



Community Board Quarterly Meeting

Thursday 18 November 2021, 2-4pm

Microsoft Teams

Chair: Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability

Attending:

Sarah Anderson, Community Engagement Programme Manager, Social Responsibility and Sustainability

Katrina Castle, Head of Strategic Partnerships and Transitions, Student Recruitment and Admissions

Gavin Donoghue, Deputy Director, Stakeholder Relations, Communications and Marketing

Patricia Erskine, Head of Stakeholder Relations & Policy Officer, College Office – CAHSS

Ian Fyfe, Senior Lecturer, Moray House School of Education and Sport, IECS

Eppy Harries-Pugh, Communications Manager (Finance and Community Engagement), Social Responsibility and Sustainability

Christina Hinds, Development Worker: Organisational Development & Capacity Building, EVOC

Anne-Sofie Laegran, Head of Knowledge Exchange and Impact, Edinburgh Research Office

Matthew Lawson, Senior SRS Programmes Manager (secondment), Social Responsibility and Sustainability (interim member until Head of Social Impact appointed)

Jacky MacBeath, Head of Museums, Museums

Lesley McAra, Assistant Principal Community Relations and Director, Edinburgh Futures Institute

Derek MacLeod, Head of Global Partnerships, Edinburgh Global

Jen Middleton, Head of Engagement, Communications and Marketing, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

James Mooney, Director of Open Studies, Centre for Open Learning (cover for Kate McHugh)

Cameron Ritchie, Depute Director and Head of Operations, University Sport and Exercise

Ellie Roger, Community Relations Manager, Communications and Marketing (temporary cover for Stuart Tooley)

Beth Simpson, EUSA VP Community

Sean Smith, Director of the Centre for Future Infrastructure, Institute for Infrastructure and Environment

Zoe Stephens, Head of Organisational Development and Change, Estates Management Group

Apologies:

Kate McHugh, Director of Open Studies, Centre for Open Learning (on maternity leave)

Stuart Tooley, Community Relations Manager, Communications and Marketing (on shared parental leave)

In Attendance:

Anne Douglas, Community Engagement Administrator & Projects Coordinator

Agenda

	Time	Item	Paper (closed/ open)
1.	2.00pm	Approval of meeting minute of 23 September 2021 (Dave Gorman)	A
2.	2.05pm	Matters Arising, not otherwise covered in the agenda (Dave Gorman)	-

3.	2.15pm	IntoUniversity (Laura Cattell, Pat Reid, Kirsty Wadsley, Kim Hardie and Tom Draper) <i>Presentation & discussion</i>	-
4.	2.45pm	Community Benefits – What we might learn from engagement with Balfour Beatty on Community Benefits linked to EFI for wider University practice (Patricia Erskine & Sarah Anderson) <i>Paper for discussion</i>	B (Closed)
5.	3.05pm	COP26 and the City Region (Dave Gorman) <i>Discussion</i>	-
6.	3.30pm	Standing item: Community Plan implementation – progress, risks and issue (Sarah Anderson) <i>Please see Tracker and paragraphs 20 and 21 of paper C</i>	-
7.	3.40pm	Standing Item: Community Team update (Sarah Anderson) <i>Paper for information</i>	C (Open)
8.	3.50pm	A.O.B.	
9.	4.00pm	Meeting close	

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**MINUTE OF A MEETING** of the Community Board held via MS Teams on Thursday 23 September 2021.

- Present:** Dave Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability (Chair) (DG)
 Sarah Anderson, Community Engagement Programme Manager (SA)
 Michelle Brown, Deputy Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability (MB)
 Gavin Donoghue, Deputy Director, Stakeholder Relations, Communications and Marketing (GD)
 Patricia Erskine, Head of Stakeholder Relations & Policy Officer, College Office – CAHSS (PE)
 Ian Fyfe, Senior Lecturer, Moray House School of Education and Sport, IECS (IF)
 Christina Hinds, Development Worker: Organisational Development & Capacity Building, EVOC (CH)
 Anne-Sofie Laegran, Head of Knowledge Exchange and Impact, Edinburgh Research Office (ASL)
 Jacky MacBeath, Head of Museums, Museums (JMacB)
 Lesley McAra, Assistant Principal Community Relations and Director, Edinburgh Futures Institute (LMcA)
 James Mooney, Director of Open Studies, Centre for Open Learning (cover for Kate McHugh)
 Jen Middleton, Head of Engagement, Communications and Marketing, College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (JM)
 Cameron Ritchie, Depute Director and Head of Operations, University Sport and Exercise (CR)
 Ellie Roger, Community Relations Manager, Communications and Marketing (temporary cover for Stuart Tooley; substantive post in Centre for Regenerative Medicine) (ER)
 Beth Simpson, EUSA VP Community (BS)
 Sean Smith, Director of the Centre for Future Infrastructure, Institute for Infrastructure and Environment (SS)
 Zoe Stephens, Head of Organisational Development and Change, Estates Management Group (ZS)
- In attendance:** Anne Douglas, Community Engagement Administrator & Project Coordinator (AD) (minute)
 Eppy Harries-Pugh, Communications Manager Finance & Community Engagement
- Apologies:** Derek MacLeod, Head of Global Partnerships, Edinburgh Global (DM)

1 Approval of meeting minute, 22 April 2021

A

The Community Board minute of 22 April 2021 was approved.

2 Matters Arising, not otherwise covered in the agenda

- Minute item 2(1) – Granton Waterfront Development. This will be included in a future agenda.
Action: AD, LMcA
- Minute item 2(2) – Suggestions for alternative ways to source funds for the community grants scheme continue to be welcomed.
Action: All

- Minute item 2(3) – The Community Team have met with Ian Fyfe to discuss the community grants scheme.
- Minute item 4 - Edinburgh City Council's Partnership Board cycle. Gavin Donoghue reported that the Council's Board had met on Tuesday 21 September and their next meeting would be in December 2021.
- Minute item 5 – Measures of success. The first two actions were covered under item 4 of today's agenda. Gavin Donoghue and Lesley McAra have discussed survey sampling for a Social Impact survey (see also agenda item 5 below)
- Minute item 5 – Implementation of the Community Plan. It was asked that the Implementation [Tracker](#) is completed for each of the noted commitments.
Action: All
- Minute item 6 – Dumbiedykes working group. Ellie Roger will attend this group.
- Minute item 6 - Digital skills for Estates staff. Sarah Anderson has discussed this with Zoe Stephens. Still a need here but student volunteers likely not suitable for delivering as training sessions need to take place before 8am to enable staff to take part. Zoe Stephens will continue to deliver from within her role. Some pre-used computing equipment has been provided from IT re-use project to Estates staff in need of it.
- Minute item 7 – Social Impact Pledge. This will be included in a future agenda.
Action: AD, LMCA
- Minute item 8 – Poverty Commission Community Board sub-group. This was convened and has met.
- Community Board meeting schedule for 2022. It was agreed that there should be 4 meetings in 2022, and subject to the Sustainability Social and Civic Responsibility (SSCR) Committee's timetable, it was proposed that the first two meetings take place in February and May 2022. Given the significant work that both the Board and community grants pose for Anne Douglas, scheduling of the grants would also be taken into account.
Action DG, AD: check 2022 SSCR Committee dates with Jane Rooney.

Additional Updates:

- Social Responsibility & Sustainability (SRS) departmental update. Dave Gorman informed the Board that two grade 9 posts were being created within the SRS department: a Head of Sustainability and a Head of Social Impact. The latter would manage the Community Engagement Team and oversee University wide social impact projects, such as social investment, anti-poverty work, measuring social impact and so on.
- Farewell to Michelle Brown, who will be leaving the University mid-October. Everyone wished Michelle the very best, and thanked her for her substantial contributions on many fronts, including community engagement and social responsibility.
- Placemaking update. Lesley McAra updated the Board on work across the University that will assist in addressing some of the larger Community Plan themes, such as homelessness and place making inequality. She referred to the University's involvement with the Beacons funded work (see also agenda item 6 below), as well as future opportunities that will come through the City Region's Regional Prosperity Framework 2021-2041 (e.g. regenerating the Forth and the place of anchor institutions), and the Economic & Social Research Council's Impact Acceleration Account. LMCA commented on the need for the University to join forces to enable a coherent strategic response.
Action: LMCA, SA, ER attend upcoming meeting about strategic partnerships between Edinburgh's universities and possible funding opportunities. LMCA will provide Granton Waterfront update at future Board meeting.

3 Standing item: Community Plan implementation – progress, risks and issue

Sarah Anderson referred to the Community Plan implementation [Tracker](#). She pointed to some projects currently red in the RAG status, such as physical front doors and the

community access to rooms pilot, both of which had been stymied by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Referring to specific Community Plan commitments the following were discussed:

- Community planning – Lesley McAra advised that Liz McFall, Chancellor’s Fellow, was leading on related work, together with Oliver Escobar, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy. The status of this commitment’s progress could therefore be changed to amber.
Action SA: Update status of commitment 7 in tracker.
- For commitment 7, involving communities in community planning, Gavin Donoghue commented that this was partly fulfilled by the University being a member of the Edinburgh Partnership Board.
- In relation to commitment 13, knowledge exchange, Anne-Sofie Laegran had updated the tracker and some indicators of success had been agreed. Community organisations would use the Edinburgh Local email address as their entry point.
Action SA: update the tracker to reflect the 3 indicators under the knowledge exchange commitment.
- Sarah Anderson clarified that the reporting periods for these commitments was covered in her ‘reporting on year one of the community plan’ paper (see agenda item 4 below).

4 Reporting on year one of the Community Plan

B

Sarah Anderson introduced her paper on the first year of the Community Plan, and additional points were raised and discussed:

- All Board members were requested to assist in the gathering of reportage data to ensure that the optimum data can be obtained from across the University. Board members were asked to consult colleagues within their business area if necessary, and to enter this data into the [Tracker](#) themselves (or to nominate a colleague to do so).
- The reporting period for the remaining 4 years of the Community Plan will be November to November.
- It was clarified that an internal annual report would usually need to go to the SSCR Committee in October, and it would be expected that external reporting would be towards the end of the year. However, it may not be possible for a report to be tabled in time for the October 2021 meeting.
Action SA/ER: prepare a report for the next available SSCR Committee.

External Communications for the Community Plan

There was discussion about the nature and timings of the external Community Plan communications. Eppy Harries-Pugh explained that a selection of case studies would be provided (although not one per Community Plan theme), and publicity on projects such as the IntoUniversity in Craigmillar. Jacky MacBeath committed to her team providing case studies for EHP.

Action JMacB: provide case studies and images to EHP for external Community Plan communications.

Given other Social Responsibility & Sustainability key communication campaigns (e.g. COP26 Conference) it was agreed that January 2022 would be the preferred time to report externally on the first year of the Community Plan, and for future years December would be the preferred month. Lesley McAra did not consider that external reporting ahead of internal for this year would give rise to governance issues, and commented that external communications could be circulated to the SSCR Committee (in addition to the required internal report).

Action EHP: report externally on Community Plan in January 2022.

5 Community survey results – verbal update

Lesley McAra gave a presentation summarising the results of the 2021 University community survey, and provided a comparison with the 2015 survey. She commented that it would be helpful to obtain the survey demographics.

Gavin Donoghue pointed out that some of the survey questions track directly onto the Community Plan, and that there would be benefit in repeating again, as well as obtaining more qualitative data.

Action LMCA: circulate the presentation to the Board

Action LMCA & GD: distil the survey findings for a fuller Board discussion.

6 City Deal/EFI and potential intersections with the Community Plan

Sean Smith presented on the City Deal/Edinburgh Futures Institute and the potential intersections with the Community Plan, and focussed on where the 39 Community Plan commitments overlapped with 5 of the City Region Deal commitments.

It was queried whether other Data Driven Entrepreneurship Beacon projects, such as those in Gorgie & Dalry could be added to the metrics.

Action SS: to pass on today's presentation to Board members.

7 Talloires Network –introduction and verbal update

Lesley McAra gave a presentation on the Talloires Network of Engaged Universities, which has 417 members, including the University of Edinburgh and two other Scottish Universities.

LMCA explained that more work was required on mapping and improved, integrated planning and recording.

Action LMCA: to report back to a future Board meeting with a full SWAT analysis on benefits versus cost of effort of participating in various civic-themed institutional networks and partnerships.

8 Support for community grant-created partnerships

Sarah Anderson explained to the Board that one of the Edinburgh Local community grants criteria was to 'bring value to new or existing partnerships between the University and local communities'. However, this can be a difficult criteria to fulfil for community organisations without an existing connection with the University. The Community Team therefore assists by trying to broker connections with staff or student bodies who may be interested in helping or working with a community grant applicant.

SA requested that Board members flag up who may be relevant staff in their Schools or departments as a contact point for community grant partnership queries.

Action SA: to circulate an email with details of what's required in practice for staff to assist grantee applicants with partnership queries.

9 Standing Item: Community Team Update

Sarah Anderson introduced her paper giving a Community Team update.

Eppy Harries-Pugh informed the Board of recent communication activities, including:

- Ricardo Ribeiro Ferreira, SRS department PhD intern, will evaluate and report on Community Team communications and engagement, including the provision of audience analysis.
- The Community Team attended 2 recent, in-person community events in Craigmillar and Dumbiedykes.

- Doors Open Day was virtual again this year and promoted through social media.

Action SA and DG: SA and DG to consider how best to progress the Community Plan Implementation Plan with the Board.

10 Any Other Business

Gavin Donohue informed the meeting of an update to Edinburgh City Council's Local Outcome Improvement Plan which now has clearer links to the Edinburgh Poverty Commission. The section on community empowerment in this Plan is relevant to the University's Community Plan, including relations with local community councils.

Action GD: to provide an update at the next Board meeting on the University's internal work for the Edinburgh Poverty Commission.

As part of the development of Edinburgh City Council 20-minute community neighbourhoods a bid is to be submitted for city waterfront developments and affected communities, which will include those in Edinburgh.

Action SS: to pass details to GD of relevant contacts for those involved in the UK waterfront developments bid.



COMMUNITY BOARD

18 November 2021

Community Team update

Description of paper

1. This paper is a regular update on the activity of the Community Team since the last Board meeting in September 2021.

Action requested/Recommendation

2. Input from the Board is requested in the form of possible mitigations for issues flagged in paragraphs 20 and 21. The Board is asked to note the rest of the paper.

Background and context

3. The Community Team is currently a group of four staff and one intern (3.4 FTE) who hold community-focused roles in the Department for Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) and Communications and Marketing. Team members are line managed and their roles and operational budgets financed by their respective departments, where their work delivers on a small number of the longer list of Community Plan commitments.

4. Members of the Community Team share a place on the Community Board.

5. The Community Team provides a short regular update to each Board meeting. This covers their own activities and also highlights any commitments listed in the Community Plan's [implementation plan](#) where the Community Team is aware the RAG status has changed, or remains Red. All Board members are also encouraged to update the implementation plan on an ongoing basis.

Discussion

6. **Membership of the Community Team** is due to change over the coming months. Ellie Roger, who has been providing shared parental leave cover for Stuart Tooley (Community Relations Manager, Communications and Marketing) finishes up in post on 3 December, at which point Stuart Tooley is due to return. Eppy Harries-Pugh will be going on maternity leave in early 2022 and her maternity cover will be recruited in the coming months. Ricardo Ribeiro Ferreira, who is working on a 6-month part-time PhD internship on Community communications, is due to finish up in post in early 2022. Matthew Lawson (Senior SRS Programmes Manager) is interim line manager of Community Team colleagues in SRS until a new post of Head of Social Impact is recruited for.

7. **Round 9 of the University's Community Grants scheme** closed on Friday 29th October 2021. A total of 36 applications with a combined value of £151,666 have been received. This number is in the middle of the range of numbers of applications we've received to previous rounds of the scheme. The scheme was well-advertised via the usual routes (Edinburgh Local website and social media, plus [EVOC noticeboard](#)) and additional targeted promotion was done to reach organisations serving people not in the City of Edinburgh (i.e. Fife, the Lothians and Scottish Borders) and/or serving people from minority ethnic backgrounds. Our sense is that the local voluntary sector is focussing its energies on recalibrating after the intense working of the pandemic and that this may account for lower levels of applications. (We also received fewer pre-application inquiries than usual.) Applications will be reviewed in the coming weeks and at least 5 awards are expected to be made.

8. The Community Team is delighted to have been approached by Tom Lea and Nadin Akta of the **University's Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World** to run a special session of the University's Community Grants scheme. The current plan is for a total of £15,000 to be disbursed to local community organizations or charities working in areas relevant to the Centre's work. Projects focusing on Islam and interreligious relations, immigration and refugees or Muslim responses to environmental issues are likely to be of particular interest. The hope is that this special round of funding will have a deadline in February 2022, but this is still to be confirmed. Some concerns have been flagged by Communications and Marketing about Edinburgh Local being seen to prioritise a particular religious group (at odds with the scheme's ethos) and the donor of the Centre's funding; the risk of both is currently being explored.

9. The University's Gift Shop has, of its own volition, started donating the **proceeds from its carrier bag charges** to the Community Grants fund. This provided an income of £91 for the first quarter of 2021/22 (910 bags at 10p per bag). Great to see this initiative and recognition of the value of the scheme by University colleagues! Other innovative ideas to raise funds for the scheme are always welcome.

10. The first in-person **get-together of community grantees** this side of the pandemic took place on Wednesday 13th October at Levels Café. We were pleased to get 9 grantees attend, all of whom stayed for the full 2 hours to chat to one another. The Community Team needed to do little to facilitate discussion on the day, such was the enthusiasm. At least one attendee represented a project from outside the City of Edinburgh.

10. **It has been a good quarter for Edinburgh Local communications.**

Key stories have been: 4 universities message to the city, Craigmillar Festival, Doors Open Day 2021, COP26 related green-micro grants, promoting autumn round of Community Grants Scheme.

Ricardo (PhD intern working for Eppy Harries-Pugh) has presented analysis of Edinburgh Local communications, suggestions for improvement as well as best practice in the HE sector to learn from. Next steps will be to action some of his suggestions and look at capacity/resource requirements. **Highlights we can feasibly action in the short/mid-term include:**

- Increase in posting, video creation and paid content recommended to reach a wider audience, particularly on Instagram
- Work more effectively with internal and external audiences to create content, via ‘people-focused’ campaigns (these tend to get higher engagement)
- Utilise already existing content better e.g. Free Legal Advice and other uni services open to public
- Think more about non-digital promotion to reach different audience groups

We’ll look into other, more ambitious campaigns in more detail in the coming months. We have also issued a survey to our newsletter subscribers to get feedback on how we could improve it, with over 60 responses so far (sent Thursday 5th Nov)

Communications work has been undertaken this quarter to contribute to commitment 3 “Grow our Community Grants Scheme and develop links with a more diverse group of organisations.” Pleased to report successful results and will continue this work for the next grants round:

To our October 2021 round we had:

- 3 East Lothian
- 1 Fife
- 3 Midlothian
- 3 Borders
- 2 West Lothian

Out of a total of **37** applications.

To our April 2021 round we had:

- 2 East Lothian
- 1 West Lothian
- 1 Midlothian

Out of a total of **47** applications.

11. Key statistics for **Edinburgh Local channels** as of quarter 1 of 21/22 were as follows:

Social media followers	Instagram: 1,323 (Q4 1,260) Facebook: 694 (Q4 679)
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	Twitter: 1,745 (Q4 1,600)
Newsletter subscribers and click-to-open rate	Subscribers: 1,415 (Q4 1,411) Click-to-open rate: 25% (Q4 20%)
Website stats	Sessions: 15,134 (Q4 12,838)
ECEF subscribers	Subscribers: 259 (Q4 261)

12. The Community Team had a stall at the **Dumbiedykes Community Day** on Friday 17th September. This was the very first of these now-ongoing events and took part at the Braidwood Centre, organised by the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust. The afternoon fun followed on from the launch of the new [Braidwood Community Pantry](#) that morning. The Pantry is organised by Cyrenians, who stock it from their FareShare food depot.

The event was a really valuable opportunity for the University to engage in a positive way with a community that has come up against a number of challenges in recent years; Dumbiedykes is also, of course, immediately adjacent to part of the University's estate.

St Cecilia's Hall joined the Community Team at their stall. Staff illness meant a colleague from the Centre for Open learning could not attend, which turned out to be fortunate as the event attendees were overwhelmingly children rather than adults, and parents who were there were less keen to interact. The event was very busy with children, who loved the instruments brought along by Cecilia's, and the Play Rangers were there to support the afternoon.

As a result of their participation at this event, St Cecilia's Hall is going to keep coming along with activities on future Friday afternoons. Any other members of the University wanting to offer a child-suitable activity at these events can email local@ed.ac.uk in the first instance. Members of the University wishing to support the Pantry by providing bulk, good-quality surplus food can contact the [Cyrenians FareShare team](#).

13. The Community Team collated details of **Door Open Days 2021** events and tours taking place across the University, which were shared via Edinburgh Local channels. Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, activities were again held online, including virtual tours of university buildings.

14. Membership of the **Edinburgh Community Engagement Forum** – the University's informal internal network for staff and students involved with community engagement – now stands at 336 members (up 13 from August 2021). The last

network meeting, in September 2021, focussed on Community Plan reporting. The approach (agreed at the September 2021 Community Board) was communicated and Forum members encouraged to share stories of activities which could be useful for reporting.

The next Forum meeting will hopefully feature Talbot Rice Gallery's James Clegg as a guest speaker; James and colleagues have been doing some fantastic community engagement in spite of very limited staff capacity for this.

15. **Community relations work** has included responding to a number of inquiries regarding the [2016 Hunter Square project](#), which is again a priority area for the Police and Council. There has also been engagement with local stakeholders regarding planning permission for landscaping around the EFI building, which has now been submitted. The first meeting of a Scottish Universities Communities Network has been arranged for Wednesday 17 November.

16. The Community Team have been busy with **reporting** activities. The first draft of the public report on year 1 of the Community Plan has now been prepared; this process identified some further processes and requests for information which needed to be put in place to enable both the public and internal reporting and related communications. Eppy Harries-Pugh has also been working on the University's Annual Report and Accounts, which includes some reporting of community engagement, and liaising with Matthew Lawson on Social and Civic Responsibility Plan reporting.

17. **Procurement community benefits** work has included trying to facilitate the delivery of benefits promised by two large technology suppliers and reflecting on how beneficial these benefits actually are to the intended beneficiaries. The intention is to feed back such learning to contract owners, to inform their future procurement, as well as colleagues in Procurement. The impending loss of both Mihaela Maican and Jen Paterson will be felt, as both have been champions for community benefits.

Sarah Anderson is now trying to track more benefits across the University and has been providing some input into the development of Capital City partnership's new community benefits portal. The launch of this portal later this month is a great opportunity for local statutory organisations and community groups alike and the Community Team will do all they can to encourage use of it by University colleagues and community partners. The portal will not fulfil all the University's community benefits resourcing needs, however. There are currently gaps in staffing and/or lines of communication with respect to making sure benefits happen, and then monitoring and evaluating them. Even more fundamentally, there is currently no systematic way for those involved with the initial procurement to find out what community needs are, especially when it comes to the University's community of staff and students.

18. The Community Team does not currently have significant staff time allocated to **employee volunteering**. The Team may do a small amount of work on this area in 2021/22: some communications work, and work with HR to enable reporting on staff uptake of volunteering leave ('A Day to Make a Difference'). The Students' Association's new staff member for Community Volunteering Development, Fiona Boyle, is a useful new contact. Fiona comes with a wealth of experience of the local voluntary sector.

19. On **digital inclusion**, the hope is that a paper asking the University to sign on People Know How's 'Connectivity Now' pledge will be taken to University Executive by Gavin McLachlan (Vice Principal and Chief Librarian) by Christmas 2021. There is a similar target for the University to sign a partnership agreement with People Know How. Having wound down Digital Ambassadors due to inability to make progress during the pandemic, there is now a chance activity may start in partnership with the Central Library.

20. **The following Community Plan commitments currently have 'red' status in the RAG classification for the [implementation plan](#):**

- Commitment 9: "Encourage staff to take part in the University's new 'Day to Make a Difference' scheme (staff can take one day of paid leave each year to volunteer on a community project of their choice), and highlight ways members of the local community can take part in University activities"
 - Status also changed from Amber to Red.
 - Dedicated SRS post ended May 2021.
 - Still no report built for People & Money to establish baseline data.
 - Hope is that new Head of Social Impact will help re-increase coordination and brokering capacity here. Now we're out of lockdown, there are more opportunities to capitalise on.
 - EVOC recently asked us to plug their trustee training to University staff.
- Commitment 10: "Continue to support the Students' Association in their work running the Student Volunteer service and recognise students for their voluntary efforts, including through the Edinburgh Award"
 - Status also changed from Amber to Red.
 - Student Volunteering Service has been severely impacted by the loss of staff and issues with its database upgrade over the last 18+ months. The scale of these was perceptible but has only very recently been confirmed.
 - A new staff member is new in post at the Students' Association who has responsibility for community volunteering development. The staff member, Fiona Boyle, has a wealth of experience in the voluntary sector.
 - The volunteering database is now working better but it will still be a number of months until it is fully functioning. Back-end processes are still not automated, which impacts on turn-around time.

- Details of many organisations were lost in the transfer over to the new database, so the Volunteering Service is having to re-grow its community of organisations offering volunteering opportunities. Community Team have been trying to help by making referrals and promoting to community grantees.
- Commitment 11: “Work more closely with our alumni in the Edinburgh City Region as a source of expertise, volunteers and a vital link to our local communities.”
 - We do not have anyone from Development and Alumni on the Community Board. Not clear that Community Team most obvious group to liaise with D&A.
 - Not known if D&A are aware of this commitment and what their perspective on this is.
- Commitment 28: “Designate a physical front door on each of our campuses all year round, so that members of our community know how to reach us in person.”
 - There needs to be a conversation to figure out what this means in practice and any resource implications.
 - Assistant Principal Community Relations is likely a key person who needs to be involved with conversations, but her capacity is very limited until summer 2022.

The Board are asked to suggest further mitigations for these risks and issues and comment on those already suggested.

21. The following Community Plan commitments have changed

[implementation status](#) since the April 2021 meeting of the Community Board:

- Commitment 3: “Grow our Community Grants scheme and develop links with a more diverse group of organisations”.
 - From Amber to Green
 - Equalities Impact Assessment still to be undertaken but early indication is that proactive marketing outside of Edinburgh for latest round has improved applications rates from Lothians, Borders and Fife.
 - Less clear that proactive work to target BAME organisations has had an impact – more exploration needed.
- Work with local schools and the third sector to establish a new learning centre in a community within Edinburgh in 2021. The centre will respond to educational disadvantage and poverty, and will foster aspiration and improve access to higher education and training.
 - From Green to Amber.
 - Launch event did not involve local community.
 - Comments made to Community Team members indicate that more community engagement required to bed Centre into local community

and also to connect it up to other parts of the University with a shared interest (e.g. University as a source of student mentors).

- “Work with local communities to find new ways in which local residents can take part in community planning”
 - From Red to Amber.
 - Some relevant work has happened in EFI, but this is serendipitous rather than due to a deliberate allocation of resource in response to the Community Plan’s commitments.
 - Conversation needed by key University stakeholders to decide what success looks like, but capacity to do this possibly limited.
- “Trial opening up some of our buildings to allow community bookings on a cost-free basis”
 - From Red to Amber.
 - A new contact, Head of University Space within Estates (Helen-Rose Wood), has recently been in touch with SRS staff to start a conversation about community use of University space.
- “Reform our Community Board to increase representation from colleagues across the whole institution, as well as community partners.”
 - From Gold to Green.
 - We said we would consider bringing more community partners onto the Board at a future point in time.
 - Strategic input from colleagues in Finance, HR and D&A is arguably required for progressing some Plan commitments and routes for involving them not clear given they are not Board members.
- “Publish an annual report detailing the progress made against the commitments in this plan, and a final report after five years.”
 - From Green to Amber.
 - This will happen, but content may be relatively weak unless Board members take a more active role in providing data (at a minimum, updating the ‘Implementation Plan and Measures of Success’ spreadsheet or delegating someone to do so).
 - Community Team capacity to actively research data is limited.
 - Some Board members possibly do not feel a sense of ownership towards the Community Plan?
- “We will increase awareness of poverty in our own staff/students.”
 - From Amber to Green.
 - Gavin Donoghue is coordinating University’s reporting into the Edinburgh Partnership, and an informal internal working group has emerged in response to this.

The Board are asked to suggest further mitigations for any risks and issues and comment on those already suggested.

Resource implications

22. Resources may be required to mitigate some of the implementation risks flagged in paragraph 20. Otherwise inapplicable as this is an update.

Risk Management

23. There are reputational and other risks to the University if it is unable to deliver on its Community Plan commitments. Otherwise inapplicable as this is an update.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

The work of the Community Team and Community Plan particularly contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals:





Equality & Diversity

22. There are negative equality and diversity implications for the University not delivering on some of its Community Plan pledges. Otherwise inapplicable as this is an update.

Next steps/implications

23. Community Board to review and make any necessary amendments to [implementation plan](#) if they have not already done so. Otherwise inapplicable as this is an update.

Consultation

24. This paper has been drawn up based on conversations with the Community Team. All Community Board members have ongoing access to the [implementation plan](#).

Further information

29. Author
Sarah Anderson

Presenter
Sarah Anderson

Community Engagement Programme
Manager
Social Responsibility and Sustainability
(on behalf of the Community Team)

Freedom of Information

30. Open paper