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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education and Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>02 November 2021</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and OD</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/39/21/TM</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712828</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on aspects of the culture and communities remit of the service.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report provides updates on the following matters:

### Community Initiatives

- Community learning and development strategic three year plan;
- Child Poverty Action Report Year 3;
- Community Grants Fund 2021/2022 allocations;
- Communication and engagement groups;
- New Scots Get Connected;
- Prevention and Education Steering-Group; and
- Community provision for children with Autism

Governance of external organisations including the Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report

An update on the provision of subsidised swimming as requested by committee

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee:
- notes the updates provided in this report;

**Ruth Binks**  
**Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development**

## **4.0 COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

### **4.1 Community Learning and Development 3 year plan**

The Community Learning and Development Strategic 3 year plan 2021-2024 sets out the key strategic priorities of the CLD partnership in Inverclyde and the actions that will be taken to achieve them. Given the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on CLD services, the focus of the plan will be on recovery and re-engaging with its service users.

Through consultation and engagement, the partnership has identified the following key priorities:

- The development of digital services;
- Empowering communities;
- Improving the health and wellbeing of communities; and
- Creating a workforce for the future.

The plan was approved by the Inverclyde Alliance on 4 October 2021 and can be viewed using the following link <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/14358/11-Community-Learning-and-Development-3-Year-Plan-2021.pdf>

### **4.2 Child Poverty Action Report Year 3**

The Child Poverty Action Report (year 3) sets out the activity undertaken during the year and the planned actions to meet the Government's 2030 targets to significantly reduce incidences of child poverty in Scotland. The report, which was approved by the Inverclyde Alliance on 4 October 2021, can be accessed here <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/14370/10-Local-Child-Poverty-Action-report-Year-3.pdf>

The plan focuses on a small number of set themes and priorities which are based on evidence provided through its partnership with Public Health Scotland. Although the plan continues to develop and improve, a number of key achievements were noted:

- Expansion of the Discretionary Housing Policy (DHP) in August 2020. A new criteria was introduced to supplement housing cost support in the private rented sector by up to 100% of the difference between Universal Credit Housing costs or Housing Benefit entitlement;
- Increase of the Scottish Welfare Fund Crisis Grant Payments by 20% to provide greater financial support to those in most need. The number of approved Crisis Grant applications increased in 2020/2021 by 15%;
- A pre-apprenticeship programme for a second cohort of 12 pupils from across Inverclyde;
- Provision of training and development opportunities for several care experienced young people through either a modern apprenticeship or paid work;
- The creation of opportunities for families who were identified as digitally insecure by delivering 570 tablets, 536 laptops and 688 mobile wifi devices through Connecting Scotland; and
- The hosting of 6 locality community listening events in February 2021, to encourage community participation in discussions around services and initiatives to mitigate poverty, deprivation and inequalities.

The plan is monitored by Inverclyde's Child Poverty Action Group.

### **4.3 Community Grants Fund 2021/2022 Round 1**

A meeting of the grants sub-committee took place on 22 September 2022 to allocate the former GTVO and Fee Waivers to community groups and organisations across Inverclyde. In total, £262,934 of Community Grants was allocated between 68 groups. Another opportunity for groups to apply will be provided towards the end of this year.

The information in the report provided to members of the grants sub-committee has been improved and the report also now provides better summary information, particularly in relation to equalities.

A copy of the allocations and summary report can be found using this link <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/meetings/documents/14550/02%20Community%20Grants%20Fund%202021-22%20-%20Round%201.pdf>

#### **4.4 Communication and engagement groups**

The service continues to support the communication and engagement groups in each of the six locality areas in Inverclyde which are now meeting on a monthly basis. Recent activities have included consultation on the allocation of the anti-poverty funding and preparations for the forthcoming participatory budgeting exercise around aspects of the Roads Asset Management Plan.

Two pilot Locality Planning Group (LPG) meetings were held at the end of September. These groups will assist in the Council in further fulfilling its obligations under the Community Empowerment Act to plan and deliver services based on local need. The Inverkip and Wemyss Bay (LPG) met on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and was attended by 3 members of the Inverkip and Wemyss Bay Communication and Engagement Group. The Port Glasgow LPG met on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and was also attended by 3 members of the Port Glasgow Communication and Engagement Group. At both LPG meetings, the community representatives provided an overview of the work of their respective Communications and Engagement Group and highlighted the key issues that they are looking at. Going forward, the LPGs will meet on a quarterly basis and the community representatives will play a key role in providing the LPGs with feedback on the needs and aspirations of the local community.

The Communication and Engagement Groups in each locality will be asked to discuss participatory budgeting at their November meeting. A pilot participatory budgeting exercise will be carried out on the Roads Asset Management Plan during November/December and the Communication and Engagement Groups will play a key role in this. The Groups will be given a limited list of carriageways and a list of footpaths from across Inverclyde and asked to discuss and agree on the order in which they would prioritise them for repair. The meetings will be facilitated by the Communities Service and a representative from roads will attend to present the background information and answer any questions.

#### **4.5 New Scots Get Connected**

The service has secured funding of £87k to deliver an induction programme to support New Scots to learn English and build social connections with the wider community following their arrival in Inverclyde, building on elements of practice that have worked both locally and elsewhere in Scotland. This funding will help develop the foundations for a model beyond the induction phase to enable New Scots to develop English and social connections hand in hand, one supporting and strengthening the other.

The Refugee Integration Team and CLD will work together to deliver a series of 10 week induction programmes for 44 families, over a year in local community centres and venues across Inverclyde. These new programmes will offer effective integrated language support to encourage increased levels of participation.

#### **4.6 Prevention and education steering group**

The prevention and education steering group is a subsidiary of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership. Following a review of alcohol and drug education and prevention services across Inverclyde, an action plan for improvement has been developed. Specific to this Committee, the prevention and education steering group is chaired by the service manager in communities and has a strong focus on supporting prevention in a school and youth work setting. The action plan, seeks to improve not only the existing offer to schools and youth work but to the education of adults in the community.

#### **4.7 Community provision for children and young people with autism**

The service is working closely with colleagues in the health and social care partnership to identify all services which exist to support children and young people with autism in a community setting. The service is aware of three services, the A-Team, Friends 4ever Group and Connect Youth (Youth Connections), which exist in the communities of Inverclyde but, at the time of writing, these have yet to re-open after their initial closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **4.8 Rankin Park Bowling Club**

Ongoing engagement is taking place between Rankin Park Bowling Club and officers as a result of the conditions survey undertaken. This will be subject to a further report to this committee.

### **5.0 GOVERNANCE OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **5.1 Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report and governance**

The Inverclyde Leisure Board approved its annual report at its meeting on 27 September 2021 and a members briefing took place on 26 October 2021. The IL Board acknowledges the significant financial support provided by the Council to IL during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inverclyde Leisure's high level priorities are to drive the company's recovery:

- to win loyal customers;
- to leverage technology;
- to consolidate and reduce expenditure;
- to utilise dynamic employee scheduling;
- to continuously review programmes;
- to be creative and search for ways to be innovative; and
- to seek ways to grow as the environment becomes more stable.

A copy of the final report can be accessed using the following link:

<https://inverclyde-www.legendonlineservices.co.uk/media/1433/98209-il-annual-report-2020-21-final-web-1.pdf>

Regular governance meetings take place between Council officers and IL, as well as officers attending the Board meetings. The COVID -19 recovery money continues to provide welcome support as the leisure industry continues to recover. Whilst it is recognised that IL are making a strong recovery and providing a wide range of services, the current support assumes a return to previous performance by 2023.

#### **5.2 Beacon Arts Centre**

The Corporate Director continues to attend the board meeting for the Beacon Arts Centre and the Interim Director of Corporate Services and Organisational Recovery attends the finance and general purposes subgroup. As previously reported to Committee, the Beacon has maximised the support available through COVID-19 recovery funding. This has included successfully bidding for several grants either individually or in partnership with other organisations. In a similar way to Inverclyde Leisure, the recovery of the arts sector remains uncertain, and it is not known how confident audiences will be to return to the theatre and arts events.

#### **5.3 Governance of self-managed community hubs**

All organisations have now signed service level agreements with the council and none have raised concerns regarding their financial position as a result of Covid. Regular governance meetings are ongoing with all organisations which are:

- Branchton Community Centre
- Kilmacolm New Community Centre

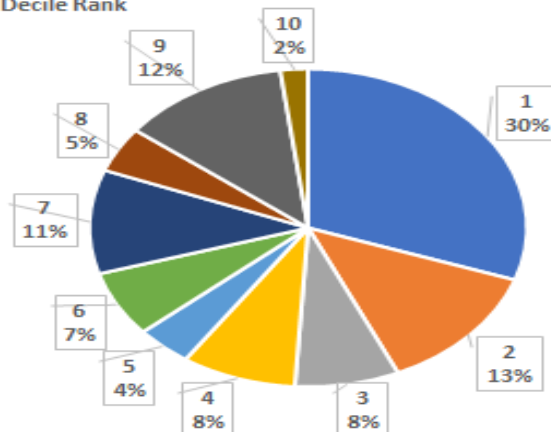
- Craigend resource Centre
- Gibshill Community Centre
- Inverkip Hub
- Youth Connections

## 6.0 Update on Subsidised Swimming 2021/22

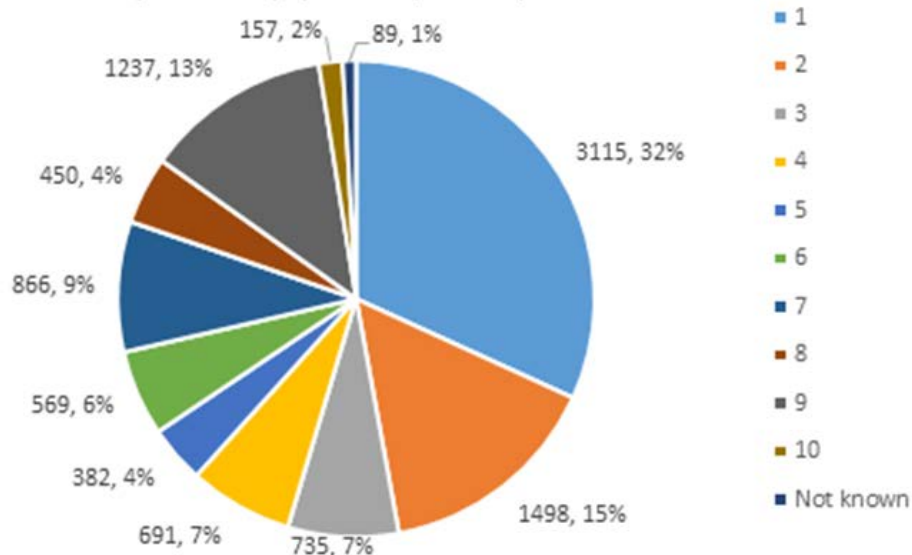
A card-based system was implemented in April 2021 which has allowed the service to understand the profile of young people who are taking up the offer of subsidised swimming in Inverclyde. The Education and Communities committee requested an interim update on uptake.

The first chart shows the swims undertaken by under 16s during the period by decile rank. The second chart shows how Inverclyde school population by SIMD Decile.

% of Visits - U16's By Decile Rank



Inverclyde school population (P1 to S6) SIMD Decile



The usage broadly mirrors the demographics of Inverclyde – with slightly less uptake in lower deciles compared to population and slightly more uptake in the mid-range and higher deciles. It is too early to gauge a trend because of the extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 but the data will continue to be monitored.

## 7.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 7.1 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					

### 7.2 Legal

None.

### 7.3 Human Resources

None.

### 7.4 Equalities

#### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

X	YES (assessments have been carried out for pertinent parts of report as reported to the Alliance Board)
	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?

x

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

NO

**7.5 Repopulation**

None.

**8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 None.

**9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 None.