



## COMMUNITIES REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE TO COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022

**Date of last meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

### **Main current focus of the group:**

The main focus of the Communities Reference Group is to inform the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest within the community planning structure, Older People and Children's Forums that sit within VASA and community organisations. The Communities Reference Group will be used as a formal engagement process to discuss the development of CPP strategic plans.

### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

The group have been introduced to the 'I'm In' – Homelessness Prevention Project and Leica Malkin, Early Intervention Development Officer who gave a comprehensive presentation on the project. The main aim of the project is to increase the number of positive homelessness prevention outcomes in South Ayrshire by encouraging upstream early referrals through partnership collaboration across sectors.

Various funding streams have been discussed from wider members, particularly what is available in third sector organisations that support individuals and families in communities. The External Funding Officer for South Ayrshire Council has also been linked in with the group. Updates were also provided on the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, coordinated by VASA and the Decision Day events.

The group welcomed representation from Angi Pinkerton, Trauma Informed Practice Officer and Rhonda Noone, Health Promotion Dietitian, both with vital linkages contributing to best practice when engaging with communities moving forward.

### **KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS**

- The Group are looking at the Terms of Reference and where wider representation can link in with the wider key strategic groups and action plans;
- The group will look at an action plan that will align with the wider strategic group action plan, this will inform wider community engagement;
- The group will discuss representation and link in where necessary to wider 'communities of interest' to support the action plan;
- A steering group will be developed that will begin the planning of the annual Community Planning Conference; and
- The group will look at various tools that might support wider engagement with communities to inform the work moving forward.

### **Report Completed by:**

**Officer:** Linda West (VASA, Chair)

**Date:** 23/03/2022