

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities
to Cabinet
of 17 January 2023**

Subject: South Ayrshire Food Network - Update

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on South Ayrshire Food Network and to recognise the ongoing work of Thriving Communities Officers supporting local 3rd Sector partners and the Food Network.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1.1 recognises the work of the Food Network and the support provided by Thriving Communities officers;**
- 2.1.2 approves that the work of Food Network should continue to be reported through the Community Planning Partnership – Financial Inclusion (SDP); and**
- 2.1.3 approves updates on progress of the Food Network and ongoing response to addressing food insecurity is reported through the Cost of Living Member/ Officer Working Group.**

3. Background

- 3.1 A motion was agreed at Council on 3 March 2022 requesting that a report should be submitted to Leadership Panel detailing proposals on how South Ayrshire Council can support local food pantries going forward.
- 3.2 During the Covid-19 response South Ayrshire Council Officers established the South Ayrshire Food Network alongside 3rd sector partners.
- 3.3 South Ayrshire Food Network is chaired by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) and is reported to the Community Planning Partnership - Financial Inclusion (SDP) who receive updates on progress.
- 3.4 The Thriving Communities Service Lead and Senior Communities Officers support the coordination of food provision across South Ayrshire. This support includes food provision across South Ayrshire during the school holidays, support for local foodbanks and financial support for local food pantries.

- 3.5 In 2020/21 three local food pantries were established in Ayr, Maybole and Girvan. Utilising South Ayrshire's Scottish Government funding allocation - *Addressing Future Needs funding*, financial support was provided to establish these local pantries.
- 3.6 Girvan Food Pantry is located in Girvan Primary School and is managed by Children's 1st. There are currently 333 members, which equates to 152 families accessing this service. The demand for the service has resulted in the pantry now opening four days per week.
- 3.7 Ayr Food Pantry is located in Ayr Town Centre and is managed by VASA. There is currently over 800 members with approximately 170 under 18s accessing this service, with a further 515 older people who are retired. A recent review of membership estimated that over 500 people are using the service weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
- 3.8 Maybole Food Pantry is located within The Carrick Centre and is managed by staff from the Centre. There is currently just under 500 members accessing this service. Maybole Food Pantry is now complimented by the recently established Heat and Eat Initiative based in the centre as part of the Cosy Spaces Initiative.
- 3.9 £117,664 of funding was allocated from the Scottish Government - *Addressing Future Needs Funding* to support the three food pantries during 2022/23 – Children's 1st £25,000, Carrick Centre £25,000 and VASA £67,664.
- 3.10 As part of Thriving Communities - Employability, the Long Term Unemployed Programme – Evolve, two adults completed a six month work experience placement with another adult currently on placement. These placements have helped VASA resource the pantry in Ayr.
- 3.11 In addition to the three established Food Pantries Thriving Communities Officers continue to support Food Network groups/organisations to establish other food pantries or initiatives across South Ayrshire.
- 3.12 £100,000 was allocated to groups and organisations through LACER Empowering Communities Funding in response to the Cost-of-Living crisis. This funding has been used to support various initiatives.

Lacer Funding – Empowering Communities – Cost of Living Crisis

Groups Awarded Funding	Amount
North Ayr The Gither	£9,000
Dundonald Community Project	£10,000
Harbour Ayrshire	£6,000
Newton Primary Parent Council	£9,000
Annbank Church	£7,000
Ayr Housing Aid	£10,000
VIC's In The Community	£8,000
The Carrick Centre	£9,000

Groups Awarded Funding	Amount
Night Before Christmas Campaign	£9,000
Aberlour Children’s Charity	£10,000
Dailly Community Council	£6,000
Glendoune Community Association	£1,000
Ayrshire Women’s Hub	£6,000
Total	£100,000

3.13 An evaluation of the funded projects will be collated in April 2023 by Thriving Communities Officers.

4 Proposals

4.1 It is proposed South Ayrshire Council’s Thriving Communities Officers submit a £10,000 funding application to Lintel Trust to support the Food Pantries.

4.2 Thriving Communities Officers including, External Grants Officer, continue to support the 3rd Sector to explore opportunities for funding to support the Food Network and associated food insecurity provision.

4.3 Progress of the Food Network continues to be reported through the Community Planning Partnership – Financial Inclusion (SDP).

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1. There are no financial implications at this stage.

7. Human Resources

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with approving the recommendations noted.

8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 The implications of rejecting the recommendations could have an impact on people affected by food insecurity in South Ayrshire.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 1](#).

10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to this report.

12. Link to the Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Commitment 2 of the Council Plan: Closing the Gap/ Reduce poverty and disadvantage.

13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 A Consultation has not been carried out.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Strategic Change and Communities will ensure all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Panel Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<i>Implementation</i>	<i>Due date</i>	<i>Managed by</i>
Submit Annual Report to Cabinet	May 2023	Service Lead – Thriving Communities

Background Papers [South Ayrshire Council – 3 March 2022 - Minutes](#) - Item 9.2, Page 3

Person to Contact **Jamie Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities**
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 559398
E-mail jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 4 January 2023

South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

1. Policy details

Policy Title	South Ayrshire Food Network - Update
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Jamie Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities – jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	No	No
Disability	No	No
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	No	No
Marriage or Civil Partnership	No	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	No	No
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	No	No
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	No	No
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	No	No
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	No	No

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	No	No

3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	No	No
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	No	No
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	No	No
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	No	No
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	No	No

4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation	Low
Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

5. Summary Assessment

Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required? (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as Medium and/or High)	YES NO
Rationale for decision: The proposal does not have a significant negative or positive impact on any particular group	
Signed : Jamie Tait Date: 13 December 2022	Service Lead