

SOA Development Plan
Annual progress report 2015-16 for the CPP Board
October 2016

Introduction

The Board agreed at its meeting in June 2014, six priorities for improving partnership processes and to support the achievement of outcomes as set out in the Single Outcome Agreement. These priorities were influenced by:

- General advice from the National Community Planning Board;
- Information from an Audit Scotland presentation on their key lines of enquiry for community planning audits;
- Self-assessment carried out by the Board; and
- Actions carried forward from earlier feedback from the SOA quality assurance panel in 2013.

The progress made in 2015/16 is set out below. This describes against each of the six priorities, the work currently underway and areas which have been identified for development.

1. Partnership performance management and reporting

Progress made in 2015/16

Progress against the seven delivery plans and the SOA development plan is reported to and scrutinised by the Board at each of its quarterly meeting during the year.

The PSIF approach to self-assessment has been taken forward by both the Environment and Health Inequalities groups. For the Environment theme group, the membership was surveyed regarding its effectiveness. Around 30% responded. Generally feedback was supportive of the Forum and its approach to stakeholder engagement and improvement areas have been identified. The Health Inequalities group has also completed the self-assessment process. The findings were also positive and work is now required to identify areas for improvement.

In December 2015 the Improvement Service up-dated the Board on the Community Planning Performance/Local Outcomes indicators project, led by the Scottish Government and the Improvement Service. The Board sought flexibility in any new guidance on the plans to be required given the scale of the region and the diversity across it.

A key improvement activity for the CPP has been to improve performance reporting to the public on CPP matters. Discussion has taken place on this issue at Board level but it was determined that work in this area will be superseded by the new requirements contained within the Community Empowerment Act.

Building on the discussions the Partnership had in the previous financial year with regards preparation for the Community Empowerment Act, the Board provided evidence to Audit Scotland on the CPPs approach and readiness to implement the Community Empowerment Act.

A CPP response was also submitted to the Scottish Government's consultation on the draft guidance and regulations to support Part 2 of the Community Empowerment Act. This response highlighted the CPP support for the principles for community planning set out in the guidance but noted there was a desire to simplify the performance framework for individual organisations and CPPs to reduce complexity and ensure the right data was being collected. The response also highlighted that the LOIP should add value and be linked to specific priorities rather than everything within a CPP area and that any LOIP should be a long term vision for the area and that a 5 yearly review would be appropriate to ensure that the actions being undertaken on priorities are delivering the long term vision.

The final guidance on Part 2 of the Act is still awaited.

Work currently underway

The annual report for 2015/16 will be submitted to the Scottish Government by end October 2016.

An action plan is under development by the Health Inequalities group following the self-assessment process undertaken. A new area for self-assessment for 2016/17 is the Highland Third Sector Interface, which was a national programme led by the Improvement Service.

Development areas.

Self-assessment is planned for the Economic theme group. This has not been progressed to date as the lead officer post within HIE has been vacant. This has now been filled and this activity planned for the 2016/17 period.

In light of the new duty to produce a Local Outcome Improvement Plan, a review of the current SOA is underway. The focus on addressing inequality, as detailed in the Act, will clearly impact on the direction of the new LOIP. The final guidance from Scottish Government is awaited which will inform the review and the approach taken by the CPP around performance reporting around the new Plan.

- 2. Maximise the use of collective resources to achieve best outcomes, demonstrating a shift to prevention and the re-allocation of resources between CPP members where this represents best value**

Progress made in 2015/16

During 2015/16 partners once again shared their future budget planning proposals in the Chief Officers Group (COG) and partners shared views on the Council's budget proposals with some taking part in assessing impacts of proposals.

In 2014/15, work commenced with partners to jointly explore how to work preventatively and join resources further. This was initially progressed through the Merkinch area of Inverness, with a specific focus on understanding what public bodies are investing and achieving. This work progressed in the first half of 2015/16, with a second report made to the Board in September 2015. However, the budget reductions experienced, particularly for the Council for 2016/17, have impacted on the ability to progress this work and it is intended to review this work for the areas identified when the impact of budget and staff reductions is clearer.

Work currently underway

The Community Empowerment Act requires CPPs to reduce socio-economic inequality. Work is underway to develop a framework to support Community Partnerships take forward the Locality planning duties contained within the Community Empowerment Act. This will provide a focus on reducing socio-economic inequality in the most vulnerable communities across Highland.

A review of the current SOA is underway, with a view to developing a LOIP. The focus on addressing inequality, as detailed in the Act, will clearly impact on the direction of the new LOIP.

Development areas.

A review is required of the preventative approaches work with a view to considering how best this can be progressed. It is possible that this could align with the Locality planning process as the communities identified will have Locality plans developed.

3. Engage in dialogue with communities in order to empower them to participate in service planning and delivery

Progress made in 2015/16

Work has progressed throughout 2015/16 to explore the development of District Partnerships and local community planning. The Board has considered reports on this new direction at each of its meetings during 2015/16. The Board agreed on a set of principles to guide this work and agreement from all partners to participate. This has culminated in agreement to establish 9 Community Partnerships throughout Highland to take forward the Localism agenda and progress the new duties contained within the Community Empowerment Act but also the Public Bodies (Joint Working) Act and Community Learning and Development Regulations. There has been agreement to jointly resource these new partnerships by the 5 core community planning partners.

Preparations have been ongoing throughout 2015/16 in advance of the Community Empowerment Act and the Board has continued to receive reports on the implications:

- Throughout summer 2015, HTSI ran local roadshows on the implications of the Community Empowerment Act focusing on the new rights for community bodies. CPP partners participated in these events.
- In November 2015, the COG held its first session as part of the Scottish Government's Collaborative Leadership Programme. The theme for the engagement in the programmes is localism and community empowerment.
- The Board agreed that a partnership approach should be developed to support asset transfers and participation requests from community bodies and sub-groups have been established to progress these areas of work. Updates have been provided to the Chief Officers Group.
- Participatory budgeting was considered by the Board in March 2015 as a new way of involving communities in decision making about resources. This has been progressed by the Council for its discretionary funding and the learning from this approach has been reported to the Chief Officers Group.

Work currently underway

A number of the actions associated with this priority have ongoing work streams:

- Guidance and regulation to support the Community Empowerment Act is still awaited and will inform activity going forward.
- Agree proposals for a CPP approach to asset transfers and participation requests;
- Implementation of Community Partnerships across Highland and the supports required for these new partnerships
- A review of the Third Sector Compact.

Development areas.

Section 10 of the Community Empowerment Act places a duty on public bodies to involve the public in their decision making. It aims to promote and enable participation of people in the decisions about public services including the allocation of financial and other resources. It will therefore be important for the CPP to consider the learning from the approach to participatory budgeting already underway and how this approach could be used as a partnership going forward.

One of the key duties within the Community Empowerment Act is the engagement and involvement of the community in the development of our planning processes. An area for development is to build on our existing knowledge and establish a mechanism for effective engagement at a strategic and local level within Highland.

4. Collaborate on workforce planning and skills development to meet Highland needs, in the context of the Highlands and Islands Skills Investment Plan and our role as major employers

Progress made in 2015/16

This work stream has been included in the remit of the employability group which reports progress to the Board quarterly.

Skills Development Scotland have joined the Chief Officers Group of the CPP.

COG agreed to participate in the Collaborative Challenge Programme supported by the Scottish Government. Joint staff development for the new Prevent duty, which was reported to the Board in September 2015, began in February 2016. Opportunities for joint staff development to support localism and local community planning are under development.

Two breakthrough achievements have been agreed for the CPP this year and both relate to the workforce: firstly for all CPP partners to agree to offer employment to every care leaver in Highland and secondly for all CPP partners to support the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to recruit retained fire fighters from within their organisations. Regular updates on the progress of the breakthrough achievements are made to the Board.

Work currently underway

Regular updates on the progress of the breakthrough achievements are made to the Board.

A self- assessment tool is under development to enable local partnerships to identify their development and support needs.

Development areas.

Opportunities for joint staff development to support localism and local community planning are under development.

5. Tackle deprivation and inequalities including by improving access and connectedness for communities

Progress made in 2015/16

During 2014/15 work was done to develop a CPP approach to rural fragility. The health inequalities group led on this work and proposed the adoption of the SEP index (socio-economic performance index) for rural areas which was used to support the distribution of LEADER funds nationally. In June 2015 the Board agreed to use the Socio Economic Performance (SEP) index for targeted CPP activities or rural areas alongside SIMD for urban areas. This will assist in taking forward the new legal duties on the CPP to reduce socio-economic inequality through locality plans, the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and in the processes for asset transfers, participation requests and supporting community bodies to participate in community planning.

New CPP action is proposed to understand the experience of people living in poverty and how the CPP can work differently with people and communities to improve living conditions and opportunities. The proposal is to work with the UHI to gather views and to engage practitioners

Work currently underway

Work is underway to develop a framework to support Community Partnerships take forward the Locality planning duties contained within the Community Empowerment Act. This will provide a focus on reducing socio-economic inequality in the most vulnerable communities across Highland.

To use the SEP and SIMD indices to support the identification of communities that will be targeted for Locality planning, as required through the Community Empowerment Act.

Development areas.

A proposal to take forward our understanding of people experiencing poverty in Highland is under development.

6. Value and be positive about Highland life to attract people, jobs and investment.

Progress made in 2015/16

It was agreed that this outcome would cut across all partnership business including partnership events and in partnership communications.

During 2014/15 the CPP agreed new responsibilities for the CPP Board in the process of preparing and delivering Local Development Plans that reflected shared priorities for community planning. This approach will strengthen the framework for coordinating the delivery and monitoring against the Single Outcome Agreement (and its successor). The Board also agreed a number of aspects of the Highland-wide Local Development Plan Main Issues Report, along with the Action Programmes for the adopted Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan and the Caithness & Sutherland Proposed Local Development Plan.

During 2015 the Board received several updates on the progress of a City region deal for Highland.

Development areas.

The CPP will have a role in developments around a City Region Deal for Highland.
