

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2023**



**FINANICAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP**

**Date of last meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023**

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

N/A

**Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE:**

Following approval by the CP Board on 20<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed by the SDP Chairs Executive that work will take place by each of the SDPs to agree high level strategic outcomes with supporting priorities as part of the development of the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. These will be presented to the Community Planning Executive later in the year prior to going out for consultation in January 2024.

**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 have been two meetings of the SDP – a LOIP priority development session on the 30<sup>th</sup> August and a main meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Key areas of progress arising includes:

**LOIP PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT SESSION (30<sup>th</sup> August)**

Following engagement with SDP members at the development session, it was agreed that areas of focus for LOIP priorities should include **Financial Inclusion** (which would incorporate fuel poverty, income maximisation (Information Advice Hub, Benefits, Energy Agency) and food insecurity provision (Local Authority, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Food Network and other organisations) and **Economic, Employability and Lifelong Learning Opportunities** (which would incorporate Economic Development and Community Wealth Building (Community Wealth Building and Growth developments), No One Left Behind and Employability (Local Employability Partnership) and Community Learning and Development (covers CLD, Ayrshire College, Volunteering, 3<sup>rd</sup> sector provision).

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

This continues to be a standing agenda for consideration by partners – updates continue to be provided by both the Information and Advice Hub and Energy Agency/Home Energy Scotland on referrals to both services and support provided.

**EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

CLD Inspection

This was carried out between the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Verbal feedback from the inspection team was very positive. An initial report will be shared in three weeks with the final report published in eight weeks.

One of the inspection team members did attend the SDP meeting and provided positive feedback on the partnership work and how partners were addressing in equality.

### Challenge Poverty Week Events

A number of events were held during Challenge poverty week to promote access to financial; support and opportunities for parents to return to work. This included events at:

Tuesday 03 October – Seagate Church Troon

Wednesday 04 October – Grain Exchange Aye

Thursday 05 October – Carrick Opportunities Centre Girvan

### Summer Programmes/Thriving Communities Family Fun Days

Family Engagement and Multiply teams supported Thriving Communities summer programme and a range of family day events in North Ayr, Belleisle Park and Kincaidston to promote services. Video link below:

<https://vimeo.com/ayrshirefilmco/review/857535966/79828723c7>

### Expansion of Budgeting and Healthy Eating Programmes in Targeted Communities

Money Advice Scotland Modules being delivered to parents through Family Engagement Programme on 1-1 and small groups. Parent And Child Together Healthy Eating on a Budget Cooking Group – Wallacetown Nursery (TC Employability & Multiply). Support is being given to newly established drop in at George Street Wallacetown focused on combating poverty.

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Programme

UKSPF Multiply programme now fully operational as part of the government levelling up agenda.

*New UKSPF activities include:*

### ESOL Financial literacies

- 10 session courses based on the language of numeracy covering
- Banking – accounts, application and online services
- Interest, debt. And statements
- Borrowing – percentages and interest
- Shopping – budgeting comparing prices
- Bills – utilities and mobile costs
- Payslips – understanding tax and NI contributions

### Core Skills

The service is now able to accredit all core skills up to level 4. This profile includes ESOL. All staff are working towards or have completed SQA assessor and verifier training.

### Ageing Well

There is a focus on working with our older client group and 2 projects will begin with clients in sheltered housing (Troon). The group will have IT support to look at online purchasing, cyber security and a numeracy refresh for budgeting. This extends to a new bridge club in Symington where playing bridge will be the context for counting and memory support.

### Mental health and Wellbeing

There is currently an entry level course to help participants be more able to deal with emotions around financial wellbeing and communicate more effectively which can be the gateway course into the budgeting course and other SQA units.

### JOBS Fair

DWP Prestwick Airport Jobs Fair supported by the Local Employability Partnership (LEP) held in August attracted 1400 people from throughout Scotland. LEP partners currently following up with local attendees.

### PACE Redundancy Support

Partnership currently offering support to Wilko and ready to respond to any new local redundancy announcement.

### Participation Measure

At 96.6% South Ayrshire continues to have one of the highest participation measures in Scotland.

### **CONNECTING COMMUNITIES FAMILY FOOD INITIATIVE – AYR**

An overview was provided by Ayrshire College on the Connecting Communities Family Food Initiative. Over 5 weeks in the Summer of 2023, Ayrshire College worked in partnership with South Ayrshire Council and Vibrant Communities to host a Connecting Communities Family Food initiative in Ayr, and welcomed several families who took part in the programme. The children took part in a range of activities with Staff and Student Teams from the Early Years, Music & Media, Sports & Fitness and Hair & Beauty departments while parents were introduced to easy and affordable recipes that gave them the knowledge and skills them to prepare and cook fresh, healthy meals for their families at home, supported by staff from Ayrshire College. Further information can be found in the evaluation which can be accessed [here](#).

### **WORKING FOR WALLACETOWN**

An overview was provided by the Wallacetown Co-ordinator of the substantial work that is taking place in Wallacetown. Working For Wallacetown Hub at 37 George Street is seeing an increase in the number of services attending to provide drop in sessions and engagement with the local communities. Services include NHS, Thriving Communities, Skills Development Scotland, Quarriers, ADP, Ukraine Support Team and Health and Wellbeing. Engagement continues at the Room@Wallacetown in Newton Primary School – this includes Ayr United Football Academy, the Gardening Club, Room Sixty, Coffee and Chat, Woodwork Club and Food and Clothing Bank. Focused work includes a weekly day of action, supporting new and vulnerable residents and carrying out wellbeing visits. A resident referral form has been created signposting for information on a number of services/areas. Resident engagement insights has identified that the top 4 areas for engagement include poverty (cost of living), wellbeing and family/adult learning and housing.. Wallacetown Community Voice is developing a modern way of engaging with residents and ensure service delivery is a response to the needs of residents.

### **KEY ISSUES**

- A review of the membership of the SDP will take place in consideration of the approval given by the CP Board to incorporate 'growth' into the remit of the SDP and links to Community Wealth Building and wider economy and regeneration.
- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan considering the new National Child Poverty plan.
- Continued implementation of the delivery plan for Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.
- Provide the Community Planning Board with an update on Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building (and in particular how community wealth building ties in with place-planning and regeneration) to be arranged for a future CP Board meeting.
- Continue to make connections within the SDP and members on support available to our local communities because of the cost-of-living crisis; and
- Development of a Strategic Outcome and supporting priorities in preparation for the new Local Outcomes Improvement 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 supported by Susan McCardie**

**Date: October 2023**