
9.30am, 4th December 2025, County Hall, County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr

FIRST PART OF MEETING (9.30am to 10.15am):

The workshop session will focus on the [progress update](#) of the [Connect South Ayrshire](#) model presented to South Ayrshire Integration Joint Board.

Following an overview of the key points from the evaluation, there will be a demonstration of the Connect South Ayrshire website. A discussion session will take place with CP Board members to consider what their respective organisations role and contribution could be to this model as it develops.

SECOND PART OF MEETING (10.15am): ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Welcome
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of the Meeting of 4th September 2025
5. Preventing Homelessness in Scotland: [recommendations](#) for legal duties to prevent homelessness
Presentation by the Service Lead – Housing Strategy and Regeneration and Senior Policy Officer – Housing, South Ayrshire Council
6. Parenting Promise Update
Report by Co-ordinator, Planning and Performance, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
7. Joint inspections of services for children and young people subject to compulsory supervision orders living at home with their parents
Director of Health and Social Care will provide a verbal update
8. South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy
Presentation by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire
9. Locality Planning Update
Joint Report by Senior Managers - Localities, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
10. (a) Strategic Delivery Partnership Chairs Executive Update incorporating updates from:
 - *Children's Services Planning Partnership (appendix 1)*
 - *Community Safety (appendix 2)*
 - *Financial Inclusion and Growth (appendix 3)*
 - *Population Health (appendix 4)*
 - *Sustainability (appendix 5)**Report by Service Lead (Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability), South Ayrshire Council*

(b) Update from Community Planning Participation and Engagement Group
Report by Joint Chairs of the Community Planning Participation and Engagement Group

11. Third Sector Interface Update: Voluntary Action South Ayrshire
Report by Chief Executive Officer, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire

12. National Community Planning Improvement Board – Shaping Future Priorities
Verbal Update by Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance, South Ayrshire Council

13. AOCB

14. Date of next meeting: 29th January 2026

2026 Meeting Schedule:

All meetings will start at 9.30am

- 29th January 2026
- 7th May 2026
- 3rd September 2026
- 3rd December 2026

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships Board held at 9.30 am on Thursday 4 September 2025 in County Hall, County Buildings, Ayr

Board Members:

Councillor Julie Dettbarn (Chair); **Lucy MacDonald**, Project Officer, SPT; **Angela Cox**, Principal Ayrshire College; **Claire Baird**, Chief Executive, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce; **Claire Tooze**, Area Manager – Skills Development Scotland; **Kevin Murphy**, Area Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue; **Lesley Bowie**, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; **Alison Horner**, DWP; **Scott Mulholland**, Director of Education (SAC), Chair of Children’s Services SDP; **Gordon James**, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; and **Sally Amor**, Public Health Consultant, Inclusive Health (NHS)

Officers:

Mark Inglis, Head of Children’s Health, Care and Justice; **Lorna Jarvie**, Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Climate Change (SAC); **Jamie Tait**, Service Lead – Thriving Communities (SAC); **Lisa McGuinness**, Scottish Government; **Elizabeth Dougall**, Senior Policy Officer (SAC); **Gillian Carroll**, Children’s Services Co-ordinator (SAC); **Cl Stephen McGrath**, Chair of Community Safety Partnership; **Stewart Marshall**, Senior Manager, Localities (H&SCP); **Claire Flannagan**; Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer (SAC); **Anna Steele**, Senior Policy Officer (SAC); **Susie Chamberlain**, Policy Officer (SAC); **Andrew Laird**, Mutual Ventures; and **Hannah Szczepanski**, Mutual Ventures

Apologies:

Councillor Brian Connolly; **Karen Craib**, Scottish Enterprise; **Marcus Ross**; Vice-Principal - Planning and Recruitment (UWS); **Jane Bradley**, Director – Communities and Transformation; **Susan McCardie**, Service Lead, Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability (SAC); **Alan Comrie**, Senior Transport Manager; Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; **Sian Williams** – NatureScot; **Dean Anderson**, Service Lead (DWP); **Tim Eltringham**, Director – HSCP; **Suzanne Chow**; Divisional Commander – Police Scotland; **Kevin Anderson**, Assistant Director – Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance (SAC); **David White**; Ayr United Football Club; and **Susan Gallagher**, Scottish Government

FIRST PART OF THE MEETING

The first part of the meeting was a workshop session which focussed on Young Carers and showed the recently launched wee carer film ‘Take Care of You’. This was produced and acted by wee carers (primary aged) living in South Ayrshire. Board Members also viewed the young carer documentary ‘Being Heard’.

SECOND PART OF THE MEETING – BUSINESS

1 **Welcome**

Councillor Julie Dettbarn (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the Community Planning Partnership Board (the Board) meeting.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Board in terms of the Board's Standing Order No.10.

3. **Apologies**

As above.

4. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Community Planning Board (the Board) of 8 April 2025 (circulated) were submitted and approved.

5. **Integrated Neighbourhood Team (Ayr North)**

There was a verbal update by the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance), South Ayrshire Council followed by a presentation and update by Andrew Laird and Hannah Szczepanski from Mutual Ventures. The update outlined progress to date as well as outlining plans for the future.

There was a discussion on shared learning and whether the Scottish Government could assist with the role out of support.

6. **Public Service Improvement Framework (PSIF) Self Evaluation Session (13 May)**

There was a verbal update by the Assistant Director (Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance), South Ayrshire Council. Following the update there was a comment on how drug related death figures were still high. Good work was being done however figures were still high and there was a lot more to be done.

7. **Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (2024-2029) – Year 1 (2024/2025 Annual Progress Report)**

The Assistant Director (Corporate Policy, Strategy and Performance), South Ayrshire Council introduced the report and requested the Community Planning Board approve the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan: Year 1 Annual Progress Report (2024/2025).

The Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran complimented the piece of work stating how it had helped him understand the structure, given he was new to the position. An exercise during the Population Health SDP would be carried out across the other SDPs to help develop an understanding of the early prevention approach being taken forward in Scotland. SDP Chairs were reminded of upcoming deadlines to actions for the year 2 reporting period.

After discussion, the Board:

Decided: to approve the Year 1 Annual Progress Report.

8. Child Poverty Strategy (2024-2029) – Year 1 (2024/2025 Annual Progress Report)

The Senior Policy Officer, Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability introduced the report and requested the Community Planning Board approve the Child Poverty Strategy: Year 1 Annual Progress Report (2024/2025).

There were discussions on the following:-

The focus on high levels of child poverty; how fuel poverty was higher than the national average; the joint working between services and how this can be rolled out throughout South Ayrshire; and the Ayr United Extra Time Programme which supports parents back into work.

After discussion, the Board:

Decided: approve the Child Poverty Strategy Year 1 Annual Progress Report (2024/2025).

9. Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report

There was a report submitted by the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Manager providing Board Members with an update on current activity being taken forward by the Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership

After discussion, the Board:

Decided: to note the contents of the report.

10(a) Strategic Delivery Partnership Updates

There were submitted reports (circulated) providing Board Members with an update; and Officers highlighted the key areas of work being undertaken within the partnerships since the last meeting of the Board.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Children's Services Planning Partnership | (circulated) |
| 2. Community Safety | (circulated) |
| 3. Financial Inclusion and Growth | (circulated) |

- 4. Population Health
- 5. Sustainability

(circulated)
(circulated)

After discussion, the Board:

Decided: to note the contents of each report.

10(b) Update from Community Planning Participation and Engagement

There was a report circulated at the meeting which provided Board Members with an update.

The Board:

Decided: to note the update.

11. Third Sector Interface Update: Voluntary Action South Ayrshire

There was a report circulated at the meeting which provided Board Members with an update.

The Board:

Decided: to note the update.

12. Any Other Competent Business

None

13. Date of Next Meetings:

The meeting of the Board scheduled for the 6th of November has been rearranged and will now take place on the 4th of December.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



Report by Co-ordinator, Planning and Performance,
South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership to
Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 4th December 2025

Subject: South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide a refreshed Corporate Parenting Plan – South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise - for agreement.

2 The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the refreshed Parenting Promise document in Appendix 1.**

3 Background

- 3.1 Corporate Parenting represents the principles and duties on which improvements can be made for children in care. The term refers to an organisation's performance in taking actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a child in care or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social, and educational development is promoted, from infancy through to adulthood. It is a role which should complement and support the actions of parents, families, and carers, working with key adults to deliver positive change for some of our most under supported children.
- 3.2 In 2021 South Ayrshire chose to name our new Corporate Parenting plan 'South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.' This reflects the plan's close alignment with the National Care Reviews 'The Promise' and in response to the challenge from children and young people to use language which is 'clear and relatable'.
- 3.3 In 2021 the Strategic Planning Advisory group which is a sub-committee of the Integration Joint Board agreed that our Parenting Promise 2021-2030 should be aligned to the Community Planning Partnership. This decision was made on the basis that Corporate Parenting activity aligns with Children's Services Planning which is an integrated strategic delivery partnership under Community Planning governance structures.
- 3.4 South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise aligned with the timeline of 'The Promise' setting actions initially from 2021-24.

3.5 The Parenting Promise must be reviewed every 3 years to meet our statutory duty.

4 Progress

4.1 [‘The Promise’](#) challenges us to deliver long term improvements across South Ayrshire to bring about lasting change. Over the reporting period 2021-24 we identified ten South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas with thirty-one actions and forty-seven benefits (measurable improvements) for which baseline information was established to allow us to report on impact rather than output alone.

4.2 Now in 2025 we have used the ten vision statements identified in The Promise Progress Framework to align our local improvement actions and produce a refreshed corporate parenting plan which is up to date and reflective of our continued improvement. COSLA are currently working on a self-evaluation framework for local authorities and partner agencies which is scheduled for publication in December 2025, which we will also use to measure how we are advancing in our work to keep the promise.

4.3 Supporting our care experienced young people and implementing our corporate parenting duties are vital to driving our strategic objectives and improving outcomes for the community. The IJB Strategic Plan outlines seven key objectives, and the Parenting Promise aligns clearly with these.

4.4 Corporate parenting is given the utmost importance in South Ayrshire. A focus on corporate parenting and supporting care experienced children and young people is given strategic priority across our key plans and strategies, for example: In 2023 the Promise was agreed as a local priority area of South Ayrshire community planning partnerships local outcome improvement plan [LOIP 2024- 29 Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2024-2029](#) and in the same year our Children’s Service Planning Partnership identified the Promise as one of 6 priority areas of [South Ayrshires Children and Young Peoples Services Plan-2023-2026](#).

4.5 There has been significant and ongoing consultation and partnership working for The Promise in South Ayrshire over the last few years. A public consultation took place August– December 2021 on the actions included in South Ayrshire Parenting Promise Action Plan for plan 2021-24, as part of the wider consultation activity around the Parenting Promise. A series of workshops took place including two sessions which were co-facilitated in partnership with Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) aimed at third sector, private sector, and community partners. 96% of workshop participants identified that the actions held in the action plan were the right ones.

4.6 It is impossible to implement The Promise without working hand in hand with infants, children, young people, families, and the wider workforce. Since 2021 a series of workforce events have taken place across South Ayrshire under the branding ‘promising times ahead’. These events have included webinars and workshops on language where 98% of all participants recognised the importance of developing local guidance on care-based language.

- 4.7 Between January – March 2023 43 young people with care experience responded to a questionnaire and told us their preference was to change LAC reviews to **[name of young person’s] meeting**. For example, ‘**Jacks Meeting**’ A focus group of twelve young people with care experience which took place in April 2023 echoed the findings of the survey.
- 4.8 All of our local materials are accessible on our website [The Promise in South Ayrshire - The story so far - Health and Social Care Partnership](#) and [Parenting Promise Resources - Health and Social Care Partnership](#) have been coproduced with children and young people with care experience. The workshop materials have been delivered by people with lived experience.
- 4.9 The Promise remains a standing agenda item on quarterly Champions Board meetings where people with care experience meet with South Ayrshires key decision makers to influence positive change in local policy and practice. A promise Childrens Service Planning priority group has been established. A range of peer led consultations with the care community (which all underpin the implementation of the promise) have taken place between 2023-2024 including Scottish Government care experience definition, contracts and commissioning 5 | Page evaluations of 4 contracted services and development of criteria for tendering. and the (Care, Care Experience and Services Planning (Scotland) Bill.
- 4.10 All improvement actions have been mapped against what-matters-questions. Our Champions Board and wider care network have been involved throughout the development of improvement actions 24-30. Children, young people, and the wider workforce were consulted on Promise improvement actions 24-30 during care experience week in October 2025.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 Following approval by the Community Planning Partnership Board the new plan will be published and work will begin to
- 5.2 The recruitment process for the Parenting Promise Lead Officer is underway and the appointed officer will take this forward and bring regular updates to the Board on progress.
- 5.2 The new Corporate Parenting Plan will also be presented to the Integration Joint Board for information.

6 Equalities

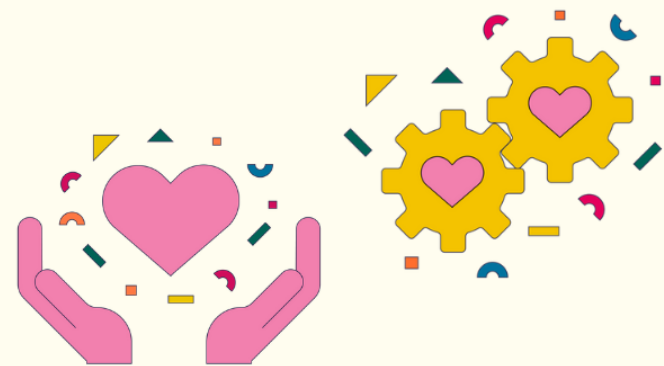
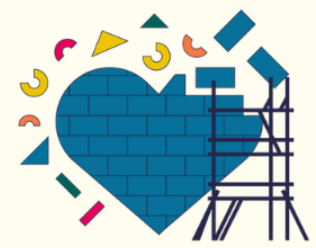
- 6.1 A full Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out as part of the refresh activity.



South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise



2024 - 2030



Champions for Change
SOUTH AYRSHIRE CHAMPIONS BOARD

south ayrshire
health & social care
partnership

South
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day



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Foreword

In South Ayrshire we want the very best for all the children and young people in our care. We want them to know that they are important, loved and respected, to feel happy, healthy and supported to be the very best they can be.

When a child comes into our care, we become their 'corporate parent' and this means that we should know what is important to them, including understanding the relationships that matter most in their lives. We must approach this parenting role with as much passion and commitment as any family would and ensure that all looked after infants, children and young people are given the best start in life and support to maintain this.

Now, more than ever, we have an opportunity to continue to make the changes we need for our children and young people and their families. The work of The Promise and Plan 21-24

told us that children staying where they feel loved and are safe must become the standard, while the ways in which families are supported, and children are cared for, is changed.

Since 2021 we have made great progress in South Ayrshire to #KeepThePromise. This plan looks ahead to 2030 and sets out what action we will take as we go further to supporting the children and young people in our care.

All of those involved in developing this plan have committed to listening, collaborating and taking action. Collectively we have a critical role to play in achieving the changes we need to make across our communities.

By nurturing the hopes and dreams of our children and their families we create a better future for us all.

Councillor Julie Dettbarn, Chair of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

Mark Inglis, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice

A note on language: We have made a commitment to use simple, caring language that is easily understood and have tried to keep the language in this plan easy to understand and we

Introduction



What is South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise?

South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise is our Corporate Parenting plan. This means that it explains how we will implement The Promise in South Ayrshire and how we will support our care experienced population in our role as corporate parents.

The first Parenting Promise was developed in 2021 and set out the steps we would take in the years ahead along with specific actions which set out how we will achieve our vision. This was closely aligned to the national direction of The Promise Plan 21-24. At the end of 2024, a new national approach was launched to deliver The Promise from 2025-30. In response to this, we have developed a refreshed plan for South Ayrshire which is up to date and reflects the impact we have made over the last few years as well as setting out what we still need to do.

The plan is accompanied by an action plan which sets out all of the things we are doing in South Ayrshire to ensure we act on what is important to our care experienced young people, provide opportunities and the right supports for them to thrive.

What is Corporate Parenting?

Corporate parenting is:

'An organisation's performance of actions necessary to uphold the rights and safeguard the wellbeing of a looked after child or care leaver, and through which physical, emotional, spiritual, social and educational development is promoted'

The Care Review and The Promise has not used the term 'Corporate Parent' and recognises that:

"Scotland must live up to its responsibilities in relation to the children it has (and has had) responsibility for and be a 'good parent'. It is tempting to define what a 'good parent' is. However, like love, to do so would only apply an institutional version of parenting and create the danger of further systemisation of care."

As Corporate Parents, under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, it is our role to make sure that our attention and resources are focused on upholding rights, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of South Ayrshire's 'looked after children' and 'care leavers.'

The writing of this plan is a statutory responsibility, but more than that it will give the opportunity to stop and listen to our care experienced young people. We want this plan to be a partnership, both challenging and changing practice in a constructive and safe way for all. We need to acknowledge that change may feel uncomfortable but is necessary to improve lives and outcomes.

These are our corporate parenting duties:

Be Alert: to matters which, or which might, adversely affect the wellbeing of Care Experienced people. We must be aware of and stay informed about issues that may have a negative impact on an individual with Care Experience, or on the wider Care Experienced community. At the basis of this we must make sure that we have a direct link with the community.

Assess: the needs of Care Experienced people for the services and support we provide. For example, explain and explore the development of new services. This includes ensuring that we have robust systems in place to identify our Care Experienced population.

Promote: the interests of Care Experienced people. This may include ensuring Care Experienced people have access to independent advocacy; education, leisure or employment opportunities; tackling discrimination; upholding children's rights; and removing barriers to wellbeing.

Opportunities: Provide Care Experienced people with opportunities to participate in activities designed to promote their wellbeing develop opportunities or procure new activities specifically targeted at this community, offer work experience, training or employment.

Access: Take action to help Care Experienced people access the opportunities we provide, make use of services, and access support, available

Improve: It is important to keep our work with Care Experienced people under review and look for ways to improve and be the best Corporate Parent we can be. (Reference [Corporate Parenting Duties - An Overview - Final](#))

These corporate parenting duties apply equally to all 'looked after children' and 'care leavers.' Importantly these duties are not the responsibility of just one individual or service. They should be delivered jointly as a Community Planning Partnership, embedded in the way we all work together.



The Promise in Scotland

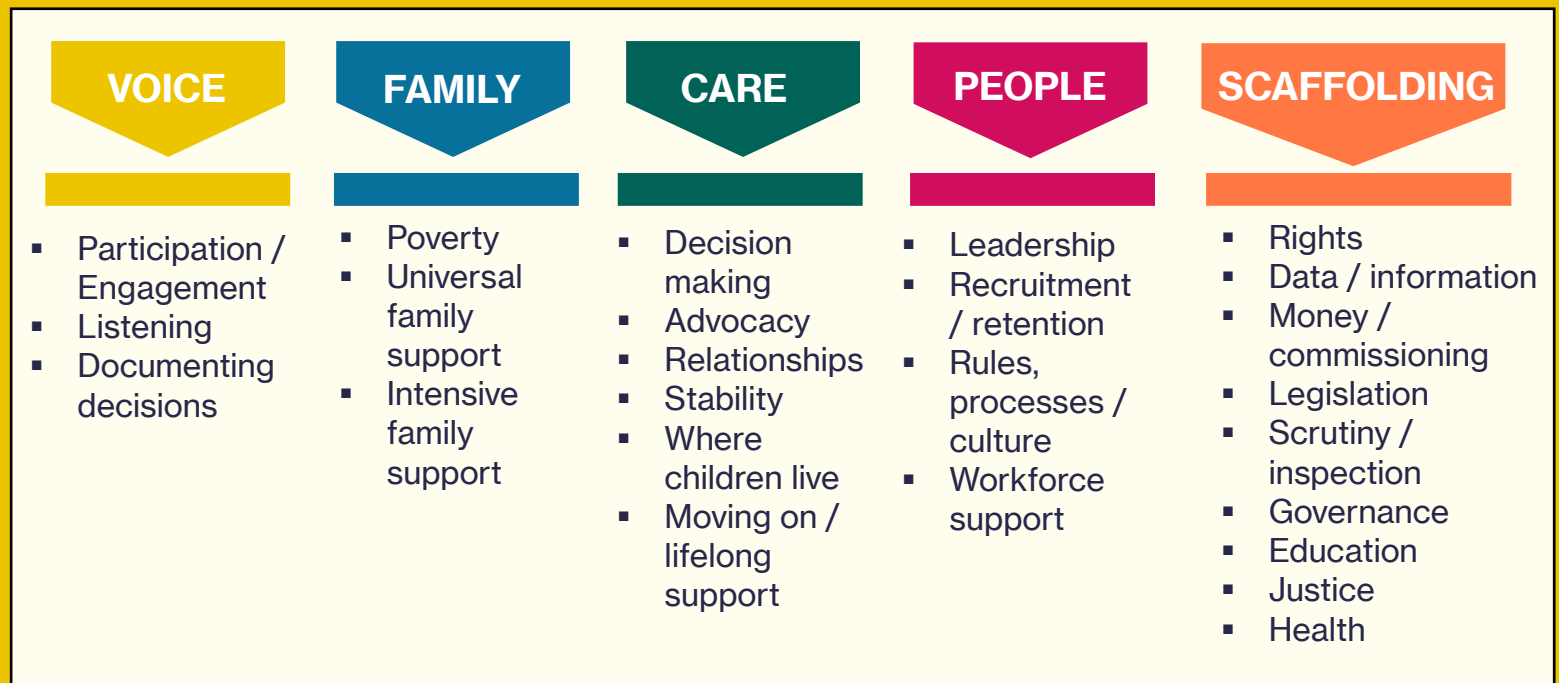
[The Promise](#) is Scotland's commitment to care experienced children and young people that they will grow up loved, safe and respected' to realise their full potential, and that care experienced adults and families have the support they need to thrive. Scotland has set out to achieve the promise by 2030.

In 2016 the Independent Care Review was commissioned by the Scottish Government to conduct a root and branch review of Scotland's care system. The Care Review heard from over 5,500 experiences from children, young people and adults who had lived in care as well as hearing from the paid and unpaid workforce. This prompted action from organisations across Scotland to make the changes needed to keep the promise.

[Plan 24-30](#) was launched in June 2024 and is Scotland's route map to #KeepThePromise by 2030. The plan sets out **WHO** needs to do **WHAT** by **WHEN** to make sure the promise made to babies, children, young people, families and care experienced adults in February 2020 is kept in full by 2030.

[Plan 24-30](#) is organised around the five foundations of the promise: **voice, family, care, people, and scaffolding** and identifies 28 themes that we must address to make the changes needed across all our services to implement the promise.

You can learn more about the five foundations [here](#).



The Promise foundations give a clear and simple starting point; where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together, to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties they encounter.

The Promise states that children staying where they feel loved and are safe must become the standard while the ways in which families are supported, and children cared for, is put right.

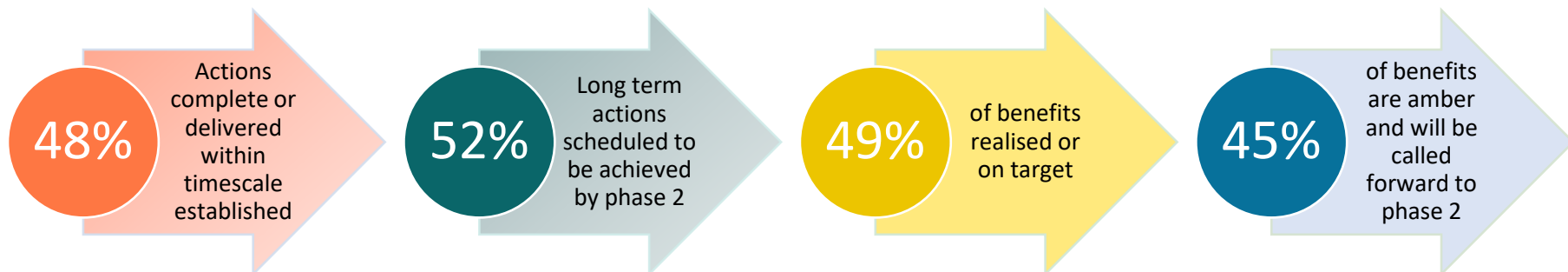
Children must feel they belong in a loving home, stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so, feel loved by their carers or adoptive parents, and be given all the support they need to thrive.

The Promise in South Ayrshire

In 2021 South Ayrshire chose to name our new Corporate Parenting plan ‘South Ayrshire’s Parenting Promise.’ This reflects the plan’s close alignment with ‘The Promise’ and in response to the challenge from children and young people to use language which is ‘clear and relatable.’

Since 2021 we have come a long way in #KeepingThePromise in South Ayrshire.

‘The Promise’ challenges us to deliver long term improvements across South Ayrshire to bring about lasting change. In 2021 we identified ten South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas, we agreed actions and identified measurable improvements (benefits) linked to each action. This helped us to report the impact our work is making. As illustrated below:



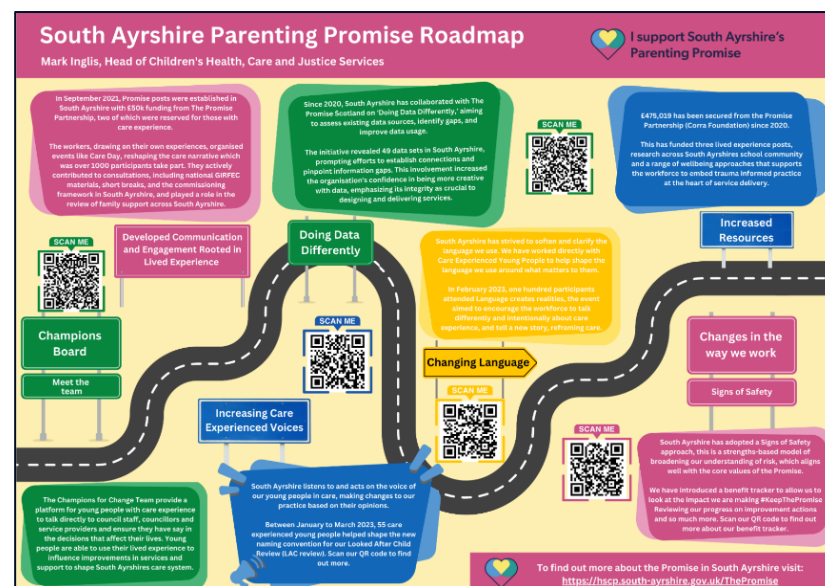
The Promise improvement areas with thirty-one actions and forty-seven benefits (measurable improvements) for which baseline information has been established to allow us to measure the impact of our Promise activity. The process of benefit tracking allows us to clearly identify how each benefit will be measured, as well as the data and collection method required to do so.

The creation of detailed project plans for each of our forty-seven benefits allows us to report on impact rather than output alone. This is a notable change in our approach and one which has allowed us to begin to better understand the impact of implementing the Promise in terms of measurable improvements.

In March 2025 we produced [Embedding The Promise across South Ayrshire 2021-2024](#). The report highlights the progress we have made towards embedding the values of The Promise across various services and policies around Care Experienced infants, children and young people and those that care for them. The voices of those directly impacted have been central to this change and will remain central to the changes we must make moving forward.

Key achievements include the development of 55 calls to action, 10 improvement areas, with associated measurable improvements (benefits) to help us measure progress. The development of our Champions Board has empowered care experienced young people to influence decisions, fostering a culture of genuine participation and collaboration. Additionally, the adoption of trauma-informed practices and care-based language has helped create a more inclusive and supportive environment for children and families. There is still much work to be done to fully realise The Promise by 2030. Future efforts will focus on maintaining the momentum of work underway, further integrating care as a protected characteristic, enhancing supportive school structures, and continuing to refine data collection and usage to better understand and improve outcomes.

We created a road map to illustrate our journey to implement The Promise in South Ayrshire, [click here](#) to view this. We still have some road ahead to keep the promise by 2030 however much good work has taken place over the past 4 years to get us to this important stage.



Story of Change: Participation & Co-Production



South Ayrshire Champions Board was established to ensure care-experienced young people are truly listened to and that what they say leads to real change. The Champions work together with people in power to make services better, fairer, and more supportive. South Ayrshire Champions Board firmly believe that the voices, experiences and ideas of the care community matter and can help shape a South Ayrshire where every young person feels loved, safe, and respected.

The participation work undertaken by the Champions Board encapsulates the ethos of The Promise. It provides shared experiences which nurture a sense of community and collective identity for young people with care experience and offers a platform for their collective voice.

Co-production is at the heart of all of our Promise improvement areas across South Ayrshire. The Champion's Board is a significant contributor to enabling South Ayrshire to deliver on the national Promise foundations.

Martin is 18 years old and is a youthwork modern apprentice based in South Ayrshire Champions Board and Thriving Communities. Martin first joined the Champions Board back in 2018 when he was 11 years old and still in primary school. Martin has a passion to help others and uses his care experience as a way to make positive change through his involvement in Champions board. Martin worked with a playwright to write poems about care and the things that are important to him, and Martin has since performed his poetry to corporate parents across many settings. Most recently shared at the First Ministers Whole Family Support leadership event in Edinburgh.

“I’ve come a long way since I first joined champs as a boy. I’m now involved in setting up a reverse mentoring project in South Ayrshire with champs and senior leaders, I’m learning how to be a youth worker and have made films written a song and poetry. I want to make care a better experience for children and young people and we can only do this by telling people how it is and what needs to change.”



Too Many Professionals

A Poem by Martin Calder

A circle of faces, all staring in,
Each with a question, each with a spin,
They talk in words that twist and wind,
All trying to fix what they think they'll find.

The social worker with her careful notes,
The therapist digging where no one floats,
The teacher who's seen it all before,
The doctor with meds that might restore.

They speak of plans, of steps to take,
Of all the things that might break the ache,
But in their eyes, I see the glaze,
Of well-meaning words that fill the days.

Too many voices, too many hands,
Each with their maps, their coloured plans,
But no one asks, "What do you feel?"
As they talk of charts, and what they heal.

I'm more than numbers, more than tests,
More than a file on someone's desk,

Yet here I sit, a piece to solve,
In a game of which I'm not involved.

They say it's care, they say it's right,
But all I feel is the weight, the might,
Of every word that falls like stone,
As I sit here, quietly, alone.

Where's the space for my own voice?
The chance to speak, to make a choice?
In this crowd of minds, I lose my way,
A sea of help that seems to sway.

So many hands to guide my path,
But what I need is a quiet bath,
A moment to breathe, to just be still,
To find my own voice, my own will.

Too many minds, too much advice,
All with good hearts, but at a price,
For in their care, I lose my say,
As they guide me, lead me, far away.

Policy Context

The Promise exists in a complex policy landscape in Scotland, this means that there are lots of interlinked elements which we must consider. The Promise is underpinned by the children's rights-based approach by the [United Nations Convention of Right of a Child \(UNCRC\)](#) which means this must be fully incorporated and upheld in all work taking place in South Ayrshire.

Within our [Children and Young People's Services Plan 2023-26](#) we dedicated actions relating to the UNCRC to ensure that not only Children's Services, but the entire Council and Health Social Care Partnership (HSCP) understand their duties and responsibilities to uphold Children's rights in the work we do.

The UNCRC sets out how organisations should work better together to ensure that children rights are upheld. The 54 articles within the UNCRC align with the key aims of The Promise and we recognise the importance of reflecting and including these within all the work that takes place in South Ayrshire. As well as the UNCRC, The Promise takes on a trauma informed approach that understands psychological trauma and adversity. We recognise the different ways trauma can affect people and how common trauma and adversity is. Our approach seeks to support those suffering from trauma and ensure everyone involved in delivering the Promise is a trauma informed practitioner in line with the [Getting It Right for Every Child \(GIRFEC\)](#).

The [IJB Strategic Plan 2021-31](#) outlines seven key objectives, and the Parenting Promise aligns clearly with these. Corporate parenting is given the highest importance in South Ayrshire, and the Promise is woven through both South Ayrshire Council and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnerships values and activities and ambitions.

A focus on corporate parenting and supporting care experienced children and young people is given strategic priority across our key plans and strategies, for example: In 2023 the Promise was agreed as a local priority area of [South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan \(LOIP\) 2024-29](#) and in the same year our Children's Service Planning Partnership identified the Promise as one of 6 priority areas of South Ayrshires Children and Young Peoples Services Plan 2023-2026.

There are many national strategic priorities that are deeply interlinked and centred around upholding human rights and improving outcomes for those who are more likely to experience inequalities. These include the Equally Safe strategy, the incorporation of the



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into Scots law, the Promise and the National Trauma Training Programme (NTTP) and Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty legislation. Underpinning all these strategies are shared principles that aim to improve outcomes for people living with the impacts of poverty inequalities trauma and adversity, including:

- Empowering adults and children to understand their rights and participate in decisions that affect them;
- Developing trusting and relationships with professionals, that nurture safety, choice and collaboration;
- Working with rather than “doing to”
- Recognising the individual needs of children, young people and adults in relation to their unique circumstances and experiences,
- developing proactive approaches to eradicate barriers to participation.

Where are we now and what do we hope to achieve?

This new Plan sets out how we are going to deliver The Promise in South Ayrshire up to 2030.

The Promise Progress Framework published at the end of 2024 outlines **ten vision statements** derived from The Promise report, aiming to guide progress towards ensuring all care-experienced children and young people grow up loved, safe, and respected.

These vision statements act as a framework for understanding and measuring progress across various aspects of care and support and have been chosen based on available data from multiple sources. Indicators are intended to evolve and expand as our data improves.

In the sections below we have detailed our progress against each vision statement so far, as well as setting out what we will do next to achieve the vision by 2023. This will form the basis of our action plan which will hold us to account.





Vision Statement 1: Supporting children to stay with their families

Where children are in their families and feel loved they must stay, families must be given support to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ We have influenced to ensure that the Promise was selected as of high priority by the Children Services Planning Partnership and as a local priority area of South Ayrshire's LOIP (Local Outcome Improvement Plan).
- ♥ South Ayrshire's Children's Service Planning Partnership identified the Promise as one of the six priority areas of South Ayrshires Children and Young People's Service Plan 2023-26. It is evident that the Promise is not just a priority area within the Children Services Plan, but sits across all Children Services Priorities, shaping and influencing the "whole system". The Children Services Plan delivers on many of the foundations of the Promise and in particular the focus on preventative and early offers of help for each individual family member. This has helped us to improve outcomes for children and young people and is evident within all six priority areas.
- ♥ We have achieved a 76% reduction in the number of Children referred to the Children's Reporter on Non-Offence Grounds and an 88% reduction in referrals to SCRA (Scottish Children's Reporter) on Offence Grounds over the past two years.
- ♥ Taken steps to ensure care experienced children and young people are now 50% less likely to live out-with the authority in 2025 than they were in 2020. This equates to over £3 million pounds saved to invest into earlier intervention help for our local families.

What will we do next?

Support our workforce to contribute to a broader understanding of risk. South Ayrshire must understand, through its people and structures, the risk of children not having loving, supportive relationships and regular childhood and teenage experiences.

- ♥ Ensure that settings of care will be able to facilitate the protection of relationships that are important to our children and young people.
- ♥ Develop a better understanding of child protection activity and processes including how practitioners manage risk to allow children and young people to remain at home safely.
- ♥ Further understand non-familial harm and how this is addressed through a contextual safeguarding approach.
- ♥ Ensure there will be no blanket policies or guidance within South Ayrshire that prevents the maintenance of relationships between young people and those who care for them.

We will demonstrate a significant, ongoing, and persistent commitment to ending poverty and mitigating its impacts for South Ayrshire children, families, and communities.

- ♥ Children's Health Care and Justice services will continue to proactively engage in addressing Child Poverty ensuring families have extra money to help with care.
- ♥ Take steps to embed the 10 principles of intensive family support in the planning, commissioning, and evaluation of all support provided for children and their families.
- ♥ We will also take steps to map out the use of Self Direct Support (SDS) and gather examples to analyse and explore further how we can improve how SDS is used.
- ♥ We will improve the identification and tracking of care experienced children and young people who are also young carers to better understand their needs, what matters to them and identify any gaps.

- ♥ We will deliver on an action plan for South Ayrshires Child Poverty Strategy that provides additionality to the ongoing work that is already happening across to address child poverty.
- ♥ Child Poverty will now also sit within Children Services Planning as a priority to enable the widest possible Community Planning approach to collaboratively addressing it and its impact upon Children's wellbeing towards improving outcomes for children and young people. There will also be clear accountability and monitoring for delivering on this priority.

South Ayrshire recognises that 'language creates realities' those with care experience must hold and own the narrative of their own lives.

- ♥ Ensure the use of simple, caring language in the writing of care files. Further focus will be given to ensure that all South Ayrshire policies and procedures are written with care-based language.
- ♥ Ensure that when statutory language needs to be used, this will be done sparingly and will be explained clearly to children and families.
- ♥ Undertake further development work through young peoples' meetings (previously known as looked after reviews) to increase young people's participation in and ownership of their meetings.
- ♥ Children's Services Planning in South Ayrshire will continue to support children to stay with their families through collaborative early intervention and prevention work.



Vision Statement Two: Supporting Carers and providing stability

Scotland must limit the number of moves that children experience and support carers to continue to care.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ Embedded a Signs of Safety and Family First approach to prevention and early intervention which has seen 81.9% of South Ayrshire Social Work activity supporting children and their families on a prevention basis, avoiding any unnecessary involvement from the state.
- ♥ According to the Local Government Benchmarking Framework 2023 to 2024, (being the most recent data available), South Ayrshire has the lowest percentage of Children Looked After away from home who have more than one “Placement” move in the previous 12 months at 14.8%, is has ever had. South Ayrshire is also lower, as compared to her comparator Local Authorities, who had 17.5% of this population move more than once and the Scottish Average also at 17.5%. This means that Children who can not live at home with parents are placed more appropriately and successfully with alternative families or residential care.
- ♥ Developed level 1 online trauma training which 71% of South Ayrshires workforce have now accessed.
- ♥ Designed and delivered accredited level 2 and 3 trauma training across our workforce and partners and have established a rolling training calendar with monthly level 2 and level 3 training.
- ♥ South Ayrshire staff absence statistics show a reduction and the reasons for absence on the basis of psychological reasons such as anxiety, stress, and burnout has dropped significantly.
- ♥ We have supported the development of South Ayrshire’s Integrated Equalities Impact assessment (IIA) to include The Promise, Child Rights and Wellbeing, Trauma Informed Practice, Our Ageing Population, Health and Wellbeing and Rurality. Within the IIA we have recognised ‘Care’ as a protected characteristic specific to South Ayrshire Council. This means that anyone introducing new policies, procedures, strategies, projects, and financial decisions will have to consider the Promise and acknowledge care as a protected characteristic as core to all new initiatives.

What will we do next?

Ensure that South Ayrshire's workforce and commissioned services will have a comprehensive understanding of the promise including how to embed the promise values in their approach.

♥ Regular Elected Members' briefings will continue to be delivered by South Ayrshire's Champions Board ensuring young people with care experience have a pivotal role in designing and delivering the briefings communications will include Elected Member updates in the Elected Member Information Notes.

♥ Deliver Plan 2024-30 information sessions and bespoke workshops across teams and services including all relevant commissioned services. Those with lived experience of care will play a major role in designing and delivering all promise sessions identify target of participants over 12 months.

♥ Keep our workforce informed on our implementation of the promise through regular communications and briefings. We will develop a communications plan that promotes The Promise and Plan 2024 – 30.

♥ Ensure that the Promise branding will continue to be promoted and adopted across South Ayrshire by our workforce and partners.

A framework of support will be in place to ensure people involved in the care of care experienced children and young people feel valued, encouraged, and have supportive relationships for reflection with high quality supervision and environmental conditions.

♥ South Ayrshire HSCP will establish a standard for supervision which incorporates a range of approaches including coaching, action learning sets and peer mentoring.

♥ Ensure supervision approaches will nurture our workforce to behave and treat children in a way that is relational rather than procedural and process driven.

Trauma informed, and nurture approaches are standard and widespread practice across South Ayrshire

- ♥ Look at ways to ensure there is better planning and impact assessing. This is based on our improved understanding of trauma and the embedding of the integrated impact assessments.
- ♥ Continue to upskill our workforce and Elected Members and have rolled out an accredited training calendar until March 2025. Evaluations for training course are in place, but further work will take place to understand the long-term impact how learning is being embedded into practice.
- ♥ Continue to work on the reduction of staff absence rates.
- ♥ Review the wording of the improvement actions whilst utilising staff wellbeing surveys and focus groups with the use of the Warwick Wellbeing Scale as a baseline.
- ♥ Analyse findings of staff wellbeing survey and using data to influence wellbeing plans.
- ♥ Continue to embed the CORRA funded test of change work with leisure and will be supported by our Wellbeing Assistant. This will look at occupational health and maximising attendance.
- ♥ Pilot Trickle App via housing operations team. The app provides a platform for the workforce to be heard and shape change while offering the leaders the insights to act quickly. <https://trickle.works/>
- ♥ We will continue to develop our parenting support in South Ayrshire through the work of our Children's Services Planning Partnership.



Vision Statement Three: Education

Schools in Scotland must be ambitious for care experienced children and ensure they have all they need to thrive, recognising that they may experience difficulties associated with their life story.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ Reduced school exclusion rates (per 1000 looked after pupils) from 73.4 to 34.0 as per latest figures.
- ♥ Increased the attendance for our primary school children who are looked after at home from 84% to 88.5% (23-24)
- ♥ Increased the attendance for our secondary school children who are looked after at home from 54% to 69% (23-24)
- ♥ Led by the data and pupil voice, we piloted a Supportive School Structure in our Secondary Schools to further scaffold learning for our previously looked after pupils.
- ♥ Our Virtual School in South Ayrshire continues to improve life chances and experiences for care experienced children and young people. In 2023-24 the Virtual School has supported over sixty young people across the authority, with different levels of support in various care settings across South Ayrshire. Many of the young people have gone on to secure positive destinations at the end of involvement with the Virtual School team.

Supportive School Structure Roadmap

The Supportive School Structure was developed in South Ayrshire following The Promise South Ayrshire report conducted in 2023, this report highlighted the need for strengthened educational support for young people with care experience and those at risk of disengagement. The initiative aims to promote inclusion, stability, and improved engagement with education through relational and trauma-informed practice.

The Supportive School Structure focuses on supporting young people with care experience to rebuild trust in education, develop positive routines, and engage meaningfully within their community. The work is rooted in establishing therapeutic relationships that provide consistency, emotional safety, and a sense of belonging.

Enhanced access to employability, skills development, and enrichment opportunities.

Joint Participation Projects:

Facilitating initiatives that involve pupils in shaping their own experiences and outcomes, encouraging ownership and participation.



Positive feedback from schools, families, and young people regarding consistency of support and relationship quality.

Improved confidence, self-esteem, and sense of belonging.

Relationship-Based Practice:

Building sustained, trusting relationships with young people to promote emotional regulation, motivation, and self-belief.

Increased educational engagement and attendance among participating young people.

Strengthened collaboration between education, social care, and community sectors.

Collaborative Working:

Engaging with schools, local authority teams, private businesses, and national agencies to co-create opportunities that meet individual needs.

Reflecting on this work, the most meaningful progress has emerged from relationship-based engagement, listening to young people's voices, meeting them where they are, and maintaining consistency even through challenge. The approach aligns closely with The Promise and South Ayrshire's commitment to trauma-informed education.

Moving forward, continued partnership with local and national services will be essential to sustaining and expanding the impact of this work, ensuring that every young person feels supported, valued, and capable of achieving their full potential.

Multi-Agency Engagement:

Working alongside education, social work, and community services to ensure a coordinated and holistic response.

Scan me to view stories of change



What will we do next?

Care experienced children and young people will receive all they need to thrive at school. There will be no barriers to their engagement with education and schools will know and cherish their care experienced pupils.

- ♥ 80% (45/56) schools have completed training and received the We Promise Award. Remaining schools will be supported to achieve this by our Virtual School Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher.
- ♥ Education staff will work to nurture care experienced young people to avoid exacerbating trauma including working to reduce exclusions.
- ♥ We will continue to support and ensure care experienced young people go on to positive destinations, such as further education or employment.
- ♥ Care experienced young people will have a range of supports provided by the team around them to ensure they achieve their potential, specific to them.

Work across Childrens Service Planning in South Ayrshire will support our schools to be ambitious for care experienced children and ensure they have all they need to thrive.

- ♥ Continue to develop our Family First approach which prioritises whole family wellbeing through early intervention and preventative support.



Vision Statement Four: Brothers and Sisters

Where living with their family is not possible, children must stay with their brothers and sisters where safe to do so and belong to a loving home, staying there for as long as needed.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ We have provided enhanced support for Kinship carers. South Ayrshires Kinship Team was formed in May 2022. Since the formation of the kinship team, kinship carers now have access to dedicated workers with specialist knowledge, who can offer personalised support when needed, through a relationship-based approach. The kinship team works directly with kinship carers and has been instrumental in supporting them to care of the children and young people they look after.
- ♥ We have supported the formation of South Ayrshire's Play Therapy Service, made up of two part time British Association of Play Therapists qualified play therapists, overseen by a team leader. This Therapeutic support has had a direct impact upon Children being supported within family type care in South Ayrshire, be it foster care or Kinship Care. According to Improvement Scotland data 2022-23, over the past three years, South Ayrshire is now below the comparator Benchmark Authorities in terms of number of places a child has lived in any given year, this is when a Child's living arrangement with a foster carer or Kinship carer has broken down and they need to be with another family.

What will we do next?

Decisions made across South Ayrshire are underpinned by children's rights and there will be well communicated and understood guidance in place that upholds children's rights and reflects equal protection legislation.

- ♥ Introduce Children's Rights training for all South Ayrshires workforce and provide support on completing Children's rights elements as part of South Ayrshires Integrated Equality Impact Assessment process.
- ♥ We will recognise that children's rights are most often realised through relationships with loving, attentive caregivers.

Work across Childrens Service Planning in South Ayrshire will support children to stay with their brothers and sisters.

- ♥ Develop a Participation and Engagement strategy.
- ♥ Undertake further work will be undertaken through young peoples' meetings (previously known as looked after reviews) to increase young people's participation in and ownership of their meetings.
- ♥ Adopt the Solihull approach to parenting across South Ayrshires workforce placing an emphasis on emotional health and wellbeing and nurturing relationships.



Vision Statement Five: Physical Restraint

The Promise states that Scotland must strive to become a nation that does not restrain its children. In South Ayrshire we remain supportive of this.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ South Ayrshire Children's Houses operate a hands-off policy and have reported zero restraints since 2021. Restraints across our school provision are monitored through our CPI training team. In South Ayrshire each restraint is reviewed and discussed fortnightly with the Central Inclusion Team to support staff, pupils and continue to reduce restraints in line with Included, Engaged Involved Pt 3.
- ♥ The Depute Head Teacher also oversees South Ayrshires Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) training for the authority and the Local Authority guidance around this. All restraints are reviewed and discussed fortnightly. All inclusion co-ordinators and Principal Teachers look at how to support and reduce restraint dependent upon the child's need. This information is collated and presented annually, and the inclusion co-ordinators have a responsibility to work closely with schools to offer support and reduce restraints. South Ayrshire have been working with Education Scotland and other partners to develop guidance and processes around recording Violence and Aggression.

What will we do next?

- ♥ South Ayrshire will improve systems that gather data to understand prevalence of restraints experienced by our children and young people with care experience (collaboration between residential, education and commissioned services). This will include tracking those Children in our Foster care and Kinship care and South Ayrshire Children who live within a residential establishment out with of the Authority.
- ♥ We will continue to upskill our workforce and Elected Members and have rolled out an accredited trauma training calendar. further work will take place to understand the long-term impact how learning is being embedded into practice.



Vision Statement Six: Mental Health

Scotland must seek to uphold the wellbeing of care-experienced children and young people and ensure that there is timely access to mental health support before crisis point so that children avoid hospitalisation.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ An event took place in April 2024 on Perinatal and Infant mental health attended by the South Ayrshire Health visitors and health visitor support workers. The presentations covered updates on the services, common case-based scenarios and referral pathways. This helped to share learning and networks.
- ♥ All Health Visitors have been provided with the 'Red Flags' voice of the infant document to use in their assessments of infant mental health.
- ♥ An Infant Mental Steering group has been established with representation from services. These include three Health Visitor Infant Mental Health and Perinatal Mental Health champions. Their role is to disseminate information to teams.

What will we do next?

- ♥ We will create parental wellbeing indicators through a collaboration between poverty and additional support needs funded by the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (CPAF) activity.
- ♥ We will continue to support Family First locality model, ensuring that early help and support is accessible through an integrated, multi-agency approach.
- ♥ A Mental Health nurse post will be re-established within South Ayrshires Young Peoples Support and Transition Team to support young people leaving care.
- ♥ Ensure that the wider Children Services Planning Priorities are mindful of the mental health needs and trauma of our Children and young people with Care Experience.

Work across Childrens Service Planning in South Ayrshire will uphold the wellbeing of care- experienced children and young people and ensure that there is timely access to mental health support before crisis point so that children avoid hospitalisation.

- ♥ Continue our focus on infant and parental mental health through the Healthy Priority of our Children's Services Plan.
- ♥ Continue our focus on improving developmental outcomes including through whole systems consistent speech and language messaging.
- ♥ Analysis of the Health and Wellbeing Survey to support development of Children's Services Plan 26-29



Vision Statement Seven: Health

Care experienced children and young people have access to support ensuring that their health needs are fully met and potential for good health is maximised.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ Health and Wellbeing is consistently raised by our children, young people, families and services as a main priority for improvement. Our focus in South Ayrshire is to nurture a caring culture where emotional and physical wellbeing is promoted. We have identified healthy as a priority area in our Children and Young People's Service Plan and have established a range of priority aims including improved access to sexual health promotion, services and support for young people.
- ♥ Support is now available via a Sexual Health pathway identified as part of the nationally refocussed school nurse role. Support and advice is provided to individual young people through targeted health assessments including young people who are Looked After or in need of protection.

Children and young people benefit from a whole family approach to support concerns impacted by alcohol and drug use.

- ♥ We have developed a new 'no wrong door' delivery model for young people, families and carers affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use, continuing to support treatment and recovery services to become more family inclusive, and to develop new support designed for children and young people affected by drugs and alcohol.

The health and wellbeing of infants, children and young people will benefit from a multiagency approach to support good nutrition and healthy weight.

- ♥ We have worked closely with partners including Ayrshire College to raise awareness of early years nutrition and child healthy weight. Pilot work in an Ayrshire campus focused on training all early year's students to increase knowledge and skills, as well as awareness of local supporting services and resources.

- ♥ Within education in 2023-24, a local Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) steering group was formed to pull together common themes which were causing the biggest worry for young people. and respond through bespoke PSHE overviews for each school involving partners from health, social care and Police Scotland in the delivery of these key themes which include key priorities including vaping, substance abuse, healthy relationships, body image and personal safety.

What will we do next?

- ♥ We will work to develop data sharing agreements between NHS and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership will improve our understanding and allow us to target resources.
- ♥ Children's Services Planning will continue to focus on infant and parental mental health including the development and roll out of Solihull Training to support consistency of messaging for parents and practitioners alike.
- ♥ We will promote and monitor the uptake of Active8 card for young people with care experience.
- ♥ Ensure we consistently embed the approach to Health Assessment for our Looked After Population, in hours and out of hours, at the point of entry into Care and any move required thereafter. Ensuring all our Children's Health needs are understood and responded to appropriately and in good time.

Work across Childrens Service Planning in South Ayrshire that will ensure care experienced children and young people have access to support ensuring that their health needs are fully met and potential for good health is maximised.

- ♥ Work with the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to deliver a consistent approach to drug and alcohol education.
- ♥ Analysis of Health and Wellbeing Survey.
- ♥ Speech and Language early help collaborative.
- ♥ Smoking vaping pan Ayrshire taskforce.



Vision Statement Eight: Justice and Secure Accommodation

Scotland must stop locking up children who have often experienced the failures of the state in the provision of their care.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ In collaboration with the Children and Young People's Centre for Justice (CYCJ) South Ayrshires Young Peoples Support and Transition Team redesigned the service they provide using 'Reimagining Justice with Children and Young People: Building Rights Respecting Services Together' which is a service design approach based on the best available evidence about how to respect and uphold children's rights and deliver on The Promise to Scotland's care experienced community who are in conflict with the law. Reimagining Justice' places those who use the services (including children and young people) at the heart of the design process, working alongside practitioners and managers. This model, grounded in the principles of the Scottish Approach to Service Design (SAAtSD), has enabled South Ayrshire to design a rights-respecting service that will meet the needs of our children, young people, families, and carers with workers who have specialist knowledge, understanding and experience in throughcare and aftercare, children in conflict with the law, unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, and youth homelessness (16/17 years old).
- ♥ Significant legal and policy changes in Scotland, including a commitment to #KeepingThePromise, the incorporation of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the implementation of the Children (Care and Justice) (Scotland) Act 2024, have all had a direct impact upon how Children and Young people in South Ayrshire experience support and care, while their voices are heard, and their rights upheld. These changes will ensure that children, young people, and their families are at the core of decisions being made about them, while providing an opportunity for them to shape the delivery of services they receive.
- ♥ We have ensured that, in alignment with current legislation, anyone under the age of 18 will be referred to as a child within this document and those up to the age of 25 are classed as young people. Some of this work has included the identification of problems and priorities, exploration of the referral processes, routes, criteria, service specifications, staff roles, training requirements and creating personas, which were developed through the redesign sessions to test what our model would be like for those young people whom it was designed with and for.

- ♥ Our dedication to Youth Justice work has resulted in an 88% reduction in referrals to Scottish Childrens Reporter on offence grounds since 2023.

What will we do next?

- ♥ We will work to ensure South Ayrshire's Care and Risk Management (CARM) approach will align with Whole systems community safety to support opportunities for early intervention.
- ♥ The work of the justice group and associated action plan will be reported on through Childrens Service Planning Joint Improvement group and South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting Executive.



Vision Statement Nine: Aftercare

Young adults for whom Scotland has taken on parenting responsibility must have a right to return to care and have access to services and supporting people to nurture them.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ South Ayrshires Care Connects APP was co-designed with young people to help create an online community with access to information on services and supports available including entitlements and opportunities.
- ♥ Shine even Brighter individual Small Grants initiative, which is lead and delivered by people with lived experience of care through South Ayrshire Champions Board continues to grow. 2025 saw 244 applications, an increase from 209 in 2023 and 151 in 2022. The Small Grants process has proved to be an effective way to connect with other care experienced children, young people and adults in South Ayrshire, allowing us a deeper insight into existing services and the support the care community wants and needs. For the past two years the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund has supported the Small Grants initiative. The applications have multiple, benefits including the opportunity to give those who apply a space to share their aspirations feel validated by receiving money to buy something that they have identified is important to them.

- ♥ In 2024 South Ayrshire secured Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Funding (CPAF) to test a new approach to tackling child poverty in Ayr North. The activity focuses on working with parents, mapping family support services, working towards developing a parental wellbeing model. There is a particular focus on improving our understanding of families who are furthest away from receiving support, where a diagnosed or suspected additional support need is present.
- ♥ South Ayrshire continue to lead the way for positive destinations with 98.7% of South Ayrshires young people achieving a positive post-school destination.

What will we do next?

There must be significant, ongoing, and persistent commitment to ending poverty and mitigating its impacts for South Ayrshire children, families, and communities.

- ♥ We will continue to focus on addressing poverty and its impact.
- ♥ We will continue our mapping exercise around digital inclusivity through pan Ayrshire digital inclusion group.
- ♥ We will extend free travel for care leavers and those with care experience 22-30yrs for one year and monitor this through South Ayrshires Child poverty action plan.
- ♥ We will improve our recording and tracking to ensure that we understand the young adults who have a right to aftercare support and accurately report the support we provide.
- ♥ The Improving Housing outcomes for Young Care Leavers (IHYC) group will be benefit tracked and reported to South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting Executive The group will oversee a range of activities which aim to:
 - Increase the number of young people who feel happy and settled in their homes.
 - Increase opportunities to involve those with lived experience in the tendering and commissioning process.
 - Reduce the number of people with care experience in South Ayrshires homeless provision.



Vision Statement Ten: Support for care experienced adults

Care experienced adults must have a right to access supportive, caring services for as long as they require them. Those services and the people who work in them must have a primary focus on the development and maintenance of supportive relationships that help people access what they need to thrive.

What have we achieved so far?

- ♥ In 2023, South Ayrshires Integrated Equalities Impact assessment (IIA) was developed to include The Promise Child Rights and Wellbeing, Trauma Informed Practice, Our Ageing Population, Health and Wellbeing and Rurality. Within the IIA we have recognised 'Care' as a protected characteristic specific to South Ayrshire Council, anyone introducing new policies, procedures, strategies, projects, and financial decisions whether working directly or indirectly with young people and their families will have to consider the Promise and acknowledge care as a protected characteristic as core to all new initiatives.

What will we do next?

- ♥ South Ayrshire has recognised care as a protected characteristic and the promise as a cross cutting area in our integrated impact assessment process: we will now map out the implications of care as a protected characteristic this includes an exploration of our recruitment processes, processes across housing and other services in relation to care experience.
- ♥ South Ayrshire will test a new neighbourhood delivery model of Radical Place Leadership through an Integrated Neighbourhood Team approach in Ayr North.
- ♥ Working to the mandate of South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting Executive, South Ayrshire's Improving housing outcomes for young care leavers (IHYC) group will drive a range of activity which aims to increase the number of young people who feel happy and settled in their homes, increase opportunities to involve those with lived experience in the tendering and commissioning process.

- ♥ Reduce the number of people with care experience in South Ayrshires homeless provision.

Work across Childrens Service Planning in South Ayrshire that will ensure that care experienced adults must have a right to access supportive, caring services for as long as they require them.

- ♥ The early years 'Sure Start' model will be developed across South Ayrshire.
- ♥ The UNCRC training model will be delivered across South Ayrshires Community Planning Partnership.

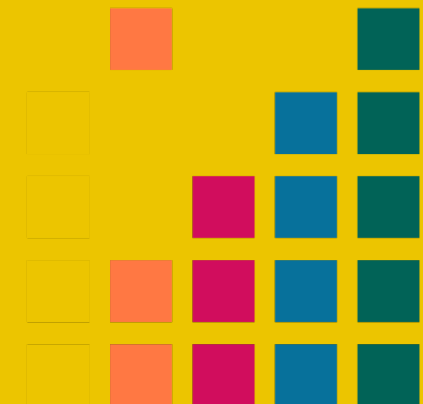
The Importance of Data

The Promise states that services and provision will be designed on the basis of need and with clear data, rather than on an acceptance of how the system has always operated.

Over the last few years, the quality and breadth of our data has improved significantly. This is important as data gathered gives a clear picture of care-experience across our organisation and our partners. It also ensures real life experiences are understood by decision makers.

Since 2020, South Ayrshire has been one of few organisations who has worked with The Promise Scotland on 'Doing Data Differently'. The work attempts to understand what data sources exist, how they are currently linked, and how to identify and understand information gaps to make better use of what is already there.

As a result of our participation, we now know that we have 49 data sets in South Ayrshire and are in the process of establishing how these data sets link and identify where there are gaps. Our involvement in this work has increased our curiosity and confidence to be more creative with our



data and make a clear connection to the integrity of our data and its importance as key to designing and delivering services. This also lets us see how we are doing.

A corporate working group has been established to support the data map activity. The group comprises of representatives from across South Ayrshire Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership. The purpose of the working group is to oversee responsibility for updating the Promise Data Map to ensure all datasets currently uploaded are fully complete and to identify and map any additional datasets in South Ayrshire which should be included in the tool.

The Planning and Performance Team are also working to improve the range and quality of data which is reported to the Corporate Parenting Executive. This will be a continuous improvement project. They have met with the SAC Education Analyst to request more frequent and detailed reporting around aspects such as attendance at school, exclusions, and attainment.

The team will also be focusing on providing trend information on the numbers of brothers and sisters living together along with some indicators yet to be reported upon around number of care leavers holding a driver's license and learning to swim. This new way of collecting and working with data allows us to make more informed decisions with care experienced young people. In South Ayrshire we have also been on a journey to improving our data in terms of integrity and consistency. It can feel that we are at times data rich, but with data integrity issues and a lack of relational data due to system complexity. It has highlighted that there are many data sources available to us, but few are linked up, making analysis, and reporting challenging. It has also highlighted gaps in our available data or informed us that snapshot data is available. Therefore, we have a focus in 2025 to understand how to translate relationships and experiences into evaluation work. We will further utilise the Promise data map to support our work as we move forward.

South Ayrshires Parenting Promise Performance Framework will continue to be improved and built on with each iteration and will incorporate the national promise progress framework which was published in December 2024.



How will we know the plan is making a difference?

The Promise tells us that to #KeepThePromise, the number of children in care should decrease and the resource and opportunities for families to access support if, and when they need it, should increase.

We have set a number of actions and key performance indicators which will tell us if we are making progress to achieving our goals. South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise cannot be delivered in isolation. Meaningful change will only be achieved if organisations and services work together and we are committed to doing that.

We will have an action plan that sets out what we say we are going to do, when it has to be done by, who is going to do it and how we will know the action has made a difference.

The Corporate Parenting Executive Group will have direct oversight of this Plan and will support services to make progress towards achieving their goals. The Group will also make sure that any developments or publications from 'The Promise' are included in South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise.

All actions above will have benefits associated and use benefit tracking process to measure difference we are making.

Reports on the progress of South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise will be presented to the Children's Services



Planning Group, other governance groups and to South Ayrshire's Elected Members to ensure services and organisations can share the progress they are making and identify areas where services can work together.

A snapshot of progress made is published each year in the Integration Joint Board's Annual Performance Report. The reports can be found [here](#).

In the coming years we will continue to listen to the needs of our children and young people. Implementing South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise will be an ongoing and ever-changing process. We will be flexible and adapt to meet the needs of those who we care for. We hope our Parenting Promise will show this.

Conclusion and Looking Ahead

The refresh of our Parenting Promise marks a continuation in our journey as we take the opportunity reflect on how far we have come, celebrate our successes and look ahead to the future to what we still need to do. Over the past four years, our collective efforts have laid a strong foundation for nurturing and supporting our young people in South Ayrshire. We've seen really good progress in areas such as early intervention, community engagement, and effective collaboration, all of which enables and supports the ambitions of the Promise and leads directly to improved outcomes for our Children, Young People and their families.

We know there is still much work to be done and this document reflects the commitment shown by all of our partners and has reaffirmed our joint purpose. We have seen meaningful change possible and sustainable when we work towards a collective vision, keeping our young people at the heart of all that we do, that young people grow up Loved, Safe and Respected.

Looking ahead, we will continue to go further to provide the support our young people and their families need. Our renewed plan is ambitious and sets out clearly where we want to go.

Together with our partners we move forward with a shared purpose to #KeepThe Promise in South Ayrshire.



Glossary

The Promise encourages us to fundamentally change how we care for our children, young people, and their families. The language we use is a crucial part of keeping the promise. In South Ayrshire we are working towards a new language of care slowly changing "system language" (like 'LAC') which stigmatises and alienates people with care-experience towards person-centred language that promotes dignity and respects the rights of children and young people. The Glossary below lists and explains some of the words and phrases that are linked to care in South Ayrshire and across Scotland.

Accommodated

"accommodated" refers to a child or young person being cared for away from their normal home by a local authority. This can happen through a parent's agreement, or through a Children's Hearing or court.

Advocacy

Advocacy is support provided to help people express their views, wishes, and rights particularly in matters affecting their lives. An advocate is someone who doesn't make decisions for the child but empowers them to make their own.

Aftercare

Aftercare is the advice, guidance, and support provided by Local authorities to young people who have been 'looked after'. In Scotland this support can continue until the age of 26.

Champions Board

Champions Boards allow young people to have direct influence within their local area and hold their Corporate Parents to account to ensure that they #KeepThePromise.

Care and Risk Management (CARM)

Care and Risk Management (CARM) is a formal risk management process designed to ensure the safety and well-being of young people. It involves the identification, assessment, and control of risks associated with children's behaviour. CARM focuses on maintaining a child's rights and ensuring they receive appropriate support and care.

Care-experienced - refers to anyone who is currently in care, or anyone who is from a looked-after background or who has been in care at any stage in their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after by a local authority' (Scottish Funding Council, 2018)

Child Protection

The process of identifying and supporting children at risk of harm, abuse, or exploitation.

Children's Hearing

A Children's Hearing is a legal meeting for children and young people in need of help, support, or protection. Children's Hearings are held in private, with a Children's Reporter and Panel Members

Children's House

A residential home where young people live together and are supported by a team of carers. This can sometimes be called "Residential Care"

Compulsory Supervision Order or Supervision Order

A Compulsory Supervision Order is a legal process and can sometimes be called a CSO. It places a duty on social workers and the local authority to ensure that children and young people are safe.

Continuing Care

Continuing Care means that a young person can stay put in the same accommodation when they stop being looked after by the local authority. This means you can stay there until you are 21 if you and your carers agree.

Corporate Parent

Corporate Parents are organisations that have a responsibility for supporting and caring for children and young people. They have the same responsibilities as a parent does, to make sure children are safe, loved, respected, that their rights are realised and they are able to fulfil their potential

Family Time

Time spent between a child or young person and someone else, normally another family member.

Foster Care

Foster Care is a way of giving children and young people a safe and secure place to stay while their family is unable to care for them.

Foster Carer

A foster carer is someone who is specially trained and supported to look after children and young people to give them a safe loving and secure home.

GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child)

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is a national approach designed to make sure that all children and young people get the help that they need when they need it.

Improving Housing Outcomes for Young Care Leavers (IHYCL)

The Improving Housing Outcomes for Care Leavers Group works to make sure that that young people leaving care find the right accommodation option, at the right time, and are supported to successful futures in our communities across South Ayrshire.

Kinship Care

When a child who lives away from their parents with a connected adult who the child knows. This could be a Grandparent, Aunt, or a family friend.

Local Authority

This is the organisation in charge of the services in your area. Local authorities are responsible for a wide range of services such as housing, schools, social work and community services.

Permanence

The process by which Care Experienced children and young people are provided with a settled, secure, and permanent place to live.

Risk Assessment

The process of identifying hazards to the safety of children and young people, deciding how serious and likely a risk is to happen and identifying and recording reasonable things that can be done to minimise harm.

Secure Care

Secure accommodation is a type of Residential Care for young offenders and children or young people who may need extra support or if there is a worry that they are a danger to themselves. They provide accommodation, care services and education.

Sibling

Brothers and sisters. Children do not have to be related to your brothers and sisters for them to be considered a sibling.

Social Worker

Someone who makes sure that children and young people and their family are properly supported.

The Independent Care Review

The Independent Care Review refers to the independent review of the care system in Scotland between 2017 and 2020. The review heard over 5,500 experiences and published seven reports in February 2020 including **the Promise**.

The Promise

The Promise is the main report of Scotland's independent care review published in 2020. It reflects the views of over 5,500 care experienced children and adults, families, and the workforce. It described what Scotland must do to make sure that its Care Experienced children are loved, safe, and respected, able to fulfil their potential.

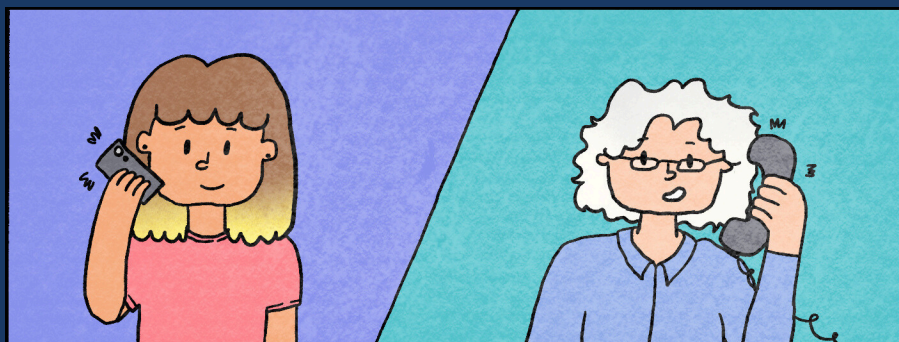
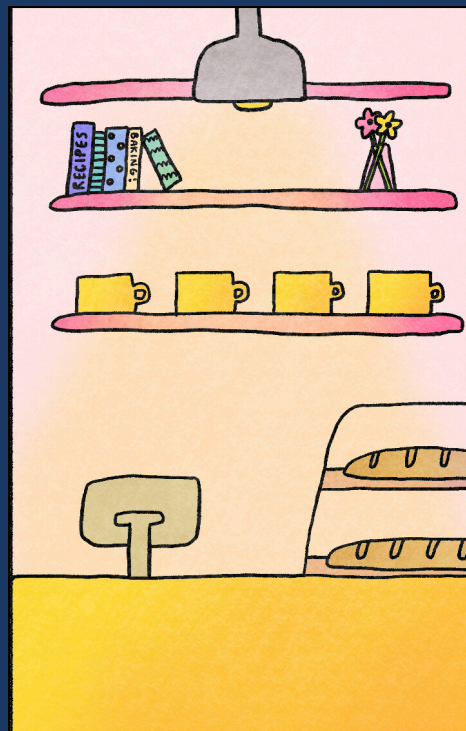
Throughcare

The advice and assistance provided to Care-Experienced young people to prepare them for independent living. Local authorities are under a duty to provide such assistance to all looked after children who continue to be looked after on or after their sixteenth birthday.

Wellbeing

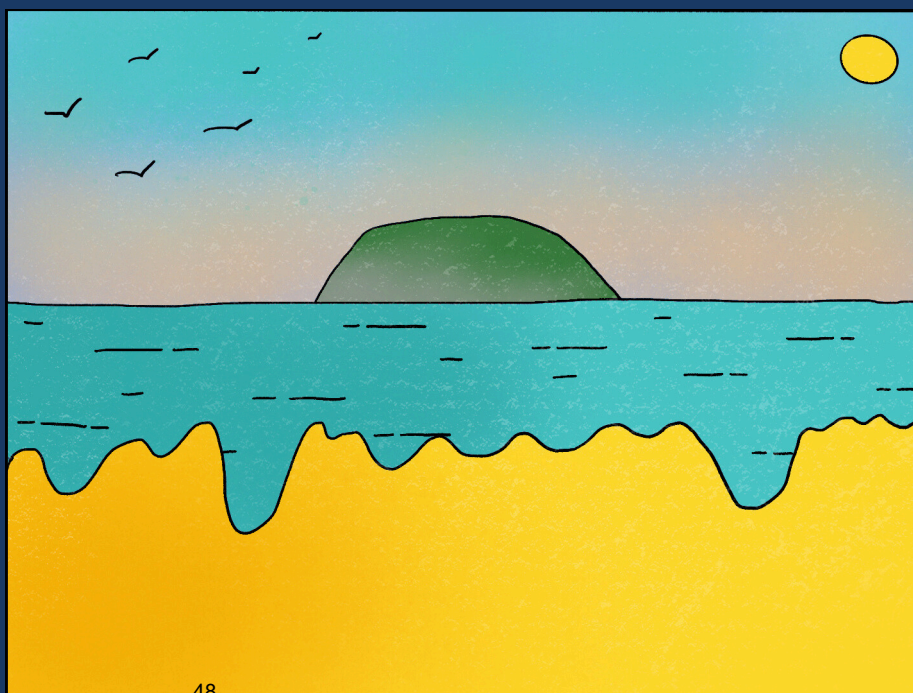
The extent to which a child is safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active and respected.

[Keeping-The-Promise SCRAs-Language-that-Cares-Guide.pdf](#) provides lots of good examples of why language is so important and gives links to other language guides.



SOUTH AYRSHIRE VOLUNTEERING STRATEGY

2025 - 2030



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INTRODUCTION

This is South Ayrshire's volunteering strategy.

This strategy has been developed by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) in collaboration with a range of partners within and beyond the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

This includes:

- Volunteer-Involving Organisations
- South Ayrshire Council
- Active Schools South Ayrshire
- Thriving Communities

In developing this strategy, we have reflected on existing volunteer recruitment and development practice throughout South Ayrshire, and considered this alongside local and national policy regarding volunteering.

South Ayrshire's volunteers and Volunteer-Involving Organisations (VIOs) are outstanding in the work that they do and in their commitment to supporting and empowering our local communities.

By enacting this strategy, we will seek to ensure:

- 1. That volunteering is embedded in the work of all CPP partners.**
- 2. That volunteering is purposeful for everyone involved.**
- 3. That volunteering is inclusive of all individuals, and that any barriers to volunteering are met by Volunteer Involving Organisations, where possible.**
- 4. That volunteers are celebrated for their exceptional contribution to supporting communities and individuals throughout South Ayrshire.**
- 5. That Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) are empowered.**



The Scottish Government defines volunteering as follows;

“Volunteering is a choice. A choice to give time or energy, a choice undertaken of one’s own free will and a choice not motivated for financial gain or for a wage or salary ... the term volunteering is used to describe the wide range of ways in which people help out, get involved, volunteer and participate in their communities (both communities of interest and communities of place).”¹

People, groups and organisations across South Ayrshire benefit every day from the input and support of a huge army of volunteers of all ages, in a wide range of settings. People of all ages from across the lifespan decide to volunteer at different stages of their lives and for different reasons.



Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) have a key role in linking people who are thinking about volunteering with organisations offering volunteering opportunities. Every day VASA matches people with volunteering placements based on their individual interests and availability. In addition, a number of organisations and services independently promote their own volunteering opportunities and recruit for these roles.



Prestfest
Music Festival



Golfing Tournaments

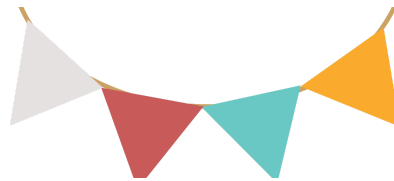


The International
Ayr Show
Festival of Flight

MANY VOLUNTEERS ARE INVOLVED IN A WIDE RANGE OF ROLES TO MAKE SURE THAT VARIOUS LARGE LOCAL EVENTS TAKE PLACE ACROSS SOUTH AYRSHIRE.



Local and Regional
Highland Games



Local Gala Days



Music
on the
Prom

Music on the Prom
Girvan

From telephone befriending from home for 30 minutes each week to being a volunteer guide within a museum or heritage building, volunteering in a charity shop, volunteering in a theatre, becoming a volunteer Board member for a charity, offering a spectrum of support to people (and animals) in need, tackling environmental issues in outdoor settings and many other opportunities, even driving a steam engine!; individuals are helped to find a suitable volunteering placement. But none of this would be possible without the input and achievements of local organisations offering such a wide range of voluntary roles and opportunities.

"WHY DO WE NEED A STRATEGY?"

The South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy 2025–30 provides an overview of our multi-agency strategic direction for volunteering across South Ayrshire and includes an action plan for annual review and update.

Recent statistics suggest that volunteers contribute an estimated **£20.3 million** in social value to South Ayrshire's local economy **every year**.² This indicates just how crucial it is that South Ayrshire takes an ambitious and committed approach to improving volunteering for both individuals and VIOs.

The strategy document and action plan identifies what we all need to do to improve positive outcomes from volunteering for individuals, groups, organisations and partnerships across the public, private and third sector.

The South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy 2025–30 is key to the ongoing development of best standards of inclusive, volunteering practice for all agencies, organisations, services and departments operating within South Ayrshire.

"Volunteering brings enormous benefits and enjoyment, not only to beneficiaries, but to communities, and to volunteers themselves. We know that – among other things – volunteering increases social and civil participation, empowers communities, and reduces loneliness and isolation. It can also improve mental and physical health, support the development of job and life skills, and foster a greater sense of belonging."³

2. Volunteer Scotland. 'The Social Value of Volunteering in Scotland'. Volunteer Scotland [The Social Value of Volunteering in Scotland](#) - Accessed 8 July 2025.

3. Scottish Government. 'Volunteering for All Our National Framework'. Scottish Government [Volunteering for All - Our National Framework](#) . Accessed 22 April 2025

EXISTING POLICY AND GUIDANCE

Volunteering For All: Our National Framework

The National Framework⁴ was developed in 2018 by the Scottish Government jointly with partners from the volunteer and community sector, local government and NHS, with academics and social researchers, and with volunteers.

The objectives of the Framework cover ten years and include:

'Defining the key outcomes desired for volunteering in Scotland over the next ten years';

The National Framework specifies five 'volunteering outcomes', namely that:

- 1** Volunteering and participation is valued, supported, and enabled from the earliest possible age and throughout life.
- 2** Volunteering in all its forms is integrated and recognised in our lives through national and local policy.
- 3** There is an environment and culture which celebrates volunteers and volunteering and all of its benefits.
- 4** The places and spaces where we volunteer are developed, supported and sustained.
- 5** There are diverse, quality and inclusive opportunities for everyone to get involved and stay involved.

In 2022, the report 'The Contribution of Volunteering to a Healthier and Happier Scotland Influencing Policy and Practice in Scotland' was published by the Scottish Volunteering Forum.⁵

The report identified the need to '...embed volunteering at the heart of national and local policy' noting that 'It is essential that national and local policies relevant to Scotland's health and wellbeing agenda have considered the contribution of volunteering and that, where appropriate, this is reflected in published policies, strategies and frameworks...'

South Ayrshire CLD Plan 2024 - 2027



Here is one example of how Volunteering is incorporated within local policy; South Ayrshire Council had a statutory duty to produce a **Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partnership Plan**⁶ in 2024.

The CLD Partnership in South Ayrshire includes, South Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire College, Community Planning Partnership, Health and Social Care Partnership, Skills Development Scotland, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire and Department for Work and Pensions.

The current plan sets out the arrangements for Community Learning and Development Provision across South Ayrshire noting the five priorities including Youth Work, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Employability and Volunteering, Adult and Family Learning and Community Empowerment and Engagement.

Volunteering is very much recognised as a significant feature of local planning, benefiting the health and wellbeing of volunteers and the wider community.

5. Scottish Volunteering Forum and Volunteer Scotland. 'The Contribution of Volunteering to a Healthier and Happier Scotland Influencing Policy and Practice in Scotland' Scottish Volunteering Forum and Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Influencing-Policy-and-Practice-in-Scotland-Document.pdf> Accessed 25 March 2025.

6. South Ayrshire Council. 'South Ayrshire Community Learning & Development Partnership Plan 2024 - 2027' South Ayrshire Council. https://thrivingcommunitiesouthayrshire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/South_Ayrshire_Community_Learning_Development_Partnership_Plan_2024-2027_v1_SD.pdf Accessed 25 March 2025



VISION

A nation of volunteers strengthening Scotland's communities

PURPOSE

People volunteer, early and throughout their lives

Volunteers feel safe, valued and heard, making a difference to themselves and others

Volunteers represent their communities



Strategy and Action Plan (2024)

The South Ayrshire Ageing Well Strategy and Action Plan was developed by South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) in collaboration with South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.

South Ayrshire is one of Scotland's first Age-Friendly Communities, a growing social movement led by the World Health Organisation. The strategy absolutely aims to celebrate the contributions that older people make to their communities - often the unsung childcare providers, informal carers and volunteers. The Ageing Well Action Plan states:

'We will extend options for older people in relation to paid work and volunteering. We will promote the importance of volunteering and engaging in community activities.'⁸

7. Volunteer Scotland 'Volunteer Scotland's Strategy 2025 – 2030. Creating a Nation of Volunteers'. 'Volunteer Scotland' [Volunteer Scotland Strategy 2025 - 2030](#) Accessed 22 April 2025

8. South Ayrshire Council. 'Ageing Well in South Ayrshire. Strategy and Action Plan'. South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/12972/Ageing-Well-in-South-Ayrshire-Strategy-2024/pdf/Ageing_Well_in_South_Ayrshire_Strategy_-_FINAL.pdf?m=1743691770290 Accessed 26 May 2025



The Youth Volunteering Innovation Project (Youth VIP) was formed as part of the development of 'Volunteering for All' by Project Scotland and Young Scot. This group of young volunteers, from a variety of backgrounds, have brought their stories and experience to bear to ensure these guidelines are authentic and reflective of the needs of the sector.

The Youth Volunteering Guidelines set out key recommendations on how VIOs can recruit, retain, and develop young volunteers:⁹

RECRUIT

- Be clear
- Be open
- Be inclusive
- Be relevant

RETAIN

- Experience = participation
- Recognise achievement
- Be volunteer-ready
- Build communities of support

DEVELOP

- Meaningful representation
- Shaping future opportunities
- Support transition internally and externally

VOLUNTEER CHARTER

Volunteer Scotland and STUC

The Volunteer Charter supports the foundations for a good volunteer experience and gives individuals, groups and organisations the opportunity to express their support for the spirit of volunteering (while upholding the principles of good volunteer practice).¹⁰

The Volunteer Charter sets out the ten key principles which help to underpin good relations within a volunteering environment. Any individual, group or organisation from any sector who either involve volunteers, or influence decisions on how volunteering is resourced or reflected in policy can pledge their support by becoming a Charter Champion. Pledges to uphold and promote the Volunteer Charter will have a real impact on the experiences of volunteers, volunteer practice and volunteering within Scotland.¹¹

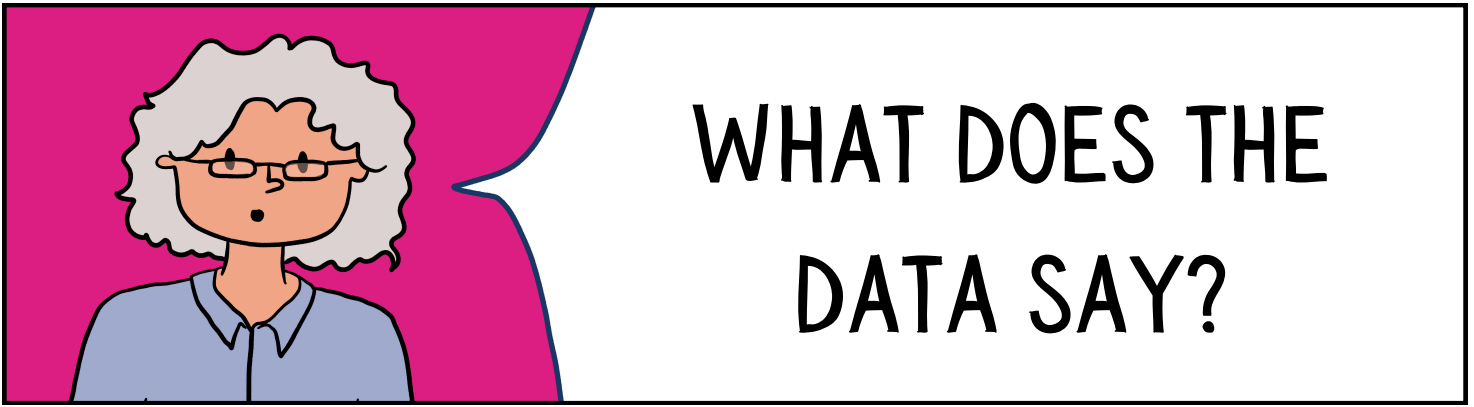
- 1 Any volunteer activity is a freely made choice of the individual.
- 2 Volunteers should receive no financial reward for their time however out of pocket expenses should be covered.
- 3 Effective structures should be put in place to support, train and develop volunteers.
- 4 Volunteers and paid workers should be able to carry out their duties in safe, secure and healthy environments.
- 5 Volunteers should not carry out duties formally carried out by paid workers.
- 6 Volunteers should not be used instead of paid workers or undercut their pay and conditions of service.
- 7 Volunteers should not be used to reduce contract costs.
- 8 Volunteers should not be used to bypass minimum wage legislation.
- 9 Volunteers and paid workers should be given the opportunity to contribute to the development and monitoring of volunteering policies and procedures.
- 10 Volunteer roles should be designed and negotiated around the needs and interests of volunteers, involving organisations and wider stakeholders.

10. Volunteer Scotland. 'Volunteer Charter 2025. 10 key principles', Volunteer Scotland and STUC

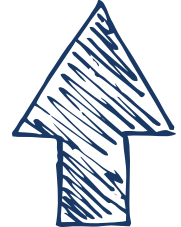
<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/volunteer-practice/volunteer-charter/#10-key-principles> Accessed 16 April 2025

11. Volunteer Scotland. Volunteer Charter 2025. 'Become a Charter Champion' Volunteer Scotland and STUC

<https://www.volunteerscotland.net/volunteer-practice/volunteer-charter/become-a-charter-champion> Accessed 16 April 2025



The Scottish Household Survey (2024) indicates that the formal adult volunteering rate across Scotland has **increased from 18% to 25%**.¹²



YEAH, BUT WHAT ABOUT SOUTH AYRSHIRE?

The picture for South Ayrshire is optimistic with a steady increase in volunteering opportunities over the past few years.

At any time, VASA are actively promoting around 200 volunteer roles across South Ayrshire. Often each of these roles offers a number of opportunities, for example an organisation may be looking for 5 or 10 volunteers for each volunteering role. **This equates to an average of approx. 1400 volunteer opportunities at any time.**

Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) supported approx. 380 organisations in one year to promote volunteering opportunities, by including an online and printed VASA newsletter, by listing nationally on Volunteer Scotland and by referring interested individuals to the respective organisations.¹³



12. Volunteer Scotland. 'Scottish Household Survey (SHS) – 2024 Results' Maltman D & Sikes B. <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/news/scottish-household-survey-2024> Accessed 16 April 2025

13. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire. 'Annual Report 2024'. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire

28% of adults in remote rural areas volunteered formally in 2023.

(That's 10 percentage points above the national average!) ¹⁴

Volunteer participation is higher in rural areas than the national average, perhaps reflecting the increased reliance on volunteers to sustain rural communities specifically.

Approx. 27% of the population in South Ayrshire is classified as rural. ¹⁵

27%

However, volunteer participation has declined across Scotland in recent years, highlighting that the support of volunteers cannot be taken for granted.



14. Volunteer Scotland. 'Consultation Response. Rural Delivery Plan. March 2025'. Volunteer Scotland [Volunteer Scotland Response Rural Delivery Plan](#) March 2025 Accessed 15 April 2025

15. South Ayrshire Council. 'South Ayrshire Housing Need and Demand Assessment 2021-2026 Executive Summary July 2021'. Prepared by Corporate and Housing Policy on behalf of the South Ayrshire Housing Market Partnership https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/media/2287/HNDA-2021-2026-Executive-Summary/pdf/HNDA_2021-2026_-_Executive_Summary.pdf?m=1626271271067#:~:text=Approximately%2027%25%20of%20the%20South,in%20areas%20classified%20as%20rural. Accessed 22 April 2025

How does South Ayrshire compare to Scotland overall?¹⁶

2022

In 2022, South Ayrshire had 1% more volunteers compared to Scotland overall (23% vs. 22%).

2023

In 2023, volunteering saw a notable decrease nationally, with 18% of people volunteering in both South Ayrshire and Scotland as a whole.

In South Ayrshire, the likelihood of older people volunteering is higher than the Scottish average by 5 percentage points.

19% of over 60s reported volunteering in Scotland, whereas 24% of over 60s volunteered in South Ayrshire.

17% of 35-59 year olds in South Ayrshire have volunteered. This is 3% lower than the national average in Scotland of 20%.

Volunteering across Scotland has seen a decline for a range of reasons, however the prominent explanation continues to be the Cost of Living Crisis. People of working age are now less likely to have the time to volunteer, and fewer people are coming forward to volunteer. Additionally, while organisations are actively trying to address recruitment challenges, many face a lack of capacity as well as uncertainty over future service provision which makes this difficult.¹⁷

As shown on the following two pages, financial circumstance and age continue to be key influential factors in the likelihood of an individual becoming a volunteer both in South Ayrshire, and across Scotland.

16. Scottish Household Survey. 'SHS Data Explorer' Scottish Household Survey. <https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-scottish-household-survey-data-explorer/>. Accessed 8 July 2025.

17. Volunteer Scotland. 'Cost of Living Quarterly Bulletin Number 7' Volunteer Scotland. [Quarterly Bulletin Number 7](#). Accessed 8 July 2025.

The ‘**Scottish Household Survey: Who contributes the most to Scottish Volunteering**’ has shown that in Scotland you are more likely to volunteer if you are:

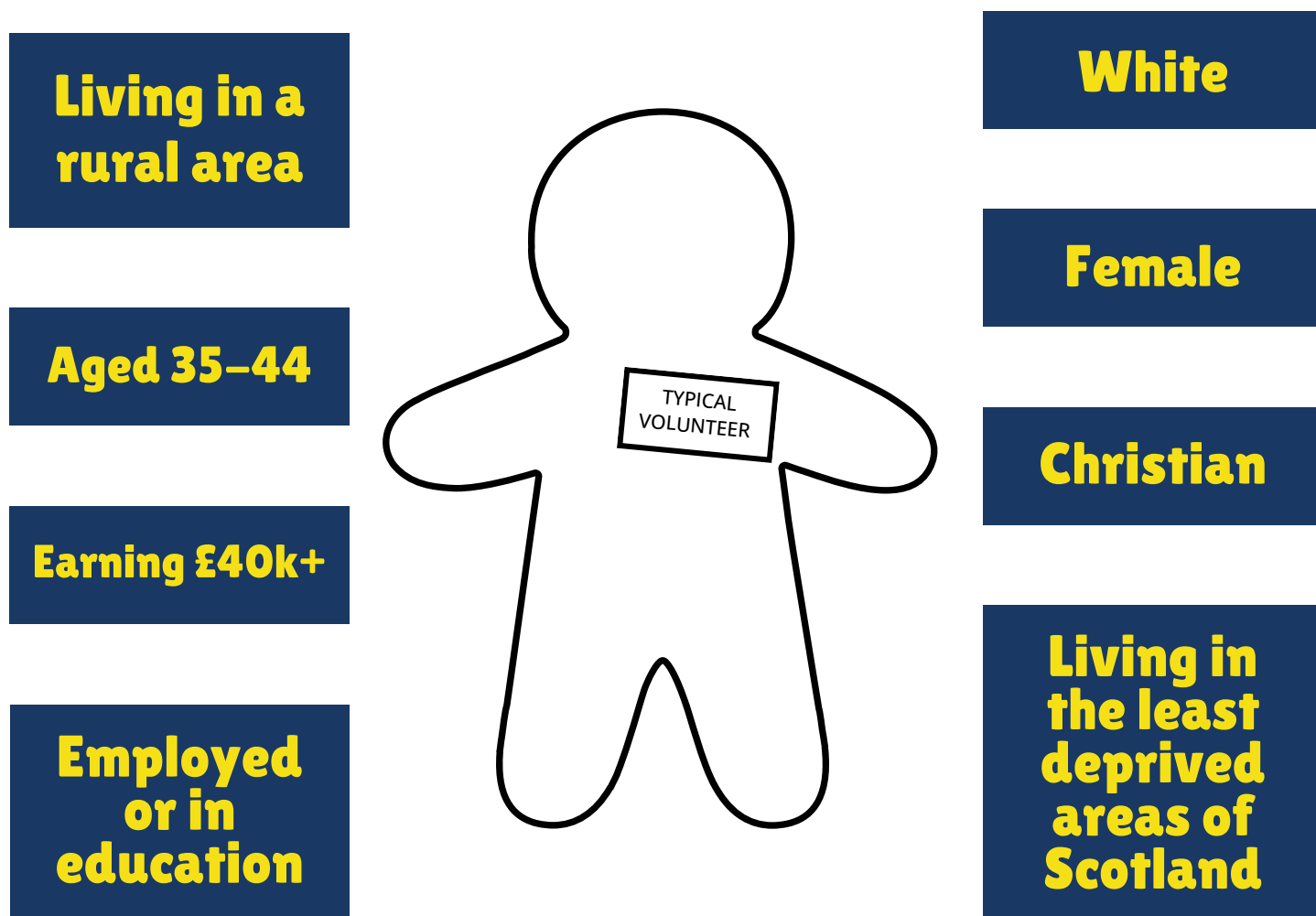


Figure 1 ¹⁸

Evidence from Volunteer Scotland (2025) shows us that the relationship between deprivation and volunteering is complex, and while the participation gap is closing **there are actions to be taken to ensure that volunteering is a positive experience for people across all of Scotland’s communities.** ¹⁹

18. Volunteer Scotland. ‘Scottish Household Survey: Who contributes the most to Scottish Volunteering 2022’ Volunteer Scotland. [Who Contributes the most to Scottish Volunteering 2022](#) Accessed 15 April 2025

19. Volunteer Scotland. ‘The state of Scottish volunteering Insights from Volunteer Scotland’s research April 2025’ Volunteer Scotland [The State of Volunteering in Scotland 2025 report](#) Accessed 15 April 2025

ECONOMIC



Economic barriers to volunteering can include: Travel expenses, childcare costs, equipment costs, food and drink, and concerns about benefits and a person's right to work.

CULTURAL



Volunteers may face experiences of discrimination, such as being made to feel undervalued or unqualified in society. A lack of confidence is commonly experienced by people from marginalised groups. A lack of diversity within VIOs can lead to gaps in knowledge and experience resulting in stereotypes and discriminatory views.

PHYSICAL



Exterior factors: Parking areas, kerbs, steps, doors, access to public transport, etc.

Interior factors: Stairways, doors, toilets, washing facilities, lighting and ventilation, escalators, floor coverings, signs, etc.

**THERE ARE A NUMBER OF
ECONOMIC, PHYSICAL, SOCIAL
AND CULTURAL BARRIERS TO
VOLUNTEERING.²⁰**

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

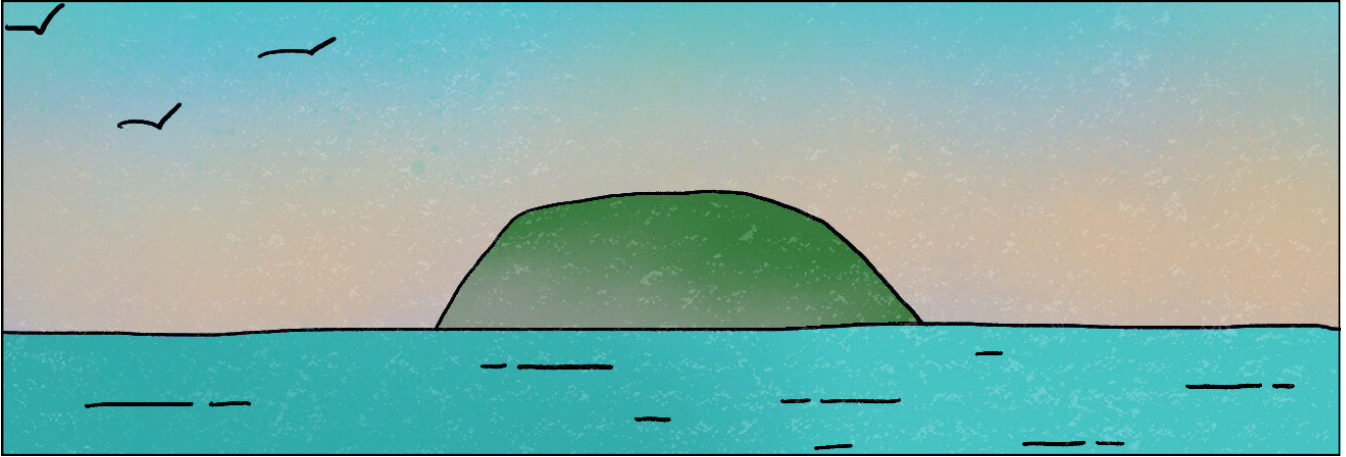
Research shows that volunteering can provide important benefits to volunteers. These enhanced health and wellbeing benefits increase positive outcomes: for the volunteers, for those they support, for communities, and for wider society.²¹



This highlights just how crucial it is that we take action for volunteering to become accessible for all so that the maximum possible number of organisations and individuals can access the benefits and advantages offered by volunteering.

21. Scottish Volunteering Forum and Volunteer Scotland. 'The Contribution of Volunteering to a Healthier and Happier Scotland Influencing Policy and Practice in Scotland' Scottish Volunteering Forum and Volunteer Scotland <https://www.volunteerscotland.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Influencing-Policy-and-Practice-in-Scotland-Document.pdf> Accessed 25 March 2025.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE?



The South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy 2025 – 2030 actively incorporates key aims and objectives from national and local plans and strategies and includes a living Action Plan to ensure these are addressed.

Our Action Plan, which begins on the next page, is themed under the following goals:

- Embedding Volunteering
- Purposeful Volunteering
- Inclusive Volunteering
- Promoting Volunteering
- Celebrating Volunteering

The Action Plan outlines what we will set out to do as a CPP in order to achieve each of these aims. Whilst the Action Plan is the collective responsibility of all CPP partners, key relevant organisations are identified throughout the document.

Embedding Volunteering

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will reinforce the foundations for a good volunteer experience and offer individuals, groups and organisations opportunities to express their support for the spirit of volunteering while upholding the principles of good volunteer practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will promote the value and significance of the Volunteer Charter (Volunteer Scotland and STUC 2024) • We will recruit South Ayrshire Charter Champions. (Individuals, partnerships, organisations, services and departments) 	<p>VASA</p> <p>South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>Third Sector Organisations</p>
<p>We will explore and develop understanding and use of Employer Supported Volunteering hours/days to maximise available volunteering hours to widely benefit communities/projects/ individuals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work to influence employers to encourage and support their employees to make use of contracted Employer Supported Volunteering hours/days. • We will work together to coordinate a database of employers who offer Employee Supported Volunteering and send them any one-off volunteer opportunities for their employees. • We will coordinate a list of community projects that could benefit from the involvement of Employee Supported Volunteers. • We will develop and maintain an annual community event to enable employees to use their Employee Supported Volunteering hours. 	<p>Employers in Public, Private and Third Sectors.</p> <p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p>

<p>We will raise awareness within organisations of the importance and benefits of volunteering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to raise awareness by developing information sessions, presenting at conference/events, ensuring articles are published in a range of appropriate magazines, social media sites etc, including public and third sector newsletters. 	<p>VASA</p>
<p>We will continue to work with schools, colleges and universities to support the embodiment of volunteering as a key part of curriculum and policy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to roll out the Saltire Ambassadors programme, which offers young people within each South Ayrshire secondary school a voluntary leadership role to promote volunteering within their school. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>South Ayrshire Secondary Schools and pupils</p>
<p>We will ensure that all Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs) are aware of and uphold a minimum level of good volunteering practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will share new and existing resources with VIOs, including development of a digital Volunteer Wiki which outlines good practice in recruiting and supporting volunteers. • We will work with VIOs to ensure they all have an operational Volunteering Policy. • We will provide a good practice template policy document to set out an organisation's approach to volunteering; to explain the role of volunteers in the organisation and how it will treat them. • We will influence VIOs to work towards offering to pay volunteer travel and related expenses. • We will include payment of volunteer travel expenses (or working towards payment of volunteer expenses) as a requirement of any volunteering accreditation scheme. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p>

<p>We will listen to volunteers by ensuring that the volunteer 'voice' is heard and that volunteers help make the decisions that affect them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will encourage VIOs to develop approaches to regularly seek the volunteer voice within individual organisations. • We will work in partnership to facilitate an annual South Ayrshire event that seeks and includes a representation of the volunteer voice from a wide range of volunteer roles and organisations. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p> <p>South Ayrshire Volunteers</p>
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Purposeful Volunteering

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will recognise the significant positive benefits and impact volunteering can have on the health and well being of the volunteer, on their employment and academic prospects and on reducing isolation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work together to link people who are interested in volunteering with organisations offering meaningful and suitable volunteering opportunities based on the volunteer's individual needs, interests and availability. • We will ensure that South Ayrshire volunteers are offered opportunities for upskilling and positive benefits for their personal development (To enhance CVs, application forms for college, university, employment, references and that they are aware of the benefits of volunteering while job seeking). • We will work to ensure that volunteers are offered opportunities to utilise and further develop existing skills and knowledge. 	<p>Developing the Young Workforce</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Ayrshire College</p> <p>University of the West of Scotland</p> <p>DWP (Department for Work and Pensions)</p> <p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>South Ayrshire Volunteers</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work in partnership to explore and develop local access to, and involvement in, qualifications such as Volunteering Skills Award SCQF Level 3, 4 and 5. • We will develop and deliver a range of volunteering presentations/information sessions to people approaching or considering retirement encouraging volunteering delivered as part of pre-retirement courses. • We will influence Volunteer Involving Organisations to develop and provide role descriptors for all volunteering opportunities to clearly explain roles. • We will develop and implement approaches to record and measure impact of volunteering on outcomes for volunteers. 	<p>Developing the Young Workforce</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p> <p>Ayrshire College</p> <p>University of the West of Scotland</p> <p>DWP</p> <p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>South Ayrshire Volunteers</p>
<p>We will recognise the significant positive organisational benefits and impact volunteering can have on service development and delivery, organisational aims, objectives and outcomes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will encourage VIOs to regularly evaluate the outcomes of volunteer contributions to ensure activities align with the organisation's goals. • We will monitor and report on the impact of volunteering on organisations, communities and across South Ayrshire. • We will identify gaps where volunteering can have the most significant impact. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p>

Inclusive Volunteering

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will ensure that inclusive volunteering is a fundamental feature of volunteering practice across South Ayrshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop and share learning and understanding of economic, social, cultural, physical and communication barriers to volunteering. • We will work in partnership to develop and agree approaches and practice to tackle and reduce the above barriers to volunteering. • We will consider and revisit existing volunteer recruitment processes (e.g. increasing ways to apply, video application, need for references for certain roles, taster sessions). 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p> <p>Thriving Communities</p>
<p>We will ensure that volunteering in South Ayrshire is inclusive with a diverse range of people accessing positive destinations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will collaborate with local/pan-Ayrshire partnerships, organisations and community groups to engage underrepresented groups in volunteering. • We will ensure inclusivity is recognised, understood and evidenced at all levels across organisations, including in leadership and governance volunteering roles. • We will monitor volunteer demographics to assess inclusivity and take action to address gaps/imbances. 	<p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>VASA</p> <p>Community Planning Partners</p> <p>DWP</p> <p>Local groups</p>

<p>We will continue to source diverse and inclusive volunteering opportunities offering more choice to a wider range of volunteers from across the lifespan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will work with partners to explore development of volunteering within the school curriculum. • We will establish a set of criteria for Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs) to become Age Friendly VIOs. 	<p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>South Ayrshire Education Services</p>
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Promoting Volunteering

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will promote, encourage and support volunteering across South Ayrshire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will utilise existing marketing campaigns to highlight the benefits of volunteering for individuals and communities; focusing, where appropriate, on groups with low volunteering participation rates. • We will partner with schools, colleges, universities and employability support providers to promote volunteering as a pathway to skills development and employability. • We will continue to source diverse volunteering opportunities offering more choice to a wider range of potential volunteers. • We will deliver information sessions, surgeries, recruitment drives in partnership with SDS, DWP and other partners. 	<p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>VASA</p> <p>South Ayrshire Education Services</p> <p>DWP</p> <p>Skills Development Scotland</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will develop video/show reels as a way of highlighting the wide range of volunteering opportunities in addition to newsletters, posters, ads, listings etc. • We will undertake an audit to gain better awareness of range of volunteering opportunities across all South Ayrshire partner agencies, organisations, services and departments, not just third sector opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>There is currently less centrally gathered information about volunteering opportunities across public sector settings.</i> • We will encourage those over 50 who are economically inactive to volunteer as a step into employment and/or future training. 	<p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>VASA</p> <p>South Ayrshire Education Services</p> <p>DWP</p>
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Celebrating Volunteers

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will continue to develop new, creative approaches to volunteer recognition to celebrate achievements and thank volunteers for their contributions, both South Ayrshire wide and within organisations/partnerships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to promote, develop and coordinate the South Ayrshire Volunteer Awards, SAVA (recognising people aged 18+ years). The ceremony will continue to take place during Volunteers Week in June each year. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p> <p>South Ayrshire Primary and Secondary Schools and pupils</p> <p>South Ayrshire Education Services</p>

- We will continue to promote, develop and coordinate the South Ayrshire Saltire Awards, recognising and celebrating the achievements of volunteers aged 12 – 25 years, with a particular focus on those in the 20 – 25 age bracket who are often not reached by existing promotion
- We will continue to deliver an annual Saltire Awards Ceremony in April each year.
- We will continue to offer volunteer awards for long service, innovation, and impact to acknowledge exceptional volunteers.
- We will map out/conduct an audit of current volunteer celebration events across South Ayrshire third, public and private sectors.
- We will develop further innovative ways to share volunteer success stories to inspire and motivate others to become a volunteer.

VASA

VIOs

South Ayrshire Schools and pupils

South Ayrshire Education Services

Empowering Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIOs)

What actions will we take?	What kind of things will we do?	Who is key to making this happen?
<p>We will ensure that Volunteer Involving Organisations are able to offer rewarding volunteering opportunities with best practice policies in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to develop support to Volunteering Involving Organisations (VIOs) to build capacity in their practice with volunteers. • We will work in partnership to develop and deliver a South Ayrshire specific standards and recognition of good volunteering practice award for VIOs, the 'South Ayrshire Volunteer Ready' award. • We will develop and deliver a programme of learning opportunities/training calendar for Trustees, managers and staff of volunteer involving organisations. • We will continue to promote and develop the monthly Volunteer Managers/Coordinators Network meetings for information sharing and peer support. Our aim is for the meetings to be meaningful and useful to good practice and wellbeing. • We will work to ensure that third sector organisations and partners have access to updated volunteering information on a regular basis and have an understanding of local need. 	<p>VASA</p> <p>VIOs</p> <p>Volunteer Managers and Coordinators</p>



For further information, please contact the Volunteering Team at Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)
Email: volunteer@vasa.scot

LOCALITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4 DECEMBER 2025



LOCALITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS (LPP)

Date of last meeting(s):

- Ayr South LPP 28 October 2025
- Ayr North LPP 30 October 2025
- Girvan/South Carrick LPP 12 November 2025
- Maybole/North Carrick LPP 20 November 2025 (scheduled)
- Troon LPP 15 October 2025
- Prestwick LPP 27 October 2025

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS FOR THE LOCALITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP:

CENTRAL LOCALITY

Ayr South – Priority areas for LPP are Community Connectedness, Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing, Supporting our Ageing Communities.

Ayr North – Priority areas for LPP are Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing, Reducing Harms from Alcohol, Tobacco and Drugs, Supporting an Inclusive Economy that Reduces Poverty and Inequality, Supporting our Ageing Communities.

In both Ayr North and Ayr South LPPs a thematic approach to the business of the meetings has been adopted since October 2024. In addition to standing items that include updates from key partners, finance and consultations, each of the priority areas has been considered for 3 consecutive meetings.

Both LPPs within the Central Locality did not meet in July and will not meet in December.

Both LPPs are currently without a Chair.

SOUTH LOCALITY

Girvan/South Carrick – Priority areas for LPP are promoting good mental health wellbeing and physical health, managing long term health conditions, tackling social isolation and loneliness, tackling drug and alcohol issues and supporting unpaid carers.

Maybole/North Carrick – Priority areas for LPP are promoting good mental and physical health including ageing well, tackling drug and alcohol issues and tackling social isolation and loneliness.

Both LPPs meet monthly and adopt a hybrid approach for attendance. Girvan/SC is on a Wednesday evening and Maybole/SC is on a Thursday afternoon. The Girvan/SC LPP takes place consistently in Carrick Opportunities Building and the Maybole/NC LPP alternates between Maybole Library and McCosh Hall (Kirkmichael).

NORTH LOCALITY

The Prestwick LPP membership has reduced over recent months, with it being employee top heavy and limited community representation. Since last year the LPP has not identified a chair going forward. The HSCP Senior Manager currently chairs the group.

The LPP continues to have a real sense of supporting and actively doing events to support the communities across Prestwick, Monkton and Symington. There have been 2 events in Prestwick, promoting self-management and alternatives to care, and wellbeing event in Symington. Moving forward the Partnership Engagement Officer is proactively engaging with groups and Community Council to promote engagement at the LPP. The LPP recently agreed a number of key priorities and themes to inform meeting moving forward:

- Fire Safety
- Carers
- Children Services – The Promise
- Health and Social Care Partnership- Locality Work
- Power of Attorney

TROON AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES

The LPP has recently re-established with key members in attendance. The main focus moving forward will be to:

- consider the membership of the group and the Partnership Engagement Officer has been pro-active in engaging with community groups to encourage attendance.
- ongoing conversations regarding priorities
- contact recently made with Marr College regarding Carers Day and plans now progressing.

Troon LPP also does not have a chair and HSCP Senior Manager currently support this.

PROGRESS UPDATE:

CENTRAL LOCALITY

Participatory Budget and Small Grants Funding

Both Ayr LPPs planned and delivered a programme of Small Grants open to community groups and organisations operating within the Central Locality. Ayr North received thirty-five applications for funding of which fifteen were successful. Successful applications included Ayr United, BELIEVE Ayrshire, Bfriend, HARBOUR Ayrshire and Riverside Community Trust. Ayr South received twenty-four applications for funding of which ten were successful, including Coylton Tennis Club, The Three Villages Forum, Crossroads, Auld Kirk of Ayr and Kincaidston Bowling Club. Unsuccessful applicants were signposted to South Ayrshire Council's External Funding Team who can offer support and assistance to groups who are still seeking funding.

Engagement

The Central Locality hosted an engagement event in Ayr at the end of April which brought together the workforce from across the Locality, including LPP and CPP partners. It was an excellent opportunity to network with colleagues, reflect and celebrate the work that has progressed across the Locality over the last year, and, using the newly updated Community Health and Wellbeing Profiles, consider actions for the next 3 years, that in partnership will bring improved outcomes for local communities.

In August, the Ayr North LPP co-hosted a community event in Ayr Academy in partnership with NHS Ayrshire and Arran MSK Physiotherapy Team. The event was to encourage local people currently on an extensive waiting list for MSK appointments to attend a Community Appointment Day to reduce these waiting times. Over eight hundred and fifty people were invited to attend the event with over one hundred and fifty people attending. On arrival, participants were registered and triaged by Physiotherapists then forwarded on for an in-depth consultation and offered information and support. The Locality Planning Partnership arranged for a community marketplace to be in place for those attending to interact with over forty local organisations offering information and support. Staff from MSK were delighted with the event, its location, management and number of local organisations in attendance.

Also taking place in August, Ayr South LPP co-hosted an event with the Three Villages Forum to consult and inform local residents of the services available within their community. Events were delivered in Annbank, Mossblown and Tarbolton and were supported by staff from Staying Ahead of the Curve, Community Links Practitioners, Community Library Network, Home Energy Scotland and CONNECT South Ayrshire. Following these events, Ayr South LPP has a new member from Annbank.

In October, Central Locality supported a series of TECtalks, an open event for the wider public to raise awareness of Technology Enabled Care as well as local organisations delivering within the community. A launch event took place in Carnegie Library and was attended by over thirty people with most leaving with an increased knowledge of services and some with follow up consultations with external agencies. The event was supported by Community Links Practitioners, Staying Ahead of the Curve, SAC Information and Advice Hub, Driving Safety, Community Library Network and CONNECT South Ayrshire. A series of satellite sessions were delivered in Tarbolton, Annbank, Forehill and Alloway Libraries after the launch offering the same information and support.

The LPP's are also planning a Community Roadshow which will take place in February 2026 and will visit venues in Dalmilling, Forehill, Wallacetown, Lochside and the Grain Exchange in Ayr Town Centre. Participants will include the afore mentioned organisations in addition to AILN, Housing and Social Work staff.

Promotion of Locality Planning Partnerships has been integral to all the community events outlined.

Consultation

Since April, Locality Planning members have been consulted on the reviewed Adult Carers Strategy. The Carers Strategy Lead Officer attended both LPP's and presented on the revised strategy and asked members for comments and fed that back into the Carers Strategic Planning Group. In addition, consultation was sought with LPP members on the Learning Disability Team Policy.

Performance and Reporting

The LPPs are asked to feed in to a number of reporting structures, including the Strategic Planning Advisory Group, the Performance and Audit Committee, the CPP and internal HSCP groups. Each Locality has a Plan, with actions aligned to the priority areas identified. These plans include actions which sit within the remit of the LPP, and also some wider Locality Planning actions particularly relating to the Locality Structures within the HSCP. An update on both plans for the LPPs within the Central Locality were tabled at the Performance and Audit Committee in June. Both plans are currently being refreshed to form 3 year action plans.

Information Sharing

All group members are encouraged to provide an update/ flash report on their initiative/ services which is circulated with meeting papers. This has not progressed as we would have hoped and we will work to consider ways to continue good communication and information sharing across each LPP. In January 2026 both LPPs will become 'paper free' with all correspondence being emailed to members, who can choose to print if required. Information received by Partnership Engagement Officers are circulated to members via a central mailing list and are forwarded to the Communications Team to be included within our social media offer.

Ayr South

LPP attendance is fairly static across Ayr South, with only 1 or 2 community members attending. Speakers have been attending meetings to share information and advice on services being delivered in neighbourhoods within the locality. These have included an overview of the 'Ageing Well' agenda and information from the University of the Third Age. Attendance at the LPP continues to be mainly professional staff however representatives from Ayr and the villages have been in attendance. The Partnership Engagement Officer continues to communicate with local organisations to encourage attendance. They have recently attended three Community Councils and it is hoped that members of these will see the benefits of the LPP and come along in the coming months.

The LPP continue to take a thematic approach to their development and are looking at each Priority individually over the year to allow time to create actions and activity. They have worked on 'Community Connectedness' and 'Supporting our ageing communities. Through August, September and October the group have been focussing on the refresh of an Action Plan for the group which will provide focus and direction. After reviewing the Public Health Profiles from Public Health Scotland, the priorities of the group will not change and as such the group have been working on the creation of a three-year plan.

The Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Team attended a meeting which has led to the creation of Ayr South Resilience Group which brings together representatives from the Three Villages to plan for unexpected incidents, for example, extreme weather or major incidents in local areas. The group have met twice and have been looking into possible actions that local people can take to mitigate any issues created by a Civil Emergency within the rural villages. The group will look at Ayr moving forward as many civil emergency issues within the town have been identified as part of the wider Civil Contingencies Action Plan.

Ayr North

The LPP is fortunate to have an increasing number of engaging participants in attendance, with sustained participation from key partners. Partnership Engagement Officer has been working on this with a positive outcome.

The current priority areas of focus has been 'Reducing the harms from alcohol, tobacco and drugs'. Guest speakers have included representatives from HARBOUR Ayrshire who provided information on how addiction affects families and shared lived experience of living with a family member affected by addiction. Quit Your Way (the local Smoking Cessation Team) provided information on approaches to stop smoking and vaping. Both these sessions were well received and members were moved with the honesty and level of information delivered by both presenters.

The group have explored ways in which to best utilise the time available and the range of services in attendance and have introduced a workshop approach to meetings which has engaged services who are attending, in a meaningful manner. The workshops help to shape how the group are tackling their priorities in a proactive fashion, creating partnerships, and understanding services available in the community.

Through August, September and October the group have been focussing on the creation of a refreshed Action Plan which will provide a focus and direction for the group as they move forward. As with Ayr North, after

reviewing the Public Health Profiles from Public Health Scotland, the priorities of the group will not change and as such the group have been working on the creation of a three-year plan which the group will work towards.

Moving forward, The group will be planning a community event to provide information and support on 'financial inclusion' to support the 'Supporting an inclusive economy that reduces poverty and inequality' priority.

The development work to create and implement an Integrated Neighbourhood Team within Ayr North continues. Challenges have been met around information sharing and this is currently the focus of the work. A successful workshop on relational practice was delivered by Mutual Ventures at the end of October. Mutual Ventures worked alongside the CPP partners until November bringing their experience from working alongside areas in England who have adopted this approach.

SOUTH LOCALITY

Girvan and South Carrick

A small grants process was carried out to distribute funding in the community and 14 local groups/organisations receiving funding. Each of the groups will be allocated a mentor, which will be a member of the LPP, who will support them through the evaluation process and receive key feedback on how the funding is making a difference in the community.

The LPP worked alongside HSCP and NHS colleagues to deliver a health event in Girvan Community Hospital on Saturday 4th October. The event was a success with 238 people being screened. 51 people also undertook a Functional Fitness MOT test which the Staying Ahead of the Curve team was carrying out. People could also get the flu vaccination at the event as well as learn about CPR and using a defibrillator. There were 13 stallholders from different services/groups at the event who provided important information on the support they could offer.

The LPP continues to encourage speakers from different organisations/groups to attend and speak to the members about the work they do in the community which also gives opportunity for joint working. The LPP have had various speakers at the meetings including Maeve Orr who discussed the McMillan Improving the Cancer Journey programme as well as ADP, Harbour Ayrshire and Scottish Action for Mental Health.

At the most recent LPP, work began to refresh the locality plan and the current locality data was discussed. Engagement will take place within the community to gather feedback on what is important to people and the plan will be linked closely with the Community Led Action Plan as well as other relevant strategies.

The LPP Chair continues to attend and contribute to the Girvan Site Review meetings and good progress is being made there. The new tech demonstrator site has opened at Girvan Community Hospital and the LPP members will be invited along to see the site.

Discussions have taken place around holding a MSK Community Appointment Day in Girvan Community Hospital in February/March time. This has been successful in other localities, so we wish to replicate this in order to lower waiting lists and allow people to access other supports at the same time.

The Locality Planning Partnership continues to attend a variety of meetings such as South Carrick Community Learning Partnership and the Community Planning Participation & Engagement Group.

Ongoing work to establish Connect Hubs, looking at a hub and spoke approach to delivery of this, and very much in partnership with what communities see as important to them.

Maybole/North Carrick

Following feedback from last year's funding process, the LPP members decided on a small grants process to distribute funding this year and it went well. 8 local groups/organisations received funding and each group will be allocated a mentor, who will be a member of the LPP. The mentor will help the group with the evaluation process and get feedback on the support they are providing in the community.

The South Ayrshire Wellbeing Pledge Showcase took place in Carrick this year and was hosted between Maybole Town Hall and the Carrick Centre. There was a marketplace zone and learning zone with lots of breakout activities for attendees to take part in. 157 people attended the marketplace at Maybole Town Hall and 111 people attended the learning zone in the Carrick Centre and feedback on the event was positive.

The North Carrick Roadshow took place on 16th September, and it was organised alongside colleagues from ALLN/cAyr Local. We had 13 services attend Straiton, Maidens, Dunure and Minishant to speak with the community and let them know what can be offered in their villages. We also asked them their opinions on the Connect model and what they would like to see in their area. Although we didn't have many people attending to speak with us, we took a lot of learning from the day and hope we can better this in the future.

The LPP held a Community Engagement Event in the McCosh Hall in Kirkmichael on 1st October. 15 groups/organisation attended as stallholders, and they networked throughout the afternoon. The footfall wasn't great but again learning took place which we can put into practice for future events.

Discussions are going to take place at the next LPP meeting on 20th November around refreshing the Locality Plan and the engagement work that will take place around this. The members will be presented with the current health data for Maybole and North Carrick. The locality plan will be closely linked to the Community Led Action plan and other relevant strategies.

Continued engagement is taking place in the community to increase the LPP membership and ensure we have the people who live, work and volunteer in the area at the meetings. The LPP are also keen for a community member to take on the role as Chair as we don't currently have one.

Over the last few months, the LPP has had speakers from Scottish Action for Mental Health, the Learning Disability Team and Heart Chest and Stroke Scotland. The members were also involved in engagement for the Adult Carers Strategy.

NORTH LOCALITY

Both Prestwick and Troon LPP supported 15 groups with PB funding. Each group awarded funding has a mentor from the LPP to support evaluation and provide updates on progress of groups. Further funding for small grants has also been progressed towards year end and this has proved successful for groups who did not come forward for PB events or for groups who wished to be considered for small amounts of funding.

There have been 3 events arranged and hosted by the Prestwick LPP. Each event had key speakers and stalls. Feedback from evaluations forms have been positive.

An Engagement Event was held in both Prestwick and Troon areas, which was well attended by both employees and community groups. This was an opportunity for progress working relationships, networking and starting to develop a locality approach identifying the strengths in the community to support our citizens.

Previously the LPP's were considering their meeting arrangements. This year saw a change in how the LPP's met, Prestwick LPP developed sub-groups to consider key action areas, such as participatory budgeting and promoting the LPP identity to encourage membership and Troon moved to bi-monthly meetings, which proved beneficial in increasing membership. Our Partnership Engagement Officer and LPP members have been out in the community engaging with wider groups and promoting the LPP in order to increase membership.

The CONNECT site continues to be a focus in Prestwick with key disciplines now having moved to the Freemans Hall, Prestwick, and the front facing CONNECT element on track to open in January 2026.

Both LPP's are utilising the next few meetings to review their priorities and develop a 3-year Locality Plan.

Report Completed by:

Officers: Lesley Reid, Sandra Rae, Lisa McAlpine, Senior Managers Localities

Date: November 2025

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



Report by Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability to
Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 4th December 2025

Subject: Strategic Delivery Partnership Updates

1 Purpose of Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Community Planning Board (CP Board) with an overview of the key discussion points and subsequent actions/decisions agreed at the Strategic Delivery Partnership (SDP) Chairs Executive held on the 22nd October 2025 including progress taking place within each of the Strategic Delivery Partnerships.

2 The Board is to:

- 2.1 **note the key issues for each SDP highlighted within section 4.1 (with further information provided in appendices one to five);**
- 2.2 **consider the areas of support required from the CP Board highlighted by SDPs section 4.2;**
- 2.3 **note the summary of the first ‘All SDP Member’ session held on 3rd October as highlighted in 4.3 of the report; and**
- 2.4 **note the rescheduled date for the Community Planning Executive Annual Review which is now the 9th December as highlighted in section 5.2 of the report.**

3 Update from SDP Chairs Executive

- 3.1 In order to improve the scrutiny of SDP and Locality Planning Partnership progress, SDP and Locality Planning updates are now being discussed in depth at the SDP Chairs Executive prior to submission to the CP Board. This allows for more focused discussion on SDP activity, opportunities for support across the SDPs and Locality Planning, agreeing a collaborative approach to several cross-cutting issues and identifying areas where SDP activity can connect with Locality Planning Partnership activity. The focus of the meeting held on the 22nd October, was a presentation on the Getting It Right For Everyone (GIRFE) model, led by South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, which ensures that adults are being provided with the right support at the right time.

4 Progress

4.1 Extensive progress is taking place across all SDPs. Further information can be found in appendices one to five, however the table below provides summary information on the current key issues for each of the SDPs.

CURRENT KEY ISSUES FOR SDPs	
CHILDREN'S SERVICES SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsibilities across the CPP to adhere to requirements of the UNCRC Implementation Act. Coming weeks will see the roll out of UNCRC training tiered depending on role across the CPP. • Ongoing development of the next iteration of our current Children and Young People's Services Plan (2026-2029). • Aligning our whole system response to whole family wellbeing including linking the INT / CSPP family first / early intervention in early years work.
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	<p>Reducing Violence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Resourcing major event weekends (Ayr Gold Cup, festive campaigns); · Night-time economy safety: Street Pastors, first aiders; and · Taxi Marshals, licensed premises engagement. <p>Home, Road & Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased water safety risks; and · Preventing accidents in the home. <p>Safer Communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Antisocial behaviour: Blackburn Road Carpark, Ayr town centre ASB, football/ultras, off-road vehicles; · Youth interventions: vaping, mental health, issue-based engagement; · Environmental issues: dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping, graffiti; and · Fire raising and derelict building monitoring. <p>Violence Against Women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Education and training on CSE and wider VAW issues; · Development of safe spaces and support for women; · Coordination with partners - 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign; · Develop new Violence Against Women Strategy; and · Implement position statement on CSE and prostitution.
FINANCIAL INCLUSION & GROWTH SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Replacement Funding: Consultation started with stakeholders in November and there are concerns regarding the Growth Funding criteria and objectives.
POPULATION HEALTH SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for Health Walks – there is an increasingly urgent need to secure funding for the post associated with co-ordinating and developing the Health Walk programme.
SUSTAINABILITY SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some subgroups are less developed than others, with Energy in particular requiring to meet and further develop and agree its Terms of Reference and third action area. To support this and indeed other key areas, such as multi modal journeys and wider sustainable travel goals, clarity on / support from areas being covered and developed at regional level going forward will be important.

4.2 As highlighted by SDP Chairs and agreed at the meeting, the following areas have been identified as **requiring further support** from the CP Board:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Reviewing progress of current plan is a continuous focus but particularly in the coming months as we develop the Children's Services Plan 26-29. CPP support sought to align shared priorities and strengthen joint working across the partnership in terms of whole family wellbeing.</i>
COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Developing Violence Against Women Strategy 2026 – 2029;</i> • <i>Tackling antisocial behaviour in Ayr town centre; and</i> • <i>Safety in and around South Ayrshire playparks.</i>
FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Concerns regarding replacement UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) that would have impact on funding to support employability, communities and economy projects.</i> • <i>Temporary Financial Inclusion Funding ends March 2026, this will impact food pantries.</i>
POPULATION HEALTH SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>No further support required at this time.</i>
SUSTAINABILITY SDP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Clarity regarding regional action areas.</i>

4.3 An 'all SDP Member session' was held on the 3rd October 2025. This was an opportunity to bring members together from across all our SDPs to provide an overview of year one performance of our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Year 2 action planning, discuss emerging issues and looking ahead to year 3 of our LOIP – what challenges are we facing. An outline was also provided on the [Population Health Framework 2025-2035](#). Following the session, it was agreed that this should be a regular part of the CPP calendar.

4.4 An update on Locality Planning Partnerships will be presented as a separate paper to the December CP Board.

5 Next Steps

5.1 The next meeting of the SDP Chairs Executive is scheduled to take place on 14th January 2026.

5.2 The Community Planning Executive Annual Review has been rescheduled from the 11th November to the 9th December.

5.3 Next all SDP session arranged for 27th March 2026.

Report by:

Susan McCardie

Service Lead – Performance, Community Planning and Sustainability

South Ayrshire Council

17th November 2025

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD DEC 2025



CHILDREN'S SERVICES SDP

Date of last meeting(s): The last CSPP meeting was held in August 2025.

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE CP BOARD AS AGREED TO ESCALATE BY SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

Reviewing progress of current plan is a continuous focus but particularly in the coming months as we develop CS Plan 26-29. CPP support sought to align shared priorities and strengthen joint working across the partnership in terms of whole family wellbeing.

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP – LOIP PRIORITY AREAS:

The Promise

We will place love and relationships at the centre of the experiences and outcomes for every infant, child, and young person with care experience. We will do this through working together to fully implement the findings of the care review and The Promise by 2030.

Young Carers

Ensuring that all children and young people under the age of 18 who support, or help to support a relative or friend, because they have a physical or mental illness, disability, issues with drugs or alcohol, communication needs, or are elderly or frail, are recognised as being a South Ayrshire young carer. To work together across the CPP to ensure that young carers have access to the necessary support, advice, and resources to live a full active and achieving life.

PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO LOIP, LOCALITY PLANNING AND OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS:

CSPP Annual Report 24/25

CSPP Annual Report was approved at Cabinet, IJB and NHS Board in recent months. Our annual report is performance focused triangulating CSPP data by providing data monitoring (contextual and quantitative) alongside process and impact evaluation. This ensures our conclusions are increasingly reliable and balanced.



24-25 South Ayrshire
CSPP Annual Report

The Promise:

Although The Promise has its own priority area and workstream within the CSPP – it is essential that The Promise is evident and supported across Children's Services Planning.

CSPP Lead and Corporate Parenting Lead worked collaboratively to align ongoing aims of the CSPP into the new Promise Framework. This supported the creation of our Refreshed Parenting Promise (awaiting approval) and ensures ongoing progress in connecting our work meaningfully. The Children's Services Plan and Parenting Promise must work together to achieve our common aims, and this alignment ensures that going

forward Priority Group or Workstream Leads within the CSPP will become “benefit holders” where required, further connecting and interlinking all things Children’s Services and The Promise together.

Examples of CSPP work reflected in the Refreshed Parenting Promise

- We will create parental wellbeing indicators through a collaboration between poverty and additional support needs funded by the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (CPAF) activity.
- We will continue to support Family First locality model, ensuring that early help and support is accessible through an integrated, multi-agency approach.
- Joined up working focused on collaboration with families in the earliest years (focus on Speech and Language Therapy /Health Visiting / Early Years) to improve developmental outcomes.
- Roll out of Solihull Parenting Work via a newly established training team, commencing early 2026 to support consistency of messaging to parents across children’s and adult services.

Since the previous CPP meeting, Dawn Parker has left her post and a new Corporate Parenting Lead has been appointed. Claire is a fantastic appointment.

Plan 26-29

As a statutory requirement under the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014, South Ayrshire must produce an integrated Children’s Services Plan every three years. Our current 23–26 plan is now entering its final year, and development of Plan 26-29 is underway. While our six established priority areas (The Promise, Included, Healthy, People, Families, and Voice) are unlikely to change, we will now seek to deepen their ambitions in line with our commitment at the start of 2023 to deliver transformational change for South Ayrshire families. This includes strengthening our focus on early and preventative whole-family support. We are currently undertaking a comprehensive Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, drawing on local data, community intelligence, and lived experience feedback to inform how we might refresh each groups aims. Although the overarching ambitions of our priority groups are likely to remain, emerging insights may refine and evolve aspects of our work. We plan to return to a workshop session with practitioners and Community Planning Board members in early 2026 to explore findings and shape the next phase of action planning together.

To inform planning the CSPP are facilitating research and engagement with parents (Wallacetown/Care experienced young parents) to better understand how we can strengthen our early and preventative help offer with a particular focus on those who may need additional support to thrive. Early themes emerging from our JSNA includes developmental concerns around speech and language, and the need for more integrated early help across services in the earliest years. In response, we are in the early stages of exploring the development of a shared Sure Start model, designed to bring together services supporting families from the antenatal period through the first 1001 days. It is important too that CSP 26-29 supports in aligning this work closely with wider system change developments, including Family First, the Integrated Neighbourhood Team and our whole family approach.

Other considerations include family homelessness, parental wellbeing, and recognising the critical influence of parents’ mental health and wellbeing on children’s life chances.

The ongoing analysis and engagement will help ensure our refreshed plan both deepens and sharpens our collective response to local need, supporting families to thrive within their communities. It’s anticipated the below priorities will remain with some emerging areas of direction:

- **The Promise** (supporting the Parenting Promise and all below action plans supporting our collective aims)
- **People** (Utilising GIRFEC to support families to be empowered in their own plans, Solihull Parenting, creating opportunities for practitioner connection or celebration through the lens of GIRFEC)

- **Voice** (Thoughts around evolving this Priority into a Children’s Rights Priority Group. Taking learning from CSPP wider out to partners to meet requirements set by law in the UNCRC Act with the Voice workstream feeding in with aims around empowerment for families to drive change)
- **Healthy** (Considerations to support around infant and parenting mental health, vaping including Pan-Ayrshire task force work, and healthy relationships work in schools)
- **Family** (Deeping of Family First aims, and utilising group for alignment with other key system change areas such as INT, Sure Start and RISE)
- **Included** (Thoughts around this area continuing to be the home of work in terms of early developmental outcomes with a SLC focus, screen time, creating inclusive environments for all children and neurodevelopmental work)
- **Child Poverty** (New Priority Group within CSPP to allow us to support and complement the existing plan as poverty is a crucial element or cross cutting concern for consideration within child and family wellbeing)

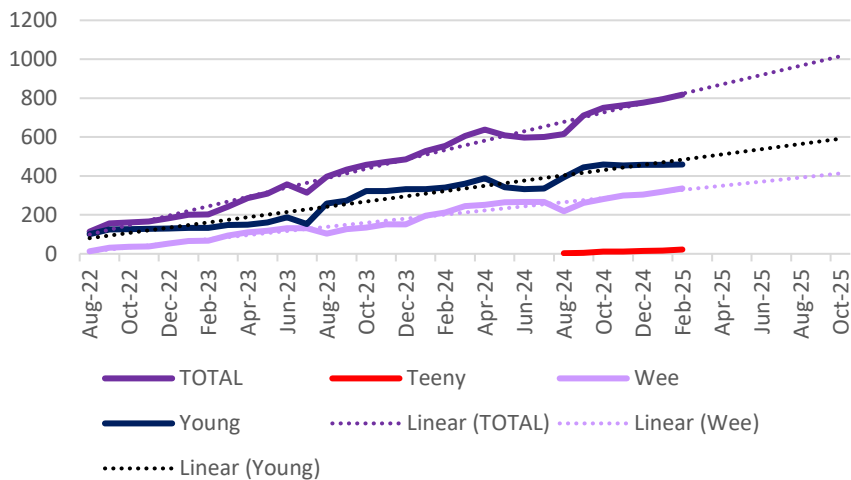
Child Poverty

The CPP should be aware that Child Poverty will now be a Priority Area within Children’s Services Planning, with the Child Poverty Strategy feeding in as a key plan. In the upcoming Children’s Services Plan 2026-2029 poverty will be a central focus, reflecting its role as a cross cutting theme that influences life chances for families across all priority areas. We will work to align the Strategy with and complement the ongoing work of other priority areas, similar to our approach with ‘The Promise,’ ensuring a coordinated and impactful response to poverty in all aspects of our services.

Young Carers:

Ensuring all pre-5 staff are trained in identification of young carers and embedding this into every day practice will reduce/eliminate young carers being missed.

Young carers in South Ayrshire



KEY ISSUES

- 1.** Responsibilities across the CPP to adhere to requirements of the UNCRC Implementation Act. Coming weeks will see the roll out of UNCRC training tiered depending on role across the CPP.
- 2.** Ongoing development of the next iteration of our current Children and Young People's Services Plan (2026-2029).
- 3.** Aligning our whole system response to whole family wellbeing including linking the INT / CSPP family first / early intervention in early years work.

Report Completed by: Gillian Carroll, CSPP Lead Officer

Officer:

Date: 12th November 2025

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025



COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Date of last meeting(s): 19/11/2025

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE CP BOARD AS AGREED TO ESCALATE BY SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

- Developing Violence Against Women Strategy 2026 – 2029
- Tackling antisocial behaviour in Ayr town centre
- Safety in and around South Ayrshire playparks

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP – LOIP PRIORITY AREAS:

Safer Communities

We will work in partnership to reduce violence and antisocial behaviour in South Ayrshire by working with our local licensed and hospitality trade, schools, and local communities helping make South Ayrshire a safer place to live.

We will work in partnership to reduce all forms of violence against women and girls.

Home, Road, and Water Safety

We will work in partnership to reduce the number of serious accidents at home, on our roads and in our waterways by delivering and promoting a range of safety initiatives.

PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO LOIP, LOCALITY PLANNING AND OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS:

Reducing Violence Joint Action Group

The Reducing Violence Joint Action Groups focus remains on supporting increased visitor numbers at local events and ensuring the safety of those enjoying the hospitality and nighttime economy, particularly in Ayr and Prestwick.

Street Pastors remain active in engaging with nighttime visitors, distributing flip flops to help prevent falls, foil blankets to reduce the effects of cold, and bottled water to prevent dehydration. They also collect bottles and broken glass to minimise injury risks. Patrol reports can be viewed via the Ayr & Prestwick Street Pastors Facebook page, and they now carry a portable defibrillator.

First aiders have provided treatment to individuals in need during the reporting period, with their presence, alongside other partners contributing to public safety and supporting local policing. Police officers continue to visit licensed premises as part of ongoing engagement.

Taxi Marshals continue to manage queues and assist people in securing transport home, helping to prevent potential flashpoints. Data for these activities is available quarterly on request.

The JAG's current priorities include planning the 2025 Festive Campaign. This will see additional resource and support allocated to Ayr town centre. This will ensure visitors can shop and socialise safely up over the festive period. This will also look to address the rise in youth related antisocial behaviour in Ayr town centre.

Safer Communities Joint Action Group

The Safer Communities JAG continues to tackle antisocial behaviour, environmental issues, and fire related incidents, while supporting young people and local communities.

Current priorities include Ayr town centre ASB, ASB around playparks, football related ASB, dog fouling, litter, graffiti and fly-tipping.

Targeted interventions continue in Primary and Secondary schools, focussing on the issues above. Youth work patrols run weekly in Ayr North, Ayr Town Centre, and Maybole.

Multi-agency home visits in Wallacetown have increased referrals and provided residents with practical support, including ring doorbells.

Problem solving groups remain active, addressing issues at Blackburn Road Carpark, vaping awareness for young people, off-road vehicle activity, football-related ASB and Ayr town centre youth disorder.

Re-deployable CCTV monitors key areas for ASB, hate crime, fire-related, and environmental issues.

Bonfirewatch 2025 has recently concluded, and evaluation report is being drafted. Anecdotal evidence suggests there has been a large reduction in bonfires set and associated antisocial behaviour. Full report will be available in next update.

Home, Road & Water Safety Joint Action Group

Since the last update, the Partnership has delivered a wide range of successful initiatives, engaging residents, pupils, and community members across South Ayrshire.

Road safety education continues to be developed across all age groups, with strong links to local schools.

8 school inputs have been delivered since last report, covering topics including ASB, Road Safety, Fire Safety and Water Safety to 890 young people. A Junior Road Safety Officer Seminar has taken place, with JRSOs from 18 schools in attendance

Recent activity also includes the 'I Drive' event for mature drivers, offering driving lessons, theory and hazard perception tests, and eye tests.

The Biker Down event for motorcyclist safety was also well attended.

Child seat safety checks continue across the locality.

17 Fire Safety specific inputs have been delivered to schools in the lead up to Bonfire Night.

Fire safety inputs have also been delivered to 4 Sheltered Housing complexes.

For National Drowning Prevention Day, an event at Troon Beach promoted windssocks and beach zoning, with RNLI safety messages and paddle boarding sessions to raise awareness of water conditions.

Links with the Scottish Community Safety Network and Ahead of the Curve continue to support home safety promotion, particularly around slips, trips and falls in the home.

Plans are in place to work with partners on car seat check events, beach wristband trials for children, and further road and water safety campaigns in the coming months.

Violence Against Women Joint Action Group

Key areas of focus include planning for the annual 16 Days of Action campaign, continued awareness-raising around Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) through training delivery, linking all women's groups locally, and expanding activity linked to the White Ribbon campaign.

Progress includes the creation of a South Ayrshire library of 24 Violence Against Women (VAW) resources, with delivery across schools and communities.

Educational activity includes Hystayria focus groups, film screenings in partnership with libraries, Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) inputs in schools, and joint sessions with Women's Aid and Thriving Communities.

CSE awareness sessions for staff and partners took place on 2nd September and 24th November.

National campaigns and key messages have been promoted locally, with VAW branding implemented on bin lorries and updated web links to ensure current information is accessible.

This year's campaign will use a new venue (Cutty Sark Centre) and route for the Reclaim the Night walk.

Work is ongoing to develop safe spaces for women, coordinate links across local women's groups and third sector partners and share good practice.

Upcoming priorities include circulating the 16 Days of Action evaluation and communications plan, targeted work with sports clubs around White Ribbon, and contributing to the consultation for the new Violence Against Women Partnership strategy (2026–2029).

KEY ISSUES

Reducing Violence

- Resourcing major event weekends (Ayr Gold Cup, festive campaigns).
- Night-time economy safety: Street Pastors, first aiders, Taxi Marshals, licensed premises engagement.

Home, Road & Water

- Increased water safety risks.
- Preventing accidents in the home.

Safer Communities

- Antisocial behaviour: Blackburn Road Carpark, Ayr town centre ASB, football/ultras, off-road vehicles.
- Youth interventions: vaping, mental health, issue-based engagement.
- Environmental issues: dog fouling, littering, fly-tipping, graffiti.
- Fire raising and derelict building monitoring.

Violence Against Women

- Education and training on CSE and wider VAW issues.
- Development of safe spaces and support for women.
- Coordination with partners - 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon campaign.
- Develop new Violence Against Women Strategy.

· Implement position statement on CSE and prostitution.

Report Completed by:

Officer: CI Stephen McGrath (Chair)

Date: 04/12/2025

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025



FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP

Date of last meeting(s): 9th OCTOBER 2025

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE CP BOARD AS AGREED TO ESCALATE BY SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

Concerns regarding replacement UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) that would have impact on funding to support employability, communities and economy projects.

Temporary Financial Inclusion Funding ends March 2026, this will impact food pantries.

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP – LOIP PRIORITY AREAS:

Financial Inclusion

We will work in partnership to help individuals and families access financial support services that will assist with fuel poverty, income maximisation and food insecurity. Partners will ensure local support is available that assists with the cost of living by ensuring advice, guidance and support services are accessible and available across South Ayrshire.

Economic, Employability and Lifelong Learning Opportunities

We will work in partnership to prepare and assist people for employment, training, education, and volunteering opportunities. We will create opportunities that will assist our communities to thrive through economic development and local wealth building activity.

We will ensure provision in South Ayrshire is aligned with local, regional, and national priorities by developing personal centred approaches for individuals accessing our services.

PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO LOIP, LOCALITY PLANNING AND OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Wealth Building report was presented to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel prior and provided an update on Community Wealth Building across Ayrshire.
- The Assistant Director for Communities delivered a presentation to the SDP on the Ayrshire Growth Deal work taking place across the region.
- Feasibility of purchasing the ‘Low Income Family Tracker’ (LIFT).
- LOIP year 2 actions progressing.
- ‘No One Left Behind’ funding had been granted to support those who have disabilities into the workforce, but challenges are still faced. Work with Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce taking place to identify barriers employers face, for example time constraints to support these employees.

KEY ISSUES

- UKSPF Replacement Funding – Consultation started with stakeholders in November and there are concerns regarding the Growth Funding criteria and objectives.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Jamie Tait Service Lead Thriving Communities

Date: 12-11-2025

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025



POPULATION HEALTH SDP

Date of last meeting(s): 23rd OCTOBER 2025

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE CP BOARD AS AGREED TO ESCALATE BY SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

N/A

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP – LOIP PRIORITY AREAS:

Ageing Well

We will focus on ‘Ageing Well’ which will incorporate the work of our Ageing Well Strategy and the development of Age Friendly Communities. We will work with our stakeholders and local communities to codesign what our key priorities for ageing should be so that we are working together to make South Ayrshire the best place in Scotland to live and age well.

Mental Health Improvement including Suicide Prevention

We will support the mental health and wellbeing of our communities with a focus on prevention and early intervention, aligning with Scotland’s Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Green Health and Active Living

We will focus on green health which is about engaging with nature to improve physical, mental and social health and wellbeing e.g., walking, gardening/growing, bird watching. Alongside this we will focus on active living which involves building physical activity into everyday actions e.g. taking the stairs rather than a lift, having walking meetings, cycling as part of a journey.

Physical Activity and Sport

We will co-ordinate and monitor physical activity and sport, so that everyone across the life course will have opportunities to be involved in, and remain involved in, physical activity and sporting activities.

PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO LOIP, LOCALITY PLANNING AND OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Population Health Framework session held for members to consider Scottish Government strategic drivers including new Population Health Framework;
- Further work proposed to detail/be explicit over the preventive health contributions within the work of the respective groups as per the Population Health Framework;
- Year 2 actions, review of year 1 and update/add for following year;
- South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy presented to the SDP and will be shared with the CPP Board in December for approval;
- Ageing Well - Action plan from year 1 reviewed with next iteration plan drafted for 25/26. Transport Symposium took place to consider key transport related challenges and solutions/Ahead of the Curve Team continue to work with people in a more preventative mode through a range of community activity in community venues and utilising tools like Functional Fitness MOT/Take a Seat and Take a Seat plus developed/New Over to You resource launched/The Ageing Well work in South Ayrshire is increasingly being shared locally, nationally and internationally. Locally, for example with North Ayrshire; Nationally with Borders, Dumfries and Galloway and other Scottish local authorities; and internationally with

colleagues in Sao Paulo University (on a site visit) and through the IFIC. The work recently won the (UK) award APSE award for 'Best Efficiency and Transformation Initiative';

- Green Health & Living – agreed 3 priorities for Year 2 for overall population health action plan. Discussion between The Outdoor Partnership and TCV to see if a 6-week block of green gyms can be delivered, possibly with Alzheimer Scotland, as part of the blue & green health prescribing initiative through Community Mental Health and Wellbeing funding. The initiative is now linking with a GP practice in Troon to encourage green/blue health prescribing. Blue Health Autumn Calendar distributed to libraries, community centres, GPs and pharmacies. Thriving Communities looking to find another site for the active travel/green health hub. ExplorAyr event 12-14 Sept delivered by Thriving Communities/South Ayrshire Paths Initiative. Evaluation report and film of the event being compiled;
- Physical Activity & Sport – work taking place to progress new strategy; and
- Mental Health & Suicide Prevention – Terms of Reference reviewed to include new national landscape i.e., Population Health Framework and Public Service Reform. Low Road film screening took place. New Suicide Prevention training dates available. A draft Mental Health and Suicide Prevention plan is now in place.

KEY ISSUES

- Funding for Health Walks – there is an increasingly urgent need to secure funding for the post associated with co-ordinating and developing the Health Walk programme.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Sally Amor

Date: November 2025

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025



SUSTAINABILITY SDP

Date of last meeting(s): 3 September 2025

CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE CP BOARD AS AGREED TO ESCALATE BY SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:

- Clarity regarding regional action areas.

MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP – LOIP PRIORITY AREAS:

Energy

We will work to encourage appropriate energy use in South Ayrshire (reduced use through behaviour change, energy efficiency measures, good design etc) and promote low and zero carbon sources of energy where possible. We will work with partners to promote the installation of local renewable energy generation and its use. Demonstrating best practice in Scotland.

Food

We will promote healthy diet choices that reduce the ecological footprint of our food and encourage sustainable local food production and consumption.

Travel

We will work to promote and enable the sustainable travel hierarchy to reduce car distance driven and ensure when travel is required it is as sustainable, active, and low emission as possible. We will support 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Nature

We will work to create functional nature networks and connect people with nature.

PROGRESS UPDATE IN RELATION TO LOIP, LOCALITY PLANNING AND OTHER AREAS OF FOCUS:

Progress in relation to all 4 LOIP priority areas was reported at the last meeting with further updates due at the next meeting at the start of December. Progress has been made in all areas, although some are progressing faster than others:

- There is a particular need for the energy subgroup to progress, and the subgroup is scheduled to meet on 5th November. The SDP had a presentation at their last meeting about the Wallacetown Energy Project but the presentation on LHEES was postponed to the December meeting.
- Food work is being explored on an Ayrshire level as well as within both the council and the NHS in relation to Good Food Nation (GFN) requirements.
- The Active Travel MOWG and CAG have met and the ExplorAyr event took place in Ayr in mid-September promoting active travel through a wide range of activities, stalls, films etc. Feedback was very positive, and it is planned to run the event again next year building on the success of this year.
- Nature Network mapping work has been progressing with key partners with practical spend of this years NRF monies also being simultaneously taken forward. The South Ayrshire Biodiversity Strategy is in preparation and anticipated at January Board.

At the last meeting the SDP heard specific presentations on the Wallacetown Energy Project. This was well received, and partners were impressed with the progress made.

The SDP was also joined by the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service and their staff presented on ClimateView and the role of local Transition Teams in taking this work forward, in particular regarding pace and tempo. It was agreed that the SDP would take on the role of the Transition Team for South Ayrshire and that the progress regarding our ClimateView dashboard would become a standing item at each SDP meeting.

A report was also heard regarding the South Ayrshire Council Integrated Impact Assessment Process and the traction it has had in relation to the Environmental Section in the early period of it's application in relation to council decisions. It was agreed that the SDP would hear regular updates on the progress of IIAs and in particular, the completion of the environmental questions, in order that appropriate support and input can be offered from the partners where appropriate. The next report will be brought to the December SDP, and it will become a standing item.

Members of the Sustainability Team are now working to lead on support of each of the subgroups across these 4 priorities as well as also supporting the Green/Blue Health priority area within the Population Health SDP.

KEY ISSUES

- Some subgroups are less developed than others, with Energy in particular requiring to meet and further develop and agree in particular its Terms of Reference and third action area. To support this and indeed other key areas, such as multi modal journeys and wider sustainable travel goals, clarity on / support from areas being covered and developed at regional level going forward will be important.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Lorna Jarvie, SDP Chair and Lead Officer

Date: 3 November 2025



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT GROUP UPDATE TO
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025**

Date of last meeting: 21st October 2025

Main current focus of the group:

The main focus of the Community Planning Participation and Engagement Group is to inform the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest, forums that sit within VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) and community and third sector organisations. The Community Planning Participation and Engagement Group will also support CPPs on the best approaches for engagement activity for plans/strategies.

PROGRESS UPDATE:

The group has met twice since the previous update. Membership has been extended to include additional third sector providers, including SeaScape and Ayrshire Housing.

Speakers have attended both meetings: David Manson from Ayrshire Roads Alliance discussed *Accessible Ayr*, including the plans for Ayr Town Centre; Jeremy Miller from the Strategic Planning Team presented on the *Local Development Plan*; and Steven Kelly provided an update on the *Adult Carers Strategy Consultation*.

David Manson, Special Projects Officer, Ayrshire Roads Alliance – David delivered a presentation on *Accessible Ayr: Stage 4 – Phase 1*. He presented various visualisations and plans, which included proposals for widening pedestrian areas on the High Street and creating cycle lanes along Sandgate, Fort Street, and the upper town areas.

Jeremy Miller, Supervisory Planner, Planning and Building Standards – Jeremy gave a presentation on *Local Development Plan 3 (LDP3)*, providing an overview of the development process and associated timelines. He explained that the process is currently in its initial phase, with a call for evidence now underway.

Steven Kelly, Service Manager (Hub Development) – Steven presented on South Ayrshire HSCP’s *Adult Carers Strategy (2025 Refresh)*. He advised that the revised strategy will focus on outcomes, recognising carers’ contributions, and implementing systems for monitoring and reviewing progress.

The group continues to share information on emerging issues and consultations with its members. It remains keen to welcome further speakers who can enhance members’ understanding of changes within Community Planning Partners’ service delivery or help shape how forthcoming consultations are presented to the public.

KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS

- Continue to progress with the relaunch of SA1000
- Invite relevant speakers to present to the group

Report Completed by:

Officer: Marie Oliver (Co-Chair) VASA and Lorraine McKenzie, Policy Officer, Community Engagement
Date: 29/10/2025



**THIRD SECTOR INTERFACE UPDATE TO
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 4th DECEMBER 2025**

VOLUNTARY ACTION SOUTH AYRSHIRE UPDATE

The Third Sector forums continue to grow, and the Third Sector now have a voice at most strategic meetings.

The Community Planning Partnership Volunteering Strategy will be presented at the board on the 4th of December, and we do hope that our partners will be supportive in contributing to the action plan for the first year of the strategy.

VASA working in partnership with the HSCP and SAC will be opening the second Connect hub late January, early February. The venue will be the Freemans Hall in Prestwick. It will be manned Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week. Other organisations will be holding drop ins, these are still to be confirmed.

The Connect South Ayrshire website continues to develop and now includes a booklet of the drop-in sessions that may be of interest to people within the community that partners may be working with. The Connect team would be delighted to be invited to come to and speak staff teams.

A team of staff from a local business and VASA joined together for two days on a project to enhance the surroundings at Hansel Village as part of their employee supported volunteering policy. VASA will be looking for other organisations who offer their staff a day or more per year to volunteer for projects in 2026. Employee supported volunteering supports team building as well as introducing people to their local community and the many benefits of volunteering.

On the 25th December a team of VASA volunteers will be delivering a meal and bag of goodies to around 130 local socially isolated older people within the community who would otherwise spend the day alone. This will be the 24th year of this event. Most of the recipients have been referred by social work and other public sector professionals.

The Ageing Well Champions Board continues to support the South Ayrshire Aging Well agenda and are working with local businesses on Take A Seat campaign and Take a Seat Plus. Businesses who “buy” into the scheme display a sticker in their window inviting people to come in a take seat if they need a rest when out and about. Those that are part of the Take a Seat plus scheme can also offer toilet facilities. To date 15 local businesses have joined the scheme in Ayr and Prestwick will now be targeted.

During 2026 part of the focus for the Ageing Well team will be to promote and encourage local people on the benefits to having a Power of Attorney and the potential consensuses if this is not in place.

VASA had their mid-term review with the Scottish Government last week. The Third Sector unit were delighted with the work that VASA continues to deliver in South Ayrshire particularly since there has been no uplift in over 14 years.

KEY ISSUES

The main issues Third Sector organisations are facing, especially those who deliver services, is still the increase in Employer National Insurance and also the increase in the living wage (6.7%), as well as the public sector offering higher hourly wage for staff in caring roles, which often leads to staff moving from the Third to Public Sector. This is a very difficult time for us all as funds are reducing and often, we are seeing increased demand for services. It may also be worth noting that the Ayrshires pay one of the lowest rates per hour for care carried out by Third and private care companies. It should be noted that although the document embedded is from 2021, South Ayrshire remain in the same position.



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Report Completed by:

Marie Oliver

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