

MINUTE
of
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

**Minute of meeting held at 1.30pm in the The Edge, Barrhead Road, Newton
Mearns on 3 October 2024.**

Present:

Councillor O'Donnell, Leader ERC; Councillor Buchanan

Steven Quinn, Chief Executive, East Renfrewshire Council ; Louise Pringle, Director of Business Operations and Partnerships; David McPhee, Place Director, Scottish Government; Mo Rooney, Place Director, Scottish Government; Julie Murray, Chief Officer, East Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP); Lee McLaughlin, Head of Recovery and Intensive Services, HSCP; Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie, Police Scotland; Superintendent David Reid, Police Scotland; Anne Marie Kennedy, Chair, VAER; Allan Dick-West College Scotland; John Binning- Policy Lead, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; Group Commander Alan Coughtrie, Scottish Fire and Rescue; Anthony McReavy, Chief Executive, ERCLT; Ruth Gallagher, Chief Executive, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire; Susie Scott, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland; Steven Frew, Stakeholder Engagement, Scottish Enterprise.

Councillor Owen O'Donnell, Chair

Apologies: Councillor Gordon Wallace; Liz Connolly, Principal, West College Scotland; Emilia Crighton, Director of Public Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Colin Neil, Director of Finance, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Attending: Jamie Reid and Julie Breslin, East Renfrewshire Council

INTRODUCTION

1. Councillor O'Donnell welcomed those attending and invited all present to contribute to the discussion.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board considered and approved the Minute of the meeting on 9 October 2023.

CHIEF OFFICERS PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP REPORT

3. Councillor O'Donnell invited Ms McLaughlin to introduce the Chief Officer's Public Protection Group Report. The report provides an overview of the partnership working over the last year to protect vulnerable adults and children across East Renfrewshire. The ongoing impact of the pandemic combined with the cost-of-living crisis continues to impact the most vulnerable residents in a number of ways including risk of financial harm, mental wellbeing and domestic violence.

Ms McLaughlin noted work of Child and Adult Protection, Violence Against Women and Girls, MAPPA and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership. She summarised key achievements of those groups over the period, in particular noting the good work done against the backdrop of the post-pandemic landscape and the cost of living crisis.

Good progress was also noted against Care Inspectorate Improvement Plans over the year, with regular oversight meetings taking place to track progress of work against those.

A summary of public protection activity was provided, indicating that Child Protection referrals increased by 48% over the year, with Adult Support and Protection also increasing by 10%. This represented a 27% increase in Adult Support and Protection referrals over the previous 2 years and reflected a growing trend noted since the introduction of new legislation.

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) referrals increased by 16%, and there has been a 33% increase in the number of children discussed as part of MARAC.

Ms McLaughlin also outlined the response to national budget pressures, outlining which services are being prioritised and how those priorities would be met.

Councillor O'Donnell thanked Ms McLaughlin and invited comments and questions from the Board members.

Mr McPhee asked for information on the drivers causing the increase in referrals. It was explained that there were many factors rather than one compelling factor. In particular, the impact of the pandemic on mental health, increase in stress levels, rise in financial abuse, the cost of living crisis and associated impacts on alcohol and drug use were all cited. This situation was mirrored across Scotland in benchmarking data.

Mrs Murray clarified that while the percentage increase seems large, this was relative to fairly low registrations and so small numbers could have a large impact in terms of the percentile.

To add further assurance, Chief Inspector Gallie pointed out that confidence to report on issues had increased nationally and campaigns carried out to encourage victims to come forward had been having a positive impact. While this resulted in more referrals, it also allowed vulnerable individuals to access the support they desperately required. Therefore, in many respects, the increase in referrals could be seen as a positive.

Councillor Buchanan then asked about the progress of the “Bairns’ Hoose” project, with 107 interviews having taken place. Ms McLaughlin noted that the number of children making disclosures had increased significantly. The wellbeing of the child was at the heart of the process and this was having a much more positive impact. She remarked upon the specific training being undertaken by the interviewers involved and the more child centred approach being taken, with improved outcomes as a result.

The recommendations for the Chief Officer’s Public Protection Report were agreed.

- i. Discuss the high-level public protection activity outlined within the report and identify any areas for improvement to the Chief Officer Public Protection group on public protection partnership arrangements within East Renfrewshire.
- ii. Agree the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection Group continues to provide annual updates to the CPP concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provides assurance that people and communities are being kept safe.

ANNUAL REVIEW 2023/2024: COMMUNITY PLAN END YEAR REPORT

4. Councillor O’Donnell invited Ms Pringle to introduce the Community Plan End Year Report.

Ms Pringle advised the purpose of this report is to present progress on the performance of the Community Planning Partnership plan and to demonstrate how the Partnership is meeting its strategic outcomes.

The Community Plan sets out the Community Planning Partnership’s (CPP) long term vision for East Renfrewshire through five strategic outcomes. The Plan incorporates Fairer East Ren, the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, required under the Community Empowerment Act. Fairer East Ren (FER) is focused on tackling inequalities and closing the gap between communities in East Renfrewshire.

The CPP indicators are mainly national measures as these tend to look at systematic changes across multiple areas including health, community safety and protection and employment. There are also some more local measures taken from the Citizens’ Panel.

Ms Pringle presented the key highlights under each of the five strategic outcomes.

Outcome 1: Early Years and Vulnerable Young People

The Community Plan indicators for this outcome focus on population level measures including life expectancy at birth, the dependency ratio of children and young people, healthy birthweight (which had decreased slightly following a spike in the previous year) and child poverty. Most of these measures have remained static or changed in a positive direction over the last year and compare favourably to the Scottish average. We continue to have higher than average children and young people dependency ratios, which can put pressure on service demand.

Within the Community Plan there are Fairer East Ren intermediate outcomes with a focus on inequalities, including a target to reduce child poverty. Most recent data showed this had decreased slightly, but remains similar to the previous year's figure. East Renfrewshire continues to be below the national average.

Outcome 2: Learning, Life and Work

The proportion of school leavers in East Renfrewshire achieving a positive destination remains above the national average.

The proportion of residents aged 16–65 years who are economically active remains high and above the national average, with FER indicators also showing high levels of participation rates for 16-19 year olds and levels of 16-64 year olds claiming out of work benefits at 1.8%, compared to the national average of 3.1%.

Outcome 3: Environment and Economy

Figures for the adult population with qualifications at RQF level 4 (HND/Degree) and above are over 70%, reinforcing that a high proportion of East Renfrewshire residents are highly skilled.

However, there has been a continued decrease in the percentage of residents who are satisfied or very satisfied with East Renfrewshire as a place to live. This decreased to 82%. Analysis work is underway with the research provider to explore the deeper causes of this.

There had been a slight decrease of Carbon Dioxide emissions per resident, but this was expected to fluctuate slightly across the years, while remaining below the Scottish average. It was noted that Council emissions were 8% of the local emissions.

Outcome 4: Safe, Supportive Communities

Performance under this outcome reinforces East Renfrewshire's reputation as one of the safest places to live in Scotland. This outcome can only be delivered through effective partnership working and where intelligence is shared to target resourcing.

There has been a very slight increase in crimes reported per 10,000 population to 238.5, however, this is well below the national average. Furthermore, there is an increase in residents reporting that they feel a sense of belonging to their community since a dip that coincided with the pandemic.

Outcome 5: Older people and people with long term conditions

The Community Plan indicators do not show any significant change against last year, remaining static.

To ensure our residents are safe and socially connected we measure several indicators through our FER plan including domestic abuse outcomes. Indicators show that there has been a positive impact in outcomes for women experiencing domestic abuse, care at home packages and significant reduction in public nuisance calls.

Ms Pringle also noted the progress made in terms of Locality Planning and referred to the continued work with partners to reduce the inequalities experienced by residents in areas where outcomes in health, employment, education and experience of crime can be disproportionately poorer when compared with other areas of East Renfrewshire. Within East Renfrewshire, these locality planning areas are Auchenback; Arthurlie, Dunterlie, & Dovecothall (ADD2); Neilston and Thornliebank.

Councillor O'Donnell thanked Ms Pringle for her presentation and invited comments and questions.

Chief Inspector Gallie once again reflected upon the crime figures, reporting that Police Scotland's methodology had changed, with crime reports now raised at the first point of contact, which had impacted the figures. He pointed out that East Renfrewshire's population was growing at a 2 to 1 ratio higher than the national average, which also impacts on this particular measure. He also indicated that the latest figures, against the latest census data, showed a 2% decrease in crimes reported per 10,000 population.

Mr McPhee stated that most Local Authorities would be delighted with the figures shown in the report, in particular, he highlighted school leavers in positive destinations. He asked for clarity on what more could be done in this area, suggesting that some individuals, such as students, would not necessarily be logged as "economically active" while still having a positive destination. Ms Pringle assured partners that this was very much part of the thinking in the new Place to Grow document, that would be discussed later in the agenda. The document would consider what success looked like and how to utilise the demographics of the area to the best effect.

Mr Quinn stated that while it was relatively easy for people to get into what is termed a positive destination, sustaining that destination was the real challenge. He pointed out that many young people would leave East Renfrewshire in pursuit of better job prospects so it was important to offer prospects that kept young people in East Renfrewshire by working to improve the number of positive destinations in the local area. However, it would have to be accepted that a number of young people would leave to achieve success.

In response to a question about dependency ratios, Mr Quinn advised that children and retired people were the most resource dependent demographics in terms of public services. It was important to have a population base that, as much as possible, could self-sustain its service requirements. He also noted there was a risk that those working in East

Renfrewshire may find it too expensive to live here. Mrs Murray supported this view, by indicating that many older people were moving to East Renfrewshire from other areas, which had impact on service delivery. She particularly referred to the difficulty in attracting people to care at home posts and the significant number of care home places.

In response to a request for more contextual information relating to the Police reporting statistics, Chief Inspector Gallie agreed that there would be an opportunity within the new Place to Grow vision to provide a more contextual picture.

There was also discussion around the indicators and it was agreed that it was important for they align to more national family of indicators for benchmarking purposes.

In response to a question from Councillor Buchanan, Mr Reid indicated that cost of living data and banking information was being looked at to better identify where partners could provide assistance with financial difficulties for residents. He referred to the work of the Smart Data Foundry, a subsidiary of the University of Edinburgh, which has been commissioned by the Council, to add more information on those issues in future.

This led to a discussion on data sharing when it came to personal debts and financial circumstances of people who had made contact with the Council's Money Advice and Rights Team. Councillor O'Donnell indicated that he was happy with discussions around data sharing in terms of people experiencing financial difficulties where it was appropriate. However, this could be tricky in cases of Domestic Violence and financial coercive control, where the individual may not wish their details to be shared with other organisations.

The recommendations for the Annual Review 2022/2023: Community Plan End Year Report were agreed.

- i. noted the Community Plan and Fairer East Ren End Year Report;
- ii. noted the continued phased progress for Locality Planning;
- iii. approved the Annual Progress Reports on the Community Plan and Locality Plans, in principle, for publication to communities and delegate responsibility to the Council's Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader to make minor amendments as required; and
- iv. noted that additional contextual data would be added to the following year's reports based on the Place to Grow model.

A PLACE TO GROW

5. Councillor O'Donnell invited Mr Reid to introduce the item on "A Place to Grow".

Mr Reid spoke about the existing Community Plan being structured around five outcomes. Over recent years the strategic planning landscape has become increasingly complex, with significant turnover in the Council's and CPPs senior leadership since the pandemic, requiring a shared understanding and stronger relationships to be built among new

Councillors and senior leaders of the area, We have also faced a number of challenges and opportunities over the past few years and we need to reset as a partnership what our key ambitions are for the future. A full engagement process has been undertaken with partners, key stakeholders and elected members to help shape a “A Place to Grow”.

“A Place to Grow” is comprised of three pillars. A future where:-

- our children and young people flourish;
- our communities and places thrive; and
- we all live well.

The importance of each pillar was explained, with a summary of the drivers for change, what the data evidence and consultation process has told us and the sort of place that residents wanted East Renfrewshire to be. The pillars are rooted in the ambitions and aspirations of the residents of East Renfrewshire and will hopefully be relatable and shared by many.

In conclusion, Mr Reid provided some information on how the priority outcomes set out in the document are intended to be achieved. There will be a number of further leadership interviews and partnership workshops taking place to explore the governance requirements for “A Place to Grow” and work is underway on a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan, embedded as part of the Place to Grow Delivery Plans, and expected to take effect from April 2025. A measurement framework is being put in place to track progress; and work was underway on a communications plan to let staff, partners and communities know about the new strategy, as well as details of a community conference to take place in Spring 2025.

Mr Reid went on to summarise how each of the key strategic plans for each of the Community Planning Partners linked in to the shared vision indicated by the three pillars. It was expressed that this document would recognise the strong sense of community, the diversity of those communities and focus on the work being carried out and the important role of each partner organisation. It set out what the Community Planning Partnership will do, to show that meetings such as this were not being held simply for the sake of it, but were to inform better working practices and more efficient, more responsive services that would benefit everyone in the area.

Councillor O'Donnell thanked Mr Reid for his presentation and invited comments and questions.

Broad support for the plan was expressed around the table. In particular, with the scope of the engagement work that had taken place to produce a vision that was very much rooted in East Renfrewshire. There was an acceptance that this is the vision and further work is required to develop the plans that will help us deliver it.

The vision will take us to 2040, and Councillor O'Donnell indicated that this was a significant, ambitious piece of work, with many aspects of public service delivery likely to change over that period, with the HSCP changes being an example. Community ownership

and engagement, alongside strong partnership working, which was already evident in East Renfrewshire was identified as key in ensuring that public services were shaped in a way that best meet the needs of residents. The support of the voluntary sector in helping to shape and deliver services was also recognised.

After congratulating Mr Reid and his team on their work to put A Place to Grow together, the recommendations for A Place to Grow were agreed and the CPP Board:

- i. approved and adopted A Place to Grow as the Community Plan for East Renfrewshire, and to delegate responsibility to the Council's Chief Executive to make minor amendments as required;
- ii. agreed for the development of a new Local Outcome Improvement Plan informed by A Place to Grow; and
- iii. agreed to support the next phase of activity in relation to creating stronger governance structures.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6. No other business raised.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. The next Community Planning Partnership Board meeting would be arranged by Ms Breslin, with partners to be notified once a date was secured.