

County Buildings  
Wellington Square  
AYR KA7 1DR  
Tel No: 01292 612474

20 October 2022

Dear Partner

## **SOUTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

You are requested to participate in the above meeting of the Board to be held remotely on **Thursday 27 October 2022 at 10am** for the purpose of considering the undernoted business.

The meeting will be conducted remotely.

Yours sincerely

**CATRIONA CAVES**  
Head of Legal HR and Regulatory Services

### **BUSINESS**

- 1 **Welcome**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Apologies**
- 4 **Minutes of the Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022** (copy herewith)
- 5 (a) **CP Executive/SDP Chairs Executive Workshop Update**  
*Report by Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning, South Ayrshire Council* (copy herewith)
- (b) **Strategic Delivery Partnership Updates:**
  - **Children’s Services** (copy herewith)
  - **Community Safety** (copy herewith)
  - **Financial Inclusion** (copy herewith)
  - **Communities and Population Health** (copy herewith)
  - **Wallacetown** (copy herewith)
- (c) **Update from Communities Reference Group** (copy herewith)
- (d) **Update from Sustainability Partnership (verbal update)**

- 6 **LOIP Annual Progress Report**  
*Report by Community Planning Lead Officer, South Ayrshire Council* (copy herewith)
- 7 **Chief Officers Group Annual Update**  
*Report by Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council* (copy herewith)
- 8 **Carer Positive Award**  
*Report by Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer* (copy herewith)
- 9 **AOCB**
- 10 **Date and time to next meeting – 26 January 2023 at 10am**

**Distribution List:**

|                                    |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor Peter Henderson (Chair) |                                    | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Councillor Alex Clark              |                                    | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Councillor Martin Dowey            |                                    | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Allan Comrie                       | Senior Transport Planner           | Strathclyde Partnership for Transport |
| Anne Campbell                      | Vice Principal                     | Ayrshire College                      |
| Brian Connolly                     |                                    | Scottish Enterprise                   |
| Claire Burden                      | Chief Executive                    | NHS Ayrshire & Arran                  |
| Claire Tooze                       | Area Manager                       | Skills Development Scotland           |
| Clare Baird                        | Chief Executive                    | Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce          |
| Eileen Howat                       | Chief Executive                    | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Elaine Young                       | Assistant Director – Public Health | NHS Ayrshire and Arran                |
| Emma Edwards                       | Interim Director of Marketing      | University of the West of Scotland    |
| Faroque Hussain                    | Divisional Commander               | Police Scotland                       |
| Ian McMeekin                       | Area Commander (E,N, & S Ayrshire) | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service      |
| Jane Bradley                       | Assistant Director – People        | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Lesley Bowie                       | Chair                              | Board Chair – NHS Ayrshire & Arran    |
| Marie Oliver                       | Chief Executive Officer            | Voluntary Action South Ayrshire       |
| Mike Newall                        | Assistant Director - People        | South Ayrshire Council                |
| Sian Williams                      | Operations Manager                 | NatureScot                            |
| Sheila Lynn                        | Service Lead                       | Jobcentre Plus DWP                    |
| Tim Eltringham                     | Director HSCP                      | Health & Social Care Partnership      |

**Officers:**

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Kevin Anderson  | Service Lead – Policy Performance and Community Planning | South Ayrshire Council   |
| Susan McCardie  | Community Planning Lead Officer                          | South Ayrshire Council   |
| Claire Monaghan   | Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities         | South Ayrshire Council – Chair of Financial Inclusion SDP            |
| Lorna Jarvie  | Co-ordinator, Sustainability and Fleet                   | South Ayrshire Council – Lead Officer for Sustainability Partnership |
| Mark Inglis   | Head of Children’s Health, Care and Justice Services     | HSCP – Chair of Children’s Services SDP                              |
| Chief Inspector Kevin Lammie  | Police Scotland  | Chair of Community Safety Partnership                                |
| Linda West  | VASA   | Chair of Communities Reference Group                                 |
| Susan Gallacher   | Director   | Scottish Government - Place  |
| Lisa McGuinness   | Director   | Scottish Government - Place  |
| All other Elected Members (for information only)  |  | South Ayrshire Council   |
| <p>For more information on any of the items on this agenda, please telephone Alison Nelson, Committee Services at 01292 612474, Wellington Square, Ayr or<br/>e-mail: <a href="mailto:alison.nelson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">alison.nelson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a><br/><a href="http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk">www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></p> |  |  |

## **SOUTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIPS BOARD.**

Minutes of a remote meeting of the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnerships Board held at 10.00am on Thursday 25 August 2022.

### **Board Members:**

**Councillor Peter Henderson** (Chair); **Councillor Martin Dowey** (SAC); **Lesley Bowie**, Board Chair, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; **Claire Burden**, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran; **Anne Campbell**, Ayrshire College; **Allan Comrie**, Senior Transport Planner, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport; **Brian Connolly**, Scottish Enterprise; **Tim Eltringham**, Director – HSCP (SAC); **Eileen Howat**, Chief Executive (SAC); **Faroque Hussain**, Divisional Commander, Police Scotland; **Ian McMeekin**, Area Manager – Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; **Rosie Lambert**, Jobcentre Plus DWP; **Marie Oliver**, Chief Executive Officer, VASA; **Claire Tooze**, Area Manager, Skills Development Scotland; **Sian Williams**, NatureScot and **Elaine Young**, Assistant Director – Public Health, NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

### **Officers:**

**Kevin Anderson**, Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning (SAC); **Jane Bradley**, Assistant Director – People (SAC); **Susan Gallagher**, Director, Scottish Government – Place; **Mark Inglis**, Head of Children’s Services, Health Care and Justice Services; **Lorna Jarvie**, Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Fleet (SAC); **Kevin Lammie**, Chief Inspector, Police Scotland; **Claire Monaghan**, Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC); **Susan McCardie**, Lead Officer – Community Planning (SAC); **Linda West**, Strategic Lead for Representation, VASA and **Alison Nelson**, Co-ordinator, Democratic Services (SAC).

### **Apologies:**

**Councillor Alec Clark** (SAC); **Sheila Lynn**, Job Centre Plus, DWP and **Mike Newall**, Assistant Director – People (SAC).

## **FIRST PART OF THE MEETING – CARING FOR AYRSHIRE**

The workshop session, facilitated by Claire Burden, Chief Executive, NHS Ayrshire and Arran provided members of the Community Planning Partnerships Board with an update on Caring for Ayrshire.

## **SECOND PART OF THE MEETING – BUSINESS**

### **1 Welcome and Introductions**

Councillor Peter Henderson (Chair) opened the meeting by welcoming all present to the second part of the proceedings, the Community Planning Partnership Board (the Board) meeting.

### **2 Sederunt**

As detailed above.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

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

### **4 Minutes of previous meeting**

The Minutes of the Community Planning Board (the Board) of 31 March 2022 (circulated) were submitted and approved.

#### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5(a) Cost of Living Crisis**

The Service Lead - Policy, Performance and Community Planning (SAC) advised that the cost-of-living crisis was now a permanent agenda item on each of the Strategic Delivery Partnerships, he then handed over to the Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC) to update the meeting.

The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities (SAC) provided members of the Board with a verbal update on the work currently being undertaken within the Financial Inclusion – Strategic Delivery Partnership relating to the cost-of-living crisis.

The Service Lead highlighted the focus of the group in terms of income maximisation, food poverty and food pantries, fuel poverty, employability, and inclusive growth. She intimated that the cost-of-living crisis would widen the number of people and families that would be affected by poverty. The increased move towards hybrid working, over the winter, would raise concerns around the cost for employees heating their homes and how would the Council create space for them to work in offices. The Service Lead intimated that a mechanism was required to allow partners to come together and share ideas that would help people during this crisis. The Information and Advice Hub (IAAH) and Home Energy Scotland would continue to support local communities through access to fuel poverty grants.

The Assistant Director for Public Health, NHS Ayrshire and Arran intimated that there had been a meeting of the Ayrshire Local Resilience Partnership to discuss the cost-of-living crisis, this partnership gave all agencies the opportunity to share best practice. NHS Ayrshire and Arran were also considering ways in which they could help their own staff who were under considerable pressure and that their staff had the appropriate information signposting them to other services for assistance. The Assistant Director also mentioned that community benefits were now included in contract awards and that it might be an opportunity to ensure that this was aligned to what communities needed to maximise this benefit.

The Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Services intimated that in terms of the HSCP, and through the Information and Advice Hub, funds of £1.24m had been claimed by services users. He further advised that the reason most children came onto the Child Protection Register was for neglect in South Ayrshire, families not having access to resources would have an impact on parents meeting the needs of their children, it was therefore vital that families were signposted to the correct help/agencies/funding to prevent an increase in the number of children on the register.

The Chief Executive Officer, VASA intimated that she had been in discussions with Phil Whyte, NHS Ayrshire and Arran regarding a booklet drop to all households in South Ayrshire, for under £15,000 this would provide people with helpful information/tips on a variety of topics relating to the cost-of-living crisis, she further advised that VASA would be hosting an information event on the cost-of-living crisis.

The Chair fully supported this initiative and agreed that people needed to be aware of the help/support that was available to them. He further advised that the Council were considering what venues would be available where people could go during the day, the Divisional Commander, Police Scotland suggested putting on events in these venues so people could avoid the stigma of going to a venue for a heat.

The Vice Principal, Ayrshire Colleges advised that many courses would see a return to face-to-face learning and where there was a blended approach to learning space would be made available on all three campuses for students to join tutorials remotely. Colleges were also ensuring that students knew where to go to obtain help and advice around their funding.

Further discussion ensued, particularly around the funding for the production and distribution of a leaflet, prior to the end of September, and the importance of all partners working collaboratively on this. The Service Lead – Community Services and Facilities also intimated that all social media channels must also be used to provide information and advice i.e., Instagram/Twitter.

After lengthy discussion the Board

**Decided:**

- (1) to remit the production and distribution of an information leaflet to the Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership; and
- (2) to augment the Terms of Reference for that group to focus on the cost-of-living crisis.

**5(b) Ukrainian Refugee Update**

The Assistant Director – People (SAC) provided members of the Board with a verbal update on the current situation regarding the Ukrainian refugees currently resident within South Ayrshire. This included statistical information relating to the number of refugees resident in South Ayrshire across all Schemes, their age ranges and where they were currently being accommodated.

The Assistant Director - People further advised that the Visa Scheme had closed and if 60% of those who currently had a Visa decided to come to Scotland that would result in 16,000 refugees arriving. This would cause a housing crisis nationally as housing would require to be found for up to 3 years. The Council had been asked to identify short-term accommodation and to identify empty schools, sports centres, warehouses that could accommodate these refugees should the need arise. Both hotel groups used had been asked to increase the number of rooms available to the Scottish Government therefore the numbers allocated to South Ayrshire could increase should these hotel groups increase their room availability.

Those travelling with a Visa permits a three-year stay, access to benefits and housing, the Assistant Director - People advised that this would create issues around semi-permanent housing availability and this moving to permanent should refugees be granted leave to stay. It was hopeful that an Officer would be appointed to work with Seascope and the private rental market. The number of refugees residents, if increased, within South Ayrshire would have an impact on the education and health systems.

The Assistant Director - People intimated that it had proved difficult to manage refugees' expectations when arriving in Glasgow as many had expected to stay there. The majority are bussed down from Glasgow and were not clear where they were, the options available to them and what employment availability there was, many were subsequently leaving to go back to Glasgow where they perceive their opportunities to be better. The Leader advised that the country needed to think strategically about this issue and plan for the longer term.

The Chair of the Communities Reference Group advised that the Assistant Director – People had updated the Third Sector Provider Forum which was informative. In an effort to diffuse situations that could arise in hotels the Chair encouraged the use of the third sector, and the opportunities it could offer, so that people could use their time productively.

The Divisional Commander asked if there had been an impact on tourism and local businesses, the Assistant Director – People suggested that at the moment the impact was low particularly coming into the winter months. She further advised that the Scottish Government had asked all hotel groups if they wished to be involved, in the provision of accommodation, but not all hotel groups had agreed to participate.

The Assistant Director – People advised of the difficulties being faced in tracking refugees and having accurate data as to where people were. As this was an issue in other local authority areas it has been raised at a national level.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director – People for her informative update.

**Decided:** to note the Assistant Director – People's verbal update.

#### **6(a) Community Planning Executive Annual Review**

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 providing Members with an overview of the key discussion points and subsequent actions/decisions agreed at the Community Planning Executive Annual Review meeting held on the 15 June 2022.

The Service Lead – Policy Performance and Community Planning advised that the report reflected on the previous year, highlighted achievements and what community planning should look like over the next 5/10 years. Discussion arose around what a locality-based model for community planning would look like and the impact that would have. He further advised that work would be undertaken on a locality-based proposal from a community planning perspective and would be presented to the next meeting of the Board in October.

The Chair intimated that he was in favour of locality planning as issues experienced in the more rural parts of South Ayrshire were not the same as those in the more urban areas. He thanked Officers involved for the production of an informative report.

After discussion the Board

**Decided:**

- (1) to note the contents of the report;
- (2) to note the agreement given by the Community Planning Executive to consider working towards a locality-based model of delivering community planning; and
- (3) to agree that initial proposals on how a locality model would be taken forward by Community Planning Partner be submitted to the Board in October.

**6(b) Strategic Delivery Partnerships Update**

There was submitted reports (circulated) dated August 2022 providing Members with an update to the Board and Officers highlighting the work currently being undertaken within the partnerships since the last meeting of the Board.

- |                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Children's Services               | (circulated) |
| 2. Community Safety                  | (circulated) |
| 3. Financial Inclusion               | (circulated) |
| 4. Communities and Population Health | (circulated) |
| 5. Wallacetown                       | (circulated) |

After discussion the Board:

**Decided:** to note the contents of each report.

**6c Update from Communities Reference Group**

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 by the Chair of the Communities Reference Group (CRG), informing on the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest within the community planning structure and forums that sit within Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) as well as community and third sector organisation. The Communities Reference Group would be used as a formal engagement process to discuss the development of CPP strategic plans.

The Chair of the CRG intimated that a review had taken place to determine the future direction of the Group, it had been identified that there was a need to have locality and community-based engagement. It was proposed that the CRG change name to become a Community Engagement Co-ordination Group (CECG) that would act as the main locus for the co-ordination of collective engagement activity across the Community Planning Partnership, this would comprise representation from locality/community-based engagement and wider thematic engagement allowing for a more structured approach to engaging with communities. Key actions were to finalise the Terms of Reference for the CECG; the development of a CPP based Engagement Strategy that would be supported by CPP partners and to finalise the programme for the Annual Community Planning Webinar Series event.

After discussion the Board:

**Decided:** to note the contents of the report.

#### **6d Update from Sustainability Partnership**

The Co-ordinator – Sustainability and Fleet (SAC) provided a verbal update to the Board on the progress made since the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnerships Board held on 31 March 2022.

The Co-ordinator advised that the partnership had not met since the last meeting of the Board but intimated that work had been progressing and that actions focussed on sustainable transport, energy efficiency and food were particularly important considering the cost-of-living crisis. The Energy Agency had provided their annual statistics and the Co-ordinator highlighted key successes. Overall annual fuel bill savings equated to £370,528 and 3078 tonnes of carbon with over 12,682 householders receiving advice. The Hydro Scheme on the River Ayr is now operational but low summer water levels have meant the turbine has temporarily had to be switched off to prioritise the fish in the water. A film had been made regarding the project which would be available to view in September.

There were several pan Ayrshire issues which partners would like referred to the Ayrshire Officers Network, however there is still an outstanding request with the Board for resourcing to allow the ongoing work of this network to be supported.

The Co-ordinator further advised that in relation to the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, a place and wellbeing assessment would be undertaken to support the refresh of the strategy currently underway.

After discussion the Board

**Decided:** to note the Co-ordinator's verbal update.

#### **7 Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report**

There was submitted a report (circulated) dated August 2022 by the Manager, Community Justice Partnership for information. The report provided Members of the Board with information on the Draft Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership Annual Report for 2021/22.

After discussion the Board:

**Decided:** to note the contents of the report.

#### **8 Any Other Competent Business**

The Chair thanked all Officers for their contribution to the reports submitted and input into the meeting.



The Operational Manager, NatureScot thanked the Council teams who had been out clearing up birds who had died because of Avian Influenza.

**9 Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community Planning Partnerships Board would take place on 27 October 2022 at 10am.

The meeting concluded at 12:33

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## South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



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Report by Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning to  
Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**Subject: Community Planning Executive/SDP Chairs Executive Joint Workshop (4<sup>th</sup> October 2022)**

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### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 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 a joint workshop session that was held with the Community Planning Executive and SDP Chairs Executive on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

### **2 The Board is recommended to:**

- 2.1.2 agree the next steps as highlighted in section 5 of the report with a further update on progress reported to the CP Board in January 2023.**

### **3 Background**

- 3.1 On the 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the second annual review meeting of the CPP was held attended members of the CP Executive along with the Chair/Vice Chair and Lead Officer of all the groups currently operating including all our Strategic Delivery Partnerships, the Communities Reference Group and the Sustainability Partnership. At that meeting it was agreed:

3.1.1 to consider how the CPP can work using a locality-based model;

3.1.2 Await outcome of review of the localities is being carried out as part of a wider refresh of Locality Planning Partnerships (led by the Health and Social Care Partnership); and

3.1.3 To agree on governance on how the CPP works toward a locality model and present a proposal to the Community Planning Board in October following further engagement with the Community Planning Executive and SDP Chairs Executive.

### **4 Progress**

- 4.1 The first in a series of follow up-workshops was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October to begin the process of moving towards a locality-based model.

- 4.2 The first part of the workshop session focused on where we are already working in localities. An outline was provided by the Service Lead – Thriving Communities on the progress that has been made to implement a locality-based teams' model, and an update on the progress of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership move to locality-based working was also presented. Members then participated in a discussion session exploring where other community planning partners could fit into a locality model and what are the opportunities and challenges, particularly around staffing and resourcing. South Ayrshire Council will continue to explore with Elected Members.
- 4.3 The second part of the workshop session concentrated on our current CPP structure and the groups what sit within that structure. Discussion focused on what SDPs/priority areas should continue to be reported at a CP Board level? (national priorities, taking cognisance of statutory reporting requirements, South Ayrshire wide thematic priorities, identifying best practice and providing guidance), what priority areas could be broken up into localities? (such as the ongoing development of dementia friendly communities) and how this would impact our Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) going forward? (for example having area-based LOIPs for each localities reflecting local priorities potentially as part of a Local Community Plan). It was agreed that this would need to be reviewed further by the SDP Chairs and that a strategic needs assessment workshop session would facilitate this process (with an invite extended to all members of the SDPs).

## **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1 As a result of the updates and discussion the following was agreed:
- 5.1.1 Engagement will take place with the SDP Chairs Executive at the next meeting of the group on 13<sup>th</sup> December to agree on a format for the strategic needs assessment workshop session.
- 5.1.2 Strategic Needs Assessment with SDP Chairs and members to be held in January 2023.
- 5.1.3 Following the Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA), a further workshop session will be held with the CP Executive and SDP Chairs Executive to examine findings from the Strategic Needs Assessment and identify the next stage of the route map.

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE****COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022****CHILDRENS SERVICES SDP****Date of last meeting: 14<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**

A main focus for the Children Services SDP has been shaping a forward agenda for partnership work that captures where collaborative work will be most impactful and where self-evaluation work would be beneficial and what framework might get used for that. This will help inform the development of the next Children's Services Delivery Plan.

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

Since the last meeting of the Community Planning Board, there has been 2 meetings of the SDP – 01 September and 14 October. The SDP has in place an approved strategic action plan. Key areas of progress:

**Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Work Linked to Children's Services**

Consideration of a report focused on the results of a test of change to increase support, and remove barriers to accessing support, for young people affected by their own or someone else's substance use. Opportunities for system level collaborative working and joint commissioning are now being explored and scaling up the test of change to secondary schools throughout South Ayrshire.

**Whole Family Wellbeing Approach and Funding**

The SDP has been considering the approach to Whole Family Wellbeing and the options to utilise funding being made available by the Scottish Government. South Ayrshire's work on The Promise has been sector leading and led to significant change so the foundations we are building on are strong foundations. The SDP is considering some initial scoping work to help assess current provision and to undertake systems mapping and analysis to understand the different touchpoints within the South Ayrshire system and identify opportunities for service changes and transformation around the ambitions of the whole family approach. By connecting this with evidence of good practice, this will lead to evidence-based family support options leading into test of change and pilot work. This work will also consider training requirements.

**Joint Improvement Group**

As part of its forward plans, the SDP has considered the remit for the Joint Improvement Group. It is anticipated that the remit of the Joint Improvement Group will encompass:

- supporting a programme of self-evaluation across children's services using an agreed self-evaluation methodology e.g. The Care Inspectorate Self-Evaluation for Improvement Framework and available data including the Local Government Benchmarking Framework;
- supporting identification of improvement areas emerging from self-evaluation activity and develop an improvement programme and overseeing progress of the improvement programme;

- undertaking performance management of the Children's Services Plan;
- drawing on available information and data from self-evaluation, improvement and performance management to inform future priorities for children's services;
- to consider new national policy initiatives, legislation and funding opportunities in terms of local implementation and training requirements and provide advice to the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership on local implementation; and
- to undertake appropriate preparations for inspections.

### **UNCRC**

The SDP is considering the implementation of legislation enshrining the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child into domestic law in Scotland and the implications for policy and practice in children's services and staff training.

### **GIRFEC**

The Scottish Government is refreshing guidance on Getting it Right for Every Child and the SDP is looking at the implications for children's services work and for staff working in this area

### **Thriving Communities**

A helpful update was provided to the SDP on the range of work being undertaken by Thriving Communities to support children and families in the community particularly during holiday periods.

### **Children's Services Annual Report**

An annual report is prepared summarising key activities undertaken to support progress on the strategic objectives set out in the Children's Services Plan. A copy of the 2021-22 annual report is attached for information (appendix a)

### **KEY ISSUES**

- Continuing a coordinated partnership response to the challenges posed by the Ukrainian crisis;
- Continued development of implementation plans for UNCRC;
- Continued development of implementation work on The Promise and Whole Family Wellbeing;
- Preparing for self-evaluation and joint improvement work; and
- Keeping the children's service plan under review.

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

The SDP supports the strategic theme of 'Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap' and 'Supporting Young Carers.'

### **Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Claire Monaghan**

**Date: October 2022**

**South Ayrshire Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership**

**Children's Services Annual Report 2021-22**

## **FOREWORD**

I'm delighted to present this Children's Services Annual Report which sets out what the Children Services Partnership has been focussed on during the past 12 months. The period has been characterised by transitioning out from the shadows of the pandemic and preparing for a new future. New legislation, new policy initiatives and the emergent cost of living crisis characterise our forward agenda and we know that it will bring a new set of challenges but we're ready to respond and to do our best to deliver for our children and families in South Ayrshire.

The COVID pandemic brought out the best of partnership working across services. We have been building on that over the past 12 months and really focussing on where collaborative advantage as a set of strategic partners can improve outcomes. We have been taking stock of where we are in terms of service delivery and partnership working and we are preparing a programme of self-evaluation and improvement work to inform our next children's services plan. As a Partnership we remain resolute in our commitment to do the best for our children and families in South Ayrshire and to focus our energies on our most vulnerable children. We will have a strong forward focus on mitigating the impact of poverty for our children and families and we anticipate this to be challenging work over the next 12 months. We will be working hard to embed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child across our services and we will focus on delivering the plethora of national initiatives which affect our children, young people and families.

This report does not set out to capture all the corners of service delivery work which partners have undertaken within South Ayrshire. It is focussed on what we have been working on as a children's services community planning partnership over the past 12 months and key things which we have been working on to deliver our strategic objectives. Key focusses for us have been the pandemic, child poverty, taking a rights-based approach to services, whole family wellbeing and early preparation for our next children's services plan.

I am profoundly grateful to the members of the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership for their input and for their tireless work to deliver and improve services for all children and families across South Ayrshire so that together we can close the gaps and ensure that all of our children and young people achieve their potential.

**Mark Inglis**

Chair of South Ayrshire Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership

## STRATEGIC CONTEXT

When South Ayrshire developed its Children's Services Plan for 2020 to 2023, our overarching aim was set out as Closing the Gap and Achieving Potential.

Our Shared Vision was:

All children and young people in South Ayrshire deserve the chance to reach their full potential. We will support those who start at a disadvantage and remove barriers for those who are struggling, we will stretch the most able and protect and nurture all children, especially the most vulnerable. Our aim is to reduce inequalities in outcomes for children and young people, in particular, to close the gaps in outcomes related to deprivation so that all can achieve their potential.

Our vision was underpinned by five High Level Priorities:

- **Outstanding Universal Provision:** Ensuring our children get the best start in life; South Ayrshire is the best place to grow up; and all children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors;
- **Tackling Inequalities:** Reducing the gap in outcomes between the most and least deprived children and young people in South Ayrshire;
- **Love and Support for our Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers:** Ensure children and young people who are care experienced or young carers are loved and supported to improve their life experiences and life chances.
- **Good Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing:** Ensure all children and young people are supported to achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- **Promoting Children's Rights:** Work to ensure we are delivering on the provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as incorporated into Scots Law

At the time the Children's Services Plan was agreed, COVID was just starting to make its presence felt in Scotland. There was no inkling of the breadth and depth of impact which the pandemic would have on society, on family life and on public service delivery. Despite the turmoil it brought about, at a recent workshop, partners agreed that these strategic objectives remained valid and should continue to guide our children's services work pending the development of a new plan.

## OUR RESPONSE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC

The pandemic prompted outstanding joint work across the voluntary sector and community groups working hand in hand with the Council, children and families social work, and NHS colleagues.

Work between agencies focused on where support was needed most. Each school for example, had an identified social worker as a first port of call for issues. A Schools Hub met weekly involving social work, health and education staff to problem solve emerging issues. Childcare hubs were set up in schools for children of key workers and for those who needed a bit of extra support. Funded providers were a central part of this service. Education staff switched at rapid speed to remote educational learning and managed to keep in touch with families and especially with children who needed some extra support. Around 1,500 digital devices were distributed to children to support access to learning in a partnership between Scottish Government, the Council and our colleagues in the voluntary sector. Meals were prepared and delivered and hardship payments made. Third sector organisations such as Aberlour offered support and guidance to families. Help was provided to families experiencing fuel poverty and food poverty with a focus on income maximisation. Through VASA and many third sector organisations, communities were helped to support each other. Coordinated work was undertaken



to promote the vaccination programme and encourage uptake of vaccines amongst young people and as the pandemic abated, children were supported to return to the classroom.

Our response to COVID ran through much of our partnership work during 2021-22 and subsumed a lot of our strategic and operational capacity. However, it saw us respond effectively to the needs of families and children during unprecedented times and helped us grow and strengthen as a children's services partnership. We believe this concerted collaborative work will position us well for the challenges presented by the cost of living crisis.

## **Strategic Outcome 1: Outstanding Universal Provision**

Our strategic commitment to **Outstanding Universal Provision** is concerned with ensuring our children get the best start in life; that South Ayrshire is the best place to grow up; and that all children and young people are successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. When the Children's Services Plan was developed, we identified strands of work to help us deliver against this strategic outcome:

- Improve outcomes for children and young people with additional support needs
- Identify vulnerable pregnancies early and provide support through community/hub/team around the family model
- Review and refresh the Youth Justice Whole System Approach
- Provide intensive family focused support to families who are experiencing crisis and prevent family breakdown
- Police Scotland will deliver a range of activities to support children and young people
- Deliver community and evidence-based parent and family learning programmes
- Improve early education intervention approaches to support the development of children under 5 years old
- Improve educational attainment for all children and young people
- Deliver positive community safety initiatives for young people and their parent/carers
- Continue to develop team around the family/community hub mode

Key areas of progress during 2021-22 are set out below:

### **High Risk Pregnancies**

A High-Risk Pregnancy Protocol has been implemented across South Ayrshire. A pregnancy may be deemed high risk if it meets the criteria of one or more of the following circumstances in a household; substance abuse, learning disability, domestic abuse, previous history of child abuse or neglect and serious mental health issue. Following assessment by the Safeguarding midwife, a multiagency forum ensures a proportionate level of support is provided to families. Safeguarding midwives undertake a pre-birth assessment for families of unborn children where pregnancy is identified as high risk. A screening group is established between health and social care. Where it is identified that child protection support is not required pre-birth, a process has been developed where the Health Visitor and midwives are notified and provide support. Further work is required to ensure robustness of this process and to evaluate effectiveness. The performance standard is for 90% of high risk pregnancies to be initially assessed by week 24. Quarter 1 of 2021/22 saw 92% of high-risk pregnancies assessed.

### **Child Protection**

Children are placed on the Child Protection Register when there are significant concerns for their safety. Children on the register will be the subject of close monitoring and support with a multi-agency plan to effect changes to reduce risk. If the risks to a child cannot be managed with them remaining at home, alternative care arrangements are considered. Once it is assessed that the level of risk has reduced sufficiently, the child's name will be removed from the Register. At October 2021, the number of children on the child protection register was 19 continuing a progressive decline from 37 children at July 2019 and 29 at July 2020. The implementation of new Child Protection Guidance is being taken forward on a pan Ayrshire basis to ensure a common approach is taken across the partnership. The focus is on identifying issues at the earliest point to ensure right supports are put in place to protect children from harm.

### **Breastfeeding Rates**

In 2020/21, 23.5% of babies in South Ayrshire were exclusively breastfed at 6-8 weeks. This is higher than Ayrshire as a whole (21.1%) for the same time period but lower than the Scottish average (32%).

### **Ealy Years Support**

Our early years work is focussed on delivering high quality, flexible Early Learning Childcare (ELC) that is accessible and affordable for all families.

We also offer funded early learning childcare to eligible two-year olds who are most likely to benefit from early access. This includes all looked after children and children whose family receive a qualifying benefit, which is around a quarter of the two-year old population.

The Early Years Forum works collaboratively with social work and health to support families with children birth – 5 years experiencing difficult times and often in crisis to access early years provision when they need it most.

### **Educational Services**

The 2020-21 Educational Services Standards and Quality Report provides the detailed overview of attainment and achievement across this service including for young people with additional support needs.

### **Parenting and Family Learning**

The Early Years Family Learning Team (FLT) has continued to engage with and support families in Early Years Centres (EYCs) across South Ayrshire and have supported parents and families by delivering the Parent Early Education Programme (PEEP) and book bug sessions.

The FLT delivers targeted work with bespoke packages for individual families using PEEP and the Solihull evidence-based approaches to support those families struggling with confidence, mental health issues and isolation and also those with children having additional support needs.

A number of schools are using some of their Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) to support parental engagement. There is also a variety of family learning activities taking place across the authority such as family learning afternoons, workshops on literacy, numeracy, play-based learning, growth mindset and online safety. In addition, there are examples of innovative partnership working with Developing the Young Workforce, Princes Trust, Ayrshire College, Seascope and CLD. In many cases the involvement of other partners have enabled parents to engage in further learning opportunities and accredited courses of their own.

Our parental engagement and family support work has included home link workers and welfare officers using their skills and strategies to engage with parent when relationships with the school have broken down.

### **Youth Justice**

The Whole Systems approach continues to be rolled out over South Ayrshire with a focus on youth diversion, early and effective intervention, court support and court notes. There are also intensive support and interventions in place as an alternative to Children's Reporter for offence reasons.

### **Campus Police Officers**

Campus Officers continue to work within all secondary schools and feeder primary schools, supporting staff and pupils, building working relations and promoting positive life choices. Campus Officers contributed to the health and wellbeing of young people by delivering inputs and workshops on a variety of subjects and provided interventions and diversionary work.

### **Trauma Informed Practice**

We are committed to developing an integrated approach to Trauma Informed Practice in partnership with Community Planning Partners. Following a recruitment process, a Trauma Informed Practice Officer came into post in January 2022. The main responsibility of the post holder will be to co-ordinate and manage the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan which sets out 9 high level domains. There is Member Officer Working Group providing momentum for this initiative and awareness raising and training sessions are being developed and rolled-out. Effective partnership working continues with South Ayrshire Council being recognised as leading the way with good practice amongst other local authorities, NHS Boards and wider organisations.

## Strategic Outcome 2: Tackling Inequality

Our strategic commitment to **Tackling Inequality** is concerned with reducing the gap in outcomes between the most and least deprived children and young people in South Ayrshire

When the Children's Services Plan was developed, we identified strands of work to help us deliver against this strategic outcome:

- Ensure every family referred to the HSCP is provided with benefits maximisation and financial advice by referral to hub
- Target our youth work to the most deprived schools and communities in South Ayrshire
- Work in partnership to improve positive destinations for young people in our most deprived schools and communities
- Implement the Child Poverty Action Plan
- Reduce the poverty related attainment gap through use of targeted interventions and supports – including the use of Pupil Equity Fund and Attainment Challenge programmes
- Deliver holiday meals programmes in targeted areas
- Refresh the Getting it Right for Every Child model and work in partnership to train staff and implement the new processes
- Establish the pilot of the Team Around the Family - Whole Systems Approach in the Belmont Academy cluster

### Child Poverty and the Cost of Living Crisis

The Child Poverty Action Group (Scotland) defines poverty as: “growing up in families without the resources to ‘obtain the type of diet, participate in the activities and have the living conditions and amenities’ which are the norm in 21st century Scotland.” Children are considered to be living in poverty if they live in households with less than 60% of median household income.

South Ayrshire's child poverty levels are reducing. The 2020/21 figure published by the End Child Poverty Alliance is 20.6% as compared with 24.8% estimated in 2019/20. Despite this reduction, the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership is acutely aware that this means that approximately 1 in 5 of our young people are deemed to be living in poverty. We are also acutely aware that poverty is a dynamic concept and that the cost of living crisis that is developing now, will pull many more families into the poverty orbit.

The drivers of poverty are complex and include income from employment, the cost of living, and income from social security. The primary focus of our work on mitigating the impact of child poverty has centred on 6 strands of activity:

- **Income maximisation** ensuring that people are accessing all benefits and grants that they are entitled to. This work includes a programme of awareness raising sessions within the NHS and HSCP to highlight financial inclusion pathways that people can be referred on to.
- **Tackling fuel poverty** with both the Information and Advice Hub and Home Energy Scotland providing support to local communities through access to fuel poverty grants and information about funding along with the Energy Agency who have been promoting energy efficiency measures.
- **Tackling food insecurity** through the South Ayrshire Community Food Network and the Food Pantries and trying to ensure that people can access low cost food with relative ease and that they are not disadvantaged if they live outwith the main towns. We have also continued with our holiday meal programme which combines the provision of meals with activities in targeted areas.

- **Access to Period Products** and preparing to implement The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 through consulting on local arrangements to inform a local delivery plan which respects dignity and adheres to the principles of the legislation. The wee white bag initiative has been very popular with 9,500 distributed since it launched in Summer 2019.
- **Employability and Inclusive Growth** to support as many people into employment as practicable and to maximise the inclusive growth opportunities offered by the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the South Ayrshire approach to Fair Work.
- **Community Wealth Building** to redirect wealth back into local communities and focused on 5 key principles: procurement, fair employment, financial power, land and assets and democratic ownership of the economy.

Development work is now beginning on a new child poverty plan to align with the new national plan and the emergent challenges being thrown up by the cost of living crisis.

#### **Referrals to Information and Advice Hub by HSCP staff**

The Financial Inclusion Pathway continues to be used by all health and social care staff to support families to maximise their income by referring them to South Ayrshire's Information and Advice Hub. Support can also be provided from Home Energy Scotland to support families to reduce their energy costs.

#### **Closing the Gap**

Reducing the cost of the school day by providing access to uniforms, study materials and home learning packs has continued to be introduced in a number of schools.

South Ayrshire has three primary schools and one secondary as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge (SAC) Schools Programme. Additionally, many other schools in the local authority have high levels of relative deprivation and rural poverty. Relative deprivation includes Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) indicators and free meal entitlement as a trigger for Pupil Equity Fund (PEF).

Robust monitoring arrangements have been put in place for PEF and SAC, which ensures that educational services and headteachers have regular oversight of school level expenditure. PEF expenditure is separated from core school budgets, ensuring that spending is not subsumed within overall school budgets, and can be easily tracked and monitored. Almost all of the interventions focus on improving literacy, numeracy and Health and Wellbeing (HWB) and are having an impact in closing the poverty related gap.

#### **Employability Programmes for Young People**

The Youth Strategy Implementation Group coordinates youth work across South Ayrshire with a focus on the most deprived communities and rural communities. The Positive Futures programme has supported 149 young people with 34 leaving the programme to progress to a positive destination. Young people are supported to engage in a range of groups, activities and accredited qualifications to develop their personal and employability skills. All support is tailored to the individual needs and abilities of the young person.

The Town Centre Programme has been a valuable addition to our youth provision. To date 24 young people have participated in a one day per week placement to help them improve their confidence and develop the necessary skills to see them progress.

Some of our young people had the opportunity to work with our Outdoor Activity Instructor to focus on communication and confidence:

- 11 completed the Outdoor Discovery Award as part of the programme.
- 13 completed First Aid in the Workplace training
- 4 completed the Health and Safety in the Workplace at SCQF Level 4.

### **School Leaver Destination**

This continues to be an area of strength for South Ayrshire. Data published in June 2022 confirmed South Ayrshire to be the best in Scotland with 97.6% of school leavers being in a positive destination. Of the 2020/21 school leavers in South Ayrshire who are 'declared or assessed disabled' 94.4% were in a positive destination compared with the national average of 89.2%. And for school leavers 'declared or assessed as being care experienced' 97.6% were in a positive follow-up destination (this equates to 40 pupils out of 41 being in a positive destination). All young people who are not in a positive destination are offered support from Thriving Communities and Skills Development Scotland.

### **Belmont Family First Project**

The Belmont Family First is focussed on early and preventative support to boost family resilience and reduce some of the pressures that parents and families feel. Building on the Team Around the Child process, the project identifies those children who are at greatest risk of being accommodated away from home or those who are already living in external provision but within the Belmont cluster, with a view to supporting a return home or to a kinship or foster placement in South Ayrshire. Through these family-centred approaches the aim is to:

- Reduce the number of emergency or outwith authority placements
- Reduce the need for/risk of statutory intervention
- Reduce the numbers of children and young people subject to:-
  - Child Protection Investigation
  - Child Protection Registrations
  - Staged Intervention at Level 3
- 100% of families completing benefits maximization
- Retain South Ayrshire children within South Ayrshire and, where possible within family-type care settings

As of April 2022, there were 31 children from 24 families referred to the Belmont Family First project. To date the outcomes from this approach have been:

- No external placements from Belmont Cluster
- No Child moved to external or internal foster care
- No child placed within secure care
- No child became Looked After and Accommodated from this cluster
- No child was placed on the Child Protection Register from this cluster.

### **Sexual Exploitation Strategy**

The Sexual Exploitation Strategy 2020-25 is focussed on working towards:

- The risk that children, young people and vulnerable adults are exploited is reduced through a focus on prevention and early identification.
- Children, young people and vulnerable adults at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation and their families receive appropriate and high-quality support.
- Perpetrators are stopped, brought to justice and less likely to re-offend.
- Cultural and social barriers to preventing and tackling sexual exploitation are reduced.

Delivery of the strategy is underpinned by awareness raising and training.

### **Strategic Outcome 3: Love and Support for Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers**

Our strategic commitment to **Care Experienced Young People and Young Carers** is concerned with ensuring that these young people are loved and supported to improve their life experiences and life chances.

When the Children's Services Plan was developed, we identified strands of work to help us deliver against this strategic outcome:

- Develop supports for young people eligible for Throughcare and Continuing Care to ensure that young people can access nurture and care when required to ensure that they feel nurtured and cared for when they most need it
- Implement the recommendations from the Independent Care Review (Scotland)
- Support young people in children's houses in their development, wellbeing and to achieve positive outcomes
- Implement the Champions Board Implementation Plan
- Work with partners to improve positive destinations for your people who have care experience
- Implementation of the Young Carers statement within the Team Around the Child approach and Carers Act
- Develop a Schools' Champions Board to give care experienced children and young people a voice in the decisions that affect them
- Develop continuum of enhance support for care experienced children and young people at point of transition
- Implement the Stop Go Charter (superseded by The Promise).

#### **The Promise**

The South Ayrshire Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership recognises that good outcomes for our children and young people are underpinned by good outcomes for families. We have focused on The Promise and as part of our improvement journey. This involves seismic change including significant cultural change as well as tangible steps. A comprehensive self-evaluation was undertaken with a multi-agency assessment of where South Ayrshire is against each Ask of the Promise and an action plan developed. We have identified Promise activity as key change activity for South Ayrshire with dedicated resource from our change team to help us measure progress and impact and we have participated in a data collaborative.

As a fundamental element of our Promise activity is to embed the 10 principles of intensive family support into practice, planning, commissioning and delivery across all South Ayrshire children services partners. This includes:

- Reflecting the 10 principles of intensive family support in the planning, commissioning and evaluation of all support provided for children and their families
- Incorporating 'quality of relationships' into local commissioning and monitoring frameworks as standard
- A commitment to build on the whole family support models introduced by South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to include intensive family support principles and integrate the work of the Alcohol and Drugs partnership with our Promise activity. (All of our promise improvement areas are included in our parenting promise action plan [South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021](#) )



## Whole Family Wellbeing

We want as many children as possible in South Ayrshire to be raised safely in their own families and our ambition is for every family that needs support to get the right support at the right time. To achieve this, we need to look far beyond our corporate parenting agenda and ensure a cohesive approach across universal services and across our partnership activity. We are currently delivering and commissioning a range of family focussed activity including;

- In education our Virtual Schools Team and early years' service both have a strong whole family focus and are all moving towards aligning with the ten principles of family support.
- Within our Thriving Communities service, employability and skills house a family engagement team, our Community Learning and Development colleagues lead on PEEP parenting, our Health and Wellbeing team has broadened its offer to whole families, our libraries offer family focused activity.
- Within our Health and Social Care partnership our Champions Board continue to use their lived experience of care to influence service design around areas important to them, they have developed a growing evidence base of local policy and practice changes. Our intensive family support services are currently under review and the voices of families who have used services has been a key catalyst to the redesign.
- Our Alcohol and Drugs Partnership working with families to better understand the benefits of whole family support within the context of addiction and recovery.
- Our young carers voices are becoming stronger as we better understand and respect the agency and uniqueness of each family through more focused activity.
- The Belmont Family first, and Small Steps to Wellbeing services are both early intervention model designed to build on family strengths and networks.
- Investment in the *Signs of Safety* approach which has resulted in training for all staff and senior leaders working with Children in South Ayrshire along with the focus around early intervention to work with Families and Children and young people at an earlier stage of challenges becoming known, we have begun to see some significant changes in the efficiency and effectiveness of our collaborative working.

We are seeing the work undertaken thus far generate improved outcomes, for example:

- There has been a 56% reduction in the use of Out with Authority placements for children, cost avoidance of £2.7 million over past three years
- There has been a 52% reduction in the number of looked after and accommodated children over three years
- 79% reduction in the number of Children placed on the Child Protection register over the past 5 years
- 78% reduction in the number of children referred to the Scottish Children's Reporter over the past 3 years
- 45% reduction in the number of Children referred to the Children Reporter on Offence grounds over the past 3 years

We are now taking stock of the progress made as we consider the opportunities presented by the Whole Family Wellbeing Funding being made available and how this might be used to build on this work across the partnership. The commitment to family support complements place and wellbeing work and the development of intense community work currently focused in Wallacetoun.

### **The Virtual School**

South Ayrshire's Virtual School supports care experienced young people and their families, with specific focus on those who are looked after at home and in transition from primary to secondary school. Welfare Officers are allocated to provide support in social and emotional interventions, educational targeted support, family support and enhanced transition work. The enhanced transition comprises of additional visits to the secondary school, building relationships with secondary staff, building confidence in new environments and gaining skills in coping with emotions and independence. Communication between the Welfare Officer and education staff is imperative to the success of the transition.

The Virtual School also supports young people transitioning from an out of authority placement, returning to live in South Ayrshire. Welfare Officers also work in the Children's Houses, becoming regular and familiar members of the houses, building relationships with all young people whilst at the house. This has resulted in all young people living in the house building trust and understanding of the role of the Welfare Officer.

The Virtual School works closely with Employability and Skills to promote positive destinations for care experienced young people. When young people are in S3, a Welfare Officer will work alongside them and a designated Employability and Skills Officer to assist the transition to a new person, a new relationship and share the young person's attributes and vision for next steps.

### **Parenting Promise**

South Ayrshire's Parenting Promise 2021-2030 is a plan written for those who are care experienced and details what you can expect of us as your Corporate Parents. 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 the rights, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of South Ayrshire's 'looked after children' and 'care leavers'. We brought together different corporate parents from across South Ayrshire to write the plan. They were joined by some of our Champions Board representatives who have used their lived experience of care to help us understand what's working well in South Ayrshire and what we need to change.

### **Throughcare and Continuing Care**

In partnership with Housing Services, the Health and Social Care Partnership have been working a joint commissioning strategy to develop a new service to meet the needs of young people leaving care and vulnerable young people who find themselves homeless or at risk of homelessness. This strategy builds on existing good multiagency practice to improve outcomes for care leavers and vulnerable young people. The strategy has been shaped and informed by the views and experiences of young people who have left care and young people who have experienced homelessness and the social issues that then impact on them.

### **Champions Board**

The South Ayrshire Champions Board is a real area of strength for us. They are represented on various strategic groups including the Child Protection Committee, Communities Reference Group, the Inter-Generational Joint Action Group and Child Poverty sub-group with young people are supported to participate in these groups. This ensures that lived experience informs policy development and delivery.

Social media has played a huge role in how the Champions Board has encouraged participation and maintained relationships. The Champions Board has relied on platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and TikTok as well as South Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership communications services.

## **Secure Care Standards**

The Secure Care Standards detail what young people should expect before, during and after their experience of secure care. This is shared with all social work staff as part of the wider work of implementing the recommendations of The Promise.

## **The Signs of Safety Approach**

The Signs of Safety Approach draws on solution-focused therapy and the direct experience of effective practice by child protection social workers and the experiences of families within the child protection system. The Signs of Safety approach empowers and enables families to make the necessary behavioural changes to live together safely. It is a strengths-based approach and works with family's assets to support change, reducing the need for more significant intervention from statutory agencies and the need to remove children from their families.

## **Functional Family Therapy and Intensive Family Support**

The Intensive Family Support Service and the Functional Family Therapy (FFT) team are part of South Ayrshire's investment to support children to remain at home with specialist support services for families at a time of crisis. These services engage with families at a point of crisis when the likelihood of escalation through the care system is moderate to high. Through direct evidence-based interventions which are family-centred and relational, the teams are able to support families to live together, through times of stress and dysfunction towards a more supportive and nurturing family experience.

## **Housing Options**

Housing Options for young people leaving care continues to develop alternative housing solutions to prevent young people leaving care accessing the homeless system. Effective partnership working and communication between SAC and the HSCP allows for continuous improvement. Recent contract monitoring and quality assurance have highlighted the positive work being undertaken with young people and other services.

## **Young Carers**

The Young Carers Strategy 2021 – 2026 sets out our local response to the statutory duties of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016. In this strategy we explain what it means to be a young carer and outlines our plans to raise awareness, recognise and support young carers over the next five years. Our approach to supporting young carers is aligned to the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework, which promotes and protects young people's health and wellbeing. We have also considered how young carers can be involved in implementing this strategy. Progress is monitored and reported to the Integration Joint Board and the strategy will be reviewed regularly during its lifetime.

## **Strategic Outcome 4: Good Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing**

Our strategic commitment to **Good Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing** is concerned with ensuring that all children and young people are supported to achieve and maintain good physical and mental health and wellbeing.

When the Children's Services Plan was developed, we identified strands of work to help us deliver against this strategic outcome:

- Develop early intervention supports and clear pathways for vulnerable young people experiencing poor mental health
- Increase confidence and capacity in the workforce by providing staff development opportunities in emotional mental health, nurture approaches. Article 12 and UNCRC
- Implement the Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing Action Plan
- Introduction and implementation of school-based counselling services to support mental health and wellbeing
- Identify supports for young peoples' emotional wellbeing through the Say it Out Loud (SIOL) survey
- Ensure appropriate access to Health Visitors and School Nurses and that relevant priorities are implemented
- Implement the Physical Activity Strategy in so far as it relates to children and young people
- Work in partnership to address health and wellbeing inequalities for LGBTI young people

### **Mental Health Strategy**

Coming out of the pandemic, supporting good mental health has had a high priority in South Ayrshire including the use of an extreme team to work through issues linked to young people accessing mental health support. Within South Ayrshire, this journey to support & boost mental health and wellbeing is ongoing and is being progressed in line with the Scottish Government's community mental health and wellbeing supports and services framework. The aim both nationally & locally is that every child & young person should be able to access local community services which support & improve their mental health & emotional wellbeing. Children and young people and their families/carers will get the help they need when they need it from the right people. In South Ayrshire, the Mental Health Strategy Group is overseeing the development of the Framework which sits within a GIRFEC pathway, is relationship-based, underpinned by UNCRC and developed with children and young people.

There is a clear focus on local services which support children and young people aged 5-25 and their families with an emphasis on early intervention and prevention, distress reduction & positive mental health and wellbeing support to ensure a holistic approach to support. The additional services were selected based on an understanding of local & national need informed by a scoping audit of available services within this area, along with identification of areas for development & surveys of children, young people & families/carers developed and carried out in collaboration with young people.

Through ongoing links with the mental health strategy group, local partners & stakeholders we ensure that there is wide awareness of these services & how to access them, with particular emphasis on self-referral to services where appropriate. To mitigate risk, links between new community services and CAMHS/health services, as well as staff training and support to understand escalation pathways are crucial.

Current services offered include:

- **Aberlour Sustain** which offers support to families with children from P1 to S4 who need help to improve their wellbeing and confidence.
- **The Blues Programme**, delivered by Action for Children, is an early intervention service providing group support to identified secondary school children with low mood or low-level anxiety.
- The **Let's Blether Box** for primary aged children who have undergone a bereavement or loss.
- **Mind Moose** which is an online programme to help boost self-esteem, confidence and resilience in primary children.
- Promoting alternative thinking strategies (**PATHS**) is a social emotional learning programme for primary children.
- **Penumbra** provides sensitive and non-judgemental support to S1-S6 pupils who are at risk of self-harm and support for Parents/carers.
- The **Let's Talk** programme by SAMH is for children and young people (10-18 years of age), school staff, parents & carers and wider community groups where applicable.
- Through the Scottish Government's **counselling in schools** projects, access to school counselling is available to all young people age 10+.
- **Shout** provides free, confidential support at any time of day or night for young people feeling low or struggling to cope.
- **The Exchange** is a school Mental Health & Wellbeing support service for P1-P7 children – providing psychological wellbeing & emotional resilience in children and families.
- **Togetherall** is a digital mental health community for those aged 16-25 to access support for their mental health.
- **Video Scribe** is a resource to support parents, carers and families with their mental health and wellbeing. It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mental health improvement and provide individuals with the knowledge, skills and tools required to promote mental health improvement within the environment they influence.

#### **Access to Health Visitors and School Nurses**

The Universal Health Visiting Pathway is for all children from pre-birth to school entry. Implementation of the National Universal School Nursing Pathway has commenced and will be a key priority going forward to ensure young people can access the support they require from the School Nursing service.

#### **Family Nurse Partnership**

In Ayrshire & Arran, the Family Nurse Partnership Programme is for all young women of 19 years and under having their first child and including young women who have experience of care. The programme, which begins in early pregnancy and continues until the child is two years of age, is orientated towards the future health and development of the child and aims to:

- improve pregnancy outcomes;
- improve child health and development; and
- improve parent's economic self-sufficiency.

The programme is delivered by specially trained Family Nurses who work with the strengths of the parents and encourages them to fulfil their aspirations for themselves and their child

### **South Ayrshire Health & Wellbeing Team**

The Health & Wellbeing team continued to support schools and communities to offer a range of opportunities for children and young people to take part in sport, physical activity and outdoor learning across South Ayrshire. The focus of the team are:

- Promoting physical and mental wellbeing
- Supporting pupils to learn outside of the classroom
- Supporting pupils to develop leadership skills
- Encouraging vulnerable young people to stay active
- Giving pupils the chance to explore their local community

### **Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019**

We have working on the implementation of the Children (Equal Protection from Assault) (Scotland) Act 2019 which removes the defence of 'reasonable chastisement', which a parent or carer could previously use to justify the use of physical force to discipline a child. The focus is now on developing alternative, positive parenting strategies when disciplining a child.

### **The Child Death Overview Process**

Scotland has a higher rate of mortality rate for under 18's than other Western European countries and the Child Death Overview process is a means of ensuring that there is a standard system in place for reviewing and learning or for sharing local learning at a national level supporting a no blame process root cause analysis.

### **Physical Activity and Sport Strategy**

South Ayrshire's Physical Activity & Sport Strategy advocates an ambitious approach which promotes, engages, and empowers individuals and communities to play an active role in increasing physical activity levels for children, young people and adults across South Ayrshire. This includes a focus to:

- increase the number of children and young people who actively travel to and from school and further/higher education settings.
- promote the benefits of an active lifestyle to children and young people within schools and further/higher education settings
- quality physical education will be coordinated, planned and delivered across all primary and secondary schools.
- physical activity and sport will be embedded in all educational settings promoting pathways to participate, volunteer and officiate in sport.

### **Sport for All programme**

In partnership with the virtual Head Teacher and the Welfare Officer team a programme of support and opportunities was created for care experienced young people to take part in a variety of outdoor activities.

### **Inspire**

Inspire is a disability sport inclusion project which ensures children, young people and adults with additional support needs have a wide range of opportunities to allow them to take part in sport and physical activity. The project aims to build confidence, promote inclusion, increase physical activity and sport opportunities and support positive mental health.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Awards**

Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards programme is an important increases young people's employability, helps them develop skills such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork as well as having the chance to take part in an expedition which will challenge them to spend time away from home, encouraging independence.

## **Strategic Outcome 5: Promoting Children's Rights**

Our strategic commitment to **Promoting Children's Rights** is concerned with working to ensure we are delivering on the provisions of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as incorporated into Scots Law

When the Children's Services Plan was developed, we identified strands of work to help us deliver against this strategic outcome:

- Provide advocacy for children and young people who are care experienced and extend the opportunities for the voice of young people to be heard and inform service delivery
- Continue to increase the number of schools with Rights Respecting School status
- Develop processes that allow children and young people to play an active role in developing individual, school, service and community plans and contribute to service improvement
- Support all young people to achieve and sustain positive destinations
- Increase number of young people successfully engaged in the democratic process
- Listening to children and young people's views and taking account of their views on issues that affect them - through the use of youth voice structures such as South Ayrshire Youth Forum / Member of Scottish Youth Parliament
- Develop and deliver training that supports Article 12 of UNCRC
- Increase the number of children and young people participating in and influencing arts and cultural activities

### **A Rights Based Approach**

South Ayrshire welcomed the proposed enshrinement of the UNCRC into domestic law. Once enacted, public bodies and the children's services partnership will be required to act in a manner which is compatible with the UNCRC and report every three years on what they are doing and plan to do to meet the UNCRC requirements.

Work on children's rights builds on a strong foundation of rights respecting schools throughout South Ayrshire and sector leading work on giving young people a voice through the Champions Board and the Youth Forum and through the work of our members of the Youth Parliament.

Pending revised legislation and guidance, we have started preparing for implementation including:

- developing a local vision for UNCRC implementation;
- drafting explanatory information;
- undertaking consultation work with young people on the vision and information;
- undertaking consultation work with staff on rights information;
- starting to shape self-evaluation questions for services to use to assess their compliance with UNCRC;
- undertaking initial consideration of training requirements from awareness-raising for all staff to detailed training for key staff;
- piloting a consultation and lesson plan to capture the views and understanding of about a sample of young people about UNCRC.

A mapping exercise is underway to find out what youth voice groups are operating in South Ayrshire and what key service meetings these groups feed into, what meetings young people sit on and what roles they have which will help inform our implementation of UNCRC legislation. We have pockets of practice that have made a measurable impact such as the Champions Board where we have ensured that young people with care experience use their lived experience to influence changes in local policy and practice but we want to strengthen the voices of young people in service development and delivery.

A key consideration has been the development and training linked to Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessments (CRWIA) and getting the voices of children and young reflected into policies and building on the nothing for me, without me ethos woven through work to deliver The Promise.



## Looking Ahead

2021/22 has been busy and varied for the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership in South Ayrshire as we have recovered from the COVID pandemic. There is no doubt that many challenges lie ahead not least, linked to the Cost of Living Crisis. We have been looking ahead and a workshop was held with members of the Partnership to review the emerging children's services landscape given the scope and scale of national initiatives focused on children's services. These include

- The Promise
- UNCRC Implementation
- GIRFEC refresh
- New Outcomes Framework for Children's Services
- New Child Protection Guidance
- National Care Service discussion
- New Public Health Framework
- The Whole Family Wellbeing Approach
- Criminal Justice Bill

Following the workshop, a self-evaluation framework is being developed to help inform our next Children's Services Plan and to consider our investment in early intervention and prevention and its effectiveness. We want to think about our commissioning of services and maximising the effectiveness of our use of resources. A Joint Improvement Group is being convened to drive focus and delivery on a smaller number of key areas where partnership working is essential and which focus our energy on where it is needed most for example, the cost of living crisis. We want to enhance our use of available data and ensure the voices of children and families is woven into service development and delivery and we want to link our children's services work into locality and place planning and make linkages with place and wellbeing outcomes. A key consideration is streamlining the national initiatives and supporting frontline staff to navigate the many strands and considering the scope for joint training. It was also recognised that improved communication would help ensure communities and staff are aware of the work going on across children's services and that we should celebrate success.

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**



**COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**

**Date of last meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

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

n/a

**MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP**

The focus of the SDP going forward continues to be consolidate and promote the work of the Joint Action Groups (JAG's) and ensure that they are developing joint work in support of the key priorities of the CSP.

The SDP will continue to focus on plans and initiatives to promote the safety and wellbeing of local communities and visitors to South Ayrshire.

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

**CCTV**

As part of the Regeneration Project 2022 involving partnership working between South Ayrshire Council (SAC) and Police Scotland ten new re-deployable cameras have been purchased in addition to the static cameras that already form part of SAC public CCTV estate.

The project IS in the process of setting up a Re-deployable Review Board which will include representation from Police Scotland, Thriving Communities (SAC), and Ayrshire Roads Alliance. The board will review and progress on a quarterly basis the strategic location for each re-deployable camera. Locations identified are based around priorities for issues relating to anti-social crime or an increase on criminality.

The Board has in the interim identified 10 key locations where the cameras will be situated. It has been agreed that cameras will remain in situ for a period of approximately 3 months (subject to review).

Moving forward the Board is keen to ensure that other partner agencies are able to submit a request along with their rationale for other locations to be considered. The Board is in the process of creating a request form and process for submission.

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Police Scotland Officers in partnership with staff from Thriving Communities and other key partners continue to carry out focussed patrols in areas identified through analysis that have emerging issues relating to anti-social behaviour.

These are also scheduled to take place throughout the school October holidays as well as Halloween and Bonfire Night. Bonfire Watch that has been delivered successfully throughout the previous years will once again take place this year and is scheduled to launch on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The success of this relies on collaborative working between Police Scotland, SFRS and Thriving Communities.

### **REDUCING VIOLENCE JAG**

The Reducing Violence JAG is currently reviewing the effectiveness of the Operation Inver action plan. This multi-agency coordinated plan involving Thriving Communities, Taxi Marshalls, St Andrews Ambulance, Street Pastors, Licensing and representation from the taxi association focusses on the safety of persons who frequent Prestwick and Ayr to enjoy the weekend hospitality and licensing venues. Through analysis looking at anti-social behaviour, violence and trends relating to areas/premises frequented the group are keen to ensure members are deployed in the right places at the right time to support and promote safety.

The group are active in their deployment every weekend and meet regularly to plan future key dates and events.

### **CAMPUS OFFICERS/SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICERS**

Thriving Communities and Police Scotland Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) are scoping out the delivery of a community safety event in March 2023. The event will be aimed at S1 young people from all secondary schools in South Ayrshire.

It is proposed that there will be a variety of inputs delivered from key partners including themes around Water Safety, Internet Safety, Road Safety, Drugs and Alcohol, Fire Safety and Rail Safety.

Ongoing discussions are ongoing to also include a workshop/team building input by the Army or SAC outdoor education team. It is anticipated the event will run over 2/3 days. The venue for the event is currently being reviewed with the possibility of the new Riverside Sports Campus being the preferred venue.

Engagement meetings involving schools liaison officers and Thriving Communities are in place. The purpose of these meetings is to identify any ongoing issues, emerging trends as well as to identify opportunities to work collaboratively on any local action plans/initiatives.

### **SAFER SHORES / WATER SAFETY**

Safer Shores 2022 has now concluded. This multi-agency plan involving Police Scotland, British Transport Police, SAS, SFRS, South Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Civil Contingencies is to safeguard members of the public including visitors who travel to South Ayrshire to enjoy the beaches throughout the summer season. This includes the safe travel of those persons and has a focus on positive engagement reducing opportunities for anti-social behaviour or criminality.

As part of Safer Shores 2022 locality officers also delivered bespoke inputs to police schools liaison officers based throughout Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire. The purpose of this was to ensure a coordinated approach in the delivery of key messages to young people prior to the start of the school holidays. The messages/presentations that were delivered included water safety, substance misuse and responsible citizenship.

Once again the key success for 2022 was the relationships that have been formed by those partners to ensure effective collaborative working on the days that the plan is activated. As a result of this South Ayrshire seen very few incidents relating to persons behaviour whilst attending the beaches.

### **FIRE & ROAD SAFETY JAG**

Discussion has taken place around expanding the Fire & Road Safety JAG to incorporate Water Safety. This would further support and enhance the priorities of the group in reducing accidents and deaths specifically in and around water. The proposal to widen the remit and change the name of this JAG will be submitted to the CSP for consideration and ratification.

Contact has also been made and established with the Pan Ayrshire Water Safety Group (PAWS). PAWS is able to offer information around national trends and concerns.

### **FIRE SAFETY / BONFIREWATCH**

Bonfire Watch 2022 is due to launch on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October. This initiative will run until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November. This is a partnership approach to identifying and removing illegal/unlicensed bonfires throughout South Ayrshire in advance of the 5<sup>th</sup> of November. This proactive approach ensures the safety of communities and the

reduction of calls to emergency services. Analysis shows that fires attended by SFRS have reduced from 30+ per year throughout the peak times of the build up to Bonfire Night to 5 fires per year over the last 4 years. A coordinated communication strategy with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS), Police Scotland, Thriving Communities, and Trading Standards will be delivered throughout this period.

### **ROAD SAFETY**

Following agreement from the CSP it has been agreed that the annual road safety event Reckless Driving Wrecks Lives targeted at S5/S6 young people should be reviewed with a view to being delivered in 2023.

This event helps engage young people who are in the early stages of applying for provisional driving licences to have an increased awareness on how behaviours can influence driver safety. The event is delivered using video clips based on a real life road traffic collision. It also has a variety of key speakers from emergency services as well as a survivor of a road traffic collision speaking about their personal experience. The event is powerful, though provoking and engaging. The key priority for this is to empower young people to always drive safely taking into consideration the impact of other external influences such as other persons in the car, peer influence, weather conditions and hazards on the road.

This event was previously successfully delivered and was attended by all young people (S5/S6) from across Ayrshire. The event was last delivered in 2019 and thereafter paused due to the covid pandemic. Due to the costings for the delivery of the event it has been agreed that the priority will be for South Ayrshire young people to attend and not Pan Ayrshire as to what was delivered previously.

Wider discussions are ongoing with a view to scoping out the possibility of the creation of a new more modern video resource. It is anticipated that this is a longer term piece of work and is unlikely to be in place for the 2023 event.

### **JOINT ACTION GROUPS**

Meetings have taken place with the Chair and support officer for all of the JAG's. The purpose of the meetings was to ensure all groups remain effective and have a clear understanding of their priorities and remit as well as to offer guidance and support.

Some of the groups have been less effective throughout covid as well as a number of Chairs/members have been redeployed/no longer in post.

All of the meetings have been productive and worthwhile. The groups have been encouraged to ensure regular meetings as well as having an increased awareness of the importance of joint action plans. Terms of Reference for each group are also in the process of being created.

### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The Violence Against Women Partnership has developed a new strategy for period 2022 – 2025. The strategy will be presented to CSP and CPP for comment and ratification.

The Violence Against Women JAG will sit separately from VAWP, and will develop work, projects and initiatives locally in South Ayrshire, as well as supporting and promoting national campaigns.

Planning is underway in preparation for this year's White Ribbon Campaign and 16 days of action.

### **KEY ISSUES**

Planning is underway in preparation for a variety of events scheduled to take place across South Ayrshire.

30<sup>th</sup> October/31<sup>st</sup> October – TamFest & Halloween

21<sup>st</sup> October – 7<sup>th</sup> November - Operation Moonbeam / Bonfire Watch – Fireworks and bonfire nights scheduled throughout South Ayrshire

13<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice Day – Parades scheduled throughout South Ayrshire

25<sup>th</sup> November – Start of White Ribbon Campaign and 16 Days of Action

28<sup>th</sup> November – Official launch of the Christmas and New Year Safety Initiative (This annual initiative includes focussed patrols covering retail, hospitality and the licensed trade. A communication strategy will also be in place to ensure personal safety and business security advice throughout the festive period)

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

Police Scotland has a dedicated Wellbeing Department comprising of local officers who identify, engage and support local individuals and families who have been identified as vulnerable or at risk in an effort to improve the outcomes of those individuals. This work is delivered in partnership with South Ayrshire Council, SFRS and other third sector organisations. It continues to have a particular focus on individuals and families living in Wallacetown.

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Chief Inspector Kevin Lammie**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**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**

| <b>PARTNER/SERVICE</b>  | <b>MAIN AREAS OF ACTION TO SUPPORT COST OF LIVING CRISIS</b>  |
|---|---|
| <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.<br><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.<br/> <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.<br/>         Information and Advice Hub<br/>         1/3 Mainholm Road<br/>         AYR<br/>         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><br/>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><br/>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><br/>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><br/>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>   |

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <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> |
|--|--|

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE****COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022****COMMUNITIES AND POPULATION HEALTH SDP****Date of last meeting: 6<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**

Development and delivery of actions within the Strategic Action Plan which have been aligned to the public health priorities.

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

Since the last CP Board, there has been one meeting of the SDP on the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022. Key areas of focus include/progress include:

**Volunteering Strategy**

Members of the SDP received an annual progress update on [South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy](#) which is led by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire. Main areas of progress over the past year include: more aligned and integrated activities; implementation of a volunteering structure which includes the development of 'All Things Volunteering – South Ayrshire' website which will be a useful source of information both organisations and individuals; recruitment and deployment of volunteers, particularly encouraging young people to volunteer under the 'Saltire' awards; increasing the number and quality of volunteering opportunities available in South Ayrshire; recognising the benefits of volunteering; and finally, ensuring that there is a commitment to volunteering improving the community. As the Volunteering Strategy now begins year 2, VASA is keen that community planning partners support some of the tasks outline within the volunteering strategy.

**Age Friendly Communities**

On overview of Age Friendly Communities was delivered by the Scottish Older People's Assembly (Age-friendly Communities Development Lead). An Age-friendly community is 'a place where people of all ages are able to live healthy and active later lives. These places make it possible for people to continue to stay living in their homes, participate in activities that they value, and contribute to their communities for as long as possible'. Towns/cities would adapt structures/services to ensure that they are accessible to and inclusive of older people with varying needs and capacities. A framework has been produced which provides guidance on a system-wide and place-based approach to achieve the aims highlighted. It is an asset-based approach with the framework based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidance. South Ayrshire has expressed an interest to become part of the UK network of Age-friendly Communities, and this will be led by HSCP/VASA with support from South Ayrshire Council and the Communities and Population Health SDP.

**SUBGROUPS**

The SDP has in place several subgroups which are progressing the priorities of the SDP action plan and regular updates are provided on progress. Given the number of subgroups within the structure, updates will be provided on key areas of progress, focusing in on specific subgroups, as part of updates for the CP Board going forward. The subgroups are:

- *Dementia Friendly South Ayrshire Steering Group*
- *Social Isolation and Loneliness Subgroup*
- *Health in all Policies Short Life Working Group*
- *South Ayrshire Mental Health Improvement Subgroup*
- *Sport and Recreation Subgroup*
- *Green and Natural Health Subgroup (incorporating Active Living)*
- *Suicide Prevention Subgroup*
- *Healthy Weight Strategy Subgroup*

Key area of progress across the subgroups include:

- Good progress in Troon and Girvan regarding the development of dementia friendly promenades;
- The development of a Mentally Healthy Toolkit which is being produced by the Health Improvement Team;
- Support by SportsScotland to form a Sport and Recreation Leadership Group; and
- Continued development and promotion of the Green Health App.

#### **KEY ISSUES**

- Continued development of the subgroups;
- Continued development of the app to promote new green health opportunities;
- Wider integration of place plans within the CPP;
- To provide support where necessary for the development of Age-friendly Communities and
- Development of performance framework;

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

Both the Dementia and Social Isolation and Loneliness Implementation Plans continue to progress.

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Elaine Young (supported by Susan McCardie)**

**Date: October 2022**

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

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



**WALLACETOWN SDP**

**Date of last meeting: 7<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**

The main focus of the group is to discuss the role of the SDP in driving changes in policy and practice to improve outcomes for the residents of Wallacetown.

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

Since the last CP Board, there has been one meeting of the SDP on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

**SUBGROUP ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

As highlighted in previous updates reports, a Wallacetown Operational Delivery Plan and Wallacetown Improvement Strategy has been approved by members. The next stage was for each of the subgroups to develop action plans to capture ongoing activity/progress. It has been acknowledged the development of an action plan, particularly for the Operational Delivery Subgroup, would be best shaped by partners based on knowledge and experience, therefore it has been agreed that a workshop session will be held with SDP members and partners on 1<sup>st</sup> December to facilitate this process. Part of this session will focus on agreement of outcomes for the SDP which will support the action plan development process. For those subgroups that have action plans in place, a review of plans will take place following the workshop to ensure that they capture/align to the agreed outcomes. Assistance will also be provided to develop a LOGIC model for the SDP with associated nested models for each of the subgroup.

**SUBGROUP UPDATES**

Regular update reports on the progress of activity within each of the subgroups is provided to the SDP on a regular basis by the Lead Officers. There continues to be substantial progress made across all the subgroups - some key areas of progress to highlight include:

- Positive feedback from staff regularly working from the new 'hub/office' space at Newton Primary School. This space is regularly being used by Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Community Safety Advocate), Police Scotland (Community Wellbeing Officers) and South Ayrshire Council (Housing Officer and Community Safety). Recent examples of their work include:
  - Significant reduction in calls for service to police (Sep v Oct) from repeat caller following multi-agency discussion and interventions/engagement by Police Wellbeing, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Community Safety Advocate and Community Links Practitioner.
  - Positive feedback from residents initially looking to report homeless who have quickly received a 'multi-agency' response to their concerns with staff available to respond or update on action being taken in the area.
  - Emergency food provision and regular discussions leading to services engaging with residents requiring significant support. Housing repairs, energy support etc. Team linking these residents with current activities/wider support.

- Ability to quickly arrange joint follow-up visits, as appropriate, following police activity in the area responding to community concerns regarding drug dealing.

- Working for Wallacetown Community Hub in George Street is now open and is providing an opportunity to engage with people;
- Establishment of a 'Prevention First' group with Newtown Primary School pupils to target issues of concern in the community;
- Positive engagement continues within the area through CLD groups and Parent Council; and
- Community Voice Session scheduled to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

### **SHAPING PLACES FOR WELLBEING**

A draft action plan has been developed for the Shaping Places for Wellbeing Steering Group – this is a working document and will be updated regularly. The Steering Group has agreed that main priority areas for carrying out a Place and Wellbeing Assessment are: Local Housing Strategy (provisionally scheduled for January), Ayr Town Centre Placemaking Strategy and Ageing Well Strategy. Two place and wellbeing assessments took place in September in relation to Wallacetown Housing Regeneration and Sustainable Development and Climate Change Strategy review. Reports are in the process of being finalised and will be circulated to the Steering Group in due course for further discussion.

### **KEY ISSUES**

- Continued integration of frontline services;
- Agreement on short term aims/objectives/action plans for the subgroups;
- Development of evaluation framework;
- Continuous improvement framework to support lessons learned to direct change; and
- Ensure that work taking place by the Wallacetown SDP is considered as part of the wider discussion on the development of a CPP locality model.

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

Action plan and links to follow.

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Kevin Anderson**

**Date: October 2022**



## COMMUNITIES REFERENCE GROUP UPDATE TO COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**Date of last meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

### **Main current focus of the group:**

The main focus of the Communities Reference Group is to inform the process of widening community engagement within a community planning setting through representation of communities of interest within the community planning structure, and forums that sit within VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) as well as community and third sector organisations. The Communities Reference Group will be used as a formal engagement process to discuss the development of CPP strategic plans.

### **PROGRESS UPDATE**

#### **Review of Communities Reference Group**

As highlighted at the last CP Board, it is proposed that the Communities Reference Group (CRG) is refocused to become a **Community Engagement Co-ordination Group (CECG)** acting as the main locus for the co-ordination of our collective engagement activity as required by community planning partners.

Following support by the CP Board to progress, work has been taking place to develop a new terms-of-reference and this was discussed by members of the CRG at their meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> October. It is anticipated that the new CECG will be launched in line with the re-launch of Locality Planning Partnerships in the New Year.

#### **Annual Community Planning Webinar Series Event**

The Community Planning Webinar Series Event is now finalised. This is taking place over two weeks from **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November**. A number of webinars have been organised, providing an overview of wider community planning activity to support our local communities including improving place and wellbeing, maximising income, addressing poverty, engagement and learning, green health, supporting children and young people and healthcare providing a more flexible support for local people.

It would be much appreciated if partners could share the attached 'save the date' information across staff networks to raise awareness as widely as possible. Instructions on how to register for the webinars are detailed on the 'save the date'.

### **KEY ISSUES/ACTIONS**

- Finalise terms of reference for the Community Engagement Co-ordination Group; and
- Promote annual Community Planning Webinar Series event.

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Susan McCardie**

**Date: October 2022**



## SAVE THE DATE

### A South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Series of Webinars: 'Working together to make lives better'

#### Where and When?

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup>  
November to Friday  
25<sup>th</sup> November  
2022

#### What is it about?

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership would like to take this opportunity to invite you to attend our webinar series event highlighting examples of work taking place by our partners who are **'working together to make lives better'**.

#### Who are the webinars aimed at?

Staff from:

- Community Planning Partners;
- Third Sector Organisations; and
- Community Groups

Over the course of the two weeks, a number of webinars have been organised, providing an **overview of wider community planning activity** to support our local communities including improving place and wellbeing, green health, maximising income, addressing poverty, safety, engagement and learning, supporting children and young people and healthcare providing a more flexible support for local people.

A brief outline of outline of each of the webinars (including dates and times) can be found on the following pages.

#### Booking a place:

To attend please email the relevant contact for each of the webinars providing your name, job title, organisation and contact details.

*Your place on the webinar(s) will be confirmed with a diary meeting request providing the online link to attend.*

For further information please email Susan McCardie [susan.mccardie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:susan.mccardie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) or Linda West [lindawest@vasa.scot](mailto:lindawest@vasa.scot)

## Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>2pm to 3.30pm</b><br>Trauma Informed Practice | <p>This webinar will discuss what trauma is, it's prevalence and the impact that it has. There will also be a focus on vicarious trauma and how we can use coping strategies to mitigate impacts.</p> <p>To book a place, please email:<br/><a href="mailto:Angela.Pinkerton@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Angela.Pinkerton@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></p> |
|--|--|

## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>10am to 11.30am:</b><br>Champions for Change<br>South Ayrshire Champions<br>Board | <p>This webinar will focus on how members of south Ayrshires champions board use their lived experience of the care system to amplify young people's voices and help us all to better understand what matters to young people and their families</p> <p>To book a place, please email:<br/><a href="mailto:Jodie.Hutton2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Jodie.Hutton2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></p> |
| <b>3pm to 5pm:</b><br>Primary Care/Pharmacy  | <p>This webinar will explore the different arrangements and opportunities within GP Practices and Community Pharmacies to provide more flexible support for local people.</p> <p>To book a place, please email:<br/><a href="mailto:Tricia.Logan@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">Tricia.Logan@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a></p>  |

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>10am to 11.30am:</b><br>It's good to walk! | <p>This webinar will explore why walking is important and the impact it can have on physical, mental and social health. Information will be provided on the extensive range of walking opportunities in South Ayrshire, where and how people can be referred to access these opportunities.</p> <p>To book a place, please email:<br/><a href="mailto:activeschools@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">activeschools@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></p>  |
| <b>2pm to 3.30pm</b><br>Promising times ahead | <p>Come along and hear what we are doing across South Ayrshire to shift policy, practice and culture so we can support South Ayrshires Parenting Promise that we have made to care experienced infants, children, young people adults and their families - that every child grows up loved, safe respected and able to realise their full potential.</p> <p>To book a place, please email:<br/><a href="mailto:Jodie.Hutton2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">Jodie.Hutton2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></p> |

## Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November:

**10am to 11.30am:**  
Green Health

This webinar will be delivered by NHS Ayrshire and Arran Public Health department, South Ayrshire Council Ranger Service and The Conservation Volunteers. It will look at the benefits of Green Health and will showcase the new Green Health app for South Ayrshire. There will also be an input on self-led opportunities and volunteering opportunities for green health in South Ayrshire.

To book a place, please email:  
[Lesley-anne.smith@aapct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:Lesley-anne.smith@aapct.scot.nhs.uk)

## Monday 21st November:

**10am to 11am**  
Thriving Communities  
Who are we?  
The story so far.....

Thriving Communities - This webinar will provide participants with information and progress on South Ayrshire Councils Thriving Communities Service. Officers will share the Thriving Communities vision and progress that has been made over the past 12 months across South Ayrshire.

To book a place, please email:  
[Thrivingcommunitiesadmin@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Thrivingcommunitiesadmin@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**2pm to 3.30pm**  
Shaping Places for Wellbeing

This webinar will provide an overview of the Shaping Places for Wellbeing programme and some insight into the work taking place in Ayr, one of the programmes six local project towns they are working with. The session will be led by Irene Beautyman, Shaping Places for Wellbeing, Programme Lead. The Shaping Places for Wellbeing programme is a delivery partnership between the Improvement Service and Public Health Scotland (PHS).

To book a place please email:  
[jennifer.robertson@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:jennifer.robertson@improvementservice.org.uk)

## Wednesday 23rd November:

**10am to 11.30am:**  
Young Carers

South Ayrshire is committed to identifying young carers and providing support to allow them to reach their full potential. In this webinar we will cover the following:

- Our statutory duties
- Who is a young carer?
- Roles & responsibilities
- Identification
- Support available
- Update on work in South Ayrshire

To book a place, please email:  
[carers@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:carers@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Thursday 24th November:

**10am to 11.30am:**  
Information and Advice  
Hub

This webinar will provide information on:

- Maximising Income through Welfare benefits;
- Managing outgoings through effective budget planning;
- Addressing Fuel Poverty; and
- Our council commitment to closing the gap and reducing poverty and disadvantage by providing a full circle approach to advice and information.

To book a place, please email:

[Gillian.McCall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Gillian.McCall@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

**2pm to 3.30pm:**  
South Ayrshire Lifeline  
and Supporting Older  
People (Voluntary Action  
South Ayrshire)

An information webinar on what South Ayrshire Lifeline website and helpdesk can offer on activities, services, support and signposting to the community of South Ayrshire. Information on the Out and About Service and Telephone Befriending will also be part of this session.

To book a place, please email:

[lindawest@vasa.scot](mailto:lindawest@vasa.scot)

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November:

**2pm to 3.30pm:**  
South Ayrshire Violence  
Against Women  
Partnership

As part of the launch the 16 Days of Action campaign, this webinar will raise awareness of South Violence Against Women Partnership. You will hear about Sexual Violence Prevention workshops that are delivered nationally to young people across Scotland, the Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Disclosure Scheme, and a presentation by South Ayrshire Women's Aid on gender-based violence. An outline will also be provided of the Violence Against Women Partnership strategic action plan.

To book a place, please email:

[Viviene.McCulloch@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Viviene.McCulloch@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)



## South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board

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Report by Community Planning Lead Officer, South Ayrshire Council  
to Community Planning Board Meeting of 27th October 2022

**Subject: Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Progress Report (2022)**

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### 1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Community Planning Board to consider the Local Outcomes Annual Progress Report 2022 (appendix a) and approve its publication.

### 2 The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 **approve the Local Outcomes Annual Progress Report 2022; and**
- 2.2 **note the extensive progress that has taken place within the five priority areas.**

### 3 Background

- 3.1 In October 2017 South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership published the 'South Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan' (LOIP) with two strategic themes of '**supporting older people to live in good health**' and '**closing the poverty-related outcomes gap for children and young people in South Ayrshire**'. This report was refreshed in 2019. The strategic themes are now supported by five priority areas

- **Support for people living with dementia and their carers;**
- **Reducing social isolation and loneliness;**
- **Improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers;**
- **Providing support for young people who are carers; and**
- **Employability and lifelong learning.**

### 4 Progress

- 4.1 The fifth annual progress report, which is required to be published by the Community Planning Partnership, is now in final draft form and is attached as appendix a.

- 4.2 The report recognises progress that has been made across all our priority areas, whilst acknowledging the ongoing impact of COVID-19 as restrictions were easing. Our community planning partners, third sector organisations and community groups have continued to work tirelessly supporting our communities, adapting service delivery as needed and very much focusing on bringing back face-to-face support. Extensive progress has been made within the priority area for young carers and this is highlighted in detail within the progress report.

## **5 Next Steps**

- 5.1 The LOIP annual progress report will be published online. Progress on LOIP priority areas will also be highlighted at our forthcoming community planning 'webinar series event' to showcase the work of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.

South Ayrshire  
**COMMUNITY  
PLANNING**  
Partnership



# **LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

October 2022



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Monitoring and review



# FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce this year’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) annual progress report which again provides detail of all the great partnership working taking place across South Ayrshire and the collective progress being made by the Community Planning Partnership.

Improving outcomes and reducing inequalities is a key focus of this LOIP - supporting our older people to live in good health and closing the poverty-related outcomes gap. Case studies within this annual progress report allow you to see the positive impact many of our projects are having on people’s lives, re-establishing those connections that were impacted upon because of the pandemic and very much focusing on bringing back face-to-face support.

We are committed to improving Community Planning Partnership working and our processes, making it much clearer where we are adding value to our residents’ lives. We aim to listen to our communities and work together to make South Ayrshire a great place to live and work in.

My thanks once again to all the partners for the great contribution they have made to the Community Planning Partnership progressing our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan over the past year.



**Councillor Peter Henderson**

Chair of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership



# INTRODUCTION

## CONTEXT

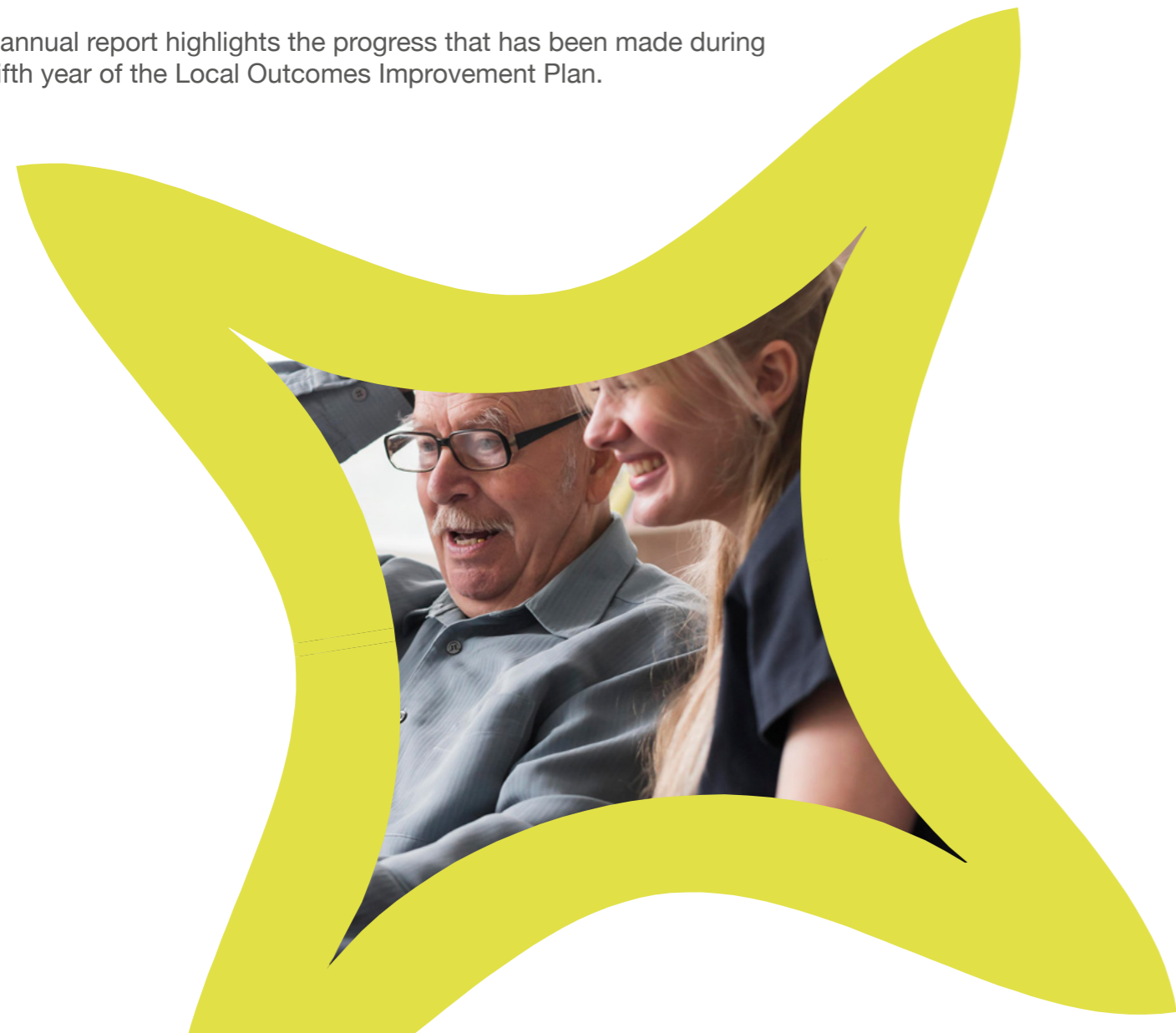
Reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for people in South Ayrshire is a key focus of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has given CPPs a statutory purpose regarding public service reform at a local level. The Act requires CPPs to produce two types of plans which will provide information on how we can make improvements in our local areas – the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plan.

The LOIP sets out a vision and focus based on agreed local priorities where through collaborative working with our community planning partners and local communities, we can work to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes in South Ayrshire.

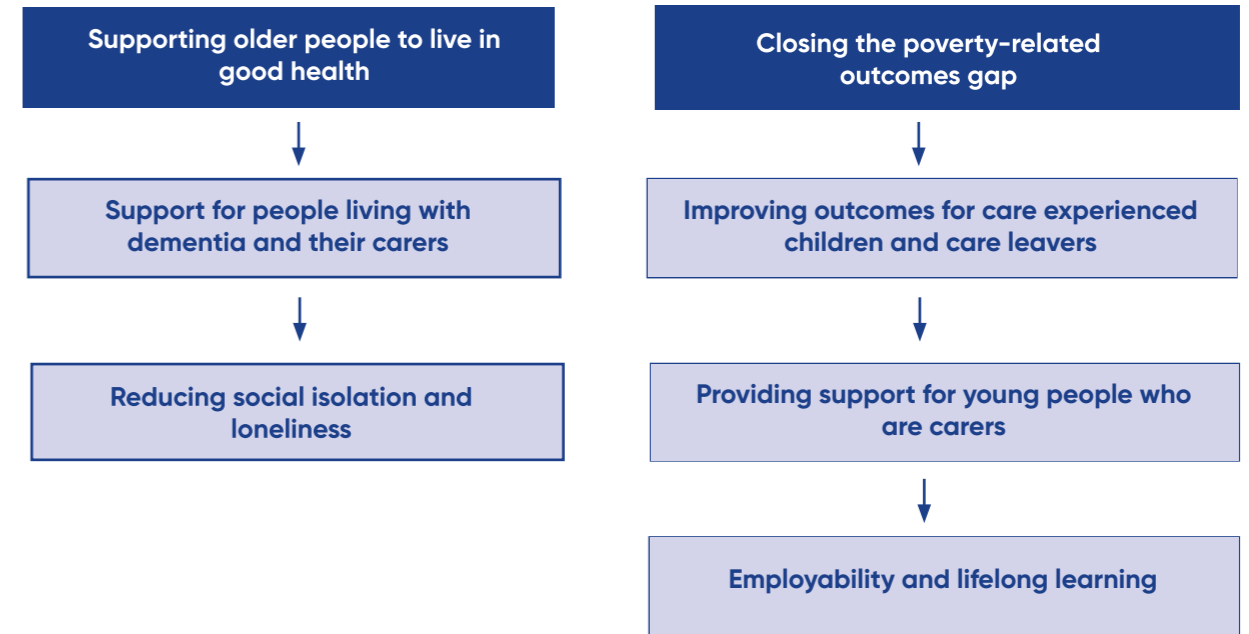
A locality plan is a plan to improve outcomes in that locality – in South Ayrshire locality plans will be referred to as ‘local place plans’.

This annual report highlights the progress that has been made during the fifth year of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.



# WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST YEAR?

This fifth annual report reflects the wide-ranging work that has taken place to continue to support our two strategic themes and supporting five priorities sitting within our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:



The report recognises progress that has been made whilst still acknowledging the ongoing impact of COVID-19 even as restrictions were easing. Our community planning partners, third sector organisations and community groups have continued to work tirelessly supporting our communities, adapting service delivery as needed and very much focusing on bringing back face-to-face support.

In November 2021, we hosted a successful Webinar Series Event week. The purpose of the week was to give our partners an opportunity to showcase their commitment of supporting our LOIP strategic themes/priorities and wider community planning outcomes. There were 18 seminars with one hundred people attending the webinars over the five-day period (just over 400 individual registrations were made). Topics covered included:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Partnership working                     | Dementia Friendly Communities                       | Social Isolation and Loneliness                 |
| Primary Care and Pharmacy               | Wellbeing Pledge                                    | Champions Board                                 |
| Young Carer                             | Food Insecurity                                     | Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership |
| Information and Advice Hub              | Caring for Ayrshire                                 | Introduction to Locality Planning Partnerships  |
| Community Learning and Development Plan | South Ayrshire Lifeline and Supporting Older People | Home Energy Scotland                            |
| Power of Attorney Campaign              | Sustainability Partnership                          | Whole Family Support/Team Around the Family     |

More detailed information can be found in appendix 1.



# SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE TO LIVE IN GOOD HEALTH

Work on supporting older people to live in good health continues to be led through the social isolation and loneliness strategy and dementia strategy. Both these strategies are supported by implementation plans which are monitored through the Health and Social Care Partnership. Reporting on the LOIP priorities also takes place via the Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership.

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

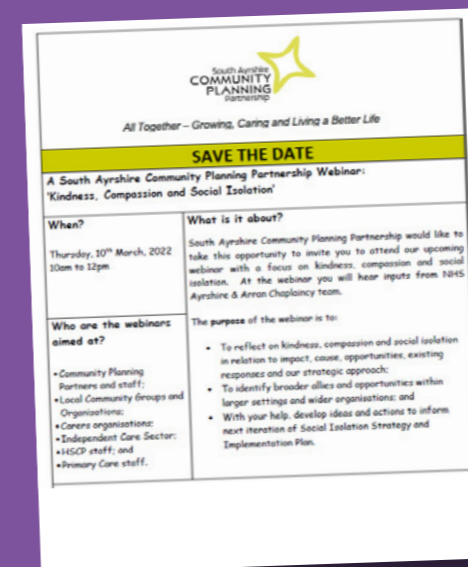
### REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:   | OBJECTIVES:  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People are prevented from becoming chronically socially isolated or experiencing loneliness</li> <li>2. Those who have experienced social isolation and loneliness following one of the known 'triggers' are responded to appropriately</li> <li>3. Those who have experienced chronic isolation and loneliness have their connections restored in order to prevent poor social or health outcomes</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote kindness and self-care, raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with social isolation and loneliness</li> <li>• Develop and promote the values of kindness and consider the barriers to kindness within our organisations and communities</li> <li>• Promote asset-based and place-based approaches</li> <li>• Raise awareness of local activities and services</li> <li>• Address inequality</li> <li>• Work to provide transport options which are accessible and affordable</li> <li>• Work to provide technological solutions which are suitable for the needs of older people</li> <li>• Develop a pathway from identification to reconnection</li> <li>• Promote service co-design and peer-led support</li> <li>• Provide support and reconnection to those who are chronically lonely</li> </ul> |

## SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS STRATEGY 2018-2027

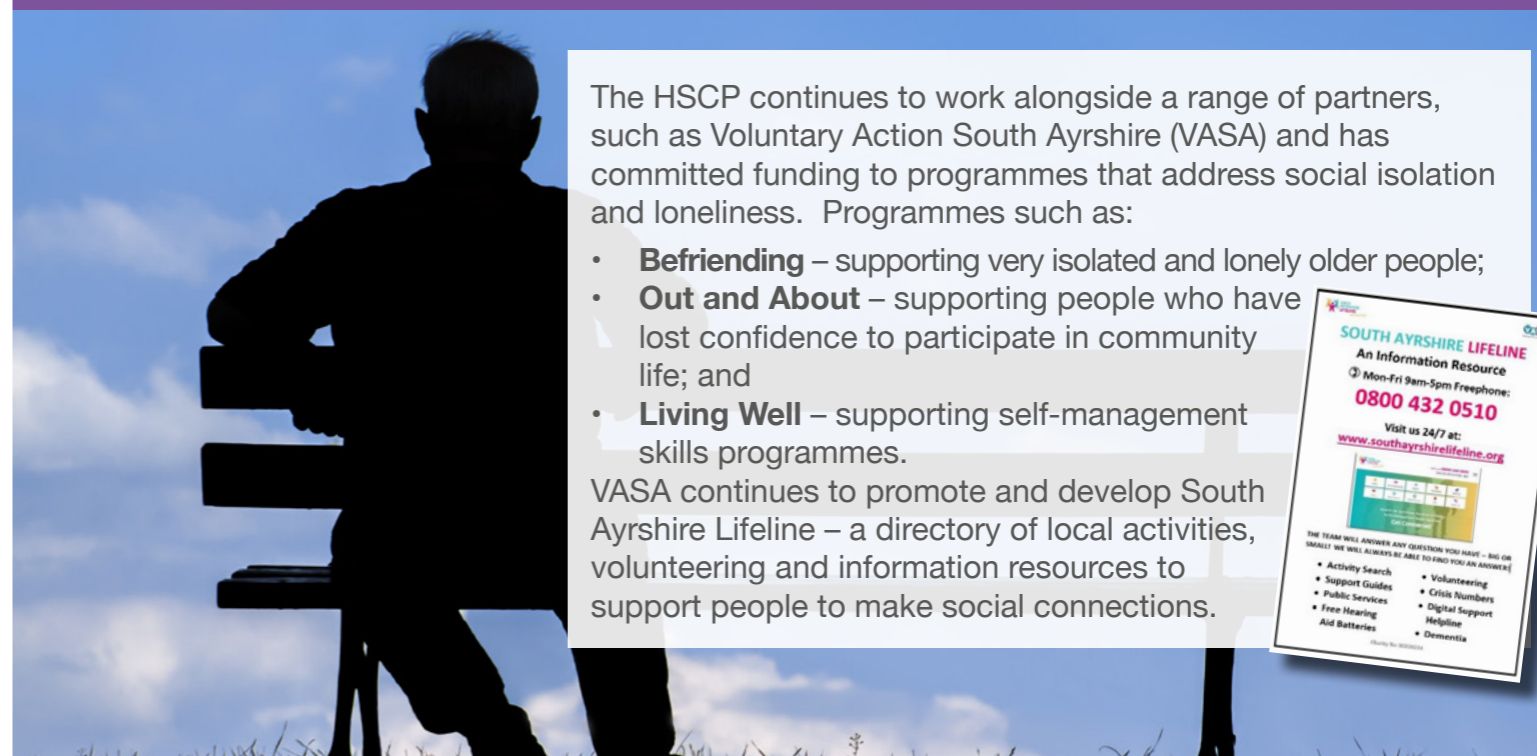
A Health & Social Care Partnership strategy and implementation plan has been developed by the South Ayrshire Social Isolation Subgroup informed by current literature and wide consultation with our local communities. This nine-year strategy focuses on older people, reflecting the LOIP priority.

Work has continued to support isolated and lonely older people across services and localities. As COVID impacted restrictions have eased more in situ support is beginning to be re-established – for example a range of library based services and supports and work through Sheltered Housing and Leisure services. There are many of these projects that address social isolation directly or indirectly. The Scottish Government has allocated over £440,000 to South Ayrshire to address community based mental wellbeing initiatives and VASA led the programme of allocation and support. There are many of these projects that address social isolation and loneliness directly or indirectly.



The Social Isolation and Loneliness Subgroup hosted a webinar in March 2022 with a focus on kindness, compassion and social isolation. The purpose of the webinar was to reflect on kindness, compassion and social isolation in relation to impact, cause, opportunities, existing responses and our strategic approach; and to identify broader allies and opportunities within larger settings and wider organisations. The purpose of the webinar was to:

- To reflect on kindness, compassion and social isolation in relation to impact, cause, opportunities, existing responses and our strategic approach;
- To identify broader allies and opportunities within larger settings and wider organisations; and
- develop ideas and actions to inform next iteration of Social Isolation Strategy and Implementation Plan.



The HSCP continues to work alongside a range of partners, such as Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) and has committed funding to programmes that address social isolation and loneliness. Programmes such as:

- **Befriending** – supporting very isolated and lonely older people;
- **Out and About** – supporting people who have lost confidence to participate in community life; and
- **Living Well** – supporting self-management skills programmes.

VASA continues to promote and develop South Ayrshire Lifeline – a directory of local activities, volunteering and information resources to support people to make social connections.



# CASE STUDIES

## LIVING WELL

Mrs C who was a carer for her husband, joined the Living Well Programme. She had been referred by the Community Link Practitioner due to depression and isolation. She related that she was still caring for her husband but due to depression she did not even open the curtains during the day. She had limited contact with people out with the household and had no interests. She joined the Programme and within a few weeks was contributing and interacting with other participants and facilitators. When the programme ended, she continued to stay in touch with one of the other participants as they got on so well. Her feedback of the programme was that she really enjoyed meeting other people and that she had started going out again and had joined a couple of online classes. She felt it had made a great difference to her life.

Mr S was referred to the programme by the befriending project due to health problems and isolation. He had been living with his grandmother who had recently died and was also dealing with the breakup of a long-term relationship. He stated his confidence was low. He had been volunteering at a local charity shop but was not confident enough to look for paid work. He initially was quiet at Living Well Programme, listening but letting others do the talking but after a few weeks he joined in and talked about his situation. Others in the group offered him their support and shared experiences. Mr X said he looked forward to the sessions and felt he got a lot out of them. After the Programme ended, he volunteered at another organisation and secured paid employment. His opinion was that VASA services had helped get him back on his feet and his confidence had greatly improved. He said the help was there at the right time.

## OUT & ABOUT

Mrs H is a 71-year lady who suffers from anxiety, low mood, and confidence, she is physically well. A very unexpected and devastating breakdown of her marriage had affected her very badly and that of the relationships with her children. Financially she felt very vulnerable also. Mrs H's confidence had plummeted and had a fear of breaking down emotionally whenever she bumped into friends or ex-husband 'I am terrified of bursting into tears'. Mrs H felt more comfortable travelling to the next town to do shopping etc., so we hopped on the bus, whilst there she felt a bit more at ease, and thought it was a good solution as it was only a short bus journey. We also attended the walking group which she found welcoming and beneficial and hoped to continue. On another occasion we attended an exercise class at a local over 60s club, whilst there we met another couple of ladies who lived near Mrs H, she has continued to attend this and another social club on a Saturday with the same ladies. 'I feel more confident about talking to people, I realise that not everyone is being nosy and judgmental'. During our time together Mrs H has also re-engaged with a friend who she hadn't seen for some time and since then they have gone a little holiday. Mrs H felt that the support from the service was what she needed to push her 'over the door' and that signposting to other agencies for financial/ housing advice was much appreciated. Mrs H has also become more active within her building, helping to arrange jubilee celebrations and jumble sale.

Mr T is a 67-year-old gentleman with slight learning disabilities who lives alone with support for cooking and some personal care twice a day. He is extremely sociable but does lack company, as during lockdown people have since fallen away. Mr T is an avid letter writer and often would send into the local paper. I was able to find him a pen pal and he was very keen to start writing. We also went for shopping and coffee using the bus with his bus pass and ventured into neighbouring towns, he was very competent using public transport. Introducing him to the 'Honest Men' group was very beneficial as he was a big football fan and has since enjoyed the activities and guest speakers. Mr T has also started attending monthly get togethers, where he has been meeting in local venues, usually in the evening for food and conversation. I continue to keep Mr T informed of any activities/ groups which I think he may enjoy.

## TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING

Mr C is in his mid-80's, he was referred to the Telephone Befriending Service in the Autumn of 2021 by an NHS Community Navigator. Mr C had cared for his wife for several years but sadly she passed away in the Spring of 2021. With no family close by and with the loss of his wife Mr C began to feel increasingly isolated. As covid restrictions lifted he felt he had lost confidence in attending activities he had previously enjoyed with his wife, and this too was having an impact on his general well-being. Mr C was matched with a very experienced telephone befriender and although they got on well both parties felt there wasn't much of a connection and a mutual decision was taken to bring the match to an end. Around about this time a gentleman volunteer of a similar age expressed an interest in taking on an additional person to call. The two elderly gents were duly matched and to their surprise and delight they discovered they shared many similarities. Both had studied engineering at university, had similarities in their professional lives and shared a variety of interests. The calls take place on a weekly basis and are a great source of enjoyment to both gentlemen. Both have used the phrase "getting on like a house on fire" to describe their befriending arrangement. Mr C has recently engaged with the Out and About service and is enjoying weekly outings with a view to re-establishing connections with former groups and activities.

Ms P is in her mid-50's, she was referred to the Telephone Befriending service by a Community Mental Health Team in Autumn 2020. Due to shielding for health reasons she had lost confidence in going out. With only limited family support she was experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation, and this was having an effect on her mental health. Ms P was matched with a Telephone Befriender, they quickly developed a good connection and shared several interesting coincidences in common. Unfortunately, Ms P experienced a traumatic and upsetting incident within months of the befriending match. The Telephone Befriender was able to support Ms P during this difficult time, partly due to her professional background but also because of the relationship that had developed. Throughout 2021 the calls continued with occasional holiday breaks after which both parties were keen to catch up with each other's news. As her confidence returned Ms P gradually began to reconnect with her pre-covid life with additional input from our Out and About service. By Spring 2022 she decided that she no longer required befriending calls, the befriender had come to the same conclusion around about the same time. In recognition and appreciation of the invaluable support she received Ms P is currently considering applying to become a Telephone Befriending volunteer herself.



# SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVES: OUTCOME:

People living with dementia and their carers live in a supported community.

1. Promote good physical and mental health and wellbeing to delay the onset of dementia
2. Have access to appropriate and timely interventions for those with dementia and their carers
3. Design physical and social environments which support those with dementia
4. Protect vulnerable people from harm

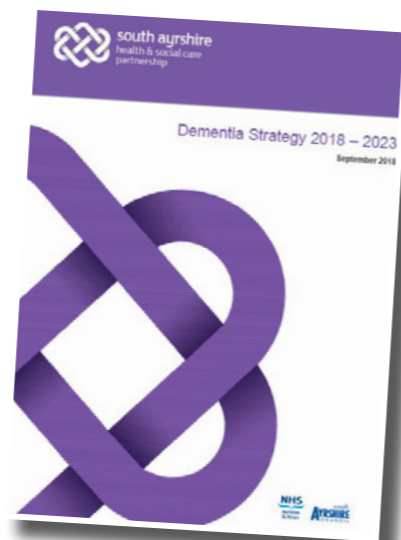
## DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2018-2023

The [South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Dementia Strategy 2018- 2023](#). The strategy sets out:

- an ambitious program to support people living with dementia and their carers; and
- how the HSCP provides formal services for people who have been diagnosed with dementia and their carers (also in the Adult Carers Strategy).

In addition, a key section is concerned with developing South Ayrshire as a 'dementia friendly' place. This sets out activity within localities and related work carried out in a more thematic way which is a key priority within this LOIP. It also sets out activities supported by commissioned services such as Alzheimer Scotland, Crossroads, South Ayrshire Dementia Support Association and South Ayrshire Carers Centre.

Work has continued to take place to develop South Ayrshire Dementia Friendly (DF) initiatives. Much of this work is led through locality-based dementia friendly work led by our dementia friendly communities of Troon & Villages, Prestwick, Ayr, North Carrick and South Carrick.



## PRESTWICK



Over the past twelve months, Dementia Friendly Prestwick (DFP) has been awarded funding from the Communities Renewal Fund, VASA's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and from Life Changes Trust. Because of their ongoing work to support people in our local area, DFP were named as a Legacy Partner for Life Changes Trust - a huge honour. This funding enabled the opening of a 'Meeting Centre' this summer - a social club for people with early to moderate dementia, for their families and carers too. This is an established and successful model of care and support from Holland, researched and adapted to suit the UK by the University of Worcester, and they are beginning to pop up all over the UK. Prestwick's club is the first to open in South Ayrshire, the first on the west coast of Scotland.

DFP has employed trained and experienced staff (two have achieved Meeting Centre accreditation by the University). Most of their volunteers have been with DFP for years and are enthusiastic and empathetic. DFP are collaborating with South Ayrshire Carers Centre and the NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Older Adult Mental Health Services, to help facilitate outreach programmes within Prestwick. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues visit the meeting centre regularly and have helped to signpost members to useful sources of support. DFP has created a local hub which supports people living with dementia and their families, and they would welcome more groups and organisations to get in touch to they can signpost to a wider network.

The Meeting Centre is based based at the Royal Air Force Association's Prestwick branch - the RAFA Club on Ardayre Road and the venue is well suited to the needs of members. You can sometimes find members out in the garden, with music or with gardening trowels. The ballroom is where members all eat lunch together. Members can blether and have refreshments all day.



## SOUTH CARRICK

In Girvan work has been continuing to support a DF promenade – activities affected previously by COVID are now re-starting and there is a new ‘Dementia Friendly Walk’. Dementia friendly benches have been positioned at Ainslie Park in Girvan with the intention of creating safe conversation spaces. Funding to support this was obtained by the Girvan Town Team via the Coastal Communities Fund.



## TROON AND VILLAGES



In Troon there has been investment to the promenade to make it dementia friendly – this has included DF benches in the sunken gardens, an art display within the sunken gardens of pictures of the local vicinity including the beach, prom, old pool, which have been affixed to the walls to encourage people to come together and reminisce. It also provides information on how people can be more DF in their day-to-day lives.



## DFP MEETING CENTRE: CASE STUDY 1

A couple came to one of our open days, one has dementia (S), and their partner (A) is the main carer. S immediately responded well to the familiar and cosy surroundings of our venue and was happy to join us. Our club is open from 10:30am until 3pm, three days a week, and family members are welcome to either stay with their cared-for person or leave. Members often come by themselves. On their first day with us, A realised that S was relaxed and having a great time socialising with new people, and after a short while, A asked a member of staff if it was OK to "slip out and go fishing". For the first time in a long while, A had a decent break from having immediate caring responsibilities and could relax too. S initially signed up to come two days a week, but by the second week, S wanted to come for all three days. Sometimes their grownup children come too, as they enjoy seeing S 'at their Club'. For this family, it doesn't matter terribly much the activities we do each day (music, arts and crafts, walks, cooking, gardening....) it's the feeling of friendship, peer support, and laughter that's important.

## DFP MEETING CENTRE: CASE STUDY 2

C lives on their own, with no family close. A befriender provides great support, but more is needed, and so the befriender brought C to our club. C now comes once a week, using a local taxi service to get home. And while being out of their home is a source of anxiety, C now comes once a week, and is enjoying meeting new people. An amateur artist, C brought us some of the works of art made over the years to great acclaim. As well as providing C with a social life again, we can also help ensure C is eating and drinking well on the days with us.

## PRESTWICK HOWIE BOWLING CLUB



Prestwick Howie Bowling Club has been working with Alzheimer Scotland began the journey of developing 'relaxed' bowling sessions. A series of meetings were held with Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Advisor, and a full audit of the clubhouse was carried out with all recommendations adopted to ensure that the bowling club is welcoming for all with support from Prestwick and Villages Locality Planning Partnership Funding. Some of the changes included replacing mats (they were dark and could be misread as being holes), coloured toilet seats bought, support railings made more visible by applying tape, and clearer signage put up. The coach at the club attended on-line training sessions on dementia run by Age Scotland and fellow coaches attended local Ayrshire Sportability training sessions on making sport as inclusive as possible.

With Alzheimer Scotland using their contact list to identify interested participants, the club and its new partner were ready to hold a series of pilot sessions for people living with dementia. There was a lot of learning going on. The club own a range of aids, like bowling arms, which allow the bowl to be delivered without having to bend, a "zimmer" like frame wide wheels which allow people with balance issues to hold on to a stable support when playing their shots, and these were employed to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible when learning their new skill and to help them get the most out of their time on the green. With the season now drawing to a close, the focus is now on looking at the feasibility of holding future weekly "relaxed" bowling sessions, open to the public at large, and bringing in other organisations like Dementia Friendly Prestwick, and Inspire South Ayrshire, by advertising more generally.

Comments from those who attended include:

**"VERY WELL PLANNED AND SO MUCH FUN. MADE US FEEL SO INCLUDED. REAL COMRADERY AND FRIENDSHIP. REAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MEMBERS. IT'S WONDERFUL THE EFFORT THAT ALL MEMBERS MADE."**

**"I HAVE ONLY GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE BOWLING SESSIONS. HE REALLY ENJOYED THEM AND HAS BEEN ASKING WHEN DO WE GO BACK? SECOND SESSION I'M SURE YOU'LL RECALL HE WAS NOT HAPPY AT COFFEE TIME AND DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE BUT THAT CHANGED WHEN ON THE GREEN AND FINAL SESSION HE ENGAGED FROM THE BEGINNING. A DEFINITE MOOD LIFTER! IAN AND TEAM WERE SO HELPFUL, PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING. ALL IN ALL FOR US A GOOD EXPERIENCE."**

**"HOWIE BOWLING IN MY OPINION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL THOSE THAT WE CARE FOR - I THINK THEY THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT AS DID THE CARERS"**



# CLOSING THE POVERTY RELATED OUTCOMES GAP

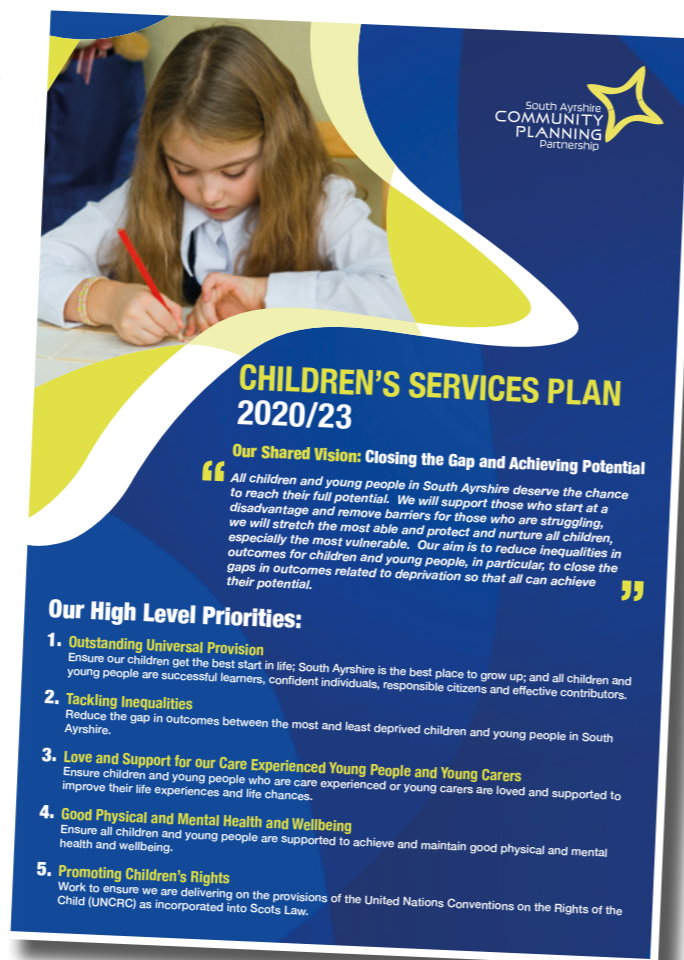
Action on improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers, and young people who are carers, continues to be led through the work of the South Ayrshire's Corporate Parenting Executive Group, Champions Board, Young Carers Implementation Group, and the overarching Children's Services plan – all of which report to the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership. Our priority of employability and lifelong learning is led through our Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership which reports to our Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020 TO 2023

The **Children's Services Plan** is designed for young people –it shows how young people will be treated in South Ayrshire.

- What the plan means for a young person;
- Giving a young person the best start in life – making South Ayrshire the best place to grow up;
- A young person will be treated equally no matter their background;
- Children and young people who are looked after or leaving care will be supported to be the best they can be;
- Opportunities to be healthy... both mentally and physically; and
- A young person's voice will be heard

Further information on the progress of the Children's Services plan can be found by visiting [here](#)



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:  | OBJECTIVES:   |
|--|---|
| We want to improve outcomes for young people who are care experienced and are care leavers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that care experienced young people benefit from involvement in Champions Boards leading to improved outcomes</li> <li>2. Work with our CPP partner organisations to strengthen their commitment, knowledge, skills and capacity and increase their understanding of their corporate parenting duties</li> <li>3. Policy and practice will become more responsive to Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>4. Ensure that public awareness and attitudes become increasing positive towards Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>5. Ensure that care experienced young people are aware of their rights and entitlements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Plan Strategic Outcome – Upholding and promoting children's rights</li> <li>• Action 8 - Support care experienced young people to participate in local activities with other young people and peer groups.</li> <li>• Action 13 - Ensure that advocacy support is considered for young people in care and leaving care in the new Strategic Advocacy Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

## ENSURE THAT CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM INVOLVEMENT IN CHAMPIONS BOARDS LEADING TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES



The Champions Board team continues to offer flexible employment opportunities for young people who have care experience. The team currently employs 8 people with care experience aged between 19 and 34 who use their lived experience to influence positive change in a range of different ways. We also support a modern apprenticeship experience which is ring-fenced for someone with care experience. In September 2021 three new Promise posts were appointed for 1 year from £50,000 funding secured from The Promise Partnership. All three posts were situated in South Ayrshires Champions Board team. Two posts were ringfenced for applicants with care experience. The posts have contributed to campaigns such as care day <https://www.facebook.com/southayrshirechamps/> and have worked with [each and every child](#) to develop a fresh new narrative and reframe the language used around care. A webinar for South Ayrshire employees and partners was delivered on 25 November 2021 and was attended by 64 participants.

## PARTICIPATION

South Ayrshire champions Board has a well-established participation network of over 60 children and young people and young parents with care experience. Despite challenging circumstances across 2021, the Champions Board managed to offer 14 different summer activities. This activity was delivered in partnership with voluntary sector partners at who cares? Scotland and South Ayrshires Thriving Communities' teams. 56 young people with care experience aged 6-26 took part in the activities

South Ayrshire Champions board run 4 participation groups each week. This includes 3 school-based groups and one community-based group. The modern apprentice has also supported a bespoke Duke of Edinburgh group which celebrated young people with care experience achieving their bronze award and now working towards their silver.

Most of the Participation Assistants time is involved in developing the participation network. 98% of young people involved in the participation network take part regularly (attendance at 4 out of 6 sessions). The group also facilitated a residential for 19 young people at Dumfries House in April 2022



## CREATIVITY AND VOICE

Many of our young people continue to link in with our creative workers as part of our partnership with the Gaiety Theatre. Young people continue to use drama and prose to tell their story and express themselves. We successfully held a 'picnic in the park' event at rozelle Park in September 2021 where we showcased our mouthful of monologues film by hosting an outdoor cinema screening. This public event was supported by local COVID funding and was attended by 103 young people and adults from across South Ayrshire.

<https://www.myairbridge.com/en/#!/folder/JSo7uWksIUxsmKehZfJwvulOKQzV8IM2>

## VOICES OF FAMILIES

From our consultations with families, we found out that families saw good relationships with professionals as the bedrock of success. Voluntary sector partners were identified as most nurturing and patient and flexible in their approach. For many the connection to social work is viewed as a barrier for statutory family support services, as is the lack of choice of worker or opportunities that was associated with statutory provision. The need to operate beyond 5pm into evenings and weekends was identified as crucial for any family support service moving forward. The need to get alongside the family and offer support early before things get to crisis point was also identified as essential.

## YOUNG PEOPLES VOICES



Young people with care experience continue to be supported to take part in local and national consultation activity including:

- Housing conversation in partnership with South Ayrshire Council (SAC) Housing Policy team;
- Life Changes Trust monitoring meeting;
- Children's Hearing Scotland Participation strategy consultation;
- Looked after reviews consultation in partnership with SAC Quality Assurance reviewing officers;
- Evaluation of South Ayrshire Champions Board in partnership with Social Value Lab;
- Scorecard Evaluation of Who Cares? Scotland and Barnardo's Advocacy Services in partnership with SAC Procurement;
- Refreshed GIRFEC materials (national consultation);
- Short breaks, local consultation with brothers and sisters to inform South Ayrshires commissioning framework; and
- Review of family support across South Ayrshire

The consultation activity has enabled young people to shape local and national practice. For example, we connected with 62 young people with care experience as part of the **Getting it Right for Every Child** (GIRFEC) national consultation and learned that:

- It wasn't clear to the young people who spoke to us was that GIRFEC is the national approach taken by across Scotland to improve the wellbeing of children and young people;
- Young people ranked the top 3 GIRFEC values as **Privacy, Fairness and Wellbeing**;
- However, they suggested alternative values which they felt were better suited and more relevant to GIRFEC and their experience of good support. These include **Relationships, Trust, Love and Care**; and
- Young people preferred **together** or **sharing** rather than **partnership** which they though sounded detached. **Wellbeing** was as a term which, while understood by young people still caused confusion due to its wide meaning.

## CORPORATE PARENTS

Work with our CPP partner organisations to strengthen their commitment, knowledge, skills, and capacity and increase their understanding of their corporate parenting duties.

Members of South Ayrshires Champions Board have used their lived experience of care and desire to drive change to design and deliver 39 promise workshops to 664 colleagues including Elected Members, Community Planning Board, colleagues in Education, Health, Housing, Community groups, Voluntary Sector Health and Social Care.

In an independent evaluation commissioned by Life Changes Corporate Parents across south Ayrshire were asked about what their experience of the past year would have been like if they had not been involved in the Champions Board.

**“I WOULDN'T HAVE SUCH IN-DEPTH VIEWS DIRECTLY FROM CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE, I WOULDN'T HAVE AS MUCH UP-TO-DATE TRAINING/DATA, I WOULD BE PROVIDING THE CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE THAT I WORK WITH THE SAME LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, OR OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED TO THEM.”**

**“MY ROLE WITHIN THE SCHOOL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS EXCITING OR FULFILLING WITHOUT THE CHAMPIONS BOARD.”**

**“I WOULD HAVE A POORER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF CARED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. I WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS ABLE TO PROMOTE AND PUSH FORWARD ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNCIL AND SOCIETY.”**

Promise branding has been adopted across South Ayrshire and short films explaining our parenting Promise have been produced [South-Ayrshire-Parenting-Promise-overview/video/](https://www.southayrshire.gov.uk/parenting-promise-overview/)



## POLICY AND PRACTICE WILL BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE ENSURE THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES BECOME INCREASING POSITIVE TOWARDS CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

We 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'

'The Promise' challenges us to deliver long term improvements across a range of services to bring about lasting change. We have identified 10 South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas with thirty-two associated actions (as outlined in appendix 1 embedded below). With the help of South Ayrshires Change Team we have been able to further identify fifty-three 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.



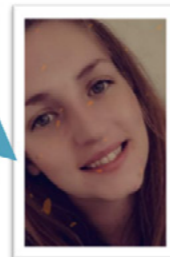
The creation of detailed project plans for each of our fifty-three benefits will allow us to run a report on impact rather than output alone. This is a significant change in our approach and one which has allowed us to begin to better understand the impact of implementing the promise in terms of measurable improvements. We are heading towards developing a narrative that will evidence impact by describing improvements that are qualitative, potentially cashable, with some benefits possibly leading to cost avoidance, which may enable us to re-invest resource to support young people and their families in a preventative context.

The voices of young people and their families remain at the very heart of all our work and our Champions Board ensure that these voices are heard whether through formal consultations and participation events or informal conversations they advocate that love is the value around which the care system operates.

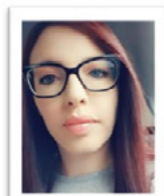


Corporate parents have been keen to join or champions on livestreams and have engaged fully, frankly and with humility <https://www.facebook.com/southayrshirechamps>

**Tonie:** Since November 2021 I have worked as Participation Assistant with South Ayrshire Champions Board. I believe I should use my lived experience of care to work with young people in the Champions Board, with unconditional understanding and acceptance. I should be their biggest cheerleader and be there to support and encourage them.



**Taylor:** I started as a Modern Apprentice in the Champions Board in January 2020. I have used my experience of foster care to talk to new foster carers. I also use my experience of permanency to help train social workers. I want to make care as good as it can be for young people, I care about making things better.



**Kayleigh:** I started working with the Champions Board in September 2021. I have used my experience of care to prepare and deliver 'Promise Presentations' and speak to groups like South Ayrshires Child Protection Committee. I have trusted South Ayrshire with **my story** to help make changes. I want to listen and fight young people's corner when they most need it, with kindness and compassion. We all have a story that if told can make a difference.





## FAITH

I work as a Participation Assistant with the Champions Board. I care very deeply about the equality between human beings regardless of class, ability, age, skin colour, sexual orientation, faith, or gender.

I am very passionate about justice and doing the right thing. I care deeply that people are treated fairly, equally, and above all else, kindly in this world. I believe that I am a very smart and caring individual. I am good at tapping into people's emotions and recognising there is a problem and/or issue. I'm a real problem solver and try to think as logically as possible about how to reach the best outcome for whatever that scenario may be. I am also a very caring and compassionate person, and deeply want others to feel happy, fulfilled, and loved in their life.

I believe the best corporate parents are those who hold love at the front of their hearts. You must be a caring and kind individual, who is also determined to fight and make positive change for young people in this world. Most importantly you must be selfless and caring, and care for them as if they were your own child. The best corporate parent is a kind one.



South Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Executive have designed a new data set of over 40 measures based on the five foundations of the promise. From this a detailed performance report is generated and reviewed by the group every three months.

## ENSURE THAT CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS



### Advocacy matching meetings

The Corporate Parenting Lead Officer meets monthly with Barnardos and Who Cares? Scotland to ensure that all young people who are currently looked after are offered advocacy and representation.

## Onwards and Upwards Individual Grants

Between October 2021 and March 2022 South Ayrshire Champions Board gave out over £25,000 to 102 young people with care experience across South Ayrshire. A range of partners from across services and our voluntary sector were invited to join our Champs' Team and take part in our small grants steering group activity which was run by our Participation Assistant Olivia with our Champions Board.



"GETTING A GRANT JUST FOR ME HAS MADE ME FEEL GREAT. I DON'T USUALLY HAVE THIS KIND OF MONEY TO SPEND ON SOMETHING FOR MYSELF I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT PAYING BILLS AND THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT AFTER THAT"

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 21)

"IT'S BEEN SO HARD OVER LOCKDOWN MY MENTAL HEALTH I'VE PUT ON WEIGHT AND HAVE FELT SO LONELY. I JUST FEEL RUBBISH ABOUT MYSELF, GETTING THIS MONEY IS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING BETTER"

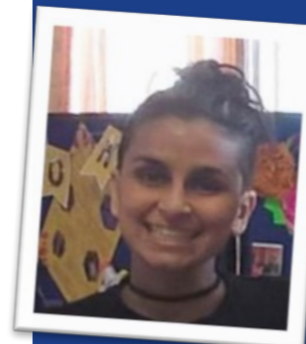
(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 21)

"I DIDN'T KNOW THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET MONEY WAS THERE, OR THAT ANYONE CARED WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH SO GETTING THIS MONEY - IT'S KIND OF LIKE SAYING THAT I'M IMPORTANT"

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 16)

"I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET DRIVING LESSONS AND I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE A CHARITY CASE BUT LIKE I'VE BEEN RESPECTED AS A PERSON IN MY OWN RIGHT BUILDING THINGS TO MAKE A LIFE FOR MYSELF"

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 18)



## OLIVIA

I have led the small grants process 2021-22 [which distributed over £20,000 to over 100 young people across South Ayrshire] I ran the steering group and held the overview on who applied for what, if their bank details had been collected by one of the team and then if they were paid out. Having a good attention to detail made this task very satisfying for me. I could act and move forward. I learned both about the politics of asking for support from other teams and the practicalities involved in making payments in a robust and ethical way. I liked being able to connect with the team daily as being based in Berlin I often feel separate from activity. I will also be speaking at a conference in May about racism in social work. I am very excited about this and have been reading more about the experiences of other care experienced people of colour. I am looking forward to speaking about this and hearing from other leaders in this area.

I have applied to Creative Scotland's Open Fund for a project that the Champions Board are willing to host. The project will be a creative writing group that I will lead with another 5 care experienced writers. It is called Creative Kind. I am interested in activities, tasks and projects that give me flexibility and that I can run with on my own for the most part."



# PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CARERS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:           | OBJECTIVES:  |
|---|--|
| Young carers are living in a supported community. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with education, health and social care and other CP partners to ensure that young carers are supported in line with GIRFEC and the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016</li> <li>2. Ensure that our Young Carers are Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible &amp; Included</li> <li>3. Ensure that all our Young Carers are:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognised and identified</li> <li>• Valued and feel involved</li> <li>• Supported to manage their caring role</li> <li>• Provided with information, advice and training opportunities</li> <li>• Able to have a life alongside caring</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

The Young Carers Strategy covers the period 2021 to 2026. This Strategy sets out our local response to the statutory duties (responsibilities) of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 - which is a law that says what support must be given to carers, including young carers. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership has responsibility for delivering that support on behalf of South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. In this Strategy, we explain what it means to be a young carer and outline our plans to raise awareness, recognise and support young carers over the next five years. We will show how we will maintain our progress and make improvements in areas where changes need to be made.

Our approach to supporting young carers is aligned to the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework, which promote and protect young people’s health and wellbeing. We have developed our strategic themes around the eight GIRFEC well-being indicators – Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included (SHANARRI). As a working document, it is vital that young carers are fully involved in the implementation of this Strategy. Progress will be monitored and reported, and the strategy will be reviewed regularly during its lifetime.

The Young Carers Strategy Implementation Group is responsible for delivering and reporting on all the actions within the Strategy. Membership has been expanded to cover the breadth and scope of young carer involvement with other services and organisations. The Strategy is also endorsed through the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. The Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer post was filled in April 2022.

## SCHOOLS

A priority at the end of the last academic year was to engage with schools:

- 46 schools (7 secondary, 38 primaries and 1 ASN) were visited by the Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and staff from the Carers Centre to establish relationships, discuss current processes and collate feedback.
- 793 education staff (357 from primary and 436 from secondary) completed an online survey to provide a baseline of knowledge and understanding of young carers and an evidence base for staff training development.

All schools will identify a Young Carers Champion. This will be a member of the school staff who acts as a consistent point of contact for all young carers in each school for any concerns, signposting or general advice. Some of the supports a Young Carer Champion may offer are:

- be the main point of contact in the school for Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff.
- liaise with Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre to receive support, policy updates and any other relevant information.
- understand the role of the Young Carers Statement and know how to complete this when appropriate.
- work alongside Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff to raise awareness of Young Carers.
- attend Young Carer Champion Network meeting every quarter to share best practice, information and networking.

Notice boards in all schools (where applicable) will be used to share information on young carers to provide information and advice, increase visibility, increase self-identification, improve peer understanding and breakdown stigma. Furthermore, schools will be asked to share information regularly via apps, social media and websites. In addition to this, Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff will attend parents’ evenings, PTA meetings, school open days etc. to raise awareness with parents, and to begin removing barriers and stigma.

Young Carers will now be tracked from 3rd year in secondary schools (where applicable) by More Choices More Chance (MCMC) Coordinators so additional support can be provided at the earliest opportunity to help young carers achieve a positive destination when leaving school.

South Ayrshire have been invited by Carers Trust Scotland to pilot a national carer friendly school award (similar to Carers Tick in England) within schools in South Ayrshire with two other local authorities. Results from this pilot will go on to inform a national carer friendly school award hosted by Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

We have requested a change to SEEMiS configuration to include a specific, bespoke tab for young carer information. This will allow more robust reporting and will record the additional carer information as required by Scottish Government.

A recent survey of S1 to S6 pupils, which had a 60% response rate, revealed 747 young people believe they have caring responsibilities. This is in line with our estimate that there are around 3,000 young carers within South Ayrshire (based on Carers Trust Scotland statistic that one in five children in each class have caring responsibilities). It should be noted that not all of these young people will require support.

## AWARENESS RAISING & TRAINING

Following the results from the Education staff survey and consultations with Social Work staff, an online COAST training module has been developed. The aim of this module is to increase knowledge and understanding of what constitutes being a young carer, improve understanding of the impact of unpaid care on a young carer's life and education, develop policy and legislation context knowledge relevant to carers/young carers, and increase staff confidence on identifying and supporting young carers. This module will be supplemented with online interactive sessions four times per year. In addition, schools have been offered in-person twilight or in-service day sessions. In-person training and awareness raising sessions will be held for all Social Work teams to improve identification and support for young carers. The first session will take place in August 2022.

We are working with colleagues in East and North Ayrshire to facilitate staff training and awareness raising for support services staff in Ayrshire College. In addition, we are developing resources for students (posters and leaflets) to signpost young carers to support which will be displayed and available to staff on all three Ayrshire College campuses.

A pan Ayrshire training session, 'Lunch and Learn' has been arranged for pharmacy workers and will be facilitated by Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer. This session will be repeated regularly to allow information on young carers to be disseminated to a wide range of staff.

Strong links are being established across 3rd sector organisations to improve identification and support for young carers and increase partnership working. This has already added value, with referrals for complementary support completed alongside referrals to the Carers Centre.

Following discussions with the Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer, the Information & Advice Hub have amended their internal processes to help identify young carers and signpost them to support. Furthermore, Information and Advice Hub staff now offer to help complete applications for funding and training for young carers.



## WORKING WITH YOUNG CARERS

Prior to Covid restrictions, Carer Centre staff attended S1 PSE classes to raise awareness of young carers and help young carers to self-identify. In a bid to increase the target population of this initiative and allow earlier intervention and support for young carers, we are working with Thriving Communities and The Iris to create two documentary-style videos (one for primary schools and one for secondary schools) made by young carers about their lives. Young carers will learn how to write the scripts, operate the filming and sound equipment, and act. Work on the first video took place over the summer holidays with a group of young carers from secondary schools across South Ayrshire.



**"THIS HAS BEEN AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE FOR [MY DAUGHTER]...SHE HAS CAME AWAY EACH DAY WITH NEW EXPERIENCES AND HER CONFIDENCE IS GLOWING! THANK YOU SO MUCH AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE END RESULT OF THIS PROJECT VIDEO."**

**Feedback from a parent of one of the young carers**

Work with the group of primary aged children will begin on completion of the secondary video. The videos will be shown in schools to help young people self-identify as a young carer, develop staff understanding, improve peer understanding, address associated stigmas (mental health, substance use) and celebrate young carers and all that they do. It is planned to have two premiere events in a local cinema to celebrate the young people's achievements and share the videos with the elected members, key decision makers, staff, young people, and their friends and families. All young carers who participate in these video groups will also have the opportunity to complete an accredited certification, Dynamic Youth Award, to recognise their commitment and development throughout the projects.

We have held several focus groups and consultations with young carers to inform and influence our work over the past year. The feedback received has been invaluable and will ensure our processes, paperwork, actions and decisions have young carers at their heart

## WIDER ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

The Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer has:

- established a regular, informal meeting group with counterparts in six other local authorities. The purpose of this group is to share best practice, discuss any challenges and work together to find a solution, and share experiences and knowledge. This group has already proven to be invaluable for all members and membership is expected to grow.
- joined a number of national and international groups, including Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance (including Education and Young Adult Carers subgroups), Young Carers Alliance, Carers UK, Carer Voices, and Carers Worldwide.
- attended an event hosted by Carers Trust Scotland and Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance. This was a fantastic event which had very informative presentations and group work and provided an opportunity to network with other organisations from across Scotland.

## PATHWAYS, PROCESSES & DOCUMENTATION

We have reviewed and revised the processes, paperwork and pathways for young carers in Education and Social Work, in conjunction with young carers and practitioners. As part of this, we have developed two new Young Carers Statements based on age and stage of child or young person. The content and design of these documents were created by young carers and practitioners, while ensuring all required information, as per the Carers Scotland (Act) 2016, was included. A guidance document will accompany the new Young Carers Statements and staff training sessions will be held regularly to ensure quality information and outcomes are recorded for each young carer.



## ACTION ON NATIONAL FEEDBACK

National surveys of young carers revealed an increase in smoking and a reduction in the age of young carers who smoke. In addition, the data revealed more young carers are living in a home with smokers and are subject to second-hand smoke. ASH Scotland developed training with Carers Trust Scotland for practitioners who are working with young carers and their families to explore ways to protect young carers from second-hand smoke, support young people to stay smoke-free, ensure staff feel confident in having non-judgemental conversations about smoking, and help improve the health and wellbeing of young carers and their families. This course includes information on vaping which was highlighted by staff as a local issue. Training sessions have been offered to all Education staff and this offer will be extended to Social Work staff and Youth Workers.

National surveys by Carers Trust Scotland, University of the West of Scotland and Oxfam highlighted mental health of young carers as a concern. We are working with young carers from Girvan Academy, Public Health Scotland and Thriving Communities Health and Wellbeing team to develop resources specifically for young carers' mental and physical health and wellbeing.

## DRIVING SUPPORT

Feedback received from our young carers has highlighted the importance of having a driving licence to assist them in their caring role (e.g., taking the cared for person to hospital appointments, doing shopping), improve their employment and education opportunities, increase their independence, and allow them more free time outwith their caring responsibilities.



## ★ CASE STUDY 1

Young adult carer, 19-year-old female, who cares for her mother with physical disability and additional support needs for learning. The young adult carer has a younger sister, aged 10. The young adult carer worries about continuing to support her younger sibling who will be attending secondary school as young adult carer will be attending college. The young adult carer feels that having secured a driving licence she will be better prepared to fulfil her caring role for both her mother and younger sibling. The young adult carer has previously received support with funding for driving lessons through the South Ayrshire Carers Centre short breaks fund, however, has been unable to continue lessons to date due to costs involved. The young carer shares worry around losing the skill she has previously gained.

## ★ CASE STUDY 2

Young carer, 17-year-old female, who cares for mother who struggles with substance abuse. The young carer has responsibilities for significant financial and domestic running of the home. Young carer has both financial and domestic responsibilities within the home. The young carer works, however, would like to improve her working-life balance and plans to include further education in the future. Young carer highlights that a driving licence would help tackle challenges to time constraints of her caring role, work life and broaden opportunities for further education, while also supporting her in freedom of movement, personal space, support her independence.

## ★ CASE STUDY 3

Young carer, 16-year-old male, who cares for his father who is registered disabled, undergoing surgery and faces challenges with his mental health. The young carer is planning for the future and what his future will look like including his caring role. The young carer has taken up a laborious part time after-school job at a local farm to help support the family. This young carer is currently struggling with school. With worries of what his future will look like, the young carer is working with support to create a plan to include his goals for work-life balance which will include his caring role, employment, and pursuing hobbies of interest such as fishing. Currently, the young carer shares excitement regarding driving with hopes this driving will help him achieve his goals.

Assisting young carers with this opportunity would allow them to continue with their unpaid caring responsibilities, while developing their independence and education/employment opportunities, therefore, we have applied for funding from South Ayrshire Charitable Trust in the hope we can facilitate this. This funding would help to improve outcomes for this group of young people and allow them to have the same opportunities as their peers who do not have the responsibilities of unpaid care. To date, we have arranged online theory study support sessions for young carers with Employability and Skills and are hopeful that we are awarded funding to provide support for driving lessons and test costs.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY

South Ayrshire Council has ringfenced Modern Apprenticeships for young carers in eleven different areas. To apply for these posts, young carers will complete one day of work experience. As we are a Carer Positive employer, these young carers will be supported throughout their employment and development.

We are working with Ayrshire College to track young carers via a multi-agency meeting who are attending college. This means any potential issues can be identified at the earliest opportunity and support can be provided, if required, to ensure the young person can continue to thrive within the college and maintain their caring responsibilities.



## CHAMPIONS BOARD



We are working with the Champions Board to identify opportunities for young carers and care experienced young people to come together. Along with the Champions Board and Community, Learning and Development, we are working to implement accredited awards (Dynamic Youth Award and Participatory Democracy Awards) for young carers within the new Young Carers Voice Group (YCVG), video groups and other activities.

We are planning a young carer and care experienced event at Ayrshire College in October 2022 in collaboration with the Champions Board, Employability and Skills, and Ayrshire College. The aim is to improve access to further education for young carers and care experienced young people by removing barriers, discussing support and introducing them to the opportunities available to them within Ayrshire College.

## CARERS CENTRE

The following is a summary of some of the support carried out by our Carers Centre to support young carers:

- In March, 41 young carers enjoyed participating in various activities such as - Bounce Station, Escape Rooms, Edinburgh Zoo, Pictionary Day;
- In April, 8 young carers attended Abernethy Outward Bound centre for a 2-night break supported by the staff at the carers centre;
- Easter activities were held at the Carers Centre and we supported 76 young carers with access to arts & craft activities and Easter egg design making;
- In May, the Carers Centre held a young carers voice group and young carers statement group - 22 young carers attended;
- Summer activities we had various events on in the centre and the local community such as escape room, horse riding, bowling, rage room, axe throwing, movie nights, picnic paints, trampoline, mini golf, milkshake day and 133 young carers attended; and
- 9 young carers attended young carers festival in Dunfermline.



## ★ CASE STUDY 1

Carer 1 is a young carer of 12 years old, caring for his father who has undergone surgery to remove one of his lungs. Due to the cared for's condition, Carer 1 takes on responsibilities around the house and practical care. Carer 1 is the primary carer and lives with their father. Carer 1 also periodically takes on a caring role for his Mother due to substance abuse and mental health challenges. Carer 1 engages with extra-curricular activities, is undergoing a transition at school, is facing challenges in social situations and disclosed of the stress surrounding loss of a pet, lacks personal time, worries for cared for's health, and has a list of daily responsibilities. Prior to Covid, Carer 1 would access alternative methods of support to manage stress, however, has been unable to access these due to a change in the family's financial situation and restriction that have been in place due to the pandemic. Carer 1 applied for funding for a caravan holiday which would provide a break away and opportunity for stress relief. This opportunity would provide Carer 1 time away from daily responsibilities and the space for family bonding away from current stresses. Carer 1 highlighted that this would support positive mental health, enjoying life outside of caring role and help with feeling better able to cope and continue with caring role for longer.

## ★ CASE STUDY 2

Two female sibling Young Carers ages 9 and 12 who care for their Mother who has a neurological condition and multiple sclerosis. Mum is paralyzed on one side and is often tired, dizzy and sore. This results in the sibling young carer taking on responsibilities in the home such as general chores, house upkeep, cooking, shopping and supporting Mum at bedtime or when her movement is restricted. The Young Carers attend school and are otherwise at home, due to the family's financial restrictions they are unable to attend groups and peer event outside of Young Carers Support Groups and trips. The Young Carers Support Team, among other methods, emailed Young Carers and their parents regarding the funds which Mum thought would benefit the Young Carers. Following this the application form was emailed to the family and completed with support over the phone and then returned to the centre. The Young Carers, Mum and Dad attended a caravan holiday which from both the young carers and their mums feedback helped "raise spirits following covid in the home", "let me have memories to tell that my friends get to have but I don't always get to do" and "just had fun, because the grass and music and pool."



# EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

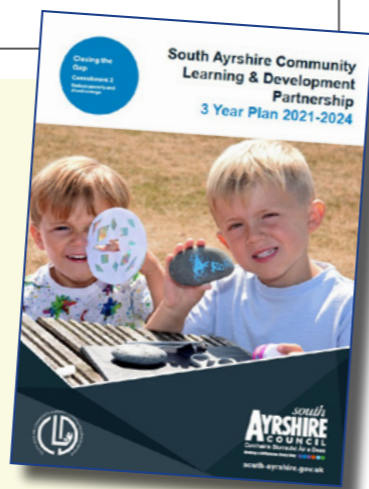
| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:  | OBJECTIVES:  |
|--|--|
| Provide support for young people and adults to progress to positive destinations and sustainable employment. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To coordinate and monitor adult learning and literacy provision across South Ayrshire in line with the CLD Plan.</li> <li>2. To contribute to the coordination of Volunteering across South Ayrshire</li> <li>3. To drive forward the shared ambitions and actions of No One Left Behind and the response to Covid -19 to ensure the right support is available in the right way at the right time.</li> <li>4. To use the <a href="#">Scottish Approach to Service Design</a> to co-produce an all age employability support service that is person centred, more joined up, flexible and responsive to individual needs.</li> <li>5. To utilise labour market statistics and available data to inform decisions, identify priorities and support an effective partnership response.</li> </ol> |

## EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership has the strategic responsibility for coordinating employability and lifelong learning opportunities across South Ayrshire. The partnership includes South Ayrshire Council – Thriving Communities, DWP, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, NHS, Chamber of Commerce and Skills Development Scotland who have a shared commitment to provide a more aligned approach to delivering Lifelong Learning & Employability support across South Ayrshire.

In September 2021 a refreshed Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24 [CLD Plan 2021-24](#) was approved at South Ayrshire Council Leadership Panel. The plan was developed following extensive consultation with learners, communities and practitioners. The new plan sets out the key priorities for the next three years that include:

- Improving outcomes for young people
- Improving people’s mental health and wellbeing
- Employability and Volunteering
- Improved outcomes through adults and family learning programmes.
- Community Empowerment and Engagement



## ADULT LEARNING

During 2021/22 the Scottish Government provided funding to support the recovery of community-based adult learning (CBAL). VASA and South Ayrshire Council worked in partnership to distribute funding through the local learning community partnerships ensuring local needs were met.

Funding was used to deliver community-based cooking, REHIS, first aid, personal license and mental health and wellbeing programmes across South Ayrshire.



## VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteering Strategy was published in November 2021. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) were the key lead for developing the plan supported by other lifelong learning and CPP partners. The strategy recognises the importance of volunteering in South Ayrshire and sets out the commitment from partners to work in collaboration to support volunteering locally.

[https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/volunteer\\_strategy](https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/volunteer_strategy)

## EMPLOYABILITY: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

South Ayrshire’s Local Employability Partnership (LEP) published our No One Left Behind Delivery Plan. The plan sets out the key priorities and actions for employability in South Ayrshire. Employability outcomes in South Ayrshire continue to be among the highest in Scotland with school leaver destinations (SLDR) remaining the highest overall. **98.3%** progressed to an initial positive destination compared to the national average of 95.5%.

The follow up data for sustained destinations published in June 2022 for all young people was the highest in Scotland once again **97.6%**.

Data for care experienced young people was also **97.60%** compared to the national average of 79.70% demonstrating our commitment to improving outcomes for young people who are care experienced.

- **94.8%** of South Ayrshire young people compared to 89.1% nation average progressed had a disability
- **95.2%** South Ayrshire compared to national average 89% lived in 20% most deprived data zones



## SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MODERN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

South Ayrshire Council's Modern Apprenticeship programme remains an example of good practice demonstrating excellent outcomes while ensuring opportunities for young people are inclusive.

During 2021/22 SAC recruited 68 Modern Apprentices with **87%** progressing to a positive destination after completing their Modern Apprenticeship.

Between April 2021- March 22 – South Ayrshire Council recruited:

- **9.4%** of young people who were care experienced compared to the national average of 2%
- **37.5%** of young people had an additional support need compared to the national average 12.8%



## HEADLINE EMPLOYABILITY DATA FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE

### South Ayrshire | Skills Development Scotland

- From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 Skills Development Scotland supported 8 employers and 245 individuals dealing with redundancy;
- As of 31 March 2022 there were 784 Modern Apprentices in training;
- From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 SDS delivered 1,212 Career Information, Advice and Guidance engagements for 562 post-school customers through a mix of group and one-to-one sessions; and
- The 2021 Annual Participation Measure showed that of the 4,360 16-19 year olds in South Ayrshire 91.8% were in education, employment or training and personal development.

The 2022 Annual Participation measure published in September 2022 shows further improvements in 16-19 year olds in a positive destination with 93.7% compared to the national average of 92.4%.

South Ayrshire had the largest decrease in unconfirmed destinations of young people aged 16-19 year olds, decreasing from 6.5% in 2021 to 3.4% in 2022. South Ayrshire also recorded the second highest in participation between 2021-2022.



## PLACE PLANNING

Following the publication of the Ayr North and Girvan place plans in 2021 work has been progressing to deliver Place Plans for communities across South Ayrshire. The communities for which Place Plans are currently being prepared are: Annbank, Ballantrae, Colmonell, Coylton, Craigie village, Dundonald, Heathfield and Northfield, Loans, Monkton, Mossblown, Pinwherry and Pinmore, Prestwick, Symington and Tarbolton.

The initial round of engagement utilising the Place Standard tool was undertaken in late 2021 and early 2022. Engagement outcome reports were published during the summer of 2022 for each of the communities, setting out the priorities and comments from the early engagements. A second round of engagement concluded in September 2022 that sought to develop actions that will form



the core of the Place Plans. We will now take this information and develop finalised Place Plans for each of the communities with a view to publishing these for a series of confirmatory engagements in late 2022 and early 2023.

For more information on the emerging Place Plans or to view the completed plans for Ayr North and Girvan please click [here](#)

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Learning from the pandemic continues to play a key role in our future planning within the Community Planning Partnership and LOIP, particularly around:

- action needed to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities;
- reducing inequalities in our communities that have been impacted further; and
- the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

These will be considered by our Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), Sustainability Partnership, Third Sector Interface and our LOIP priority areas. Some specific areas of work have already started including:

- Communities and Population Health SDP has established a Green Health Subgroup and one of the first actions completed by this group has been the development of a green health app. The app is a working directory of all the green health opportunities listing what they are, where they are in South Ayrshire and how you can get involved.

- The development, by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire and the Community Food Network in partnership with The Carrick Centre and Children 1st, with support from the South Ayrshire Council, of three food pantries to support the impact of food insecurity. At the time of writing this report 727 members have signed up to the Ayr Food Pantry (Book and Bun), 371 members have signed up to the Maybole Food Pantry (Carrick Centre) and 277 members have signed up to the Girvan Food Pantry (Girvan Primary School).
- A co-ordinated approach to the cost-of-living crisis which will be led by our Financial Inclusion SDP for the upcoming winter period.

The next section of this report provides information on areas of focus for each of the priority areas over the next 12months. Further information on our wider community planning partnership outcomes can be found on our 'plan on a page' (appendix 2).

# NEXT STEPS FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN



This section provides information on the main areas of focus the next 12 months:

## REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

- Link social isolation work to Cost of Living response eg. 'Cosy Spaces';
- Link social isolation work to third sector Mental Health and wellbeing investment programme;
- Support greater focus on social isolation at a locality level;
- Connect social isolation response better to statutory services such as GP and Social Work;
- Identify opportunities to widen focus beyond older people; and
- Reinstate training programme with Health Improvement staff.

## SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS

- Continue to build local capacity and activity within Girvan, Maybole, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon;
- Support for new Prestwick Meeting Centre with view to further roll out in other localities;
- Continue to work with a range of Council and CPP partners at strategic and operational level to address dementia related issues;
- To ensure dementia friendly principles underpin any new planning; and
- Linking any Place Planning to dementia friendly principles.

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

Over the next 12 months we will focus on

- Progressing our 10 promise improvement areas and associated actions and reporting on impact;
- Maintaining a robust participation network for young people with care experienced that influences service and policy design;
- Ensuring our data includes what is important to young people and their families; and
- Develop and publicise our South Ayrshire offer for young people with care experience.

## PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CARERS

Over the next 12 months we will focus on:

- Training and awareness sessions as highlighted previously in the report and expand this:
  - Sessions will be held with all Thriving Communities teams with youth work staff making a pledge of how they can support young carers through their work over the coming year.
  - Sessional Youth Work training sessions will be expanded to include a section on young carers.
  - We are working with the Information and Advice Hub and Champions Board on training package for young carers and care experienced young people which will include financial advice, benefits advice and advice on housing issues;
- Establishment of a Young Carers Voice Group which will influence everything that we do. Four young people have already been identified and agreed to participate and this will be expanded as we engage with more young people. We are working with Community, Learning and Development to offer accredited certification;
- Participation in a family pilot project with Muirhead Primary School and Barnardos;
- Working with Community, Learning and Development, young carers and adult carers to:
  - develop a mode of identification. This has been requested by young and adult carers for use in schools, pharmacies, hospitals and doctors. Education and NHS Ayrshire and Arran will be engaged to ensure information is disseminated and is recognised and supported. It is hoped the scope of this work can be expanded in the future to include a package of local discounts.
  - improve awareness and sign up of the young carer Young Scot package;

In partnership with Ayrshire Cancer Support and MacMillan, the development of a clear pathway for young carers linked to palliative care and life-limiting illness, including bereavement support; and

- Working with Thriving Communities Health & Wellbeing team (South Ayrshire Council) to organise events and activities for young carers and their families, including days and residentials at Dolphin House, rowing on the River Ayr and much more. These activities will provide an opportunity for young carers to have fun, experience new things, and enjoy a break from their caring role.

## EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Over the next 12 months the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership (ELLP) will continue to:

- Develop new employability initiatives while enhancing existing programmes through the No One Left Behind employability programme; and
- Review local needs and opportunities that can support young people and adults into employment, including commissioned sector-based work academies that will assist local labour demands, to support sectors such as health and social care and support for the aerospace sector.
- It is anticipated that UK Shared Prosperity funding will provide opportunities to develop new initiatives with a particular focus on support adult numeracy through Multiply programme.
- VASA will continue to lead the implementation of the volunteering strategy supported by employability and community learning and development partners.

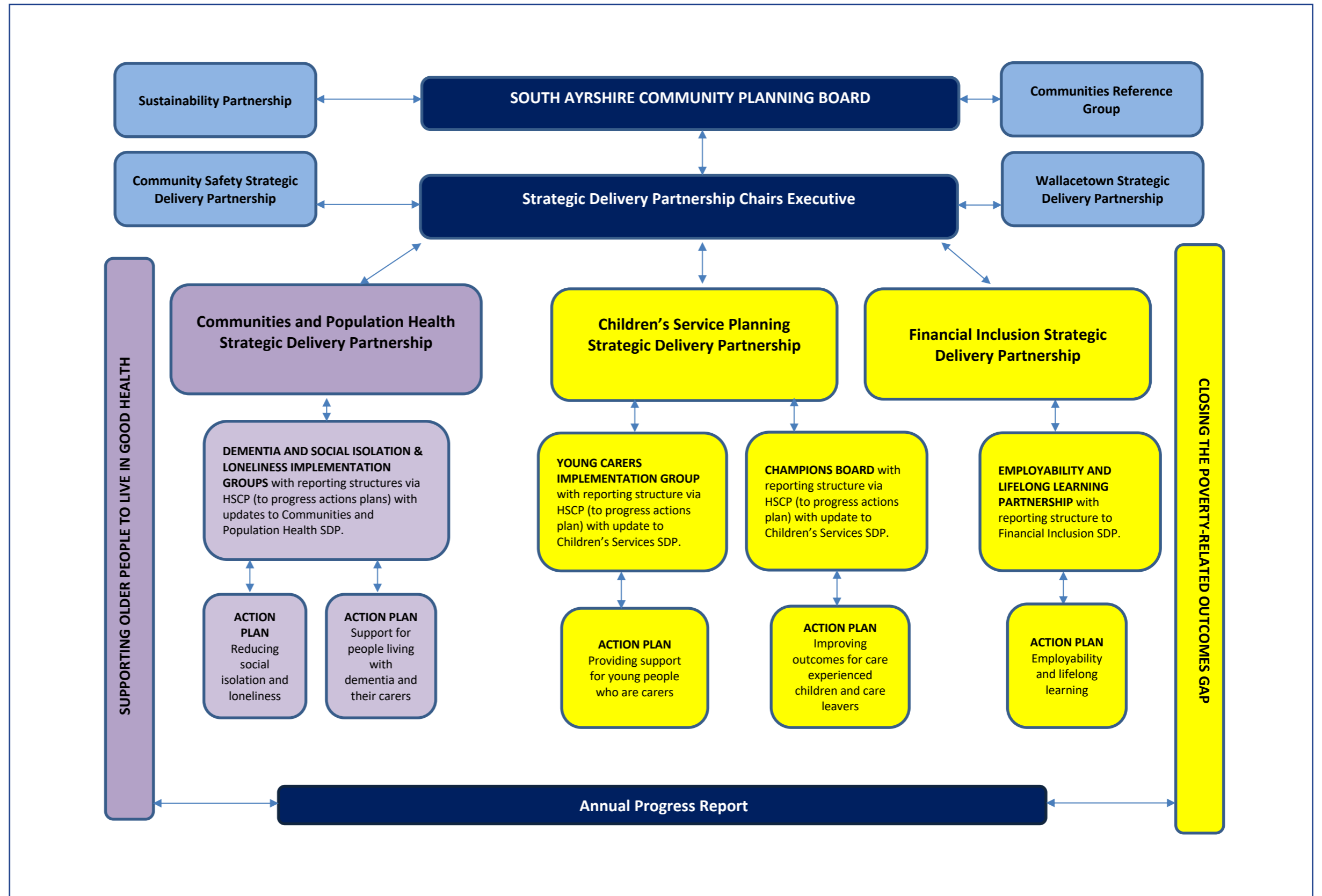


# MONITORING AND REVIEW

The following flowchart outlines the delivery plan which is in place to support the implementation of the LOIP and the mechanism to deliver the 5 priority areas of:

- reducing social isolation and loneliness;
- supporting people living with dementia and their carers;
- improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers;
- providing support for young people who are carers; and
- employability and lifelong learning.

Actions are overseen by implementation groups/partnerships that lead on activity as well as performance management. These strategic themes are taken forward by our Integrated Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership. Performance is monitored through Pentana. Delivery plan is as follows:



# Appendix 1

## Monday 15th November: Partnership Working

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1.30pm to 3pm<br>Introduction to South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and Partnership working in action | This webinar will introduce South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and will set out some of the work that has taken place to develop the 'team around the community' model which is bringing services and agencies together to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for those living in Wallacetown |
|--|--|

## Tuesday 16th November: Supporting Older People to Live in Good Health

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 10am to 11am:<br>Dementia Friendly Communities         | In this webinar, members of the Dementia Friendly South Ayrshire Steering Group will set out some of the local work to make sure our local communities have supportive environments for people living with Ayrshire and their carers  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm:<br>Social Isolation and Loneliness | The Webinar will showcase some of the local work supporting older people who are lonely and isolated linked to the SA Social Isolation Strategy and also the work that is in place to support those living with Learning Disabilities and Sensory Impairment.   |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm:<br>Wellbeing Pledge                  | South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership will present an overview of the Wellbeing Pledge which aims to put power into the hands of communities to improve their wellbeing. Some early deliverables of this work will be discussed and attendees will be asked to think about how they can contribute. |

## Tuesday 16th November: Primary and Pharmacy Care for our local Communities

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 3pm to 4pm:<br>Primary Care/<br>Pharmacy | This webinar will explore the different arrangements and opportunities within GP Practices and Community Pharmacies to provide more flexible support for local people. |
|--|--|

## Wednesday 17th November: Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 10am to 11am:<br>Champions Board                               | In this webinar members of South Ayrshire Champions Board will deliver a presentation on The Promise and what it means for young people with care experience and communities across South Ayrshire.  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm:<br>Young carers                            | South Ayrshire is committed to providing support to Young Carers to allow them to reach their full potential. In this webinar we will cover the following : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Statutory Duties to Young Carers.</li> <li>• Considering the impact of the Caring Role on Young People's Lives.</li> <li>• Identifying Young Carers</li> <li>• Supporting Young Carers</li> <li>• The Role of Team Around the Child</li> <li>• Young Carers Statements</li> <li>• What have done and how do we get better?</li> </ul> |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm:<br>Food Insecurity                           | This session will be about the Community Food Network Forum and the work they are doing to reduce food insecurity across South Ayrshire. The session will also include discussion on the new South Ayrshire Food Pantries and the hopes to bring a Good Food Plan to South Ayrshire.   |
| 3pm to 4pm:<br>Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership | This Webinar will give an overview of Employability and Adult Learning Opportunities across South Ayrshire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership.</li> <li>• Update on local and national employability initiatives.</li> <li>• Adult Learning and Literacy support across South Ayrshir</li> </ul>  |
| 4pm to 5pm:<br>Information and Advice Hub                      | This webinar will provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximising Income through Welfare benefits;</li> <li>• Managing outgoings through effective budget planning;</li> <li>• Addressing Fuel Poverty; and</li> <li>• Our council commitment to closing the gap and reducing poverty and disadvantage by providing a full circle approach to advice and information.</li> </ul>   |

| Thursday 18th November: Showcasing Wider Community Planning Activity               |   |
|--|---|
| 10am to 11am: Caring for Ayrshire  | Caring for Ayrshire is an exciting and ambitious programme that will transform health and care services across Ayrshire and Arran. Come along to this webinar hear about our vision.  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm: Sustainability Partnership                                     | Climate change – reflections on COP26 and what all this means for us in Ayrshire. The Sustainability Partnership will give a short presentation reflecting on recent events in Glasgow and some inspiring examples of positive action taking place now in Ayrshire. The presentation will end with a call to action – what is it you can do in your daily life to change things for the better? |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Introduction to Locality Planning Partnerships in South Ayrshire | The Webinar will explore Locality Planning Partnerships within South Ayrshire – looking at their purpose, their composition and how they work in Practice. It will also highlight the process for re-launching the Partnerships in the New Year.  |
| 3pm to 4pm: Community Learning and Development Plan                                | This Webinar will provide an overview of the recently approved Community Learning and Development Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is CLD?</li> <li>• National and Local Priorities</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to contribute to CLD across South Ayrshire.</li> </ul>  |

| Friday 19th November: Showcasing Wider Community Planning Activity                                  |  |
|---|--|
| 10am to 11am: South Ayrshire Lifeline and Supporting Older People (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) | An information webinar on what South Ayrshire Lifeline website and helpdesk can offer on activities, services, support and signposting to the community of South Ayrshire. Information on the Out and About Service and Telephone Befriending will also be part of this session.   |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm: Home Energy Scotland  | Whether you are a customer, organisation, community group or partner, there are lots of ways that Home Energy Scotland can provide help and support. We are the free and impartial energy saving advice service funded by the Scottish Government. With fuel poverty rising this is a huge worry for many people; we can work with you to help reduce energy bills, provide advice on funding and refer vulnerable customers to our Energycarer service. Join us to find out lots more about what we do and how we can help. |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Power of Attorney Campaign  | This webinar will set out what Power of Attorney is, how it might help you and your family and set out the work at local and national level.   |
| 3pm to 4pm: Whole Family Support/ Team Around the Family  | Sharing examples of how collaboration between families and services for children, young people and adults, creating a Team Around the Family, can enable families facing disadvantage to recognise and build on their strengths and find sustainable solutions to deep rooted problems.  |



# An Introduction to South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership



## OUR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES ARE:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| › Reducing Inequalities and Improving Outcomes<br>› Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People<br>› Safer communities | › Healthier Communities/improving population health<br>› Tackling Financial Inequality<br>› Developing a 'Team Around the Community' approach | › Responding to the climate and ecological emergency<br>› Strengthening Community Engagement |
|---|---|--|

## WE WILL ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES THROUGH OUR:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)</b><br>(Reducing inequalities and improving outcomes)                                 | Our <a href="#">Local Outcome Improvement Plan</a> sets out a vision and focus based on agreed local priorities where through collaborative working with our partners and local communities, we can work to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes. We have two strategic themes within our LOIP: supporting older people to live in good health and closing the poverty related outcomes gap.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting people living with dementia and their carers;</li> <li>Reducing social isolation and loneliness;</li> <li>Improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers; and</li> <li>Providing support for young people who are carers</li> <li>Employability and lifelong learning</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Children's Services Planning Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Improving outcomes for children and young people)       | The <a href="#">Children's Services Plan 2020-2023</a> sets out our joint vision, our priorities and the outcomes we will strive to achieve for South Ayrshire's children and young people over the next three years. It has been developed collaboratively with partners involved in the delivery of services to children and young people across South Ayrshire and has been informed by input from the most important partners to our plan, our young people.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding universal provision;</li> <li>Tackling inequalities;</li> <li>Love and support for our care experienced young people and young carers;</li> <li>Good physical and mental health and wellbeing; and</li> <li>Promoting children's rights.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>South Ayrshire Community Safety Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Safer communities)                                   | The Community Safety Partnership's current strategic approach focusses on ensuring joined up action around community safety partnership priorities. The partnership brings together relevant agencies, and using a targeted approach, ensures effective information sharing and agreement on areas for joint action. The <a href="#">strategic plan</a> sets out our shared vision for improving community safety outcomes across South Ayrshire which acknowledges the added value of joint working and a commitment to working with communities to improve outcomes at a local level. | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the level of violence and antisocial behaviour in our communities;</li> <li>Reduce the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads;</li> <li>Increase positive community engagement to tackle ASB and community issues within communities; and</li> <li>Work with partners to deliver CPP priorities.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Healthier communities/improving population health) | The Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership will provide the main community planning context for developing leadership and strategic planning for the Public Health Priorities for Scotland. Our strategic action plan will help support leadership, planning approaches, and initiate or enable the development of supportive activities in relation to wider South Ayrshire health improvement and community activity.   | <b>Our priority areas are aligned to the 6 public health priorities for Scotland where we:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities.</li> <li>flourish in our early years.</li> <li>have good mental wellbeing.</li> <li>reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.</li> <li>have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all.</li> <li>eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Tackling Financial Inequality)                                   | The Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership has the main strategic focus of tackling financial inequality, and with our partners, our key areas of focus include employability, maximising income, child poverty, looking ahead in preparation of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and supporting the community wide distribution of free access to sanitary products.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) key strategic theme of 'closing the poverty related outcomes gap';</li> <li><a href="#">Child Poverty Action Plan</a>;</li> <li>Awareness raising;</li> <li>Free access to sanitary products; and</li> <li>Ayrshire Growth Deal.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Developing a team around the community approach)                         | The Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Partnership Strategic Delivery Partnership will provide the main community planning context in relation to the development of the 'team around the community model' providing leadership and agreeing to the development and implementation of new ways of service delivery to support the model going forward.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the implementation of a 'team around the community' to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for people living in Wallacetown which encompasses a public health and trauma informed approach.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sustainability Partnership</b><br>(Responding to the climate and ecological emergency)                                      | The Sustainability Partnership is working to respond to the climate and ecological emergency locally, by bringing partners together to share information and collaborate on projects. The partnership draws on the skills and knowledge of its wide membership base to promote best practice and the range of co-benefits facilitated through joined up action.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting people with nature</li> <li>Supporting biodiversity</li> <li>Food</li> <li>Sustainable and active travel</li> <li>Sustainable design and construction</li> <li>Fairtrade</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communities Reference Group</b><br>(Strengthening community engagement)   | The 'Communities Reference Group' will inform the process of widening community engagement within our community planning structures. The group will also be used as a formal engagement process to discuss, for example the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, CLD Partnership plan, Child Poverty Local Action Plan Report and wider community planning issues such as place planning.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual community planning conference providing local communities with an update of progress in relation to the LOIP and to provide information on wider community planning initiatives (local and national) and;</li> <li>To assist in the engagement process of reviewing our LOIP priority areas.</li> </ul>   |

This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے اُبھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

本信息可应要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻译成多种语言。以下是详细联系方式。

本信息可應要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音頻格式，以及可翻譯成多種語言。以下是詳細聯繫方式。

ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਵਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵੱਲੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formacie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iartas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

**South Ayrshire Council**  
**Customer Contact Centre**  
**03001230900**

South Ayrshire  
**COMMUNITY  
PLANNING**  
Partnership



# **LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

October 2022



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# FOREWORD

I am delighted to introduce this year’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) annual progress report which again provides detail of all the great partnership working taking place across South Ayrshire and the collective progress being made by the Community Planning Partnership.

Improving outcomes and reducing inequalities is a key focus of this LOIP - supporting our older people to live in good health and closing the poverty-related outcomes gap. Case studies within this annual progress report allow you to see the positive impact many of our projects are having on people’s lives, re-establishing those connections that were impacted upon because of the pandemic and very much focusing on bringing back face-to-face support.

We are committed to improving Community Planning Partnership working and our processes, making it much clearer where we are adding value to our residents’ lives. We aim to listen to our communities and work together to make South Ayrshire a great place to live and work in.

My thanks once again to all the partners for the great contribution they have made to the Community Planning Partnership progressing our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan over the past year.



**Councillor Peter Henderson**

Chair of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

# INTRODUCTION

## CONTEXT

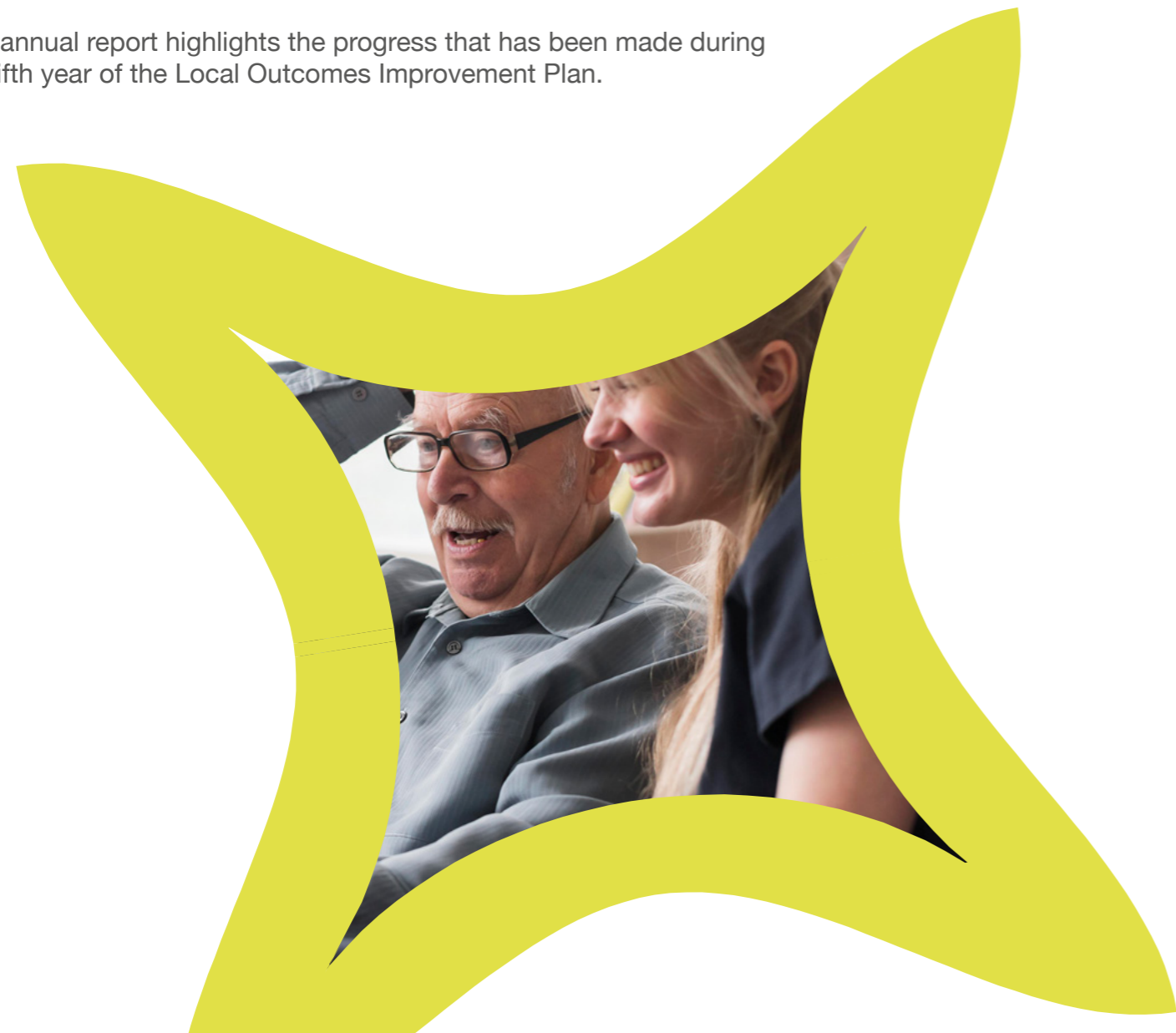
Reducing inequalities and improving outcomes for people in South Ayrshire is a key focus of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP).

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 has given CPPs a statutory purpose regarding public service reform at a local level. The Act requires CPPs to produce two types of plans which will provide information on how we can make improvements in our local areas – the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Locality Plan.

The LOIP sets out a vision and focus based on agreed local priorities where through collaborative working with our community planning partners and local communities, we can work to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes in South Ayrshire.

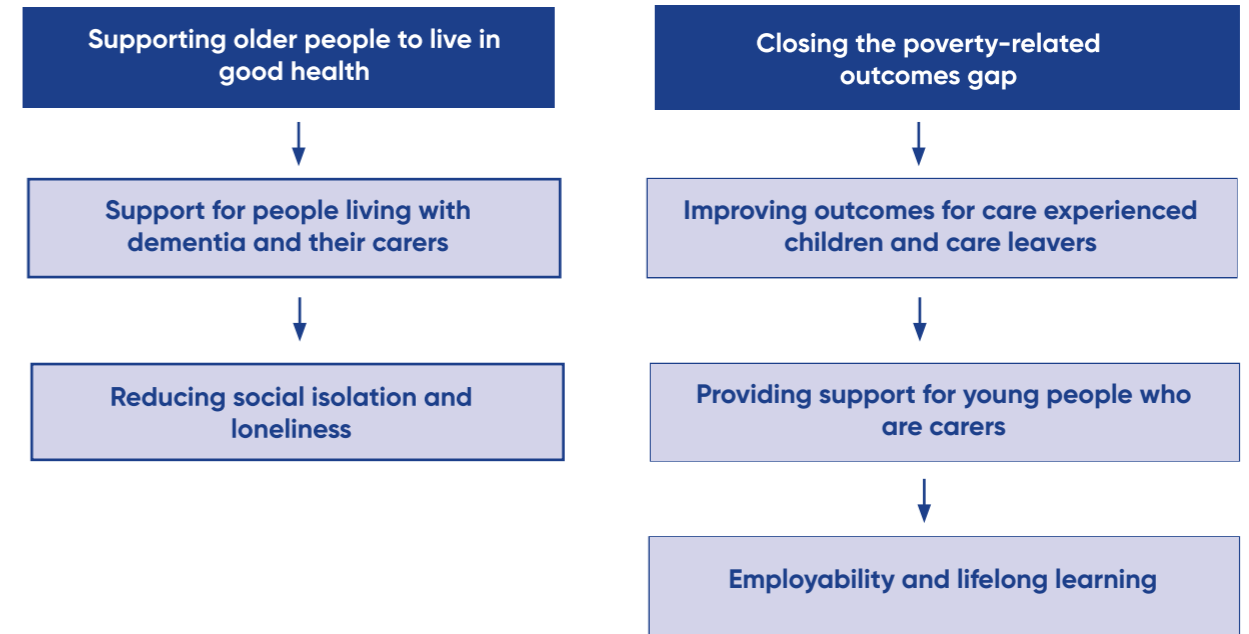
A locality plan is a plan to improve outcomes in that locality – in South Ayrshire locality plans will be referred to as ‘local place plans’.

This annual report highlights the progress that has been made during the fifth year of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.



# WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED IN THE PAST YEAR?

This fifth annual report reflects the wide-ranging work that has taken place to continue to support our two strategic themes and supporting five priorities sitting within our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:



The report recognises progress that has been made whilst still acknowledging the ongoing impact of COVID-19 even as restrictions were easing. Our community planning partners, third sector organisations and community groups have continued to work tirelessly supporting our communities, adapting service delivery as needed and very much focusing on bringing back face-to-face support.

In November 2021, we hosted a successful Webinar Series Event week. The purpose of the week was to give our partners an opportunity to showcase their commitment of supporting our LOIP strategic themes/priorities and wider community planning outcomes. There were 18 seminars with one hundred people attending the webinars over the five-day period (just over 400 individual registrations were made). Topics covered included:

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Partnership working                     | Dementia Friendly Communities                       | Social Isolation and Loneliness                 |
| Primary Care and Pharmacy               | Wellbeing Pledge                                    | Champions Board                                 |
| Young Carer                             | Food Insecurity                                     | Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership |
| Information and Advice Hub              | Caring for Ayrshire                                 | Introduction to Locality Planning Partnerships  |
| Community Learning and Development Plan | South Ayrshire Lifeline and Supporting Older People | Home Energy Scotland                            |
| Power of Attorney Campaign              | Sustainability Partnership                          | Whole Family Support/Team Around the Family     |

More detailed information can be found in appendix 1.





# SUPPORTING OLDER PEOPLE TO LIVE IN GOOD HEALTH

Work on supporting older people to live in good health continues to be led through the social isolation and loneliness strategy and dementia strategy. Both these strategies are supported by implementation plans which are monitored through the Health and Social Care Partnership. Reporting on the LOIP priorities also takes place via the Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership.

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

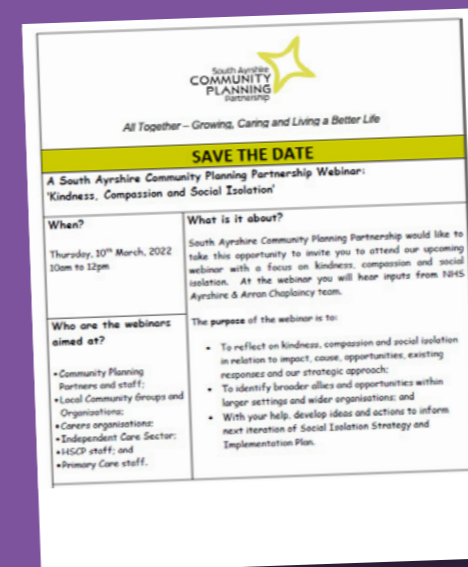
### REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:   | OBJECTIVES:  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People are prevented from becoming chronically socially isolated or experiencing loneliness</li> <li>2. Those who have experienced social isolation and loneliness following one of the known 'triggers' are responded to appropriately</li> <li>3. Those who have experienced chronic isolation and loneliness have their connections restored in order to prevent poor social or health outcomes</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote kindness and self-care, raise awareness and reduce the stigma associated with social isolation and loneliness</li> <li>• Develop and promote the values of kindness and consider the barriers to kindness within our organisations and communities</li> <li>• Promote asset-based and place-based approaches</li> <li>• Raise awareness of local activities and services</li> <li>• Address inequality</li> <li>• Work to provide transport options which are accessible and affordable</li> <li>• Work to provide technological solutions which are suitable for the needs of older people</li> <li>• Develop a pathway from identification to reconnection</li> <li>• Promote service co-design and peer-led support</li> <li>• Provide support and reconnection to those who are chronically lonely</li> </ul> |

## SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS STRATEGY 2018-2027

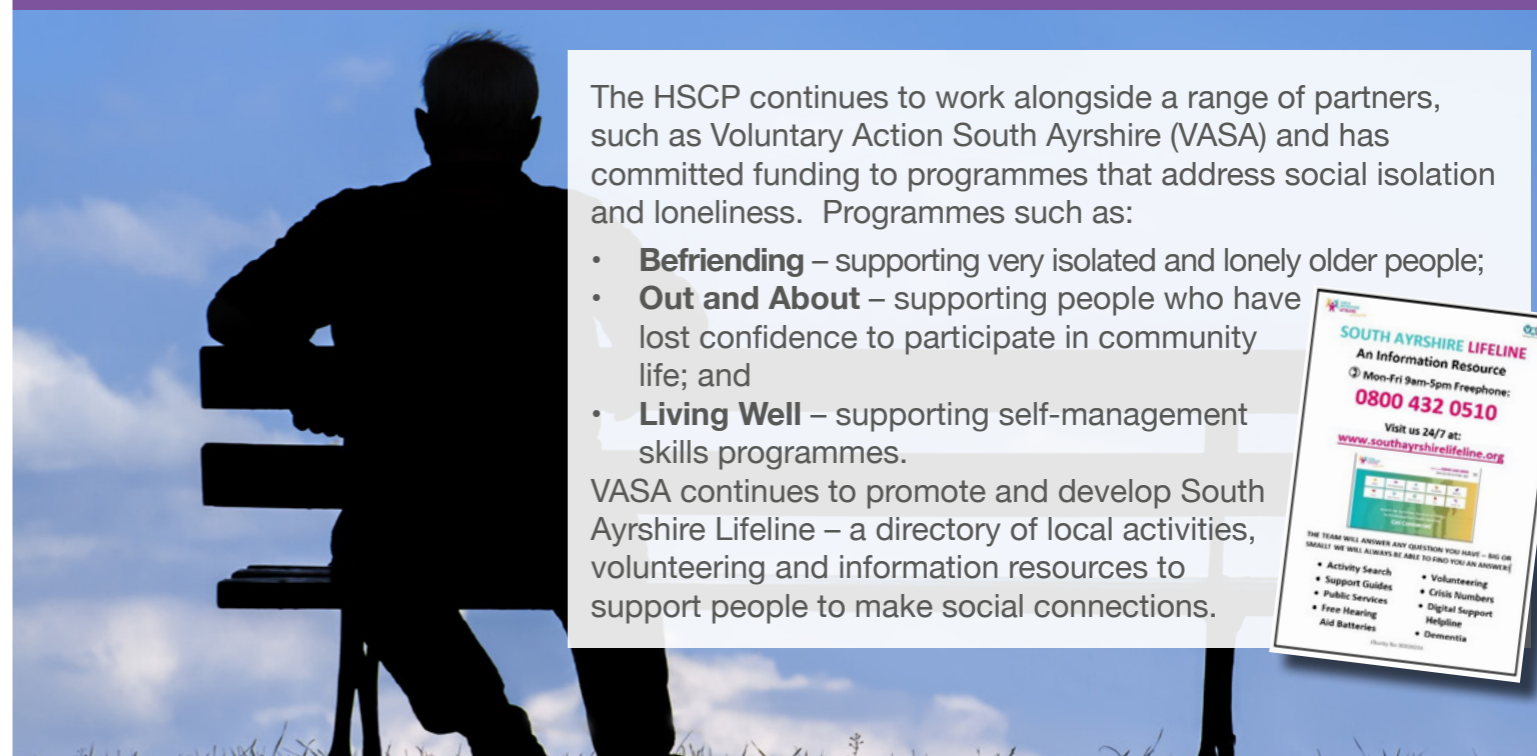
A Health & Social Care Partnership strategy and implementation plan has been developed by the South Ayrshire Social Isolation Subgroup informed by current literature and wide consultation with our local communities. This nine-year strategy focuses on older people, reflecting the LOIP priority.

Work has continued to support isolated and lonely older people across services and localities. As COVID impacted restrictions have eased more in situ support is beginning to be re-established – for example a range of library based services and supports and work through Sheltered Housing and Leisure services. There are many of these projects that address social isolation directly or indirectly. The Scottish Government has allocated over £440,000 to South Ayrshire to address community based mental wellbeing initiatives and VASA led the programme of allocation and support. There are many of these projects that address social isolation and loneliness directly or indirectly.



The Social Isolation and Loneliness Subgroup hosted a webinar in March 2022 with a focus on kindness, compassion and social isolation. The purpose of the webinar was to reflect on kindness, compassion and social isolation in relation to impact, cause, opportunities, existing responses and our strategic approach; and to identify broader allies and opportunities within larger settings and wider organisations. The purpose of the webinar was to:

- To reflect on kindness, compassion and social isolation in relation to impact, cause, opportunities, existing responses and our strategic approach;
- To identify broader allies and opportunities within larger settings and wider organisations; and
- develop ideas and actions to inform next iteration of Social Isolation Strategy and Implementation Plan.



The HSCP continues to work alongside a range of partners, such as Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) and has committed funding to programmes that address social isolation and loneliness. Programmes such as:

- **Befriending** – supporting very isolated and lonely older people;
- **Out and About** – supporting people who have lost confidence to participate in community life; and
- **Living Well** – supporting self-management skills programmes.

VASA continues to promote and develop South Ayrshire Lifeline – a directory of local activities, volunteering and information resources to support people to make social connections.



# CASE STUDIES

## LIVING WELL

Mrs C who was a carer for her husband, joined the Living Well Programme. She had been referred by the Community Link Practitioner due to depression and isolation. She related that she was still caring for her husband but due to depression she did not even open the curtains during the day. She had limited contact with people out with the household and had no interests. She joined the Programme and within a few weeks was contributing and interacting with other participants and facilitators. When the programme ended, she continued to stay in touch with one of the other participants as they got on so well. Her feedback of the programme was that she really enjoyed meeting other people and that she had started going out again and had joined a couple of online classes. She felt it had made a great difference to her life.

Mr S was referred to the programme by the befriending project due to health problems and isolation. He had been living with his grandmother who had recently died and was also dealing with the breakup of a long-term relationship. He stated his confidence was low. He had been volunteering at a local charity shop but was not confident enough to look for paid work. He initially was quiet at Living Well Programme, listening but letting others do the talking but after a few weeks he joined in and talked about his situation. Others in the group offered him their support and shared experiences. Mr X said he looked forward to the sessions and felt he got a lot out of them. After the Programme ended, he volunteered at another organisation and secured paid employment. His opinion was that VASA services had helped get him back on his feet and his confidence had greatly improved. He said the help was there at the right time.

## OUT & ABOUT

Mrs H is a 71-year lady who suffers from anxiety, low mood, and confidence, she is physically well. A very unexpected and devastating breakdown of her marriage had affected her very badly and that of the relationships with her children. Financially she felt very vulnerable also. Mrs H's confidence had plummeted and had a fear of breaking down emotionally whenever she bumped into friends or ex-husband 'I am terrified of bursting into tears'. Mrs H felt more comfortable travelling to the next town to do shopping etc., so we hopped on the bus, whilst there she felt a bit more at ease, and thought it was a good solution as it was only a short bus journey. We also attended the walking group which she found welcoming and beneficial and hoped to continue. On another occasion we attended an exercise class at a local over 60s club, whilst there we met another couple of ladies who lived near Mrs H, she has continued to attend this and another social club on a Saturday with the same ladies. 'I feel more confident about talking to people, I realise that not everyone is being nosy and judgmental'. During our time together Mrs H has also re-engaged with a friend who she hadn't seen for some time and since then they have gone a little holiday. Mrs H felt that the support from the service was what she needed to push her 'over the door' and that signposting to other agencies for financial/ housing advice was much appreciated. Mrs H has also become more active within her building, helping to arrange jubilee celebrations and jumble sale.

Mr T is a 67-year-old gentleman with slight learning disabilities who lives alone with support for cooking and some personal care twice a day. He is extremely sociable but does lack company, as during lockdown people have since fallen away. Mr T is an avid letter writer and often would send into the local paper. I was able to find him a pen pal and he was very keen to start writing. We also went for shopping and coffee using the bus with his bus pass and ventured into neighbouring towns, he was very competent using public transport. Introducing him to the 'Honest Men' group was very beneficial as he was a big football fan and has since enjoyed the activities and guest speakers. Mr T has also started attending monthly get togethers, where he has been meeting in local venues, usually in the evening for food and conversation. I continue to keep Mr T informed of any activities/ groups which I think he may enjoy.

## TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING

Mr C is in his mid-80's, he was referred to the Telephone Befriending Service in the Autumn of 2021 by an NHS Community Navigator. Mr C had cared for his wife for several years but sadly she passed away in the Spring of 2021. With no family close by and with the loss of his wife Mr C began to feel increasingly isolated. As covid restrictions lifted he felt he had lost confidence in attending activities he had previously enjoyed with his wife, and this too was having an impact on his general well-being. Mr C was matched with a very experienced telephone befriender and although they got on well both parties felt there wasn't much of a connection and a mutual decision was taken to bring the match to an end. Around about this time a gentleman volunteer of a similar age expressed an interest in taking on an additional person to call. The two elderly gents were duly matched and to their surprise and delight they discovered they shared many similarities. Both had studied engineering at university, had similarities in their professional lives and shared a variety of interests. The calls take place on a weekly basis and are a great source of enjoyment to both gentlemen. Both have used the phrase "getting on like a house on fire" to describe their befriending arrangement. Mr C has recently engaged with the Out and About service and is enjoying weekly outings with a view to re-establishing connections with former groups and activities.

Ms P is in her mid-50's, she was referred to the Telephone Befriending service by a Community Mental Health Team in Autumn 2020. Due to shielding for health reasons she had lost confidence in going out. With only limited family support she was experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation, and this was having an effect on her mental health. Ms P was matched with a Telephone Befriender, they quickly developed a good connection and shared several interesting coincidences in common. Unfortunately, Ms P experienced a traumatic and upsetting incident within months of the befriending match. The Telephone Befriender was able to support Ms P during this difficult time, partly due to her professional background but also because of the relationship that had developed. Throughout 2021 the calls continued with occasional holiday breaks after which both parties were keen to catch up with each other's news. As her confidence returned Ms P gradually began to reconnect with her pre-covid life with additional input from our Out and About service. By Spring 2022 she decided that she no longer required befriending calls, the befriender had come to the same conclusion around about the same time. In recognition and appreciation of the invaluable support she received Ms P is currently considering applying to become a Telephone Befriending volunteer herself.



# SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:

## OBJECTIVES:

People living with dementia and their carers live in a supported community.

1. Promote good physical and mental health and wellbeing to delay the onset of dementia
2. Have access to appropriate and timely interventions for those with dementia and their carers
3. Design physical and social environments which support those with dementia
4. Protect vulnerable people from harm

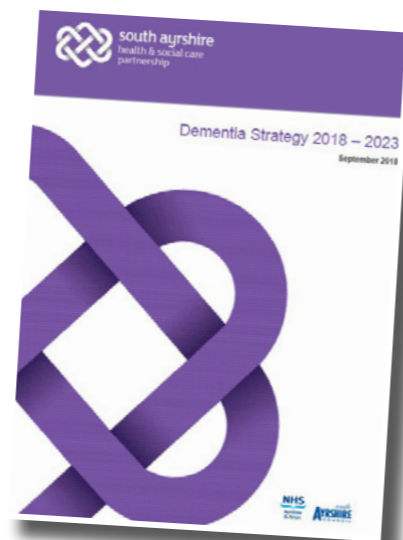
## DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2018-2023

The [South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Dementia Strategy 2018- 2023](#). The strategy sets out:

- an ambitious program to support people living with dementia and their carers; and
- how the HSCP provides formal services for people who have been diagnosed with dementia and their carers (also in the Adult Carers Strategy).

In addition, a key section is concerned with developing South Ayrshire as a 'dementia friendly' place. This sets out activity within localities and related work carried out in a more thematic way which is a key priority within this LOIP. It also sets out activities supported by commissioned services such as Alzheimer Scotland, Crossroads, South Ayrshire Dementia Support Association and South Ayrshire Carers Centre.

Work has continued to take place to develop South Ayrshire Dementia Friendly (DF) initiatives. Much of this work is led through locality-based dementia friendly work led by our dementia friendly communities of Troon & Villages, Prestwick, Ayr, North Carrick and South Carrick.



## PRESTWICK



Over the past twelve months, Dementia Friendly Prestwick (DFP) has been awarded funding from the Communities Renewal Fund, VASA's Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, and from Life Changes Trust. Because of their ongoing work to support people in our local area, DFP were named as a Legacy Partner for Life Changes Trust - a huge honour. This funding enabled the opening of a 'Meeting Centre' this summer - a social club for people with early to moderate dementia, for their families and carers too. This is an established and successful model of care and support from Holland, researched and adapted to suit the UK by the University of Worcester, and they are beginning to pop up all over the UK. Prestwick's club is the first to open in South Ayrshire, the first on the west coast of Scotland.

DFP has employed trained and experienced staff (two have achieved Meeting Centre accreditation by the University). Most of their volunteers have been with DFP for years and are enthusiastic and empathetic. DFP are collaborating with South Ayrshire Carers Centre and the NHS Ayrshire & Arran's Older Adult Mental Health Services, to help facilitate outreach programmes within Prestwick. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership colleagues visit the meeting centre regularly and have helped to signpost members to useful sources of support. DFP has created a local hub which supports people living with dementia and their families, and they would welcome more groups and organisations to get in touch to they can signpost to a wider network.

The Meeting Centre is based based at the Royal Air Force Association's Prestwick branch - the RAFA Club on Ardayre Road and the venue is well suited to the needs of members. You can sometimes find members out in the garden, with music or with gardening trowels. The ballroom is where members all eat lunch together. Members can blether and have refreshments all day.



## SOUTH CARRICK

In Girvan work has been continuing to support a DF promenade – activities affected previously by COVID are now re-starting and there is a new ‘Dementia Friendly Walk’. Dementia friendly benches have been positioned at Ainslie Park in Girvan with the intention of creating safe conversation spaces. Funding to support this was obtained by the Girvan Town Team via the Coastal Communities Fund.



## TROON AND VILLAGES



In Troon there has been investment to the promenade to make it dementia friendly – this has included DF benches in the sunken gardens, an art display within the sunken gardens of pictures of the local vicinity including the beach, prom, old pool, which have been affixed to the walls to encourage people to come together and reminisce. It also provides information on how people can be more DF in their day-to-day lives.



## DFP MEETING CENTRE: CASE STUDY 1

A couple came to one of our open days, one has dementia (S), and their partner (A) is the main carer. S immediately responded well to the familiar and cosy surroundings of our venue and was happy to join us. Our club is open from 10:30am until 3pm, three days a week, and family members are welcome to either stay with their cared-for person or leave. Members often come by themselves. On their first day with us, A realised that S was relaxed and having a great time socialising with new people, and after a short while, A asked a member of staff if it was OK to "slip out and go fishing". For the first time in a long while, A had a decent break from having immediate caring responsibilities and could relax too. S initially signed up to come two days a week, but by the second week, S wanted to come for all three days. Sometimes their grownup children come too, as they enjoy seeing S 'at their Club'. For this family, it doesn't matter terribly much the activities we do each day (music, arts and crafts, walks, cooking, gardening....) it's the feeling of friendship, peer support, and laughter that's important.

## DFP MEETING CENTRE: CASE STUDY 2

C lives on their own, with no family close. A befriender provides great support, but more is needed, and so the befriender brought C to our club. C now comes once a week, using a local taxi service to get home. And while being out of their home is a source of anxiety, C now comes once a week, and is enjoying meeting new people. An amateur artist, C brought us some of the works of art made over the years to great acclaim. As well as providing C with a social life again, we can also help ensure C is eating and drinking well on the days with us.

## PRESTWICK HOWIE BOWLING CLUB



Prestwick Howie Bowling Club has been working with Alzheimer Scotland began the journey of developing 'relaxed' bowling sessions. A series of meetings were held with Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Advisor, and a full audit of the clubhouse was carried out with all recommendations adopted to ensure that the bowling club is welcoming for all with support from Prestwick and Villages Locality Planning Partnership Funding. Some of the changes included replacing mats (they were dark and could be misread as being holes), coloured toilet seats bought, support railings made more visible by applying tape, and clearer signage put up. The coach at the club attended on-line training sessions on dementia run by Age Scotland and fellow coaches attended local Ayrshire Sportability training sessions on making sport as inclusive as possible.

With Alzheimer Scotland using their contact list to identify interested participants, the club and its new partner were ready to hold a series of pilot sessions for people living with dementia. There was a lot of learning going on. The club own a range of aids, like bowling arms, which allow the bowl to be delivered without having to bend, a "zimmer" like frame wide wheels which allow people with balance issues to hold on to a stable support when playing their shots, and these were employed to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible when learning their new skill and to help them get the most out of their time on the green. With the season now drawing to a close, the focus is now on looking at the feasibility of holding future weekly "relaxed" bowling sessions, open to the public at large, and bringing in other organisations like Dementia Friendly Prestwick, and Inspire South Ayrshire, by advertising more generally.

Comments from those who attended include:

**"VERY WELL PLANNED AND SO MUCH FUN. MADE US FEEL SO INCLUDED. REAL COMRADERY AND FRIENDSHIP. REAL ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THE MEMBERS. IT'S WONDERFUL THE EFFORT THAT ALL MEMBERS MADE."**

**"I HAVE ONLY GOOD THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE BOWLING SESSIONS. HE REALLY ENJOYED THEM AND HAS BEEN ASKING WHEN DO WE GO BACK? SECOND SESSION I'M SURE YOU'LL RECALL HE WAS NOT HAPPY AT COFFEE TIME AND DIDN'T WANT TO BE THERE BUT THAT CHANGED WHEN ON THE GREEN AND FINAL SESSION HE ENGAGED FROM THE BEGINNING. A DEFINITE MOOD LIFTER! IAN AND TEAM WERE SO HELPFUL, PATIENT AND UNDERSTANDING. ALL IN ALL FOR US A GOOD EXPERIENCE."**

**"HOWIE BOWLING IN MY OPINION WAS A GREAT SUCCESS. IT WAS MUCH APPRECIATED BY ALL THOSE THAT WE CARE FOR - I THINK THEY THOROUGHLY ENJOYED IT AS DID THE CARERS"**



# CLOSING THE POVERTY RELATED OUTCOMES GAP

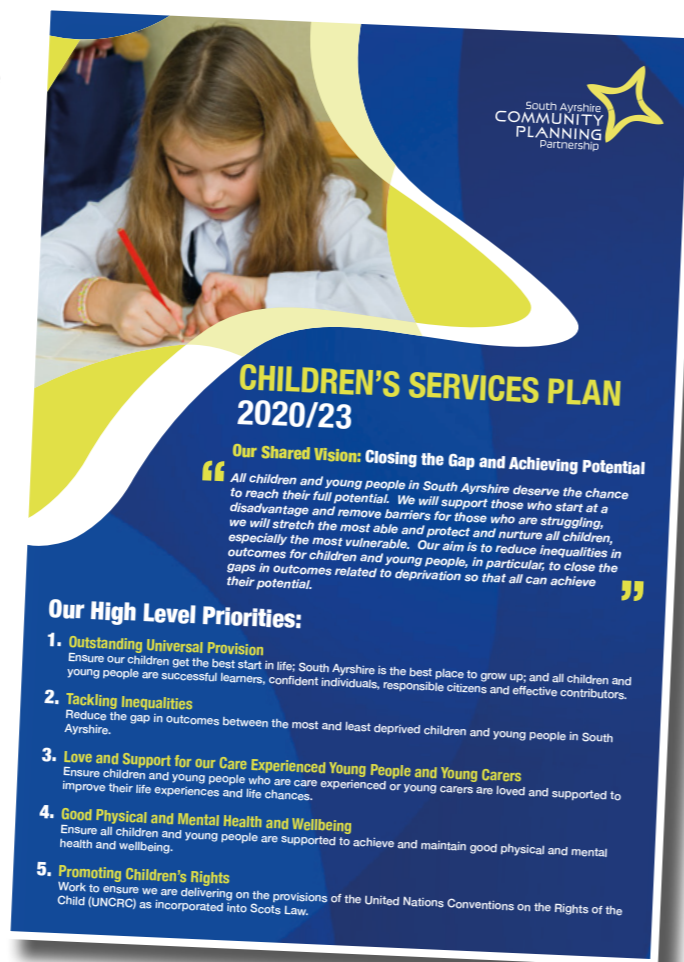
Action on improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers, and young people who are carers, continues to be led through the work of the South Ayrshire's Corporate Parenting Executive Group, Champions Board, Young Carers Implementation Group, and the overarching Children's Services plan – all of which report to the Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership. Our priority of employability and lifelong learning is led through our Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership which reports to our Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership.

## CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020 TO 2023

The Children's Services Plan is designed for young people –it shows how young people will be treated in South Ayrshire.

- What the plan means for a young person;
- Giving a young person the best start in life – making South Ayrshire the best place to grow up;
- A young person will be treated equally no matter their background;
- Children and young people who are looked after or leaving care will be supported to be the best they can be;
- Opportunities to be healthy... both mentally and physically; and
- A young person's voice will be heard

Further information on the progress of the Children's Services plan can be found by visiting [here](#)



# WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:  | OBJECTIVES:   |
|--|---|
| We want to improve outcomes for young people who are care experienced and are care leavers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ensure that care experienced young people benefit from involvement in Champions Boards leading to improved outcomes</li> <li>2. Work with our CPP partner organisations to strengthen their commitment, knowledge, skills and capacity and increase their understanding of their corporate parenting duties</li> <li>3. Policy and practice will become more responsive to Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>4. Ensure that public awareness and attitudes become increasing positive towards Care Experienced Young People</li> <li>5. Ensure that care experienced young people are aware of their rights and entitlements:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Plan Strategic Outcome – Upholding and promoting children's rights</li> <li>• Action 8 - Support care experienced young people to participate in local activities with other young people and peer groups.</li> <li>• Action 13 - Ensure that advocacy support is considered for young people in care and leaving care in the new Strategic Advocacy Plan.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

## ENSURE THAT CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM INVOLVEMENT IN CHAMPIONS BOARDS LEADING TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES



The Champions Board team continues to offer flexible employment opportunities for young people who have care experience. The team currently employs 8 people with care experience aged between 19 and 34 who use their lived experience to influence positive change in a range of different ways. We also support a modern apprenticeship experience which is ring-fenced for someone with care experience. In September 2021 three new Promise posts were appointed for 1 year from £50,000 funding secured from The Promise Partnership. All three posts were situated in South Ayrshires Champions Board team. Two posts were ringfenced for applicants with care experience. The posts have contributed to campaigns such as care day <https://www.facebook.com/southayrshirechamps/> and have worked with [each and every child](#) to develop a fresh new narrative and reframe the language used around care. A webinar for South Ayrshire employees and partners was delivered on 25 November 2021 and was attended by 64 participants.

## PARTICIPATION

South Ayrshire champions Board has a well-established participation network of over 60 children and young people and young parents with care experience. Despite challenging circumstances across 2021, the Champions Board managed to offer 14 different summer activities. This activity was delivered in partnership with voluntary sector partners at who cares? Scotland and South Ayrshires Thriving Communities' teams. 56 young people with care experience aged 6-26 took part in the activities

South Ayrshire Champions board run 4 participation groups each week. This includes 3 school-based groups and one community-based group. The modern apprentice has also supported a bespoke Duke of Edinburgh group which celebrated young people with care experience achieving their bronze award and now working towards their silver.

Most of the Participation Assistants time is involved in developing the participation network. 98% of young people involved in the participation network take part regularly (attendance at 4 out of 6 sessions). The group also facilitated a residential for 19 young people at Dumfries House in April 2022



## CREATIVITY AND VOICE

Many of our young people continue to link in with our creative workers as part of our partnership with the Gaiety Theatre. Young people continue to use drama and prose to tell their story and express themselves. We successfully held a 'picnic in the park' event at rozelle Park in September 2021 where we showcased our mouthful of monologues film by hosting an outdoor cinema screening. This public event was supported by local COVID funding and was attended by 103 young people and adults from across South Ayrshire.

<https://www.myairbridge.com/en/#!/folder/JSo7uWksIUxsmKehZfJwvulOKQzV8IM2>

## VOICES OF FAMILIES

From our consultations with families, we found out that families saw good relationships with professionals as the bedrock of success. Voluntary sector partners were identified as most nurturing and patient and flexible in their approach. For many the connection to social work is viewed as a barrier for statutory family support services, as is the lack of choice of worker or opportunities that was associated with statutory provision. The need to operate beyond 5pm into evenings and weekends was identified as crucial for any family support service moving forward. The need to get alongside the family and offer support early before things get to crisis point was also identified as essential.

## YOUNG PEOPLES VOICES



Young people with care experience continue to be supported to take part in local and national consultation activity including:

- Housing conversation in partnership with South Ayrshire Council (SAC) Housing Policy team;
- Life Changes Trust monitoring meeting;
- Children's Hearing Scotland Participation strategy consultation;
- Looked after reviews consultation in partnership with SAC Quality Assurance reviewing officers;
- Evaluation of South Ayrshire Champions Board in partnership with Social Value Lab;
- Scorecard Evaluation of Who Cares? Scotland and Barnardo's Advocacy Services in partnership with SAC Procurement;
- Refreshed GIRFEC materials (national consultation);
- Short breaks, local consultation with brothers and sisters to inform South Ayrshires commissioning framework; and
- Review of family support across South Ayrshire

The consultation activity has enabled young people to shape local and national practice. For example, we connected with 62 young people with care experience as part of the **Getting it Right for Every Child** (GIRFEC) national consultation and learned that:

- It wasn't clear to the young people who spoke to us was that GIRFEC is the national approach taken by across Scotland to improve the wellbeing of children and young people;
- Young people ranked the top 3 GIRFEC values as **Privacy, Fairness and Wellbeing**;
- However, they suggested alternative values which they felt were better suited and more relevant to GIRFEC and their experience of good support. These include **Relationships, Trust, Love and Care**; and
- Young people preferred **together** or **sharing** rather than **partnership** which they though sounded detached. **Wellbeing** was as a term which, while understood by young people still caused confusion due to its wide meaning.

## CORPORATE PARENTS

Work with our CPP partner organisations to strengthen their commitment, knowledge, skills, and capacity and increase their understanding of their corporate parenting duties.

Members of South Ayrshires Champions Board have used their lived experience of care and desire to drive change to design and deliver 39 promise workshops to 664 colleagues including Elected Members, Community Planning Board, colleagues in Education, Health, Housing, Community groups, Voluntary Sector Health and Social Care.

In an independent evaluation commissioned by Life Changes Corporate Parents across south Ayrshire were asked about what their experience of the past year would have been like if they had not been involved in the Champions Board.

**“I WOULDN'T HAVE SUCH IN-DEPTH VIEWS DIRECTLY FROM CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE, I WOULDN'T HAVE AS MUCH UP-TO-DATE TRAINING/DATA, I WOULD BE PROVIDING THE CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE THAT I WORK WITH THE SAME LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, UNDERSTANDING, OR OPPORTUNITIES TAILORED TO THEM.”**

**“MY ROLE WITHIN THE SCHOOL WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AS EXCITING OR FULFILLING WITHOUT THE CHAMPIONS BOARD.”**

**“I WOULD HAVE A POORER UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEEDS OF CARED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. I WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS ABLE TO PROMOTE AND PUSH FORWARD ADVOCATING FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN COUNCIL AND SOCIETY.”**

Promise branding has been adopted across South Ayrshire and short films explaining our parenting Promise have been produced [South-Ayrshire-Parenting-Promise-overview/video/](https://www.southayrshire.gov.uk/parenting-promise-overview/)



## POLICY AND PRACTICE WILL BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE ENSURE THAT PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES BECOME INCREASING POSITIVE TOWARDS CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

We 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'

'The Promise' challenges us to deliver long term improvements across a range of services to bring about lasting change. We have identified 10 South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas with thirty-two associated actions (as outlined in appendix 1 embedded below). With the help of South Ayrshires Change Team we have been able to further identify fifty-three 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.



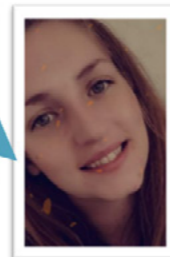
The creation of detailed project plans for each of our fifty-three benefits will allow us to run a report on impact rather than output alone. This is a significant change in our approach and one which has allowed us to begin to better understand the impact of implementing the promise in terms of measurable improvements. We are heading towards developing a narrative that will evidence impact by describing improvements that are qualitative, potentially cashable, with some benefits possibly leading to cost avoidance, which may enable us to re-invest resource to support young people and their families in a preventative context.

The voices of young people and their families remain at the very heart of all our work and our Champions Board ensure that these voices are heard whether through formal consultations and participation events or informal conversations they advocate that love is the value around which the care system operates.

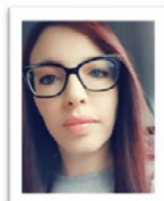


Corporate parents have been keen to join or champions on livestreams and have engaged fully, frankly and with humility <https://www.facebook.com/southayrshirechamps>

**Tonie:** Since November 2021 I have worked as Participation Assistant with South Ayrshire Champions Board. I believe I should use my lived experience of care to work with young people in the Champions Board, with unconditional understanding and acceptance. I should be their biggest cheerleader and be there to support and encourage them.



**Taylor:** I started as a Modern Apprentice in the Champions Board in January 2020. I have used my experience of foster care to talk to new foster carers. I also use my experience of permanency to help train social workers. I want to make care as good as it can be for young people, I care about making things better.



**Kayleigh:** I started working with the Champions Board in September 2021. I have used my experience of care to prepare and deliver 'Promise Presentations' and speak to groups like South Ayrshires Child Protection Committee. I have trusted South Ayrshire with **my story** to help make changes. I want to listen and fight young people's corner when they most need it, with kindness and compassion. We all have a story that if told can make a difference.



# FAITH

I work as a Participation Assistant with the Champions Board. I care very deeply about the equality between human beings regardless of class, ability, age, skin colour, sexual orientation, faith, or gender.

I am very passionate about justice and doing the right thing. I care deeply that people are treated fairly, equally, and above all else, kindly in this world. I believe that I am a very smart and caring individual. I am good at tapping into people's emotions and recognising there is a problem and/or issue. I'm a real problem solver and try to think as logically as possible about how to reach the best outcome for whatever that scenario may be. I am also a very caring and compassionate person, and deeply want others to feel happy, fulfilled, and loved in their life.

I believe the best corporate parents are those who hold love at the front of their hearts. You must be a caring and kind individual, who is also determined to fight and make positive change for young people in this world. Most importantly you must be selfless and caring, and care for them as if they were your own child. The best corporate parent is a kind one.



South Ayrshire Corporate Parenting Executive have designed a new data set of over 40 measures based on the five foundations of the promise. From this a detailed performance report is generated and reviewed by the group every three months.

## ENSURE THAT CARE EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF THEIR RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS



### Advocacy matching meetings

The Corporate Parenting Lead Officer meets monthly with Barnardos and Who Cares? Scotland to ensure that all young people who are currently looked after are offered advocacy and representation.

## Onwards and Upwards Individual Grants

Between October 2021 and March 2022 South Ayrshire Champions Board gave out over £25,000 to 102 young people with care experience across South Ayrshire. A range of partners from across services and our voluntary sector were invited to join our Champs' Team and take part in our small grants steering group activity which was run by our Participation Assistant Olivia with our Champions Board.



**"GETTING A GRANT JUST FOR ME HAS MADE ME FEEL GREAT. I DON'T USUALLY HAVE THIS KIND OF MONEY TO SPEND ON SOMETHING FOR MYSELF I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT PAYING BILLS AND THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT AFTER THAT"**

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 21)

**"IT'S BEEN SO HARD OVER LOCKDOWN MY MENTAL HEALTH I'VE PUT ON WEIGHT AND HAVE FELT SO LONELY. I JUST FEEL RUBBISH ABOUT MYSELF, GETTING THIS MONEY IS THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING BETTER"**

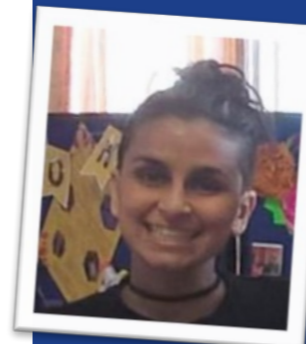
(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 21)

**"I DIDN'T KNOW THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET MONEY WAS THERE, OR THAT ANYONE CARED WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH SO GETTING THIS MONEY - IT'S KIND OF LIKE SAYING THAT I'M IMPORTANT"**

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 16)

**"I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET DRIVING LESSONS AND I HAVEN'T FELT LIKE A CHARITY CASE BUT LIKE I'VE BEEN RESPECTED AS A PERSON IN MY OWN RIGHT BUILDING THINGS TO MAKE A LIFE FOR MYSELF"**

(Onwards and Upwards Applicant: age 18)



# OLIVIA

I have led the small grants process 2021-22 [which distributed over £20,000 to over 100 young people across South Ayrshire] I ran the steering group and held the overview on who applied for what, if their bank details had been collected by one of the team and then if they were paid out. Having a good attention to detail made this task very satisfying for me. I could act and move forward. I learned both about the politics of asking for support from other teams and the practicalities involved in making payments in a robust and ethical way. I liked being able to connect with the team daily as being based in Berlin I often feel separate from activity. I will also be speaking at a conference in May about racism in social work. I am very excited about this and have been reading more about the experiences of other care experienced people of colour. I am looking forward to speaking about this and hearing from other leaders in this area.

I have applied to Creative Scotland's Open Fund for a project that the Champions Board are willing to host. The project will be a creative writing group that I will lead with another 5 care experienced writers. It is called Creative Kind. I am interested in activities, tasks and projects that give me flexibility and that I can run with on my own for the most part."





# PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CARERS

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:           | OBJECTIVES:  |
|---|--|
| Young carers are living in a supported community. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with education, health and social care and other CP partners to ensure that young carers are supported in line with GIRFEC and the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016</li> <li>2. Ensure that our Young Carers are Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible &amp; Included</li> <li>3. Ensure that all our Young Carers are:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognised and identified</li> <li>• Valued and feel involved</li> <li>• Supported to manage their caring role</li> <li>• Provided with information, advice and training opportunities</li> <li>• Able to have a life alongside caring</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

The Young Carers Strategy covers the period 2021 to 2026. This Strategy sets out our local response to the statutory duties (responsibilities) of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 - which is a law that says what support must be given to carers, including young carers. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership has responsibility for delivering that support on behalf of South Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran. In this Strategy, we explain what it means to be a young carer and outline our plans to raise awareness, recognise and support young carers over the next five years. We will show how we will maintain our progress and make improvements in areas where changes need to be made.

Our approach to supporting young carers is aligned to the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework, which promote and protect young people’s health and wellbeing. We have developed our strategic themes around the eight GIRFEC well-being indicators – Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included (SHANARRI). As a working document, it is vital that young carers are fully involved in the implementation of this Strategy. Progress will be monitored and reported, and the strategy will be reviewed regularly during its lifetime.

The Young Carers Strategy Implementation Group is responsible for delivering and reporting on all the actions within the Strategy. Membership has been expanded to cover the breadth and scope of young carer involvement with other services and organisations. The Strategy is also endorsed through the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership. The Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer post was filled in April 2022.

## SCHOOLS

A priority at the end of the last academic year was to engage with schools:

- 46 schools (7 secondary, 38 primaries and 1 ASN) were visited by the Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and staff from the Carers Centre to establish relationships, discuss current processes and collate feedback.
- 793 education staff (357 from primary and 436 from secondary) completed an online survey to provide a baseline of knowledge and understanding of young carers and an evidence base for staff training development.

All schools will identify a Young Carers Champion. This will be a member of the school staff who acts as a consistent point of contact for all young carers in each school for any concerns, signposting or general advice. Some of the supports a Young Carer Champion may offer are:

- be the main point of contact in the school for Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff.
- liaise with Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre to receive support, policy updates and any other relevant information.
- understand the role of the Young Carers Statement and know how to complete this when appropriate.
- work alongside Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff to raise awareness of Young Carers.
- attend Young Carer Champion Network meeting every quarter to share best practice, information and networking.

Notice boards in all schools (where applicable) will be used to share information on young carers to provide information and advice, increase visibility, increase self-identification, improve peer understanding and breakdown stigma. Furthermore, schools will be asked to share information regularly via apps, social media and websites. In addition to this, Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer and Carers Centre staff will attend parents’ evenings, PTA meetings, school open days etc. to raise awareness with parents, and to begin removing barriers and stigma.

Young Carers will now be tracked from 3rd year in secondary schools (where applicable) by More Choices More Chance (MCMC) Coordinators so additional support can be provided at the earliest opportunity to help young carers achieve a positive destination when leaving school.

South Ayrshire have been invited by Carers Trust Scotland to pilot a national carer friendly school award (similar to Carers Tick in England) within schools in South Ayrshire with two other local authorities. Results from this pilot will go on to inform a national carer friendly school award hosted by Scottish Government and Education Scotland.

We have requested a change to SEEMiS configuration to include a specific, bespoke tab for young carer information. This will allow more robust reporting and will record the additional carer information as required by Scottish Government.

A recent survey of S1 to S6 pupils, which had a 60% response rate, revealed 747 young people believe they have caring responsibilities. This is in line with our estimate that there are around 3,000 young carers within South Ayrshire (based on Carers Trust Scotland statistic that one in five children in each class have caring responsibilities). It should be noted that not all of these young people will require support.

## AWARENESS RAISING & TRAINING

Following the results from the Education staff survey and consultations with Social Work staff, an online COAST training module has been developed. The aim of this module is to increase knowledge and understanding of what constitutes being a young carer, improve understanding of the impact of unpaid care on a young carer's life and education, develop policy and legislation context knowledge relevant to carers/young carers, and increase staff confidence on identifying and supporting young carers. This module will be supplemented with online interactive sessions four times per year. In addition, schools have been offered in-person twilight or in-service day sessions. In-person training and awareness raising sessions will be held for all Social Work teams to improve identification and support for young carers. The first session will take place in August 2022.

We are working with colleagues in East and North Ayrshire to facilitate staff training and awareness raising for support services staff in Ayrshire College. In addition, we are developing resources for students (posters and leaflets) to signpost young carers to support which will be displayed and available to staff on all three Ayrshire College campuses.

A pan Ayrshire training session, 'Lunch and Learn' has been arranged for pharmacy workers and will be facilitated by Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer. This session will be repeated regularly to allow information on young carers to be disseminated to a wide range of staff.

Strong links are being established across 3rd sector organisations to improve identification and support for young carers and increase partnership working. This has already added value, with referrals for complementary support completed alongside referrals to the Carers Centre.

Following discussions with the Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer, the Information & Advice Hub have amended their internal processes to help identify young carers and signpost them to support. Furthermore, Information and Advice Hub staff now offer to help complete applications for funding and training for young carers.



## WORKING WITH YOUNG CARERS

Prior to Covid restrictions, Carer Centre staff attended S1 PSE classes to raise awareness of young carers and help young carers to self-identify. In a bid to increase the target population of this initiative and allow earlier intervention and support for young carers, we are working with Thriving Communities and The Iris to create two documentary-style videos (one for primary schools and one for secondary schools) made by young carers about their lives. Young carers will learn how to write the scripts, operate the filming and sound equipment, and act. Work on the first video took place over the summer holidays with a group of young carers from secondary schools across South Ayrshire.



**"THIS HAS BEEN AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE FOR [MY DAUGHTER]...SHE HAS CAME AWAY EACH DAY WITH NEW EXPERIENCES AND HER CONFIDENCE IS GLOWING! THANK YOU SO MUCH AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE END RESULT OF THIS PROJECT VIDEO."**

**Feedback from a parent of one of the young carers**

Work with the group of primary aged children will begin on completion of the secondary video. The videos will be shown in schools to help young people self-identify as a young carer, develop staff understanding, improve peer understanding, address associated stigmas (mental health, substance use) and celebrate young carers and all that they do. It is planned to have two premiere events in a local cinema to celebrate the young people's achievements and share the videos with the elected members, key decision makers, staff, young people, and their friends and families. All young carers who participate in these video groups will also have the opportunity to complete an accredited certification, Dynamic Youth Award, to recognise their commitment and development throughout the projects.

We have held several focus groups and consultations with young carers to inform and influence our work over the past year. The feedback received has been invaluable and will ensure our processes, paperwork, actions and decisions have young carers at their heart

## WIDER ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT

The Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer has:

- established a regular, informal meeting group with counterparts in six other local authorities. The purpose of this group is to share best practice, discuss any challenges and work together to find a solution, and share experiences and knowledge. This group has already proven to be invaluable for all members and membership is expected to grow.
- joined a number of national and international groups, including Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance (including Education and Young Adult Carers subgroups), Young Carers Alliance, Carers UK, Carer Voices, and Carers Worldwide.
- attended an event hosted by Carers Trust Scotland and Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance. This was a fantastic event which had very informative presentations and group work and provided an opportunity to network with other organisations from across Scotland.

## PATHWAYS, PROCESSES & DOCUMENTATION

We have reviewed and revised the processes, paperwork and pathways for young carers in Education and Social Work, in conjunction with young carers and practitioners. As part of this, we have developed two new Young Carers Statements based on age and stage of child or young person. The content and design of these documents were created by young carers and practitioners, while ensuring all required information, as per the Carers Scotland (Act) 2016, was included. A guidance document will accompany the new Young Carers Statements and staff training sessions will be held regularly to ensure quality information and outcomes are recorded for each young carer.



## ACTION ON NATIONAL FEEDBACK

National surveys of young carers revealed an increase in smoking and a reduction in the age of young carers who smoke. In addition, the data revealed more young carers are living in a home with smokers and are subject to second-hand smoke. ASH Scotland developed training with Carers Trust Scotland for practitioners who are working with young carers and their families to explore ways to protect young carers from second-hand smoke, support young people to stay smoke-free, ensure staff feel confident in having non-judgemental conversations about smoking, and help improve the health and wellbeing of young carers and their families. This course includes information on vaping which was highlighted by staff as a local issue. Training sessions have been offered to all Education staff and this offer will be extended to Social Work staff and Youth Workers.

National surveys by Carers Trust Scotland, University of the West of Scotland and Oxfam highlighted mental health of young carers as a concern. We are working with young carers from Girvan Academy, Public Health Scotland and Thriving Communities Health and Wellbeing team to develop resources specifically for young carers' mental and physical health and wellbeing.

## DRIVING SUPPORT

Feedback received from our young carers has highlighted the importance of having a driving licence to assist them in their caring role (e.g., taking the cared for person to hospital appointments, doing shopping), improve their employment and education opportunities, increase their independence, and allow them more free time outwith their caring responsibilities.



## ★ CASE STUDY 1

Young adult carer, 19-year-old female, who cares for her mother with physical disability and additional support needs for learning. The young adult carer has a younger sister, aged 10. The young adult carer worries about continuing to support her younger sibling who will be attending secondary school as young adult carer will be attending college. The young adult carer feels that having secured a driving licence she will be better prepared to fulfil her caring role for both her mother and younger sibling. The young adult carer has previously received support with funding for driving lessons through the South Ayrshire Carers Centre short breaks fund, however, has been unable to continue lessons to date due to costs involved. The young carer shares worry around losing the skill she has previously gained.

## ★ CASE STUDY 2

Young carer, 17-year-old female, who cares for mother who struggles with substance abuse. The young carer has responsibilities for significant financial and domestic running of the home. Young carer has both financial and domestic responsibilities within the home. The young carer works, however, would like to improve her working-life balance and plans to include further education in the future. Young carer highlights that a driving licence would help tackle challenges to time constraints of her caring role, work life and broaden opportunities for further education, while also supporting her in freedom of movement, personal space, support her independence.

## ★ CASE STUDY 3

Young carer, 16-year-old male, who cares for his father who is registered disabled, undergoing surgery and faces challenges with his mental health. The young carer is planning for the future and what his future will look like including his caring role. The young carer has taken up a laborious part time after-school job at a local farm to help support the family. This young carer is currently struggling with school. With worries of what his future will look like, the young carer is working with support to create a plan to include his goals for work-life balance which will include his caring role, employment, and pursuing hobbies of interest such as fishing. Currently, the young carer shares excitement regarding driving with hopes this driving will help him achieve his goals.

Assisting young carers with this opportunity would allow them to continue with their unpaid caring responsibilities, while developing their independence and education/employment opportunities, therefore, we have applied for funding from South Ayrshire Charitable Trust in the hope we can facilitate this. This funding would help to improve outcomes for this group of young people and allow them to have the same opportunities as their peers who do not have the responsibilities of unpaid care. To date, we have arranged online theory study support sessions for young carers with Employability and Skills and are hopeful that we are awarded funding to provide support for driving lessons and test costs.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYABILITY

South Ayrshire Council has ringfenced Modern Apprenticeships for young carers in eleven different areas. To apply for these posts, young carers will complete one day of work experience. As we are a Carer Positive employer, these young carers will be supported throughout their employment and development.

We are working with Ayrshire College to track young carers via a multi-agency meeting who are attending college. This means any potential issues can be identified at the earliest opportunity and support can be provided, if required, to ensure the young person can continue to thrive within the college and maintain their caring responsibilities.



## CHAMPIONS BOARD



We are working with the Champions Board to identify opportunities for young carers and care experienced young people to come together. Along with the Champions Board and Community, Learning and Development, we are working to implement accredited awards (Dynamic Youth Award and Participatory Democracy Awards) for young carers within the new Young Carers Voice Group (YCVG), video groups and other activities.

We are planning a young carer and care experienced event at Ayrshire College in October 2022 in collaboration with the Champions Board, Employability and Skills, and Ayrshire College. The aim is to improve access to further education for young carers and care experienced young people by removing barriers, discussing support and introducing them to the opportunities available to them within Ayrshire College.

## CARERS CENTRE

The following is a summary of some of the support carried out by our Carers Centre to support young carers:

- In March, 41 young carers enjoyed participating in various activities such as - Bounce Station, Escape Rooms, Edinburgh Zoo, Pictionary Day;
- In April, 8 young carers attended Abernethy Outward Bound centre for a 2-night break supported by the staff at the carers centre;
- Easter activities were held at the Carers Centre and we supported 76 young carers with access to arts & craft activities and Easter egg design making;
- In May, the Carers Centre held a young carers voice group and young carers statement group - 22 young carers attended;
- Summer activities we had various events on in the centre and the local community such as escape room, horse riding, bowling, rage room, axe throwing, movie nights, picnic paints, trampoline, mini golf, milkshake day and 133 young carers attended; and
- 9 young carers attended young carers festival in Dunfermline.



## ★ CASE STUDY 1

Carer 1 is a young carer of 12 years old, caring for his father who has undergone surgery to remove one of his lungs. Due to the cared for's condition, Carer 1 takes on responsibilities around the house and practical care. Carer 1 is the primary carer and lives with their father. Carer 1 also periodically takes on a caring role for his Mother due to substance abuse and mental health challenges. Carer 1 engages with extra-curricular activities, is undergoing a transition at school, is facing challenges in social situations and disclosed of the stress surrounding loss of a pet, lacks personal time, worries for cared for's health, and has a list of daily responsibilities. Prior to Covid, Carer 1 would access alternative methods of support to manage stress, however, has been unable to access these due to a change in the family's financial situation and restriction that have been in place due to the pandemic. Carer 1 applied for funding for a caravan holiday which would provide a break away and opportunity for stress relief. This opportunity would provide Carer 1 time away from daily responsibilities and the space for family bonding away from current stresses. Carer 1 highlighted that this would support positive mental health, enjoying life outside of caring role and help with feeling better able to cope and continue with caring role for longer.

## ★ CASE STUDY 2

Two female sibling Young Carers ages 9 and 12 who care for their Mother who has a neurological condition and multiple sclerosis. Mum is paralyzed on one side and is often tired, dizzy and sore. This results in the sibling young carer taking on responsibilities in the home such as general chores, house upkeep, cooking, shopping and supporting Mum at bedtime or when her movement is restricted. The Young Carers attend school and are otherwise at home, due to the family's financial restrictions they are unable to attend groups and peer event outside of Young Carers Support Groups and trips. The Young Carers Support Team, among other methods, emailed Young Carers and their parents regarding the funds which Mum thought would benefit the Young Carers. Following this the application form was emailed to the family and completed with support over the phone and then returned to the centre. The Young Carers, Mum and Dad attended a caravan holiday which from both the young carers and their mums feedback helped "raise spirits following covid in the home", "let me have memories to tell that my friends get to have but I don't always get to do" and "just had fun, because the grass and music and pool."

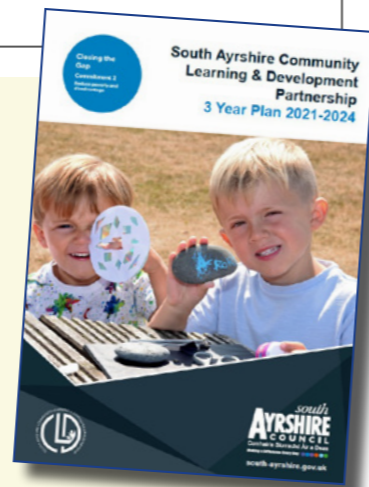


# EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

| COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:  | OBJECTIVES:  |
|--|--|
| Provide support for young people and adults to progress to positive destinations and sustainable employment. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To coordinate and monitor adult learning and literacy provision across South Ayrshire in line with the CLD Plan.</li> <li>2. To contribute to the coordination of Volunteering across South Ayrshire</li> <li>3. To drive forward the shared ambitions and actions of No One Left Behind and the response to Covid -19 to ensure the right support is available in the right way at the right time.</li> <li>4. To use the <a href="#">Scottish Approach to Service Design</a> to co-produce an all age employability support service that is person centred, more joined up, flexible and responsive to individual needs.</li> <li>5. To utilise labour market statistics and available data to inform decisions, identify priorities and support an effective partnership response.</li> </ol> |

## EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership has the strategic responsibility for coordinating employability and lifelong learning opportunities across South Ayrshire. The partnership includes South Ayrshire Council – Thriving Communities, DWP, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, NHS, Chamber of Commerce and Skills Development Scotland who have a shared commitment to provide a more aligned approach to delivering Lifelong Learning & Employability support across South Ayrshire.



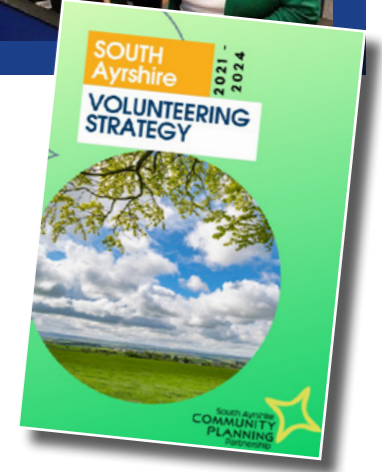
In September 2021 a refreshed Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24 [CLD Plan 2021-24](#) was approved at South Ayrshire Council Leadership Panel. The plan was developed following extensive consultation with learners, communities and practitioners. The new plan sets out the key priorities for the next three years that include:

- Improving outcomes for young people
- Improving people’s mental health and wellbeing
- Employability and Volunteering
- Improved outcomes through adults and family learning programmes.
- Community Empowerment and Engagement

## ADULT LEARNING

During 2021/22 the Scottish Government provided funding to support the recovery of community-based adult learning (CBAL). VASA and South Ayrshire Council worked in partnership to distribute funding through the local learning community partnerships ensuring local needs were met.

Funding was used to deliver community-based cooking, REHIS, first aid, personal license and mental health and wellbeing programmes across South Ayrshire.



## VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteering Strategy was published in November 2021. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) were the key lead for developing the plan supported by other lifelong learning and CPP partners. The strategy recognises the importance of volunteering in South Ayrshire and sets out the commitment from partners to work in collaboration to support volunteering locally.

[https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/volunteer\\_strategy](https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/volunteer_strategy)

## EMPLOYABILITY: NO ONE LEFT BEHIND

South Ayrshire’s Local Employability Partnership (LEP) published our No One Left Behind Delivery Plan. The plan sets out the key priorities and actions for employability in South Ayrshire. Employability outcomes in South Ayrshire continue to be among the highest in Scotland with school leaver destinations (SLDR) remaining the highest overall. **98.3%** progressed to an initial positive destination compared to the national average of 95.5%.

The follow up data for sustained destinations published in June 2022 for all young people was the highest in Scotland once again **97.6%**.

Data for care experienced young people was also **97.60%** compared to the national average of 79.70% demonstrating our commitment to improving outcomes for young people who are care experienced.

- **94.8%** of South Ayrshire young people compared to 89.1% nation average progressed had a disability
- **95.2%** South Ayrshire compared to national average 89% lived in 20% most deprived data zones



## SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MODERN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

South Ayrshire Council's Modern Apprenticeship programme remains an example of good practice demonstrating excellent outcomes while ensuring opportunities for young people are inclusive.

During 2021/22 SAC recruited 68 Modern Apprentices with **87%** progressing to a positive destination after completing their Modern Apprenticeship.

Between April 2021- March 22 – South Ayrshire Council recruited:

- **9.4%** of young people who were care experienced compared to the national average of 2%
- **37.5%** of young people had an additional support need compared to the national average 12.8%



## HEADLINE EMPLOYABILITY DATA FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE

### South Ayrshire | Skills Development Scotland

- From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 Skills Development Scotland supported 8 employers and 245 individuals dealing with redundancy;
- As of 31 March 2022 there were 784 Modern Apprentices in training;
- From 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 SDS delivered 1,212 Career Information, Advice and Guidance engagements for 562 post-school customers through a mix of group and one-to-one sessions; and
- The 2021 Annual Participation Measure showed that of the 4,360 16-19 year olds in South Ayrshire 91.8% were in education, employment or training and personal development.

The 2022 Annual Participation measure published in September 2022 shows further improvements in 16-19 year olds in a positive destination with 93.7% compared to the national average of 92.4%.

South Ayrshire had the largest decrease in unconfirmed destinations of young people aged 16-19 year olds, decreasing from 6.5% in 2021 to 3.4% in 2022. South Ayrshire also recorded the second highest in participation between 2021-2022.



### Annual Participation Measure for 16 – 19 year olds in Scotland 2022

The 8th annual statistical publication reporting on learning, training, and work activity of 16-19 year olds in Scotland  
 Annual Participation Measure Contact: Conor McGarvey  
 Job Title: Performance Analyst Team Leader  
 Email: conor.mcgarvey@sds.co.uk  
 Published on 30 August 2022

## PLACE PLANNING

Following the publication of the Ayr North and Girvan place plans in 2021 work has been progressing to deliver Place Plans for communities across South Ayrshire. The communities for which Place Plans are currently being prepared are: Annbank, Ballantrae, Colmonell, Coylton, Craigie village, Dundonald, Heathfield and Northfield, Loans, Monkton, Mossblown, Pinwherry and Pinmore, Prestwick, Symington and Tarbolton.

The initial round of engagement utilising the Place Standard tool was undertaken in late 2021 and early 2022. Engagement outcome reports were published during the summer of 2022 for each of the communities, setting out the priorities and comments from the early engagements. A second round of engagement concluded in September 2022 that sought to develop actions that will form



the core of the Place Plans. We will now take this information and develop finalised Place Plans for each of the communities with a view to publishing these for a series of confirmatory engagements in late 2022 and early 2023.

For more information on the emerging Place Plans or to view the completed plans for Ayr North and Girvan please click [here](#)

## WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Learning from the pandemic continues to play a key role in our future planning within the Community Planning Partnership and LOIP, particularly around:

- action needed to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities;
- reducing inequalities in our communities that have been impacted further; and
- the impact of the cost-of-living crisis.

These will be considered by our Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), Sustainability Partnership, Third Sector Interface and our LOIP priority areas. Some specific areas of work have already started including:

- Communities and Population Health SDP has established a Green Health Subgroup and one of the first actions completed by this group has been the development of a green health app. The app is a working directory of all the green health opportunities listing what they are, where they are in South Ayrshire and how you can get involved.

- The development, by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire and the Community Food Network in partnership with The Carrick Centre and Children 1st, with support from the South Ayrshire Council, of three food pantries to support the impact of food insecurity. At the time of writing this report 727 members have signed up to the Ayr Food Pantry (Book and Bun), 371 members have signed up to the Maybole Food Pantry (Carrick Centre) and 277 members have signed up to the Girvan Food Pantry (Girvan Primary School).
- A co-ordinated approach to the cost-of-living crisis which will be led by our Financial Inclusion SDP for the upcoming winter period.

The next section of this report provides information on areas of focus for each of the priority areas over the next 12months. Further information on our wider community planning partnership outcomes can be found on our 'plan on a page' (appendix 2).

# NEXT STEPS FOR SOUTH AYRSHIRE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN



This section provides information on the main areas of focus the next 12 months:

## REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

- Link social isolation work to Cost of Living response eg. 'Cosy Spaces';
- Link social isolation work to third sector Mental Health and wellbeing investment programme;
- Support greater focus on social isolation at a locality level;
- Connect social isolation response better to statutory services such as GP and Social Work;
- Identify opportunities to widen focus beyond older people; and
- Reinstate training programme with Health Improvement staff.

## SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CARERS

- Continue to build local capacity and activity within Girvan, Maybole, Ayr, Prestwick and Troon;
- Support for new Prestwick Meeting Centre with view to further roll out in other localities;
- Continue to work with a range of Council and CPP partners at strategic and operational level to address dementia related issues;
- To ensure dementia friendly principles underpin any new planning; and
- Linking any Place Planning to dementia friendly principles.

## IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CARE EXPERIENCED CHILDREN AND CARE LEAVERS

Over the next 12 months we will focus on

- Progressing our 10 promise improvement areas and associated actions and reporting on impact;
- Maintaining a robust participation network for young people with care experienced that influences service and policy design;
- Ensuring our data includes what is important to young people and their families; and
- Develop and publicise our South Ayrshire offer for young people with care experience.

## PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE CARERS

Over the next 12 months we will focus on:

- Training and awareness sessions as highlighted previously in the report and expand this:
  - Sessions will be held with all Thriving Communities teams with youth work staff making a pledge of how they can support young carers through their work over the coming year.
  - Sessional Youth Work training sessions will be expanded to include a section on young carers.
  - We are working with the Information and Advice Hub and Champions Board on training package for young carers and care experienced young people which will include financial advice, benefits advice and advice on housing issues;
- Establishment of a Young Carers Voice Group which will influence everything that we do. Four young people have already been identified and agreed to participate and this will be expanded as we engage with more young people. We are working with Community, Learning and Development to offer accredited certification;
- Participation in a family pilot project with Muirhead Primary School and Barnardos;
- Working with Community, Learning and Development, young carers and adult carers to:
  - develop a mode of identification. This has been requested by young and adult carers for use in schools, pharmacies, hospitals and doctors. Education and NHS Ayrshire and Arran will be engaged to ensure information is disseminated and is recognised and supported. It is hoped the scope of this work can be expanded in the future to include a package of local discounts.
  - improve awareness and sign up of the young carer Young Scot package;

In partnership with Ayrshire Cancer Support and MacMillan, the development of a clear pathway for young carers linked to palliative care and life-limiting illness, including bereavement support; and

- Working with Thriving Communities Health & Wellbeing team (South Ayrshire Council) to organise events and activities for young carers and their families, including days and residentials at Dolphin House, rowing on the River Ayr and much more. These activities will provide an opportunity for young carers to have fun, experience new things, and enjoy a break from their caring role.

## EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Over the next 12 months the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership (ELLP) will continue to:

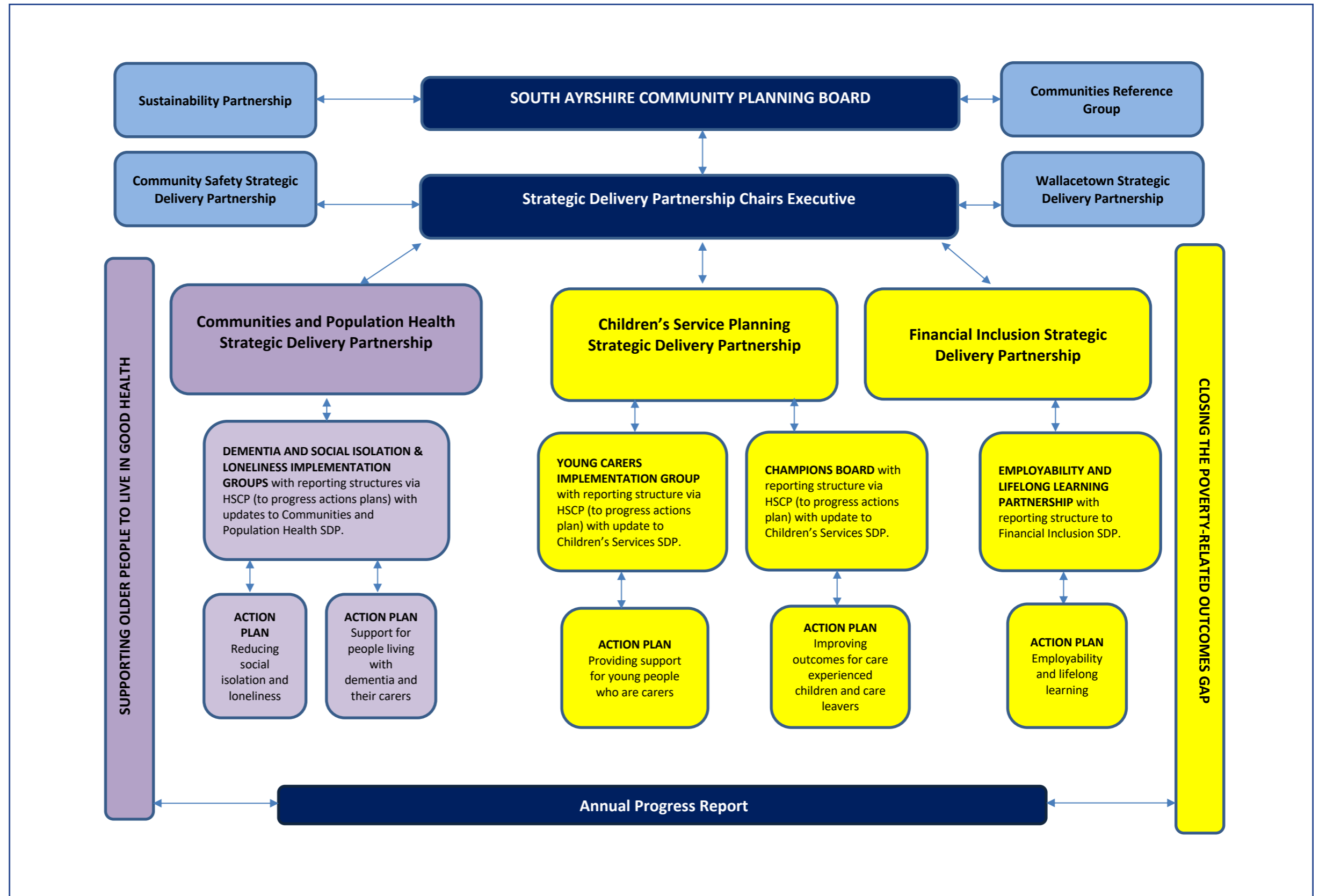
- Develop new employability initiatives while enhancing existing programmes through the No One Left Behind employability programme; and
- Review local needs and opportunities that can support young people and adults into employment, including commissioned sector-based work academies that will assist local labour demands, to support sectors such as health and social care and support for the aerospace sector.
- It is anticipated that UK Shared Prosperity funding will provide opportunities to develop new initiatives with a particular focus on support adult numeracy through Multiply programme.
- VASA will continue to lead the implementation of the volunteering strategy supported by employability and community learning and development partners.

# MONITORING AND REVIEW

The following flowchart outlines the delivery plan which is in place to support the implementation of the LOIP and the mechanism to deliver the 5 priority areas of:

- reducing social isolation and loneliness;
- supporting people living with dementia and their carers;
- improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers;
- providing support for young people who are carers; and
- employability and lifelong learning.

Actions are overseen by implementation groups/partnerships that lead on activity as well as performance management. These strategic themes are taken forward by our Integrated Children's Services Strategic Delivery Partnership, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership. Performance is monitored through Pentana. Delivery plan is as follows:





# Appendix 1

## Monday 15th November: Partnership Working

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 1.30pm to 3pm<br>Introduction to South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and Partnership working in action | This webinar will introduce South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and will set out some of the work that has taken place to develop the 'team around the community' model which is bringing services and agencies together to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for those living in Wallacetown |
|--|--|

## Tuesday 16th November: Supporting Older People to Live in Good Health

|  |   |
|--|---|
| 10am to 11am:<br>Dementia Friendly Communities         | In this webinar, members of the Dementia Friendly South Ayrshire Steering Group will set out some of the local work to make sure our local communities have supportive environments for people living with Ayrshire and their carers  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm:<br>Social Isolation and Loneliness | The Webinar will showcase some of the local work supporting older people who are lonely and isolated linked to the SA Social Isolation Strategy and also the work that is in place to support those living with Learning Disabilities and Sensory Impairment.   |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm:<br>Wellbeing Pledge                  | South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership will present an overview of the Wellbeing Pledge which aims to put power into the hands of communities to improve their wellbeing. Some early deliverables of this work will be discussed and attendees will be asked to think about how they can contribute. |

## Tuesday 16th November: Primary and Pharmacy Care for our local Communities

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 3pm to 4pm:<br>Primary Care/<br>Pharmacy | This webinar will explore the different arrangements and opportunities within GP Practices and Community Pharmacies to provide more flexible support for local people. |
|--|--|

## Wednesday 17th November: Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap

|  |  |
|--|--|
| 10am to 11am:<br>Champions Board                               | In this webinar members of South Ayrshire Champions Board will deliver a presentation on The Promise and what it means for young people with care experience and communities across South Ayrshire.  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm:<br>Young carers                            | South Ayrshire is committed to providing support to Young Carers to allow them to reach their full potential. In this webinar we will cover the following : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Statutory Duties to Young Carers.</li> <li>• Considering the impact of the Caring Role on Young People's Lives.</li> <li>• Identifying Young Carers</li> <li>• Supporting Young Carers</li> <li>• The Role of Team Around the Child</li> <li>• Young Carers Statements</li> <li>• What have done and how do we get better?</li> </ul> |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm:<br>Food Insecurity                           | This session will be about the Community Food Network Forum and the work they are doing to reduce food insecurity across South Ayrshire. The session will also include discussion on the new South Ayrshire Food Pantries and the hopes to bring a Good Food Plan to South Ayrshire.   |
| 3pm to 4pm:<br>Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership | This Webinar will give an overview of Employability and Adult Learning Opportunities across South Ayrshire. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership.</li> <li>• Update on local and national employability initiatives.</li> <li>• Adult Learning and Literacy support across South Ayrshir</li> </ul>  |
| 4pm to 5pm:<br>Information and Advice Hub                      | This webinar will provide information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximising Income through Welfare benefits;</li> <li>• Managing outgoings through effective budget planning;</li> <li>• Addressing Fuel Poverty; and</li> <li>• Our council commitment to closing the gap and reducing poverty and disadvantage by providing a full circle approach to advice and information.</li> </ul>   |

| Thursday 18th November: Showcasing Wider Community Planning Activity               |   |
|--|---|
| 10am to 11am: Caring for Ayrshire  | Caring for Ayrshire is an exciting and ambitious programme that will transform health and care services across Ayrshire and Arran. Come along to this webinar hear about our vision.  |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm: Sustainability Partnership                                     | Climate change – reflections on COP26 and what all this means for us in Ayrshire. The Sustainability Partnership will give a short presentation reflecting on recent events in Glasgow and some inspiring examples of positive action taking place now in Ayrshire. The presentation will end with a call to action – what is it you can do in your daily life to change things for the better? |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Introduction to Locality Planning Partnerships in South Ayrshire | The Webinar will explore Locality Planning Partnerships within South Ayrshire – looking at their purpose, their composition and how they work in Practice. It will also highlight the process for re-launching the Partnerships in the New Year.  |
| 3pm to 4pm: Community Learning and Development Plan                                | This Webinar will provide an overview of the recently approved Community Learning and Development Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is CLD?</li> <li>• National and Local Priorities</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to contribute to CLD across South Ayrshire.</li> </ul>  |

| Friday 19th November: Showcasing Wider Community Planning Activity                                  |  |
|---|--|
| 10am to 11am: South Ayrshire Lifeline and Supporting Older People (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) | An information webinar on what South Ayrshire Lifeline website and helpdesk can offer on activities, services, support and signposting to the community of South Ayrshire. Information on the Out and About Service and Telephone Befriending will also be part of this session.   |
| 11.30am to 12.30pm: Home Energy Scotland  | Whether you are a customer, organisation, community group or partner, there are lots of ways that Home Energy Scotland can provide help and support. We are the free and impartial energy saving advice service funded by the Scottish Government. With fuel poverty rising this is a huge worry for many people; we can work with you to help reduce energy bills, provide advice on funding and refer vulnerable customers to our Energycarer service. Join us to find out lots more about what we do and how we can help. |
| 1.30pm to 2.30pm: Power of Attorney Campaign  | This webinar will set out what Power of Attorney is, how it might help you and your family and set out the work at local and national level.   |
| 3pm to 4pm: Whole Family Support/ Team Around the Family  | Sharing examples of how collaboration between families and services for children, young people and adults, creating a Team Around the Family, can enable families facing disadvantage to recognise and build on their strengths and find sustainable solutions to deep rooted problems.  |



# An Introduction to South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership



## OUR COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES ARE:

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| › Reducing Inequalities and Improving Outcomes<br>› Improving Outcomes for Children and Young People<br>› Safer communities | › Healthier Communities/improving population health<br>› Tackling Financial Inequality<br>› Developing a 'Team Around the Community' approach | › Responding to the climate and ecological emergency<br>› Strengthening Community Engagement |
|---|---|--|

## WE WILL ACHIEVE THESE OUTCOMES THROUGH OUR:

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP)</b><br>(Reducing inequalities and improving outcomes)                                 | Our <a href="#">Local Outcome Improvement Plan</a> sets out a vision and focus based on agreed local priorities where through collaborative working with our partners and local communities, we can work to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes. We have two strategic themes within our LOIP: supporting older people to live in good health and closing the poverty related outcomes gap.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting people living with dementia and their carers;</li> <li>Reducing social isolation and loneliness;</li> <li>Improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers; and</li> <li>Providing support for young people who are carers</li> <li>Employability and lifelong learning</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Children's Services Planning Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Improving outcomes for children and young people)       | The <a href="#">Children's Services Plan 2020-2023</a> sets out our joint vision, our priorities and the outcomes we will strive to achieve for South Ayrshire's children and young people over the next three years. It has been developed collaboratively with partners involved in the delivery of services to children and young people across South Ayrshire and has been informed by input from the most important partners to our plan, our young people.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outstanding universal provision;</li> <li>Tackling inequalities;</li> <li>Love and support for our care experienced young people and young carers;</li> <li>Good physical and mental health and wellbeing; and</li> <li>Promoting children's rights.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>South Ayrshire Community Safety Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Safer communities)                                   | The Community Safety Partnership's current strategic approach focusses on ensuring joined up action around community safety partnership priorities. The partnership brings together relevant agencies, and using a targeted approach, ensures effective information sharing and agreement on areas for joint action. The <a href="#">strategic plan</a> sets out our shared vision for improving community safety outcomes across South Ayrshire which acknowledges the added value of joint working and a commitment to working with communities to improve outcomes at a local level. | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the level of violence and antisocial behaviour in our communities;</li> <li>Reduce the number of serious accidents at home and on our roads;</li> <li>Increase positive community engagement to tackle ASB and community issues within communities; and</li> <li>Work with partners to deliver CPP priorities.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Healthier communities/improving population health) | The Communities and Population Health Strategic Delivery Partnership will provide the main community planning context for developing leadership and strategic planning for the Public Health Priorities for Scotland. Our strategic action plan will help support leadership, planning approaches, and initiate or enable the development of supportive activities in relation to wider South Ayrshire health improvement and community activity.   | <b>Our priority areas are aligned to the 6 public health priorities for Scotland where we:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities.</li> <li>flourish in our early years.</li> <li>have good mental wellbeing.</li> <li>reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.</li> <li>have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all.</li> <li>eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Tackling Financial Inequality)                                   | The Financial Inclusion Strategic Delivery Partnership has the main strategic focus of tackling financial inequality, and with our partners, our key areas of focus include employability, maximising income, child poverty, looking ahead in preparation of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and supporting the community wide distribution of free access to sanitary products.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting the development of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) key strategic theme of 'closing the poverty related outcomes gap';</li> <li><a href="#">Child Poverty Action Plan</a>;</li> <li>Awareness raising;</li> <li>Free access to sanitary products; and</li> <li>Ayrshire Growth Deal.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Partnership</b><br>(Developing a team around the community approach)                         | The Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Partnership Strategic Delivery Partnership will provide the main community planning context in relation to the development of the 'team around the community model' providing leadership and agreeing to the development and implementation of new ways of service delivery to support the model going forward.  | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the implementation of a 'team around the community' to reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for people living in Wallacetown which encompasses a public health and trauma informed approach.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sustainability Partnership</b><br>(Responding to the climate and ecological emergency)                                      | The Sustainability Partnership is working to respond to the climate and ecological emergency locally, by bringing partners together to share information and collaborate on projects. The partnership draws on the skills and knowledge of its wide membership base to promote best practice and the range of co-benefits facilitated through joined up action.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connecting people with nature</li> <li>Supporting biodiversity</li> <li>Food</li> <li>Sustainable and active travel</li> <li>Sustainable design and construction</li> <li>Fairtrade</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Communities Reference Group</b><br>(Strengthening community engagement)   | The 'Communities Reference Group' will inform the process of widening community engagement within our community planning structures. The group will also be used as a formal engagement process to discuss, for example the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, CLD Partnership plan, Child Poverty Local Action Plan Report and wider community planning issues such as place planning.   | <b>Our priority areas are:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual community planning conference providing local communities with an update of progress in relation to the LOIP and to provide information on wider community planning initiatives (local and national) and;</li> <li>To assist in the engagement process of reviewing our LOIP priority areas.</li> </ul>   |

This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے اُبھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

本信息可应要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻译成多种语言。以下是详细联系方式。

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਵਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵੱਲੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formacie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iartas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

**South Ayrshire Council**  
**Customer Contact Centre**  
**03001230900**

## South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



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Report by Chief Executive, South Ayrshire Council,  
to Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 27 October 2022

### **Subject: Chief Officers' Group Annual Update**

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#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Community Planning Board on the activity of the South Ayrshire Chief Officers' Group (COG) for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

#### **2. Recommendation**

##### **2.1 The Board is asked to:**

- **note the contents of this report;**
- **request a further annual update in future years.**

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Within the public protection arena, the COG provides strategic oversight and leadership in relation to all public protection activity in South Ayrshire. Public protection is an umbrella term that covers activity in relation to:

- Child Protection;
- Adult Support and Protection;
- Alcohol and Drugs;
- Violence Against Women; and
- Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) for high-risk offenders
- Prevent

##### **3.2 Membership of the South Ayrshire COG for the reporting period was:**

- Eileen Howat, Chief Executive, SAC (Chair);
- Faroque Hussain, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland;
- John Burns, Former Chief Executive, NHS AA;
- Hazel Borland, Former Interim Chief Executive, NHS AA; and
- Claire Burden, Chief Executive, NHS AA.

The COG is also supported by a range of senior officers including:

- Chief Officer HSCP;
- Chief Social Work Officer;
- Heads of Service;
- Senior Manager (Childcare and Justice);
- Lead Officers of Adult and Child Protection; and
- Nurse Director.

Also:

- Independent Chair of the Adult and Child Protection Committees (Professor Paul Martin).

3.3 The key areas of responsibility for Chief Officers can be grouped into the following thematic areas:

- Ensuring the safety and wellbeing of South Ayrshire children and adults;
- Ensuring child protection committee business links to the broader planning fora within children's services;
- Providing a collective responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to deliver on business plans and/or improvement plans;
- Consideration of Initial Case Reviews and Significant Case Reviews; and
- Ensuring oversight of performance and efficacy of public protection services including any improvement plans.

3.4 In February 2019 the Scottish Government published a paper on the responsibilities of Child Protection Committees and Chief Officers. This paper can be found [here](#). The statutory guidance for Adult Protection Committees which also references the role of Chief Officers in public protection can be found [here](#).

3.5 Revised statutory guidance for Child Protection Committees was also introduced nationally. [This is available here](#). The COG noted the appointment of the Protection Policy Implementation Officer.

## 4. Current Arrangements and Key Activity

Within the reporting period public protection activity has been subject to significant scrutiny because of the pandemic. Whilst the COG would normally meet quarterly to consider business, since March 2020 the COG has been meeting monthly to ensure appropriate oversight of public protection activity and recovery through the pandemic. The following are areas of COG activity that the Board should be aware of that have guided South Ayrshire's response to public protection through the pandemic.

### 4.1 Governance

The onset of the pandemic saw the COG move to monthly meetings and commission 4 sub-groups to provide oversight of activity in relation to child protection; adult protection; alcohol and drugs and violence against women (including Justice). These groups brought together key stakeholders to share intelligence and plan coordinated responses and provided a pathway to the COG

for escalation of issues.

In April 2021, the COG continued to provide governance and oversight of National and Public Health Guidance to ensure the safety of people who use our Services and our workforce who support them.

Additionally, the COG continued to monitor performance on key services impacted by COVID and develop a multiagency response in several areas such as:

- Delayed Transfer of Care
- Delayed Annual Review in Adult Care / Support
- Contact and Support to Vulnerable Adults, Families and Children

The COG maintained oversight of key information required by SG on a weekly basis with regards to public protection. This allowed for assurance on the maintenance of performance in relation to both our preventative activity but also oversight of Investigations and Inquiries conducted through Adult Support and Protection (ASP) and Child Protection (CP) procedures.

## 4.2 **Adult Care**

### Care Home Oversight

While the impact of Covid has been felt across society it has disproportionately affected our older adult residents and our front-line practitioners who provide compassionate care and support daily. Significantly the availability of workforce has emerged as a risk in both the private and public sector. The added pressure of the reduction of those willing to enter this profession has created pressure on recruitment.

The COG maintained an oversight of the impact of covid and the supports and assistance we could provide to providers and services during lockdown and our transition post-pandemic. Our Care Home Oversight Group (CHOG) chaired by Head of Service for Community Health and Care Services continued to report on the status of our provision.

Within the reporting period the CHOG were asked to broaden their remit acknowledging the whole system nature of providing care and support and the dependencies and impact each area has on other parts, particularly in relation to delayed discharges of care and review of care and support packages.

This group working with the Care Inspectorate and Partners across healthcare has overseen monitoring of care homes.

### Delayed Transfers of Care.

With the pressures throughout the system created by the pandemic and its Continued impact on the health of our people and our workforce delayed transfers of care has become a focus of attention. The COG maintained oversight of plans across an array of services to meet this challenge acknowledging the factors unique to South Ayrshire that create a significant demand.

## Reviews

Reviews are crucial to ensuring that we have the right support at the right time for people. The COG maintains oversight of performance in relation to the completion of Individual reviews and subsequent actions required.

Large Scale Investigations may be implemented as part of the functions of the APC. These are utilised to protect people from harm in these care settings. In the reporting period has conducted one Large-Scale Investigation was implemented resulting in action, support, and improvement to safeguard and maintain the standard of care that we expect for people who use our services. This concluded on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Monitoring is maintained by the CHOG and oversight by the APC.

### **4.3 Public Protection**

#### Review of process, policy and structure.

The COG approved a programme of review into public protection aimed at providing prevention and intervention at early stages in people's lives.

Three areas were focussed on:

- Adult Social Work Learning Review
- Alcohol and Drug Partnership Learning Review
- Public Protection Learning Review

Additionally, the COG also provided oversight on these safeguarding areas,

#### MAPPA

The COG received regular assurance and update report in respect of our Multiagency Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) that establish joint arrangements for the assessment and management of risk posed by certain high risk

The annual MAPPA Report can be accessed here. [MAPPA – Annual Report 2021](#)

#### Prevent

During the reporting period the COG approved arrangements to establish PREVENT meetings and oversight arrangements to support those who may be at risk of becoming involved in extreme groups and radicalisation.

#### MARAC

The COG maintained oversight of arrangements regarding the establishment of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences in Ayrshire to discuss individuals who



may be at risk of serious harm due to domestic abuse. Details of MARAC may be found [here](#).

### Significant Case Reviews (SCR)

SCR are significant in that they deliver learning recommendations relevant at a national level. The decision to proceed to an SCR is taken at the Initial Case Review (ICR) to review circumstances and decide if progression to SCR is required.

The COG has overseen the final stages of the implementation of the action plan of one adult services SCR. The report and the recommendation of this is available here. [Significant Case Review MJ](#)

In the area of children services three SCR's / Learning reviews have been undertaken.

Publication of circumstances relating to Child H can be accessed on the link below. [Significant Care Review Child H](#)

One SCR into matters relating to Child F was held in abeyance as some areas of inquiry fell sub judice.

The completion of this SCR relating to Child P was nearing completion in last quarter of the reporting period with the COG maintaining oversight of support to those impacted, publication and communications.

In the reporting period, the COG has accepted the APC recommendations that in a further four Initial Case Reviews (ICRs) progression to a Significant Case Review was not required.

Additional to this the COG provided oversight on professional discussions relating to the safeguarding and protection of children because of our duties under the Child Death Oversight Protocol (CDOP) and Death of Looked after Children (DLAC) review and reporting mechanism. Within the period one child was notified reported to the Care Inspectorate with the outcome no need move toward a learning review.

## Child Protection

The COG maintains oversight of Child Protection Performance through sight of quarterly reports. The Annual Report for April 2021 – 2022 is due to be published in November 2022

## Adult Protection

The reporting period of APC is on a biennial basis with the next report due to be published in October 2022.

## **Inspection**

Within the reporting year the COG maintained oversight of the inspection of Adult Support and Protection processes and performance within the partnership. The Care Inspectorate report is available [here](#). Resulting from this an ASP Improvement Plan was developed and implemented to address the areas of improvement. The delivery of the improvement is monitored at the HCGB and reports into various governance boards for monitoring and oversight purposes.

## **4.4 Ongoing Developments**

Alongside these key areas, the COG has overseen important developments in relation to other key public protection developments:

- Signs of Safety Implementation an integrated framework which is a strength-based approach to child protection.
- Refocussing of APC / CPC subgroups
- Development and implementation of audit activity of Initial Referral Discussions / Case Files
- Representation to the National Child Abuse Inquiry in relation to the historical abuse within foster care provision of fostering services and implementation of associated action plan
- Improved performance data and analysis of themes
- Representing with Community Planning subgroup chair the issues of the impact of Covid on the mental health of our communities and of the impact of family poverty. This sought to raise awareness of the impact of these agendas from a public protection perspective into the partnership activity.

## **5. Next Steps and Areas for Improvement**

5.1 The COG continues to meet monthly to progress the public protection agenda in South Ayrshire. The coming year will see several significant developments in relation to public protection including:

- Implementation of new National Child Protection Guidance;
- Implementation of new Adult Support and Protection Guidance;
- Publication of Learning Review reports and associated action plans;

- Covid recovery and renewal as it applies to public protection activity; and
- Implementation of the recommendations from the:
  - Adult Social Work Learning Review
  - Alcohol and Drug Partnership Learning Review
  - Public Protection Learning Review
- Oversight of improvements and action arising from Inspection, CPC and APC Reviews and local audit / performance activity.

5.2 There have been key changes in terms of the membership of the COG with Jim Kerr replacing Professor Paul Martin as the independent chair of the APC and CPC. Additionally, Gary Hoey has replaced Scott Hunter as CSWO and Beth McClean has replaced Meg Williams as Child Protection Lead. The strategic links between public protection and community planning and public protection as an area will continue to be built upon by their support to the CPP board allowing for strengthened links and broader representation of public protection matters.

## South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board



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Report by Young Carers Strategy Lead Officer, South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, to Community Planning Partnership Board Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **Subject: Carer Positive Award**

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#### **1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.2 To provide a summary of the Carer Positive Award and to encourage partners to become a Carer Positive organisation.

#### **2 The Board is recommended to:**

##### **2.1 Consider the content of this report.**

#### **3 Background**

- 3.1 Carer Positive is a Scottish Government funded initiative, developed with the support of a strong partnership between private, public and voluntary sector organisations in Scotland.
- 3.2 It is estimated that there are 759,000 unpaid carers in Scotland, with 3 in 5 people expected to care for someone at one point in their lives. There are around 270,000 people in Scotland who juggle caring with holding down a job. Juggling work and caring responsibilities can be challenging and extremely stressful, with many carers unable to sustain their careers. This can lead to financial hardship and move carers and their families onto a dependence on benefits. Without support and understanding at work, carers can suffer from high levels of stress and exhaustion. The effects of this can be damaging both in the workplace and at home.
- 3.3 Caring for a sick or disabled person is different from caring for children. It can happen overnight, without any or much warning; it can be hard to plan and cope with emotionally; and can involve a series of milestones which result in the need for varying intensities and levels of caring. Carers represent a significant part of the working age population, both in the workplace, and in the wider labour market. They are likely to represent 1 in 8 of your workforce as well being a valuable source of recruitment.

#### **4 Benefits**

- 4.1 Evidence has shown that supportive policies and working practices:
- attracts and retains staff;
  - reduces stress and sickness absence;

- reduces recruitment and training costs;
- increases resilience and productivity;
- improves service delivery;
- produces cost savings; and
- improves people management and staff morale.

4.2 The Carer Positive initiative fits with Scottish Government aspirations to promote fairer working practices across Scotland. You will enhance your reputation as an 'employer of choice' for the growing numbers of people in the workforce and wider labour market who might need to work in a more flexible manner, thereby recruiting from a wider pool of people with valuable skills and experience.

4.3 Becoming a Carer Positive employer not only contributes to workforce management and employee engagement considerations, but also to wider corporate and community social responsibility aims. It can also help an organisation demonstrate where they meet certain criteria linked to funding applications, and to other employer award programmes such as Healthy Working Lives award and the 'see me' Employer Pledge.

## 5 The Award

5.1 The award incorporates 3 levels or stages, from 'engaged' to 'established' through to 'exemplary'. These stages are cumulative, with employers only able to move to the next level once the required criterion at each stage is achieved and maintained. Carer Positive status is award to employers who can provide evidence that they meet criteria in 5 areas:

- Identification of carers (There is good understanding of what the term 'carer' means, and a system is in place to enable carers to identify themselves);
- Policy (Carers are recognised within HR policies or procedures);
- Workplace support (Carers can access practical workplace support or can access information about external support and services);
- Communication, awareness raising & training (Policies and available support are communicated to all members of staff); and
- Peer support (Carers are supported to engage with other carers)

More information and application forms can be found at <https://carerpositive.org/apply>