Community Empowerment Group
Thursday 25 March 2021, 1-3pm

Member	Present
Michelle Cochlan	Yes
Jonathan Smith	No
Darren Bruce, PS	No
Scott Symon	Yes
Maggie Hepburn	Yes
Colin Wright	Yes
Linda Clark	Yes
Dave Black	Yes
Shamini Omnes	No
Fiona Clark	Yes
Wendy Henderson	No
Martin Wyllie	Yes
Gordon Edgar	Yes

Item No.	Title	Lead	Notes/ Actions	Responsibility
1.	**Welcome & Apologies**	All	Michelle asked for feedback on the new Community Empowerment Group web page and whether members would be comfortable with publishing their name and photo as well as link to their linkedin page/ biography. All members agreed with their name being published and will send Michelle a photo and link to linkedin profile or biography. Michelle advised that Jonathan Smith will continue as Vice Chair to support quarterly Extended Community Empowerment Group meetings. Therefore the Chair seeks a second Vice Chair to support monthly meetings. Maggie Hepburn was agreed as second Vice Chair.	All MH
2.	**Actions from the last meeting**	All	Actions from the last meeting were updated as complete with the following exceptions: • Shamini advised she will be able to come back to a future meeting with the evaluation of engagement through the LEGs. • Michelle to discuss pb with Neil	 SO MC

			• Work programme to be prepared for April meeting • Mapping of community groups to be consulted in development of the LOIP • Data on representativeness of City Voice • National standards of community engagement presentation and confirmation of budget for training on this • Arrange session to review the Engagement, Participation and Empowerment Strategy	MC WH/DB AM CW MC
3.	**Community Learning & Development** Update on CLD Plan and workshop on good governance – See circulated papers	LC	Linda Clark gave a presentation on the Governance of CLD Plan explaining what we have done in the past, current arrangement and how we can improve it. Linda agreed to share slides and the last annual report with members to provide more context/ information on progress made. There was discussion about the dual governance roles of the Children's Services Board and the Community Empowerment Group and some of the challenges this presents. At the moment Partnership Forums are reporting directly to the Children's Services Board. However, there is limited opportunity for these to be discussed due to the full agenda. It was discussed that the GIRFEC Sub Group is being reviewed and it might be well placed to take an oversight role of the Partnership Forums and reporting by exception basis to the Children's Service Board. GIRFEC Group would have a role to ensure quality and consistency across the Partnership Forums. If the Children's Services Board are responsible for the Partnership Forums then the Community Empowerment Group is responsible for ensuring effective links between CLD, Partnership Forums and community planning. However, it appears that there is a disconnect between Children's Services and Community Empowerment Group and that there is no true oversight of the full CLD strategy as Children's Services Board does not report to the Community Empowerment Group. Education Scotland lead on CLD nationally and therefore should it be Aberdeen City Council that lead on CLD locally rather than the CPP? Linda and Colin explained that scrutiny is not just of the Council's CLD Service but of how partners are contributing to community learning and development. For example, the work that Police Scotland do with youth work. We discussed the following options:	LC/FC

			1. Continue as is with joint governance through Children's Services Board and Community Empowerment Group 2. Governance of CLD is through ACC Committees rather than CPP 3. Re-establish the CLD Group which would provide scrutiny and oversight of CLD on behalf of the Council and CPP 4. CPA Management Group to provide scrutiny and oversight, with Children's Services and Community Empowerment Group continuing to be involved to ensure efficacy 5. Invite the University and College to join the Community Empowerment Group to ensure it has adequate representation from subject matter experts to fulfil oversight/ scrutiny role It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Caroline Johnston, who now has overall responsibility of partnership forums, to discuss the role of GIRFEC in reviewing partnership forums and the challenges and options outline above. Meeting to be arranged with Caroline Johnston, Gail Simpson, Fiona Clark, Maggie Hepburn and Fiona Gray when Michelle returns from leave at the end of April. Thanks to Linda Clark for all her work to develop, progress and improve CLD over the years. Linda is retiring in May and will be dearly missed.	LC/FC
4.	**Community Engagement in LOIP Refresh/ Locality Planning** Update on Community Values Simulator	Martin	Martin updated the group that there have been 2070 respondents to the simulator so far. Delib recommend 500-1000 is successful so we have done well to get such a high number using social networks and social platforms. Martin shared a chart showing the pattern of engagement with the tool. Dips during the weekend and spikes after comms. Talked through a chart showing high level results. Improvement projects about changing behaviours (e.g. smoking and weight management) are considered less important than food poverty etc. Fiona Clark asked if there was any evaluation of people's experience of using the simulator. Martin explained we do have some indicators – the response rate being key and comments	

			received on simulator. We did not ask participants any additional questions but something to think about for future. Colin advised that the tool is not all inclusive but it is a good response rate. We have missed the chance to look into how the tools worked. How did we reach people? What made the difference. Is it social media? Can we analyse to inform practice in future. Fiona agreed it would be good to understand why the tool works with some communities and not another. Thanks to Martin for all the work he had done on the Simulator and achievement of the high response rate.	
	Update on Locality Empowerment Groups/ Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships	Colin/ Shamini	Colin updated the group that across localities we have held thematic sessions allowing communities to feed in to the LOIP and locality level plans. There has also been a workshop for frontline staff. Starting to work on populating an initial locality plan which the locality team will take back to the LEGs/ Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships and OIGs. Starting to come together. Still looking at the format of the plans.	
	Mapping of community groups/ connectors	Dave/ Wendy	Dave updated that there is a new group called Equalities Participation Network. First meeting yesterday evening and the group have updated the equalities groups identified within the Engagement, Participation and Empowerment Strategy. The intention is also to add the generic email addresses for these groups where they are available. Dave to provide updated list when complete. Dave advised that the Equalities Participation Network has focussed on the protected characteristics but that there is a much wider range of groups included in the current Engagement Strategy which has not been updated. This leads back to the mapping work that was discussed previously of all community groups. Dave to discuss with Wendy to understand what she had in mind.	DB DB/WH
5.	**Work Programme and Risk Log**	All	To follow	

6.	**AOB**	All	N/A	
7.	**Date of Meetings 2021/22** **29 April** **20 May – Extended Group** **24 June** **29 July** **26 August** **30 September – Extended Group** **28 October** **26 November** **27 January** **24 February – Extended Group** **31 March**	All	There was a brief discussion on the extended group meeting to be held in May and which groups should be invited to join. Michelle advised that we don't want to duplicate/ replicate the role of the Civic Forum. Maggie advised that we should be clear on what we are hoping to get from communities and what we are hoping to give them by extending the meeting to them. Dave agreed that we need to make the experience meaningful and not a tick box exercise. At this stage in the LOIP development process what is meaningful? We agreed to focus on this as an agenda item for the next meeting.	MC