

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 25TH AUGUST 2022



FINANICAL INCLUSION SDP

Date of last meeting: 16th August 2022

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

n/a

Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 3rd May 2022 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 – 17th May and 16th August. The SDP has in place an approved strategic action plan. Key areas of progress arising from these meetings include:

COST OF LIVING CRISIS INCLUDING FUEL AND FOOD POVERTY

Extensive discussion took place at the most recent meeting on the cost-of-living crisis, and what, as community planning partners, we can do to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis to support our communities further. Members were advised of the new Member/Officer Working Group that has been set up internally within South Ayrshire Council.

It was noted that a programme of awareness raising sessions will continue to be held with NHS and HSCP to raise awareness of financial inclusion pathways that people can be referred on to. There are small pockets of funding that can be accessed by Social Work (Children and Family) teams to support families at the point of need and members agreed that a similar approach rolled out across front-line services to empower staff to respond in a crisis should be considered. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) is developing a directory for the winter providing information. This will encourage people to take part in a range of volunteering opportunities and activities across South Ayrshire where people can get out of cold homes and access food and heat. Additional costs to employees were also discussed particularly in relation to an increase in petrol/diesel prices and the impact that this is having on staff, particularly those who are Home Carers and use their cars regularly to carry out their jobs, and the impact of rising heating costs for home workers over the winter period and potential moves to hybrid models.

Fuel poverty is 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 were given on support that is 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 continues to be 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. The Information and Advice Hub (IAAH)

continues take referrals for help with energy costs direct from resident of South Ayrshire with a pre-paid meter and are working with several partners to promote the resource further. During the month of September, the IAAH is combing their fuel payments and hardship support grant into one household boost via LACER (Local Authority Covid Economic Recovery) funding. Internal processes are being streamlined to ensure the process to access funding is quicker for claimants. An advertising campaign will take place to raise awareness through social media along with targeted sessions with residents in Foodbank and Food Pantry locations. Support continues to be provided to people through the Energycarer Service. The Warmer Homes Scotland criteria has been broadened. Home Energy Scotland will be around out roadshows across communities in Ayrshire to provide support and help people to access various funds. It was acknowledged that feedback Home Energy Scotland staff are receiving is that come October many people will be terrified to turn their heating on.

Similarly, food poverty is a standing agenda item for the SDP. Current issues and challenges that have been raised by the **South Ayrshire Community Food Network** at their last meeting on 7th July has been in relation to a request for a free food provision group to supply 'no cook bags' possibly due to the rising energy costs. This has prompted other members of the Food Network to be prepared/given an insight as to what food insecurity may look like in the coming months. Demand for the Foodbank has increased by 50% with many people coming for the first time and/or in employment. It was noted that considerable amounts of funding are being used for top-ups, especially for main meals. The Food Pantries are also getting busier:

- **Ayr (Book & Bun):** over 900 shops have taken place in June and nearly 2500 shops in the past 3 months. 633 people have signed up and 462 have been active within the past 3 months and more people from the waiting list have been able to join.
- **Maybole (Carrick Centre):** There are 371 members; 125 families, 246 individuals/couples. There were 370 shops during the month of June. The Carrick Centre targeted 154 families referred by schools, providing Asda vouchers, free membership and pantry vouchers for a free 1st shop.
- **Girvan (Primary School):** There are now 216 members; 102 families and 114 individuals. There were 276 shops last month.

Concern has been raised from villages/rural areas where, for some people who have signed up for the Food Pantry in Ayr, it now costs £11 to get into Ayr on the bus from Tarbolton which negates the savings at the Pantry therefore making the use of the pantry not cost effective. Discussion will now take place with the Community Food Network regarding transport options and mobile food pantry. An online event is being planned by the Community Food Network is taking place on Monday 5th September exploring challenges people face and what support can be put in place to help eat well.

Information was provided on funding particularly in relation to:

Social Enterprise Growth & Resilience (SEGAR) Fund: SEGAR seeks to ensure the growth and greater resilience of the social enterprise sector in South Ayrshire. Applications should demonstrate how a SEGAR grant will contribute to an organisations long-term financial sustainability, deliver additional services for people in South Ayrshire and/or increase the size of the local social enterprise sector. For further information please contact colin.love@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Empowering Communities - Cost of Living Crisis: Groups and organisations who are working directly with residents from low-income households can apply for this grant for revenue or capital costs. Applicants will be expected to show how the grant will improve the lives for these families.

Groups more likely to experience low income:

- Lone parent families
- Families with a disabled adult or child
- Larger families with three or more children
- Families with a child under one year old
- Minority ethnic families

Who Can Apply?

- 3rd sector groups and organisations, including community associations and community councils to help them support low-income families with the cost-of-living crisis.
- Applicants will be expected to show how the grant will improve the lives for these families.

Further information on funding can be found by visiting the following webpage: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/funding/>

CHILD POVERTY

NHS Ayrshire & Arran is currently updating/streamlining their Child Poverty Action Plan. This will be presented to the Infants, Children and Young People (ICYP) Transformation Board once complete.

EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership last met on 8th August 2022. Over the past few months, the focus has been supporting the employability outcomes, workforce challenges in Care and implementation of No One Left Behind. The Local Employability Partnership (LEP) Subgroup has agreed priorities and is in the process of going out to tender for sector-based work academies in care and hospitality. In addition, the partnership has also agreed the following:

- to allocate £10,000 for young people who are care experienced who require assistance with costs that are not covered by employability provision that will help them enrol or sustain further education, training or employment; and
- to support a Microenterprise initiative that is a partnership between HSCP, Ayrshire Beats and SAC.

The evaluation for the Community Based Adult Learning Recovery Fund that was a partnership between VASA and SAC has now been submitted to Scottish Government. £32,000 was allocated to provide adult learning opportunities across the five learning community partnerships. Discussions regarding UK Shared Prosperity Funding are being finalised and will go to SAC Cabinet on 30th August 2022. Proposals include supporting ESF employability programmes that are due to end in March 2022 and develop a new adult learning structure that will support numeracy as this is a focus of the 'Multiply' theme of the fund. The national adult learning strategy was published in June 2022 <https://www.gov.scot/publications/adult-learning-strategy-scotland-2022-27/> The CLD Partnership is currently collating an annual progress report for the CLD plan. This will be shared in October 2022 detailing key highlights including 'employability and lifelong learning' which is a priority area within the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

Members of the SDP were provided with an update on Community Wealth Building (CWB) and current activities taking place with South Ayrshire in relation to its people centred approach to local economic development and inclusive growth. The SDP is keen to explore further connections and engagement with CWB and as partners how support can be given to community projects that will provide further investment in our local areas.

FREE ACCESS TO SANITARY PRODUCTS

The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into on 15th August 2022. Local authorities now have a legal duty to make period products available for free for anyone who needs them both in the community and in schools. As part of the Act Local Authorities are required to publish a delivery plan – this has been approved for South Ayrshire and can be found [here](#). Further information on where to access products in South Ayrshire and to download the PickupMyPeriod App can be found [here](#).

KEY ISSUES

- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan in light of the new National Child Poverty plan;
- 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 crisis; 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/Susan McCardie

Date: August 2022