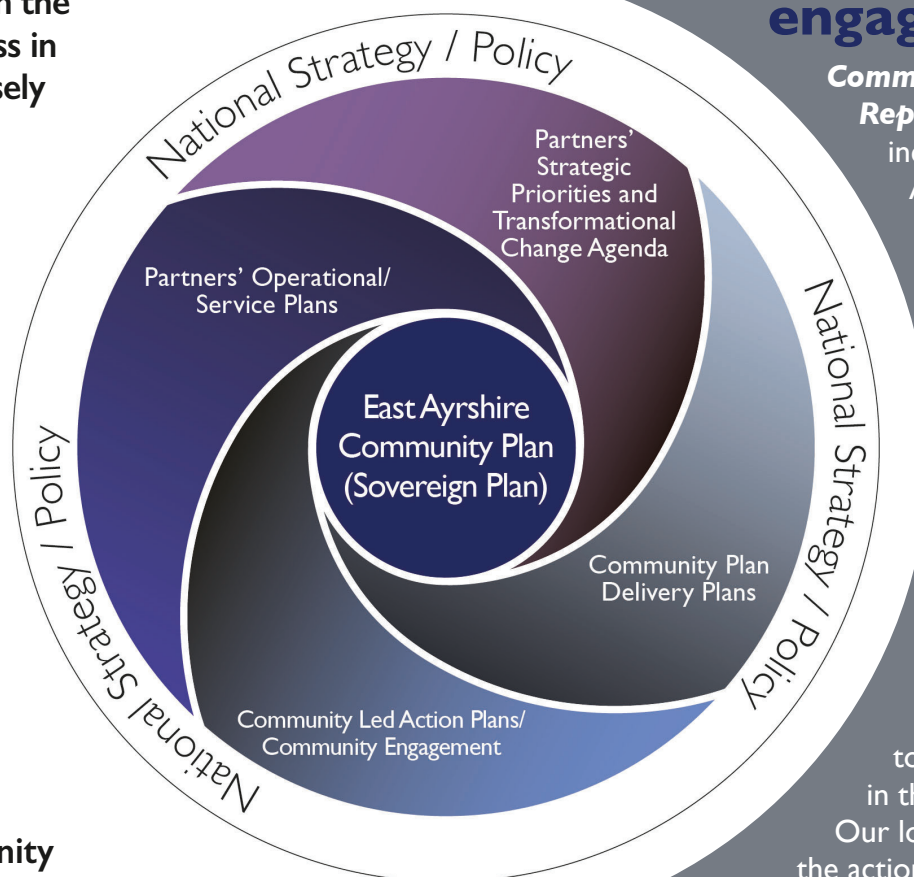


DELIVERING COMMUNITY PLANNING IN EAST AYRSHIRE – ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Meaningful, sustained and effective engagement with local people and communities is embedded in the Community Planning process in East Ayrshire. We work closely with our communities to ensure that our local residents are empowered to shape the decisions which affect their lives.

Communities across East Ayrshire can expect to see a clear line of sight between their local priorities and the work of the Community Planning Partnership. Importantly, the action plans of our communities are aligned to the Community Plan and contribute to achieving our shared Vision for East Ayrshire.



East Ayrshire Community
Planning Framework

Community participation, engagement and empowerment

Community Planning Partnership Board

Representation: Four community representatives, including two representatives from the Community Led Action Plan Steering Groups and two representatives from Community Councils, sit as full members of the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board, providing a direct community voice at the heart of the strategic decision making of our partnership.

Community Led Action Plans: Communities are actively engaged in developing community led action plans for their local area, which are designed to reflect the needs and aspirations of local people. Community Led Action Plans are used as the foundation of our locality planning approach in East Ayrshire, with 20 plans published through participation of community representatives across East Ayrshire.

Locality Planning: Locality planning is fundamental to our approach to ensure that the aspirations identified in the Community Plan are delivered at local level. Our locality planning arrangements are 'wrapped around' the actions and priorities which are identified by our local communities, including tackling poverty and inequality, social isolation and community regeneration.

Further examples of community consultation and engagement

- **Targeted Local Engagement:** Across our CPP, we are making increasing use of locality based consultation and engagement exercises, including a recent series of Health and Social Care Partnership 'Get Together' events. We are also working proactively to engage with communities of interest and vulnerable groups. Targeted local engagement sessions have also been used by our partnership to inform development of our local child poverty action report.
- **Community Planning Conference:** Each year, community planning partners in East Ayrshire host a formal 'conference' which provides an opportunity for a range of stakeholders to come together with partners to shape the wider partnership agenda. In 2017, colleagues from across the community and voluntary sector participated in the conference; in 2018 the Children and Young People's Cabinet set the agenda; and most recently, in May 2019, the conference had a regeneration focus, with participation by representatives of the local business and retail community.
- **Children and Young People's Cabinet:** Following the 2018 Community Planning Conference, Members of the Children and Young People's Cabinet met with the Community Planning Executive Officers' Group and other key stakeholders in February 2019, to share with partners their 'ask' of the Partnership over the next year. Topics of discussion included transport issues, including timetables and cost, and school meals/catering provision.
- **Principles of Our Community Engagement Activity:** All our community engagement activity is taken forward in accordance with the principles and standards set out in: '**A framework for Community Engagement in East Ayrshire**', which was approved and adopted by East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership in November 2016. In addition, the '**Charter for Involvement**', which sets out how supported people want to be involved in the support that they get, in the organisations that provide their services, and in the wider community, was adopted by the CPP Board in September 2018.
- **Connected Voices:** Recognising that all community planning partners have a role in supporting our care experienced children and young people to

achieve their full potential, the East Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Promise was endorsed by the CPP Board at its meeting of 7 March 2019. The Promise was developed in partnership with Connected Voices, a participation group of local care experienced young people, who used their own experiences to inform the development of the Promise, which focused on improving the experience for a young person entering and leaving care, and reflecting what is important to the young people themselves.

- **Residents' Survey:** The East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership carries out a Residents' Survey every three years. The last survey, implemented in 2017, was based on over 2,300 interviews with a representative sample of the population. Our Residents Panel comprises a representative sample of around 1,000 residents across East Ayrshire, with at least four consultation exercises convened each year. In 2018/19 the panel was consulted on the Domestic Abuse Policy, the Digital Strategy, Digital Inclusion and the Alcohol and Drug Partnership Alcohol in the Community consultation.

Independent Evaluation

"The Council empowers its communities through its Vibrant Communities approach. It helps communities develop the skills and confidence to deal with local needs and priorities. The council also includes local people in planning services and spending public money. This had led to community groups having a positive attitude and a sense of control in shaping their own area."

(The Best Value Assurance Report, East Ayrshire Council, Prepared by Audit Scotland, May 2018.)

"The extent of participation by children, young people, families and other stakeholders in policy, planning and service development was excellent. The partnership's participation and engagement strategy effectively promoted and supported the systematic participation, meaningful involvement and engagement of children, young people and families across universal and targeted services."

(The Care Inspectorate Inspection of Services for Children and Young People in East Ayrshire, March 2018.)