

**South Ayrshire Council**

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities  
to Cabinet  
of 23 May 2023**

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**Subject: South Ayrshire Food Pantries Update**

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**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an update on progress following the previous Food Network Report presented to Cabinet on 17 January 2023.

**2. Recommendation**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet:**

**2.1.1 notes the amendments outlined at 4.1 in respect of the report to Cabinet of 17 January 2023;**

**2.1.2 recognises the financial commitment made by South Ayrshire Council's Thriving Communities to support the continuation of three local food pantries – Maybole, Girvan and Ayr; and**

**2.1.3 approves the Food Pantries Annual Update Report (attached as [Appendix 1](#)).**

**3. Background**

3.1 A motion was agreed at Council on 3 March 2022 requesting that a report be submitted to Leadership Panel detailing proposals on how South Ayrshire Council can support local food pantries going forward.

3.2 A report was presented at Cabinet on the 17 January 2023 providing an update on food insecurity provision across South Ayrshire, supported by South Ayrshire Council. The report provided an overview on initiatives, this included Food Pantries, funding distributed through LACER funding and School holiday food provision. It was proposed that Officers seek to secure £10,000 funding through the Lintel Trust to support the three Food Pantries. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) raised concerns about the accuracy of elements of this report.

3.3 Thriving Communities officers are continuing to support the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector to explore opportunities for funding to support the Food Network and associated food insecurity programmes.

3.4 The Food Network continues to be reported through the Community Planning Partnership – Financial Inclusion SDP.

## 4. Proposals

4.1 Following correspondence from VASA regarding inaccuracies within the previous paper Members are asked to note that:

4.1.1 the Food Network should be referred to as South Ayrshire Community Food Network Forum and is facilitated and managed by VASA and is chaired by a representative from the forum;

4.1.2 the South Ayrshire Community Food Network has not received any direct financial support from South Ayrshire Council. South Ayrshire Community Food Network Forum members - VASA, Children's 1<sup>st</sup> and The Carrick Centre - were the recipients of the funding of £117,664 referred in the previous report. Details of this support are included in Food Pantries Annual Update report ([Appendix 1](#));

4.1.3 Thriving Communities Officers have secured £10,000 funding through the Lintel Trust to support the Food Pantries;

4.1.4 Thriving Communities officers, through South Ayrshire Council core budget, have also distributed the following amounts of funding:

- £35,000 VASA;
- £17,500 The Carrick Centre; and
- £17,500 Children 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 Funding was secured through the Lintel Trust Community Benefit Clause.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 In March 2023 £70,000 was distributed from Thriving Communities - Food Deprivation core budget

## 7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

## 8. Risk

### 8.1 *Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations*

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

### 8.2 *Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations*

8.2.1 This report is an update to previous reports.

## 9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 2](#).

## 10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

## 11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## 12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 1 of the Council Plan: Spaces and Places/ Moving around and the environment (Outcome 1).

## 13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Director of Strategic Change and Communities will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

Implementation	Due date	Managed by
No further action	Not applicable	Not applicable

Background Papers [South Ayrshire Council – 3 March 2022 - Minutes](#) - Item 12.2, Page 6

Report to Cabinet of 17 January 2023 – [South Ayrshire Food Network - Update](#)

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**Phone 01292 559398**  
**Email [jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

**Date: 10 May 2023**



## South Ayrshire Food Pantry Funding April - April 2022/23 Evaluation Report

Name of Organisation	Voluntary Action South Ayrshire – Ayr Food Pantry
Contact Address:	1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Boswell House 10-12 Arthur Street Ayr KA7 1QJ
Amount of Grant Awarded:	£67,664.00 Funded from Addressing Future Needs External Funding

### Purpose for which funding was awarded:

<p>Funding was to cover the main operational costs of the Food Pantry in Ayr including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary (full-time Team Lead)</li> <li>• Fairshare annual subscription</li> <li>• Rent &amp; Utilities</li> <li>• Community Transport</li> <li>• Volunteer Expenses</li> </ul>
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### To what extent have the purposes of the grant Fund been met?

<p>The purposes of the funding have mostly been met to date: Purposes Met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary -The full-time Team Lead is developing the Pantry and overseeing a team of 18 volunteers who are rotated in each day. The Pantry Team Lead is making connections and building relationships with food producers and retailers locally to keep supplies 'topped up'.</li> <li>• Fairshare continue to deliver produce to the Pantry weekly. This equates to approx. 60% of the food being distributed to customers. The remainder of the food is sourced via the local supermarkets, purchasing items where there are gaps (using income from donations) and also by the building of relationships with other food distributors.</li> <li>• Rent &amp; Utility costs are being met by the funding although the increased costs of energy over the autumn/winter have made this a challenge. All staff and volunteers have been given a branded fleece to wear while in the pantry so we can keep the heating to a minimum. This coupled with the need to run more fridges and freezers will be a challenge going forward. (The Pantry runs 4 large chest freezers, 1 large double doored freezer and 3 small freezers as well as 3 large fridges, 1 large double doored fridge and 5 small fridges).</li> <li>• Volunteer Expenses – We are continuously recruiting volunteers for the Pantry and the majority of them are staying with us. We continue to deliver best practice with our vounteers, offering support and training as well as covering their expenses for all out-of-pocket costs, including travel.</li> </ul>
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Purposes still to meet:

- Community Transport – Several options of community transport have been explored for several areas of South Ayrshire, including Ayr North and Kincaidston.

Please tell us how many people benefitted from this project:

Aged under 18	Aged 18 or over	Elderly / Pensioner
303	833	570

**Please note:** we can only breakdown the above beneficiaries based on who has taken out a membership. **913** memberships have been taken out since opening which equates to **1,706** individuals broken down into their ages ranges as above.

Where we record our visits to the pantry daily and what member that is, our database system is not sophisticated enough to drill down on the beneficiaries of the person doing the shop that day. We do not have the resources to implement it at this time.

The number of shops over the past year and benefits to members is more detailed further down.

Provide details of outcomes achieved:

People in food poverty have had opportunity to purchase good quality, nutritious food items at a minimal cost. (normally 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the cost).

People in food poverty have had opportunity to choose food items in a dignified manner.

Customers to the Pantry have opportunity to be signposted to other services, if required, through a one-to-one chat with staff or volunteers.

Many tonnes of surplus food and products have been saved from going to landfill.

1 full-time employment opportunity has been created.

3 long term unemployed people have been supported and trained offering paid work for 6 months each, through SAC Employability scheme, leading to full-time employment for 2 of them once they had finished the scheme.

Another full-time employment opportunity has been created (and fulfilled by one of the LTU people who had been unemployed for 3 years prior to joining us. This post is being self-funded by the donations the pantry receives.

What difference has this funding made?

(impact statements, quotes and photos can be used here)

Since April 2022, a further 441 memberships have been taken out made up of 692 adults and 193 children. Of these 441 memberships (adult households and families), 311 are from KA8 area, Kincaidston, Annbank, Mossblown or Tarbolton. For the past 6 months, and on-going, our membership is now only open, for instant sign-up, to those in the KA8 area, Annbank, Mossblown and Tarbolton. We have a waiting list of others outside these areas of approx. 200. The waiting list has now been closed as we seem unable to satisfy this waiting list in the near future due to reaching capacity on food required to service the current footfall. Since April 2022 **10,514 weekly shops** have been carried out by members, saving each customer on average £12-£15 per shop which equates to an overall saving to members, in the last 6 months, of approx. **£126,168 - £157,710**.

The daily Pantry shops have been increasing steadily. Most days see approx. **50-60 daily shops** being carried out with the most in a day so far being 72.

We continue to grow working partnerships with many of the local supermarkets, the food bank, local churches and other voluntary organisations. This is an area that we will be working to develop more.


We have managed and trained 3 long term unemployed staff members for 6 months each, under SAC employability Evolve Scheme. Two of these staff members finished their time with us in August 2022. One has went on to other employment after working for the Pantry and the other has become a permanent full-time member of VASA Pantry staff, funded through the growth of income, mainly via donations. This has allowed for consistency and 'breathing space' for the Team Lead to grow and develop the Pantry networks and relations.

Some quotes from customers:  
 "Can I seriously get all that for £2.75"  
 "I love being able to choose things I have never tried before" – after trying asparagus for the first time the week before"  
 "My daughter thinks its great that her packed lunch stuff is the same as her school pals" – often there is branded yoghurts, cheeststrings etc. in the fridges"  
 "I like it in here – everyone is so nice and cheery"  
 "The staff have given me support and phone numbers for organsiations that have supported my mental health and welbeing"  
 "I have been put in touch with other services that have been able to help me with my benefits and housing issues"  
 "I cant believe most of these people here every week are volunteers – that's so lovely"

Please give details below of the items or activities funded:

Item/Activity	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salary (full-time Team Lead)</li> <li>• Fairshare annual subscription</li> <li>• Rent &amp; Utilities and Vol expenses</li> <li>• Community Transport</li> </ul>	£26964.00 £16200.00 £10000.00 Carried forward as agreed for 2023/2024 £14,500 as not spent in the year

Please attach relevant receipts/invoices or detailed statement of expenditure.

<b>Signature:</b> 	
<b>Date:</b> April 2023	

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:  
 Jamie Tait

Jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



## South Ayrshire Food Pantry Funding April - April 2022/23 Evaluation Report

Name of Organisation	Children 1st
Contact Address:	Girvan Primary School, Wesley Road, Girvan
Amount of Grant Awarded:	£25,000 Funded from Addressing Future Needs External Funding

Purpose for which funding was awarded:

The funding was awarded to cover the salary of a Children 1<sup>st</sup> Food Pantry Co-ordinator for a year.

To what extent have the purposes of the grant Fund been met?

The purpose of the grant has been fully met and has covered staff salary costs for 12 months March 22 – March 23.

Please tell us how many people benefitted from this project:

Aged under 18	Aged 18 or over	Elderly / Pensioner
7	239	113

Provide details of outcomes achieved:



The Pantry supports the Girvan community to access affordable, healthy food and has had a positive impact on food insecurity.

The social element of attending the pantry has positively impacted on social isolation and mental health.

The Pantry is a gateway to access the wider family support service and support from partners who attend.

What difference has this funding made?  
 (impact statements, quotes and photos can be used here)

Feedback from members:

- “Makes a massive difference, takes so much pressure off financial difficulties that we are all going through.”
- “The money saved helps go towards heating costs which have rocketed.”
- “With the cost of living rising and household finances being squeezed the pantry is a great help.”
- “With a recent change in personal circumstances and with rising costs in household bills, the pantry definitely helps.”
- “Makes a massive difference, great to know that there is always food in the cupboard.”
- “Things are so expensive in supermarkets as prices have gone up.
- The Food Pantry is a great help with stretching a limited budget.”
- “Helps people young and old with nutrition.”
- “Helps cut down waste and lets people socialise.”
- “Positive thing for the community, everyone loves it.”
- “It is a great addition to the community and will help a lot of people in these difficult times.”
- “It brings everyone together.”
- “Gives everyone struggling a chance to enjoy great food that they normally would not be able to afford.

Please give details below of the items or activities funded:

Item/Activity	Cost
Food Pantry staff salary costs	£25,000

**Please attach relevant receipts/invoices or detailed statement of expenditure (please note any surplus funds must be returned)**

<b>Signature:</b> <i>Michelle Robertson</i>	<b>11/04/2023</b>
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PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:  
 Jamie Tait

[Jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)



**South Ayrshire Food Pantry Funding**  
**April - April 2022/23 Evaluation Report**

Name of Organisation	The Carrick Centre Food Pantry
Contact Address:	Culzean Road, Maybole KA19 7DE
Amount of Grant Awarded:	25,000 Funded From Addressing Future Needs External Funding

**Purpose for which funding was awarded:**

Funding was awarded to support the work of the Carrick Centre Food Pantry, and to support individuals living in Maybole and the surrounding seven villages who are living in poverty or at risk of food poverty.

**To what extent have the purposes of the grant Fund been met?**

The grant fund purposes have been fully met during this fiscal year. The Carrick Centre Food Pantry works to support food stability for families in Maybole and the surrounding areas. On any given week they serve between 40-60 individuals/families. The impact of the service goes beyond the simple provision of food. The conversations around food preparation and simple ideas to make food stretch further, the introduction of new foods that are cheap and healthy and the basic human contact with someone who will not judge you, who will meet you where you are and will try to assist you however they can is as the advert says “priceless.”

Please tell us how many people benefitted from this project: Total of 483

Aged under 18	Aged 18 or over	Elderly / Pensioner
18-30	18-30 114 31-60 224	61+ 145
Pro		

Provide details of outcomes achieved:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 60-80 shopping visits weekly</li> <li>2. Increased access to nutritious food</li> <li>3. Food education – e.g. celeriac vegetable was new to many customers, food pantry staff provided education on uses for the vegetable and provided soup recipe.</li> </ol>
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What difference has this funding made?  
(impact statements, quotes and photos can be used here)

<p>Funding has allowed the continued operation of the Food pantry through the 2021-22 year. Comments from pantry customers indicate the need that this has filled in their lives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is fantastic, I am so happy that it is here and that it is going to be here for another year.</li> <li>2. This really helps me to feed my children – thank you.</li> <li>3. I can't believe we get all this for £2.75</li> <li>4. That dip thing I got here last week was so good – where abouts in the supermarket can I buy that. I had it with nachos chips – imagine that</li> </ol>
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Please give details below of the items or activities funded:

Item/Activity	Cost
Purchase of Food/Staffing costs	£ 25,000

**Please attach relevant receipts/invoices or detailed statement of expenditure (please note any surplus funds must be returned)**

<b>Signature:</b>	Heather D. Stowe, Ph.D.
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PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:  
Jamie Tait

[Jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## South Ayrshire Council Equality Impact Assessment Scoping Template

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

### 1. Policy details

Policy Title	South Ayrshire Food Insecurity Update
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Jamie Tait, Service Lead – Thriving Communities <a href="mailto:jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">jamie.tait@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a>

### 2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	No	No
Disability	No	No
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	No	No
Marriage or Civil Partnership	No	No
Pregnancy and Maternity	No	No
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	No	No
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	No	No
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	No	No
Sexual Orientation – person's sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	No	No

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children's Rights	No	No

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	No	No
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	No	No
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	No	No
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	No	No
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent's education, employment and income	No	No

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the 'Three Key Needs' of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

## 5. Summary Assessment

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>The proposal does not have a significant negative or positive impact on any particular group</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Jamie Tait  <b>Date:</b>	<b>Service Lead</b>