Community Empowerment Group
Thursday 29 April 2021, 2-4pm

Member	Present
Michelle Cochlan, Aberdeen City Council (Chair)	Yes
Maggie Hepburn, ACVO (Vice Chair)	Yes
Jonathan Smith, Civic Forum (Vice Chair)	N/A Attends quarterly
Darren Bruce, Police Scotland	Yes
Dave Black, GREC	Yes
Scott Symon, SFRS	No
Fiona Clark, ACC	Yes
Gordon Edgar, ACHSCP	No
Wendy Henderson, Independent Care Sector	Yes
Shamini Omnes, ACHSCP	Yes
Susan Thoms, ACC	Yes
Colin Wright, ACC	Yes
Martin Wyllie, ACC	Yes

Item No.	Title	Lead	Notes/ Actions	Responsibility
1.	**Welcome & Apologies**	All		
2.	**Actions from the last meeting**	All	Actions from the last meeting were updated as complete with the following notes: **Evaluation of LEGs**: Shamini provided an update on the six month evaluation which was carried out with the people involved in the Locality Empowerment Groups and shared the infographic which has been produced. She also shared the benefits maximisation sheet which is being used to gather data from projects on a range of indicators. The group agreed that this is good practice and should be considered as part of the evaluation and performance management of the broader work of the Community Empowerment Group. Members discussed other self-evaluation frameworks that we might look to including those offered by the National Standards of Community Engagement, Voice Tool and CLD Guidance. Colin will share links to these.	CW

| | | | | We agreed that any evaluation framework should be based on achievement of the outcomes we are trying to achieve as a group which will be articulated in the revised Engagement, Participation and Empowerment Strategy. Words such as Choose, Belong and Purpose to form part of the narrative. Need to ensure we are not straying into the work of the Outcome Improvement Groups to improve wellbeing, although we may be able to support some of the improvement projects being taken forward.

Participatory Budgeting: Michelle updated the group on a discussion held with Neil Carnegie (responsible for Council's Participatory Budgeting approach) about the potential role of the Community Empowerment Group in pb. It was agreed that this would be part of the remit, initially through the revision of the Engagement Strategy and also part of the work roots to sustainability work being taken forward.

There was discussion about the Council's target to engage communities on 1% of the budget. Martin advised that the Simulator is the idea tool to do that in future. It is easy to use and less resource intensive than some of the other tools available. E.g. Consul which requires training.

CLD and National Standards
Colin had offered to do a session with the Community Empowerment Group on the standards. However it was agreed that there is a need for wider awareness raising on the standards. Fiona and Colin will come back to the group with proposals about training on the standards and how this group can engage and indeed support those. Colin will also share a link to the latest CLD Annual report.

Fiona updated that she has met with Caroline Johnston to discuss the review of partnership forum plans. We agreed that a further meeting to be held with Fiona, Caroline, Michelle and Maggie to review the governance structure. Fiona shared some ideas on how this could work but these need to be considered further. Fiona agreed to arrange.

Mapping of Communities Groups: Dave shared on his screen a document that he has prepared with help from the Equalities Participation Network. The draft is being discussed at the network today and Dave will circulate to members once finalised. Michelle thanked Dave for being so proactive in taking forward this piece of work which will feed into the revised Engagement Strategy. The list of equalities groups includes contact details and will be an excellent resource in reaching out to community groups with results of the simulator and also consulting on the draft LOIP and new Locality Plans. All members agreed that this is an excellent document. Colin | |
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			asked if it would be possible to add social media sites. Wendy said that it would be helpful to indicate whether groups are specific to a local area or city wide.	
			Dave emphasised that the list has a focus on the protected characteristics but that there are other groups that are identified as seldom heard or hard to reach in the Engagement Strategy which are not included at the moment. There followed a discussion about the value in developing a directory of wider community groups/ connectors. Colleagues discussed the pros of cons of this. Keeping these directories up to date being a key issue.	
			Martin advised that David Ewen is currently preparing a list of community group contacts that the Council engages in general communications that might be helpful. Martin to share with the group.	MW
			Darren shared how local policing teams have a wide reach in their local communities and communications from PS would go through officers on the ground for cascading. Michelle reflected that this has been key to the success of the response to the simulator. Partners sharing the link with contacts in the community and natural networking.	
			It was agreed that it is the combination of targeting groups we are aware of and using social media and community networks to spread key messages is what makes for effective community engagement. The seldom heard groups identified within the current Engagement Strategy should be cross-checked with Dave's document to identify any groups that we do not have contact email addresses for. This will allow us target them in the final stages of the LOIP development process.	MC
			There followed a conversation about use of the terms seldom heard/ hard to reach groups and whether this was helpful language. Wendy highlighted that these groups may not be hard to reach, but we are just not reaching them. Some people don't want to engage and that is their choice. Martin agreed that using this type of language turns a person's choice into a problem. Maggie suggested that this is the type of discussion which is helpful and should feed into our Engagement and Communications strategy. If communications are on message and are attractive then it is easier to engage communities and get a higher response. We agreed to consider this in revising the Engagement Strategy.	FC/ MH/ DB
3.	**Work Programme and Risk Log** Draft April 21	MC	The group reviewed the draft work programme which was circulated to the group. In particular the group considered areas of work which needed a lead officer to take forward.	

			The following was agreed and updated in the work programme:	
			Aberdeen Responsible Business Community Network – Maggie would like to get involved in this work which seeks to strengthen partnership working with the Aberdeen Business Community in delivering the LOIP. There are links between this and the ACVO Affiliates Programme. Michelle has been leading this work with Tanita Addario and Lori Manson to date and would welcome Maggie's involvement.	MC/MH
			Working with Funded Groups and Community Connectors – Maggie Hepburn and Susan Thom agreed to lead on this area. This workstream is about stronger engagement with funded community groups in the work of the Partnership and builds on the much valued Roots to Sustainability Work which was being led by Alison Chandler.	MH/ST
			Review of Engagement, Participation and Empowerment Strategy – Fiona Clark, Maggie Hepburn and Darren Bruce have agreed to co-lead the development of the revised strategy. All members of the group will be invited to participate. Agreed that the timescale for this would be by the end of the year and would coincide with the development of the CLD plan.	FC/MH/DB
			Participation Requests and Asset Transfer – Maggie advised that she was aware that other TSIs were taking an active role in supporting communities to make requests and that this is something she would like to look into further. Wendy Henderson offered her support with this.	MH/ WH
4.	**Community Learning & Development** Update on CLD Plan and follow up on Governance Workshop	FC	Colin provided an update on the stakeholder sessions which were held last week and advised that they have been very successful, helping to identify a wide range of priorities. The next stage will be to identify actions to take these forward. Colin will share the slides and emerging priorities. Michelle advised that she is hoping to see upskilling of communities to engage in improvement methodology as a priority and offered her personal support to doing this.	CW

5.	**Community Engagement in LOIP Refresh/ Locality Planning**				
	Results of [Community Values Simulator](#)	Martin	Martin updated the group that the simulator is now closed and that we received a total of 2642 responses which exceeded the expectations of the vendor and what we needed as a sample. The [summary](#) and [full results](#) report was considered by CPA Board yesterday and Martin will now share links with the group for cascading amongst networks.	MW	
	Update on Locality Empowerment Groups/ Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships	Colin/ Shamini	Shamini provided the group with an update on the Locality Empowerment Groups. The Alliance have facilitated some sessions with LEGs this week to identify what actions and ideas are coming from communities. Also a presentation was given to the IJB Board on Monday on the LEGs and how we are reaching the different groups.		
6.	**Extended Community Group Meeting**	All	Michelle advised that she is meeting Maggie and Jonathan to discuss. Members who would like to be involved should get in touch with Michelle. Otherwise, Michelle/ Maggie will provide an update on plans in due course.	MH/JS/MC	
7.	**AOB**		N/A		
8.	**Date of Meetings 2021/22** **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			