
CPP Task Group - Improvement Plan Update

16 JUNE 2022

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 The CPP Strategic Board agreed at its meeting on 9th September 2021 to a review of the Community Planning Partnership, and requested that this review was to be concluded by the end of 2021 with outcomes presented to the CPP Strategic Board in the Spring of 2022.
- 1.2 The Board agreed a CPP Improvement Plan on 03 March 2022 (Appendix A) which included 3 main areas of action – **Prioritise, Governance and Performance**. This report provides an update of the progress that has been made to date in relation to the actions within this Improvement Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board:**
 - a) **considers and provides feedback to the proposed revised themes and priorities detailed at Section 4 to reflect the findings of the CPP Task Group work to date (including the key priorities that are emerging from the public survey);**
 - b) **agrees that a draft Work Plan is developed over the summer for consideration by the Joint Programme Board in August 2022 before being presented for approval to the Strategic Board in September 2022;**
 - c) **notes that a further report on a CPP Governance Structure and Performance Framework which reflects the Work Plan will also be considered by the Joint Programme Board in August 2022 before being presented for approval to the Strategic Board in September 2022;**
 - d) **notes that in parallel to the Work Plan, a full review of the current Community Plan is being proposed to be undertaken in 2023/24, including a refreshed Strategic Assessment and the Health Needs Strategic Assessment, which will provide an evidence base for future changes to the Community Plan; and**

- e) notes that this may/will require formal agreement of individual partners through their own governance arrangements.**

3 IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE:

- 3.1 The current Community Plan & Action Plan (also known as the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - LOIP) was approved in May 2018. It set out how the Scottish Borders Community Planning Partnership would work with local communities, businesses and community groups to plan and deliver better services and improve the lives of people who live in the Borders.
- 3.2 The 2018 Community Plan is based on four themes:
- Our Economy, Skills and Learning
 - Our Health, Care & Wellbeing
 - Our Quality of Life
 - Our Place
- 3.3 Within these themes were 15 outcomes, which reflected both the aims and ambition of our communities and the strategic landscape of the Borders at that point in time. A Performance Framework to monitor progress within the was also developed in parallel to the 2018 Community Plan and Action Plan, and this Performance Framework will also be revised in line with the new arrangements.
- 3.4 The CPP Strategic Board agreed at its meeting on 9th September 2021 to a review of the Community Planning Partnership, and requested that this review was to be concluded by the end of 2021 with outcomes presented to the CPP Strategic Board in the Spring of 2022.
- 3.5 The Board agreed a CPP Improvement Plan on 03 March 2022 (Appendix A) which included 3 main areas of action – **Prioritise, Governance and Performance** and that a CPP Task Group should be formed to progress the Improvement Plan.
- 3.6 The CPP Task Group met on 14 March 2022 to consider and progress the first Improvement action –
- Rapid review of existing Community Plan Action Plan and reduce to a few key priorities
 - Strong community engagement piece needed with our communities
 - Clear framework for discussion for community engagement
 - Gather insights from those in delivery roles in front-line positions about their experience and working relationships developed during the pandemic
- 3.7 The Task Group considered the 2018 Community Plan & Action Plan and the current Key Priorities Action Plan themes with a view to reducing and simplifying them. It was also agreed that an online public survey should be created to begin engagement with communities to ask what their key priorities were and the initial findings would be used to inform both the WorkPlan and the place making approach.
- 3.8 The Task Group met again on 9 May and after considerable discussion , agreed that the full impact of the pandemic, the climate emergency, the lack of up to date national statistics/data and the emerging cost of living

crisis is not yet fully known or understood, and that a Work Plan should be drafted in parallel to a full refresh of the Community Plan being undertaken in 2023/24, which will take into account all of these factors and enable a robust evidence base to be built to support and assist decision making.

3.9 In relation to the public consultation, the findings so far indicate the key priorities for our communities are as follows:

1. Making sure everyone has enough money to live on
2. Feeling well – both physically and mentally
3. Increasing the range and availability of sustainable transport / creating better employment opportunities

3.10 In light of all of the above consideration and discussion, the Key Priorities Action Plan will be modified and renamed the CPP Work Plan to address the current shift in the strategic context for the Borders and the known impact and effects of the pandemic and cost of living crisis – particularly in relation to the increased risk of poverty and inequality.

3.11 In taking this proactive approach, the CPP Task Group can also consider and include the parallel work currently taking place in relation to place making and the creation of local Place Plans which are being undertaken by Area Partnership Working Groups, and allow these Place Plans to be formed in conjunction with a refreshed Strategic Assessment and the Health Needs Strategic Assessment, and enable further engagement work to be undertaken to ensure that community views are included.

3.12 The Partnership has also considered presentations on Poverty, Child Poverty, Climate Change and The Promise in recent months, and has recognised that the need for a fair, sustainable and more resilient place to live is greater than ever before. By bringing all of this work and information together, we will have a robust evidence base on which to refresh the current Community Plan in 2023/24.

3.13 The CPP Work Plan and the refreshed Community Plan will be simplified to ensure that they can be understood by all, and therefore can be revisited more easily in future to respond and take into account the biggest issues affecting the Scottish Borders and act on what we need to prioritise.

4 PROPOSED WORKPLAN – 4 THEMES

4.1 The shift in focus from the existing themes and outcomes of the current Community Plan and the proposed new themes are set out below and reflect the response to the need of increased risk of poverty and inequality, with greater emphasis on systemic change and increased empowerment.

4.2 The 4 revised and simplified themes are:

1. Enough money to live on
2. Access to work, learning and training
3. A good place to grow up and live in
4. Enjoying good health and wellbeing

- 4.3 **Theme 1 & 2 – Enough money to live on & Access to work, learning and training:** There are a number of key partnerships groups with strategies and plans in place to support the delivery of this theme – Regional Economic Partnership, Economic Development Group, Local Employability Partnership and the Children and Young Peoples’ Leadership Group. The priority actions being considered include a focus on identifying gaps and barriers in education, employment and training in order to procure or develop provision to meet the needs of people in the Borders, and for the CPP to ensure effective referrals amongst agencies to support those most in need.
- 4.4 Similarly for **Theme 3 – Enjoying good health & wellbeing:** there are a number of key delivery partnerships including the Health & Social Care Partnership, Public Health Team and the Drug & Alcohol Partnership. Proposed key actions could include a commitment to health in all policies (including mental health), and for partners to commit to these actions thus acting as champions by advocating to reduce health inequalities which form part of the overarching outcome of reducing inequalities of the CPP.
- 4.5 For **Theme 4 – A good place to grow up and live in:** Partnership groups include the Community Justice Partnership, Economic Development Board, Borders Housing Network and Police, Fire & Safer Communities Board. Actions will be focussed on taking a more holistic approach to creating vibrant, safe and healthy places to live, supporting people to achieve strong, active resilient and sustainable communities. Tackling climate change in order to value, protect and enhance our local environment and nature, so that the Scottish Borders can be enjoyed now and by future generations.
- 4.6 Consideration will also need to be given to increasing the range and availability of sustainable transport which has been highlighted as a key priority within the public survey.
- 4.7 Within this landscape and context, a key feature of the proposed CPP WorkPlan will be of working in partnership to deliver services which address the needs of communities and build on the learning from the pandemic of how the public, third and community sectors can work differently to deliver positive outcomes and increase resilience.
- 4.8 It is acknowledged that these revised themes and actions may not impact directly on the work of all partners, but it is important that the priorities are meaningful and add value to the work of the Partnership as opposed to reflect existing work. Consideration has also been given to the Anti-Poverty and Child Poverty Strategies and Action Plans.
- 4.9 To support the proposed WorkPlan, proposals in relation to the CPP Governance Structure and a Performance Framework will also be reviewed and updated to reflect this wider context and increased risk of poverty and inequality, and brought to the Strategic Board in September 2022 for approval.
- 4.10 The primary focus of the new Work Plan remains to tackle increasing poverty and inequality which is the most critical challenge faced by both our communities and community planning partners in the Borders

5 NEXT STEPS

5.1 On the assumption that these proposals are approved by the Strategic Board in June, the following next steps are outlined:

- The CPP Task Group will continue to progress the CPP Improvement Plan, developing a Work Plan, Governance Structure and Performance Framework which reflects the Work Plan.
- A timetable is developed by the CPP Task Group over the summer which sets out the required resources, key actions, strategic assessments, continued community engagement and milestones that need to be undertaken in order to refresh the current Community Plan in 2023/24, and which will provide a robust evidence base on which decisions can be made

5.2 The above will be required to be brought to the CPP Joint Programme Board in August 2022 for consideration, and onwards to the Strategic Board for approval in September 2022.

Approved by

Name Jenni Craig

Title SBC Director Resilient Communities

Author(s)

Name	Designation and Contact Number
Jenni Craig	Director, Resilient Communities
Shona Smith	Communities and Partnership Manager
Clare Malster	Participation Officer