

Community Empowerment Group
Thursday 27 January 2022, 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 Network
Claire Smith, Police Scotland	Yes
Dave Black, GREC	Yes
Bryan Nelson, SFRS	Yes
Fiona Clark, ACC	Yes
Wendy Henderson, Independent Care Sector	Yes
Susan Thoms, ACC	Apologies
Colin Wright, ACC	Yes
Martin Wyllie, ACC	Yes
Rachel Harrison, ACC	No
Elaine Sinclair, UoA	Yes
Louise Ballantyne, NHSG	Apologies
Matt Reid, ACC	Yes

Item No.	Title	Lead	Notes/ Actions	Responsibility
1.	Welcome	All	<p>Welcome to newest members Claire Smith, Police Scotland and Matt Reid, Aberdeen City Council. Also to Jade Leyden, Community Development Manager attending for the CLD update at item 3.</p> <p>Due to a change in role, Darren Bruce, PS and Gordon Edgar, ACHSCP will no longer be on the group. Thanks was given to both Darren and Gordon for their active and valued contribution to the group. They will both be missed.</p>	
2.	<u>Actions from the last meeting</u>	All	<p>Actions from the last meeting were marked as complete or covered on today's agenda with the following exceptions:</p> <p><u>Aberdeen Engagement Schedule</u> – At the last meeting Gordon took an action to speak to Maggie about the opportunity to build on the schedule of events advertised on the ACVO website. Maggie confirmed that they did not get the chance to meet about this but that she was happy to explore this further. Jade advised that a web page is being developed on</p>	

			<p>the Community Planning Aberdeen website to promote engagement/ consultation opportunities for children and young people. The group will maintain a watching brief on this to understand what impact the new page has and if there is learning from this or the ACVO web page for a broader Aberdeen Engagement Schedule.</p>	JL/MH
3.	CLD Annual Report	Colin	<p>Colin explained that the CLD team has gathered information for the CLD Annual Report but a report is not yet ready for circulating. It will be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>However, Colin did provide a copy of the HMIE Visit Summary Report. The report recognises the impact of the pandemic on the delivery of the 2018-21 CLD plan and highlights the ingenuity of the CLD team in responding to these challenges by offering online classes and opportunities.</p> <p>A key priority identified by HMIE previously was to strengthen the governance for CLD. The report states that governance arrangements for CLD have improved considerably since the last inspection visit. The refreshed Community Empowerment Group (CEG) has been operating in its current form for almost a year and now has clear responsibility and ownership for the governance of the CLD Plan. It states that members of the group are committed to aligning the CLD Plan with the Community Planning Partnership and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) priorities. They are making good progress with this and closer alignment has emerged with a clear focus on meeting needs. The report concludes that as a result of the improvements made, HM Inspectors will make no more visits to Aberdeen City in connection with the original inspection. The group thanked Colin and the CLD team for the great work and progress made as highlighted within the report. The group are keen to receive information on progress made against the revised CLD plan.</p>	CW
4.	Review of Aberdeen City Voice	Michelle, Anne, Bryan and Dave	<p>Michelle updated the group on progress made with the review of City Voice so far. A baseline assessment has been conducted to understand key issues which need to be examined further as part of the review.</p> <p>One area for improvement is better representation/ participation of younger people (16-24 years and 25-34 years) on the panel. The review team would like to do some engagement with young people to find out their views. The Community Empowerment Group suggested engaging the Youth Council and college/ university students to find out what they think about City Voice. Michelle advised that she has met with Cate Russell, UoA student attending a previous meeting, who offered some personal feedback to say that short films or 'reels' appear to be the best way to engage young people.</p>	

			<p>Fiona advised that social media is the way forward for dealing with young people, not websites or facebook. She listed ‘New Social Media Platforms Marketers Should Watch in 2022’.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twitch. • Discord. • TikTok. • Clubhouse. • Twitter Spaces. • Caffeine. • Instagram Reels. <p>Jade advised that she has feedback from young people on how they want to be engaged gathered by Kirsty Wyllie as part of ‘learning for all’ that could also provide insight. Jade to share.</p> <p>The review team thanked the Community Empowerment Group for their feedback and agreed to explore this area further. Engagement is also planned with City Voice panel members to get feedback on their experience of City Voice.</p> <p>One of the aims of the review will be for more people to switch to digital surveys rather than paper. Wendy advised that ACHSCP are investing in tech and are looking at how people can be supported to engage in this way so there may be learning there. Wendy to provide any available information on this.</p> <p>A draft findings report will be brought to the next meeting.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>WH</p> <p>MC/AM/DB/BN</p>
5.	<p>Update on Review of Engagement, Participation & Empowerment Strategy –</p>	<p>Maggie, Dave, Fiona</p>	<p>Dave provided an update on the development of the revised strategy which he felt has been a very collaborative process. The strategy review team have been considering the comments received from the Community Empowerment Group. Dave shared the outline structure of the revised plan and explained that it would have a static element as well as more dynamic appendices which would keep the strategy living and up to date.</p> <p>The group discussed the ladder of participation/ engagement which will provide the backbone for the revised strategy. It was agreed that the language used should be accessible to all. There was a debate on the pros and cons of using a recognised ladder such as Arnstein’s Ladder of Citizen Participation and developing our own ladder. A ladder</p>	

			<p>for Aberdeen would offer a consistent approach whilst a ladder such as the Arnstein's has credibility. In any case, matching the chosen ladder to examples of CPA engagement activity would be critical to conceptualise the ladder. Michelle advised she had previously used the ladder (within the current strategy) to map examples of Council engagement as part of a review she had led on some years ago. Michelle to share – See Appendix 2.</p> <p>Matt shared pathways to participation model for schools. He confirmed that historically there was a youth engagement strategy but that this has been superseded by Child Friendly City programme. The intention is that the revised Engagement, Participation and Empowerment Strategy would be overarching and cover children and young people as a specific group.</p> <p>The group agreed to simplify the title of the revised strategy to Community Planning Aberdeen Community Empowerment Strategy.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>DB, MH, FC, MC</p>
6.	Locality Planning and Update from LEGs/PNPs	Michelle	<p>Michelle advised that there was an action recorded at the last meeting to invite all members of the Integrated Locality Planning Team to this meeting so that the group could meet them. However, due to staff absence and temporary displacement of public health coordinators due to omicron variant, this invite is on hold.</p> <p>Maggie confirmed the current pressure on the ACHSCP due to the virus and advised that third sector and community groups are being asked to volunteer to lessen this. Should the crisis be escalated, this will only get worse. Despite this, community engagement is still continuing through Community First. Other groups have been put on hold. Maggie is currently doing some work to understand what the response has been from the third sector.</p> <p>Michelle realised that she had neglected to invite Rachel to the meeting and therefore there was no representation from the LEGs or PNPs today given that Gordon Edgar was no longer on the group. A new representative from ACHSCP to be confirmed.</p>	
7.	Work Programme/ Upcoming Priorities	All	<p>Maggie updated the group on the opportunity to progress the funded groups workstream through the Mental health wellbeing fund. A partnership group has been set up to look at the funding coming into the city and try to do some streamlining for groups. Chris Smillie and Colin Wright are on the panel. The ultimate benefit is for people and grass roots organisations who need support accessing the funding. A tracking website will prevent multiple applications from community groups that can waste time. This will help ensure</p>	

			<p>that the funding model in the City is sustainable and this work should be included in the Community Empowerment Strategy. Maggie to advise the partnership group that they can report up to the Community Empowerment Group as an interested party.</p> <p>The revised Community Empowerment Strategy should include our commitment to supporting community groups to make applications. Need to understand the infrastructure. ACVO, External funding team, CLD etc. CLD helping people to think about what they use the money for rather than just the application process.</p> <p>Members agreed that Participatory Budgeting also has to form part of our strategy. Susan is the lead officer for Fairer Aberdeen Fund PB. Neil Carnegie is responsible for the Council's PB strategy. The group invited Neil and Susan to come along to a future meeting to discuss.</p> <p>Martin updated the group on the work he is leading to progress the community stories/ impact telling workstream of the group. In addition to the individual support he is offering project teams across the partnership to tell their story and engage people in the improvement work being carried out, he is also developing guidance for project teams to prepare their own stories. This will help embed story telling as an approach across the partnership and build the brand of Community Planning Aberdeen. In turn, this will encourage communities to play their part and engage in the improvement activity because they will see the difference this is making. This is partly just about good communication. Maggie advised that ACVO are currently recruiting to a Strengthening Communities post to do similar for the third sector. Martin to connect with the officer once appointed.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>NC/ST</p> <p>MW/MH</p>
8.	<p><u>Date of Meetings 2021/22</u> 24 February – Network 31 March 28 April 26 May 30 June 28 July (Chair needed) 26 August 29 September 27 October (Chair needed) 24 November</p>	All	<p>24 February was planned to be a network meeting but the group agreed that time should be taken to plan this properly and therefore agreed to postpone the next network meeting to a future date. Michelle to arrange a meeting of planning sub-group.</p> <p>Maggie agreed to chair July and October meetings due to Michelle being on annual leave.</p>	<p>MC</p> <p>MC</p>