

STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 26TH JANUARY 2023****FINANCIAL INCLUSION SDP****Date of last meeting: 6th December 2022****CURRENT ISSUES OF CONCERN/CHALLENGES REQUIRING SUPPORT FROM 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 6th December 2022. Key areas of progress arising from this meeting includes:

COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS INCLUDING FUEL AND FOOD POVERTY

The SDP continues to have extensive discussions 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 (as highlighted in detail in the October update). Members were advised of the new Member/Officer Working Group (MOWG) that has been set up internally within South Ayrshire Council and links will be made between the MOWG and the SDP. Discussion will also take place regarding the development of a cost-of-living landing page on the SAC website linking in with information available in the South Ayrshire Lifeline magazine. As CP Board members will be aware, the South Ayrshire Lifeline magazine has now been produced, and distribution took place to all households within South Ayrshire towards the end of last year. The magazine provides a comprehensive guide to help and support services in South Ayrshire and will be a valuable resource over the winter months. https://issuu.com/voluntaryactionsouthayrshire/docs/south_ayrshires_lifeline_2

Following on from the South Ayrshire Lifeline magazine, A Cosy Spaces directory has also now been produced and this was launched on Monday the 28th November 2022. This comprehensive directory, listing cosy spaces by locality, is a live document and will regularly updated.

[South Ayrshire's Cosy Spaces Directory by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire - Issuu](#)

Fuel and food poverty continue to be standing agenda items for the SDP. The Community Food Network advised that the South Ayrshire Food pantries continue to be well used with memberships increasing across all three locations (in Maybole there are just under 500 members, in Girvan there are 333 members and in Ayr there are over 800 members). Utility costs are currently being monitored across the three locations. Work is now taking place to secure funding for the next financial for the food pantries. Two Winter Warmer events have been held in Maybole on 17th November and Ayr 9th December – discussion will now take place regarding scheduling similar events over the coming months. In terms of support for fuel poverty/cost-of-living crisis, the Information and Advice Hub (South Ayrshire Council) has launched the Household Boost fund designed to support vulnerable households alleviate pressure on household budgets as the cost-of-living crisis escalates. The Information and Advice Hub continues to work in partnership with the Energy Agency through a referral system. The Energy Agency is experiencing unprecedented demand for their service over the first half of the year. In addition, the number of partner organisations they are now working with has increased to support partners to provide energy advice and potential funding options to partners.

EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership are due to meet on Thursday 18th January 2023. Information on Year 1 CLD Plan Progress Report is still being collated.

UK Shared Prosperity Funding is still being finalised, it is anticipated funding for Multiply (Numeracy – Adult Learning support) will be allocated in January 2023. Posts will be advertised by SAC and there will be a challenge fund for 3rd sector to bid in to deliver provision.

Employability support will start in April 2023 when the existing ESF programmes end. It is anticipated that there will be minimal disruption to provision.

The Local Employability Partnership continue to support people into employment. Sector based work academies in care, hospitality and security have been commissioned. The LEP are also considering how they can support other sectors through No One Left Behind Funding.

Government facilitated a session in Ayr Town Hall in November to interrogate data relating to people who were economically inactive across Ayrshire.

COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING (CWB)

The management of CWB has transferred to Thriving Communities. Jamie Tait will arrange awareness raising sessions regarding CWB for the CPP.

KEY ISSUES

- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan in light of the new National Child Poverty plan;
- 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 crisis; and
- Continued progress 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: Jamie Tait /Susan McCardie

Date: January 2023