

Fife Partnership Board

Due to Scottish Government Guidance relating to Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely.

Tuesday, 15th February, 2022 - 10.00 a.m.

AGENDA

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| 6. | PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS DUTY CONSULTATION – Report by the Head of Housing Services | 27 – 31 |
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| 8. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Date to be confirmed | |

<p>Partners are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.</p>
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8 February, 2022

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FIFE PARTNERSHIP BOARD – REMOTE MEETING

26th October, 2021

2.00 p.m. – 3.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors David Ross (Convener) and David Alexander, Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive, Fife Council; Carol Potter, Chief Executive, Joy Tomlinson, Director of Public Health, Tricia Marwick, Chair of NHS Fife Board, NHS Fife; Nicky Connor, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership; Joseph Fitzpatrick, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Mark McMullen, Interim Head of Partnerships, Scottish Enterprise; Joanne Allen, Skills Development Scotland; Anna Herriman, Senior Partnership Manager, SESTran; Laura McMahon, Department of Work and Pensions; Sue Reekie, Chief Operating Officer, Fife College; Kenny Murphy, Chief Executive, Fife Voluntary Action and Chief Superintendent Derek McEwan, Police Scotland.

ATTENDING: Carrie Lindsay, Executive Director - Education and Children's Services, Stuart Booker, Improvement Officer (Strategy and Knowledge Management), Education Services; John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Housing Services; Tim Kendrick, Community Manager (Development), Communities and Neighbourhoods; Gordon Mole, Head of Business and Employability, Economy, Planning and Employability Services and Michelle Hyslop, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services

ALSO ATTENDING: Dr Lorna Watson, NHS Fife

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Dave Dempsey, Gordon MacDougall and Keith Winter.

114. MINUTE

The Board considered the minute of the Fife Partnership Board Meeting of 17th August, 2021.

Decision

The Board approved the minute.

115. COVID-19 UPDATE -VERBAL UPDATES ON RECOVERY ACTIVITY BY PARTNERS

Partners provided the board with respective updates on service delivery surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic which focused on recovery and renewal.

NHS Fife, Public Health continue to monitor the Covid-19 testing programme and uptake of vaccinations within Fife.

Residents./

Residents of Fife are now being offered Covid-19 booster vaccinations, to date 23,521 booster vaccinations had been administered and there continues to be good uptake on vaccinations.

Services were reminded of the importance of continuing to wear face coverings and adhere to social distancing to help protect against the transmission of Covid-19.

Staff from respective services were thanked for their hard work and continued efforts throughout the recovery from the pandemic.

116. AFGHANISTAN REFUGEES IN FIFE - VERBAL UPDATE

The Board considered a presentation by John Mills, Head of Housing Services, Fife Council relating to Afghanistan refugees in Fife.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) welcomed and noted the presentation;
- (2) noted a copy of the presentation slides would be circulated to Board members.

117. PLAN FOR FIFE DELIVERY - UPDATE FROM THE RECOVERY AND RENEWAL LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director, Communities, Fife Council which updated members on the progress to date in establishing new arrangements for the Plan for Fife leadership, delivery and organisational change across the Partnership.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) noted the progress made to date in implementing the updated Plan for Fife;
- (2) approved the proposed leadership, delivery and reporting arrangements outlined in sections 2-3 of the report;
- (3) considered the change strategy proposals as the basis for taking forward a joint approach to organisational change across the partnership as outlined in Section 4 of the report, which included:
 - (a) the four proposed principles for public service renewal;
 - (b) the proposals to take forward local people and place leadership across the partnership, and
 - (c) the establishment of a partnership organisational change group to plan and deliver joint activity across the board.

118. FIFE CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2021-23

The Board considered a report by the Executive Director, Education and Children Services, Fife Council which presented to members the Fife Children's Plan 2021-23, as a basis for improving the outcomes and experiences of children, young people and families across Fife during the period of recovery and renewal from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Decision

The Board endorsed the Fife Children's Services Plan 2021-23.

119. FIFE CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT 2020-2021

The Board considered a joint report by the Executive Director, Education and Children's Services, Fife Council and the Director of Public Health, NHS Fife which presented to partners the Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2020-21.

Decision

The Board endorsed the Fife Child Poverty Action Report 2020-21.

120. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board Meeting shall take place on Tuesday 15th February, 2022 at 10.00am.

The meeting shall be held remotely, as necessary, and subject to Scottish Government advice on Covid-19.

AOCB - PRESENTATION ON REGIONAL TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The Board considered a presentation by Anna Herriman, Senior Partnership Manager, Sustran regarding the regional transport strategy consultation.

Decision

The Board: -

- (1) welcomed and noted the presentation;
- (2) were encouraged to take part in the consultation process.

15th February 2022

Agenda Item No. 04

Plan for Fife Delivery Update

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To update the Fife Partnership Board on progress to date in delivering the Plan for Fife recovery and renewal priorities, and in taking forward work on people and place leadership and organisational change.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to consider and comment on:

- i) Progress updates on the delivery of recovery and renewal priorities (Appendix 1);
- ii) Updated proposals for taking forward local people and place leadership across the Partnership; and
- iii) Progress to date in taking forward joint work on organisational change across the Partnership.

Resource Implications

This report provides updates on progress and there are no immediate resource implications.

Legal & Risk Implications

This report aims to help ensure delivery the priorities and ambitions set out in the updated Plan for Fife.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required as the report does not propose any changes to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Community planning partners were consulted through the Plan for Fife Leadership Board and Delivery Boards

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its last meeting on 26th October 2021, the Partnership Board received an update on the implementation of revised Plan for Fife leadership and delivery arrangements. These arrangements are now in place, and delivery plans are being developed for each of the recovery and renewal priorities. The review of partnership groups is being finalised, with all partnership groups having agreed to revised reporting arrangements. A partnership organisational change group has been established and new support arrangements are being put in place to take forward the next phase of work on local people and place leadership.

2.0 Progress Update

Plan for Fife Delivery

- 2.1 The Plan for Fife Leadership Board meets every two months and receives regular progress updates from each of the delivery boards. The attached progress updates (Appendix 1) were considered by the Leadership Board at its meeting on 9th February.
- 2.2 Draft delivery plans for Tackling Poverty and Preventing Crisis, and Addressing the Climate Emergency were also considered by the Leadership Board. The Community Wealth Building delivery plan will be considered at the April meeting of the Leadership Board and the Leading Economic Recovery delivery plan at the June meeting.

People and Place Leadership

- 2.3 At its last meeting on 26th October 2021, the Partnership Board considered a report setting out proposals for the next phase of work on People and Place Leadership. The agreed approach reflected the Partnership's commitment to: *'work as one team around people and place....tackling problems and finding solutions together.*
- 2.4 Learning from the pandemic suggests that this kind of approach requires changes to the way services operate that *go beyond better collaboration.* It requires changes in behaviours – with local staff being given greater autonomy – and a redesign of services and systems to support and enable more locally based approaches. Systematic redesign of how we deliver and manage services and empower front-line staff in their work with people and communities is required in order to deliver improvements for people and for place.
- 2.5 At its meeting on for 2nd December the Leadership Board identified the following actions:
- a) Expand local people and place leadership groups to include key community planning partners, including Health and Social Care, NHS Fife, Fife College, Police Scotland and the voluntary sector;
 - b) Commit to joint service and process redesign at a local level across services and partners in order to promote prevention.
 - c) Commit to joint planning, joint commissioning and performance review across services and partners to deliver better outcomes for individuals and families;
 - d) Jointly invest in organisational development across the partnership to enable local people and place leadership;

2.6 The delivery of these Phase 2 actions will require strong leadership and governance from the Recovery and Renewal Leadership Board. The Leadership Board will be supported in this task by a new programme support group to help coordinate activity, provide development support and progress reporting. Representation on the group will be drawn from across the Partnership, including Fife Council (Communities, Education & Children's Services, Enterprise & Environment), NHS Fife, Health and Social Care, and Fife College. The group will be chaired by Fife Council's Executive Director (Communities) and supported by the Lead Programme Manager.

Coordinating organisational change

2.7 At its last meeting on 26th October the Partnership Board agreed to establish a partnership organisational change group to consider initial areas for joint working and develop a joint delivery plan for organisational change work across the Partnership. The group has now been established and held its first meeting on 14th January 2022.

2.8 The group considered a number of key aspects of change, including:

- A focus on People and Place, which aims to ensure that front-line staff are supported to decide locally and that we develop our services within the framework of local communities - planning and working collaboratively through decentralised structures.
- A move from local collaboration to more fundamental redesign - how services work together for outcomes. What kind of organisational development support is needed to support this?
- People leadership in particular needs to move towards core delivery, with common processes across services and a change from transactional models to 'community hub' models. This transformation can form the basis of a prevention agenda, which provides more rounded support for families and individuals.

2.9 Partners discussed a number of potential areas for collaboration, and the following initial priorities were identified:

- Joint approaches to leadership development;
- Support for local people and place leadership;
- Community collaboration and leadership.

2.10 The following digital opportunities were also identified:

- Enabling collaboration and interaction between agencies and with citizens;
- Gathering, combining and sharing data to drive collective insight and assess outcomes;
- Blurring process and organisational boundaries cross-agency to redesign service delivery models, which drive a more common approach to Fife's objectives;
- Enabling Fife citizens and stakeholders to safely and confidently engage and exploit digital for individual benefit and wellbeing.

2.11 Initial development work is being undertaken as the basis for further discussions at the group's next meeting on 14th February.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 This report provides an update on the work being undertaken across the Fife Partnership to take forward the recovery and renewal priorities and strategy for change outlined in the updated Plan for Fife.

Appendices:

1. Delivery board progress updates

Report Contact:
Tim Kendrick
Community Manager (Development)
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Addressing the Climate Emergency



Programme Summary

What's going well

The first two meetings of the Delivery Board have taken place. With a focus on key parts of the delivery plan and work programme for the group. Agreement on key area to work together including net zero estate and repurposing vacant and derelict land for climate and community benefit.

What we are keeping an eye on

Developing the strategic approach to biodiversity and natural capital. Performance monitoring requires further discussion with a format of reporting bespoke to the requirements of the ACE Board.

What's not going well

Progress Update

Climate Ready Buildings (Reduce Carbon Emissions)	Progress continues on schedule for delivering net zero carbon Dunfermline Learning Campus. Fife Council funded to undertake development work on Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Scheme, in anticipation of the requirements of the new Scottish Heat act. Developing shared approach to carbon management of estates with partners.
Climate Resilient Communities (Greater resilience to Climate Change)	Agreement with Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Deal Partnership board to develop approach to climate resilience on a regional basis, phase 1 looking at assessing climate risks to communities and business in the area. Climate resilience to be integrated into revision of Local Community Plans
Climate Action Communities (Increase Community Capacity to Tackle CC)	Climate action to be included in review of Local Community Plans. Climate impact of new ways of work due by end of the year. Food4Fife initiative developed developing partnership approach to food, with Zero Waste Food project underway in South West Fife, testing approaches to minimising food waste through supporting local community organisations. Climate literacy and training being rolled out across both communities, Fife Council and public sector partners.
Maximising our Environmental Capital (Community Wealth Building)	Agreement to undertake feasibility studies on some vacant and derelict land to identify potential to use for climate change solutions, notably renewable energy as part of a community solar co-operative approach. Invest in natural assets to mitigate climate impacts and generate community benefits
Implement Climate Fife Priorities (Multiple)	Local Transport Strategy and Local Development Plan under development with Climate as key outcome and focus. Zero Waste Fife – developing response and changes to upcoming legislation.

Leading Economic Recovery: Programme Summary



What's Going Well?

- Omicron variant concerns reduced. Further easing of Covid restrictions in Scotland as of 24 Jan22, with guidance on working from home relaxed in favour of hybrid working as of 31Jan22.
- Ongoing development of LER Board delivery plan in line with June timescale. LER Action Plan Progress Report (Dec2021) shows effective delivery across all workstreams over past 12 months.
- Local Area Economic Profiles Report presented to all seven FC Area Committees and shared with LER Board, supporting the lead-in to development of a refreshed Fife's Economic Strategy.
- Fife Council's Business Property Team has received an increased number of enquires over the last 18 months and its portfolio occupancy is almost 91%.
- Fife Council & Fife College launched a new 'Construction Fife - Skills Innovation' programme of support and training for SME construction businesses.

What Are We Monitoring?

- The delayed Scottish Government National Strategy for Economic Transition (NSET) is now expected to be published at the start of February 2022.
- The impact of rising Inflation on the Fife economy will be closely reviewed.
- The Budget Scrutiny 2022-23 report by the SP Finance & Public Administration Committee (21 Jan22) raises concerns over potential risks to the future fiscal sustainability of Scotland.
- Report by Auditor General for Scotland (20 Jan22) highlights work to be undertaken by Scottish Government, SDS and SFC in relation to the planning and delivery of workforce skills and training.
- Joint report by Auditor General/Audit Scotland highlights urgent action is required to address fundamental issues and threats to the future sustainability of Scotland's social care system.
- Unemployment vs high level of job vacancies across all sectors. The impact of changes to the 'Way to Work' Universal Credit process will be monitored through Opportunities Fife Partnership.
- NHS Fife has been unable to attend LER Board meetings, with attendant limited input to actions. Separate catch-ups arranged following each meeting.

What's Not Going Well?

- Local Area Economic Profiles Report (Dec21) shows: high retail vacancies in larger town centres; high claimant rates in Levenmouth, Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (with significantly higher claimant numbers in Kirkcaldy); consistently low 16-19yrs participation rate in Kirkcaldy area; and, low median earnings in Glenrothes and low workplace median earnings in NE Fife.

Sustaining and increasing the number of businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Net loss of 365 businesses (-3.7%) in Fife between Mar20 and Mar21, mainly within micro business (0-9 employees) category (-350 businesses). ▪ Business Gateway Fife supported 518 new business start-ups in 2020-21, helping to create 676 jobs and a combined turnover of £19.9m. ▪ £256,666 of financial support provided to Fife businesses by Fife Council in 2020-21 to help create and sustain growth and employment. ▪ In 2020-21 Fife Council/Business Gateway Fife approved over 6,000 applications and awarded over £73m in grants from Covid-19 Business Support Funds.
Employment returning to pre-pandemic levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In Dec 2021, Fife's claimant rate fell to 4.3%, 0.6 percentage points above the pre-pandemic rate (3.7%). The Scottish rate in Dec 2021 was 4.0%. ▪ There were 267 fewer people claiming out-of-work benefits in Fife in Dec 2021 compared with the previous month, and nearly 4,200 fewer than in Dec 2020. ▪ Fife's unemployment rate for Oct2020-Sep2021 was 4.4%, compared to 4.2% for Scotland as a whole. An estimated 300 more people were unemployed compared with Jan-Dec 2019 when the unemployment rate was 4.1%. ▪ During 2021/22 a total of 291 NOLB/YPG posts and 250 Kickstart (18-24yrs) posts have been created in Fife. An additional £1.46m of NOLB funding allocated to Fife in Nov21 will be used to support an additional 153 waged placements long-term unemployed clients between Jan and Sept 2022. ▪ The 2019-21 Foundation Apprenticeships programme delivered by Fife Council/Fife College saw 169 students completing courses across six frameworks.
Tourism sector recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial assessment of STEAM figures for Jan-Jun 2021 suggests the total number of visitor days to Fife is up 21.1% on same period in 2020. Dunfermline and St Andrews / NE Fife areas showing best signs of recovery; Kirkcaldy & Mid-Fife area showing only marginal improvement. ▪ Fife Tourism Conference scheduled for 10th March 2022 at Dean Park Hotel in Kirkcaldy. ▪ Work progressing on preparations for 150th Open at St Andrews in August. Netflix will be producing a documentary on the event. ▪ Pettycur Bay Holiday Park features in BBC Scotland series; Fife featuring in Series 1 of Michael Portillo's Great Coastal Rail Journeys on BBC2.
Revived and re-purposed Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-development of St Andrews Church in Lochgelly by FC has been completed and building handed over to Rockgelly CIC in Sept21 for fit-out. ▪ Work on Kirkcaldy gap site affordable housing development and Inverkeithing heritage projects continue to progress. ▪ Full planning permission in place for Cupar Bonnygate & Inner Court. Completion of complex final elements of site acquisition expected Feb/Mar22. ▪ Smaller towns performing better on Apr21 retail vacancy rates: Inverkeithing 9.4%; Burntisland 10.2%; St Andrews 11.3%; Lochgelly 17.7%; Kincardine 16.7%
Strategic Economic Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work on 8 new units at Hillend and Donibristle Industrial Estate has commenced as part of the Fife Industrial Innovation Investment (Fifei3) programme. ▪ FC allocated £1.45m of SG Vacant & Derelict Land Funding in 2021/22. Delivery planned signed-off in June 2021. Funding will bolster existing projects. ▪ Contract for consultant support on review of Fife Employment Land Strategy (FELS) awarded and inception meeting held in Jan22.

TACKLING POVERTY & PREVENTING CRISIS



Programme Summary

What's going well

Links with the local WRAPPS and People and Place groups with feed-back coming through on Area poverty issues local workers want to highlight for action. Each of the 7 Areas are attending the Boards and highlighting local issues and ways these are being addressed – Glenrothes will be the Area at the 24th January 2022 Board. Spend of the additional Scot Gov £1.6m for winter hardship with direct payments going to families entitled to free school meals - £50 per child in January.

What are we keeping an eye on

Increased demand for welfare support. Benefit maximisation through front line staff supporting take up Government Campaign on Debt – Fife promoting this help and CARF partner in campaign.

What's not going well

Group set up to look at all fuel top up/crisis support FC provides across teams and partnerships to establish the level of support and who it is reaching. Fife Food Hardship fund paid out across the 7 Areas £19,155 in October 2021 and that rose to £49,445 in December.

Progress Update

Maximise incomes and reduce cost barriers to participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media /online used to target people to claim pension credits and Scottish Social security child payments – identified as most underclaimed benefits in Fife • 1.6 million winter hardship funding allocated to Council and local area level partnerships
Prevent homelessness through RRTP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Prevention of Homelessness 4DX approach is maturing with all areas making progress with a focus on single people aged under 35 • Housing Services have initiated a change programme to re-commission housing support and homelessness services from April 2022 • Scottish Government has confirmed two-year funding
Build the network of community food and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant scheme to ensure local food providers have adequate food supplies in operation • Top up funding of £150k has gone to the Fife Food hardship Fund which gives weekly cash support • Authority for All Pay payments being extended to wider group of front-line staff more immediate cash help.
Redesign support to ensure early joined-up support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Awareness training to created in 3 levels to encourage a wider range of staff to take part and support early intervention and support.
Improve the evidence base and ensure community voice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPPC Board newsletters with update on social security and welfare matters well received and feedback to the board from the WRAAPs started – issues re those on low pay raised post office closures.

Programme Summary

What's going well

The Community Wealth Building Support Group has now held three meetings and is making good progress in building knowledge of CWB policy and practice. Anchor organisations are actively considering which CWB pillars and actions they can lead on behalf of Fife Partnership and which actions they are contributing to as partners or if the action is for the individual organisation. Work is also underway to develop a CWB Anchor Charter for adoption by anchor institutions. NHS Fife and Fife Council Procurement Teams have established a working relationship and are sharing practice. Fife Council's Annual Procurement Report notes an increase in local spend for the year 2020/21.

What are we keeping an eye on

Fife Council is actively engaging with Scottish Government on various CWB strands including; land use, fair work, place based approaches, well-being, economic policy development and will be participating in the SG / EDAS Community of Practice sessions on each CWB Pillar over the next 6 months. Two sessions have been held in December 2021 and January 2022 with a focus on Plural Ownership of the Economy and Fair Work respectively.

What's not going well

CWB is an organisation wide policy agenda which will require long-term commitment to realise the positive outcomes. Further work is required to scope collective partnership and individual organisation actions. Further clarity is required on the timetable and focus of a national CWB approach through the development of new legislation.

Progress Update

Increased Local Procurement	Annual Procurement Report presented to FC strategic subcommittee. Local spend has increased from c. 37% to c. 40% in the last reporting period, with higher levels on some contract areas. Local Procurement Group developing approaches for increased local spend aligned to CWB Delivery Plan to be reported in April 2022.
More Fife Employers Paying the Living Wage	Through the Anchor Institution Charter, the CWB Support Group will seek buy in from public, private and third sector employers to adopt the accredited real Living Wage. Engagement with Living Wage Scotland to support the roll out of Real Living Wage through a targeted towns/region model
Greater Number of Social Enterprises	Expanding support for co-ops, social enterprise, community-owned businesses integrated with business support. Work in progress with Community Enterprise in Scotland via Local Procurement Group and FC Economic Development to enhance development offer for social and community enterprises in Fife.
Increased Recruitment from Under-represented and Deprived Communities	Development of the Opportunities Fife Partnership No One Left Behind Challenge Framework for 2022/23. In line with CWB principles, the framework focuses on those furthest from the labour market by individual need and geographical focus on areas of higher deprivation, with a focus on Mid Fife. The challenge framework has been informed by input from delivery bodies and strategic stakeholders via research undertaken by PHIRST.
More Land Brought into Productive Community Use	Inclusion of CWB as a stated priority within NPF4, discussions at early stage with Scottish Government CWB officials on the implications for the CWB Bill in this, Planning Policy & Place team considering aspects through LDP approach. FC Property service leading on exploration of Community Asset Transfer approach.
Increase in Value of Community Benefits from Procurement	Anchor institutions as purchasers require to develop an ambitious and impactful community benefits policy. The demonstrator project at Dunfermline Learning Campus is progressing early actions including supply of food to site workers by Community Focus Scotland, offering opportunities for employment and training. A further Meet the Buyer event is under development for late Spring 2022.

15th February 2022

Agenda Item No. 05

Plan for Fife – Draft Annual Report 2020/2021

Report by: Michael Enston, Executive Director, Communities

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

To present a draft annual report on the Plan for Fife for 2020/2021 for consideration and comment.

Recommendations

Board members are asked to consider and comment on the draft annual report.

Resource Implications

None

Legal & Risk Implications

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires community planning partnerships (CPPs) to review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required as the report does not propose any changes to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

Community planning partners were consulted on the contents of the annual report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Community planning partnerships are required to review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review. In previous years, the Fife Partnership has fulfilled this requirement by producing quarterly outcome reports to the Fife Partnership.
- 1.2 During 2020-2021 the Fife Partnership focused on its collective response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the three-year review of the Plan for Fife, which also serves as Fife's recovery and renewal plan in the wake of the pandemic. This report describes work carried out by community planning partners to respond to the pandemic, work undertaken with services, partners and elected members to develop Fife's recovery and renewal priorities, and the development of revised leadership and delivery arrangements for the Fife Partnership.
- 1.3 In 2020, the Partnership also undertook a three-yearly strategic assessment, which considered the impact being made by the Plan for Fife and provided insight for the review of the plan. It presents a set of high-level State of Fife indicators that show how the key aspects of life in Fife are doing.
- 1.4 The Plan for Fife is also Fife Council's high-level strategic plan. The draft annual report therefore makes specific reference to some of the work undertaken by the Council.
- 1.5 Progress against the State of Fife Ambitions has been reviewed and a report on these will follow.

Report Contact
Tim Kendrick
Community Manager (Development)
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Appendix 1. Draft Plan for Fife Annual Report 2020/2021

Appendix 1.

Draft Plan for Fife Annual Report 2020/21

Foreword

The Covid 19 pandemic has, and will continue to have, a major impact on Fife's communities, economy, businesses and services. The pandemic meant that we had to change our ways of working and living over very short timescales. For instance, within hours and days, many public sector employees had to find ways to work effectively from home, while many others took on new roles. At the same time, local community groups and individuals stepped up to deliver a wide a range of vital services. This shows the pace of change we are capable of when we need to - all achieved in a collaborative way across the whole Fife Partnership and across all our communities.

In the midst of the unfolding tragedy of the pandemic, it was difficult to find many positives. However, people coming together to work on shared goals, to overcome obstacles and just 'get things done' was a big positive. The response of Fife's public and voluntary sector partners showed the real benefits of the strong partnership working arrangements that we have in Fife. However, our experience also underlines that some obstacles still exist, and that working collaboratively in local areas is not the norm, despite this being a stated aspiration.

Over the past three years, Fife's community planning partners have been working hard to grow Fife's economy and address problems of poverty and inequality, and have made good progress in a number of areas, such as helping people into employment, promoting inward investment and business growth, promoting tourism and outdoor recreation, supporting people who are experiencing poverty, and addressing climate change (see Appendix 1.).

As we move from our immediate response to the pandemic, we need to continue to focus on building back through a more inclusive and sustainable approach to economic recovery. Despite a range of interventions and some successes, Fife, and particularly the people and communities of mid-Fife, continue to experience economic challenges. However, we will continue to strive towards finding effective solutions to achieve the wider social benefits that promote social justice, environmental sustainability, and prosperity for all as part of a well-being economy.

Community wealth building provides a common approach to meeting challenges as diverse as economic recovery, wellbeing, poverty, climate action and our aspiration for strong local leadership based on people and places.

This report provides an overview of the work we have carried out in Fife both to respond to the immediate challenges of Covid 19, and to chart a path to recovery and renewal.

Cllr David Alexander and Cllr David Ross
Co-Leaders, Fife Council and Fife Partnership Co-convenors

Tricia Marwick
Chair, NHS Fife Board and Fife Partnership Vice-convenor

About Fife Partnership

Fife Partnership is the community planning partnership for Fife. The Partnership's aim is to bring together local public service providers and communities to improve the quality of life for people who live in, work in or visit Fife.

The Fife Partnership Board provides strategic leadership and oversees partnership activity to support the delivery of its agreed vision and outcomes as set out in the Plan for Fife – the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Members of Fife Partnership Board aim to achieve its outcomes through effective engagement and partnership working with individuals, families, communities and the private, voluntary and public sectors.

All partners have their own services to deliver and business to run. These services all play important roles in building a strong and diverse economy, educating and skilling Fifers, improving health and wellbeing, sustaining and improving our environment and making Fife's communities safer.

Partners must work across service boundaries and focus on opportunities and risks that cannot be addressed by an individual partner on their own, and to be efficient and effective must avoid all unnecessary duplication.

Plan for Fife

The Fife Partnership has a vision for Fife as a place where communities really matter, where people set the agenda and contribute to how change is being delivered. With fairness at the heart of everything, our aim is for Fife to be a place of connected communities, where people thrive, have enough money, and contribute to a sustainable and attractive environment.

In 2017 we set out twelve ten-year ambitions for Fife in the Plan for Fife – Fife's Local Outcome Improvement Plan: These ambitions fall into four themes:

- Opportunities for all
- Thriving places
- Inclusive growth and jobs
- Community-led services

The ambitions are all about change and how we achieve it over a ten-year period. The impact the pandemic has had on Fife's communities, combined with our experience of responding to the crisis, has shown that, if we are to achieve these ambitions, we will have to change how we work – both as a Council and as a community planning partnership. To date, progress towards the ambitions has not been as fast as we would have liked, and the Covid-19 pandemic has brought new challenges which we need to address. In 2020, the Fife Partnership Board agreed that the three-year review of the Plan for Fife 2017-2027 should avoid creating parallel processes around Covid-19 recovery and reform, and the wider Plan for Fife review.

This annual report on the Plan for Fife for 2020/21 describes the transition to a plan for recovery and renewal in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. It sets out how we have faced the challenges of delivering public services during a public health emergency and the lessons learned.

Although the formal approval date of our new updated Plan for Fife 2021-2024 is outwith the timescale of this report, during 2020 the Partnership recognised the need to focus our ambitions and set out our way forward through the pandemic, learning from what we have experienced and prioritising three recovery and renewal priorities:

- Tackling poverty and preventing crisis
- Addressing the climate emergency
- Leading economic recovery

While the Plan for Fife is a Fife Partnership plan, it is also the **Council Plan**. Council service performance reports have been completed for 2020/21 and have been considered by relevant Council committees. A report outlining Fife Council's response to Covid-19 was presented to the Council's Policy & Coordination Committee in May 2020 by the Chief Executive. Copies of these reports are available on request.

Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic is the greatest public health emergency the UK has faced for a generation. Levels of community vulnerability have increased for several reasons during the pandemic, including:

- Food and financial insecurity
- Mental health issues and heightened anxiety due to isolation and lack of wider family/friend support
- Relationship difficulties/strains compounded by a lack of respite from partners and children, as well as financial concerns
- Concern about how we protect individuals from harm within the home during lockdown (child/adult protection, domestic abuse)
- Increased carer stress
- Increased anti-social behaviour
- Digital exclusion (increased isolation, ability to learn and work from home).
- Increased pressure on the social care sector.

The pandemic has had an enormous impact on Fife's communities, but services have come together with community groups and volunteers to mitigate these impacts and to help protect the most vulnerable people in Fife.

Staff across Fife Partnership continued to provide essential services under challenging circumstances and worked closely with each other and local communities to meet the needs of the most vulnerable individuals and groups in Fife. The pandemic had a major impact on mainstream service delivery across a range of service areas, from grass-cutting and refuse collection to the delivery of meals on wheels and social care services. Staff from across the public sector volunteered in new roles to keep essential services running.

A key part of the Fife response was the establishment of vaccination centres and community testing sites in early 2021. The creation of community vaccination centres was a joint effort by partners with twelve sites being identified across Fife. By March 2021, NHS Fife's vaccination programme reached a major community milestone with over 100,000 vaccinations administered, equating to almost one in three eligible Fifers receiving their first dose. Of the sites identified as vaccination centres, Fife College's Carnegie Conference Centre supported the NHS with the administration of over 50,000 vaccines.

Fife's first asymptomatic community testing site opened in Cowdenbeath at the Fife Council-run Maxwell Centre. Fife was one of the first pilot sites for this programme and involved

close partnership working between NHS Fife and Fife Council. The programme has developed considerably since its launch.

The scale and extent of the partnership response in Fife to Covid-19 means that important lessons have been learned about the way services could and should work in the future. The key early lessons identified in summer 2020 included:

Local place-based working

The pandemic highlighted the importance of developing local, collaborative responses to poverty and food insecurity. Area teams working in close collaboration with local community food providers and other voluntary groups have provided a clear focus for local community responses. The establishment of multi-disciplinary teams gave local staff the opportunity to work across professional disciplines to better join up support at the local level, reduce duplication, and improve commissioning and resource allocation.

Community-led approaches

Local communities played a key role in responding to the Covid emergency and a wide range of local resilience and community groups provided a fast and flexible response to meeting the needs of local communities. The community effort underlined the importance of putting communities at the heart of future recovery and renewal plans, whilst raising questions of how to best support this work and build sustainability into essential local projects.

New ways of working

The Covid-19 emergency required services to adopt new ways of working, making the most of new opportunities for remote and virtual working using new technology. This enabled services both to maintain the delivery of essential services and to respond to the urgent needs of individuals and families.

Fife College and Fife Council arranged for the distribution of digital resources, equipping both college students and school pupils with the appropriate kit to enable them to continue learning remotely.

Major opportunities for service redesign and improvement were identified, including how we work more flexibly and efficiently across Fife Partnership and how all partners work across communities in Fife. Many people have commented that it has been easier to get a hold of the right person and simpler to get things done.

Culture

The response to the pandemic demonstrated the benefits of staff working together with a shared focus and common culture. The collaborative effort across services brought with it an ability to affect change, along with positive energy. This was often linked to new ways of thinking and working, with fewer boundaries, a sense of pride in our work and a strong sense of mutual support.

Individual and family support

A sizeable proportion of our anti-poverty spend goes toward mitigating the impact of poverty and low income on our most vulnerable families. Food has been at the heart of the crisis response and members of staff have said that through this support they got to know individual families in a way which they would not have previously. Several food projects had already looked to use the engagement they have with people to identify other support and services which might help. Supporting individuals and families more directly together with that sense of just being there to help in whatever way is needed and the ability to draw on wider resources were key to preventing crisis and building resilience.

Fife College received additional funding from the Scottish Funding Council to support students through the pandemic, including investing heavily in mental health resources to support students and staff throughout the pandemic and beyond.

The experience of partnership working during the early part of the Covid-19 pandemic could signal a different approach to how we work together in the future to address poverty and prevent crisis.

These lessons provide a valuable starting point for our planned recovery from the pandemic.

In response to the Scottish Government's publication: "Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis", in May 2020, Fife Council published its Covid-19 Route Map. This provided an opportunity to look afresh at the design and delivery of services in light of lessons learned during the pandemic.

Rather than undertaking a wholesale review of the Plan for Fife, it was agreed that Fife Partnership should identify a small number of priorities as the focus for this period of recovery and renewal. These priorities would be framed around recent experience and the findings of the State of Fife report.

Fife Strategic Assessment- State of Fife Indicators 2020

The 2020 Fife Strategic Assessment report considered the impact being made by the Plan for Fife and provided insight for the scheduled review of the plan in 2020. It presents a set of high-level State of Fife indicators that show how the key aspects of life in Fife are doing. The index is not set in stone but will continue to be improved to allow the Fife Partnership Board to monitor whether the entire Plan for Fife process, including the monitoring built into it, is making the desired high-level strategic impact it aims to achieve.

The key findings from the strategic assessment are:

1. The wider external context – national and international – is extremely unpredictable, and this may remain a feature for some time.
2. Despite significant efforts, the step changes we aspire to are not being achieved. The public sector continues to face significant financial challenges while aspirations remain high.
3. Implications of the pandemic are likely to affect life outcomes for people for some time – seen through increased or changed demand for services and poorer outcomes across a range of indicators including health and inequalities.
4. The coronavirus pandemic has put into sharp relief issues around vulnerable people and how we identify and reach them.
5. Demographic change will continue. The population will begin to reduce, with older people making up an increasing proportion of the population. This may create increasing demand, particularly in respect of demand on health and social care services.
6. The climate emergency is a major strategic challenge, which cuts across many outcomes.

7. The inequality gap remains between our most and least deprived communities. Progress in closing this gap shows a mixed bag of results, but it remains, and is resistant to, significant change. There is a risk that we may also be seeing the beginning of an intergenerational gap, with some outcomes for young people being affected, for example, starter earnings.
8. Fife continues to track national trends in income and employment deprivation but is showing a rise in health deprivation.
9. The economic picture across Fife is mixed. There are concerns in some key areas, such as the number of jobs per person, but some areas, such as tourism, continue to perform well.
10. There may be scope to consider the balance of effort on preventative measures. Key preventative areas include economic development (lower than Scottish average spend), adverse childhood experiences (impacting multiple outcomes profoundly), climate change mitigation and growing evidence of the role of greenspace in achieving a range of key outcomes

While the issues set out in the strategic assessment report may be well known and understood, that does not necessarily mean they have the required focus or that enough impact is being achieved to create meaningful change.

We are entering less certain times with reducing capacity to create impact. To date, impact has generally been enough to maintain outcome levels, but not enough to match our ambitions. There is a risk that it becomes harder to maintain these outcomes, never mind achieve any form of ambitious step change. This leads to the conclusion that there is a need for much more rigorous consideration of the impact of our interventions and initiatives and for this to be used to focus effort and resources.

Reform and Recovery Programme

Our experience of the pandemic showed us that we need different ways of working if we are going to achieve our ambitions for people living in Fife. Nationally, governments are setting visions and aspirations in a range of strategies and plans that suggest that a system-wide change is needed.

The challenges to our ability to improve outcomes in the current situation, coupled with a difficult financial challenge over the medium term, suggested the need for greater innovation and reform in order to make progress toward the ambitions in the Plan for Fife 2017-2027. In summer 2020, Fife Partnership reviewed the experience of the immediate response to the pandemic in Fife and proposed that the three-year refresh of the Plan for Fife should be shaped by a number of recovery and reform priorities:

- Community Wealth Building
- Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention
- Addressing the Climate Emergency
- Leading Economic Recovery
- Sustaining Services through New Ways of Working

Through each priority there would be opportunities to look at new approaches, building on the experience of Fife's response to the pandemic, including how we work with vulnerable people and families and how we build community capacity through local place-based working.

Work on each area was undertaken within a framework developed by Fife Council, involving informal elected member working groups supported by staff from across all partners and involving consultation with partnership groups. The framework also initiated review work across a number of specific service areas, including education, transport and community leisure.

Community Wealth Building

Some of the key principles of Community Wealth Building had already been made a priority in the Plan for Fife 2017-2027 under the Inclusive Growth and Jobs theme, which asserts that:

“We aim to promote sustainable, locally-rooted businesses that have a strong attachment to their local area, creating local jobs, promoting local supply chains and keeping more wealth and community benefits locally.”

In 2020, Fife Council secured national support from Scottish Government to work with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES), recognised as a leading policy organisation for the development of community wealth building approaches. CLES was asked to undertake an exercise focused on Fife as a pilot and to inform a broader Tay Cities Region approach for community wealth building. CLES prepared a diagnostic report based on partner and stakeholder engagement via a series of interviews and a community organisations workshop in order to support the development of Fife’s community wealth building agenda.

It was agreed that community wealth building principles should underpin the broader recovery and renewal priorities. Recommendations for action were developed in the CLES action plan, including short and longer-term actions, which will embed a commitment to community wealth building across the Fife Partnership. It can support the reform of public sector services and achieve positive outcomes for the people and communities of Fife. The recommendations centre around six themes:

1. Fife as a community wealth building place
2. Progress procurement of goods and services
3. Making financial power work for local people
4. Socially productive use of land and assets
5. Fair employment and just labour markets
6. Plural ownership of the economy

Tackling Poverty and Crisis Prevention

The outputs from the poverty reform workstream were developed from research findings and discussions at the elected member working group and a cross-service project group, as well as feedback from services, groups and individuals on the experience of supporting people during the pandemic.

This reform workstream focused on how the existing system could operate more effectively in ensuring the right type of help is provided in the right way and at the right time. The key findings of the workstream were:

1. A recognition that a people and place approach should be the underpinning reform, and should be central to the work of Fife Partnership, as well as Council service plans.
2. People in crisis should be able to access the support they need no matter what service they engage with through a ‘no wrong door’ approach.
3. We need to develop a more systematic way to target anti-poverty spending, focused on tangible impact, and consider how projects can be

resourced that are closer to the 'tipping points' of helping remove people from poverty.

4. A desire to set a renewed purpose in tackling poverty, supported by fewer priorities and continuing leadership support to enable teams to get on and deliver.
5. A central focus on tackling poverty with associated leadership at a strategic level to support and embed new area arrangements and facilitate the kind of changes to structures, approaches and culture outlined in the previous points.

Addressing the Climate Emergency

The workstream on the climate emergency focused on developing a framework for future action, with a focus on support local action to deliver the climate emergency action plan. This workstream benefitted from working with an elected member working group, across council services and with the Fife Environmental Partnership.

The key findings included:

1. The need to support community responses to climate change through local community planning.
2. The importance of recycling..
3. The need to respond to the impact of climate change. While reducing carbon emissions is essential in order to mitigate future climate change, we also need to prepare and adapt our communities to the impact of climate change.
4. The importance of promoting behavioural change to tackle climate change through the way people work.
5. Ensuring that both Council housing and the wider public estate are fit for future climate challenges.
6. Tackling the climate impact from food – production, distribution and waste all have significant impacts on carbon emissions. We should explore options for sustainable food choices that align with wider economic and poverty challenges in Fife.
7. Using our environmental assets to support community wealth building, for example land assets can be used to provide opportunities for energy generation, food production and greenspace.
8. Promoting sustainable procurement –and supporting communities by buying local.

The workstream highlighted that, as Fife recovers from the pandemic, all partners should apply the 'Climate Just' principle to ensure that action to address the climate emergency does not worsen existing inequalities,

Leading Economic Recovery

The outputs from the workstream on economic recovery were the subject of consultation with an elected member working group and officers from council services and partners. Due to the economic environment at the time (economic impact of the pandemic and the UK's exit from the European Union), the focus remained on supporting business survival, resilience, adaptation and diversification, rather than any form of sustained recovery. As a result of these uncertainties, the scheduled refresh of the Fife Economic Strategy was deferred until 2022.

Analysis of Fife's economic position, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to align council policy and strategy with emerging national economic policy direction, informed the development of a short-term action plan covering 12-18 months that identified appropriate interventions to support the local economy. The six key actions in the plan are:

- Provide signposting, advice, guidance and support to local businesses
- Stimulate economic demand and support access and mobility
- Protect local employment
- Continue to make the case and actively lobby for additional funding and investment
- Support and deliver investment-led economic growth
- Optimise the role of the Council, and its partners, within the local economy in relation to community wealth building

Immediate actions have been aligned to the agreed Tay Cities Region Economic Action Plan (agreed by Joint Committee in 2020) and the developing Edinburgh & South East Scotland Regional Growth Framework.

Sustaining Services through New Ways of Working

The Covid-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the world of work, and in a local context we have seen significant shifts in how we work and where we work across Fife Partnership. Since March 2020, we have had to rethink approaches to service delivery by making greater use of technology.

The goal of this reform area was to identify and deliver a programme of work to support new ways of working and to promote community-led services. This includes making the most of digital services and opportunities. These, together with more flexible working, and a community-led culture, are key enablers for future productivity, better outcomes and financially sustainable services. The outputs from this workstream included:

- Longer-term support for future workstyles that are more agile and flexible.
- Digital solutions for 'how we work'.
- Service redesign.
- Agile recruitment that will enable new approaches around performance, talent management and succession planning through the new Oracle Cloud system.
- Create an "employee deal" that is more closely aligned with our values and moves us towards a contractual relationship that reflects a mutual commitment based on trust and empowerment with less emphasis on traditional work practices and terms and conditions, inspired by the pandemic response – Team Fife.

The development of outputs from each of the cross-cutting workstreams has highlighted several common themes and areas of overlap. Preliminary conclusions suggest that this reflects a set of core priorities, focusing on a three-way relationship between economic recovery/community wealth building, climate emergency and anti-poverty

Recovery and Renewal Plan for Fife 2021-2024

In November 2020, the Fife Partnership Board agreed that the three-year review of the Plan for Fife would build on the recovery and reform work carried out in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Plan for Fife review adopted the reform areas as the basis for the recovery and renewal priorities for the next three years with the intention that these would be viewed as shared priorities across the Fife Partnership.

In August 2021, the Partnership Board approved the Plan for Fife Update 2021-2024 - Recovery and Renewal . The three main priorities of the updated plan are:

- Leading economic recovery
- Tackling poverty and preventing crisis
- Address the climate emergency

These will be taken forward as part of an overarching community wealth building approach for Fife that will be at the heart of all we do to recover from the pandemic, renew our public services and re-align our strategies.

At the Board meeting in November 2020, it was agreed that changes to the leadership and governance arrangements of the Plan for Fife would also be made. The new structure has the following features:

- A recovery and renewal leadership board, which will focus on ensuring alignment of key plans and strategies, supporting place leadership and shaping and delivering actions on community wealth building.
- Delivery boards to coordinate delivery of each of the three recovery and renewal priorities.
- A community wealth building support group, which will take forward operational aspects of the approach.

Key to the delivery of the Plan for Fife will be strengthening the role of partnership groups to ensure they have a well-defined delivery role. This has involved reviewing current partnership arrangements to ensure that there is clear leadership and accountability through regular reporting to the Fife Partnership Board.

We are in the early stages of these new arrangements, so our next annual report for 2021/22 will go into this in much more detail.

Appendix 1 – Progress on the Plan for Fife Ambitions (to follow)

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15th February 2022

Agenda Item No. 06

Prevention of Homelessness Duty Consultation

Report by: John Mills, Head of Housing Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

This report has been produced to raise the Partnership's awareness of the ongoing Scottish Government Consultation focussed on the Prevention of Homelessness and the duties that could be placed on the Council and Partners within this Scottish Government Administration.

The Consultation proposes the most significant reform to homelessness and related legislation since 2012 and the report aims to generate discussion and agreement to submit a Fife response based on contributions from across the Partnership.

Recommendation(s)

The Fife Partnership is requested to:

- (1) Approve the development of a co-ordinated Fife Partnership response to the Prevention of Homelessness Duty Consultation by 31st March 2022
- (2) Agree a process for co-ordinating Partnership engagement

Resource Implications

There are no specific resource implications arising directly from this report

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no specific legal or risk implications arising directly from this report although the Consultation covers potential changes to legal responsibilities within the Council and across the Partnership framework.

Impact Assessment

No EQIA has been completed in the production of this report but would be required to assess the impact of potential changes in statutory duties and responsibilities.

Consultation

The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) Programme Board are in the process of co-ordinating a response based on contributions from across the Partners represented but this needs to be extended to other bodies before the close of the Consultation on 31st March 2022.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the Scottish Government's commitment to *Ending Homelessness Together* and moving to a position of Rapid Rehousing by default, the Cabinet Secretary has written to all Local Authorities in December 2021 to confirm the next 2 years of funding from 2022 – 2024 which covers the original RRTP period from the initial production of RRTPs in 2018/19. Funding beyond 2024 remains uncertain at this stage but the announcement coincided with the publication of the Consultation on the Prevention of Homelessness Duties on the 22nd December (Briefing Attached as Appendix 1). The Consultation proposes significant legislative change and duties affecting all public bodies and is the most significant change in legislation in a decade to protect vulnerable households.

2.0 Rapid Rehousing and Prevention of Homelessness

- 2.1 The announcement is part of a £16m financial commitment to RRTPs agreed between the Scottish Government and CoSLA with a specific focus on homelessness prevention. Fife's share of £8m funding for 2022/23 is £548k to support the ongoing implementation of RRTP priorities, and £1,161m to support prevention and response (formerly this was to support the management of temporary accommodation). This is for 2022/23 with a further announcement for the 2023/24 allocation committed in the autumn of 2022.
- 2.2 The aim is to enable local authorities and their partners to commit to longer term planning, particularly around staffing to support strategic and operational activities. The funding is not specifically ringfenced to homelessness but there is an expectation that it will be monitored via the annual RRTP SG Monitoring Pro-forma. This is not specifically new money but the early confirmation and bringing the two legacy funding streams together with a prevention focus, over a longer period is particularly welcome. Previous years funding has been significantly affected by late confirmation in Year 1 and Pandemic Response in Years 2 and 3.
- 2.3 The Prevention of Homelessness Duties Consultation by the Scottish Government was launched on 23rd December 2021 and is open for responses until 31st March 2022.

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/prevention-homelessness-duties-joint-scottish-government-cosla-consultation/>

Following on from the work of the Scottish Government's Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG) and the Prevention of Homelessness Review Group,(PRG) the Consultation recognises that there requires to be a systematic and partnership contribution to homelessness issues and effective early intervention and action. With 108 Consultation questions, the RRTP Programme Board will require to co-ordinate a cross sector response to this important area of legislation.

The Consultation recognises that significant legislative change is required to broaden the responsibility for preventing homelessness and this extends beyond local authority housing services. The Consultation proposes specific responsibilities to 'ask and act' by Health and Social Care Partnerships as well as specific requirements of other public bodies such as Police, Criminal Justice, the Courts, Prison Service amongst others including Children's and Health Services. The Consultation proposes the following underlying principles:

- Responsibility to prevent homelessness should be a shared public responsibility and not rely solely or primarily on the homelessness service.
- Intervention to prevent homelessness should start as early as possible. In many cases this will be before issues have escalated to a point where homelessness appears imminent.
- People facing homelessness should have choice in where they live and access to the same range of housing outcomes as members of the general public, with appropriate protections to mitigate further risk of homelessness. Housing outcomes should be comparable across the prevention and homelessness duties.

- 2.4 The Consultation is seeking views on the introduction of new duties but also changes to existing homelessness legislation with a much clearer focus on prevention and formalising duties beyond the current timescales for households being considered at risk of homelessness. There are also provisions to enhance and formalise the requirement to work together for specific 'at risk' customer groups, particularly young people, those with multiple or complex needs and the negative impact of homelessness on children specifically. There are also specific questions around which authority should be responsible for arranging accommodation, particularly for households with complex medical or personal care needs.
- 2.5 While there is a statement that 'nobody should have nowhere to sleep the same night', there is a general theme within the Consultation that the experience of housing vulnerability (the 'stability and suitability' of accommodation) is a much broader issue and an emphasis on earlier planning and intervention particularly within hospital, prison and other institutional settings. There are also responsibilities proposed for social and private landlords where there are indications that tenancies are beginning to break down linked to the associated Consultation on the Draft Rented Sector Strategy.
- 2.6 The co-ordination of services at operational and strategic levels is also a feature of the Consultation with a range of issues highlighted around the monitoring, resourcing and regulation of homelessness services. Fife's RRTP is in the process of being redrafted and, while still Housing led, will benefit from enhanced contributions from partners across the Services and this Consultation should be used to strengthen that process. The RRTP Programme Board agreed that it would be desirable to achieve a Fife Partnership Response. The response is specifically seeking to engage the views of those with lived experience of homelessness and this is a gap with the Fife strategic framework that we will work to address and close.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 The Consultation has potentially extensive and significant impacts on services within the Partnership and the Plan for Fife. While there is a particular focus on the Health and Social Care Partnership, there are wider issues raised through the Consultation that would benefit from a Partnership response. This Consultation is regarded as significant, not just in terms of the issue of homelessness, but in addressing the underlying causes of homelessness such as poverty, justice and disadvantage.

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Prevention of Homelessness Duty Consultation

Fife Partnership Briefing

January, 2022

Background and Context

The framework for the consultation document on the Prevention of Homelessness Duties is informed by the recommendations outlined in the report Preventing Homelessness in Scotland (2021) that was informed by the Prevention Review Group linked to the national Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan.

The report from the Prevention Review Group reflects that local authorities had concerns about how to do effective homelessness prevention within the current statutory framework, particularly after the critical 2014 Housing Options report from the Scottish Housing Regulator.

The questions and explanatory text for the consultation on the 'Prevention of Homelessness Duties' are covered in Section 2 of the document on 'Duties on Wider Public Bodies and Landlords'. In addition, Section 3 of the consultation outlines 'Proposed Changes to Homelessness Legislation' and Section 4 focuses on Resources and Monitoring. Section 5 provides an opportunity for people with lived experience of homelessness to provide their feedback.

The Consultation is part of the policy process expected to be implemented through a Housing Bill introduced in 2023. If implemented, there would be a greater alignment with current practice in England and Wales and would contribute to increasing the rights of households in vulnerable housing and social circumstances.

What could it mean for the Partnership?

The consultation proposes to

- extend a new statutory duty to all public bodies and landlords to prevent homelessness with a specific focus on Health and Social Care (Integration Authorities), Criminal/Community Justice, Police, Childrens Services and others working with groups most 'at risk' of homelessness
- Develop and stipulate a process of 'ask and act' on all public bodies within the duty to prevent homelessness
- enhance strategic planning and operational arrangements to meet the needs of potentially homeless households and those with more complex needs
- improve partnership working to ensure housing pathways for those leaving institutions and other services so that nobody is left homeless
- make changes to the current statutory framework to increase the potential for prevention, enhance the focus on early intervention and increase the range of housing options available
- enhance and formalise the advice, support and assistance available to potentially homeless households
- formalise the co-ordination and case management of households with complex needs

Why it is relevant to the Fife Partnership now?

Street homelessness and enduring rough sleeping is not a significant issue in Fife, but hidden and revolving door homelessness is increasing, as is the demand on temporary accommodation and other crisis response services.

Around 1,800 households are waiting for a permanent home with a proportion waiting extended periods of time, particularly for specific types of housing. Over 930 households are currently in statutory temporary accommodation. There are particular concerns about the number of children affected by homelessness and housing vulnerability.

While there can be a focus on housing options work, tenancy sustainment and housing advice generally, there is an increasing recognition that effective prevention requires earlier intervention and before households approach local authority housing services. There are particular challenges associated with households with complex or multiple needs with a minority requiring multi agency responses to create sustainable housing solutions. These households are also likely to be using wider Partnership services.

For the past few years, in Fife, around 2,500 households make a homelessness application each year and a statutory duty is confirmed for over two thirds of all presentations. To put this in context, the Council makes around 2,000 housing allocations per year to all needs groups and all landlords have seen turnover decrease since the outbreak of Covid which is contributing to the backlog of need. The direct and indirect impacts of the Pandemic are only likely to increase the pressure and add to a national housing crisis.

Fife Partnership Action

The Report looks to stimulate a Fife Partnership discussion around the issue of homelessness and associated impacts with a view to co-ordinating a response back to the Consultation by 31st March.

Agenda Item No. 07

Improving Levenmouth Together



Report prepared for the Fife Partnership Board to provide update and progress for the Improving Levenmouth Together initiative.

2021

Our Vision

Sustained excellence in service and protection.

Our Purpose

To improve the safety and wellbeing of people, places and communities in Scotland.

Our Values

Integrity, Fairness and Respect



OVERVIEW

Improving Levenmouth Together is a joint-partners approach, which was born in 2019 to counter anti-social behaviour, deliberate fire-raising and off road motorcycles.

Following engagement with the Local Area Committee and partners, it was agreed a Police Officer would be funded by Fife Council to lead on the enforcement and prevention of anti-social behaviour and Police Scotland in turn match funded a second Police Officer.

The project has led to a 70% reduction in calls to Police Scotland relating to anti-social behaviour in Levenmouth, between 2018 and 2021.

The success of the project in 2019 has led to agreed partnerships and funding being extended through 2020 and 2021. A further funding bid will be presented to Local Area Committee in January 2022, for the 2022 project.

Local Area Committee have, to date, invested £84,000 over 3 years to the Police Scotland Improving Levenmouth Together programme.

INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

Following its formation in 2019, Improving Levenmouth Together has had significant success through 2019, 2020 and 2021 in reducing the number of young people engaged in anti-social behaviour and related criminality in the Levenmouth area.

Fife Council Local Area Committee are invested in the Improving Levenmouth Together programme and actively support Police Scotland and partners in delivering the aims of the project.

Levenmouth is among the areas worst affected areas facing poverty crisis; according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). In 2020, 9% of the Levenmouth population are living in poverty.

The number of benefit claimants has risen from around 6.2% of the working-age population to 9% since the COVID-19 pandemic struck, a rise of 600 people.

Substance misuse in Levenmouth has been an issue of concern for generations, caused by the high level of unemployment and deprivation.

Whilst there has been a significant reduction, violent crime continues to be reported in Levenmouth.

Teenage pregnancies in Levenmouth have historically been around 10% above the national average.

Prior to Improving Levenmouth Together, Levenmouth was within the top five in terms of anti-social behaviour calls across Scotland. Improving Levenmouth Together was initially launched to counter anti-social behaviour, off road motorcycles and deliberate fire-raising.

Improving Levenmouth Together is now a brand for Policing in the local area and forms the strategy for Policing our local area.

There are a number of partners involved in delivering the Improving Levenmouth Together project, including;

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Fife Council Local Area Elected Members
- Fife Council Safer Communities Team
- Fife Council Housing
- Fife Council Traffic Management
- Fife Council - Parks, Streets and Open Places.
- Local Housing Associations
- Community Education
- Education – Levenmouth Academy
- Buckhaven Community Trade Hub
- Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club
- Clued Up
- BRAG Enterprise (Benarty Regeneration Action Group)

In terms of enforcement, to compliment the dedicated anti-social behaviour patrols, the following is in place;

- Patrols by Fife Council Safer Communities.
- Joint patrols with partners (Police / Fife Council Safer Communities / SFRS)
- Analysis of Bike Sources (Stolen, Point of Purchase and Open Source Scanning)

- Police Officer Body Cameras (evidence gathering)
- High Visibility / Plain Clothes Patrols
- Days of Action – Specialist Departments (Roads Policing / CCTV)
- Enforcement / Prevention / Diversion Visits

Between 1st April 2021 and 31st October 2021, the dedicated enforcement team, worked both reactively and pro-actively and achieved the following results;

- **36** vehicles seized - this includes Motorbikes, Cars and a Quads.
- **311** people charged in connection with Anti-social behaviour and Road Traffic offences.
- **5** Drug Search warrants executed. Quantity of drugs recovered.
- **4** Stolen vehicles recovered.

These results were all the more impressive due to a reduction in reported crime. The majority of these charges and seizures were therefore made as a result of pro-active, prevention activities.

MOTORBIKE NUISANCE

The number of calls relating to motorbike nuisance, since the beginning of the project can be summarised as follows;

Year	TOTAL
2018 / 2019	891
2019 / 2020	354
2020 / 2021	217
2021 / 2022	85

This represents a 91% decrease in motorbike related calls between 2018 / 2019 to 2021 / 2022.

DELIBERATE FIRES

Deliberate fires are an ongoing issue in Levenmouth, and figures provided by SFRS (below) suggest there has been a slight increase in 2021, as follows;

Levenmouth Deliberate Fires 2021-22		
Year	Figure	Cumulative Totals
April	45	45
May	14	59
June	12	71
July	19	90
August	8	98
Sept	22	120
October	6	126

Deliberate fires spiked in April 2021 and an action plan was devised to include joint patrols and doorstep of offenders. This resulted in a significant reduction over the months.

2022 will offer an opportunity to carry out further education, prevention, intervention and diversion activities to counter this crime type.

The introduction of SFRS Youth Volunteers and associated schemes will heighten the profile of the crime type amongst young people and encourage further impact education.

PREVENTION

Prevention, intervention and diversion were a priority for the project in 2021 and will form part of the strategy over 2022, 2023 and 2024.

The prevention tactics for the project include;

Primary Prevention

- Affecting conditions of the physical and social environment that provide opportunities for, or precipitate criminal acts.

Secondary Prevention

- Engages in early identification of potential offenders and seeks to intervene before the commission of illegal activity.

Tertiary Prevention

- Enforcement activities dealing with actual offenders and intervention.

- Seizure of illegal vehicles.

DIVERSION

Prevention, Diversion and Intervention ideas were not progressed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Progression was made through 2021, which led to a number of positive interactions and a reduction in calls related to anti-social behaviour.

The following partners have committed to diversionary activities in 2021 and 2022. They accept referrals from Police Scotland on a regular basis. The partners are;

- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Buckhaven Community Trade Hub
- Guided Start
- Levenmouth Youth Task Force
- Kingdom Off Road Motorcycles
- Education Engagement Officer – Levenmouth Academy
- Clued Up
- DAPL
- SAMH
- Fife Council Community Learning and Development
- Friday Night Events – Diverse / Inclusive / Equal
- Game On – Football 5ives (The Coalfields Regeneration Trust)

From the figures available, Police Officers in Levenmouth have referred 104 individuals to SAMH for assistance with their mental health and 70 individuals to Clued Up for assistance with alcohol and substance misuse.

A referral process is in place for all partners and will continue through 2022, in order to divert people to the most appropriate agency, to support them in the community.

FRIDAY NIGHT EVENTS

Analysis of call trends highlighted Friday evenings between 1600 hours and 0000 hours, held the highest number of anti-social behaviour calls.

It was recognised that Friday Night Football had previously been a success in Levenmouth for youth diversion. In partnership with Coalfields Regenerations Trust (Game On Scotland), Friday Night Football was born. SFA and Active Fife coaches and leaders facilitate the sessions on a Friday evening. Police Scotland commit two officers to youth engagement.

Kingdom Off Road Motorcycles host an event at the same venue engaging young people in trial biking.

Both events see 70 – 100 young people engaged with Police and partners each Friday night.

Police Scotland part fund and resource the event.

Partners including Clued Up / DAPL / Community Trade Hub / Community Learning and Development attend and signpost young people to support and activities.

Since the inception of Friday night football and events, there has been a significant decrease in anti-social behaviour calls during peak hours. There are a significant number of young people engaged in positive activities and referred to diversionary projects.

There is planned growth in the event through 2022 for further inclusive and equal activities.

LEVENMOUTH YOUTH TASK FORCE

Levenmouth Youth Task Force is a partnership between Police Scotland, Community Trade Hub, and Levenmouth Academy (Education).

The concept is for 20 young people, referred by Police Scotland and Levenmouth Academy, to lead on community projects in the local communities. Projects can include leaflet drops, litter picking, event organisation and management, youth groups, sports events.

Young people will gain qualifications and life skills, which will lead towards reaching positive destinations.

Police Scotland dedicated staff to Summer Camp 2021 and October Camp 2021, which engaged 80 young people in educational activities. This engagement significantly reduced anti-social behaviour during the school holidays.

GUIDED START – COMMUNITY TRADE HUB

Community Trade Hub has commenced the Guided Start programme, which will be supported by Police Scotland.

Guided Start is an innovative approach in engaging young people in learning environments. The concept is to deliver educational environments to deliver training in a variety of trades, digital skills, catering, hospitality, and horticulture.

Guided Start is a three year project, which will engage 100 young people and provide them with the skills and qualifications to reach a positive destination.

Guided Start have applied to fund a Police Officer post to project manage the initiative and ensure the right young people are referred, engaged and sustained in the project.

The officer will; deliver learning resources and environments, deliver youth diversion and intervention programmes, engage with Levenmouth Academy and Fife College to ensure accurate delivery of education programmes. Initiate and manage youth referrals.

LEVENMOUTH ACADEMY – ENGAGEMENT EDUCATION OFFICER

Levenmouth Academy are heavily engaged with Police Scotland, looking to work in partnership to counter criminal behaviour on school grounds and in the communities surrounding the school. Levenmouth Academy are also looking to Police Scotland to work in partnership to counter alcohol and drug misuse, whilst also assisting in improving engagement and attainment levels.

Levenmouth Academy have applied to fund the Education Engagement Officer (EEO) post for 12 months, during term time, in order to increase visibility in the school. They have also provided office space for the EEO, providing the capability to commence and terminate duty in the school. This will improve engagement opportunities and visibility in the school.

Police Scotland and Community Trade Hub are funding and operating classes for 50 pupils in the school, who are not engaging in education and are known to be engaged in criminality in the communities. If successful with these pupils, these sessions will be rolled out to a further 150 pupils, who whilst not as extreme in terms of behaviour

and non-engagement, are not engaging in the education process and find themselves on the periphery of criminality in the community.

LEVENMOUTH DRUG RELATED DEATH GROUP

Police Scotland are represented on the Levenmouth Drug Related Death Group, which is a multi-partner approach to countering the level of drug deaths in the communities.

Working with partners, there will be a holistic approach to public engagement and education to manage drug use and provide preventative messaging.

There are a number of innovative approaches being considered, which Police Scotland will participate in, in an attempt to reduce drug misuse in the area.

A continued focus on intelligence gathering, enforcement and signposting meantime, will ensure Police Scotland are contributing to a reduction.

DAPL and Clued Up are key partners in the Improving Levenmouth Together programme, providing vital services to young people in the area. An established referral system is in place, which will be developed through 2022, to increase the number of referrals and continue established relations in countering drug and alcohol use amongst young people.

MENTAL HEALTH

Levenmouth has a high proportion of population in mental health crisis or receiving support for mental health. An estimated 1 in 4 people are experiencing a downturn in their mental health and therefore require support in the community.

In order to support existing provisions, Improving Levenmouth Together were instrumental in driving funding for a SAMH led Sam's Mental Health Café being opened in Leven. This provision is for twelve months, with a strategy in place to secure funding for the following three years.

This has already led to a number of referrals from Police Scotland to SAMH and positive results in terms of solving mental health crisis and laying foundations for long term support.

Police Scotland also supported Barnardos in achieving funding to support young people in Levenmouth with their mental health, aged between 12 and 24. This provision commences in January 2022 and will be focussed on supporting young people who self-refer, through various services. Police Scotland and partners in the Improving Levenmouth Together programme will heavily promote and support this two year initiative.

Further mental health provisions will be identified and supported through 2022.

Improving Levenmouth Together is an evolving project, which continues to develop over time. 2022, 2023 and 2024 are very much going to be focussed on diversion, intervention and prevention to support the success of the enforcement strand of the project.

FUTURE WORK

The future work of the project is outlined in the narrative of this report with key future work being;

- Guided Start - Funded Post
- Levenmouth Academy - Funded Post
- Mental Health Provision Development
- Levenmouth Drug Related Death Group
- Levenmouth Youth Task Force
- Friday Night Events

CONCLUSION

The information provided within this report is to provide members of the Fife Partnership Board with an overview of the current activity that the post holder is undertaking and how the post holder is supporting Fife Division.