

MINUTE
of
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minute of meeting held at 9.30am in the Hays and Maxton Rooms, Barrhead Foundry on 10 October 2022.

Present:

Councillor Owen O'Donnell (Chair)
John Binning (Strathclyde Partnership For Transport)
Alan Coughtrie (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service)
Anne Marie Kennedy (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire)
Lee McLaughlin (Health and Social Care Partnership)

Lorraine McMillan (East Renfrewshire Council)
David McPhee (Scottish Government)
Louise Pringle (East Renfrewshire Council)
James Russell (Skills Development Scotland)
Mark Sutherland (Police Scotland)
Charlie Tymon (Scottish Fire and Rescue)

Councillor O'Donnell in the Chair

Attending:

Jamie Reid, Strategic Insight and Communities Senior Manager; Julie Breslin, Strategy and Partnerships Manager; and Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillors Tony Buchanan and Gordon Wallace; Emilia Crighton and Colin Neil (NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde); Janice Kennedy (Scottish Enterprise); David McCarrey (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service); and Julie Murray (Health & Social Care Partnership).

INTRODUCTION

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

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. The Board considered and approved the Minute of the meeting of 30 August 2021.

CHIEF OFFICER'S PUBLIC PROTECTION GROUP REPORT

3. Councillor O'Donnell invited Ms McLaughlin to introduce the Chief Officer's Public Protection Group report.

The report provided an overview of the work of the Chief Officers Public Protection Group 2021/22 advising that the group was chaired by East Renfrewshire Council and consisted of a number of core members and associate members who attended as required.

The group had a number of functions including, providing leadership and accountability across all public protection arrangements within East Renfrewshire; co-ordinating strategic developments within public protection; scrutinising self-evaluation of public protection activity; and reviewing and directing improvements on performance and audit, amongst other things.

The report outlined that the impact of Covid-19 had increased the risk of harm which had led to an increase in demand and complexity of needs when protecting vulnerable children and adults. A summary of activities for 2021/22 was provided and included an oversight and endorsement of the Public Protection Development Programme; successful test of change and development of a permanent dedicated Adult Support and Protection Team; oversight of activity and performance of Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA); and oversight and scrutiny of the Violence Against Women & Girls Partnership, which included development of the Domestic Abuse Pathway.

Ms McLaughlin reported that the group had met more regularly during the Coronavirus Pandemic, to help reduce the increased risk of harm to vulnerable children and adults, and had oversight of two complicated large scale investigations in care homes during that time. External validation had taken place including in relation to a Joint Inspection of Services for Children at Risk of Harm, which had highlighted "outstanding and sector leading" practices with a grade of "excellent" for the impact on children and young people. In addition the large scale investigations in local care homes had been particularly challenging but positive outcomes had been achieved due to the hard work and dedication of Health and Social Care Partnership staff and partner organisations. Work was progressing on the change to Moving Forward to Change (MF2C) which was expected to be submitted for accreditation in 2023, and an independent observation of the East Renfrewshire Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference completed by Safe Lives had reported a range of strengths and best practice.

Having heard officers comment that partnership working in East Renfrewshire remained strong, the Board:-

- (a) agreed that the East Renfrewshire Chief Officer Public Protection Group continue to provide annual updates to the Community Planning Partnership concerning public protection scrutiny and improvement activity that provided assurance that people and communities were being kept safe; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the report and comments made.

2021-2022 ANNUAL REVIEW – COMMUNITY PLAN END YEAR REPORT

4. Councillor O'Donnell invited Ms Pringle to introduce the 2021-2022 Annual Review – Community Plan End Year report.

The report provided a summary of key progress made in relation to Community Planning and Fairer East Ren outcomes and identified areas where ongoing attention and action was required.

Ms Pringle gave an overview of the report, highlighting that this was the 4th annual report and the majority of indicators had moved in the right direction of travel or had remained the same. She provided further information on the five key outcomes, advising that, in terms of Outcome 1 “Early Years and Vulnerable Young People” there had been a slight decrease in families accessing financial advice, but it was expected that this may start to increase due to the cost of living crisis and remained an area of priority. In Outcome 2 “Learning, Life and Work” she reported an increase in the number of school leavers entering a positive destination, which was above the national average, but there had been a decline in the percentage of the population who were economically active which compared unfavourably to the national level. Positive progress had been recorded in relation to the remaining outcomes, and further information was provided on each priority including steps for achievement; outcome indicators; and a snapshot of success in 2021-22.

Ms Pringle reported that a number of engagement exercises had taken place in relation to locality planning, including some participatory budgeting exercises, adding that local action plan work tied in with the locality plan. Some of the priority areas highlighted during engagement included, feeling safe; increased and targeted services for young people; investment in the physical environment; and loneliness & isolation. In conclusion, she advised that the 2021-22 Fairer East Ren Recovery Transition Delivery Plans would be rolled forward for 2022-23 to allow partnership working to take place to review our strategic planning approach and develop ambitious, longer term delivery plans that would allow East Renfrewshire to thrive and work to create a fairer future with all.

During discussion, it was highlighted that further work required to be done to encourage economically inactive people to return to work, including by working with GPs to allow people to remain in work rather than being signed off sick; and to attract early retirees back in to the labour market.

Having noted the information provided and comments made, the Board:-

- (a) approved the annual report for publication; and
- (b) otherwise, noted the report and comments made.

FAIRER EAST REN DELIVERY – INTERIM 2022-2023 PLAN

5. Councillor O’Donnell invited Mr Reid to introduce the report on the Fairer East Ren Delivery – Interim 2022-2023 Plan.

Mr Reid reported that the interim delivery plan had been rolled forward to 2022-23 due to the ongoing effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic. He added that this was a statutory area of community planning introduced to close the opportunity gap between communities, and that a workshop scheduled to take place after this meeting would allow more detailed discussion and long term planning on this issue to take place. The areas to be addressed were, reduction of child poverty in East Renfrewshire; ensuring East Renfrewshire residents were healthy and active and had the right skills for learning life and work; ensuring East Renfrewshire’s transport links were accessible, attractive and seamless; improving residents’ mental health and wellbeing; and ensuring residents were safe and more socially connected with their communities.

Mr Reid added that, although East Renfrewshire had lower levels of child poverty than many other areas, it was expected that a further 950 children in East Renfrewshire could be affected by poverty this year due to the cost of living crisis, and this remained a priority area. There

would be a continued focus on inclusive growth; drafting of a transport strategy and action plan; and improving wellbeing in communities, particularly for the families of people with Additional Support Needs. Work would take place with all partners including colleagues from the third sector and Voluntary action to move the immediate priorities forward, and the planned workshop would look beyond the immediate focus towards a 5-10 year action plan.

Mr Sutherland referred to the 3 year Police Action Plan which was due to end on 31 March 2023, advising that the next plan was currently being drafted and would be aligned with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Mrs McMillan referred to discussions which had been ongoing within the City Region regarding the need to focus on the expected increase in the number of children affected by poverty which could also have an impact on other areas including anti-social behaviour and child protection.

Mr Russell added that two particular areas of focus for Skills Development Scotland and the Scottish Government was adult upskilling and reskilling to raise people's income levels, and bringing workless households into the job market. It was anticipated that progress in both of these areas could improve poverty levels.

Ms Pringle referred to a report which was due to be submitted to East Renfrewshire Council's Cabinet outlining Covid recovery funding of £1.7million to provide immediate support to vulnerable households by topping up payments for children receiving free school meals in primary school; targeting children who received clothing grants but were not entitled to free school meals; provision of extra support for Christmas; and provision of hardship funding, amongst other things. Other areas of support included providing money advice and mental health support.

Having noted the information provided and comments made, the Board approved the Fairer East Ren Delivery – Interim 2022-23 Plan.

INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION SESSIONS: 2022-2023 UPCOMING SESSIONS

6. Councillor O'Donnell invited Ms Breslin to provide an update on information and consultation sessions.

Ms Breslin highlighted that information and consultation sessions had been introduced in 2009 to provide elected members with the opportunity to hear about and influence key partnership areas of work. A wide range of topics had been presented during the sessions, which were held up to four times a year, but they had been put on hold due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. As part of East Renfrewshire's post-pandemic recovery, it was proposed that the sessions should resume and two sessions had been identified for this calendar year. In October, East Renfrewshire Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Council's Money Advice and Rights Team would present their plans to respond to the Cost of Living Crisis. In December, Police Scotland and the Council's Prevention Team would provide an update on Fraud Prevention.

Ms Breslin advised that a further 3-4 sessions would be held in 2023, and asked partners to forward any theme suggestions to her.

The Board noted the information provided.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7. It was reported that a provisional date of Wednesday 20 September 2023 had been proposed for the next Board meeting, and confirmation would be issued in due course.