

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE
COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 31st MARCH 2022



FINANICAL INCLUSION SDP

Date of last meetings: 8th March

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

n/a

Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 14th March 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 2 meetings of the SDP – 25th January and 8th March. The SDP has in place an approved strategic action plan. Key areas of progress arising from these meetings include:

Child Poverty

Members of the SDP have been asked to identify what their focus for child poverty will be until the end of March 2022, and, as highlighted in the previous report, preparation is underway of the development of a refreshed child poverty action plan. It should be noted that child poverty is also reported on as part of Children’s Services. The next stage is to produce a draft refreshed plan by mid-May detailing summary headlines and key themes – early indications are that these themes will be inclusive growth, fuel poverty and food poverty. A new National Child Poverty Plan is due to be published on 24 March 2022 which will help inform the refreshed local plan.

Food Network

Work continues around the development of Food Pantries which have opened in Girvan, Maybole and Ayr. The pantries in Girvan and Maybole are operating as a pilot with funding in place until the end of March – the next stage is to secure funding to allow the food pantries to continue. There is demand for the service with membership across both pantries of 171 (153 members at in Maybole and 18 members in Girvan however these numbers are expected to increase. The Ayr pantry now has over 400 members with the majority of members returning weekly. For Ayr, to manage both membership and stock, new members must come from the KA8 area or the villages. The Food Network has also noted that for some of their member organisations offering food provision, there has been an increase in demand, some experiencing increases as high as 50%. With the fuel poverty increases, families are facing the choice between heating or eating.

Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership (ELLP)

Work within the ELLP continues to progress through subgroups for Employability and Adult Learning. The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) is meeting every four weeks at the moment to develop a delivery plan for Phase 2 No-One Left Behind including identifying priorities moving forward to allow the LEP to agree where

funding should be targeted. A session was recently held to discuss No-One Left Behind with training providers and 3rd sector organisations was facilitated by Thriving Communities. The School Leaver Destination Report was published last month where South Ayrshire recorded 98.3% of young people progressed to a positive destination, this compares to 95.5% national average. The Employer Recruitment initiative is still available to recruit people who are unemployed. In terms of adult learning, Thriving Communities and VASA has been successful in securing funding to support community based adult learning programmes. This funding will split between each Community Learning Partnership who will develop their own training plans.

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. Main area of concerns are the energy price increase and how this will affect not only those on pay as you go but also those on regular billed tariffs and increasing concern over the cost-of-living increase. Both the Information and Advice Hub (IAAH) and Home Energy Scotland continue to support local communities through access to fuel poverty grants via the IAAH and support provided to people through the Energycarer Service.

Ayrshire Growth Deal

Connections have been made to the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the inclusive growth work being undertaken within that programme of work. The next meeting of the SDP will be provided with an update on the progress of Community Wealth Building and its people centred approach to local economic development and inclusive growth. Whilst there is a lot that can be done to mitigate the impact of poverty, ultimately, we want to prevent people in South Ayrshire being in poverty.

Free Access to Sanitary Products

The Scottish Government plans to bring the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 fully into force on 15th August 2022. From this date local authorities will have a legal duty to make period products available for free for anyone who needs them both in the community and in schools. The Act requires local authorities to consult with communities before publishing a 'statement on exercise of functions' which will be a delivery plan of where products will be made available locally. Consultation in South Ayrshire has now taken place and work will soon begin to develop the delivery plan for South Ayrshire based on community feedback. At present, free products are available in a range of locations in South Ayrshire, including distribution via our 'Wee White Bag' branding. Hey Girls, in partnership with the Scottish Government, has launched an app, PickupMyPeriod to show the location and availability of free products within South Ayrshire and across Scotland. As the scheme extends across South Ayrshire and Scotland, more pick-up locations will be included on the app. For more information on where to access products and on how to down the app, please visit [Wee White Bag - South Ayrshire Council \(south-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/wee-white-bag)

KEY ISSUES

- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan in light of the new National Child Poverty plan;
- Development of a delivery plan in preparation for the implementation of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021;
- Continue to make connections within the SDP and members on support available to our local communities; and
- Continued 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 Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership.

Report Completed by:

Officer: Claire Monaghan

Date: March 2022