

Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	8 March 2022
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/20/22/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report – Overview of National and Local Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on developments pertaining to the communities part of the Committee.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Updates are provided on the following:

- Implementation of Free Travel Passes for U22s;
- Partnership Recovery Plan progress; and
- Governance of external organisations including Inverclyde Leisure and The Beacon

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee notes the content of this report.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities and Organisational Development

4.0 UPDATES

4.1 Implementation of Free Travel Scheme for U22s

The Free Transport Scheme for those under age 22 was introduced by the Scottish Government in January 2022. The service continues to work alongside the Improvement Service, Transport Scotland and National Entitlement Card Programme Office to provide entitlement cards to young people under 22 years old. The application process and distribution of the cards are progressing well with our schools assisting in the tracking and distribution of NECs across Inverclyde. Once written consent from parents of pupils under 16 is provided, cards are being issued.

4.2 Partnership Recovery Plan

Below are pertinent updates on the Communities part of the Education, Culture and Sport Partnership Recovery Plan.

Summer of Fun – it is anticipated that Scottish Government funding will be allocated to provide some activities linked to deprivation during the summer of 2022. At the time of writing details and criteria of the funding is not available.

Duke of Edinburgh – after a delay in recruitment, staff are now in place to provide extra opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh.

Culture Recovery - activities carried out in this reporting period include: planning the second half of the Culture Collective programme following the submission of the interim report; continuing artist and writer residencies; a series of conversation with partners working in health and social care looking at creativity as a driver for improving health and wellbeing; large and well-attended Christmas event run by RIG Arts “Light Up Glen” at Auchmountain Glen on 12 December 2021; 8 schools participating in TRANCND projection of artworks onto buildings; well attended weekly art class at the Beacon; and rehearsing *Godspell* (Kayos Youth Theatre). A project evaluator has also been appointed.

New funding of £4m specifically for Culture Collective was announced in December 2021 by the Minister for Culture in a statement on supporting culture in Scotland. Much of this funding will be used to expand, extend and develop existing programmes. Officers will work up an application to this additional fund for a maximum of 65% of the original award, which would be a total of c. £178,000 in Inverclyde. The additional funding would also extend the end date of the programme from September 2022 to September 2023. Updates on the additional funding will be reported to the Committee in due course.

Gourock Amphitheatre lights - We are waiting on parts to arrive for the Gourock Amphitheatre lighting, this is still however on track to be completed by the end March 2022.

Active Inverclyde - The working group has now met to take forward Active Inverclyde, the group will be arranging a number of listening events with stakeholders and sport groups in the near future. We are now finalising the design phase of the all the new signage for Rankin Park.

Meliora - Main events will be in May and June 22. There are three anchor events: pipe band championship, outdoor obstacle event (IL) and arts festival (Beacon) and, if required, for ancillary events as part of the wider 'Meliora Festival' theme. Marketing theme in place, communications plan developed and partners in place to deliver the three anchor events.

Meliora community events - Applications for locality events opened on 31 January 2022 with a turnaround of 4 weeks. The funding agreement for the CVS funding has now been completed and the allocation of funding have been transferred over to CVS, the applications are now opened to the community.

Small grants are now available for the recovery of community groups through CVS.

5.0 GOVERNANCE OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Inverclyde Leisure (IL)

Regular governance meetings continue to take place with the Council and IL in addition to Council officer attendance at IL board meetings. IL currently reports strong progress in relation to its recovery from the impact of COVID-19 and continues to acknowledge the financial support from Inverclyde Council which has been critical to its recovery. The projected additional subsidy for 21/22 is £1.174m which is £502k less than originally allocated. For 2022/23 officers have allowed for an additional subsidy of £798k but await updated projections from IL. The £502K not required in 2021/22 will be returned to the Council's COVID contingency. It is simply not known how the sports and leisure industry will recover over time post Covid and how much of an impact different lifestyle choices, different working patterns and the financial climate will have over the next few years and as such the Policy & Resources Committee agreed in November that a detailed review of IL assets & funding should be undertaken in preparation for the 2023/24 Budget.

5.2 The Beacon Arts Centre

Officers have continued attendance at the board as well as oversight of the finance and general purposes sub-committee. The cancellation of performances of the pantomime due to COVID-19 restrictions was disappointing and inevitably impacted upon recovery but this has been balanced to some extent by the receipt of grants. The Beacon is reporting good progress in its recovery and the current position is better than might have been anticipated, helped by external funding. As with the leisure sector, cultural settings will have an uphill battle going forward and the full impact of COVID is as yet unknown.

5.3 Governance of self-managed community centres

Service level agreements are in place for all organisations and Council officers continue to hold regular governance meetings, with no issues to report in respect of their financial position. Regular governance meetings have been taking place in line with the service level agreements with:

- Branchton Community Centre;
- Kilmacolm New Community Centre;
- Craigend Resource Centre;
- Gibshill Community Centre;
- Inverkip Hub; and
- Youth Connections

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

N/A

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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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

6.5 Repopulation

N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 N/A.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 N/A.