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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Education &amp; Communities Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>7 March 2023</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>EDUCOM/13/23/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 Local and National Initiatives</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

1.1  For Decision  For Information/Noting

1.2 This report provides an update on matters relevant to the Communities part of the Education & Communities Committee.

1.3 Updates are provided on the following:

- Early Adopter Afterschool Service;
- Warm Spaces (Warm Hand of Friendship Funding);
- Whole School Community Approach to Substance Use Project;
- Community Food Growing Strategy;
- Supporting Participatory Budgeting;
- Libraries Success;
- Details of the savings taken from CLD service as part of the budget setting process and;
- Annual increase to the cost of pitch hire.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended the Education & Communities Committee:

- notes the updates contained in this report;
- agrees to increasing the cost of pitch hire by 5% for 2023/24

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

### **3.0 Updates**

#### **3.1 Early Adopter Afterschool Service**

Inverclyde Council has been awarded short-term funding by the Scottish Government to design 'community level systems' of school-age childcare to meet the identified needs of children and families in the area (aligning with other supports and interventions where this can maximise benefits). This provision, which will last until 31 March 2023, will allow the Council to assess and co-design the types of provision required by parents in Inverclyde.

Inverclyde Council has engaged with Before and After School Kilmacolm (BASK) to deliver the afterschool care for up to 30 primary age children from the Port Glasgow cluster area. By the end of January 2023, the Affordable Afterschool Care service engaged with 36 families who had applied to access the service. This resulted in 16 eligible families and 23 children receiving a place with BASK Port Glasgow. Parents accessing the service have been assessed to ensure they are living on a low income (less than £26,000) or fall into one of the child poverty priority groups. Each of the 16 families involved in the project are in full time employment; part time employment; education or a combination of education or working. Families are offered a financial wellbeing assessment by Inverclyde Advice Services to maximise income and benefits but also helps them understand the impact of additional or new working hours on household income.

The service will be advised in March 2023 of any future funding to continue to test ideas and develop the Affordable Afterschool Care model to include, for example, initiatives such as school holiday care or extension of breakfast clubs to support parents who are working and living on low income. Any option taken forward will be dependent on the funding made available by Scottish Government.

#### **3.2 Warm Spaces (Warm Hand of Friendship Funding)**

£100,000 Warm Hand of Friendship Funding (Warm Spaces) was provided by the Council to support local community and third sector organisations provide safe and warm spaces and warm food. This project was administered through Inverclyde CVS and a total of 32 local community and voluntary organisations have successfully received funding to offer a warm space during the winter 2022/23. £98,000 of this funding has now been allocated and full details can be found on the Council's website <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/inverclyde-community-empowerment/poverty/inverclyde-s-warm-hand-of-friendship>

The Inverclyde Integration Joint Board (IJB) agreed at its meeting on 28 November 2022 to provide further funding to third sector providers for hardship payments for affected individuals within the community. This has resulted in a further £50,000 available for the Warm Hand of Friendship Funding and all funding will be allocated before the end of March 2023.

#### **3.3 Whole School Community Approach to Substance Use Project**

Funding has been provided by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to commence a one-year project focusing on early intervention and prevention around alcohol and drugs in and around schools and their communities. This will be achieved by developing and providing an evidence-based substance use programme to S1-S4 in every secondary school in Inverclyde. The aim of the project is to delay onset of consumption of alcohol and/or drugs, reduce substance use and harms related to substance use within young people and prevent the development of problematic use in adulthood. It will be part of a wider approach to prevention to help develop or maintain protective factors and increase resilience and will include the exploration of: healthy lifestyles and healthy decisions; managing risks and personal safety; exploring mental health and emotional wellbeing and learning to form and maintain positive relationships.

Work has commenced on the development of a project plan and the recruitment of staff who will have responsibility for the project's delivery.

### 3.4 Community Food Growing Strategy

A draft Community Food Growing Strategy has been developed and will be considered at the March 2023 meeting of the Alliance Board. The strategy sets out how Inverclyde Council and its community planning partners will support community food growing across Inverclyde and was developed in conjunction with the Food Network.

The strategy aims to 'increase opportunities in Inverclyde for communities to grow their own food and contribute towards a reduction in food poverty. We want these opportunities to be well used by communities and for it to result in more local residents growing and using the food they grow'.

The vision will be achieved through the following four priorities:

- Priority 1: Build capacity within communities to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to take part in food growing;
- Priority 2: Create strong partnership working between communities, the Council and housing associations;
- Priority 3: Ensure communities have the resources they need to be able to take part in food growing; and
- Priority 4: Contribute towards a reduction in poverty through strong partnership working.

Once agreed, a copy of the strategy will be available to the Education and Communities Committee for noting.

### 3.5 Supporting Participatory Budgeting

The service continues to support the Council's approach to participatory budgeting and in November 2022, carried out a PB exercise to support the Environment and Regeneration service shape the allocation of £65,000 on improvements to Birkmyre Park in Kilmacolm. Community groups, schools, and partner services such as Inverclyde Leisure were targeted to take part in the exercise. In addition, posters with a QR code were displayed in the park to provide the community who use the park with an opportunity to have their say. Options will now be considered by the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

### 3.6 Libraries Success

Inverclyde Libraries was selected as a finalist for the Scottish First Aid Awards 2023 in the Community First Aid Champion category in recognition of the community sessions and signposting the service does within its branches, as part of the service's Health and Wellbeing offer. The Libraries Service has been working closely with St Andrews First Aid for the last 12 months and was acknowledged for the work it has put in towards creating a place-based response to first aid at a community level, allowing for all people to have access to learning both general and life-saving first aid skills. Overall, the goal of the programming is to enhance confidence and resilience in communities for across Inverclyde. The Scottish First Aid Awards Ceremony takes place on 31 March 2023.

### 3.7 Implications for CLD from budget setting process

As part of the budget setting process on 2 March a proportion of the proposed saving from CLD was being considered which, if taken, would result in a final reduction of £41,368. This was split

across the adult learning team (£25,134) and Community Work (£16,234). The saving is made up as follows:

- Deletion of a Community Development - Outreach Worker (21hr) £16,234  
This post has been vacant for almost two years and has proven historically difficult to fill. The Community Development Team has undergone a range of changes in both the individuals within the workforce and in relation to the way they work. The Community Development Team has recruited three new community development workers who are focused on taking forward the key principles of the Community Empowerment Act. The team have supported the development of a new platform for Communication and Engagement Groups in the 6 locality areas.
- Deletion of 3 part time Adult Learning CLD Tutor posts (two 10hrs and one 7½ hour post) £25,134  
These posts are a part of the wider adult team. The work is part of Inverclyde’s overall statement of Ambition for Adult learning, to ensure that there are accessible opportunities for adults to learn throughout their lives. The offer in place can be reviewed and it is pertinent to note that Multiply funding over 2023/26 will give extra funding to support adults with maths and numeracy.

3.8 Annual increase in the cost of pitch hire

In line with previous years, the service is proposing to implement an inflationary increase in charges for pitch hire across Inverclyde. It is recommended that the Education and Communities Committee agrees to increase charges by 5% from 1 April 2023. Pitches which are managed by Inverclyde Leisure will also increase in line with the funding agreement between Inverclyde Leisure and the Council.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		x	
Legal/Risk		x	
Human Resources	x		
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	x		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty	x		
Children & Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		x	
Environmental & Sustainability		x	
Data Protection		x	

4.2 **Finance**

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
Communities	Pitch Hire Income	2023/24	(7)		5% increase in charges

**4.3 Legal/Risk**

None.

**4.4 Human Resources**

None.

**4.5 Strategic**

Updates provided in this report are in line with the Council's strategic priorities.

**4.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty**

An EIA is in place for the reduction in CLD service

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

x	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required for reduction in CLD service considered by full Council
	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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

**4.7 Children and Young People**

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
x	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

#### 4.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
x	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

#### 4.9 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 – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

### 5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 N/A.

### 6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A.