

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 20TH JANUARY 2022



FINANICAL INCLUSION SDP

Date of last meeting: 25th November 2021

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

n/a

Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 8th December meeting:

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 meeting of the Community Planning Board, there has been 1 meeting of the SDP – 25th November. The SDP has in place an approved strategic action plan. Key areas of progress arising from these meetings include:

Child Poverty

The Scottish Government is currently consulting on the next national Child Poverty Delivery Plan – this will be considered when refreshing our local plan. All members within the SDP have been asked to identify what their focus for child poverty will be until the end of March 2022, and in preparation and to shape the development of a refreshed child poverty action plan, members have been asked to identify areas of priority they would like to see in the plan. The main focus of the Child Poverty Engagement Subgroup will be capturing lived experience and the subgroup will now begin to capture information on what services are offering and identifying opportunities that will allow the subgroup to bring in the voice of lived experience and how that voice can influence services and be reflected within the refreshed child poverty action plan.

Food Network

As highlighted in the last report, a key development that has taken place is the creation of Food Pantries in South Ayrshire. A soft opening of the food pantries took place at the beginning of December - the Book & Bun will operate the Ayr Food Pantry, The Carrick Centre will operate the Maybole Food Pantry and Children 1st will operate the Girvan Pantry (from Girvan Primary School). Each pantry will have it's own wider wraparound service (the pantry at the Book & Bun will connect into South Ayrshire Lifeline and the drop in services from wider partners, the Carrick Centre will offers a training kitchen and the pantry at Girvan will offer a whole family support service). As highlighted previously, transport has been considered to allow wider communities to access the food pantries and this will be operated by South Ayrshire Community Transport. The Network has been looking at a strategy that could support a South Ayrshire Good Food Plan and are looking for support from partners to develop this further.

Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership (ELLP)

Work within the ELLP continues to progress. South Ayrshire Council and Skills Development Scotland delivered a webinar on Employability and Lifelong Learning at the CPP Webinar Series Event in November. The PACE Partnership have been supporting employees who have been or are facing redundancy. Information Advice Hub are also providing additional support for employees. A Care Sector Recruitment Fair was held at Ayr Town Hall on Friday 12th November 2021. This event was organised by DWP and Thriving Communities. Further discussions and plans to support people into the care sector will continue to take place into early new year. The ELLP will provide updates to the SDP on both the Ayrshire Growth Deal Fair Work meeting and Local Employability partnership. Over the past six months 45 new jobs have been created through South Ayrshire Employer Recruitment Incentive.

Fuel Poverty

Fuel poverty is now a standing agenda item for the SDP given the current situation with an increase in energy prices, winter approaching and the impact that this will have on our communities. Updates will be given on support that will be available to support people in our communities and SDP members will ensure that this information is shared within their own networks – the most recent updates highlighted the Information and Advice Hub winter social media campaign which was launched in December to highlight all support available with a focus on home energy. The Energy Agency can help people with eligibility checks for Warmer Homes Scotland and other funding support. The Energy Carer Service is available to anyone who is struggling to keep warm that links in with local groups and organisations.

Ayrshire Growth Deal

Connections have been made to the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the inclusive growth work being undertaken within that programme of work. Whilst there is a lot can be done to mitigate the impact of poverty, ultimately, we want to prevent people in South Ayrshire being in poverty.

KEY ISSUES

- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan; and
- Progress update of the Strategic Action Plan

UPDATE ON ACTION TO SUPPORT THE LOIP/PLACE PLANS

The SDP will support the strategic theme of ‘Closing the Poverty Related Outcomes Gap’ through the child poverty action plan and with the redefined strategic theme, through the work of the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership.

Report Completed by:

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Date: January 2022