

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 18th APRIL 2024



FINANICAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP

Date of last meetings: 14th March 2024

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 14th of March 2024.

Key areas of progress arising includes:

FINANCIAL INCLUSION PROJECTS (PREVIOUSLY COVID RECOVERY FUNDING)

Members of the SDP were updated on a paper which was submitted to the South Ayrshire Council Cabinet on 12th March 2024 which will support activity around financial inclusion. 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.

SAC are continuing to provide funding for the food pantries, an annual report is due for all three pantries and will be shared at next meeting. It was noted that demand for pantries is increasing, and that VASA are looking into a mobile food pantry. Further information to follow at future meetings.

A one page report is provided below outlining food provision in South Ayrshire throughout 2023.



Food Provision South
Ayrshire Report for 2023

EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Child Poverty funding comes to an end on 31 March 2024. Thriving Communities are awaiting confirmation from the Scottish Government regarding funding for 2024/25.

The availability of flexible, affordable childcare in South Ayrshire continues to be an issue, which has prevented parents returning/into work.

South Ayrshire's Local Employability Partnership (LEP) lead the planning, decision-making and implementation of employability provision across South Ayrshire to ensure individual needs and labour market demands are met. The LEP oversee the strategic development and governance of employability provision across South Ayrshire. The LEP reports to the Financial Inclusion and Growth SDP.

The LEP continue to use local and national data to commission services to support local labour market demands. Commissioning of services align with Economic, Employability and Lifelong Learning Opportunities. Services have been commissioned with a focus on Hospitality, Sport & Leisure and supporting those who are classed as Economically Inactive

In line with Tackling Child Poverty the LEP have agreed the following:

- Identifying opportunities within HSCP that would support parents back/into employment as well as supporting HSCP WFP. Due to funding restrictions this will be progressed within 2024/25 when Grant Offer Letter has been received
- Flexible employment opportunities with the 3rd sector (via VASA) for parents, who have been long-term unemployed.
- Commissioning of services to support parents to upskill to progress into employment with childcare/early years services.

Sub-groups of the LEP have been established to support the following priorities:

- Closing the Disability Employment Gap
- Ukraine
- Child Poverty

CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

A partnership has been formed between Public Health Scotland and South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership to carry out an in-depth strategic needs analysis to help establish a mapping of services for priority groups living in South Ayrshire.

Workshops have taken place with stakeholders from May 2023 continuing to date as well as two lived experiences in a Rural and Urban area, purposes of these workshops were to:

- focus to understand local need with stakeholders and understanding our processes;
- gather all the key services that support low-income families in South Ayrshire together to map the local system, knowledge, and data available within it; and
- understanding local families' experiences and thoughts on the current system of support and their priorities. The experiences of the two areas were very different.

A core group was established with several of the services included in the stakeholder workshops and have been meeting on a weekly basis to discuss progress throughout the process. The most recent session took place on Monday 18th March 2024 with PHS and the core group to look at the information that has been collated over the last few months:

Priorities about the system

These are the outputs from the Understand workshop. The core group met in January to begin discussions on the learnings from the workshop and emerging theme.

Priorities from lived experience

The outputs from the 2 lived experience workshops.

Data driven Priorities

Data is presented on what the national data tell us about child poverty in South Ayrshire. What does the data tell you about the main issue to address?

Priorities from the data infrastructure

This is from the discussion captured in the understand workshop but can also be reflections on the gaps/needs from the data report.

Regional Economic Skills Strategy Workshop

A workshop was held on the 27th March 2024 in County Hall regarding the strategy. Rich discussion took place however further work is required to look at the areas where there could be an impact from a Pan Ayrshire approach. For example, skills development and job pathways for the Aerospace Sector.

KEY ISSUES

- 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.
- 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.

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.

Next steps: once LOIP agreed the SDP will work to produce action plans for each priority, a short life working group will be formed for each priority to look at developing the plans.

At the Financial Inclusion & Growth SDP on the 13th June 2024, a workshop session will take place with presentations from partners to provide an overview of their service.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Jamie Tait (supported by Elizabeth Dougall)

Date: April 2024