

## CPP Recovery and Renewal Session, Wednesday 16 September 2020

### Workshop Summary

Lorraine McMillan opened the session by welcoming partners to the first full CPP meeting of the year. Apologies and welcomes to new faces on the partnership were noted (**appendix**). Lorraine covered the objectives of the session:

1. Enable a shared understanding of the impacts of the pandemic on our organisations and communities;
2. Identify and discuss key priorities which will require us to work together and with communities; and
3. Consider what changes are required to our partnership plans and arrangements.

Lorraine referred to developing the Council's Vision for the Future long term strategy and the pre-pandemic intention to shape this with the partnership through 2020. In addition the need for shorter term recovery partnership actions and the importance of working with communities and not doing to.

### The Story of COVID in East Renfrewshire video

The group watched a video that presented data and graphics about the infection; crisis response of partners and the wider impact of the pandemic on socioeconomic factors in East Renfrewshire. Kay noted that the most up to date figures and any other feedback from partners would be incorporated before the video is circulated.

### The Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

There were three broad themed discussions facilitated by different partners – People and Communities; Inclusive Economy and Environment and Connectivity. The aim was to explore challenges and opportunities for partnership action, keeping inequalities, poverty and the involvement of communities at the centre and a range of priorities were identified and are summarised in the following pages. Feedback after the workshop suggest partners are already arranging to work together and progress a number of these.

### Next Steps

In opening this final discussion Lorraine McMillan acknowledged the current meeting and reporting arrangements are no longer fit for purpose. She stated the need to refresh how our community planning partnership operates in terms of groups, governance of action plans, delivery and performance. The PAR worked in the past however it's not what we need now. All in attendance were in agreement of the need for a more agile approach including -

- Short term multi-agency approaches to the big issues and projects, without seeking permission. Maximising skills and expertise across the partnership and working at pace. Investigate 'huddle' and 'hub' models.
- Assess what good partnership working looked and felt like in the last 6 months to protect and widen the ways of working.
- Increase visibility of staff across the partnership to each other and to communities for effective collaboration.

## People and Communities - Ruth Gallagher, Chief Officer, Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire

### Discussion questions

- How do we maintain this great level of community engagement and community action?
- What do we need to do together to tackle the real concerns around mental health across people of all ages and demographics?
- How can we work together to create fully connected communities given the links to improved health, wellbeing, access to benefits, jobs and learning and business?
- What are the needs and opportunities for partnership working to support children and adult learners, in particular those most at risk of falling behind?

### A snapshot of the discussion

There was consensus that this theme is the glue that holds everything else together. “There is a renewed sense of community and we’re seeing neighbours now in a way we weren’t before.”

Partners recognised the value of the support delivered by the community sector via third sector organisations and new neighbourhood mutual aid groups. This has helped to strengthen partnerships between the voluntary and statutory sector and bring new ways of working that will help to shape how we support people in the future. There were many references to providing support via hubs and interest in how we link these. “We need to refocus on HOW we do our services, not why we do them”.

“Mental ill health and isolation are growing issues for people of all ages – not just older groups or those in education. More people are recognising and accepting help where they may never have before.”

Digital inclusion was seen as key with opportunities to build on the early success of the Connecting Scotland Programme.

### Areas for action

- Build on the concepts of ‘stay local’ and ‘shop local’ for economic and social gain.
- Shift engagement style, avoid slipping into past routines with same groups/networks.
- Make residents aware of their influence.
- Engage shielding people as many are ‘new customers’ of our services.
- [Mental health and isolation support] Make it all right and easy to ask and all right to give. Transfer how we do this in the workplace to how we work in communities.
- Avoid medicalising challenges and boost lower level approaches to support without complexities of referral pathways and eligibility criteria.
- Potentially link child recovery hubs and employability/benefits services with the Community Hub model.
- Pool services into ‘Hubs’ around central issues such as family learning; transport and digital inclusion.
- Link digital connectedness with social connectedness.
- Build digital skills in line with business need and concentrate on those furthest from labour market.

## Inclusive Economy – Stephen Frew, Partnerships Specialist, Scottish Enterprise

### Discussion questions

- How do we unite our procurement powers to create opportunities for residents, communities and businesses?
- What do we need to do together to:
  - Protect jobs;
  - Support fair work; and
  - Provide support in particular to those with most barriers to work
- Do we hold an accurate view of the land and assets across the area? How do we work together and with communities on making the best use of them?
- How could we make City Deal projects work better for us post-covid and as mechanism to tackle inequalities?
- What are our opportunities for fostering more locally owned and socially minded enterprises in East Renfrewshire?

### A snapshot of the discussion

There was strong support for a community wealth building approach and moving away from traditional economic development. “Bringing the economic recovery together with community recovery should be a priority. Local communities and local businesses need to be at the heart of and benefit from our economic recovery.”

Examples of utilising procurement powers to create opportunities were shared with a sense that there was scope do more.

“Building community awareness of contracts, the opportunities for community benefit and how to go about influencing should be a starting place but clear and plain language communication is essential.”

### Areas for action

- Join up procurement powers.
- Build local awareness about procurement, benefits and scope for influence. Involve local groups/projects earlier in the process to shape benefits – build a wish list.
- Increase work with local business to establish what support they need to bid better and secure contracts.
- Large businesses supporting smaller businesses to build capacity.
- A strategy around plural ownership and fair work in East Ren.
- Update our strategy for developing social enterprise.
- Tackling unemployment

## Environment and Connectivity – Andy Cahill, Director of Environment, East Renfrewshire Council

### Discussion areas and question

- Inequalities and poverty - a cross cutting theme
- Build better not just renewal
- Transport opportunities across all Council area
- Infrastructure opportunities including community benefits
- Digital infrastructure
- Locality planning
- Partnership approach
- Community involvement

How do we, as a Community Planning Partnership, exploit our potential to reduce inequalities in transport, masterplans and digital infrastructure?

### A snapshot of the discussion

Changes in transport use, active travel and working from home are showing new opportunities for partnership work and the recent transport studies confirmed inequalities for people on low incomes, people with a disability and older adults.

Key programmes include Eastwood Leisure Centre, Learning and Leisure in Neilston campus and new council build houses. The Local Development Plan 3 will bring about large land releases and new masterplans being required.

*No One Left Behind* priority on youth and local figures on 16-24 year old unemployment suggest travel and access will be critical for unlocking youth unemployment.

### Areas for action

- Link community transport and community hub developments. Ruth to progress.
- Streamlining of the learner journey is crucial, Liz and Andy to discuss. College involvement particularly in Neilston.
- Community involvement in masterplanning for Local Development Plan 3.
- Bridging locality planning with place planning to avoid duplication of processes and create smarter, fewer plans with the communities concerned.
- Police Scotland and ERC Corporate Assets to work together on co-location opportunities at Eastwood Park.
- Unlock youth unemployment through travel and access improvements.

## Appendix - Participants

Department for Work and Pensions	Robert McKay	Manager
East Renfrewshire Council	Lorraine McMillan ( <b>Chair</b> )	Chief Executive
	Caroline Innes	Deputy Chief Executive
	Michael McKernan	Business Development Team Leader
	Mark Ratter	Head of Service and new Director of Education
	Andy Cahill ( <b>Environment and Connectivity Theme Lead</b> )	Director of Environment
	Louise Pringle	Head of Communities, Revenues and Change
	Jamie Reid	Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager
	Kay McIntosh ( <b>Lead Facilitator</b> )	Strategic Services Development Manager
East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust	Anthony McReavy	Chief Executive
Health and Social Care Partnership	Kate Rocks	Chief Social Work Officer
	Candy Millard	Head of Adult Health and Social Services
Police Scotland	Bryan McGeoch	Chief Inspector and Area Commander for East Renfrewshire
Scottish Enterprise	Stephen Frew ( <b>Inclusive Economy Theme Lead</b> )	Specialist - Partnerships
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service	Jim McNeil	Local Senior Officer / Area Commander
	Alan Coughtrie	Group Commander
Scottish Government	Wendy Wilkinson	Deputy Director for Safer Communities and Location Director for East Renfrewshire
Skills Development Scotland	Sharon Kelly	Operations Director - West Region
SPT	John Binning	Principal Policy Officer
Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire	Anne Marie Kennedy	Chair of the Board
	Ruth Gallacher ( <b>People and Communities Theme Lead</b> )	Chief Executive Officer
West College Scotland	Liz Connolly	Principal and Chief Executive

## Apologies

Department for Work and Pensions	Hugh Mulholland	Senior Customer Service Leader
East Renfrewshire Council	Mhairi Shaw	Director of Education
Police Scotland	Hazel Hendren	Chief Superintendent and Divisional Commander for Greater Glasgow
Police Scotland	Joe McKearns	Superintendent for Glasgow South
Scottish Enterprise	Brian Connolly	Specialist - Community Wealth Building
Skills Development Scotland	James Russell	Director of Careers Information, Advice & Guidance Operations

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# Thematic review

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# Background

The normal cycle of Community Planning Partnership meetings in 2020 was disrupted due to COVID-19.

In both September 2020 and March 2021, CPP colleagues met via Microsoft Teams and discussed the role of the CPP in recovery and renewal across the authority. It was agreed that there should be a focus on action linked to three main themes:

- Community Wellbeing
- Community Connectivity
- Community Wealth Building

This report is intended to provide a summary of these suggested actions and responsible network group.



Community  
Wellbeing

Community  
Connectivity

Community  
Wealth  
Building

# Community Wellbeing

Mental ill health and isolation are growing issues for people of all ages – not just older groups or those in education. More people are recognising and accepting help where they may never have before

We need to refocus on HOW we do our services, not why we do them

Strengthen the Third Sector (strategy or otherwise) and link to TSI manifesto	Wellbeing Network/Partnership Lead: VAER Include: SFRS
Recognise shielding (clinically high risk) people as a discrete group and consider how we can support them on an ongoing basis	
Sustain and build the Community Hub model	
Make it easier for people to reach out and ask for low levels of support	
Use libraries better eg as wellbeing hubs	
Improve front line staff and volunteer awareness and understanding of mental health through mental health first aid and suicide prevention (SFR to co-lead with a voluntary sector partner?)	CLD Partnership (with increased partner involvement)
Strengthen our community learning offer	
Increase resident awareness of their influence and boost Have Your Say area of ERC website	Safer East Ren
Build a stronger link between Police and Fire and community/third sector to support vulnerable households and build prevention and early intervention approaches	
Develop peer to peer/community led approaches for home safety risks	
Create a portal for sharing observations and noting actions in relation to sharing information on population changes.	
Involve Police and other partners at earlier stages of land planning, changing the population and risk profiles	Locality Planning Steering groups
Pool services into 'hubs' around central issues such as family learning, transport and digital inclusion	
Strengthen locality planning	
Maximise the impact of Dunterlie Regeneration Plan	
Link locality planning and place planning	
Make best use of key facilities in the localities and their potential to support improvement in a range of outcomes (DIY Dunterlie model worked very well)	
Improve community involvement in LDP 3	
Maximise the impact of Neilston Masterplan on local outcomes (consider West College outreach programme)	

# Community Connectivity

There is a renewed sense of community and we're seeing neighbours now in a way we weren't before.

Roll out digital skills training	Digital Inclusion Partnership / Digital Network (Community Hub)
Deliver Connecting Scotland Programme	
Conduct user research on digital inclusion in East Renfrewshire	
Prioritise youth travel for DWP and SPT transport support	A (new) Transport group
Link community transport and the community hub developments	
Develop smart transport scheduling between Education, HSCP and with SPT support	
Make best use of SPTE funds to support community transport	
Promote and encourage active travel	

# Community Wealth Building

Bringing the economic recovery together with community recovery should be a priority. Local communities and local businesses need to be at the heart of and benefit from our economic recovery.

Building community awareness of contracts, the opportunities for community benefit and how to go about influencing should be a starting place but clear and plain language communication is essential.

Build on 'stay local, shop local' with Comms.	Strategic & Operational LEPs (DWP on Strategic)
Protect and create jobs through joined up actions	
Increase impact of Supplier Development Programme for local businesses	
Use labour market insights to regional, sectoral and national trends to inform partnership working - LEP	
Enhance PACE support to ensure fast and effective support to employers and workers	
Review the LEPs including consideration of members (Trust, College)	
Create intermediate labour market/volunteering opportunities	
Assess the need to provide support to enable residents (particularly on low income) to access home working jobs - including IT etc.	
Develop supports for longer term unemployed, furthest from the labour market	
Raise awareness of Community Wealth Building	ER Community Wealth Building group?
Develop a physical Youth Hub in existing facility in Barrhead (eg Museum)	
Deliver Youth Guarantee with partners	City Region Planning groups
Establish a Glasgow City Region approach to newly unemployed over 25's	
Consider City Region and Local approach to Community Wealth Building.	
Link national Co-op Development Scotland team/scheme to ER Social Economy development work .	
Consider public sector co-location (Eastwood facility, SE doing this with SDS in West College)	Community Benefits Group
Support home/agile working (considering the changing nature of work and where we work) and provide flexible office/work space eg Digital hub, Community hubs for education, work and study, Neilston campus/town centres. (See North Lanarkshire)	
Develop community wish list - new portal	
Maximise the impact of capital projects/new facilities	
Develop food growing initiatives	New Food Poverty Network