

**Agenda Item No: 5(b) 3**

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024**



**FINANICAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP**

**Date of last meetings: 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

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

N/A

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

N/A

**MAIN CURRENT FOCUS OF THE SDP**

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

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

Since the last CP Board, there has been one meeting of the SDP on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Key areas of progress arising includes:

**LOIP PRIORITIES**

Following engagement with SDP members as highlighted previously, the LOIP priorities, along with supporting narrative, which have been put forward for the new LOIP are as follows:

**Financial Inclusion**

We will work in partnership to help individuals and families access financial support services that will assist with fuel poverty, income maximisation and food insecurity. Partners will ensure local support is available that assists with the cost of living by ensuring advice, guidance and support services are accessible and available across South Ayrshire.

**Economic, Employability and Lifelong Learning Opportunities**

We will work in partnership to prepare and assist people for employment, training, education, and volunteering opportunities. We will create opportunities that will assist our communities to thrive through economic development and local wealth building activity. We will ensure provision in South Ayrshire is aligned with local, regional, and national priorities by developing personal centred approaches for individuals accessing our services.

These priorities will now go forward as part of the wider LOIP consultation. The SDP will consider consultation feedback once available and will identify if any further changes need to be made in light of comments. Work will also begin to develop action plans and supporting performance framework.

**COVID RECOVERY FUNDING**

Members of the SDP were updated on a paper which was submitted to the South Ayrshire Council Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> November which will support activity around financial inclusion – one of the recommendations that was agreed was that the Council's financial work is strategically aligned to the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan delivered through this SDP. Further information can be found [here](#).

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

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

Extensive discussion took place on food, particularly around food insecurity but also links to food which has been identified as a LOIP priority area for the Sustainability Partnership. The Chair of the Food Network is now a member of the SDP and will provide updates in relation to what is being done collectively, what are the challenges and what support can be given in areas where there is no access to food pantries or foodbanks. It was agreed that a mapping exercise is undertaken of food provision across South Ayrshire – this will also include the financial position of the many groups that are providing support and are having to

## **EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

### Education Scotland CLD Progress Visit

This was carried out between the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – the report, published on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, is available to view [here](#)

### Employment Opportunities within the NHS

There is a regional, pan-Ayrshire approach taking place to support clients into vacancies within NHS Ayrshire and Arran. Support is being provided around recruitment.

### Sector Based Work Academies

A needs analysis has been carried out and the following areas of focus have been identified: mechanics, construction, and sport and leisure.

### Aerospace Industry

Consideration is being given to opportunities available to get local people into local jobs. This is being considered as part of the Ayrshire Growth Deal and Ayrshire Skills Investment Fund.

### Subgroups

Within the Local Employability Partnership there are three subgroups: Closing the Disability Employment Gap, Ukraine and Child Poverty.

## **CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

Following on from the workshop held on 25<sup>th</sup> October, feedback has now been received from Public Health Scotland on the mapping exercise that was carried out. A strategy group will be developed to take forward an assessment of the feedback.

## **KEY ISSUES**

- A review of the membership of the SDP has taken place in consideration of the approval given by the CP Board to incorporate 'growth' into the remit of the SDP and links to Community Wealth Building and wider economy and regeneration.
- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan to develop a longer terms child poverty strategy with supporting action plan taking cognisance of the new National Child Poverty plan.
- Support the action planning process and development of performance framework for LOIP priority areas.
- Continued implementation of the delivery plan for Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.
- Provide the Community Planning Board with an update on Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building (and in particular how community wealth building ties in with place-planning and regeneration) to be arranged for a future CP Board meeting; and
- Continue to make connections within the SDP and members on support available to our local communities because of the cost-of-living.

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

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

**Report Completed by:**

**Officer: Jamie Tait supported by Susan McCardie**

**Date: December 2023**