

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**



**FINANICAL INCLUSION SDP**

**Date of last meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM THE SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:**

n/a

**MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP**

Main areas of focus are financial hardship and raising awareness of entitlements/grants available, opportunities through the Ayrshire Growth deal, employability and lifelong learning, and implementation of the Local Child Poverty Action Plan Report.

**PROGRESS UPDATE (INCLUDING AREAS OF SUCCESS)**

Since the last CP Board, there has been one meeting of the SDP on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Key areas of progress arising from this meeting includes:

**COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS INCLUDING FUEL AND FOOD POVERTY**

Extensive discussions have continued to take place at the most recent meeting on the cost-of-living crisis, and what, as community planning partners, we can do to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis to support our communities further. Members were advised of the new Member/Officer Working Group that has been set up internally within South Ayrshire Council. Members of the SDP are now in the process of reviewing the terms of reference for the SDP to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose. Following the review of the terms of reference, the strategic action plan will be amended accordingly.

At the last CP Board meeting, agreement was given to fund a cost-of-living magazine which was being developed by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire. The South Ayrshire Life magazine has now been produced, and distribution will start taking place in October to all households within South Ayrshire [https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/south\\_ayrshires\\_lifeline\\_2](https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/south_ayrshires_lifeline_2) The magazine provides a comprehensive guide to help and support services in South Ayrshire and will be a valuable resource over the winter months. Further work is now taking place with South Ayrshire Council, community groups and churches to develop 'cosy spaces' within our communities. Once complete, information will be advertised throughout communities. Ayrshire College also shared details of the cosy spaces initiative that are being developed in their campuses. Students can benefit from access to food and electricity as part of the initiative.

Appendix 1 provides a brief summary of some of the work taking place by CPP partners and supports in place for our local communities.

**EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP:  
NO-ONE LEFT BEHIND SOUTH AYRSHIRE**

Members received an update on No-one Left Behind (NOLB) which is aligning employability services across Scotland. NOLB replaced old employability programmes including the Employability Fund. This new NOLB phase 2 allows local authorities and employability partnerships to develop priorities best suited to local areas. In South Ayrshire this will be led by the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership and supported by Local Employability Partnerships. Opportunities for commissioned employability provision will be tendered through SAC procurement and Scotland Excel.

Links will also be made to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (people and skills, support for businesses, community and place, and multiply) and Ayrshire Growth Deal (working for a healthy economy, aerospace developments and skills investment fund).

Despite the economic challenges employability outcomes in South Ayrshire continue to improve with the Participation Measure now 93.7% compared to the national average of 92.4%.

Progress on the Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24 will be shared at the next SDP.

**KEY ISSUES**

- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan in light of the new National Child Poverty plan;
- Implementation of the delivery plan for Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021;
- Continue to make connections within the SDP and members on support available to our local communities because of the cost-of-living crisis; and
- Continued progress of the Strategic Action Plan

**UPDATE ON ACTION TO SUPPORT THE LOIP/PLACE PLANS**

The SDP will support the strategic theme of 'Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap' through the child poverty action plan and Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership.

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Jamie Tait /Susan McCardie**

**Date: October 2022**

## APPENDIX 1

**FINANCIAL INCLUSION  
STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP: COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS UPDATE FOR CP BOARD MEETING - 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

PARTNER/SERVICE	MAIN AREAS OF ACTION TO SUPPORT COST OF LIVING CRISIS
<b>Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA)</b>	South Ayrshire Lifeline Magazine now completed and sent to print. Digital copy will also be available. 16 pages of useful numbers and points of support which will be sent to every household in South Ayrshire. <a href="https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/south_ayrshires_lifeline_2">https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/south_ayrshires_lifeline_2</a>
<b>South Ayrshire Lifeline</b>	Developing the website and offering additional services including attendance allowance application support and help to get onto the Providers Priority List. Also support and encouragement to either join an activity or volunteer this winter.
<b>HSCP/VASA</b>	Started meetings with local community groups and churches to establish 'Cosy Space's within the community. On the 7 <sup>th</sup> of September approximately 50 people attended an event to start to map out what could be established in each locality and what support would be needed. Follow up sessions will take place in each locality throughout October.
<b>South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership: (Children's Health, Care and Justice Service)</b>	The Children's Health, Care and Justice Service are: focusing on maximising income through referrals via the Financial Inclusion Pathway and Home Energy Scotland; directing provision of financial support at the point of need through a Wellbeing fund; promoting food pantries/access to food banks; promoting free travel for under 22s; increasing provision of fuel vouchers; promoting Best Start Food Scheme; and increasing the provision of Healthy start vitamin scheme and oral health tooth brushing scheme.
<b>South Ayrshire Council: Thriving Communities</b>	Through the Empowering Communities – Cost of Living Crisis fund (supported by the Local Authority COVID Economic Recovery (LACER) funding stream), £100,000 funding has been approved to support a range of projects for groups and organisations who are working directly with residents from low-income households. Thriving Communities – Employability service continues to support young people and adults furthest away from the labour market in to employment. Employer Recruitment Incentives are also available for businesses recruit someone who has specific barriers to employment.
<b>South Ayrshire Council: Information and Advice Hub</b>	The Information and Advice Hub is a free, impartial, and confidential service for residents of South Ayrshire. Our team is fully trained to deal with issues relating to welfare rights, money advice and debt. We can help you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find out what DWP and Social Security Scotland benefits you are entitled to and help to apply;</li> <li>• Appeal any DWP and Social Security Scotland benefit decisions you think are wrong;</li> <li>• Set up a household budget and provide you with Money Advice;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help you manage any debts including contacting the people you owe money to and making a personalised plan for you to help you get out of debt;</li> <li>• Manage increased fuel costs and if applicable apply for grants to help with the cost of gas, electricity, and oil;</li> <li>• Access Food Banks; and</li> <li>• Access partner agencies – we can refer you to a partner agency to ensure you receive all of the support you need tailored to your individual circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>A full list of our services can be found on our website which also provides various ways you can get in touch with us.  <a href="https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice-hub">https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/information-and-advice-hub</a></p> <p>If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 0300 123 0900 and ask for the Information and Advice Hub.          Information and Advice Hub          1/3 Mainholm Road          AYR          KA8 0QF</p>
<p><b>Skills Development Scotland (SDS)</b></p>	<p>SDS is an all-age career guidance service and delivers career information, advice and guidance to individuals in schools and SDS centres across Scotland. We also offer support through our contact centre and My World of Work.</p> <p>We can provide information on jobs, the local labour market, training courses, Modern Apprenticeships and much more. We'll also help customers identify their strengths, goals, and the opportunities that are out there. Our support is designed to help customers build the Career Management Skills they need to get where they want to be. Customers and partners can find out more information on our websites:</p> <p><a href="http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk">www.myworldofwork.co.uk</a> – My World of Work is Scotland’s award winning online career information and advice service.</p> <p><a href="http://www.apprenticeships.scot">www.apprenticeships.scot</a> – Our online service for Scottish Apprenticeships</p> <p><b>Free webinars for all customers</b>As part of Challenge Poverty week, on the 4 and 6 October at 11am, SDS will be hosting two live webinars “Facing Change, Embracing Change - create positive change in your work and life” and “Horizon Scanning - discover job and learning options”. For customers who may be interested in joining</p>

	<p>these sessions, please direct them to <a href="https://careers.myworldofwork.co.uk/webinars">careers.myworldofwork.co.uk/webinars</a> where they can register for free access.</p> <p>As well as free webinars, we also have funded options to help customers who are looking to upskill in order to progress within their current position, reskill for a new role or return to the labour market after an extended absence. Full details of these can be found at <a href="https://careers.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train">careers.myworldofwork.co.uk/learn-and-train</a></p> <p><b>Support for travel (16-20 year olds, up to 26 for Care Experienced)</b> At present we have funds to support travel to interviews, partner interventions, training and learning, and/or the first day of training/employment for these unemployed customers. This is not available to those in receipt of other benefits.</p> <p><b><u>Client Intervention Fund (15 – 18.5 year olds, up to 26 for Care Experienced)</u></b> Our Client Intervention Fund is available to unemployed customers aged between 15 and 18½ or those aged between 15 and 26 with care experience. This fund can be used to help remove identified barriers in customers that prevent them from taking up an opportunity in Education, Employment or Training through the use of appropriate targeted interventions to build CMS and support entry to the labour market. Examples include the purchasing of interview clothes, toiletries, specialist equipment, proof of ID. The maximum spend is currently £30.</p>
<p><b>Home Energy Scotland</b></p>	<p><b>Warmer Homes Scotland</b> With rising energy bills and the increased cost of living, people are becoming increasingly worried about the colder months ahead. The Scottish Government is offering assistance to eligible households who are struggling to heat their homes, this programme is called <a href="#">Warmer Homes Scotland</a>. It's designed to help people make their homes warmer and more comfortable by installing a range of energy saving improvements, like heating and insulation. Eligible households could get around £5,000 of support through the Warmer Homes Scotland programme which will help to reduce their annual energy bills. Over 29,000 households have been helped so far.</p> <p><b>Contact Home Energy Scotland</b> Please contact Home Energy Scotland in one of the following ways, their friendly and knowledgeable advisors will be very happy to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call free of charge on <b>0800 808 2282</b></li> </ul>

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Send an <a href="#">email</a> via their website</li><li>• Complete the <a href="#">contact form</a> on their website and they can call or email you back.</li><li>• <a href="http://homeenergyscotland.org">homeenergyscotland.org</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Facebook HESSouthWest</a></li></ul> |
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