

ABERDEENSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
29 JUNE 2016

LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES

1 The Board is recommended to:

- 1.1 Provide strategic direction on the proposed priorities identified at sections 2.4 and 2.5 (also see 2.8 and 2.9);**
- 1.2 Endorse proposed priorities for inclusion in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan; and**
- 1.3 Request a progress report be presented to the next meeting**

2 Background / Discussion

- 2.1 The Board agreed to delegate the development of priorities for inclusion in the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan in Aberdeenshire to the Executive at its meeting in November 2015, Appendix One provides an outline of the development process to date.
- 2.2 A wide range of qualitative and quantitative evidence has been used to produce an 'Evidential Narrative' and a 'Life Stages Outcomes' document, which set the evidence in the context of existing plans, actions and priorities. These documents contain evidence included in the 2015 Local Strategic Assessments, partner's Strategic Assessments, research documents and datasets, community engagement feedback, performance reporting information, Citizens' Panel feedback, PESTELO/Horizon Scanning feedback and Open Source data. This evidence has then been tested against the six criteria identified by the Sub-Executive group to determine the most pressing priorities for the CPP. The six criteria are listed in Appendix Two to this report.
- 2.3 A list of three draft themes and associated potential priorities was presented to the CPP Board in March 2016. Partners agreed that a narrower focus was required and the list of proposed themes and priorities has been reduced through further engagement with Executive members. The priorities identified are known as "wicked issues" which no single agency can successfully solve alone. The LOIP will not record partnership working in areas where outcomes are already being achieved successfully, instead focusing on areas where additional or new joint action is most needed.
- 2.4 The priorities identified are as follows:
 - Reducing child poverty
 - Reducing alcohol consumption
 - Improving access to affordable transport

- 2.5 In addition, partners agreed that an underlying principle in the LOIP should be a commitment to 'Supporting our communities to become stronger, more integrated and more inclusive' by all partners - through action taken to deliver all priorities, engagement mechanisms, the implementation of place based approaches and the terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015
- 2.6 The Sub-Executive agreed to retain a 'watching brief' on obesity and homelessness during the development process and beyond. The terms of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act will require us to review the LOIP on a regular basis and these priorities may be included within the LOIP at a later date or through Locality Plans, should it be appropriate.
- 2.7 Appendices three to five contain summary sheets providing key headline information relating to each priority. Appendix six contains further information regarding the underpinning principle of 'Stronger, more inclusive and integrated communities'. Full background information on each priority is included within the 'Life Stages' Document, or within each priority template (as discussed at the CPP Executive on 18th May 2016).
- 2.8 Partners are asked to discuss and endorse the three proposed priorities. These priorities have been tested out with Executive members, Aberdeenshire Council's Corporate Leadership Group and a grouping of Board and Executive members. Priorities One and Two (*Reducing child poverty and Reducing alcohol consumption*) have received broad endorsement, however, there is still some uncertainty regarding Priority Three (*Access to affordable transport*). "Improving/enhancing connectivity" (incorporating affordable travel and digital services) or "access to services" (incorporating affordable travel, digital services, and co-located services in local areas) have also been suggested as appropriate titles for the third priority. Board members are asked to provide strategic guidance on this issue.
- 2.9 There is also uncertainty in regard to the underpinning principle of Stronger Communities (with an even split between inclusion as a separate priority or as an underpinning principle between Executive members). Board members are asked to provide further strategic guidance here.
- 2.10 Further debate has also taken place regarding action to support the most vulnerable individuals and communities within Aberdeenshire. Having further explored this issue with partners on 31st May, we propose that supporting vulnerable people should be included as an underpinning principle in our LOIP and Partnership Agreement. Supporting information and action plans for each priority should set out how we seek to identify and address vulnerability.
- 2.11 During the coming months, partners will work together to; identify the key measures that will evidence success, develop proposed action plans and consider the structural arrangements that will need to be in place to best support the Partnership to deliver the priorities. The Partnership will need to

consider the structural arrangements that will need to be in place to best support the delivery of the LOIP. The CPP will also engage with communities on the proposed LOIP priorities and all partners will be asked consider how they will embed delivery of priorities into their individual planning frameworks.

- 2.12 It is proposed that progress report return to the Board in September 2016 to provide an update and to seek strategic direction as appropriate.

3 Equalities, Staffing and Resource Implications

- 3.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken on the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, once priorities have been agreed in principle by the CPP Board in June 2016.
- 3.2 Until the LOIP and associated action plans have been developed it is difficult to quantify staffing and resource implications, however, all partners will be expected to contribute the development and delivery of the LOIP.

Ritchie Johnson
Director of Business Services, Aberdeenshire Council

Report prepared by Sophie Humphries, Strategic Development Officer (Community Planning)
8 June 2016

APPENDIX ONE

LOIP DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TO DATE (JUNE 2016)

Date	Item
28 October 2015	The Executive approved the recommendation to develop a LOIP (instead of revising the current SOA) and to support the development process.
25 November 2015	The Board approved the recommendation to develop of a LOIP and delegated the development of priorities to the Executive.
10 November 2015	An initial LOIP development meeting with several Executive members. All partners were requested to share relevant data and evidence to help draft a 'Strategic Assessment'.
1 February 2016	A sub group of Executive met to discuss the 'Evidential Narrative' prepared using partnership data. A 'Life Stages' approach suggested to improve the usability of the evidence base. Criteria for the identification and selection of LOIP priorities developed and agreed. Additional research prepared on approach to SOAs and LOIPs by other CPPs and current partner priorities were mapped to the SOA and emerging priorities.
19 February 2016	Update on process and timescales circulated to all partners electronically.
24 March 2016	'Life Stages Document' and emerging priorities circulated electronically to the Executive Sub-Group for consideration.
30 March 2016	A list of three draft priorities and associated sub-priorities was presented to the CPP Board. Partners agreed that a narrower focus was required and asked the Executive to discuss further.
20 April 2016	Life Stages Document and Board presentation circulated to all partners for information. Partners requested to submit additional evidence and share within individual organisations.
3 May 2016	Sub group of Executive met to discuss the evidence base following the CPP Board meeting. Individual priority templates, measuring priorities against criteria, developed for discussion.
18 May 2016	Executive members discussed and broadly endorsed the proposed priorities during a closed session (information circulated to partners in advance).
25 May 2016	Aberdeenshire Council's Corporate Leadership Team discussed the proposed priorities.
31 May 2016	A number of Executive and Board members explored the proposed priorities during the WWS & CPP Joint Development Day.

APPENDIX TWO

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF LOIP PRIORITIES

Criteria	Essential/Desirable Status
Evidence based (qualitative and quantitative data).	Essential
All partners should be able to contribute to the priorities through joint action and resourcing and/or see tangible benefits from cross cutting priorities. (Making efficient use of our collective resources).	Essential
Preventative or early intervention (or a combination approach aimed at tackling current issues but looking towards preventing future issues/breaking the cycle).	Essential
Addressing socio economic inequalities (beyond SIMD areas) to ensure universal achievement of key outcomes across Aberdeenshire.	Desirable (highly encouraged)
Where existing activity needs additional focus or support to achieve the desired outcomes.	Essential
Clear outcomes for communities which are understood by all partners.	Essential

Developed by the Sub-Executive Group and approved by the CPP Executive 18th May 2016

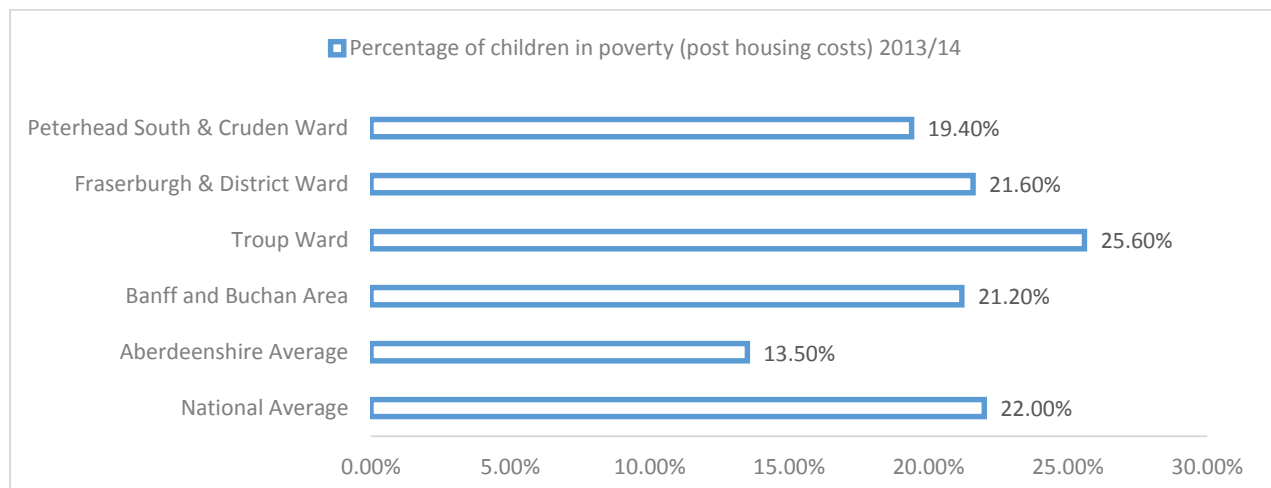
APPENDIX THREE - Proposed LOIP Priority: Reducing Child Poverty

Why is this important in Aberdeenshire?

Child poverty has long last effects and is related to more complicated health histories over the course of a lifetime, impacting on potential incomes and educational attainment and perpetuating intergenerational inequality. Work, however, does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty – nationally almost 64% of children growing up in poverty live in a family where at least one person works. Whilst the gap between the rate of child poverty between the least and most deprived communities in Aberdeenshire has reduced by 4.6% in recent years (faster than the Scottish average of 3.6%) there are still significant rates of child poverty in Aberdeenshire, which may be further masked by the rurality of the area (with around 6,500 children living in poverty).

Welfare reform, zero hour contracts, fuel poverty, the decline of the oil and gas sector, rising housing, childcare and transport costs, rising unemployment and associated debt and mental health issues impact on the number of children living in poverty, and is anticipated that current figures will increase.

- Aberdeenshire has seen an increase of 3.7% in the gap in educational attainment at S4 between the least and most deprived communities, in contrast to a reduction of 12.5% across Scotland.
- In 2015 an estimated 22% of people in Aberdeenshire earned less than the living wage (an increase of 1.2% from 2014)
- In 2013/14 8.1% of first time mothers in Aberdeenshire were under the age of 19, however Ward 6 (Peterhead South and Cruden) has almost double the national average.
- During 2014/15 7,627 people in Aberdeenshire accessed information advice services, a significant increase from 1,312 people in the previous year. The Westhill CAB manages the largest amount of private debt of any CAB network in Scotland.



A research tender is being prepared to commission an information sharing framework and assessment of current child poverty levels across Aberdeenshire. This will also help us to understand why figures for certain areas are markedly different to comparator areas across Scotland. Different approaches to tackling child poverty will have to be implemented according to individual family circumstances.

APPENDIX FOUR - Proposed LOIP Priority: Reducing alcohol consumption

Why is this important in Aberdeenshire?

Reducing alcohol consumption will have significant benefits for all communities and partners across Aberdeenshire. Alcohol-related hospital admissions are a likely proxy measure for a range of other alcohol-related social, physical, mental and legal problems. Age related factors can lead to increased drinking, such as social isolation and loneliness, life transitions such as retirement and bereavement, medication use, dementia and frailty – which is important given our ageing demographic in Aberdeenshire.

- 20% more alcohol is purchased in Scotland than in England and Wales – with the majority of this being purchased in off licenses and supermarkets
- 1 in 20 deaths in Grampian are due to alcohol. The cost of alcohol related hospital admissions for NHS Grampian is estimated to be over £7million per annum, which rises to £17million if partially-attributed alcohol deaths are included.
- Individuals of a lower socio-economic status are more likely to experience higher levels of alcohol-related harm than their counterparts with a higher socio-economic status, despite drinking similar amounts, for example they are twice as likely to be hospitalised or die from alcohol-related factors.

Big Picture Figures in Aberdeenshire

Current status	43% drink above sensible limits; 10,400 dependent drinkers; 14% engaged with specialist services. 27 alcohol directly-related deaths in 2014.
Long term	Signs of improvement in school age people over past 3-4 years. Fewer 15 year olds have had a proper alcoholic drink but we are still 6% above the National average.
Medium term	Rate of those drinking above recommended limits stubbornly staying at 43%. Minimum unit pricing and control in the growth of supermarket off-sales are key. We have seen an increase in alcohol related deaths since 2010 from 8.11 per 100,000 to 10.3.
Short term	Alcohol related hospital admissions have declined to 306 per 100,000 from their peak of 437 in 07/08. Despite recent increases, the alcohol death rate is consistently lower than Scotland but still historically high compared to 20 years ago and European rates.

Partners have chosen to focus on reduction of alcohol consumption as opposed to substance misuse more widely, as only 14% of those who are dependent drinkers engage with services currently. A focus on changing the culture of around alcohol consumption is where the CPP can provide the greatest 'added value', for example through a focus on; the role of licensing boards, lobbying central Government, education (adults) and increasing professional understanding of alcohol consumption. The ADP is a partnership operating on behalf of the CPP and this priority will be pursued through the deliver and refinement of the ADP's delivery plan.

APPENDIX FIVE - Proposed LOIP Priority: Access to affordable transport

Why is this important in Aberdeenshire?

Travel offers the means to “reach essential opportunities such as a jobs, education, shops and friends which affect the quality of life. Lack of mobility is inextricably linked to social disadvantage and exclusion”. All partners have identified access to transport as a key concern and transport features prominently in all community engagement feedback.

- Adults in Aberdeenshire are significantly more likely to own a car – 85% as opposed to 69% nationally. However, this may be due to the lack of alternative transport options (rather than a lifestyle choice or as a consequence of income levels).
- 79% of people in Aberdeenshire find local services fairly or very convenient, an increasing trend since 2011, but below our 84% target. The percentage of bus users who are very or fairly satisfied with the quality of public transport has been decreasing annually since 2011, but remains above the national average.
- Consultation with Citizens’ Panel members found that 37% expressed no interest in reducing their car usage. The most frequently given reasons for not replacing car journeys with other modes of transport were; the safety and convenience of walking and cycling, the reliability and availability of public transport and time constraints.
- Nationally, 76% of people aged 75+ and 35% of those aged 60-74 do not use the internet, which has implications for the roll out of digital services aimed at this demographic. In addition, significant portions of Aberdeenshire do not have access to the 3G or super-fibre broadband networks and there are issues regarding literacy.

What additional ‘added value’ can the CPP provide?

Significant amounts of work are already underway to improve our transport networks, in which many partners are already playing an active role. For example; investment in road, rail and cycling infrastructure improvements, multi-modal transport studies, Park & Choose Facilities, Integrated Travel Towns, City Region Deal, HTAP and support for demand responsive transport. Issues related to accessibility of transport may also be addressed through actions to support the reduction of child poverty (e.g. financial inclusion/season ticket loans etc.) and to help support our communities to become stronger, more inclusive and integrated. There may be little further we can do to improve outcomes related to this priority.

Options for addressing this priority

Joint transport procurement process for partners (pooling collective resource)	Training and support for volunteer drivers.
Participatory Budgeting – working with communities to tender for bus service provision	Raising awareness of the impact of transport on service users and communities within our individual organisations.
Focus on the provision of co-located hubs/service points for services which can be decentralised or delivered online (reducing the demand for transport).	Focussing on specific areas of need for a time limited period, e.g. exceptionally rural areas through a Locality Plan.
Lobbying the private sector and national and central government for increased funding for concessionary passes.	Further research to define the areas of greatest need and the requirement for transport.

APPENDIX SIX - Proposed underpinning principle: Supporting our communities to become stronger, more integrated and inclusive'

Executive members are evenly split as to whether 'Stronger communities' should be included as a LOIP priority or underpinning principle. 'Successful, inclusive and resilient communities with the confidence, capability and capacity to tackle the things that matter to them' was included as a priority within our SOA and variations of this wording also feature within our new 2016-2019 Local Community Plans.

- By 2037 the population of Aberdeenshire is projected to increase by 17.3%, compared to 8.8% nationally and the largest component of the projected population change will be net migration.
- The largest population increase is expected in the 75+ age group, loneliness and social isolation can increase the risk of premature death by 30% for older people.
- 13% of people in Aberdeenshire have participated in a consultation or engagement exercise and 27% of adults have given up their time to volunteer within the past 12 months (figures decreasing annually). The majority of people surveyed by the Citizens' Panel are happy to be kept informed, rather than directly involved in decision making and an increasing proportion feel that they have enough opportunities to influence decision making.
- Aberdeenshire generally has a low/average social vulnerability to flooding, however there are a few areas of flood disadvantage – defined as areas of high social vulnerability to flooding which coincide with spatially high-level hazard exposure.
- Our WEMWEBS score remains consistent at 50.63% for adults, showing a long term upward trend.
- 91% of residents stated that they feel 'very' or 'fairly safe' when walking alone in their local neighbourhood after dark

Reasons for inclusion as a principle	Reasons for inclusion as a priority
Difficulty in measuring these concepts and multiple interpretation. Fragmented responsibility further compounds this.	To increase its prominence and ensure it does not get 'forgotten'.
This principle is already implicit within each of the priority areas and our Engagement strategies. For example, through the implementation of place-based approaches.	There are various mechanisms for measurement through existing and third sector KPIs
Action to support communities is a legislative requirement under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Makes a clear commitment to communities, allowing the Partnership to be held to account and supporting the 'shift of resources' and cultural change.
Action to support communities is best taken and co-ordinated at a local level, for example local action taken to support those affected by the New Year flooding.	Making a clear statement regarding the growth of personal/collective responsibility.

