



South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board

Report by Service Lead – Policy, Performance and Community Planning, South Ayrshire Council to Community Planning Board Meeting of 26th October 2023

Subject: Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Progress Report (2023)

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask the Community Planning Board to consider the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Progress Report 2023 (appendix a) and approve its publication.

2 The Board is recommended to:

- 2.1 **approve the Local Outcomes Annual Progress Report 2023; 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 gaps**'. This report was refreshed in 2019 with a further review in 2020 which amended the '*closing the poverty-related outcomes gap for children and young people*' to '*closing the poverty related outcomes gap*' to reflect families and the wider community. 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 This is the sixth annual progress report, which is required to be published by the Community Planning Partnership and is now in final draft form and is attached as appendix a. The report recognises continuing progress that has been made across all of our priority areas, highlighting the strength of collaboration and partnership working.

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' in November to showcase the work of South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership.
- 5.2 As highlighted previously to the CP Board, work has begun to develop a new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan which will be presented to the CP Board in April 2024.



South Ayrshire
**COMMUNITY
PLANNING**
Partnership



LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LOIP)

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 2023



Contents

Foreword	4
Introduction	5
What have we achieved in the past year?	6
Our priorities:	7
Supporting older people to live in good health	7
Support for people living with dementia and their carers.....	12
Closing the poverty-related outcomes gap	18
Providing Support For Young People Who Are Carers.....	26
Employability and lifelong learning.....	45
Next Steps for the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan	
Development of new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan	49
Main areas of focus for the next 12 months	49
Monitoring and review.....	51
Appendix 1	52

Foreword

I am delighted to introduce this year's Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) annual progress report which provides details of all the great partnership working taking place across South Ayrshire and the collective progress being made by the Community Planning Partnership. We are moving towards the final year of reporting on our current plan and as this LOIP draws to a close next year, work is well underway to develop a new plan from April 2024 onwards.

Extensive progress has taken place over the past few years to build on our priority areas which has been captured in our annual reports. This highlights the strength of collaboration and partnership working, evidencing that individual agencies and services can't work in isolation to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities for people living within our communities.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Community Planning Board, to thank the dedication, time, commitment and contribution of everyone who has been involved in this plan since its approval in 2017 and I look forward to your continued support to embed our new LOIP. By continuing to work together, we will support our communities to grow, care and live a better life in South Ayrshire.



Councillor Julie Dettbarn
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 progressed through the placemaking process and referred to as ‘local place plans’.

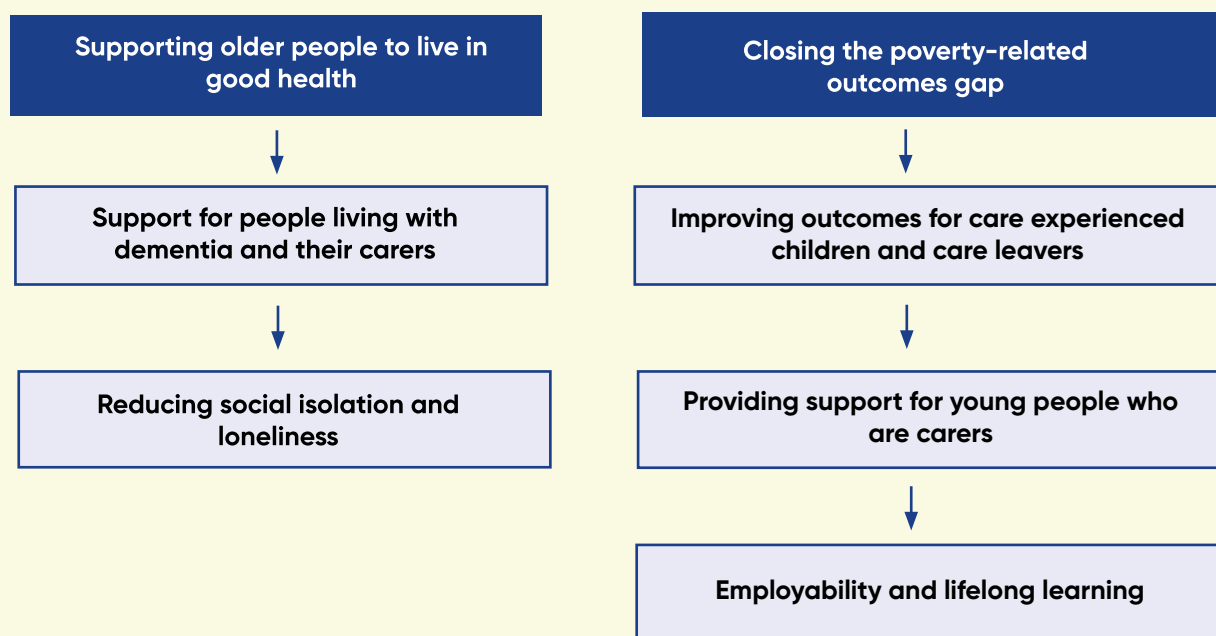
This annual report highlights the progress that has been made during the sixth year of our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.





What have we achieved in the past year?

This sixth 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:



In November 2022, we again hosted a successful Webinar Series Event which took place over two weeks. The purpose of the purpose of the webinar series event was to again give our partners an opportunity to showcase their commitment of supporting our LOIP strategic themes/priorities and wider community planning outcomes. There were 12 seminars with 192 people attending the webinars over the 10-day period. Topics covered included:

Trauma Informed Practice	Champions For Change	Primary Care/ Pharmacy	It's good to walk!
Promising Times Ahead	Green Health	Thriving Communities	Young Carers
Shaping Places for Wellbeing	Information and Advice Hub	South Ayrshire Lifeline	South Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership

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



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.

The first Implementation Plan for the Strategy covered the period 2018-2022 and there has been a recent updating of this Implementation Plan to form a new Implementation Plan for 2023-27. This takes into account new opportunities to support Social Isolation (such as our move towards Locality based working), changes in Community Planning arrangements, new funding sources and other realities such as the Cosy Space initiative to address the Cost of Living crisis. In addition, the work associated with the development of an Ageing Well Strategy and the associated Age Friendly Community outworking will also provide strategic contexts to embed social isolation into broader work.



Prevent:

Prevent people from becoming chronically socially isolated or experiencing loneliness (primary prevention)

There are two significant and linked areas which we would like to highlight:

- The work supported through the Scottish Government Mental Health and wellbeing monies distributed via Voluntary Action South Ayrshire - VASA (£337,058). The successful organisations that received a grant from this fund included: Ayr Housing Aid Centre SCIO, Ayrshire Tigers Powerchair Football, Community Gift Exchange, Colmonell Community Association, Community Wellbeing Hub, Girvan Community Garden, Glendoune Community Association, Harbour Ayrshire, HOPE Wellbeing Centre, MindfullyPresent CIC, Mossblown Matters, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) at Riverside Church, SISG, South Ayrshire Carers Centre, Vics in the Community and Yogable.
- These organisations represent a significant grass-roots based programme addressing community based mental health and wellbeing including the addressing of social isolation and loneliness. For example, the Hope Wellbeing project has established itself in premises in Ayr High Street offering a range of 1:1 and group services addressing mental health and wellbeing, for example, linked to bereavement support.
- The other significant area is the Cosy Spaces initiative led by VASA and supported by the HSCP and others. The groups who were allocated a Cosy Spaces grant were: Auld Kirk of Ayr, Ayr St Quivox Church, Ayrshire Housing, BRICC, Colmonell Community Association, Community Wellbeing Hub, Coylton Community Association, Girvan Community Garden, Girvan Town Team, Hope Wellbeing Centre, Kirkmichael Village Renaissance, Lochside Community Association, McCandlish Hall Straiton, Monkton Community Council, Mossblown Matters, New Life Christian Fellowship, Riverside Evangelical Church, Seagate Church, St Margaret's Cathedral and Symington Friendship Group.
- There are spaces throughout South Ayrshire offering warmth, hospitality and sometimes food, activities and other supports.
- In addition to the organisations that received funding from this source there are many other emerging Cosy Spaces and also Council spaces such as Libraries that have supported this programme.
- Both the wider Mental Health and Wellbeing funded projects and the Cosy Space projects will be subject to an evaluation led by VASA.

In addition, there are many very local projects that all 6 Locality Planning Partnerships (LPPs) have allocated some grant funding to that specifically address social isolation or where that is a strong component part. LPPs are responsible for ensuring the monitoring of these projects.



CASE STUDY **Cosy Spaces**

Group 1 – running a Cosy Space twice a week and seeing around 70 people come along per week, enjoying a lunch, a cuppa and a blether. A handful of support services are on hand to offer advice and guidance to attendees.

Group 2 – now established with around 25-30 people attending, getting a hot meal and an opportunity to chat or play games. A couple of the participants are now volunteers who have completed their Food Hygiene Certification. Others are taking on a more leadership role within the group and coming up with ideas for activities for the group.

Group 3 – seeing 20-30 people attending weekly. Individuals have come in to thank them for the work they are doing. They are seeing friendships being established and people say they have a reason to get out of the house. People who are struggling to heat their homes are popping in for a warm space and warm food at the weekend.

Group 4 – this group is predominantly for older people on their own and is the only social space in the village as there is no longer even a café. The group was formed and funded using a sponsor organisation on the application as they were not fully

constituted themselves. With the success of the Cosy Space the group felt confident enough to move forward to formalise, opening a bank account and creating a constitution with the help of VASA's Capacity Building Team.

Group 5 – an average of 40 people attending every week including families, older people and refugees. A home-cooked, two course meal is served up and volunteers are on hand to talk to anyone who is struggling, and they have referred a number of vulnerable people to other services for support.

Group 6 – a whole mix of age groups are attending this group – even some four-legged friends! A community walk has been organised for people of all abilities to take part in before they sit down for a cuppa and a breakfast roll at their Cosy Space. On wet days, the walkers and at least two dogs do circuits around the community hall.

Group 7 – the group offers to transport to and from the Cosy Space, allowing older people from some of the most isolated parts of South Ayrshire, and other with poor mobility, to enjoy a weekly get-together and some much needed company.

What our local communities are saying about Cosy Spaces:

“ I have lived here for years and never really knew anyone in the village very well. I've been coming to the Cosy Space for a few months and now I know more people than I ever have – I feel part of the community in a way I didn't before because now if I'm going to the shop people wave when they see me or stop to have a chat.”

‘The Cosy Space at the hall has given me a reason to get out of the house every week and I so look forward to the company and the bledthers, instead of sitting by myself staring at four walls.’

‘Sometimes it's not easy making friends as you get older but I have met two lovely women and we're hoping to arrange to have a wee day out in the summer.’

‘The folk who run the Cosy Space listened to me when I was at a really low point and they put me in touch with services who were able to offer me more support.’”

Respond:

Prevent people from developing social isolation or loneliness following one of the known triggers or transitions (secondary prevention)

Local services such as Community Link Practitioners and South Ayrshire Lifeline have continued to respond to loneliness and promote reconnection within communities. Additionally, Mental Health Practitioners within GP practices and CMHTEs are being encouraged to signpost individuals who are experiencing loneliness to community/third sector support.

There are 11 Mental Health Practitioners, 8 Community Link Practitioners and 6 Self Help Workers linked to GP Practices and localities that can direct and refer people to wider supports.

There is also a Community Connector within the Learning Disability services.

Social Work front-door teams are now signposting people with a range of lower-level demands to community based initiatives often tackling isolation.



Restore:

Prevent those who are chronically socially isolated or lonely from experiencing poor social or health outcomes (tertiary prevention)

Within more 'clinical' contexts, such as that concerned with frailty, there are many examples of our Occupational Therapists (OT) and OT Assistants linking older, frail people to initiatives that support their social context including loneliness.

The wider Team around the Practice includes nursing, OT, Physiotherapy, Pharmacy, Mental Health and Community Link Practitioners all of whom are picking up issues of chronic loneliness sometimes caused by a particular health condition and sometimes being the cause of more pronounced health issues.

There is now a useful infrastructure that is present within almost all of South Ayrshire that can respond to this kind of need. Whilst the Cosy Space initiative was a response to the Cost of Living/Fuel Cost crisis, in reality it has been a catalyst to create more local capacity that creates social connection and socialisation.

Through South Ayrshire Lifeline and through the locality-based working, there are now better pathways linking the presentation of SI in formal services to local community services.

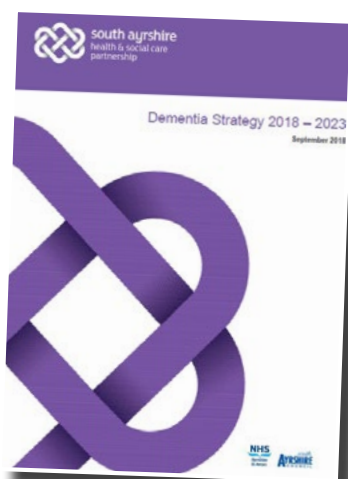




Support for people living with dementia and their carers

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:	OBJECTIVES:
People living with dementia and their carers live in a supported community.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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



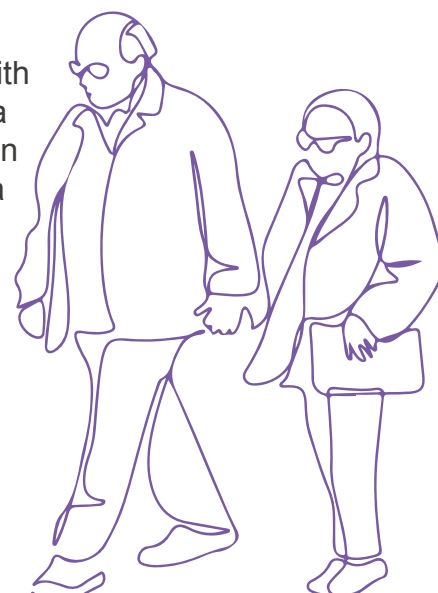
The [South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Dementia Strategy 2018- 2023](#). The strategy sets out:

- 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.



Dementia Friendly Communities

Troon

Dementia Friendly Troon is active in a variety of ways including:



- Relaxed golf at Royal Troon golf course;
- Dementia Friendly Allotment work at Fullarton Woods;
- Life Changes Trust funding diverted to work on Italian Gardens and heritage boards of 'old Troon';
- Training for businesses has been ongoing for the last 4 years;
- As part of the Global Aging Conference, Glasgow this September – some members of this conference will come along and play golf at Royal Troon & Portland courses.

Prestwick



Dementia Friendly Prestwick (DFP) is very active and has supported the continuation of the following activities:

- Dementia Friendly Walks
- Bags of Support
- Meeting Centre

During the lockdown period, DFP secured funds, earmarked staff for recruitment and completed training courses to enable a Meeting Centre to open in Prestwick - a social club for people with early to moderate dementia and their families/carers. The club opened in June 2022, with funding from Life Changes Trust, the Communities Renewal Fund, and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire.

Meeting Centres provide evidence-based support and a safe place where people with dementia (members), their families and carers, can adapt to living with dementia. A diagnosis of dementia is likely to be a difficult time for someone, and for their loved ones. The Meeting Centre provides a safety net to catch and support people following a diagnosis, including peer support and respite periods for carers. With a prominent location in the town - the RAFA Club, by the seafront – the Centre can support people before a diagnosis and signpost to appropriate agencies. People can drop in and talk to staff and volunteers, and be provided with other relevant information re supports.

People are supported to do familiar fun things as well as get effective advice and peer support in a relaxed atmosphere. All sessions are built around the interests and skills of the people who attend, and they are fully involved in shaping what happens in and around the Meeting Centre.



Maybole

Dementia Friendly North Carrick an initiative to encourage local communities and businesses to create an environment where people with dementia are understood, respected and supported.

The North Carrick Dementia Friendly Community Choir meets monthly and everyone is welcome, especially those living with dementia or other conditions and their families, friends or carers.



Girvan and South Carrick

This work forms part of a wider set of work for the Girvan and South Carrick area - Making Girvan and South Carrick Safer, Friendlier and Healthier for all.

Girvan Town Team with funding from Coastal Communities Fund carried out the following:-

- Dementia coloured benches x 10 at Ainsley Park. In a cluster formation to encourage conversation and interaction.
- Picnic benches x 2 which are wheelchair accessible at the Promenade.

Girvan Town Team with funding from the Community Led Lottery Fund carried out the following:-

- Beach accessible wheelchairs, beach walker and hoist.
- Support provided to the Boost Group to encourage healthy eating and exercise.
- Support provided to Z1 and Glendoune to support their Easter projects to encourage youth activities and community cohesion.

Girvan Town Team in partnership with Locality Planning Partnership and SAC carried out the following:-

- 14 defibrillators in the Town.
- Community awareness and training programmes being planned under LPP.
- Improved disability access from the Promenade to the Beach.
- Input to the Mentally Healthy Communities Action Plan.
- War Memorial benches and refurbishment of picnic tables to allow public access to events on Stair Park.
- Outdoor fitness equipment at the Promenade.

Wider Community Services



AYR UNITED FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Ayr United Football Academy leads on Football Memories sessions. They meet monthly in the new Ayr United Hub space. These are hugely well-supported and include participants from Care Homes. The sessions involve guests or focusing on a theme such as Scottish Goalkeepers, the Busby Babes, Scottish Refereeing.

Football Memories – Ayr United Football Academy (aufa.org.uk)

Our Football Memories programme is run in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland and provides an opportunity for anyone living with Dementia or any difficulties with their memories to reminisce about various topics relating football in Scotland and ranging to football in general throughout the world in years gone by.

During the event, there is a ‘half-time’ break where pies, biscuits and refreshments are provided, and this gives everyone a chance to chat and have some good banter with others in attendance.

These events are hosted in Cameron’s Bar inside The Somerset Hub at Ayr United’s Stadium, Somerset Park.

Are you or someone you know living with dementia or having memory problems?

You are more than welcome to come along and attend our Football Memories events every month with our welcoming and relaxing atmosphere as we are helping to ensure that nobody needs to suffer from dementia alone.

Alzheimer Scotland

Alzheimer Scotland has a range of positive activities in place to support people living with dementia including drop-ins, Dementia Walks, Nurture with Nature sessions, Coffee and Chat Sessions, Music and Arts and many more. Their Community Groups are there to be enjoyed by anyone living with or experiencing difficulties with their memory, including families and friends.

What's On

Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

**South Ayrshire
Activities & Events in May 2023**

Covid guidance

Please do not attend our groups if you are feeling unwell.

Any of our In Person groups may be cancelled at short notice if the Government guidelines change or if staff members need to self-isolate.

Our Community Groups are there to be enjoyed by anyone living with dementia or experiencing difficulties with their memory, including their families and friends. All are welcome; people who can attend independently and/or, for those unable to do so should come with a companion who can provide any support for them. We are unable to transport for these groups and therefore it is your responsibility to get to and from this community activity, safely. Please speak to us, so we can support you to explore other transport options.

Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

**South Ayrshire
Nurture Through
Nature**

Gathering in the beautiful grounds of Auchincruive and facilitated by qualified outdoor instructors we will spend time together engaging with nature and each other. With activities such as wildlife surveys, wood carving, nature ID, wild food gathering, wild tea tasting and nature crafting.

Come and have fun together, destress through the therapeutic benefits of nature and learn new skills and hobbies or rediscover old ones- we can't wait to welcome you!

When? The 3rd Wed of the month 11:00am-12:30pm

Where? The nearest postcode is KA6 5AE. From Whittlets Roundabout drive along the B743 towards Mosblown, turn right at the second turning into Auchincruive Estate located about 2 miles past the sign for MCD Timbers (avoid the first turning into the estate saying 'Allanvale Auchincruive Estate' as there will be a barrier up within the estate). As you enter via the Nellies Gate Entrance off B743 your car park is signposted after 100metres 'Garden Lecture Rooms' on the left. There is disabled parking if you continue down the hill, outside the River garden cafe.

Cost? A suggested donation of £5 per person would be appreciated

Additional info

Please come dressed appropriately for the weather with sturdy footwear.

Our support and activities are only possible thanks to the donations we gratefully receive.

If to support Alzheimer Scotland South Ayrshire please consider donating via our JustGiving page:
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alzheimer-scotland-south-ayrshire>

The Sport and Leisure programmes delivered by the Health and Fitness Team within South Ayrshire Council provides many activities for older people to maintain or improve their health and physical activities. Classes are available throughout South Ayrshire.



How Do I Become Involved?

For people with cardiac, stroke or complex medical history a health professional can refer you by completing an Exercise Referral form eg GP, Specialist Physiotherapist. The form is then emailed or posted to the South Ayrshire Council Health & Fitness Team and a member of the Team will give you a call and invite you to an assessment prior to joining a class.

If you do not have any of the medical history shown above you can self refer or be referred through a voucher scheme by a health or social care professional e.g. doctor, practice nurse, physiotherapist, community link practitioner. To make an appointment, or for more information call the contact telephone number below. You will be invited to come along for an assessment prior to joining a class.

Health and Fitness Team

E: activityfo@health@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
 W: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/leisure
 T: 01292 269793

Invigor8
Falls prevention and balance programme

HARP
Activities for people with health conditions

Activity for Health
Exercise and activities to improve health

Weigh to Go
Healthy weight programme

Invigor8

Exercise classes designed for those 60 and over to improve mobility, strength and balance and help reduce the risk of falls. Classes are led by highly trained and experienced South Ayrshire Council, Health and Fitness instructors. Invigor8 is suitable for people feeling fearful of falls, feeling unstable on their feet, who have had a previous fall or with osteoporosis.

Help build and maintain 8 core components:

- Balance
- Strength
- Flexibility
- Endurance
- Floor work Getting down to the floor and back up
- Adapted Tai Chi
- Confidence building

Health Walks

Come and join the weekly coastal, river and local town walks. Everyone welcome and all walks are free.

HARP

Working in conjunction with NHS colleagues, the programme assists people with heart, stroke, cancer, lung or diabetic medical history to become more active and join classes, gym or swim.

Classes are led by highly trained and experienced South Ayrshire Council, Health and Fitness instructors.

Weigh To Go

Are you interested in improving your health and losing weight? A programme to manage your weight that includes:

- Exercise sessions (1hr)
- Education sessions (45mins)
- Health checks
- Weigh-ins
- Ongoing support continues for up to one year and will equip you with the tools to maintain a healthy weight

Activity for Health

Working in conjunction with NHS colleagues, the programme assists people to become more active and promotes the benefits of an active lifestyle.

CASE STUDY South Ayrshire Sport & Leisure

Elsie has attended the health classes for many years and her husband has been diagnosed with dementia. John is very fit and has always participated in exercise.

He is finding it more difficult to attend activities on his own and so he has joined the health class with his wife and is now an integral part of the class. As John has a good fitness level he is motivating the class to improve or maintain their fitness. Elsie knows that is he is exercising in a safe environment and doing what he does best, keeping active. The friendly, happy and fun environment not only supports the couple but the couple support the rest of the class.

Elsie and John also attend the gym and as John now knows the layout of equipment and the staff Elsie and John can exercise separately. They also attend a swim session as this is John's favourite activity.

The poolside staff know the couple well and at the end of the session Edith leaves 5 mins early to get dressed while the staff chat to John and make sure he is safe.

Elsie said 'we really enjoy the activities. It gets us out the house and John always enjoys coming to the classes and activities. It lets me out to meet people. You can feel isolated when you are at home'.



Mainstream Service response re Dementia

The Older People's Community Mental Health Team (CMHTE) has continued to support people living with Dementia from Diagnosis, Post Diagnostic Support and longer-term support.

An integral part of Post Diagnostic is Cognitive Stimulation (CST) Groups which are facilitated by CMHTE throughout South Ayrshire. These groups are research based and are seen as one of the few psychological based therapies which are of benefit to people with a dementia diagnosis. All those within South CMHTE that are diagnosed with dementia are offered a place on the groups. The groups are facilitated by CMHTE staff trained in CST. The groups are in two parts – CST Main Group - 14 weeks, followed by CST Maintenance Groups – 28 weeks. There are in all 6 groups a week. These are the only CST Groups in Ayrshire. Therefore, all those who take up this option receive 42 weeks CST input. The feedback

from both patients and carers is that it is of huge benefit.

All those with a new diagnosis are offered Post Diagnostic Support for a year. This includes CST, sign posting to other agencies such as Alzheimer Scotland whom the team work closely with. In March the team recommenced their Memory Café in Troon in conjunction with Alzheimer Scotland. This is monthly, and it is hoped we will be able to facilitate other Cafes in other areas later this year.

Within CMHTE there are Nursing Home Liaison Nurses who provide support and review of those in Care Homes who have mental health issues, including dementia. There are also Additional Support Nursing Home Liaison Nurses who are able to provide intense support to those with mental health issues as well as additional support to staff. This includes stress and distress training using a bio psychosocial model.



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 Planning Partnership which is a Strategic Delivery Partnership of South Ayrshire Community Planning 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](#)

Work is now taking place to develop the next Children’s Service’s Plan for 2023-2026.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PLAN 2020/23

Our Shared Vision: Closing the Gap and Achieving Potential

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 High Level Priorities:

- 1. Outstanding Universal Provision**
Ensure 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.
- 2. Tackling Inequalities**
Reduce the gap in outcomes between the most and least deprived children and young people in South Ayrshire.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.

What have we been doing

Improving outcomes for care experienced children and care leavers

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

Ensure that care experienced young people benefit from involvement in Champions Boards leading to improved outcomes

“ Hundreds of care experienced young people have found a voice through their participation in champions Boards and know they have influenced decision making in areas of real importance to them” (Scottish Government)

Champions Boards build the capacity of young people with care experience to influence change, empower them by showing confidence in their abilities and potential, and give them the platform to flourish and grow



Scottish Government Corporate Parenting Annual Report

Champions for Change

SOUTH AYRSHIRE CHAMPIONS BOARD

In South Ayrshire, our Champions Board network has grown year on year and now currently supports the participation of 73 young children and young people 8 – 26 years. In total 126 groupwork sessions took place between 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023 these groups were a mixture of weekly school-based group sessions and community-based evening groups.

Young people continue to be involved in the programming of groups building skills consolidating relationships at times volunteering, skill sharing and buddying other new members. The average age of young people participating in Champions Board activity is 15 years key themes emerging over the course of 2022-23 include.

- Access to support when its most needed.
- Relationships with key adults across services
- Lots of professional in children's lives and difficulties this can cause.
- Managing relationships with peers
- Ongoing contact with important people

In 2022 the Champs Team delivered 2 residentials involving 28 young people. One took place at Dumfries House over 3 days in April 2022 and one at Dolphin House Culzean September 2022. The young people who took part varied in age from 7- 19 years and the focus of both residentials was community and identity. The team also supported young people to take part in a South Ayrshire wide youth voice residential.

The Champions Board continue to support young people with care experience to design and steer an Individual Small Grants programme for care experienced young people across South Ayrshire and in 2023 have distributed £35,000 to over 100 young people with care experience aged 14-26 years. Indicating a growth of 180% in young people receiving a small grants payment since phase 1 of small grants in 2019 <https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ShineEvenBrighter>



One Champs Team member with care experience continues to sit on South Ayrshire's Fostering and Adoption Panel as part of their Participation Assistant role. The Champions Board has supported people with lived experience of the permanency process as children and as parents to support the delivery of permanency training to social work staff.

Participation Assistants have used their care experience to design and deliver Promise presentations and workshops to over 1000 members of South Ayrshires workforce and commissioned services.

The team continue to use their lived experience of care to promote positive relationships with key corporate parents and decision makers

across South Ayrshire through Facebook live chats facilitated by champions board team members <https://fb.watch/lrGmHJDjwd/>

The Champions Board continues to support care experienced young people from South Ayrshire to link in with national initiatives such as care experience week and care day, delivering local activities and supporting young people to contribute to national activity.

Quarterly Champs Board meetings with Key strategic leaders have been re-established. These meetings provide an opportunity to place the experience and aspirations of care experienced young people at the centre of decision-making by voicing the challenges that care experience can bring and how these can

“

'It [the champions Board] has helped me I wouldn't speak to anybody before'

'I think it [the champions Board] helps you to feel you belong'

'I didn't talk about my son before I joined the champs team, I didn't have anywhere to speak about him – now I do'

'I love the Champions Board it's my group they listen to me and care about me'

'I only come into the school on the day the champs group is on'

'Because of what I learned from the summer filming it helped me to choose a course at university to aim for – I don't think I would have thought about university or stayed there if it wasn't for the Champions board – they also helped me with funding and support at university to get help with accommodation'

'You helped me to make friends'

'its all about confidence they [the champions Board] give me that'

”



Taylor and Chloe, Participation Assistants, use their lived experience of care to support young people and influence change through South Ayrshires Champions Boards

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

“

'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.'

Faith aged 19 (extract from South Ayrshires Parenting Promise: Page 7)

”

1,137

of South Ayrshire's workforce have taken part in locally delivered Promise sessions and a dedicated resource has been set up to allow access to promise resources <https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ParentingPromiseResources>

Two Promising Times Ahead events were held over the last year. On 9th December 2022, a group of 68 practitioners from across South Ayrshire Council and commissioned services gathered to hear stories of those with lived experience of care and reflect on the implementation of the Promise into practice across South Ayrshire.



To celebrate care day on 16th February 2023 100 practitioners gathered to hear from local young people and practitioners in other parts of Scotland and explore how to use care-based language in practice.

Policy and practice will become more responsive to care experienced young people.

South Ayrshires Corporate Parenting review has reflected increased opportunities for care experienced young people across South Ayrshire. South Ayrshires new corporate parenting plan (parenting promise) included young people with lived experience in the writing group alongside Corporate Parents. Short animations on the Parenting Promise have been produced. These were developed in response to requests from young people to make the document more accessible and interesting. The Parenting Promise Action Plan contains our 10 South Ayrshire Promise improvement areas 2021-24 with thirty-two associated actions. With the help of South Ayrshires Change Team we have been able to further identify 48 benefits (measurable improvements) which allows 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.

During Phase 1 the project delivered in line with the project plan. All key milestones were tracked and reported in line with individual plans for the 10 improvement actions. Some of the key areas addressed in this first phase of change include:

- Awareness raising around The Promise;
- Collecting data that is relevant, reflects what's important to children and their families and is used to help us improve;
- Using language that is care-based;
- Establishing a rights-based approach to practice that offers support for whole families;
- Broadening our understanding of risk; and
- Ensuring trauma informed and nurture approaches are standard practice across all our services.

Communities that Care - A supportive School Structure

In December 2022 South Ayrshire H&SCP & Education Services were successful in securing £229,937 from the Promise Partnership Fund to collaborate with the wider school community to support the co-production of a tailored curriculum offer with children and young people with care experience. Research is currently being undertaken with young people, their families and the wider school community. The views and experiences of young people and their families are central to designing the posts established in phase 2 of this bid.



Embedding Language that Cares into practice

55 young people care experience told us that they wanted the name LAC review to change. 43 responded to a questionnaire (January-March 2023) and 12 young people took part in a focus group. They told us their preference was to change LAC reviews to [name of young person's] meeting. For example, 'Jacks Meeting'

“

'It is my meeting anyway I prefer people to use my name' (Jamie)

'Can we just make it more about the person' (Alex)

'I hate LAC it's horrible just another label really' (Demi)

'The word review is so triggering for me that I now can't take part in anything with the name review. If you haven't experienced this, it must be really hard to understand but trust me the name is so important' (Taylor)

”

The Table below shows the terminology before and after the changes suggested by young people.

Previous name	New name
Initial LAC (ILAC)	Jacks First Meeting
LAC Review	Jacks Meeting
Substantive LAC (S-LAC)	Jacks Next Steps Meeting

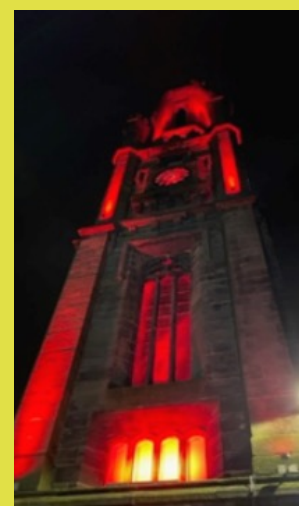
Ensure that public awareness and attitudes become increasing positive towards Care Experienced Young People

Celebrating key dates in Scotland's national care family calendar is important to raising public awareness of care experience. Care experience week 2022 was co-produced with young people with care experience and delivered a range of activities including an event in partnership with Ayrshire College which was attended by sixty-four young people with care experience. The Champs Team also staged a 'temporary takeover' of SAHSCP comms and social media platforms to raise awareness of care. In December 2022 Promising Times Ahead Event took place in Ayr Town Hall.

In February 2023 care day celebrations focused on reframing the language used around care highlighting promise activity this event was held in partnership with south

Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership Learning and Development Team 100 people from across a range of services took part in the event. Members of the Champs Team also took part in the national Carelidh 2023 in Edinburgh.

One of the most moving tributes on Care Day 2023 was the image of the Wallace Tower in Ayr's High Street lit red to celebrate South Ayrshire Councils love for and commitment to our care experienced infants, children and young people.



Ensure that care experienced young people are aware of their rights and entitlements

Advocacy for young people with care experience, those attending Childrens hearings or who are part of the child protection process is delivered by two commissioned services these are Who Cares? Scotland and Barnardos Hear 4.

South Ayrshires advocacy provision for children and young people with care experience is monitored through the SAHSCP commissioning framework with quarterly progress reports provided. In addition, all young people currently looked after aged 5 years and over who have an upcoming Childrens Hearing or Looked After Review are now offered advocacy support. This happens through monthly meetings between both advocacy providers and the Corporate Parenting Lead Officer. The process is reviewed on a six-monthly basis with South Ayrshires Quality Assurance Reviewing Officers and the Service Manager

for Childrens Health Care and Justice Services.

South Ayrshire Champions Board conducted consultation with young people who use advocacy across South Ayrshire to inform service delivery going forward. The young people who took part spoke of the relationship they have with their advocate. While this relationship often centred around the advocacy task young people told us that they felt that their advocate was a support for them in everyday life beyond any formal meetings. Young people valued the length of relationship they'd had with their advocate and there was sense that this relationship 'stayed' with the young people we spoke to irrespective of how many times they moved in care or where they moved to. This felt unusual to young people, and they saw this as a huge positive in their life:

“

'She would phone me, or I'd phone her, and we'd speak about things like how I was feeling, she helped me a lot, she helped me get more confident at talking in meetings and it made me feel better'.

'There was a time where I was feeling quite worried and she suggested we make a worry box of things that help keep me calm and feel safe, this helped a lot'

'Advocacy's not just about meetings like reviews and hearings it's about helping me make good decisions in my everyday life. I'd still be in sticky situations if I didn't have [name of advocate] to help me'

”

All school-based trackers for care experienced young people now track participation opportunities for young people within and outside of school.


**THRIVING
COMMUNITIES**

**EMPLOYABILITY
AND SKILLS**

Thriving Communities offer Modern Apprenticeships, at a variety of SCQF levels, to young people aged 16 to 19 or up to the age of 29 for care experienced young people.

We are committed to providing opportunities for all and closing the equality gap. To support this, we are committed to 'ring-fencing' Modern Apprenticeships opportunities for young people who are care experienced and are being supported by Thriving Communities to access a range of MA opportunities. During 2022/23 12.7% of SAC Modern Apprentices were care experienced (national average 2%)

Providing Support For Young People Who Are Carers



COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:	OBJECTIVES:
<p>Young carers are living in a supported community.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 2. Ensure that our Young Carers are Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible & Included 3. Ensure that all our Young Carers are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised and identified • Valued and feel involved • Supported to manage their caring role • Provided with information, advice and training opportunities • Able to have a life alongside caring

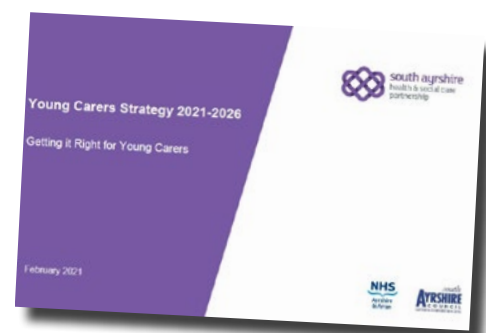
The Young Carers Strategy covers the period 2021 to 2026. This Strategy sets out our local response to the statutory duties (responsibilities) of the Carers (Scotland) Act 2016 - which is a law that says what support must be given to carers, including young carers. South Ayrshire Health and Social Care 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.



Raising the profile of Young Carers

We have prioritised raising awareness of young carers across South Ayrshire this year and have seen the impact, with our number of identified young carers rise from 114 in August 2022 to 378 in August 2023.



YOUNG CARERS SHORT FILM – THE WEEKEND

Young carers awareness raising sessions in schools had not taken place since before Covid-19

restrictions. We required a resource to reach all secondary aged young people consistently and chose to work with young carers to create a short awareness raising film. This project utilised existing local partnerships which allowed multiagency practitioners to contribute their skills and expertise to enhance young peoples' experience. All staff working on the project had lived experience of being a young carer which was invaluable.

to them and affected them, sharing thoughts, experiences, and feelings. The young people learned how to express and share in a safe environment and had the courage to open up about real issues as the project progressed. This, in turn, led to the development of a realistic storyline. The young carers learned how to research a story, build a storyboard and devise a piece of dramatic fiction based on this.



Staff were able to share their own experiences which helped the young people feel safe and comfortable to share their experiences.

This project was completely led by our young people who bravely shared their own experiences and feelings, then learned how to capture these in story form and convey in film. It provided a very young person-centred access to education which was very contextual, practical and inclusive of personal choice and decision making. This ensured the film was true to life for the young people in South Ayrshire and across Scotland. We spent initial sessions discussing issues that mattered



The group learned to develop and produce a film practically, using professional film making equipment. They learned and used practical film-making skills such as camera operating, directing, lighting, sound, and props. They also learned how to act for camera by recognising what skills they had within them, and how to build on those skills to deliver a performance.



The project culminated in a night of celebration of the young people's achievements, **A Night at the Oscars**, which provided a local platform to raise the profile of young carers. The young carers involved in the project participated in a Question & Answer session. The event was attended by almost 300 people, including the Chief Executive, Elected Members, Police

Scotland, colleagues from the Council, Health & Social Care Partnership, Health, 3rd Sector services, and members of the public. The event was also featured in local press in print and online. Twitter coverage can be found using the hashtag [#SAYCMovie](#).

their access to high quality and transformative educational experiences in a setting that was non-threatening and conducive to each young person's positive involvement. The group became a remarkably close, supportive unit and they were all very aware of the wellbeing and emotional needs of each other. They have remained close friends, providing peer support from people who are in the same, or similar, situations to them. Young people have identified talent and passion for film making. We are working with our Youth Work colleagues and The Iris to identify opportunities for them to develop the skills they have gained. The young people involved in the project achieved a Dynamic Youth Award (equivalent to a National 4 award).



Since the launch night, A Night at the Oscars, the young people involved in this project have been delivering awareness raising sessions to a range of partners, including South Ayrshire Child Protection Committee and Police Scotland, and, most recently, planned and presented a further event showcasing their film. Their confidence and self-belief have increased beyond measure and they are so proud to share their own personal experiences to help others.

Impact on young people

Through the use of the film production, it provided a unique and memorable opportunity for these young people to see what success looked like for them and an opportunity to show their positive achievements to others, including an audience of adults and their peers. The project connected young people to their community, stimulated their creativity and used modern innovations and technology to increase

The young people have created a legacy with this short film which will allow us to support young people in this situation for years to come, as well as raise awareness and understanding with practitioners and other organisations.



Impact of the film

Previously, we relied on in-person awareness raising sessions which were sporadic and inconsistent. By creating this film and accompanying workshop, we can provide a coherent and complete experience for all young people across South Ayrshire in a range of settings – not just within education.

We recognised that the film may help young people identify as young carers who are supporting someone due to problematic substance use, and that they may need specialist support because of this, so we have partnered with Barnardos Approach team to deliver joint roadshows to all secondary pupils in South Ayrshire. This means all secondary aged pupils across the authority will have the same input and experience. Already, numbers of known young carers across schools in South Ayrshire have tripled, meaning these young carers are getting the support to ensure they have the same, or similar, outcomes to their peers who are not caring. It is being utilised with an accompanying workshop for youth workers, uniformed groups, and 3rd sector organisations to reach as many young people as possible and ensure that the message is reaching our young people in an environment that resonates with them and they feel comfortable in.

This film is a powerful resource for practitioners and gives a real-life insight into the life of a young carer, which is vital to allow practitioners to support young people and deepen understanding of their circumstances. It has been used in awareness raising sessions for practitioners in a multitude of settings, including Education, Social Work, Police, Youth Work, Health, 3rd Sector, and the voluntary sector. Young carers have been delivering awareness raising sessions themselves to a range of partners – introducing the film, talking about their experiences of caring, discussing their experiences of the film project, and answering any questions.

The film has been included in a CPD approved module developed by Education Scotland and Carers Trust Scotland.

We are now working with primary aged young carers to create a short film which is suitable

for their age and stage. This will be shared with all primary aged children across South Ayrshire to raise awareness, allow for self-identification and improve peer understanding. Previously, no awareness raising activities have taken place in primary school. This will provide a great opportunity for earlier intervention and support for our young carers. Young people who worked on The Weekend will be peer mentors for the primary aged young carers creating the movie, creating an informal advocacy provision and building trusting relationships across age ranges with young people who have an understanding of each other's lived experiences.

“ Comments

Maree Todd MSP (Minister for Social Care, Mental Wellbeing & Sport) stated, 'Empowering young carers to be able to share their experiences in such a creative way is wonderful to see, and I applaud them for stepping forward and speaking out. I am delighted that this short film is being used nationally to help educate those who work closely with young people about the experiences of young carers. Hopefully, this will provide context and understanding regarding the issues young carers can face and will lead to more support and a reduction in stigma. My officials have watched the video and felt that it was very powerful and thought provoking. They were greatly impressed by the mature way in which the issue of alcoholism was included. Often carers of those with mental health or alcohol issues can feel overlooked, or themselves don't recognise that the support they provide for a loved one struggling with mental health is a form of caring.'

”

“ Comments

Elena Whitham MSP (Minister for Drugs and Alcohol Policy) attended the second showcasing of the film, which was planned and presented by our young people, tweeted, 'Wonderful afternoon spent with #SAYoungCarers watching their fantastic #SAYCMovie The Weekend which depicts the challenges YP in caring roles experience. Grateful to see young carers of family members who use substances shown as this helps to tackle stigma'

Chief Executive of South Ayrshire Council Eileen Howat, said, 'The Weekend is a very poignant and thought-provoking illustration of the life of young carers through their own eyes. I'm sure it will become an essential resource to help raise awareness and understanding of what being a young carer really means.'

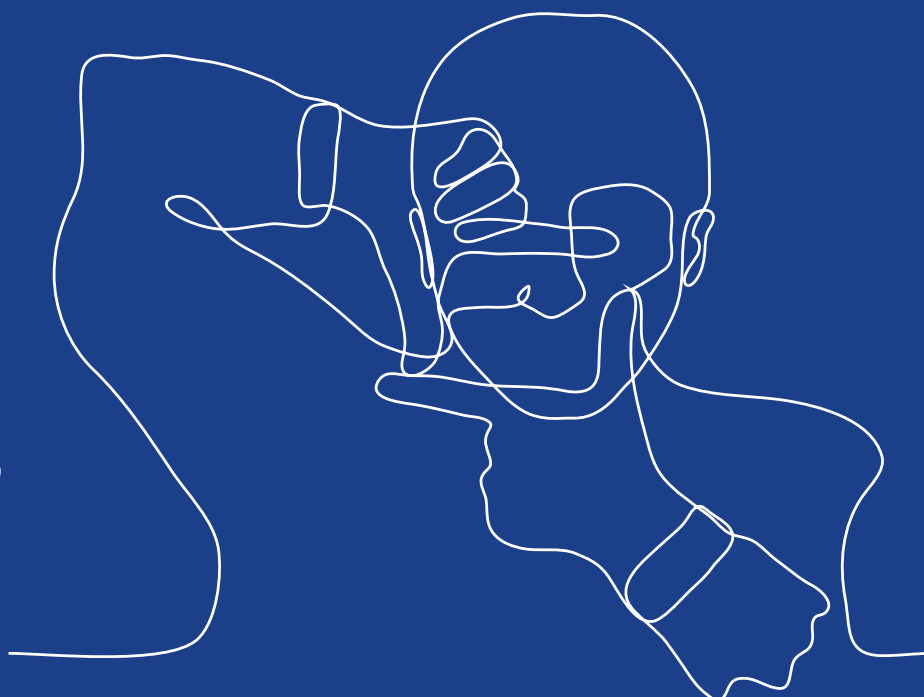
Director of Carers Trust Scotland, Louise Morgan, stated, 'I thought your film was an excellent portrayal of some of the many issues faced by young carers. Having watched the film twice, the layers and complexity of those issues and the impact on their lives became more evident each time. The young carers represented their community so well and played their parts with a reality that stayed with me long after the end of the film. Of course, they did - it was all about their lives!'

One of the young carers said, "I loved writing and creating this film, I've made great friends and had a great time thanks to Claire, Ross and Kelly."

Another of the young carers added, "I hope other Young Carers might see this and think "I'm a young carer as well" and also let people know about some of the challenges young carers face daily."

A parent of one of the young people who was involved with the project said, '...a great opportunity to learn new skills, make new friends and get a break from caring responsibilities, while also highlighting the important role young carers have...'

”



Awareness Raising Sessions

Awareness raising sessions have been facilitated for a variety of services and organisations, including Education, Health, Social Work, Thriving Communities, Police and 3rd Sector, as well as whole school staff training in a number of primary and secondary schools. We have also attended parents' evenings (including Virtual School), Love Learning Festival, Parent Council Chairs meeting, ASN Family Forum and student teacher lectures at the University of the West of Scotland. We have arranged marketplace events in secondary schools and one primary school cluster, with several other organisations invited to hold a stall (including Women's Aid, Suicide Prevention, Trauma, Ayrshire Cancer Support, National Autistic Society and many more). The feedback from these events from organisations, staff and pupils has been very positive. The events have improved visibility of services with pupils and staff and helped to challenge a variety of stigmas. A short awareness raising video was created with voiceovers by pupils from Coylton, Dailly & Cairn Primary schools. This will remove barriers due to literacy issues and allow information to be shared in multiple locations (including online, via school apps, in classrooms etc.). The video can also be played with subtitles in several different languages, removing any language barriers. The video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/OOiguDuiD0Q>

We joined forces with the Champions Board to deliver an input to Police Scotland at Ayr Police Station. During the session, we were able to discuss the similarities and differences between young carers and care experienced young people, as well as raise awareness of both groups.



Young Carer Ambassadors

Carrick Academy is the first school in South Ayrshire to introduce the role of Young Carers Ambassadors. Carrick Academy have selected Joshua Hayward Brown and Ailish Connell for this position.

Being young carers themselves, they are accustomed to the difficulties other children may also face yet they might not be aware that they are young carers. This role is to ensure others are made aware of what a young carer is and what duties and responsibilities they may undertake. They hope to spread awareness to teachers and other pupils to be mindful that young carers may need extra support.



As Young Carers' Ambassadors they would like to work towards removing the stigma that is sometimes associated with being a young carer. As ambassadors they would like to help pupils realise that they themselves may be one too.

Young Carer Champions

A Young Carers Champion (YCC) has been identified by most schools which has been recognised as best practice at a national level and has had a hugely positive impact over the past year. YCC is the point of contact within the school for HSCP and carers service staff, and a known person for young people to approach for support relating to caring responsibilities. In addition, Cllr Hunter & Cllr Ferry have both agreed to be Young Carers Champions for Elected Members and Susan Wood is our Young Carer Champion at Skills Development Scotland.

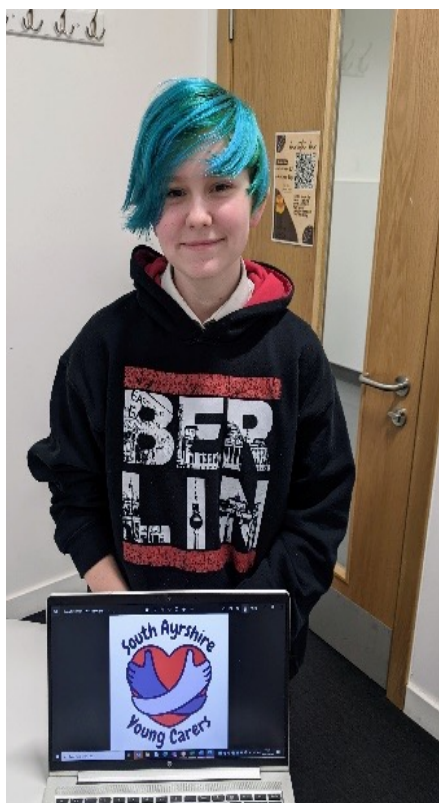


New Logo



We launched a competition, open to all primary and secondary pupils in South

Ayrshire, to design a new logo for South Ayrshire young carers. A pupil from Marr won the competition and we are delighted with our new logo!



Wider Engagement

The Young Carer Strategy Lead Officer has:

- been invited to present on the work for young carers in South Ayrshire at a number of national events, including Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance (SYCSA) Showcase event, SYCSA Education sub group, UK Young Carers Services Alliance, South West Education Collaborative and University of the West of Scotland.
- continued with the regular, informal meeting group with counterparts in other local authorities, which has now expanded to include 11 members. 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.
- is an active member of 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, Carer Poverty Coalition, Children & Young People Community of Practise, and Carers Worldwide.
- has attended various in person events throughout the year hosted by Carers Trust Scotland, Scottish Young Carers Services Alliance, Alliance Scotland, NES, and Scottish Government. All events have provided an opportunity to network and share knowledge, experience and understanding.



Peer Support & Respite

Break from Caring

Young carers are often unable to participate in extra-curricular activities due to their caring roles. Throughout last year, we partnered with Active Schools to offer a variety of activities during the school day to allow all young carers to participate. Activities have included archery, caving, and first aid sessions.

We have also collaborated with South Ayrshire Council Rangers Service to offer monthly bush craft sessions for our primary aged young carers (including under 8s). These activities have provided fantastic opportunities to try something new, get some exercise and fresh air, as well as make connections with friends in the same or similar situation, offering informal peer support.



Scottish Rowing



Scottish Rowing have been providing free weekly rowing sessions on the River Ayr. Groups of young carers have been attending sessions each week to develop their skills and knowledge. These sessions take place during the school day to allow all young carers to participate without the sessions interfering with their caring responsibilities.

Rowing is a great way to improve your mood and well-being. Rowing can help you feel stronger and more capable, which can boost your confidence and improve your mood. Rowing also provides a great opportunity to connect with nature, and the fresh air can do wonders for mental health. Because rowing is a low-impact activity, it's easy on joints and muscles, meaning all young carers can take part. As a result, young people feel better both physically and mentally after a session.



Ayr United

Ayr United kindly provided almost 80 tickets for young carers and their families to attend Somerset Park, with two of our young carers, Lucas and Dylan, as mascots. This was a great opportunity for family peer support and to raise awareness of young carers. Furthermore, our YCSLO was presented with the Community Champion award at halftime and featured in an interview in the following match's programme – another fantastic opportunity to raise awareness of young carers.



Youth Voice Weekend

Five young carers joined other young people from Champions Board and youth groups across South Ayrshire for the first residential meeting of the Youth Voice Group. It was a busy weekend at Dolphin House, including gorge walking, team games, bobbing in the sea, caving under Culzean Castle, archery, night walks, hide n seek in the dark, and making plans for the future of youth voice in South Ayrshire. The young carers enjoyed the activities, making new friends, and the opportunity to have their voice heard and influence services and opportunities for young people across the Authority.



Young Carers Voice Network

We have increased our engagement throughout this year with frequent opportunities to consult with our young carers. In November, almost 30 young carers aged 9 to 17 spent the day at Dolphin House for the first meeting of the Young Carers Voice Network. The group participated in team building games, archery, and caving under Culzean Castle, shared their issues and ideas for young carers in South Ayrshire, and reviewed the South Ayrshire Young Carers Strategy. An additional session was held later in the year for the young people who were unable to attend the initial session. Going forward, we will continue to host larger Young Carers Voice Network meetings, but will also create a smaller, focussed group of young carers as the Young Carers Voice Group.



Tutoring Pilot

We have partnered with University of the West of Scotland students to offer free one to one tutoring for young carers from P1 to S4. We piloted this with young carers from Dailly Primary School. Each pupil was matched with an Education student from UWS. The student liaised with the pupil's class teacher and created fun and engaging sessions to support the pupil on a one to one basis. Two pupils had face to face tutoring sessions and four pupils had online sessions. Feedback from the Head Teacher, class teachers, pupils and students has been extremely positive and we are planning to work with UWS to replicate this on a larger scale this academic year.



Head Teacher comment:

'Tutoring for my pupils was extremely beneficial and the impact it was having on them was clearly evident. The children enjoyed going and looked forward to it each week. The pupils who did it online enjoyed doing something a little bit different. They all spoke highly of their tutors and enjoyed the activities that were planned for them. It was clear the tutors had spent time adapting resources to suit the needs of the child and their interests. The tutors were very enthusiastic. Previously, a few of the pupils really lacked confidence but over the weeks this grew, and they developed a growth mindset in relation to literacy and maths. The 1:1 was extremely beneficial to the children.'

Staff comments:

'I think having the tutor was great for Mason. Stephanie was brilliant with him, he enjoyed going with her. He was really lacking confidence about his reading but working 1:1 with Stephanie helped to give him a boost. I think it was also really good for him to have an adult to talk to 1:1 and to get that extra attention as things had not been great at home for a while. Both Stephanie and Megan came with us outdoor learning one day after their tutoring sessions had finished and they were very enthusiastic and the children enjoyed working with them.'

Pupil comment:

'I really enjoyed tutoring and my tutor was really nice. My tutor had fun activities for me to do every week.'



Whole Family Residentials

We partnered with Thriving Communities and were successful in a funding bid to take whole families to Dolphin House for the weekend where there was a young carer supporting due to a language barrier. In March 2023, 5 Ukrainian families came to Dolphin House for a weekend of fun and adventure. We had great fun on this busy weekend. Activities included caving under the Culzean Castle, archery, feeding llamas and deer, crafts, campfire, night walk, and rock pooling. As it was Mother's Day weekend, we had extra treats arranged, including making cards and gifts with the children, flowers for the Mums and Gran of the families, and a family photoshoot.



Thanks to Active Schools and Sports Scotland, in August 2023, we took 10 families to the National Sports Centre in Largs for a 3-day residential trip. As this is a fully inclusive venue, the cared for person in each family was able to join and was supported and encouraged to participate in all activities. We had 40 people, aging from 1 year old to 50 years old, and tried so many new and fun activities and games, including orienteering, bushcraft, boccia, team building games, bingo, lacrosse, gymnastics, archery, nightline, silent disco, badminton, handball and pickleball!



Some comments from families about what they enjoyed about the trip:

- 'Dedicated time to spend as a family with no distractions. Loved seeing my kids having a great time and trying new activities. Fully inclusive where carers, and cared for, joined in all the activities and had a great time in an extremely supportive environment. Especially loved seeing the smiles on all the kids' faces!'
- 'The instructors and staff were amazing- so friendly, approachable and adaptable. They were so encouraging of Max and they really made an effort to get to know the children.'
- 'Thank you for this wonderful opportunity- it really wouldn't have been possible for us otherwise'
- 'Thank you for organising and supporting this break. Loads of memories made for us, even if we were exhausted by the end!!'



Young Carers Festival

Young carers enjoyed an overnight camping residential to Fordel Firs for the national Young Carers Festival 2023 – hosted by Carers Trust Scotland. The Scottish Young Carers Festival is a fantastic chance for young carers to get a break from their caring role, make new friends and gain confidence. It was great to watch the young carers step out their comfort zone and try new things. With an amazing variety of activities on hand, including inflatables, animals, crafts, music and more, the South Ayrshire group had a blast! Young carers embraced the opportunity to have their voices heard; engaging in interviews, the consultation zone and political events, while also making their very own poster sharing the challenges faced by young carers in their area. Feedback from some of the young carers who attended includes:

“

My family are happy I got the opportunity to attend the festival.

I enjoyed making new friends and try new activities.

I enjoyed have a break from my caring role.

”



Under 8s

Our young carers under the age of 8 years old are not currently supported by our commissioned carers service. Numbers of identified young carers in this age group were increasing, so we have been arranging activities during school hours for fun and adventure, as well as informal peer support. One young carer returned to school and exclaimed to his Head Teacher, 'I have eleven new best friends!'.



Figure skating

Our young carers were offered a 6-week block of figure skating lessons at Ayr Ice Rink via Thriving Communities Health & Wellbeing team. The young carers enjoyed learning new skills, making new friends, and having a break from their caring role. Quite a few have now joined the Learn to Skate programme and continued with the sport. All of the coaches loved getting to know the young people and seeing them develop their skills and confidence over the 6-week period. We are delighted to have been offered three Learn to Skate memberships from Ayr Figure Skating to pass onto lucky young carers.



Carers Service

Our commissioned carers service, Unity, have been busy with our young carers. Activities and initiatives have included:

- Voice Projects – Young Carers throughout South Ayrshire engaged with a Young Carer Voice Project, sharing their views, opinion, interest and needs as young carers through creativity. Young carers have created posters, videos, games, interviews and much more to spread the word!
- Young carers booklet – Young carers took the challenge head on and created informational resources to share “who is a young carer”, what support is available to young carers and how young carer in South Ayrshire can be empowered to achieve their goals and access help in an readable way!
- Halloween – Peer support is vital for young carer to be able to have time to be a child and Halloween of 2022 did just that. From bobbing for apples, carving pumpkins and donut washing lines to dress up parties and ghostly photoshoots – lots of fun was had by all!
- RESPITE | EXPLORE | SELF CARE | TRAVEL | RECHARGE | With Adventure Ted. From Harry Potter World and Legoland to classrooms across South Ayrshire and local restaurants, and even meeting Young Carers beloved pets – Adventure Ted has been busy exploring respite with young carers on his trips out from the South Ayrshire Carers Centre.



Celebrations

Young Carers Action Day

- We celebrated Young Carers Action Day on 15th March this year. We had a social media takeover for the day and shared posts including pledges colleagues to support young carers, artwork from young carers and awareness raising information. The Wallace Tower was lit up purple to raise awareness.
- Two young carers from Marr College were invited to join a panel in a webinar hosted by Education Scotland and Carers Trust Scotland to launch a new CPD accredited module on young carers (which features our short film!). Craig and Stephanie spoke very well about their experiences and challenges in Education due to their caring role and asked the rest of the panel some tricky questions of their own!



Active April

Young carers throughout South Ayrshire explored the importance and benefits of being physically active during Active April. Lots of activities were on offer for young carers, including, beach days, walking groups and a trip to Hampden Park. Awareness raising and sign-up sessions for Activ8 memberships were held in each locality.



Troon Carers Day

The first Troon Carers Day was held in February 2023. This was a very successful event and the first Carers Day that young carers have been invited to. There were a multitude of services with stalls at the event, fantastic entertainment from Marr College and local primary school pupils, including a pipe band, singing and dancing, and a preview showing of our young carer short film, The Weekend. We are now planning for Ayr's first Carers Day and Prestwick Carers Day later in 2023.

Carers Week

This year was our most action-packed Carers Week to date! We worked in partnership with the South Ayrshire carers centre team and partners to provide a bigger-than-ever week long celebration of young carers. There were a whopping 22 experiences on offer for our young carers, which included session with The Little Art School, a film screening, wellbeing walks, trips to the escape rooms, ice-cream days and park trips.

Employability & Skills hosted an amazing employability festival at the Cutty Sark for young carers with activities, stalls from various organisations, live music and food. As well as having the opportunity to discuss opportunities with stall holders, the young carers who attended enjoyed interactive games wearing goggles which simulated the effects of drugs and alcohol which included trying to erect a tent!

As well as celebrating with our young carers, we had a social media takeover, articles in local press, held information stalls across the Authority and participated in a Facebook Live session hosted by the Champions Board to raise awareness.



Support

Additional Funding

There have been many successful grant applications from 7Star Foundation for a number of young carers to provide items such as iPads and laptops, as well as funding P7 residential trips to Dolphin House and a school trip to London. The young carer team secured £594 from the 7Star Foundation to provide weekly guitar lessons for a year and a new guitar for a young carer, Cerys. This is providing valuable time away from her caring role, which is not always a given. Mum shares, "I believe the lessons give her the deserved "me time" that she needs away from the hectic life she can have at home and school looking after her brother who as he is getting older can become quite challenging! She looks forward to the lessons and her time with Heather and we are proud of her as she commits herself to learning the guitar and reading music. She is hoping to play a song to her school on her leaver's assembly next June as she prepares for high school!"



With similar positive notes, Cerys's music teacher has shared the valuable benefits for Cerys, "when you're playing an instrument or learning anything new it's impossible to be thinking about anything else at the same time

and for Cerys this makes her guitar lessons and practice tremendously valuable "switch off" time. She's also learning a skill which will last a lifetime, increasing her sense of self-worth by doing something that's "just for her", developing learning and study skills that transfer to other subjects and communicating with an adult on a one-to-one basis (another useful lifetime skill). In addition to all these benefits, learning music is an inherently meditative process, a safe place to express emotion and sheer fun and joy when you're able to play a piece you particularly like. Cerys is a pleasure to teach,

and I aim to make her lessons something she enjoys each week as a time out from everything else."

We have been working with the Smallpiece Trust to offer educational residential opportunities to our young carers. A male young carer, aged 14 attended a two-night residential to the University of Stirling, with all expenses covered, including accommodation, meals, course material and social activities. The Smallpiece Trust share that the residential experiences have helped to ignite young people's potential and interest in the world of engineering. Parent/Guardian feedback: Thanks for making us aware of this opportunity, it's fantastic, and we would not have been able to do it without you. Staff noted the young carer has come home to his caring role refreshed and energised and has had a great time sharing his experiences with his young carer peers. Following the residential we have noticed an increase of engagement with overall peer support which has had a positive impact on the young carer's social opportunities. Mum has called the young carer team to express gratitude as she is pleased to see her son making friends which has been a challenge for him in the past. We are pleased to be meeting the goals set by the young carer to have time to be young as he feels he has grown up fast and to explore his own interests.

Cash4Kids Cost of Living Grant - The young carers team at the South Ayrshire Carers Centre has been successful in providing 25 families with meaningful hardship support through the Cash4Kids Cost of Living grant at the start of 2023. In some instances, this has been essential support to ensure food is on the table in times of need and in others has given funds to access appropriate clothing and items of need in an easily accessible and timely manner. From initial discussion of support with the family, the young carers team secured and distributed vouchers within a period of one week.

School Drop In Sessions

Each secondary school in South Ayrshire has engaged in hosting monthly drop-in sessions, allowing consistent, local and easily accessible support for all teen young carers. This also provides an opportunity for young people who think they may be young carers to reach out for information and advice and reduces stigma due to increasing visibility in schools on a regular basis.

Young Carers in Marr College transformed their support group into mental health days, exploring new mindfulness resources and calming activities as well as learning about different services that can support them and ways of managing stress.



Period Products

We have been working with colleagues in Community Planning to provide free sanitary products to all members of a household with a young carer. We launched this initiative in July 2023 and have already supplied 53 people with almost 500 boxes of disposable products and nearly 100 reusable products! Thanks to the Learning Disability Team, who have helped with transport to deliver the products, there has been zero cost to this initiative.

CASE STUDY

Young carer, female, aged 12, within the Ayr locality provides task-based care and emotional support as a secondary carer for her mother who faces challenges with everyday tasks and memory due to her illness and conditions of fibromyalgia, allergies, complex ADHD and arthritis. The young carer additionally supports her sibling, brother aged 13, with emotional support and supervision responsibilities due to complex behaviours related to ASD, P.I.C.A and anxiety.

During ongoing one to one and family support, the young carer shared worries about her social life as she 'would like to have a good friend group and have my own clubs' as well identifying that the young carer was struggling to regulate emotions during support sessions, at home and within education.

The young carer did not feel ready for young carer specific peer support, therefore explored other avenues with the support worker, alongside Mum. The young carer

has since enjoyed engagement with local groups, from being a beginner ice skater to now developing the skill and certificates to join her local figure skating group. The young carer is also attending local youth clubs and now has a friendship group.

Additionally, the young carer has since engaged with peer support with the carers service at a recent trip to Head of Ayr Farmpark, where she shared that the experience of the petting zoo and watching the larger animals was "sooo relaxing". The support worker, Mum and young carer discussed the possibility of respite funding. The young carer has since applied and been successful with the Time to Live Fund, receiving fund to try something new – horse riding lessons. The young carer has attended 6 lessons, developing in her confidence and resilience of the skill and within herself.

Mum states 'it's amazing to see such a change in her, young carers is doing her a good turn'.

Feedback

Feedback from parents regarding **one-to-one provision** for their children:

“ ‘The staff are a great support; we are so glad that she has enrolled in young carers and it has been a really great opportunity for her.’

Celine

‘I wanted to say how brilliant Emma has been in the last few months. My son is really happy and feels that someone cares about him and his caring duties. I am his father, and I am a civil servant. I have been so impressed with Emma’s professionalism from beginning to end. She has gone out of her way to ring, email and talk about what help can be provided. I believe she is an outstanding member of your staff and I hope she will be applauded for her attitude.’

Sebastian’s Dad, Mark

Can I take this opportunity to thank you and your team for all the care, support, and encouragement for us all over the last few years. You have made a challenging time much less lonely.’

Fiona

‘Thank you all for your help. I appreciate that patience taken with her anxiety and extra things that have been put in place to make her comfortable’

Robert

‘Young carers has given him the time to be a child again. It really has helped his confidence grow.’

Hayley

‘Nathan enjoys the group meetings on a Wednesday after school. He has enjoyed doing all the different activities. This helps putting a smile on his face and lots to talk about when he gets home.’

Robert

”

Carers Parliament

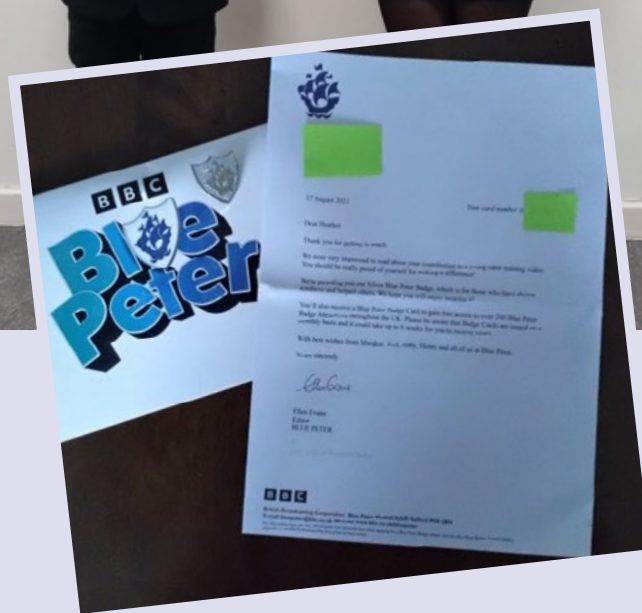
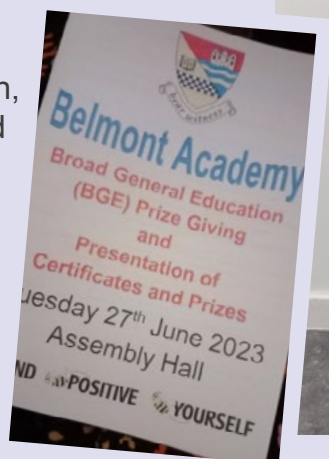
For Carers Rights Day (24th November), three young carers visited Scottish Parliament to attend a parliamentary reception hosted by Carers Scotland. They were the only young carers in attendance! The young people enjoyed visiting the stalls at the event to hear about national support and opportunities for young carers.



Belmont Prizes

Two of our young carers who were involved in the video project and subsequent awareness raising sessions were recognised by their school, Belmont Academy, in the annual Broad General Education Prizegiving.

Heather and Caleb were presented an Achievement Award for 'Contribution to raising awareness for Young Carers in South Ayrshire'. Heather was also awarded a Blue Peter badge for sharing her lived experience as a young carer in awareness raising activities, which has included the video project, several newspaper articles, a Facebook Live session, presenting at the Child Protection Committee, and hosting a number of other events to raise the profile of young carers in South Ayrshire.





COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP OUTCOME:	OBJECTIVES:
<p>Provide support for young people and adults to progress to positive destinations and sustainable employment.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To coordinate and monitor adult learning and literacy provision across South Ayrshire in line with the CLD Plan. 2. To contribute to the coordination of Volunteering across South Ayrshire 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. 4. To use the Scottish Approach to Service Design to co-produce an all age employability support service that is person centred, more joined up, flexible and responsive to individual needs. 5. To utilise labour market statistics and available data to inform decisions, identify priorities and support an effective partnership response.

South Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Partnership Plan 2021-2024

In September 2021, we published our 3-year plan for Community Learning and Development (CLD) in which we set out our priorities for the CLD Partnership and agreed an action plan to drive forward these priorities and deliver on them for our communities. In South Ayrshire, CLD plays a crucial role in breaking down the barriers faced by individuals, ensuring learners, families and communities across the area reach their full potential, improve their life chances and raise their aspirations. This is developed and delivered through youth work, lifelong learning, ESOL engagement, community engagement and community empowerment. CLD activity highlighted in the plan and in this progress report encompasses the work of the local authority, voluntary sector, and other organisations.

There are five priority areas within the plan:

1. Youth Work Provision – improving outcomes for young people;
2. Mental Health & Wellbeing – building healthier communities;
3. Employability and Volunteering – supporting our communities to progress;
4. Adult and Family Learning – improved outcomes for adults and families; and
5. Community Empowerment and Engagement – supporting our communities to thrive.

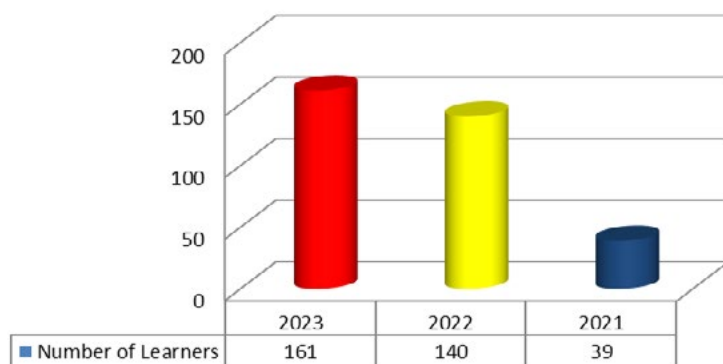


The CLD mid-term report was recently approved at South Ayrshire Council Partnership, Service and Performance Panel in June 2023. Some of the key highlights from within this mid-term report include:

- In January 2023 a new Multiply Numeracy team was established through UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF). The new team are responsible for supporting people aged 19 years and older with numeracy support.
- Community Based Adult Learning in North Ayr – During the time period July 2022– June 2023 161 learning places on Community Based Adult & Family Learning courses were taken up demonstrating our commitment to CBAL in our most deprived community.
- During year 22/23 learners took part in 16 learning programmes covering 3006 individual learning hours this is an increase from the previous two years.



Number of Learning Places



- The delivery of ESOL programmes across South Ayrshire continues to take place over five days and three evenings per week in various community settings. During 2022/23 Thriving Communities have welcomed Ukrainian learners into the service, engaging with 213 residents residing in South Ayrshire.

South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy

Approved in 2021, and led by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, work continues to progress the action plan supporting the South Ayrshire Volunteering Strategy. There are 6 objectives set out in the strategy:

1. Activities across national & local government, community and voluntary sector to be more integrated and aligned;
2. Volunteering infrastructure to be strengthened and supported leading to more confident and knowledgeable management systems;
3. Recruit, deploy more volunteers and support both volunteers and voluntary organisations;
4. Levels of volunteering to be re-energised and increased;
5. The benefits of volunteering to be recognised, valued and promoted; and
6. Promoting volunteering as a means to improve the wider community.



Some key areas of achievement since the launch of the strategy include:

- More integrated and aligned activities;
- The development of a volunteering infrastructure;
- Awareness raising on volunteering to recruit and deploy;
- Recognising the benefits of volunteering by hosting Annual South Ayrshire Volunteer Awards – the latest award ceremony was held on the 1st June; and
- Raising awareness of how volunteering can improve communities – VASA has published leaflets and videos to support this.



South Ayrshire Council: Thriving Communities – Employability

Thriving Communities are fully committed to improving training and employment opportunities for young people and adults. In line with the Scottish Government’s No One Left Behind and UK Governments Shared Prosperity priorities we ensure there are real, meaningful, work experience and training opportunities for people across South Ayrshire to help them achieve their employment goals.

During 2022/23, through a wide range of employability programmes and initiatives, we supported 1,175 young people and adults.



School Leaver Destination Report (SLDR)

In partnership with Skills Development Scotland and Education, Thriving Communities play a significant role in ensuring our young people reach a positive destination on leaving school.

The SLDR confirms 98.6% of our young people progressed to a positive destination on leaving school – our highest performance to date!

For care experienced young people 98.3% progressed to a positive destination, which is 59 out of 60 leavers

Once again, we continue to perform above the national average, which for this period was 95.7%. This demonstrates our dedication and commitment to providing young people across South Ayrshire with the right support to help them fulfil their potential.

Participation Measure

In addition to the SLDR, Thriving Communities work in partnership with Skills Development Scotland, using local and national data, to identify those aged 16 to 19yrs who may require support in reaching a positive destination. The team have made this a priority and have done doorstep visits to try and engage with young people to support them in to training, learning or employment. This has resulted in a significant increase in participation of 16-19year olds in South Ayrshire - **93.7%** (national average **90.8%**)

Long Term Unemployed programme – Evolve

Through temporary Scottish Government funding Thriving Communities committed to creating 40 temporary, new and additional employment opportunities.

Due to the success of the programme and support from the Scottish Government we were able to create an additional 9 positions taking our total to 49:

- 31 with South Ayrshire Council
- 18 with the 3rd Sector

Employment opportunities were created in occupational sectors where there are skills shortage, existing labour demands or emerging sectors, this includes: South Ayrshire Council Facilities, Waste Management and Grounds Maintenance in addition to local voluntary partners such as: VASA, SeAscape and Harbour Ayrshire.



Creating employment opportunities with local 3rd sector organisations has allowed Thriving Communities to continue to link directly with the community and see evidence of the following outcomes:

- Tackling adult unemployment
- Closing the poverty gap
- Closing the adult skills gap
- Supporting the local economy
- Expanding community involvement and cohesion.

Local Employability Partnership (LEP)

South Ayrshire’s Local Employability Partnership (LEP) is a well-established partnership and has clear links to local strategic plans, including Community Learning and

Development Plan, Strategic Economic Plan and Child Poverty Action Plan.

The LEP enables collective leadership and a shared commitment across partners to provide a more aligned approach to national and local employability support which will be reflected in a 3year Delivery Plan (2022-25)

The Partnership utilises labour market statistics and available data to inform decisions, identify priorities and support an effective partnership response through in-house delivery and commissioned services.

Commissioning in 22/23 included:

- QTS Rail Skills Academy
 - o 9-week course consisting of 5 weeks accredited training and 4 weeks work placement.
 - o 4 participants are now in full-time employment.
- Lowland Training Service Ltd – 50+ training programme
 - o The programme supported individuals with interview techniques, presentational skills, IT & digital skills, transferrable skills and low confidence & social isolation to improve their skillset and increase their chances of sustainable employment.
 - o 1 individual has progressed to employment and 2 are waiting on confirmation of employment. All individuals continue to receive support from Thriving Communities.
- CEIS Ayrshire Sector Based Work Academy (Construction)
 - o Individuals were able to gain an understanding of the construction industry, increase their confidence and develop skills around customer services and industry specific training. The programme included 4 weeks accredited training and a 2 week work placement.
 - o Participants are continuing to be supported by Thriving Communities Employer Engagement Team and CEIS Ayrshire to secure employment.

Next steps for South Ayrshire Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

Work is now taking place to refresh and review our LOIP, with a plan to publish a new LOIP from April 2024. Going forward, the LOIP will be directly aligned to our Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), who will be responsible for the collective development of high-level strategic outcomes, priority areas, focused improvement plans and performance managed to evidence where we are making a difference. These high-level outcomes (which will be agreed following engagement with partners and our local communities) will focus on South Ayrshire wide priorities, and as highlighted within the statutory guidance, will ‘state clearly and specifically what will be different for communities as long-term outcomes in 10 years; and the contributory outcomes, indicators and targets by which progress towards these will be demonstrated over the short (1 year) and medium (3 years) terms. These short, medium and long-term outcomes and targets should be both ambitious and realistic’. Our new LOIP will allow an opportunity for our SDPs to refresh and refocus and consider how South Ayrshire can flourish as part of a new longer-term plan. This has been agreed as part of new structure changes within South Ayrshire CPP which were approved by our Community Planning Board on the 20th April 2023. Further information can be found [here](#).

The structure also embeds the development of Locality Plans as per our statutory requirement. Much work has taken place within South Ayrshire over the past few years around the development of place plans using the

place standard toolkit (in effect our version of ‘locality plans’) and locality-based work within Wallacetown to develop a ‘team around the community’ model.

It is intended to develop 6 locality plans, (initially piloting in Ayr North) with the work on these plans being led and monitored by Locality Planning Partnerships. Localities will be based on those which align with our current HSCP locality areas, and work has been undergoing to refresh the current HSCP Locality Planning Groups into ‘Locality Planning Partnerships’ with stronger links to community planning to ensure better outcomes for localities. This builds on successful partnership working and collaboration that already takes place, meeting the requirements of both the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act and the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act, and removes the need to have 2 locality models operating side by side.

Consideration will also be given to our current LOIP priorities, particularly those that would continue to be developed on a locality basis such as reducing social isolation and loneliness and supporting people living with dementia and their carers. The updates within this report highlight the locality-based activity in taking forward these two priority areas.

In the meantime, work will continue to progress our remaining current priority areas whilst our new LOIP is being developed. The next section provides information on the main areas of focus over the coming months:



Improving Outcomes for Care Experienced Children and Care Leavers

- Continue to focus on South Ayrshire promise Improvement areas;
- Development of supportive school structure posts in response to research findings; and
- Establish quarterly champions board meetings as key influencing platform for the voices of those with lived experience.

Providing support for young people who are carers

- Continue to raise awareness of young carers across all settings to help identify young carers at the earliest point.
- Complete our Wee Carers movie and roll out across primary schools.
- Launch our new resources and training packages.
- Continue to develop our Young Carers Voice Group and Young Carers Voice Network.



Employability and Lifelong learning

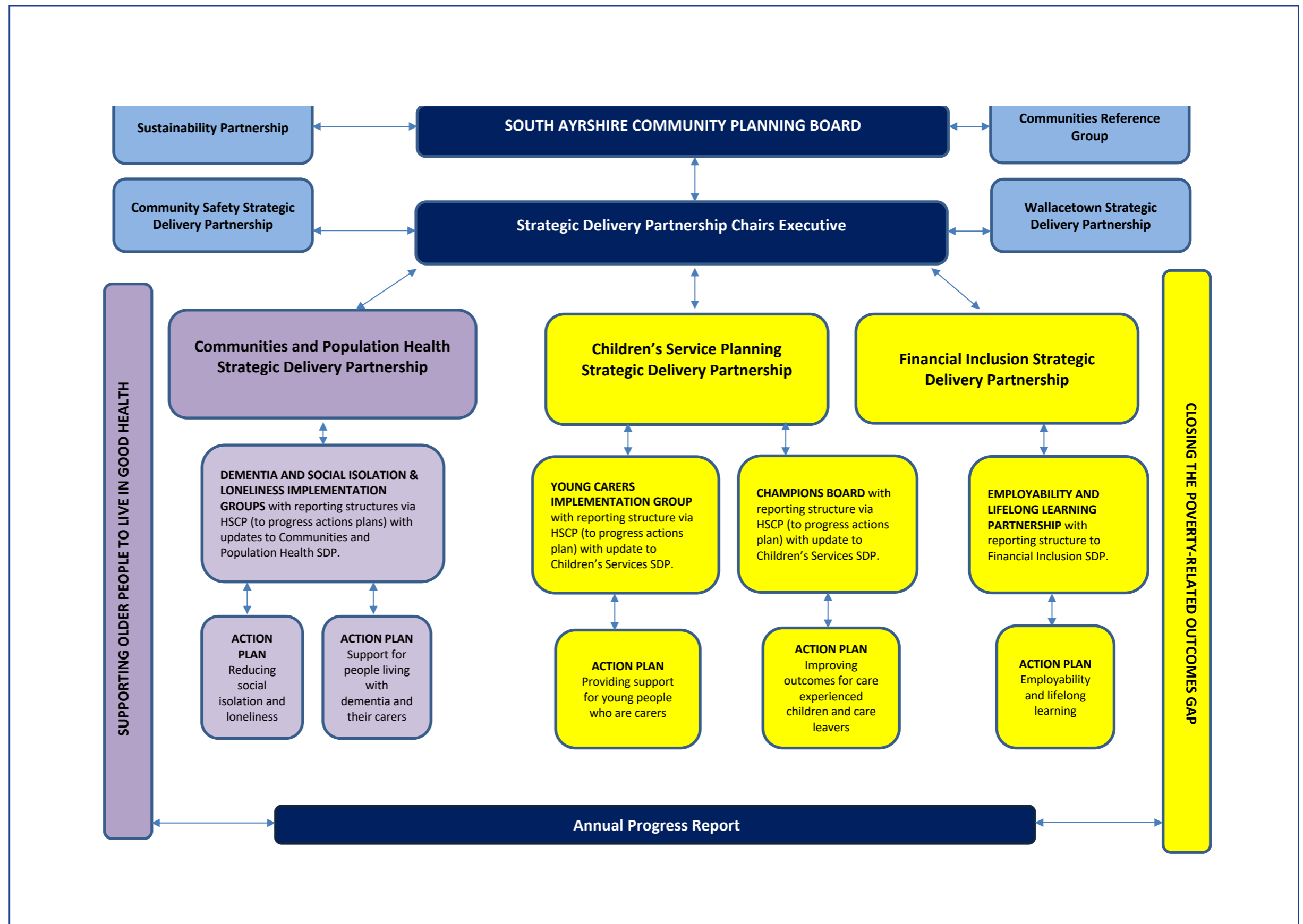
- Continue to have a focus on the SLDR and Participation Measure to ensure young people reach and sustain a positive destination;
- Develop and deliver a range of employability programmes that help South Ayrshire residents gain skills, confidence and access support to help achieve their employment goals that are relevant to the local labour market. This support may include help to prepare for employment, training, education and volunteering and to support career progressions;
- Inline with Best Start, Bright Future to help tackle child poverty head on, Thriving Communities will provide enhanced support to families living in South Ayrshire's most deprived areas and those within the targeted family groups with the focus on engagement with individuals in or at the verge of crisis;
- Closing the Disability Employment Gap - South Ayrshire's Local Employability Partnership (LEP) have established a sub-group to monitor and review the Disability Employment Gap within South Ayrshire. The groups aim is to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities; and
- Continue to work with the Young Carer Strategy Officer to raise awareness on the enhanced employability support available to Young Carers, including in-school support within the senior phase and our Modern Apprenticeship Guarantee.

Monitoring and Review

The following flowchart outlines the currently 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. Delivery plan is as follows:



Appendix 1

Monday 14 November 2022:

2pm to 3.30pm Trauma Informed Practice	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 15 November 2022:

10am to 11.30am: Champions for Change South Ayrshire Champions Board	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
3pm to 5pm: Primary Care/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 16 November 2022:

10am to 11.30am: It's good to walk!	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.
2pm to 3.30pm Promising times ahead	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.

Friday 18 November 2022:

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.
----------------------------------	--

Monday 21st November 2022:

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.
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).

Wednesday 23 November 2022:

10am to 11.30am: Young Carers	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our statutory duties • Who is a young carer? • Roles & responsibilities • Identification Support available • Update on work in South Ayrshire
----------------------------------	--

Thursday 24 November 2022:

10am to 11.30am: Information and Advice Hub	<p>This webinar will provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
2pm to 3.30pm: South Ayrshire Lifeline and Supporting Older People (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire)	<p>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.</p>

Friday 25 November 2022:

2pm to 3.30pm: South Ayrshire Violence Against Women Partnership	<p>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.</p>
---	--

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 ناپینا افراد کے لئے ابھرے 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。

本信息可慮應要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻譯成多种語言。以下是詳細聯系方式。

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

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

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, 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
Contact Centre
0300123 0900