



COMMUNITIES REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE TO COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 25TH AUGUST 2022

Date of last meeting: 7th June 2022

Main current focus of the group:

The main focus of the Communities Reference Group is to inform the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest within the community planning structure, and forums that sit within VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) as well as community and third sector organisations. The Communities Reference Group will be used as a formal engagement process to discuss the development of CPP strategic plans.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Review of Communities Reference Group

A review has recently taken place of the Communities Reference Group (CRG) to determine the future direction of the group in-light-of upcoming and significant areas of engagement including Caring for Ayrshire, National Care Service, Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and potential Community Plan. It has also been identified that there is clearly a need to have locality/community-based engagement, but also thematic engagement – around communities with common issues and experiences (known as ‘communities of interest’).

It is proposed that the CRG is changed to become a **Community Engagement Co-ordination Group (CECG)** that will act as the main locus for the co-ordination of collective engagement activity across the CPP – this would comprise representation from both locality/community-based engagement and wider thematic engagement allowing an opportunity for a more structured approach to engaging with our communities specifically around localities, thematic (such as engaging Children and Young People, Adults, Older People and Families), service users and CPP strategic plans. There are also opportunities to engage with third and independent sector organisations through HSCP (Health and Social Care Partnership) forums and VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) led Provider Forums. There are dedicated posts within the CPP (South Ayrshire Council -Thriving Communities, NHS A&A (Ayrshire & Arran), HSCP and VASA) to support officer engagement and this proposal will support/complement the work that they currently undertake.

In summary, the **CECG** would act as the main locus for the co-ordination of our collective engagement activity as required by community planning partners. It would then guide engagement activity through the Locality Planning Partnerships with support from Engagement teams from within SAC, NHS A&A and HSCP. It is intended that future community representation on the CP Board will come from a representative from the CECG.

Annual Community Planning Webinar Series Event

Discussion is taking place to agree a programme for the Webinar Series Event which will take place later-on in the year. Feedback from the Webinar model used last year was very positive and again the same format will be used, however consideration will be given to a potential for a face-to-face event

KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS

- **Finalise terms of reference for the Community Engagement Co-ordination Group;**
- **Development of a CPP based Engagement Strategy that is supported by CPP partners; and**
- **Finalise programme for annual Community Planning Webinar Series event.**

Report Completed by:

Officer: Linda West (Chair)

Date: August 2022