

Report To: Safe, Sustainable Communities Committee **Date:** 25 Oct 2011
Report By: Corporate Director Education & Communities **Report No:**
SCS/79/11/AH/JA
Contact Officer: John Arthur **Contact No:** 714263
Subject: Resilience Initiative Pilot

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an overview of the Resilience Model which the SOA 2 Social Regeneration Delivery Group proposes to pilot within Port Glasgow and which involves a re-examination of how services are provided to deprived communities.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 It is irrefutable from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) that Inverclyde has pockets of social housing in which residents experience persistent and significant levels of deprivation and where the most disadvantaged households are clustered together. The usual indicators of deprivation are highly evident in these areas: unemployment, low educational attainment, poor health, crime and anti-social behaviour as well as higher than average rates of domestic violence or conflict between neighbours.
- 2.2 Recognising that previous approaches to social regeneration in many Inverclyde neighbourhoods have failed to deliver anticipated outcomes and taking account of current financial constraints, the SOA2 Delivery Group has been considering approaches from across the UK which have demonstrated greater impact in this area and which could be piloted in Inverclyde. The Group has specifically researched initiatives which deliver effective interventions to tackle social inequalities and build successful communities.
- 2.3 Evidence available from the Young Foundation in England suggests that the Resilience Initiative piloted in small estates in England has positively impacted on the above objective and the SOA 2 Delivery Group is keen to initiate a pilot of this approach in parts of Port Glasgow.
- 2.4 The Resilience Model recognises that those who are most at risk and generate the greatest expense in terms of demands on services, often lead complex lives. It therefore focuses on redesigning services around the needs of the target group using a partnership approach. Identifying which people have the greatest need for support, what type of support they most need and when, will be key to the success of this.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Committee
1. Note the contents of this report;
 2. Support the efforts of the SOA2 Delivery Group to implement this pilot; and
 3. Agree that further progress updates are submitted to future meetings of the Committee.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In Inverclyde, the SOA2 Social Regeneration Delivery Group is remitted to deliver “communities that are stronger, responsible and more able to identify, articulate and take actions on their needs and aspirations to bring about an improvement in the quality of community life”. In accordance with this objective, the Delivery Group has been keen to examine alternative approaches to social regeneration designed to have maximum impact; addressing some of the persistent barriers to success and focusing on how services are currently delivered and where gaps exist.
- 4.2 Research suggests that conventional approaches to revitalising neighbourhoods are often not appropriate for the most deprived small estates. Neighbourhood management, policing and community groups all aim to improve areas by engaging residents in decision-making about local needs and priorities, yet there are a host of practical, social and emotional barriers that stop the most vulnerable from getting involved in these. Experience of delivering social regeneration in Inverclyde bears out these findings.
- 4.3 As part of the SOA2’s planning process, a multi agency workshop has been held to examine options for social regeneration and to refine a pilot scheme for parts of Port Glasgow. The area selected by the partners includes part of Lower Port Glasgow (Clune Park, Kelburn and Woodhall) and part of Upper Port Glasgow (Slaemuir, Park Farm and Oronsay) where deprivation persists. The plan itself is based on the Resilience approach which has been implemented in parts of England and which is currently under development in Glasgow and Paisley and it will be tailored to the prevailing issues within the designated area of Port Glasgow.
- 4.4 The Resilience model brings together residents and agencies to work together for a limited period of time to understand the entrenched deprivation of a particular neighbourhood and to develop innovative, practical and rapid responses. Responses which are very focused and will support individuals and families to become responsible citizens and contributors to their community. The model relies on first hand accounts from residents and those working in the area to understand the reality of local problems.
- 4.5 The Resilience approach also seeks to address the anomalies and potential duplication within public sector intervention. It is often the case that there are disadvantaged households receiving support, of a similar nature, from a number of agencies or departments who are working in isolation with staff unaware that colleagues from another agency are working with the same individual/family and failing to exchange knowledge and data effectively.

5.0 PRINCIPLES AND ACTIONS KEY TO THE RESILIENCE MODEL

- 5.1 Key elements of this approach include the need to:
 - Identify the pilot area and map it in terms of health, social work, employment, financial inclusion and crime data.
 - Generate commitment and momentum from all agencies involved and to demonstrate tangible results to residents.
 - Understand deprivation at the local level and its impact through interviews with residents and professionals working in the area.
 - Establish which issues are priorities for the community in terms of intervention.
 - Identify the target group for intervention.
 - Identify individuals and families within the target group who are most at risk and most require support.
 - Identify what support is already being provided and what gaps exist.

6.0 ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- 6.1 Since the initial decision to pursue this approach, staff within Inverclyde Council and

Strathclyde Police have been identified to support its implementation and work is underway to map available data relating to the target area. A draft action plan will be presented to a forthcoming meeting of the SOA 2 Delivery Group and an operational subgroup will be established prior to the end of this year.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Strategic

The progression of this pilot will make a contribution to several strategic aims and objectives as set out in the:

- Community Plan; and
- Council's Corporate Plan.

7.2 Financial

There are no immediate financial implications associated with this pilot. Existing staff resource has been identified to support the initial implementation.

7.3 Legal

There will be a requirement to devise terms of reference and information sharing protocols between local agencies for effective delivery of this pilot.

7.4 Equalities

When delivering services to our customers, full cognisance is taken of equality and diversity processes and procedures.