

Community Planning in Scotland

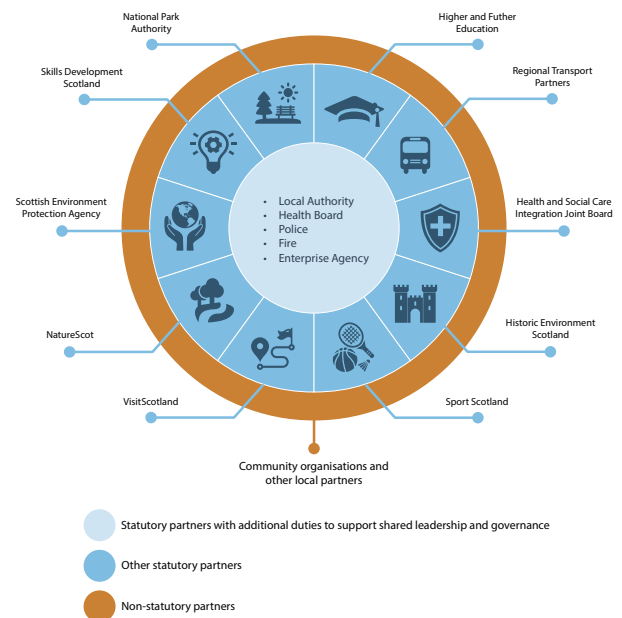


What is community planning?

Community planning acts as the link between public bodies and the local communities they serve, allowing for partnership working and a targeted, whole system approach to be taken when designing, delivering and improving public services accessed by people across Scotland who need them most. Community planning was first introduced in Scotland under the [Local Government in Scotland Act 2003](#), and was further embedded through the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#). This sets out which public bodies should take part in community planning and the duties they must undertake as part of this, as a Community Planning Partnership.

What is a Community Planning Partnership?

Community Planning Partnership (CPP) is the name given to the collective of everybody who comes together to take part in community planning. Across Scotland, there are 32 CPPs aligned to the 32 local authority areas. Working at a local level, CPPs should work together to understand the needs of the local population and develop plans to tackle these together as a partnership, ultimately aiming to reduce inequalities.



Source: The Scottish Parliament, Community Planning: Post-Legislative Scrutiny of Part 2 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, June 2023

Statutory duties as set out in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 places specific statutory duties on CPPs to improve local priority outcomes and act with a view to tackling inequalities of outcomes across communities within their area. In particular, CPPs are required to:

- Prepare and publish a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP), with CPPs securing participation from communities and community
- Ensure each local outcome is consistent with one or more of the national outcomes determined by Scottish Ministers under Part 1 of the Act.

bodies and others, which will involve developing and agreeing a common understanding of local needs and opportunities, setting out the local outcomes which the CPP will prioritise for improvement and developing an effective, shared approach for achieving those outcomes.

- Identify who will do what, by when, and with what resources.
- Identify which geographical areas have communities that experience the poorest outcomes and prepare and publish Locality Plans to improve outcomes on agreed priorities for these communities.
- Review and report publicly on progress towards their LOIP and locality plans, and keep the continued suitability of these plans under review.
- Take all reasonable steps to secure the involvement in community planning of any community body which it considers is likely to be able to contribute to it. CPPs must have regard to community bodies which represent those communities experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Statutory partner bodies must contribute funds, staff or other resources to secure that participation. Participation with communities lies at the heart of community planning – consultation from time to time is no longer enough.

What duties do CPPs have to undertake?

CPPs must produce two different plans:

1. A **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)** which identifies the priority outcomes for the CPP to deliver improvements on within their CPP area.
2. More local level **Locality Plans** which target more specific areas e.g. those at most disadvantage of a certain thematic area or smaller geographical areas. All partners are responsible for contributing to these plans and working together to deliver improvements based on the priority outcomes identified.



Scottish Community Planning Network

The Scottish Community Planning Network (SCPN) is supported by the Improvement Service and exists to bring together community planning colleagues from across Scotland to build relationships and identify opportunities to support them by developing best practice examples and sharing learning. To get involved, please contact communityplanning@improvementservice.org.uk.

Goals



Provide a safe, supportive environment for community planning colleagues.



Develop a network programme that provides practical examples and support to community planning colleagues.



Encourage CPPs and partner bodies to work together to strengthen and assess the effectiveness of community planning in their areas.



Develop the network to bring together collective talents and resources of local public services and communities to drive positive change locally.



Support statutory and non-statutory CPP partners to provide strong leadership for community planning.



Create a national repository of shared knowledge and good practice, creating an online space for discussions, and an active community of practice.

Community Planning Improvement Board

The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) provides leadership and improvement support for community planning in Scotland, generating valuable evidence-based solutions to the significant challenges facing communities and local partnerships. CPIB membership includes all key statutory community planning partners and main stakeholders.



Their purpose is to bring together and share evidence of what works well in community planning to influence policy, practice and reform of public services at local and national levels, and to support CPPs to deliver their statutory duties effectively to make better and more informed decisions that improve the lives of local communities across Scotland. The CPIB work with community planning partners to understand:

- The leadership, influence, services and approaches that are effective in improving outcomes and reducing inequalities for and with local communities.
- The challenges for CPPs including those relating to leadership, joint planning and resourcing, community empowerment, effective and evidence-based decision making, and governance and accountability arrangements.
- What support, innovation and/or change is needed to make community planning work more effectively for and with local communities.

To learn more, you can access further information on the [CPIB webpage](#).

Community Planning Partnership Board Guidance

This series of notebooks provides information, guidance and support to CPP Board members. Developed by the Improvement Service in consultation with CPPs, the notebooks are designed to meet the varied needs and roles of different CPP Board members. They are likely to be of most use to Board members who are new to the role rather than those with more experience.

Notebook 1: Overview of Community Planning

The first notebook will help you understand the changing context within which CPPs are operating, the expectations for community planning and what that means for CPP Board members.

Notebook 2: How to be an Effective Board and Board Member

This provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of CPP Boards and Board members

and the skills and behaviours required. It also describes the support available to help CPPs meet these duties.

Checklist for CPP Board Members

This checklist provides an aide memoire of the key points covered in the two notebooks.

