

The Highland Council
Communities and Partnerships Committee
28 September 2016

Agenda Item	10
Report No	CP 23/16

Taking Forward Community Partnerships - Update

Report by Acting Head of Policy

Summary

This report provides an update on the introduction of Community Partnerships in Highland. Members are asked to note the developments to date and the next steps to establish Community Partnerships.

1. Background

- 1.1 The importance of localism and decision making at a local level has underpinned the need to establish partnership forums across all parts of Highland. The Community Empowerment and Public Bodies (Joint Working) Acts have also set out new duties (details at appendix 1) that require planning to take place at a local level. To enable this to happen, it was proposed to establish Community Partnerships across Highland.
- 1.2 The Community Planning Partnership Board agreed to establish Community Partnerships at its meeting on 30 June 2016. This report provides an update on the work undertaken over the summer to take forward Community Partnerships and the next steps in the process.

2. Establishing Community Partnerships

- 2.1 The Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board agreed to establish 9 Community Partnerships for the Highland area at its meeting on 30 June 2016. The partnerships are:
- Caithness
 - Sutherland
 - East Ross
 - Mid Ross
 - Skye, Lochalsh and Wester Ross
 - Lochaber
 - Inverness City Area
 - Nairn
 - Badenoch and Strathspey
- 2.2 The Partnerships would be based primarily on the geography of the former District Partnerships, with the District Partnerships being incorporated into the new arrangements. There are some boundary amendments which need to be agreed around Assynt, Ardgay, Fort Augustus and Ardersier. The Community Planning Partnership Board will be asked to agree the final boundaries for the new partnerships at its meeting on 7 October 2016.

- 2.3 One of the new duties for Community Planning within the Community Empowerment Act is that Community Planning is now a shared responsibility amongst 5 named partners – NHS Highland, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Highland Council. The CPP Board agreed that the responsibility for leading each of the Community Partnerships and also for supporting the CPP Board and Chief Officers Group (COG), should be shared going forward. The support will include chairing the partnership, providing the secretariat and responsibility for driving the agenda.
- 2.4 The CPP Board will be asked to agree on 7 October 2016 that the following agencies support each partnership for a period of 3 years, following which this will be rotated.

Community Partnership	Lead Agency
Caithness	HIE
Sutherland	Police Scotland
East Ross	SFRS
Mid Ross	NHS Highland
Skye, Lochalsh and West Ross	HIE
Lochaber	NHS Highland
Inverness	Highland Council
Nairn	Police Scotland
Badenoch and Strathspey	SFRS

It is proposed that each agency will support 2 partnerships, with the exception of the agency supporting the Inverness Community Partnership (i.e. the Council), given the size of that partnership and the likely sub-group structure which will be required for that partnership to operate effectively.

- 2.5 The CPP Board will also be asked to agree a timetable for a shared approach to supporting the Board and COG. In year 1, it is recommended that the Council support and Chair the COG and NHS Highland support and Chair the CPP Board.
- 2.6 The CPP Board agreed an initial series of guidance for Community Partnerships. This can be found at appendix 2. Over the summer, work has been ongoing to further develop the supports which will be required for the new partnerships. This has included:
- looking at a framework to support the plans required by each partnership – adult, children and locality plans;
 - a shared dataset and self-assessment checklist;
 - setting out the roles and responsibilities of each partnership – the role of the Chair but also each individual partnership member;
 - considering a set of values and behaviours to assist partnerships;
 - outline agendas and key actions for partnerships at their first meetings.

- 2.7 To ensure that those involved in the new partnerships have a clear understanding of their role and purpose, a development day is planned for the 30 September. This day is targeted at officers from the partner organisations who will be involved in each of the new partnerships. Former District Partnership Chairs and Local Committee Chairs have also been invited. Separate sessions with Highland Council members will be held during October.
- 2.8 The development day, Delivering Community Partnerships, will focus on building understanding of the national and local context and outlining how this is being taken forward locally. It is also an opportunity for shaping the new partnerships; sharing ideas and next steps. The day will be an opportunity to explore what further supports are needed for the partnerships to operate effectively and what a good partnership may look like. One of the key duties of the Empowerment Act is the involvement and engagement of communities and the day will provide a chance to consider how best communities can be involved and engaged in the new partnerships. This structure will be repeated within the separate development sessions held with Members.
- 2.9 The feedback from the development day and Member sessions will assist in further developing the supports and guidance for the new partnerships. Going forward it is recognised that ongoing support will be required. Initially, it is proposed that the Chairs of the partnerships meet twice annually with the officers from the COG to allow sharing of experience and identification of any challenges or supports required.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 The first meetings of the new partnerships will begin from October onwards. These first meetings will be an opportunity for partners to consider wider membership, how they wish to structure their meetings and consider how they will deliver on the planning requirements. How each partnership develops will very much depend on the local partners. Updates on the implementation of the new partnerships will be reported to future meetings of this committee.

4. Implications

- 4.1 Resource: Partners have agreed to jointly resource supporting the local partnerships across Highland.

Legal: The new arrangements will help the Council and its partners deliver on new duties contained within the Community Empowerment Act as well as the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act and the Community Learning and Development Regulations.

Equalities: The new legal duty on CPPs to reduce inequality arising from socio-economic disadvantage should enable better partnership action for groups in the community with protected characteristics. Inequality and disadvantage are often associated with protected characteristics e.g. gender, age, disability, ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Climate Change/Carbon Clever: None identified.

Risk: There is a risk that the Highland CPP does not comply with the new legislation. This is being mitigated by taking early action with partners in advance of the new duties coming into place.

Gaelic: None identified.

Rural implications: Arrangements for taking forward community planning are proceeding in rural areas of Highland.

5. Recommendation

Members are asked to note the developments to date and the next steps to establish Community Partnerships.

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Appendix 1: Summary of New Community Planning Duties

Appendix 2: Initial Guidance Agreed for Community Partnerships

Summary of New Duties

Community Planning duties through the Community Empowerment Act:

Who should be involved in community planning – in Highland there are 15 public bodies to be involved and that would form the Community Planning Partnership. The Partnership will agree how partners contribute e.g. taking part in a particular outcome or across them all. The listed bodies must work together and work with any community body who wishes to take part.

Who leads community planning – this is now a shared duty between 5 public bodies – the Council; NHS Highland, HIE, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

What the CPP needs to do – the CPP must act to reduce inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. It must produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan and also Locality Plans.

Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) – will replace the SOA and needs to demonstrate how the Partnership will respond to national outcomes. The LOIP needs to outline key local priorities but also to reflect improving outcomes and tackling inequalities. The plan must be evidence based and be developed involving communities. Statutory partners are responsible for delivering the aims however other local bodies may also be included. The first plan is due in October 2017.

Locality Plans – at a local level in order for partners to tackle inequalities for communities facing disadvantage and make it easier for community bodies to be involved. The plans should be evidence based. The statutory guidance notes that the CPP should use its “understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities to identify those localities for which it should undertake locality planning.” The geography for these Locality plans is for the CPP to decide but it is expected that they reflect natural communities. It is proposed to use a combination of the Socio Economic Performance Index (SEP – identifying rural communities) and SIMD, to identify the communities on which the Partnership initially completes Locality Plans for. The first Locality Plans are expected by October 2017.

Supporting community bodies to participate – is a key component of the Empowerment Act in general and specifically in relation to Community Planning. The Partnership will have a duty to support community bodies to participate at all levels therefore it is particularly important for new local arrangements for community planning to be established as organising such involvement at a Highland level would not be feasible as most community bodies, volunteering and community action are local.

Community Planning duties through Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 and the Requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

The Public Bodies legislation establishes the new arrangements for the integration of health and social care services. It includes the requirement for each partnership to have a strategic plan, and in Highland this includes local plans at an area level.

The Community Learning and Development regulations, made under the powers of the 1980 Education (Scotland) Act, require the local authority to work with partners to develop local CLD plans that target individuals and groups with greatest needs. The Highland CPP has determined this should be undertaken for localities and it is anticipated that Locality and CLD plans are likely to be one and the same given their focus on inequality and the most vulnerable.

Initial Guidance Agreed for Community Partnerships

Name

- Each local partnership adopts the name Community Partnership and to prefix it with the locality name i.e. Caithness Community Partnership, Sutherland Community Partnership etc. This moves away from the use of 'planning' in any name which has resulted in confusion in the past but emphasises the importance of community given the new rights afforded to community bodies.

Membership

- All 5 statutory partners – Scottish Fire and Rescue service, HIE, Highland Council, NHS Highland, Police - and Third Sector representation arranged by the Highland Third Sector Interface at each Local Partnership
- Other 10 named partners would attend as and when required on a thematic basis
- Local partnerships to determine other organisational representation including community organisations
- All partners have shared and equal responsibility

Core Remit

- Developing Local Plans for Children and Adults – statutory
- Develop Locality Improvement Plans/CLD plans focusing on communities facing the greatest level of inequality as a result of socio-economic disadvantage - statutory
- Identify local actions and priorities

Meetings

- Local partnerships meet no less than 4 times annually
- Consider taking a thematic approach to meetings
- Scrutiny of local plans should be action focused and based on evidence
- Meetings should be in public but not public meetings. There should be the opportunity on each agenda for members of the public to ask questions/raise any points.

Links between Strategic and Local Partnerships

- Each Local partnership will nominate a representative to sit on the CPP Board. In most circumstances this will be the Chair.
- There will be regular meetings of the Chairs of each local partnership supported by the Chief Officers Group.