Public Partnership Forum

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the interim arrangements for PPF representative for the CHP Committee and the
development of the PPF

2. Note the allocation of an initial budget to progress the establishment of the PPF.

3. Initiate discussion with Inverclyde Council and Alliance to progress the co-ordinated
community engagement agenda.

1. Background

1.1. The overall aim of Inverclyde PPF is to enable Inverclyde CHP to develop and maintain an
effective and formal dialogue with the Inverclyde community paying particular attention to
those who could be socially excluded or face discrimination when accessing services.

1.2. It will be vital for Inverclyde PPF to build upon the work of existing community
involvement/engagement structures and voluntary organisations such as Community
Planning Partnership, Community Care Stakeholders Network and CVS Inverclyde.

1.3. National guidance on CHPs states that the integration of community involvement will be
core to the work of the CHP and that the PPF will be the main structural way of making this
happen.

2. Role and Responsibilities

2.1. The primary role of the PPF is to enable the CHP to engage, communicate and maintain a
meaningful dialogue with the people in the communities that it serves.
2.2. In doing this the PPF will:

- promote positive change in health and related services;
- represent the views of members of the communities served by the CHP, paying particular attention to those who could be socially excluded or face discrimination when accessing services;
- ensure that the public is informed about the range and location of health related services, with the PPF representatives providing the link with the discussions and decisions of the CHP;
- ensure that PPF representatives have a mandate to represent its views;
- support the involvement of the public, local service users and carers in discussions about how to improve health services;
- support wider public involvement in planning and decision making; and
- assist the CHP in breaking down the barriers that prevent equal access to services by promoting the principles of equality, diversity and transparency in all aspects of its work.

3. Progress to Date

3.1. Following the launch of the national guidance on the development of CHPs and PPFs, staff from the then NHS Argyll & Clyde Inverclyde Division, met informally with representatives from a number of groups, organisations and other statutory agencies throughout Inverclyde to discuss the establishment of a PPF for Inverclyde.

3.2. In January 2005 an initial meeting was held to bring together these key individuals to initiate discussion about the PPF. To date, this group has held a number of meetings and recent public events culminating in a PPF Working Agreement (attached) being developed. This working agreement lays the foundations for the development of the PPF and in particular explains the proposals for the three-tiered approach to the workings of the PPF:

- PPF virtual network
- PPF Executive Group (approx 15-20 members)
- Two representatives on CHP Board

4. Community Planning

4.1. In March 2003, Inverclyde Alliance remitted the development of a local Community Engagement Strategy to the Community Learning and Development Strategy Group (a cross cutting theme of Community Planning). The Community Engagement Strategy was approved by the Alliance Board in December 2004, and provided a “Strategic framework within which all public agencies and community organisations can effectively work together to ensure the development and delivery of responsive public services. It provides a catalyst for on-going change to working cultures, behaviours, skills and attitudes to achieve effective partnership working with a genuine community focus”.
4.2. “Community engagement connectors” had been identified in each of the Community Planning Partners at a strategic level with the remit to take forward the community engagement agenda in their organisation. It is fair to say this approach lacked support and momentum and the community engagement focus was “lost” to Community Planning.

4.3. With the renewing and transformation that is planned for Inverclyde Alliance, it is hoped that there will be an increased focus on the community engagement agenda in the near future.

5. Vision for the Future

5.1. To establish PPF representation at the first CHP Committee meeting, a decision required to be taken on how best to develop the PPF within the present climate of reorganisation.

5.2. The long-term vision for Inverclyde would be to have a cohesive, co-ordinated approach to community engagement that meets the needs of the NHS, Inverclyde Council and all Inverclyde Alliance partners. Given the early stages of the reorganisation of both Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Alliance, and the emergence of the CHP, this is an extremely ambitious aim at the present time and one that will require careful planning and dedicated support over a period of time.

5.3. In order to progress towards this co-ordinated vision a number of actions have been agreed:

(a) For an interim period of six months, utilise existing networks to recruit two PPF representatives to attend the CHP committee – one from Inverclyde Stakeholders Network and one from CVS Inverclyde.

This will enable a form of public representation on the CHP on an interim basis until the PPF has more time to establish itself and seek nominations democratically. Discussion has taken place with both organisations and the PPF Establishment Group, who all agree this would be an ideal interim solution to ensure public representation is integrated from the start within the new CHP.

The request has been made from both organisations, that an officer from one of the respective organisations, be “in attendance” at the CHP Committee in order to help support and guide both representatives.

(b) Table the finalised Inverclyde PPF Working Agreement at the first CHP Committee meeting.

(c) Continue to develop a PPF database of interested local people through organised awareness events; discussions with local groups; local media and existing networks. This database will identify peoples’ areas of interest that they wish to be involved in e.g. children’s services; mental health services.

(d) Initiate the development of the PPF within a six months timeframe. Seek nominations/hold elections for representatives for the Executive Group and PPF representatives.
(e) Continue to develop discussions with Inverclyde Council Social Care Directorate; Inverclyde Alliance Health and Well-being Strategy Group and the wider Community Planning agenda to explore whether the PPF can meet the common community engagement requirements.

(f) Review progress of above actions in 12 months.

6. Resource Requirements

6.1. The PPF in whatever format it is operating will require adequate support both in terms of financial and officer support. To date ongoing community engagement work has been supported directly/indirectly by a number of employees based within the CHP who require further training and support to help them further the PPF establishment. In order to establish a working and effective PPF, which meets the needs of the local community, and the CHP, dedicated resources will be required.

6.2. Work with the PPF Establishment Group has identified the following needs:

- **Professional Support**
  Access to named individuals working within the NHS who will act as a first point of contact with the CHP.
  Trained community engagement staff to enable the PPF to effectively engage, communicate and identify and deliver training and development needs

- **Administrative Support**
  Access to support provided by the CHP to administer the structural, communication and representative requirements of the PPF. The CHP needs to ensure that the PPF is provided with such information and facilities as are necessary to perform its function.

- **Financial Support**
  Support for training and development activities and publications/literature;
  Payment of course conference/event fees and travelling expenses.

It is acknowledged that the initial proposal to seek representation from existing organisations will have cost implications. Resource needs have been identified by both Inverclyde Stakeholders Network and CVS Inverclyde to enable them to support their representatives to fulfil their role. It is proposed that the CHP meets these costs in 2007-08 and reviews the position as part of the development process of the CHP and PPF.

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