
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	7 November 2023
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/50/23/RB/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan, Head of Culture, Communities and Educational Resources	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Communities Update Report – Overview of Local and National Initiatives		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Education and Communities Committee with developments in relation to the Communities part of the Committee.

Updates have been provided on the following areas:

- ‘16 Days’ of Activism Gender-Based Violence (GBV);
- Community Safety Partnership;
- Period Poverty Update;
- Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Substance Use Officers;
- Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report 2022/23;
- School Letting Arrangements;
- COSLA Excellence Awards 2023;
- Libraries Service Recognition; and
- Culture Collective Evaluation.
- Emergency Powers Report – Request to make a payment to pupils entitled to free school meals who are affected by school closure due to industrial action

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 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

3.0 Updates

3.1 The '16 Days' of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The '16 Days' of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) campaign will run across Scotland from 25 November until 10 December 2023. The international theme for the global '16 Days' campaign this year is 'UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls' and calls for robust responses, including investment in prevention. The Scottish campaign will focus on the theme 'Imagine a Scotland without GBV'. There will be a range of local and national activities taking place during the campaign, including:

- Information will be displayed on Inverclyde Council's ICON system, in public buildings, on social media and through communication platforms such as MS Teams and e-mails;
- partner agencies being encouraged to promote messages throughout their networks during the '16 Days';
- Inverclyde Alliance Board will start with a poem written for the event and the opportunity for organisations to make a pledge;
- Inverclyde will make approaches to local organisations with a view to joining local authorities across Scotland by lighting up buildings /sculptures to highlight the campaign;
- On Sunday 26 November at 2pm, Bishop John will lead those gathered at St Mary's Church in Greenock in a service to mark the 16 Days of Activism to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls. The service will be an opportunity to reflect on our past actions and pray for a better, safer, more equal future for women and girls. All are very welcome to attend and the service will be followed by tea, coffee and cake in the church hall; and
- Police Scotland running a national campaign to complement work across Scotland during the '16 Days'.

The campaign will also focus on children and young people, encouraging more work with education settings in response to challenging issues in these areas. MVP Scotland has approached schools across the country, encouraging them to organise events to mark the 16 days. The campaign aims to raise awareness of the issue of GBV and to encourage people to get involved in using awareness raising and community-led activities. Further information on violence against women can be found at:

[Violence Against Women - Inverclyde Council](#)

3.2 The Community Safety Partnership

The Community Safety Partnership submitted its 5th November strategic action plan to the Scottish Government to inform the annual, national policing approach, 'Operation Moonbeam' and help provide valuable insights to the varieties of approaches, best practices, priorities and challenges from across the country. Inverclyde's local plan captured the planned activities of the community safety partners during October and the beginning of November.

These activities included educational inputs, public awareness raising, information and intelligence sharing, regulation of firework sales, proactive patrols, and community engagement. Partnership operational groups will also meet during the period to discuss specific plans for community areas. By uniting our efforts in this way, we aimed to create a safe atmosphere for all residents during Bonfire Night.

3.3 Period Poverty

Inverclyde Council provides a range of both single use and reusable sanitary products from local venues and online services. Currently, all stock is purchased from Hey Girls who provide best

value for money in line with procurement policy and guidance. However, the market around sanitary products is developing and newer ranges are becoming available especially in relation to the size and colours available in the period pants. Inverclyde Council will continue to monitor the variety of sanitary products available, the suppliers to ensure the products are meeting the needs of the people using them while continuing to work within the procurement policy and guidance.

3.4 Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Substance Use Officers

A team of four dedicated workers are now employed to develop and deliver an educational framework around substance use awareness, stigma, risky behaviour (including Vaping) and harm reduction for secondary schools.

Once the framework is agreed, the team will deliver the content to all S1 to S6 pupils in the six mainstream Secondary Schools across Inverclyde. This process will involve community partners, including parents/guardians, Police Scotland. The aim of the framework is not only to engage and educate young people in the school but also to upskill the partners including parents, using the evidence-based substance use training resource by 30th June 2024.

3.5 Inverclyde Leisure Annual Report

The Annual Report forms part of the overall performance management overview of IL's activities and ensures that the continued financial support of Inverclyde Leisure contributes to measurable improvements in the provision of high-class facilities and improved participation in sports and leisure activities. A copy of the annual report is available here using this link.

<https://inverclydeleisure.com/media/1670/inverclyde-leisure-annual-report-2022-2023.pdf>

3.6 School Letting

The Council's 2022/23 budget exercise reduced the availability of school lets for pitches and buildings across Inverclyde Council's school estate. A new system for booking allocations for weekends are prioritised in the following ways:

- 1st choice: PPP schools at Clydeview Academy and Notre Dame High School;
- 2nd choice: Inverclyde Leisure estate; and
- 3rd choice: IC secondary estate with limited times (09.00 – 13.00) on Saturdays and no access on Sundays except 2G at Inverclyde Academy for GMCT Hockey.

The service will continue to monitor and manage demand and evaluate the approach at the end of the academic year 2023/24.

3.7 Cosla Excellence Awards 2023

The working group which was established to examine Inverclyde's Historic Links to Slavery was recognised at the Annual Cosla Excellence Awards in September 2023 by winning in the category of 'Strengthening Communities and Local Democracy'. The annual awards give national recognition to projects which are innovative and have a significant impact on their community.

3.8 Inverclyde Libraries Shortlisted for award

Inverclyde Libraries Service has been shortlisted for the SLIC Service Excellence Award 2023, recognising the work ongoing across the service to increase health and wellbeing literacy in Inverclyde, with a focus on self-management and preventing ill-health. This work forms part of the libraries service's active role as part of SLIC's Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing initiative.

3.9 Inverclyde Culture Collective

The Inverclyde Culture Collective project came to an end in August this year. As a Council-led partnership, the Culture Collective achieved £473,000 in external funding from Creative Scotland over a three-year period. The Council worked with four other lead partners (CVS Inverclyde, RIG Arts, Beacon Arts Centre and Inverclyde Youth Theatre (Kayos)) to deliver 32 projects that created 116 freelance opportunities for artists working across Inverclyde. An estimated 2,456 participants engaged with Culture Collective activity across 791 organised sessions. In addition, an estimated 56 community partners were involved. The final project report is now available, including evaluation for the third and final year of the project. Although the project has come to an end, lead partners are continuing to explore opportunities to support and resource continued activity. In addition, as active participants in the Inverclyde Cultural Partnership they will contribute to the development of a new Arts and Creativity Action Plan that will seek to capitalise on the success of the Culture Collective.

https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/16479/FINAL_REPORT-Inverclyde-Culture-Collective-evaluation-2023-5.9.23.pdf

3.10 Emergency powers report – request to make a payment to pupils entitled to free school meals who are affected by school closure due to industrial action

An emergency powers report was signed by the Chief Financial Officer, Head of Legal, Chief Executive and Cllrs McCabe, McCluskey and Robertson, on 21 September 2023. The reason for the use of emergency powers was the need for payments to be made prior to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee which is the budget holder for the Anti-Poverty earmarked reserve. The report asked for the recommendations below to be approved:

- that approval is given to allocate £27,000 from the Anti-Poverty Earmarked Reserve to make payments to school pupils entitled to free school meals and clothing grants affected by the closure of schools during the intimated strike period of 26, 27 and 28 September 2023.
- that to avoid the need for urgent decisions of a similar nature during the remainder of this financial year, delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development to allocate **£9000 per strike day** from the Anti-Poverty Earmarked Reserve. This will be to make further payments to school pupils entitled to free school meals and clothing grants who are affected by any additional school closures during any future intimated strike periods during the remainder of the 2023/24 Financial Year.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		X
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & 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
N/A					

4.3 Legal/Risk

N/A

4.4 Human Resources

N/A

4.5 Strategic

N/A

4.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

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

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, 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

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

(c) 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.

4.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts which relate to this report.

N/A

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.

4.8 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