
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	02 November 2021
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/47/21/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Recovery Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to give the Committee an update on Recovery planning for the Communities remit of the Committee.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 A partnership recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic with identified associated spend is in place and reports to the Policy and Resources Committee and to the Alliance Board. This report gives updates on progress of the Recovery plan that are pertinent to this committee

- 2.2
- Culture Collective
 - Evaluation of Summer of Fun
 - Duke of Edinburgh programme
 - Sports and Physical Activity Strategy
 - Meliora Festival and Community events

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Committee is asked to note the updates in this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A partnership recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic with identified associated spend is in place and reports to the Policy and Resources Committee and to the Alliance Board. This report gives updates on progress of the Recovery plan that are pertinent to this committee

5.0 UPDATES

5.1 Culture Collective

In March 2020, Creative Scotland commenced a pilot programme to establish a network of creative practitioners, organisations, and communities, working together to create a positive difference locally and nationally in response to Covid-19. A consortium of Inverclyde partners including Inverclyde Council, Beacon Arts Centre, RIG Arts, CVS Inverclyde and Kayos Theatre Group successfully bid to be one of the 26 projects across Scotland who shared £6m in funding. Inverclyde's project received £275,000 for 18 months' of arts activity across the area (March 2021 – September 2022).

The aim of the project is to investigate key areas identified by the Arts Sub-Group of the Inverclyde Cultural Partnership and specific to the needs of Inverclyde – health and social care (and in particular, adult mental health); young people; community regeneration; environmental/outdoor/site-specific work; and engaging with under-represented audiences with low arts engagement and/or barriers to access. The project will support over 40 artists and creative practitioners.

Progress made since the previous update to this Committee includes the appointment of a Writer in Residence to work with Inverclyde's communities through the public library service; an Artist in Residence to work across the area; and artists to work on *Galoshans* 2021. All of this activity begins in October 2021. The project steering group has also made awards of development bursaries to one experienced and one emergent artist and this work will commence in January 2022.

In addition, project partners RIG Arts have: commenced the "Open Studio" project to provide a range of experiences and opportunities for young people, with 15 regular participants completing sessions on ceramics, sculpture etc; commenced the "Inside Out" project to work with the local community to explore the connection between community greenspaces and mental health recovery, with 21 regular participants in the Auchmountain Glen area; and commenced the "Creativity in Mind" project to work with adults with mental health issues to use creativity as a means of self-expression to support recovery, manage symptoms, and build self-esteem.

5.2 Summer of Fun

To support COVID recovery, the Scottish Government allocated £15m for Summer of Play: Activities for Children & Young People. Inverclyde was allocated £200,000.

In addition to the activities already in place during the summer, the following outlines the range of activities that were on offer:

- Summer Play schemes
- Outdoor cinema event
- Free climbing sessions
- Free ice skating sessions
- Summer Reading Challenge
- Mindfulness sessions and an empathy walk

- Art workshops
- Musical activities including Museum Musical Mystery Tour, Bucket Band, Body Rhythm, Early Years Musical café, Musical theatre singing workshops
- CLD Youth Services and Active Schools – ran a summer programme which included outdoor education and fun activities within secondary schools such as art, sport and creative issue based work, as well as and a fun element of inflatables. Free Friday evenings were also provided to S1-S4 as a diverse activity at Elev8 Trampoline Park.
- Waterfront Cinema – provided one weekend of free indoor cinema to children, young people and families.
- Creative Quest Workshops
- Play in 2-Days courses
- Shakespeare Acting Workshops – workshops were offered to a range of young people.
- Story telling sessions - The SFRS Heritage Trust provided "Wallace the Firedog" story telling sessions at the Fire museum in Greenock.

Over the course of the summer approximately 16,000 different sessions were accessed by young people and their families across the whole of Inverclyde provided by 10 different partner agencies.

Feedback was incredibly positive. The wide variety of options on offer was praised as well as the quality of staff interactions. Everything was offered for free, and snacks were made available where possible. Young people had input to the planning of the events and those providing activities were adaptable to the wishes and needs of the young people who attended.

The joint branding of the whole project gave an uplifting feel to the summer activities and created a buzz that families opted into. All activities received positive evaluations, with some families stating that they did not know how they would have coped without it.

Going forward consideration needs to be given to the booking of activities. Because there was no charge, some families opted to attend one event, having booked another. This was particularly frustrating for the events with limited numbers, many of which had been 100% booked in the first days they were available yet were poorly attended on the day.

As part of the Summer of Fun we also received £30,000 from Sport Scotland, £15K of which was used to give all under 16s access to Inverclyde Leisure's gym facilities. This was incredibly popular and well received. The other £15K was offered to support small community sport clubs through the Community Hub Programme.

In addition, Inverclyde Council were successful in securing funding from the national Access to Childcare Fund to deliver affordable holiday hubs for families who were on low income. Over 109 young people, the majority of whom were between 5 -12 years were supported over the summer and attended one of two holiday hubs. The Scottish Government is keen to learn from the experience of pilot initiatives such as the affordable holiday hub to inform

The COVID Recovery strategy for the Scottish Government states that they will, 'Build on Get Into Summer 2021 to deliver a summer 2022 offer for children and families in low income households which provides coordinated access to food, childcare and activities during the holidays. By summer 2023 they state that they will build on this work to make holiday childcare provision available for all children from low income families.

5.3 Duke of Edinburgh Programme

The DofE team within the CLD services of Inverclyde Council supported the wider COVID-19 response with their colleagues throughout 2020-21 but have been able to maintain limited

support to the DofE Centres.

From September 2020 the team were able to start enrolments and direct support again. The Council's enrolment rate for the year was 54% of the previous year, which is commendable considering the barriers faced.

Completions have been impacted, and the introduction of the *Certificate of Achievement*, (recognising a young person's efforts whilst unable to complete an expedition) has enabled 42% to be recognised for their achievements.

It is recognised that the further lockdowns impacted upon our work, including the expeditions and opportunities that the Council had planned for, especially with the more disadvantaged young people, and this is still a priority for the team.

The increasing trend of more disadvantaged young people gaining an Award was interrupted in 2020, and we hope to be able to redress this. £200,000 has been allocated by the Council as part of the COVID-19 partnership recovery fund. Additional posts are currently going through the recruitment process.

DofE Scotland were pleased to assist the efforts of the CLD team by providing 100 funded places to help disadvantaged young people start their DofE programme, helping supplement the work done by Inverclyde Council.

The recently launched DofE 5 year strategy matches closely the ambition of Inverclyde CLD 3 year plan, particularly in respects to improving wellbeing, health and reducing the inequalities posed by poverty.

5.4 Sports and Physical Activity Strategy

The Active Inverclyde Strategy was approved at the Alliance Board on 4 October 2021. The strategy can be accessed at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/14364/08-Active-Inverclyde-Strategy.pdf> and concentrates on four main themes that reflect the areas we believe are pivotal to achieving a reduction in health inequalities and an increase in levels of physical activity. These are:

- Active People;
- Active Communities;
- Active Partnerships; and
- Active Environment

The Active Inverclyde Strategy will be accompanied by a more detailed action plan that will be developed in consultation with local communities. This will ensure that the actions taken to increase participation on physical activity, including sport, reflect the needs of communities.

5.5 MELIORA Festival and Community Events

The Covid Recovery plan has allocated £350,000 to support a large outdoor festival and £120,000 to support community events in localities. The three main events that make up the MELIORA Festival will be a large outdoor sports events with obstacles, an arts festival and the UK pipe band championship. The events will take place in May and June and the intention is to link in with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. In the next months, officers will link in with the localities through the Communication and Engagement groups to identify the types of activities they wish to take forward and the support that this may need.

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
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

6.2 Legal

N/A

6.3 Human Resources

N/A

6.4 Equalities

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

6.5 Repopulation

It is very much hoped that the COVID recovery planning for communities will lead to an increased sense of morale after the pandemic and to have a positive impact on repopulation.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A