



COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE

BOARD MEETING - 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board on developments in relation to Community Planning.

2. RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE

- 2.1 Consequent to the retirement of the Head of Corporate Development and Communication from the Council's service at the end of June 2008, the Community Planning and Partnership Manager has assumed responsibility for chairing the Research, Information and Performance (RIP) Group.

3. SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

- 3.1 Recent correspondence received from the Improvement Service in an email from Bob Christie, Outcome Programme Manager, advised that at their SOLACE meeting on 27 June 2008, Chief Executives had agreed the proposed next steps for development of CPP SOAs for sign off in 2009, which are being considered by the High Level Steering Group. As the Board will be aware, Community Planning Partners in East Ayrshire prepared a three-year CPP SOA from the outset, which was approved and signed off by John Swinney, MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, on behalf of the Scottish Government, on 2 July 2008.

- 3.2 Proposals which are of relevance to East Ayrshire and being considered by the High Level Steering Group include:

- updated analysis of all final SOAs by the Improvement Service with a summary report presented to a further meeting of the High Level Steering Group and SOLACE during August 2008 (July 2008);
- the High Level Steering Group will finalise guidance for 2009/10 SOAs to be submitted by CPPs and confirm the reporting format and timescale for 2008/09 outcomes (August-October 2008);
- all 32 CPPs to prepare and submit 2009/10 SOAs (by end February 2009);
- dialogue with the Scottish Government and CPPs to secure sign off (March-May 2009); and
- Final Performance Reports against targets for 2008/09 (by 30 September 2009).

Annual Reporting

- 3.3 The Community Planning and Partnership Unit (CPPU), supported by the RIP Group, will consider the potential timeframe for the production of annual performance reports linked to the SOA. However, as noted at 3.2 above, the reporting format and timescale for 2008/09 outcomes are currently awaited from the Scottish Government.

- 3.4 Work is currently being progressed within Council to establish appropriate internal systems to ensure that the Council is in a position to report annually on the outcomes set within the overall agreement. The Best Value and Performance Unit will assume lead responsibility for co-ordinating the production of the relevant Council data and submitting this to the CPPU.
- 3.5 In turn, the CPPU will organise the collation of Partner Agency SOA performance data for consolidation by the CPPU into an overall East Ayrshire annual performance report.
- 3.6 In addition, systems will require to be put in place to ensure required monitoring and reporting on the outcomes associated with the Fairer Scotland Fund.
- 3.7 Consideration will also be given to all opportunities to rationalise and streamline current reporting systems to avoid duplication of activity.

4. COMMUNITY PLANNING AWARDS CEREMONY

- 4.1 At the Core Partners' Group meeting of 11 December 2007, Community Planning Partners agreed to host a Community Planning Awards Ceremony for the community and voluntary sectors. It was further agreed at the JOG meeting of 31 March 2008 that the Awards Ceremony should be scheduled for March/April 2009.
- 4.2 A Working Group, chaired by Gwen Barker, Community Planning and Partnership Manager, and comprising representation from Partner agencies and the Federations of Community Groups, has been established. The first meeting was convened on 11 August 2008.
- 4.3 The date for the event has been set for Thursday 26 March 2009 and a provisional booking has been made at the Park Hotel.
- 4.4 Opportunities for potential sponsorship of the event will be explored; however, in the meantime, the Board is requested to consider underwriting the costs (approximately £20,000) associated with the Awards Ceremony from the Community Planning Development Fund, which will provide comfort in respect of taking forward activity at this time.
- 4.5 Subject to the success or otherwise of this event, it would be proposed to host a similar event every second year.

5. LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING FORUMS

- 5.1 A joint event bringing together the four Local Community Planning Forums to focus on the issues of Community Safety and Anti-social Behaviour was held on 27 August 2008 at Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock.
- 5.2 The introductory speech was delivered by Assistant Chief Constable John Neilson of Strathclyde Police and a wide range of Partners were in attendance.
- 5.3 Over 100 people participated in the event. In addition to Local Community Planning Forum members, there was representation from Community Councils, and residents and tenants organisations to which invitations had been extended due to

their interest in the topic. Feedback on the day was very positive and the evaluations are currently being analysed.

- 5.4 The output from the workshops is currently being collated, following which actions to address the identified priorities will be agreed and circulated. A copy of the agreed actions will be available at the Board meeting.
- 5.5 The next round of Local Community Planning Forums will be convened in November 2008, as follows:

Central North and Central South Local Community Planning Forums - Joint Meeting	Drugs and Alcohol including access to health services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> overview of services in the areas opportunity for Forum members in individual Forum groups to highlight gaps and contribute to shaping services to meet local need. 	Tuesday 18 November 2008 - venue and time to be confirmed
Northern and Southern Local Community Planning Forums - Joint Meeting	Regeneration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> overview of services in the areas opportunity for Forum members in individual Forum groups to highlight gaps and contribute to shaping services to meet local need. 	Tuesday 25 November 2008 - venue and time to be confirmed

6. 'THE WORK THAT WE DO'

- 6.1 Following the success of 'The Work That You Do' booklet, which was produced by the Council to raise the awareness of operational staff of their contribution to the Community Plan, the JOG agreed at its meeting of 9 September 2008 that a 'The Work That We Do' booklet be prepared to highlight partnership working across the new themes of the Community Plan.
- 6.2 A proposal in respect of the content will be prepared by the Community Planning and Partnership Unit and circulated to Lead Officers for consideration by the end of September 2008.
- 6.3 It is proposed that the booklet will be produced and circulated early in 2009.

7. EAST AYRSHIRE CARERS CENTRE EVALUATION

- 7.1 At its meeting on 26 June 2008, the CPP Board approved a funding allocation to commission an independent evaluation of East Ayrshire Carers Centre. The evaluation will assess performance; promote sustainability; and provide a strategic way forward for the Carers Centre.
- 7.2 Consultants from EKOS Limited have been commissioned to take this work forward. A desktop review is currently in progress, a questionnaire has been developed, and key stakeholder interviews and focus group sessions will be progressed over the next few weeks. The carers groups have only recently re-convened following the holiday period, which has delayed this process; however, it is anticipated that the evaluation will be concluded in October 2008. The outcome of this evaluation will be presented to a future meeting of the Board.

8. VICTIM SUPPORT: PROJECT PROPOSAL

- 8.1 Victim Support Scotland is an independent voluntary organisation and registered charity, which provides practical and emotional support and information regarding the criminal justice system to victims, witnesses and other individuals affected by crime. Trained staff and volunteers deliver assistance and support through a network of Community and Court-based services throughout Scotland.
- 8.2 Victim Support Scotland has delivered service provision for over 18 years in East Ayrshire. Approximately 2,000 referrals in respect of individuals affected by crime are received by Victim Support East Ayrshire from Strathclyde Police on an annual basis. In addition, as part of its service provision, Victim Support East Ayrshire provides information and advice relating to the Criminal Justice System.
- 8.3 Victim Support East Ayrshire currently employs two staff members as follows:
- 1x Area Co-ordinator; 35-hour post based in Kilmarnock; and
 - 1x Assistant Co-ordinator; 16-hour post based in Kilmarnock.
- 8.4 The small staff team co-ordinates 10 trained volunteer visitors, who in 2007/08 worked on 1,632 victim referrals, 1,410 of which were received from Strathclyde Police 'U' Division.
- 8.5 As a result of recent discussions between colleagues in Strathclyde Police and Victim Support, it was identified that an increase in the working hours of the Assistant Co-ordinator post from 16 to 35 hours per week would provide opportunities to enhance the existing service and additional capacity to deal with the anticipated increase in referrals, including raising awareness of victim issues, promoting and participating in development activity with partner agencies, as well as supporting the recruitment and training of additional volunteer visitors. As a result a funding bid was submitted to the Community Planning Partnership.
- 8.6 The cost of increasing the existing Assistant Co-ordinator's post from 16 to 35 hours per week has been calculated at £10,160 in 2008/09 (based on 2008/09 salary costs), and £10,400 in 2009/10 and £10,700 in 2010/11 (including on costs).
- 8.7 The Board will recall that at its last meeting on 26 June 2007/08 a full allocation of Fairer Scotland Fund resources was approved for 2008/09. Consequently, the proposal from Victim Support, if approved, would require to be funded for the remainder of the current financial year (1 October 2008 to 31 March 2009 inclusive) from the Community Planning Challenge Fund at a cost of £5,080, leaving an unallocated balance of £81,720 for future allocation.
- 8.8 The project contributes to the key principles of the Fairer Scotland Fund and to addressing Community Planning priorities in East Ayrshire. It is proposed, therefore, that the Assistant Co-ordinator post could continue to be funded in 2009/10 and 2010/11 via the Fairer Scotland Fund. Subject to approval, this would leave a balance of £7,100 and £186,800 respectively in the Fairer Scotland Fund for future allocation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The Community Planning Partnership Board is requested to:

- i) note that the RIP Group will now be chaired by the Community Planning and Partnership Manager;
- ii) note that proposals are being considered by the High Level Steering Group regarding guidance and reporting timescales for 2008/09 SOA Outcomes, and sign off of 2009/10 SOAs;
- iii) note the date of Thursday 26 March 2009 for the Community Planning Awards Ceremony and agree to underwrite the costs associated with the event until sponsorship opportunities can be explored and secured;
- iv) note the success of the joint Local Community Planning Forum on Community Safety and Anti-social Behaviour and the details of the next round of meetings in November 2008;
- v) endorse the proposal to produce a 'The Work That We Do' booklet to highlight partnership working through Community Planning;
- vi) note the progress in respect of the Carers Centre Evaluation;
- vii) approve the allocation of resources identified at 8.7 from the Community Planning Challenge Fund in 2008/09 and at 8.8 from the Fairer Scotland Fund in 2009/10 and 2010/11 to be utilised to increase the existing hours of the Victim Support Assistant Co-ordinator from 16 hours to 35 hours per week; and
- viii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Elizabeth Morton
Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support
East Ayrshire Council
11 September 2008