

AGREEMENT ON JOINT WORKING ON COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RESOURCING

Purpose

1. Delivery of new Single Outcome Agreements (SOAs) agreed with each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) requires the mobilisation of public sector assets, activities and resources, together with those of the third and private sectors and local communities.
2. This Agreement describes how CPPs will draw upon this totality and breadth of resource in order to improve local outcomes for communities and to ensure that the individual and collective decisions of partners are in the best interests of communities and the public sector as a whole. It places clear expectations on local government, the NHS and public bodies to share budget and resource planning assumptions with each other at an early stage and to work together through Community Planning Partnerships (CPPs) to deploy resources towards the jointly agreed priorities set out in each CPP's Single Outcome Agreement (SOA). Each organisation will be expected to show a demonstrable commitment to this Agreement through their engagement with CPPs and through their own formal budget making and accountability arrangements.

Requirements of Community Planning Partners

3. Individually and collectively the relevant partners in each CPP will:
 - ensure the SOA is the focal point for the planning and deployment of resources locally;
 - share budget, investment and resource planning information through the CPP, at an early stage in the decision-making process, including setting out the broad financial parameters they are working to, key milestones, and how resources already and can further support SOA delivery;
 - agree how total resources can most effectively be deployed and aligned between partners to achieve the outcomes set out in the agreed SOA and ensure that deployment and alignment in practice; and
 - demonstrate commitment and adherence to this Agreement through their engagement with CPPs and in relevant governance and budget making processes, including in final budget documents, delivery plans and subsequent accountability arrangements.
4. The CPP is the only strategic forum where partners are able to jointly plan how to deploy collective resources to achieve the agreed priorities set out in the SOA. However, the CPP does not replace or override the formal governance and accountability arrangements of partner bodies.
5. Although benefits will be realised through agreed shifts in financial budgets, it is in the deployment and use of partners' wider resources, such as staff, buildings

and other assets, where maximum benefit is most likely to be secured. In implementing this Agreement partners must therefore consider resources in the broadest sense and bring the totality and breadth of that resource, including committed budgets such as schools and hospitals, to the discussion. In doing so, they must consider what additional benefit can be derived from those resources.

6. CPPs will decide locally which partners should be involved in implementing this Agreement. Those organisations currently with a statutory duty to participate in community planning (local authorities, territorial NHS Boards, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Enterprise; Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Regional Transport Partnerships) will be involved in most if not all 32 CPPs. Other organisations, such as Scottish Natural Heritage and further education colleges may be involved, depending on agreed local priorities and circumstances.
7. The effective delivery of SOAs will also involve provision of resources to and by third sector organisations. Making the most of the total resources available locally means ensuring that the Third Sector Interface is a full community planning partner and drawing on the huge commitment of all those, including volunteers, who work to improve communities. CPPs should build on the third sector's breadth of experience and insight into working directly with individuals, communities and their assets to help them become more independent and co-produce better outcomes.
8. The Scottish Government and COSLA are absolutely committed to making community planning work for communities and for Scotland and to see that reflected in the decisions and approach of each partner and Government. This Agreement is an important step on that journey, building on the Statement of Ambition and the sign-off of new SOAs. Partners working together locally will quite rightly exercise a high degree of discretion in determining how to implement this Agreement. In doing so, they will take a practical and proportionate approach that best fits local circumstances whilst remaining firmly within its spirit and intent.



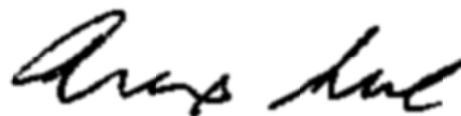
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