

EAST AYRSHIRE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 16 DECEMBER 2010

COLLABORATING FOR OUTCOMES - PEER REVIEW EVENT

Report by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support, East Ayrshire Council

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board of the outcome of the Collaborating for Outcomes Peer Review Event held on 2 and 3 September 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In February 2009, a partnership of the main public bodies in Scotland launched a new leadership development programme for senior service leaders and civil servants entitled Collaborating for Outcomes. The programme aimed to build the capacity to collaborate on the delivery of the national outcomes.
- 2.2 The first programme, with approximately 50 participants was held over 2009/10 and culminated in a peer review of Aberdeen City's Single Outcome Agreement in December 2009.
- 2.3 Due to the success of this event, the Scottish Government approached East Ayrshire Council to host a similar event for approximately 30 participants (from the first cohort) in September 2010.
- 2.4 As the development of our Single Outcome Agreement has been on a partnership basis, the Community Planning Partnership was asked and agreed to host the peer review event in East Ayrshire.
- 2.5 A verbal update was provided to the last CPP Board meeting on 30 September 2010 at which point it was agreed that a more detailed update would be prepared for the December Board meeting.

3. PEER REVIEW PROGRAMME – EAST AYRSHIRE

- 3.1 The event which took place over the two days of 2 and 3 September 2010 was organised to link in with the four-yearly review of the Community Plan and provided an excellent opportunity for the Community Planning Partnership to explore as part of the peer review programme three improvement areas, as identified below:
- closing the educational attainment gap whilst securing positive and sustained destinations;
 - sustaining and growing the local economy; and
 - tackling health inequalities as a cross-cutting agenda.

- 3.2 Approximately 25 senior officers across the public sector in Scotland participated in the peer review programme. In addition a range of local officers and stakeholders acted as both information givers and expert witnesses during the two day process.
- 3.3 To consider the benefit of the Peer review process to the Partnership a series of de-brief meetings were convened by the Community Planning Partnership Manager with Lead Officers. In addition, a follow up meeting was held with representatives of the Scottish Government on the 25 October 2010.
- 3.4 Although challenging, the session proved to be valuable for all participants and as a result of the feedback received a number of changes/improvements have already been implemented. In addition, a number of small alterations are proposed to the new local outcomes as a result of the Peer Review programme.
- 3.5 A summary of the early actions arising from the Peer Review programme is summarised below:

Promoting Lifelong Learning

- In response to issues raised at the Peer Review regarding the narrow focus of the Raising Educational Attainment strategic priority, the Promoting Lifelong Learning working group reviewed the strategic priorities approved by the Board on 24 June 2010 and after full consideration agreed that they remained fit for purpose. The Group, however, have submitted a request to the Board to change the previously agreed local outcomes, as summarised below:

Local Outcomes	Proposed Changes
Education attainment and achievement improved	Literacy and numeracy skills for children, young people and adults improved
Links between educational establishments, communities skills and work improved	Positive and sustained destinations for learners improved
Individuals supported to gain skills for work, including literacy, numeracy and ICT skills	
Community capacity, spirit and cohesion developed	Community capacity, spirit and cohesion developed

Delivering Community Regeneration

As a result of the discussion at the Peer Review event, the following early actions have been progressed.

- There has been an increased focus on economic development within Council and across the Partnership.
- New and enhanced relationships have been developed nationally, with links made to Scottish Development International.
- There has been an increased clarity of individual organisations role in economic development and increased ownership of the economic development agenda.

Improving Health and Wellbeing:

The output of the Peer Review Group was considered by the Improving Health and Wellbeing Working Group and discussed with the Community Health Partnership (CHP). As a result a number of early actions were progressed:

- The new strategic priorities were reviewed and after discussion the Improving Health and Wellbeing Group agreed that they remain fit for purpose.
- In response to the Equally Well paper, combined with the Collaborating for Outcomes feedback, which was presented to the CHP committee, the committee agreed to establish a short term working group to look at the cross cutting inequalities agenda across the four themes of the Community Plan.
- The Committee also agreed that Equality Impact Assessments, to be carried out on the Community Plan Action Plans, would ensure a focus on mitigating the effects of inequality.

3.6 Overall participants found the two day session challenging but informative, providing those who participated with an opportunity to reflect on progress to date and planned activity. Participants concluded that the peer review element of the programme was particularly valuable as it provided constructive challenge across all elements of partnership activity.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is asked to:

- i) note the outcome of the Collaborating for Outcomes Peer Review programme;
- ii) agree to the proposed changes to the Promoting Lifelong Learning outcomes as detailed at paragraph 3.5; and
- iii) otherwise, note the content of the report.

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East Ayrshire Council
1 December 2010