
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	31 August 2021
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/31/21/RB
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Education and Communities Committee with an overview of local and national updates in relation to Culture and Communities.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This report provides updates on the following matters:

- Cultural Services Annual Report;
- Update on Historic Links to Slavery Working Group;
- Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme;
- Progress on review of school crossing patrols;
- National free transport scheme for 5-22 year olds;
- Transfer of the Young Person Alcohol Team; and
- Autism Strategy EMR

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is recommended to note the updates in this report.

Ruth Binks

Corporate Director: Education, Communities and Educational Resources

4.0 UPDATES

4.1 Cultural Services Annual Report

The Cultural Services annual Report 2020-21 provides information on the range and impact of the work of the service, and celebrates the achievement of the service. It summarises work which has taken place in order to achieve the actions identified in the Inverclyde Libraries service improvement plan 2020-21, the Watt Institution service improvement plan 2020-21, and the Great Place Scheme activity plan 2020.

In 2020-21, the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns had a major impact on all aspects of service delivery. The library service was completely closed to the public from Apr-Jul 2020; open on a very restricted basis Jul-Dec 2020 and closed again Jan-Apr 2021, although deliveries of books and other resources were possible during the second lockdown.

Despite this, the service continued to develop and improve. Achievements include:

- a pivot within the library service to online delivery of reading material, activities and events to ameliorate the impact of the pandemic-related lockdowns and with an emphasis on kindness and reducing social isolation;
- “Connect and Collect” and extended delivery services, originally for the vulnerable and then eventually for any library user who required it, to ensure reading remained possible for all during the lockdowns;
- being the first library service in Scotland to re-introduce PC use when restrictions eased; and
- awards of several large grants from national funders for arts and cultural work to support recovery from the pandemic and the work for which will begin in 2021-22.

The full report can be viewed at: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/annual-report>

In 2021-22, the service continues to focus on supporting local recovery from Covid-19; and increasing public engagement with all aspects of the service.

4.2 Historic Links to Slavery Working Group

At the Education and Communities Committee on 1 Sep 2020, the Committee agreed the formation of a working group to examine Inverclyde’s historical connections to the slave trade and the ways in which these connections can be recognised in today’s society, including recommendations as to how community reparations can be made. The working group, Chaired by the Corporate Director Education Communities and Organisational Development, has now formed and met on several occasions. One of the agreed work streams in the Terms of Reference is a public consultation on the best way to tell the story of the relationship between Inverclyde’s history and the transatlantic slave trade. While living individuals are in no way implicated in the abuses inflicted by their ancestors, it is important for us to consider how historical figures are understood and remembered. The consultation launched on 23 August 2021 and will run for 3 weeks. 23 August was chosen because it is the International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade. The survey contains a short question set (3 questions) and invites interested individuals to take part in a potential listening event(s) to be held later this year if there is enough interest, to discuss further the issues raised. The questions are also included in the Citizen’s Panel survey which will be distributed to panel members in September 2021. Analysis of the consultation results will be included in the working group’s final report to this Committee in January 2022.

4.3 Mentors in Violence Prevention Programme

Mentoring in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a partnership, based in schools, which aims to promote positive relationships and reduce violence, particularly gender-based violence and bullying. It utilises a creative bystander approach where males and females are not looked on as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered and active bystanders who have the ability to support and challenge peers.

Senior pupils are trained as mentors to younger pupils and lead sessions based on realistic scenarios which explore topics, such as rumours, sexting and coercive behaviour, through discussion and role-play. The programme also looks at the attitudes and influences that lead to gender-based violence. Scottish Government / Education Scotland the recently published National Report for 2020/21 and can be viewed using the following link:

[Mentors in Violence Prevention Annual Report 2020-21 \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/publications/mentors-in-violence-prevention-annual-report-2020-21/)

4.4 Review of School Crossing Patrols

The review of school crossing patrol locations is progressing well. Independent consultants provided evidence to the service that Inverclyde's current arrangements meets and in many cases exceeds the requirements of national road safety guidance. Therefore no changes are planned to the sites currently served by school crossing patrollers or the prioritisation system which we use. The service is aware of significant level of new housing in Port Glasgow which may require additional crossing patrols and is engaging with River Clyde Homes in this respect. Should further patrols be required or revisions to locations of school crossing patrollers due to the new housing, the service will engage with the local school communities, current SXPs in that location and local elected members on this matter.

4.5 Free Transport Scheme for young people up to 22 yrs of age

The Scottish Government has stated its intention to introduce legislation to allow the previously announced free travel scheme to be extended to include those aged under 22 by January 2022.

The Scottish Government continues to work with its partners at the Improvement Service, Transport Scotland and the National Entitlement Card Programme Office – who are responsible for the management of the NEC and support local authorities with the application process – and Young Scot to deliver the scheme, which will become operational on 31 January 2022.

Parents will be required to approve applications for young people under the age of 16 which also includes providing approval for existing cardholders to access the scheme. Local authorities will be required to administer the issuing of cards in their areas and work has begun in preparation for this.

The implications for free school transport are limited as the scheme relates to service routes only. However, children and young people who are not entitled to free school transport may be able to access free travel for part of their journey to and from school where these service routes exist. The Council is working with its agent, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport to monitor the development of the legislation.

4.6 Young Person Alcohol Team (YPAT)

A review of alcohol and drug service provision within Inverclyde took place with an aim to develop a cohesive and fully integrated whole system approach for services users affected by alcohol and drug issues. The review is fully aligned to the Scottish Government Drug and Alcohol Strategy: Rights, Respect and Recovery: Scotland's strategy to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths.

The review also identified the need to implement a whole population approach to prevention and education within schools and the wider community. A report to the Inverclyde Health and Social Care Committee in January 2020 noted that this area of work is being undertaken by the Inverclyde Alcohol and Drugs Partnership with a number of key streams of work underway. One such workstream is to develop an Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education Framework which is being chaired by the Education, Communities and OD service. The Integrated Joint Board in May 2021 also agreed to amalgamate the Young Person Alcohol team with CLD youth work services to take forward this work. Progress in developing the framework will be reported to a future meeting of the Education and Communities Committee.

4.7 Autism Ear Marked Reserve

The Autism Fund was allocated 250k via the Policy & Resources Committee in 2017 from an Ear Marked Reserve as an investment for the life of the local Autism Strategy implementation (2014-24) to realise an Autism Friendly Inverclyde.

Initially led by Education and in consultation with key stakeholders, three strategic priorities were agreed to progress an Inverclyde friendly strategy: Pre- and Post-Diagnosis Support; Transitions from children to adult services; and autism training/awareness.

Because of the nature of the work being undertaken it is more appropriate that HSCP should lead on Autism and the EMR transferred accordingly. The Autism Strategy Implementation Group (ASIG) has been established as a Governing body, with a collaborative approach/multi agency/community and leadership at Head Of Service level.

To date the Autism Fund has funded two conferences/workshops locally, re-evaluating priority areas and strategic outcomes involving multiagency, community, and Scottish Government Autism representatives as well as funding an Autism Development Officer Post from 2018-2020 (extended for 5 months due to COVID) ending 15th January 21 hosted by Communities and Voluntary Sector (CVS).

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

5.1 There are no financial implications from this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

5.2 None

Human Resources

5.3 None

Equalities

5.4 Equalities

(a) 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 substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
x	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
x	NO

5.5 **Repopulation**

N/A

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 N/A

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None