
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	3 September 2024
Report By:	Ruth Binks, Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/41/24/TM
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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:

1. Locality Plan Progress and Review.
2. Bikeability
3. Food Growing Update
4. Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare;
5. Child Poverty Accelerator Funding;
6. Inverclyde Libraries;
7. Culture and Heritage; and
8. The Youth Music Initiative

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 Locality Planning

The Communities Service continues to play a significant role in the development of locality-based planning across Inverclyde,

Six new locality action plans for Inverclyde have now been developed using the information gained from previous public consultations and a new cycle of community engagement being carried out via a digital survey and six drop-in sessions in April and May 2024. The consultation's goal was to determine whether the priorities from past consultations still matched the current community needs. The results have been used to formulate six new Locality Action Plans, which are in line with the Partnership Plan 23/33. Each of the locality plans can be found using the link below:

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/localities>

The Communities services has also begun to develop a new approach to community engagement to establish an Inverclyde-wide engagement network, combining online and face-to-face platforms, to prioritise the six revised locality plans. This network will be branded under a title such as "Inverclyde Community Choices" and will serve as a complementary resource to existing formal and informal community groups, community planning partnerships, and the Inverclyde Alliance Board. A subsequent report detailing progress on this initiative will be presented a future meeting of the Alliance Board and then the Education and Communities Committee.

3.2 Bikeability

For 2023-24 Inverclyde will be reporting encouraging progress in the provisional Bikeability return to Cycling Scotland. In 2022-23 nine primary schools participated in the programme across the local authority. Two of these schools undertook level 2 'on road' training with 65 pupils participating. In 2023-24 the number of schools participating in the programme overall increased slightly to ten, however there was a more notable increase in the proportion of these going 'on road' with seven schools opting to train their pupils at this level. The number of pupils going 'on road' therefore increased from 65 to 156, which represents an increase of 140%. The progress shown this year can be attributed to the commitment of the participating schools, in particular the volunteers from within the school staff who undertook the roles of instructors with the support from the Road Safety Officer within the Community Safety & Resilience team. Additional funding from Cycling Scotland was used to purchase cycle helmets and Community Tracks provided 13 bikes for participating children

3.3 Food Growing Update

In line with the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Inverclyde Council developed a Community Food Growing Strategy in March 2023. This link below takes you to the report which provides an update on the implementation of the strategy's first year actions and outlines the proposed work plan for the second year. Initial findings suggest that the development of growing spaces within Inverclyde is having a positive impact on the community. Encouraging feedback has been received regarding the progress made to date.

<https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/assets/attach/15953/05-Community-Food-Growing-Strategy-2-.pdf>

3.4 Early Adopter Community for Affordable Childcare (EAC)

On July 4th, 2024, Inverclyde Council secured additional funding of £1.2m to extend the EAC program until March 2026. Since its launch, the program has successfully provided services to over 40 children from 33 families. Currently, it offers after-school childcare and holiday childcare services, primarily supporting lone-parent households. It also supports the provision of Breakfast Clubs for 5 days per week in the Port Glasgow primary schools, providing a subsidised costs to those who meet the criteria. Support is also offered to the Scottish Childminding Association (SCMA) to recruit and upskill local childminders and to pay the cost of the childcare provision for the families who meet the criteria.

This new grant will allow for expanding elements of affordable childcare provision to two localities with the highest inequalities, Greenock East and Central and Inverclyde South West until March 2026. From January 2025, it is the Scottish Government's intention that families will be expected to pay for the childcare element of the service, however, information, advice and capacity will still be given to families to help them to apply for relevant social security or tax relief childcare funding. The Early Adopter Community will work alongside childcare providers to ensure the cost of the provision is kept affordable and flexible to meet the needs of the parents.

The expansion of the service to three localities in Inverclyde will be scaled to support and deliver to families with children 0-5 years with childcare support, integrating with existing early years services. and will include local playgroups, family groups, and toddlers to expand childcare options within the community. Key to the success of the early adopter community is the 'whole family approach' which ensures families receive early intervention services which are nearby and designed around the families using them. This service, which is co-designed with parents, includes input from childcare providers, welfare and advice services, employability services, early years programs, colleges, and family support services.

Officer is actively engaging with Scottish Government to support application for capital funding to develop a dedicated childcare facility at Boglestone Community Centre. The proposed will would utilise underutilised space within centre and offer after-school, holiday, and 0-5 years childcare, further strengthening local efforts to address poverty, inequality, and improve employability outcomes. We anticipate receiving confirmation regarding the availability of funding by the end of August 2024

Regular updates on the early Adopter Childcare programme will continue to be given to the Education and Communities Committee.

3.5 Child Poverty Accelerator Funding

The Scottish Government's Child Poverty Accelerator Fund (CPAF) is supporting a collaborative project in Inverclyde aimed at developing a comprehensive theory of change for early intervention in tackling child poverty. This initiative leverages local and national expertise to engage families in a holistic support program. The project, led by Inverclyde Council in partnership with Inverclyde Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) and delivered by Home Start Inverclyde.

Since its launch in November 2023, the Home Start intervention component has successfully engaged with 45 families. Notably, 58% of participating families have children under the age of one, highlighting the project's focus on early intervention. Additionally, 51% of families have at least one member with a disability, and 42% are lone-parent households, demonstrating the project's commitment to supporting vulnerable populations. The 45 families are participating in programmes designed to enhance self-esteem, confidence, and parenting skills facilitated by Home Start Inverclyde. Families are given support to connect and build relationships with each other, fostering a supportive network and a

comprehensive financial wellbeing assessment has been conducted to identify areas of need for income from social security and/or income from employment.

Initial findings from an evaluation highlight system-level change has fostered new, relationship-based pathways between Homestart Inverclyde and HSCP Welfare and Advice Services. This collaboration allows families to discuss financial concerns and access support to maximise their social security benefits. Additionally, families receive guidance on the impact of employment income on their overall financial wellbeing. Building on these successes, a further funding request was submitted during the recently closed Child Poverty Accelerator Fund Round 2. This underscores the commitment to continue learning from this innovative approach and ensure the sustainability of these valuable services.

3.6 Inverclyde Libraries

Inverclyde Libraries Team Leader – Scotland’s Library and Information Professional of the Year

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals Scotland (CILIPS) recognised Alison Nolan, Libraries Team Leader, as Scotland’s Library and Information Professional of the Year 2024 at their conference in June. Alison was recognised in particular for platforming libraries as a key health and wellbeing resource in communities; whilst also delivering innovative projects that address the climate crisis through alternative lending collections such as seed libraries, and the Lend and Mend Hub now established at Greenock South West Library. Although Alison has now left the Council, she will continue to support the ongoing development of our library service in her new capacity as Chief Executive of the Scottish Libraries and Information Council (SLIC).

SLIC Small Business Support Fund

An award of £2,477 has been made to Inverclyde Libraries Service by the SLIC Small Business Support Fund. This funding will be used by the service to purchase equipment necessary for creating high quality media content. Equipment will be available for use by groups and individuals in Inverclyde through the Lend and Mend Hub. In addition, this equipment will be used to augment and extend engagement with library customers through social media and by creating new on-line ‘how to’ and learning resources, encouraging skills development, and supporting digital inclusion.

CILIPS Green Libraries Funding

Inverclyde Libraries have been awarded a Green Libraries Scotland Grant of £2,500 by CILIPS to create a contemporary herbarium inspired by the Watt Institution’s historic collections, accompanied by a programme of creative activities to engage audiences in Inverclyde’s biodiversity. A herbarium is a catalogued collection of preserved plant specimens (essentially a plant ‘dictionary’) – this project will engage audiences with the Watt’s historic herbaria collection (currently the subject of a digital engagement project funded by Museums Galleries Scotland), before collecting and cataloguing contemporary specimens from the Drying Green community garden at Greenock South West that will contributing to the overarching narrative of changing biodiversity in Inverclyde.

3.7 Culture and Heritage

NLHF – Connecting Inverclyde Heritage Project

A Connecting Inverclyde Heritage Coordinator, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) is now in place. This three-year project will lead delivery of the Inverclyde Heritage Strategy, refreshing the strategy action plan and actively engaging groups and individuals in celebrating the heritage of Inverclyde. As this project progresses, regular updates will be made to Committee.

Culture Collective – Legacy Funding

Inverclyde Council successfully applied to Creative Scotland for £35,000 of Culture Collective legacy funding. Each Culture Collective partner will receive a proportionate share of these funds

to deliver an arts-based project that builds on the wider successes of Culture Collective, as described in our comprehensive evaluation report. This funding will also support delivery of a refreshed Arts and Creativity Action Plan for Inverclyde, which will further capitalise on the foundation of innovative and creative arts practice established by Culture Collective partners.

3.8 Youth Music Initiative

Creative Scotland has confirmed continuation of funding to support delivery of its Youth Music Initiative within Inverclyde. This Scottish Government initiative seeks to ensure that all primary age children in Scotland have the opportunity to engage with high quality music tuition and enhances the offer of our own Instrumental Music Tuition Service. Participation in music activity has been shown to enable social interaction and confidence-building and is recognised as having a positive impact on overall wellbeing. In Inverclyde, delivery of the YMI programme will continue to focus on five strands of delivery. Our main project delivers music making skills for a minimum of 12 hours to every P5 across Inverclyde, two projects support our ASN facilities, the Streetband project will work with two schools and links to the Galoshans Festival and finally a small innovation fund to encourage primary schools to bid in for financial support to build on music activity within the curriculum.

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

N/A

(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

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

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.