Community Empowerment Group – LOIP Refresh Workshop

Thursday 28 Sep 2023, 2-4 pm

Member	Present
Michelle Crombie, Aberdeen City Council (Chair)	Yes
Maggie Hepburn, ACVO (Vice Chair)	Yes
Claire Smith, Police Scotland	No
Dave Black, SHMU	Yes
Susan Thoms, ACC	Yes
Colin Wright, ACC	No
Martin Wyllie, ACC	Apologies
Elaine McConnachie, NHSG	Yes
Iain Robertson, ACHSCP	Yes
Margaret Stewart, ACC	Yes
Anne McAteer, ACC	Yes
Jade Leyden, ACC	Yes
Murray Dawson, SHMU	Apologies
Allison Swanson, ACC	Yes
Carol Hannaford	Yes
Maria Jose Pavez	Yes

Non Members	Present
Bea Dawkins, HDRC	Yes
Baldeep McGarry, ACC	Yes
Charlotte Saunders, ACC	Yes

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT GROUP INITIAL PROPOSALS FOR LOIP REFRESH

Current Stretch Outcome/ Improvement Aim	Proposed Change	Outcome Improvement Group Rationale for change/new aim	Lead Partner
Stretch Outcome 16 (incorporate within LOIP)			
100% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2026.	**Retain** **Provisional Stretch Outcome for 2036** **X% increase in the proportion of citizens who feel able to participate in decisions that help change things for the better by 2036.**		
Key Driver: 16.1 Conditions for collaboration enable delivery of shared objectives and a focus on action rather than hierarchy	**Retain**		
Increase the rate and representativeness of the response to Aberdeen City Voice to 63% by 2024	**Remove**	It is proposed that this project is removed on the basis that improvement has been observed as a result of changes made so far. Following a refresh of the City Voice panel, the response rate went from 31% to 61%. The response rate to the latest survey was a bit lower at 50.4% but still an improvement on 31%. The Community Empowerment Group will see the project through to completion by 2024 and hope to sustain and exceed the improvement made. However, there are limitations to how far City Voice can	

Current Stretch Outcome/ Improvement Aim	Proposed Change	Outcome Improvement Group Rationale for change/new aim	Lead Partner
		go in empowering communities as it is a consultation tool and realistically there are limits to how representative it will be. it is proposed that efforts are now diverted into improvement activity that can have a higher impact in achieving our ambition for community empowerment and representation of diverse communities.	
100% of decisions which impact on children and young people are informed by them by 2026 (LOIP Stretch Outcome 8).	**Retain**		ACC
Increase no. of community ideas identified within locality plans being tested by CPA and partners where communities are involved in the design process to at least 50% by 2024.	**Revise:** **Aim to be achieved by 2026.**	Timescale revised to align with the duration for the refreshed LOIP and Locality Plans and the delivery period for the improvement aims.	ACC
Increase no. and diversity of community members participating in community planning at a meaningful level (Rung 5 and above) by 100% by 2024	**Revise:** **Aim to be achieved by 2025**	Timescale refreshed to allow for testing of change ideas which will increase involvement beyond what Community Planning Aberdeen currently has in place. E.g. Priority Neighbourhood Partnerships and Locality Empowerment Groups.	ACC
Key Driver: 16.2 Social connections and networks working together is supported and encouraged.	**Retain**		

Current Stretch Outcome/ Improvement Aim	Proposed Change	Outcome Improvement Group Rationale for change/new aim	Lead Partner
70% of community led organisations feeling supported by partners to access funding for community led initiatives by 2025.	**TBC**	The ambition of this project is to support a funding shift to communities. Project team currently considering whether this project aim should be revised or if any change in direction would still be in pursuit of the same aim.	ACVO
Increase awareness of community led projects across the City and help celebrate and promote at least 70% of known community led projects by 2024	**Retain**	Definition of community led needs to be agreed and should be consistent with the project above.	SHMU
Key Driver: 16.3 Capacity building to support people and communities to work together	**Retain**		
Increase the no. of people (staff and communities) who state that they have the skills, tools and support they need to work together to make improvements in the community to 50% by 2025.	**Retain**		NHSG

The following comments/ ideas gathered as part of the CEG LOIP refresh workshop should be considered by project teams in taking forward the improvement project aims. See end section for cross-cutting comments.

Key Driver: Conditions for collaboration

16.1 City Voice
- Run until March 24 to see if we can sustain improvement
- Remove from strategy and LOIP
- Limitations to how much we can achieve with this mechanism
- Shouldn't rely on City Voice to achieve ambitions for community empowerment

16.2 Chid Rights
- Change ideas being progressed with strong focus on child friendly consultation
- Present and encourage groups to involve and engage children and young people
- Children's rights embedded and not seen as improvement

16.3 Testing Community Ideas
- Improvement project gaining knowledge of how confident project managers are in engaging/ co-designing with communities
- Building understanding of how we are engaging outwith ideas coming through locality plan
- Retain aim as is but change to 2026 to align with duration of LOIP/ Locality Plans
- Shared sense of purpose
- A collective sense were all in this together and recognition to achieve outcomes and benefit community planning and community partners need to be equally involved in decision making and delivery
- Budgets given to communities for local decision making. CPA budget to take forward LOIP and Locality Plan
- All individuals able to participate in ways that meets their needs – on size won't fit all
- Projects led by communities and supported by partners where required
- Voices of all groups equally heard and participating in designing and delivering projects that are important to them

16.4 Community Involvement
- Aim remains the same except timeframe extended
- Increase at particular level
- Systems need to be in place for gather data/ measuring improvement
- People feel energised, passionate, full of ideas and optimism
- Increase confidence form CPP on engaging with community and community members feel empowered and valued and see change and improvement
- Representatives have been chosen by their communities
- People feel engaged/ interested
- People feel content, comfortable, belong, involved, the vibe is good
- Community planning partners and community members working together in the community
- Different ways of pontification are welcome, there's flexibility around it. Its adaptable but allows interaction. Wide representation.

Key Driver: Social Connections and Networks

16.5 Community Funding
- Group discussion:
- Project team to develop operational definition of community led organisations
- Conclude exploratory discussions which have been taking place since the project started
- Aim to be focussed on outcome not solution being tested
- Is this ambitious enough?
- Is it supporting funding shift to communities?
- Is the scope of this project right?
- Encourage decision makers to take risks. Need to believe that communities can make decisions. E.g. allocate funding to pb/ community decision making
- People are much closer to decisions they feel/ are collectively decision makers
- Ensuring we are consulting communities with questions like what is the definition of community led

16.6 Celebrating Communities
- Need to connect activity and ideas to the aim
- Definition of community led should be same as community funding project
- Test process of putting community groups forward for national and local awards
- Ensuring we are consulting communities with questions like what is the definition f community led
- Discussing how things have improved for the local area

Key Driver: Capacity Building for People and Communities

16.7 Capacity Building
- Create a baseline
- 50% high enough?
- Toolkit is key to the project
- All communication clear of and playing their role in how the city functions, grows and values itself
- People know how they can create positive local change and how CPA/ CPP can support this
- People in communities coming together to deliver activities and services in partnership with organisations
- People using public spaces and having conversations, communicating. Having time and opportunity to do so.
- People from all groups feeling comfortable to learn from each other an being empathetic, to plan for the benefit of all, those that need it most. Everyone is enabled to participate.
- Groups of people who are organised in their community or local communities of interest can see what value community planning Aberdeen's work is having in addition/ complementary to the work they are doing
- Some sort of central accessible hub or platform – information, tools and stories

Cross Cutting
- Paradigm shift conversations
- Net zero comments with communities
- Shift conversation to prevention
- Not round a table – we feel comfortable making decisions in a number of ways
- No hierarchy across communities geographic or thematic

- Shared resources and understanding of other projects
- Consistent framework for data collection
- Standardised terminology
- People feel in control and frustration translated into action to improve
- Specific improbabilities? How do we compensate for this pontification. Groups with lived experience? Access to training opportunities. Need to better understand this.
- Practical – need to think about different ways of enabling pontification and building up these ways together with communities. How to enable people?
- Community planning recognised across our communities as a vehicle to support and empower
- CPA as an enabling mechanisms to make community planning simple, effective and accessible
- Mutal respect
- Baselines nee to be clearer
- Nobody feeling left out/ left behind
- People feeling they've been listened to
- Busy public spaces – well used – range of activities/ groups
- People are outside, interacting, inclusive, vibrant community spaces
- People interact with a recognition and respect of their different roles int eh community and making change happen
- Happy, comfortable, busy, fun, accessible
- People understood what community planning meant to them and it was of value to them. People understood what community planning aberdeen meant to them and how it was having a positive impact on their lives.
- People are empowered by being given access to funding for improvement ideas
- Co-design is done genuinely as a partnership of equals
- Breaking down barriers between professional and public
- Building relationships and trust
- Inclusivity in CPA involvement is about creating lots of different ways for people to be involved. From quick consultation survey to full scale genuine coproduction
- Local residents get involved because they want to not because they feel the need to fight the council
- Organisational roles and titles not as important
- Were all seen as team community planning aberdeen
- Neighbours helping neighbours
- Talking about things that are happening in CPP and the opportunities to be involved

Anything Else?
- In the future communities are empowered but its not called Community Planning Aberdeen
- We need to test something fundamentally different, to see if it works before 2026. E.g. based on community paradigm ideas
- Culture shift from top of organisations – elected members