

**DEVELOPMENT OF ISSUES FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS THEMATIC GROUP**

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**1.      SUMMARY**

- 1.1      This paper sets out for consideration some possible issues which the Thematic Group may wish to pick up as part of their overall work programme.

**2.      RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1      Consider the suggestions made in regard to possible subject matter for the thematic group; and
- 2.2      Identify any further areas for working up into more detailed proposals.

**3.      DETAIL**

- 3.1      The Single Outcome Agreement between the Argyll and Bute Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and the Scottish Government comprises local outcomes from the agreed vision of “leading rural area”. There are associated success measures, drawn from the key objectives/outcomes contained in partners’ strategy documents, including Argyll and Bute Council’s corporate plan.
- 3.2      Given that there are important links between the Council’s corporate plan, the Argyll and Bute community plan, and the Single Outcome Agreement for Argyll and Bute, it is important that the various strategy documents and outcomes/other success measures are complementary of each other, and that tensions potentially caused by partners working in different ways, to achieve conflicting objectives, are identified at the earliest opportunity and eliminated.
- 3.3      In community planning terms, it has been agreed to proceed on the basis of 3 thematic groups – covering (1) Social Affairs (2) Environment and (3) Economy. These are wide remits and there will, undoubtedly, be areas of overlap. As matters progress, it will be necessary to identify areas of overlap/common interest, and

agree a lead thematic group for each such area. In general, however, matters are not yet at this stage.

- 3.4 From a Council perspective, Policy and Performance Groups (PPGs) have been set up, with remits which mirror those of the thematic groups. The PPGs are currently re-examining critical areas of the Council's corporate plan which they will keep under scrutiny and review.
- 3.5 Both CPP thematic groups and PPGs should, therefore, be concentrating on the same basic areas of activity, and be interested in the same general outcomes. There will, of course, be differences – given that the CPP thematic groups will be looking at wider issues/outcomes, across the whole partnership, while the PPGs will focus more on issues contained in the Council's corporate plan.
- 3.6 If the basic premise of securing a common approach in terms of identifying major issues is accepted, then it is possible to identify specific “big ideas” and measures which can be used to assess progress against these. Attached hereto, as appendices 1 and 2, are two initial suggestions. The headlines for these are -

- Supporting communities where local needs are met; and
- Improving opportunities for people in Argyll and Bute.

The views on the suitability of these topics/issues, and on the measures which have been identified as providing outcome indicators in terms of performance are invited.

- 3.7 As is noted above, the suggestions made are not meant to be exhaustive. There are many other issues which could, reasonably, be regarded as falling within the remit of the Social Affairs thematic group. For example, no specific reference has been made of housing or associated issues such as homelessness. As a further example it would be possible to focus in more detail on particular groups such as children, or older people, at different ends of the age spectrum. Again, views are sought on what is missing/what further themes should be explored for possible inclusion within the remit of the thematic group. These can then be worked up in more detail.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 This is a starter paper, there is a long way to go in terms of developing community planning/thematic groups.

## 5. IMPLICATIONS

*Policy:* None at this stage

*Finance:* None

*Personnel:* None

*Legal:* None

*Equal Opportunities:* None

Director of Community Services  
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For further information please contact:

**Laura Cameron**  
**Service Standards Officer**

## Supporting Communities Where Local Needs Are Met

### 1. Overview

Our vision for healthy, caring and diverse communities in Argyll and Bute is to work in partnership across a range of services and organisations, including education, health, social work, voluntary organisations and the police to achieve seamless service delivery, specifically targeting actions that reduce health inequalities and meet care needs across the community, and improve overall health, well being, independence and social inclusion.

#### - **Health Improvement**

As part of the community planning process, the Joint Health Improvement Plan provides a framework to address specific life circumstances, lifestyles and health topics. An emphasis on these areas across a range of local work plans and programmes from all Community Planning Partners will ensure that action is targeted on the major determinants of health inequalities.

As a Partnership addressing health improvement and the reduction of health inequalities it is crucial to address the life circumstances in which people live, alongside providing services aimed at improving health outcomes for individuals. We aim to work together to create employment opportunities, better education, housing, leisure facilities and health services for everyone. To ensure the accessibility that is required, action is also targeted to particular groups and individuals.

#### - **Adult Care**

The Partnership embraces the agenda set by “Community Care: A Joint Future”, which seeks to fully integrate health and care services to improve the quality of life of patients, service users and carers.

Our focus is on joint planning, commissioning and integration of health and community care services. Within the Partnership of NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council, the voluntary sector, service users and carers are key strategic groups who are responsible for driving review, redesign and improvements transforming the way services are delivered locally.

Integrated joint projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits for people living in Argyll and Bute, including those who

require support or protection due to age, special needs, health or life circumstances.

We will seek to improve the quality of care services and users' satisfaction by increasing the quality of assessment and reducing waiting times. We are working to shift the balance of care from "institutional" care to "home based" care which will lead to better and more equitable access to care services and will help to improve the health, independence and wellbeing of service users and carers.

As a Partnership, we are committed to implementation of the national outcome measures for community care:

- Improved health
- Improved wellbeing
- Improved social inclusion
- Improved independence and responsibility

#### - **Children and Families**

Joint working across agencies for children's services will enable us to improve the quality and efficiency of service for children both universal and targeted. We aim to support the implementation of a range of services for children and families provided by partnership groups. This includes SureStart Scotland, health promoting schools, early education, pupil support for those out of school, and other social work services for children, including adoption, fostering, residential care, and throughcare and aftercare for those making the transition to adulthood.

All agencies working in Argyll and Bute are committed to working together in partnership to achieve the Vision for Scotland's Children as set out by the Scottish Government. In order to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens all children and young people who live in Argyll and Bute need to be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible. We are also committed to developing a community in which every child matters and where every young person is given the best preparation to participate in the opportunities available on the pathway to adulthood.

We also provide services focused on "children in need" whose welfare local authorities have a responsibility to promote and safeguard. As a partnership, we aim to work with the most vulnerable and excluded children and adults to ensure the safety of those at risk from harm either from themselves or from others.

There is a particular focus on the development of effective, clear multi-agency assessment and care planning.

## 2. Outcome Indicators

Our focus for 2009 – 2012 will be to contribute to the following outcomes:

### **IMPROVED HEALTH – Reduced health inequalities by increasing the rate of improvement for the most deprived communities.**

1.	Reduce the proportion of people aged 65 and over admitted as an emergency inpatient two or more times in a single year per 100,000 population.
2.	Maintain the national targets for delayed discharges from hospital.
3.	Reduce the number of people who smoke
4.	Reduce suicide rates
5.	Reduce alcohol related hospital admissions
6.	Increase healthy life expectancy
7.	Reduce the use of anti-depressants
8.	Reduction in deaths from Coronary Heart Disease
9.	Reduce readmissions among those who have had a psychiatric hospital admission
10.	Reduce health inequalities by increasing the rate of improvement for the most deprived communities: (a) Cancer (b) Adult Smoking (c) Respiratory Diseases (d) Smoking during pregnancy (e) Teenage Pregnancy (f) Suicides in young people
11.	Reduce alcohol misuse among young people
12.	Increase healthy eating
13.	Reduce the number of emergency bed days in acute specialties for older patients
14.	Reduce the rate of increase in the proportion of children with a Body Mass Index out with a healthy weight range

### **IMPROVED WELL-BEING – Improved quality of life for people who misuse drugs and alcohol, their families and communities.**

15.	Increase the percentage of older people with care needs receiving services at home
16.	Shifting the balance of care from Fostering or Residential Care to Kinship Care
17.	Increasing the number of families participating in parenting programmes
18.	Increase the percentage of older people receiving personal care at

	home
19.	Increase the percentage of users and carers satisfied with care packages and multi-agency plans
20.	Increase the percentage of user assessments completed to national standard
21.	Increase the percentage of carers' assessments completed to national standard
22.	Increase the percentage of carers who feel able to continue their role
23.	Increase the percentage of care plans and multi-agency plans reviewed within agreed timescale
24.	Decrease the number of people waiting longer than target time for assessment
25.	Decrease the number of people waiting longer than target time for service
26.	Increase the number of children and young people who have a single multi-agency plan

**IMPROVED SOCIAL INCLUSION – Increased proportion of people needing care or support who are able to sustain an independent quality of life as part of the community, through joint working.**

27.	Increase the percentage of users satisfied with opportunities for social interaction
28.	Shift in balance of care from institutional to 'home based' care
29.	Decrease the number of children and young people who are educated out with Argyll and Bute.

**IMPROVED INDEPENDENCE & RESPONSIBILITY – Increased proportion of children and young people maintained in their family and community networks through integrated services.**

30.	Increase the number of people/families in receipt of direct payments
31.	Increase the number of people accessing the Independent Living Fund.

### Improving Opportunities for People in Argyll & Bute

#### 1. Overview

As a Partnership, we aim to develop a community that creates opportunities for all through lifelong learning, social, economic and community development. We want to ensure that all individuals are supported to access a range of learning and development opportunities to improve their quality of life and give them access to better paid employment. We recognise that we need to focus on promoting inclusion and ensuring that those individuals or groups who, for a range of reasons, are unable to fully participate in the life of their community are effectively supported.

We want an Argyll and Bute where lifelong learning is valued as a means of change and growth for individuals and communities, and where all individuals, whatever their age, have access to the learning opportunities, skills, knowledge and information that they need to play a full part in society.

#### - **Community Learning**

Learning in local communities can be accessed through a network of community-based guidance to ensure that learning opportunities are widely available to all children, young people, adults and community groups. Community-based learning programmes provide opportunities for everyone to learn in a familiar and supportive community context.

#### - **Inclusive Communities**

The Partnership also believes that it needs to focus on ensuring that the long term unemployed and other excluded groups have access to training and employment opportunities that will enable them to fulfil their potential. A particular area of focus is to raise achievement among those in the NEET (not in education, employment or training) Group.

#### 2. Outcome Indicators

Our focus for 2009-2012 will be to contribute to the following outcomes:

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|----|---|
| 1. | Increase the proportion of 16-19 year olds progressing to |
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	vocational, further or higher education.
2.	Increase vocational qualification levels in the working age population at SVQ levels 1, 2 and 3.
3.	Increase the percentage of S4 year group achieving English and Mathematics at level 3 (equivalent to Standard Grade foundation level).
4.	Increase the percentage of S4 group achieving 5+ awards at SCQF level 5 (standard grade credit or better in S5).
5.	Increase the percentage of S4 group achieving 5+ awards at SCQF level 3 (standard grade credit or better in S5)
6.	Increase the number of young people accessing a jointly planned and delivered employability support service that is appropriate to their needs.
7.	Support and assist social enterprises each year
8.	Increase the uptake of adult learning opportunities in the community.
9.	Increase the number of adults seeking and receiving career and educational information and guidance.
10.	Increase provision of accessible, well resourced literacy services, with evidence of increased uptake.
11.	Increase the number of visits to leisure centres.
12.	Increase the number of visits to libraries.
13.	Increase the number of people accessing financial education, quality advice and financial services appropriate to their needs.
14.	Maintain the level of trainees completing courses through training and employability sources.
15.	Increase the level of adult learning opportunities in the community.
16.	Increase the percentage of participants engaged in employability services going on to permanent employment.