



**COMMUNITY PLANNING ENGAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE TO
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 24TH AUGUST 2023**

Date of last meeting: N/A (first meeting of new group scheduled for 28th September)

Main current focus of the group:

The main focus of the Community Planning Engagement Group is to inform the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest, forums that sit within VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) and community and third sector organisations. The Community Planning Engagement Group will also support CPPs on the best approaches for engagement activity for plans/strategies.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Work has taken place by officers from VASA, HSCP and SAC to review the previous terms of reference for the Communities Reference Group to ensure that it meets the requirements of the new Community Planning Engagement Group. Chairing the group will remain with VASA. The main remit of the group will be to:

- as the main locus for the co-ordination of engagement and participation activity across the Community Planning Partnership in line with Part 2: Community Planning Guidance of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 that states that 'CPPs should also engage with third sector organisations, where doing so can support effective participation from community groups that can contribute to community planning'. The guidance advises that Third Sector Interfaces should 'support effective community planning, by building links between third sector bodies and the CPP'. Taking this into consideration, it is recommended that VASA continue to take the lead role in developing this group.
- Co-ordinate engagement and participation across the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership which has the strategic responsibility for the developing, implementing and evaluating the three-year CLD Partnership Plan. The CLD Regulations, which came into force on 1 September 2013, seek to strengthen the legislative basis for CLD by placing requirements on local authorities. In South Ayrshire CLD is an integral part of Community Planning Partnership and helps align local arrangements that support community empowerment, while supporting individuals and communities to make positive changes in their lives and in their community. The CLD Plan 2021-24 sets out local priorities and how CLD provision will be coordinated. The plan also sets out how the plan supports community planning partnership priorities locally and strategically.

The process of widening community engagement/participation will be supported/informed by a representative from each of the relevant VASA forums becoming a member of the associated Strategic Delivery Partnership within the CPP representing 'communities of interests' (such as older people) and/or 'themes' (welfare, cost of living). The role of the representative will be to share information, particularly on cross-cutting issues and developments from each of the SDPs and CLD Partnership, with members of the Community Planning Engagement Group for further sharing throughout their relevant networks and capturing feedback on issues (when requested) which would then be taken back to relevant SDPs and/or CLD Partnership. The CLD Partnership plan sets out the priorities across South Ayrshire that will support and assist the CPP with Community Empowerment noted as a priority.

The Community Planning Engagement Group will also develop a more structured formal approach for Community Planning Partners on engaging with communities by providing guidance and expertise on the best approaches for engagement, and guide this activity through various routes including:

- Localities (via Locality Planning Partnerships);
- thematic (such as engaging with children and young people, adults, older people and families);
- service users; and
- CPP strategic plans including Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

It should be noted that this group will not lead on engagement activity but will provide guidance and advice on what the most appropriate route that should be taken.

Updates reports on the progress of the group will be provided to the Community Planning Board and CLD Partnership.

Annual Community Planning Webinar Series Event

Support will continue to organise and facilitate the annual Community Planning Webinar series event to raise awareness and provide progress on wider community planning partnership activity through the work of the Strategic Delivery Partnerships/CLD Partnership/Third Sector Interface.

This will take place over two weeks in November and work will begin shortly to develop a programme for the series event.

KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS

- Finalise terms of reference for the Community Planning Engagement Group with group members; and
- Finalise and promote annual Community Planning Webinar Series event.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Susan McCardie/Marie Oliver

Date: August 2023