginalised, deprived and those living in poverty is central to all the initiatives proposed within these interventions.

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	

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The report has been prepared by the Chief Officer of Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) after due consideration with relevant senior officers in the HSCP.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

Inverclyde Anti-Poverty Governance Structure

