

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Director of Strategic Change and Communities
to Service and Partnerships Performance Panel
of 13 June 2023**

Subject: Community Learning and Development (CLD) 2021-2024 Plan (Mid-Term Progress Report)

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Service and Partnerships Performance Panel with the CLD 2021-24 Plan mid-term progress report.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

2.1.1 notes the progress made to date within the [2021-24 CLD Plan](#), that was approved at Leadership Panel in September 2021; and

2.1.2 approves the publication of the CLD mid-term progress report on South Ayrshire Council's website and agrees for it to be shared with the Community Planning Partnership (Appendix 1).

3. Background

3.1 Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place a responsibility on every local authority in Scotland to work with partners and communities to 'secure' Community Learning and Development (CLD). The process put in place should:

- identify target individuals and groups;
- consider the needs of the targeted individuals and groups;
- assess the degree to which those needs are already being met; and
- identify barriers to the adequate and efficient provision of relevant CLD.

3.2 The Educational Authority is required to publish a plan every three years setting out:

- how the educational authority and partners will coordinate CLD provision;
- what action will be taken to provide CLD provision over the period of the plan; and
- identify any unmet needs during the period of the plan.

3.3 In September 2021 South Ayrshire Council's Leadership Panel approved the CLD 2021-24 Partnership Plan.

3.4 The development and management of the CLD 2021-24 Plan is the responsibility of South Ayrshire's CLD Partnership, this includes representation from:

- South Ayrshire Council;
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP);
- NHS Ayrshire and Arran Public Health;
- Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA);
- Health and Social Care Partnership; and
- Ayrshire College.

4. Proposals

4.1 It is proposed that Service and Partnerships Performance Panel approves the mid-term progress report.

4.2 South Ayrshire Council officers will seek approval at Cabinet in February 2024 to start consulting on a new CLD Plan for 2025-2028.

4.3 In September 2024 the CLD Partnership will carry out a self-evaluation and publish an end of plan (2021-24) report.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 The recommendations within this report are consistent with the legal requirements and in particular the requirements for Community Learning and Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013, which require local authorities to publish a CLD Plan every 3years.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. The Plan will be delivered within existing resources. The CLD Partnership will continue to seek external funding opportunities to support the Action Plan.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

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 The risk associated with rejecting the recommendations would mean the CLD Partnership is not complying with the CLD Regulations.

9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals within this report have been assessed through the EQIA scoping process and there are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts in agreeing the proposals, therefore an EQIA is not required.

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 above recommendations relate to Priority 2 Live, Work, Learn of the council plan.

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 Stephen Ferry, Portfolio Holder for Education, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Leadership Panel of 18 September 2018 – [Community Learning and Development Plan 2018-2021](#)**

Report to Leadership Panel of 21 September 2021 – [Community Learning and Development Plan 2021-24](#)

[The Requirements for Community Learning and Development \(Scotland\) Regulations 2013](#)

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Date: 1 June 2023

South Ayrshire Community Learning & Development Partnership 3 Year Plan 2021-2024

Mid-Point Summary Report – September 2021 – March 2023







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Introduction

In September 2021, we published our [3-year plan for Community Learning and Development](#) (CLD) in which we set out our priorities for the CLD Partnership and agreed an action plan to drive forward these priorities and deliver on them for our communities.

In South Ayrshire, CLD plays a crucial role in breaking down the barriers faced by individuals, ensuring learners, families and communities across the area reach their full potential, improve their life chances and raise their aspirations. This is developed and delivered through youth work, lifelong learning, ESOL engagement, community engagement and community empowerment. CLD activity highlighted in the plan and in this progress report encompasses the work of the local authority, voluntary sector, and other organisations.

The period from September 2021 – March 2023 remained a challenging time for the sector as we came to terms with dealing with the Covid pandemic and looked towards Covid recovery and renewal. Restrictions remained in place during this time which resulted in frontline services being delivered differently, usually virtually or using a hybrid approach. Furthermore, local authority

elections took place in May 2022 and resulted in a new administration for South Ayrshire with a new Council Plan to be written.

This period also witnessed the formation of a new Thriving Communities service for the local authority, bringing together CLD, Employability, Community Safety, Community Engagement and Health and Wellbeing under one service. This has generated new ways of working, better collaboration and partnership working and an increase in staffing, resources and skills. Thriving Communities is now widely established and recognised as a standalone service which delivers for and with our local communities.

Taking everything above into account, the CLD Partnership have made great strides in delivering on the actions contained within Year 1 of the CLD Plan. Excellent progress has been made in key areas and significant work has started in others which we will develop in Year 2 and 3. This progress report highlights some of the key areas for success and demonstrates the difference CLD activity is making to local people and in our local communities.



Priority 1

Youth Work Provision – Improving outcomes for young people

Thriving Communities along with partners from the Youth Services Strategic Group delivered a summer programme for young people and their families following funding received from the Scottish Government as part of the Covid Recovery Plan. We were able to deliver



The highlight of the summer programme was the concluding “Bounce” Festival which took place in August 2022. Bounce Festival was South Ayrshire Council’s first ever Youth Work Festival. The main aim of the event was to provide local young people aged 10 to 16 with an opportunity to engage in and enjoy a wide range of positive activities, including live music, entertainment, street food, health and wellbeing workshops and take part in a Youth Voice consultation. We recognised that engagement levels of young people aged 10 to 14 were lower than expected in our Childcare Hubs when compared to that of young people aged 5 to 10. Anecdotal evidence suggested that older young people were reluctant to participate due to the large age gap and their differing needs hence why we created, developed and delivered #BounceFestival22!

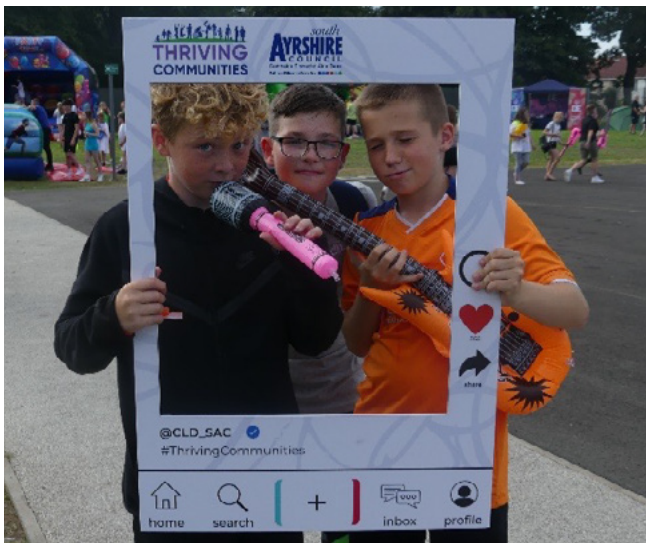


Over 300
young people attended
#BounceFestival22

Whilst attending similar events with young people, our staff reported the high costs of purchasing food and taking part in activities. It was important to the partnership that every aspect of Bounce Festival was completely free of charge and that young people could fully experience the event, regardless of their economic circumstances. Hot food was provided throughout the day, along with healthy snacks including fruit, cereal bars, popcorn and water.

We were keen that the festival provided a platform for local young people to showcase their talents in front of their peers. Performances ranged from young solo artists to a full fiddle orchestra! We also had headline performances from popular Scottish DJ’s, as requested by our young people.

We actively targeted areas in South Ayrshire where young people were experiencing challenging situations in their everyday lives. Thriving Communities staff identified around 300 young people who predominately lived in neighbourhoods recognised as statistically deprived within the health and wellbeing summary and the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. We provided free transport across South Ayrshire to eliminate this potential, but highly likely, barrier to participation. Young people were also supported to attend by their Thriving Communities Youth Worker. The event itself took place at Ayr Academy, which is situated within our most statically deprived community in South Ayrshire.



 <p>THRIVING COMMUNITIES</p> <p>Youth Work Statistics</p>	<p>Youth Work 2021/22</p> <p>1498</p> <p>young people registered</p> <p>6-10 year olds: 546</p> <p>11-15 year olds: 893</p> <p>15-25 year olds: 59</p>	<p>Youth Work 2021/22</p> <p>17,675</p> <p>hours of learning</p> <p>68 project and groups</p> <p>32% increase in engagement compared to 2020/21</p> 
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Youth Consultation & Representation



SYP Elections

From August to November 2021, 8 young people across South Ayrshire expressed an interest to stand as candidates for the 2021 SYP Elections, representing young people's views on a local and national level. These 8 young people took part in a range of training such as public speaking, communications, and campaigning.

In November 2021, a total of 1,700 young people took part in the democratic process by voting online for their preferred candidate. 992 votes were cast for the Ayr constituency and Carrick Cumnock Doon Valley had 708 votes.



Young Scot National Entitlement Card Progress

5,349 young people currently have access to a travel entitlement!

16,539 young people have a Young Scot NEC in South Ayrshire – 96% of those entitled!

That's a **12% increase** in cardholders compared with September 2021!

There are currently **1,635** Young Scot Members in South Ayrshire Council.

This represents **11% of the estimated population of 11 to 25 year olds in the area.**

This is a percentage increase of **144%** compared with September 2021.

There were a total of **19,808** page views to the Young Scot website from South Ayrshire.

Targeted Support for Young Carers



One example of our targeted work is the Young Carers Package, #YSCarers. #YSCarers is part of the Scottish Government's commitment to recognising the contributions of young carers by helping them to make the most of their free time and support them in their caring role. Young carers can access the free package using their Young Scot NEC. It's free for anyone aged 11 to 18 who cares, unpaid, for a family member, friend or member of their community, regularly and on a long-term basis. The package includes digital vouchers, access to subscriptions and exclusive opportunities. 44 young carers in South Ayrshire Council have signed up for the Young Carers Package. These young people have accessed 194 Young Carers Opportunities.

South Ayrshire Council - Community Safety

Targeted work with young people

The Targeted Approach to Young People (TAYP) programme is delivered by South Ayrshire Council Thriving Communities Community Safety Team and aims to engage young people who are involved in or are on the periphery of antisocial behaviour / crime in the community or who are not engaging at school in the expected manner. TAYP is an activity-based initiative, including outdoor activities focussed on challenging young people whilst building confidence, self-esteem and teamworking skills. This is followed up with ongoing support to enable the young people to engage in additional activities and established youth work activities in their local community, further education, and employment opportunities.

A range of agency inputs aimed at stimulating discussion around a variety of issues relevant to young people are also included as part of this programme. These include issues such as antisocial behaviour and its impact

on the community, drug and alcohol misuse, addictions/recovery, sexual and mental health, knife crime and domestic violence. This work has been supported by representatives from a range of agencies and departments including, Community Learning and Development, NHS A&A, Police Scotland, South Ayrshire Women's Aid and Recovery Ayr.

This reporting period saw the TAYP Xtra programme developed in conjunction with Kyle Academy. Cashback Round 5 funding helped support of a pilot of longer-term engagement with 6 young people that the school had referred due to increased support needs. This engagement was initially planned to be for a 3-year period, however, due to complications around engagement because of the Covid pandemic, we had to shorten the engagement to 18 months. This approach will be evaluated at the end of funding period in March 2023.

UNCRC – Progress Report

In 2021, led by the Health & Social Care Partnership, we established the UNCRC Action Group, tasked to create a South Ayrshire Vision Statement and Framework to ensure children's rights are reflected in all our policies and procedures. 7 young people from the South Ayrshire Youth Forum (SAYF) were part of the team that created the Vision Statement.

A subgroup was established, consisting of key frontline staff, a member of SAYF as well as one of our elected members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (Ayr MSYP). This subgroup was initially tasked to develop a consultation lesson plan to support young people to have a say on the UNCRC framework. In addition, we also created informative video scribes.

A total of 30 young people took part in the pilot consultation lesson plan. A further

Youth Survey took place with 300 young people aged 12 to 21 years responding and 53% stated they understood the UNCRC and 47% said they did not. The results and discussion of the actions of the consultation and survey took place with 15 young people at a Youth Voice Survey.

In addition to the consultation, the action group have delivered various workshops raising awareness of the UNCRC within CLD youth groups with a total of 57 young people. In addition, a Mental Health Charter created by SAYF and CLD, which has a specific principle focused on rights, has been delivered to 160 young people. In summary, in 2022 a total of 269 young people have taken part in Thriving Communities group work discussions around the UNCRC and an additional 300 young people took part in a survey around Youth Voice and the UNCRC.

Happy 21st Birthday Domain Youth Centre

In September 2022, the Domain Youth Centre held an open day event to celebrate the centre being open for 21 years. The event was attended by over 100 people, current youth club members, past youth club members, previous members of staff and families from the area.

As part of its Birthday celebrations, the Domain Youth Centre benefited from £25,000 of South Ayrshire Council's Place-based Funding in 2022 to support various upgrades and enhancements inside and out. The Domain Youth Centre is one of the services most invaluable assets, supporting over 100 young people per week, operating over 6 days. Upgrades included:

- A new exterior sign with updated branding
- A new ramp to ensure the outdoor spaces were accessible to all
- Enhancements to the garden area at the side of the building to allow outdoor learning
- New and modern exterior cladding to match the recently upgraded the windows

This welcome investment demonstrates the Council's commitment to support young people in North Ayr.



Priority 2

Mental Health & Wellbeing – Building Healthier Communities



Key Successes

- Promotion of A Guide for Young People (mental health and wellbeing resource produced by NHS A&A, SAC, EAC. NAC partners).
- 320 copies distributed; 7 copies downloaded from NHS A&A Health Information & Resources Service
- Development of the Green Health app promoting physical activity opportunities outdoors developed.
- Promotion of Ayr Active Travel Hub activities and events
- Promotion of the staff cycle to work scheme with NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- In 2022 79 cycles were purchased by staff.
- We delivered the Mental Health Improvement – A Practical Approach course to:
 - SAC Sports Development Team, April 2022, 12 staff
 - UWS, June 2022, 43 students over 2 sessions (21 & 23)
 - Ayrshire College, July 2022, 18 staff from all 3 campuses
- A total of 73 individuals completing the Mental Health Improvement – A Practical Approach course!



Development of South Ayrshire's Children & Young People's Mental Health Strategy & Plan

Our colleagues in Psychological Services carried out a consultation and engagement exercise which included:

- an audit of all sectors to identify a 'map' of existing supports and services as well as gaps in the mental health and wellbeing provision for young people.
- A survey of schools, parents, and young people themselves to explore views on the existing supports and services, as well as the identifiable gaps, in the mental health and wellbeing provision for children and young people and families.
- This audit of children, young people & parent's mental health & wellbeing indicated that COVID has had a negative impact on mental health and therefore must be addressed within an up-to-date mental health plan

As a result, partners have been working closely together to develop a Mental Health Strategy and plan which will be launched during the Year 2 cycle of our CLD Plan.

Key approaches the plan will take include:

1. Prevention and Early Intervention
2. Outstanding universal provision that supports physical and mental health & wellbeing
3. Access to support and joined-up services that tackle inequality
4. Love and support for care-experienced young people

Care Experienced Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group



- Started in 2021 with support from Education welfare officers, Duke of Edinburgh's award team and Domain youth centre.
- Through promotion in schools, 8 young people (5 males & 3 females) expressed an interest in joining the group; these young people came from 4 different schools.
- Four of the group already engaged with the champions board but the other 4 did not.
- The group gelled well together formed new friendships within the group
- They all took up further wider opportunities, out with the DofE group, participating in residentials, summer programmes and youth clubs at the Domain Youth Centre.
- In Easter 2022, all 8 young people completed their Bronze awards and have now all progressed onto their Silver awards.

Youth Work Education Recovery Fund

The Youth Work Education Recovery Fund was established to enable the sector to engage young people in some of the country's most vulnerable communities and support their educational, social and emotional recovery in the wake of the pandemic. Projects were awarded funding across all of Scotland's 32 local authorities and were designed to support effective partnership working between youth work organisations (statutory and third sector) and formal education. In South Ayrshire, we were awarded just over £58,000 to deliver on this initiative. Many projects also included elements of outdoor learning and creative arts.

All the projects sought to deliver at least three key outcomes and in South Ayrshire, we focussed on:

- Developing young people's skills, including interpersonal skills
- Improving young people's physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Recognising young people's wider achievement and attainment (e.g. through youth awards)

Outcomes achieved:

Developing skills, including interpersonal skills

Belmont Academy – 16
Carrick Academy – 12
Marr College – 9
Prestwick Academy – 5
Girvan Academy – 21

Total – 63 young people

Outcomes achieved:

Raising attainment through recognition of wider learning and achievement

Belmont Academy – 20
Carrick Academy – 22
Marr College – 16
Prestwick Academy – 9
Girvan Academy – 13

Total – 80 young people

Outcomes achieved:

Improved Health & Wellbeing

Belmont Academy – 17
Carrick Academy – 12
Marr College – 11
Prestwick Academy – 12
Girvan Academy – 21

Total – 73 young people



Awards Achieved:

Dynamic Youth Award – 52
Duke of Edinburgh's Award – 5
1 young person received their
Hi5 award

“It was good being able to speak to the Youth Workers as they listened to what I had to say. This was important to me as I don't feel listened to at times which leaves me feeling frustrated. The workers always asked me how I was, and I now feel I have people I can trust.”

“Talking through my feelings with Ann-Marie really helped with my built-up anger issues. This would usually impact on my school work but I think it has helped to talk about my feelings.”

“I think that health and wellbeing was improved for all pupils. One pupil I work closely with was more open about sharing her emotions and accepting when things weren't going so well. She would describe herself as having anger issues but during and after the project was more reflective of her actions before reacting.”

Priority 3

Employability & Volunteering – Supporting our communities to progress

Headline Performance Stats



In 2020/2021, 98.3% of school leavers progressed to a positive destination; this is based on 1124 leavers. As of August 2022 - South Ayrshire has 93.7 % of 16 – 19 year olds participating, 3% not participating and 3.4% unconfirmed.



Within the period of 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 South Ayrshire Council recruited 63 Modern and Craft Apprentices. They were recruited in the following areas – Craft trade, including 4 adult apprentices, Sport and Leisure, Active schools, Ayrshire Roads, Business and Administration, Youth Work, Horticulture and Social Services Children and Young People.



Of the 63 apprentices that started within this period – 9 have left the programme due to various personal circumstances and the remaining 54 have either achieved or working towards achieving their MA.



From 1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 we have supported 84 care experienced young people into positive destinations. 79 young people have progressed to further education, 4 young people progressed to Modern Apprenticeship Opportunities and 1 young person to external employment.



Within the period of 1 Sep 2021 – 31 August 2022 South Ayrshire Council provided support to 73 clients within our Supported Employment Programme's. The range of support offered to participants includes - Outdoor Activities, Personal Development Groups, Allotments, Travel Training, Walking groups, Steps to Employment, Life skills, Interview Prep, CV Workshops, Customer Service (Accredited)



18 people have gone into a positive destination in the following areas - Tailored Jobs – 3 | Employment – 7 | Modern Apprenticeships – 2 | FE - 6



South Ayrshire Council have delivered 3 employability programmes aimed at parents and carers with an increase in participation levels within each programme. We also have a key focus on young carers accessing the same level of enhanced support as care experienced young people from March 2022.



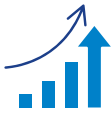
Support for mental health and personal development was key moving forward from COVID. Localised lockdowns, home-schooling, and restricted access for face to face working shifted focus to walking appointments, working outside on allotments and so on to build confidence in participants as part of the return. This allowed an increase in demand for and participation in groups for Living Life to The Full, Mental Health & Well Being and Personal Development.



Thriving Communities employability have certified 118 accredited qualifications from 1/09/2021 - 31/08/2022



14 individuals received devices from Phase 3 Connecting Scotland which were delivered in December 2021



SALUS Working for a Healthy Economy 66 referrals made from 1st September 2021 – 31st August 2022



Aerospace continuing as key focus for training and work opportunities open to all age and skill levels; working group established with the Economy and Regeneration team to develop and promote training and work in this sector



South Ayrshire Council have made continued progress to implement Fair Work practices with employers across South Ayrshire during this period

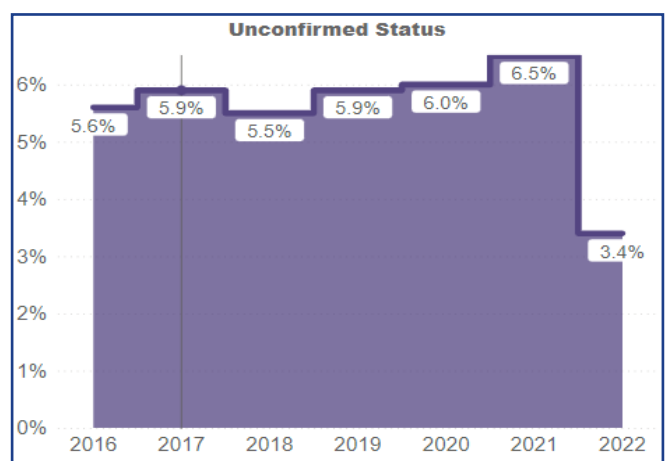
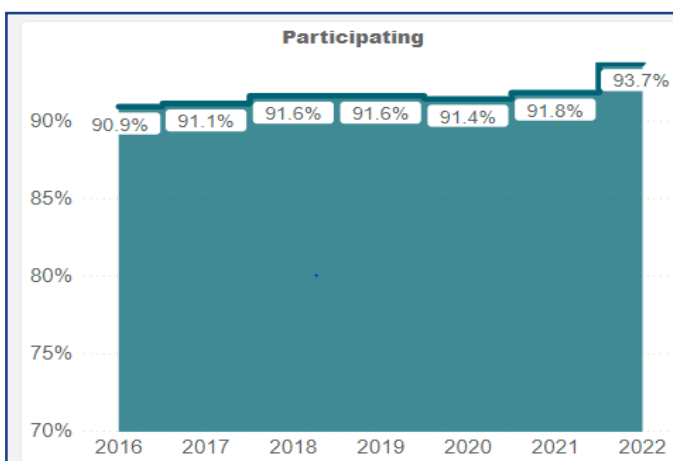
No One Left Behind Delivery Plan Published

No One Left Behind is our approach to changing employment support in Scotland to deliver a system that is more tailored and responsive to the needs of people of all ages who want help and support on their journey towards and into work.

Through No One Left Behind, people can gain skills, confidence, and access support to help achieve their employment goals. This support may include help to prepare for employment, training, education, and volunteering and to support career progression.

Support is flexible, tailored, and person-centred; and also connected with other key services including health, justice, housing provision and advice services ensuring people can get the right support at the right time.

People who choose to participate receive support from an Employability Key Worker and work with the Key Worker on an individual plan to help them reach their goals. We were delighted to launch our delivery plan during year 1 of our CLD Plan!





Volunteering Strategy South Ayrshire

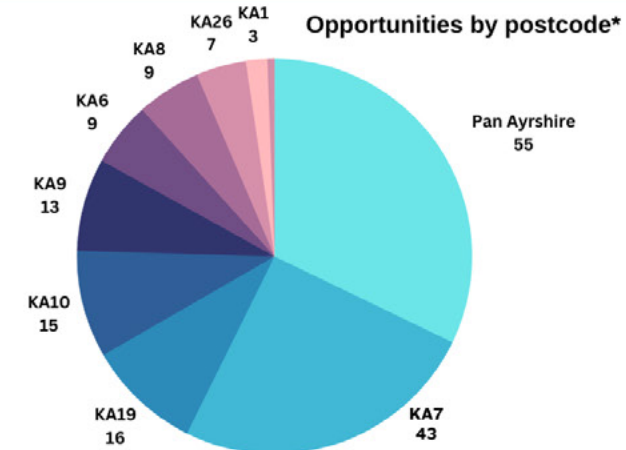
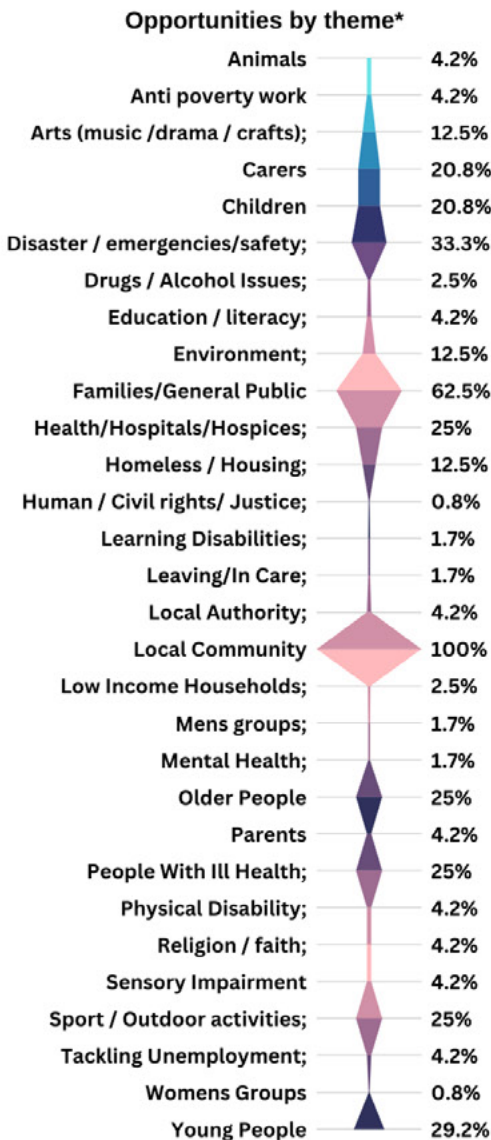
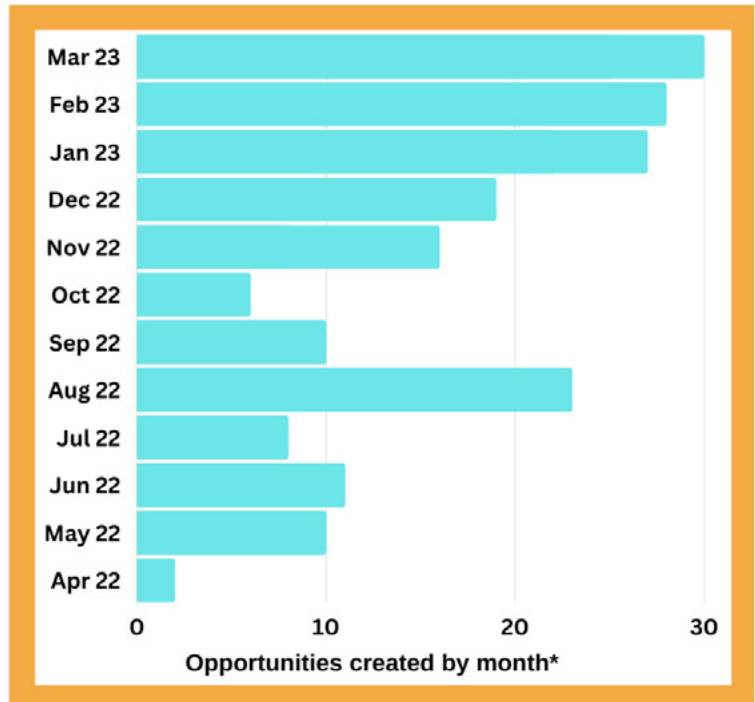
In early 2022, we launched our Volunteering Strategy, published by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership.

The Volunteering Strategy shows our commitment to ensuring that volunteers have the best possible experience and by incorporating a best practice infrastructure, we will help to support the many local organisations and charities to achieve this. It also demonstrates our collective commitment of continually improving the community planning process to support our local communities to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. In developing the strategy, we carried out many months of extensive consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders and members of the public in order to form the objectives and action plan contained within the strategy.

The key objectives for the strategy are:

1. Activities across national & local government, community and voluntary sector to be more integrated and aligned.
2. Volunteering infrastructure to be strengthened and supported leading to more confident and knowledgeable management systems.
3. Recruit, deploy more volunteers and support both volunteers and voluntary organisations.
4. Levels of volunteering to be re-energised and increased.
5. The benefits of volunteering to be recognised, valued and promoted.
6. Promoting volunteering as a means to improve the wider community.

Actions from Objective 4 - Levels of volunteering to be re-energised and increased.



Saltire AWARDS

4,445 TOTAL HOURS LOGGED BETWEEN APRIL 2022 AND MARCH 2023

ALMOST 50% OF THE TOTAL GROUP ADMINIS IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE WERE CREATED BETWEEN 2022 AND 2023



* all information relevant to the 7th April 2023

Priority 4

Adult & Family Learning – Improved Outcomes for adults & families

Adult Learning happens in a variety of places, in a range of ways for any number of reasons. We continue to develop and deliver programmes that are relevant and accessible to our communities. We want all learning to be life long, life wide and learner centred. We aspire to establish adult learning as a route into community involvement and personal empowerment. CLD, will facilitate the development of digital skills that adult learners in the community may need, to access all opportunities to further learning, employability, or involvement in their community. We continue to cultivate digital confidence in parents, to ensure that each child thrives in their home, social and school environment.

Over the course of the past 12 months, the local authority has delivered a range of interventions to improve outcomes for adults and families. Some of our achievements are noted below:



- 32 programmes delivered in 21/22
- 303 learners highlighting an improvement in their skills
- 266 participants have increased knowledge
- 71 people have improved their employability outcomes
- 167 accredited learning places were delivered this year
- In addition, the use of Social Media channels, course bulletins, and posters/flyers as well as open day events and consultations continue to be utilised to increase awareness of opportunities available to our local communities.

In addition to the above, these stats below demonstrate the impact our work is having on learners:

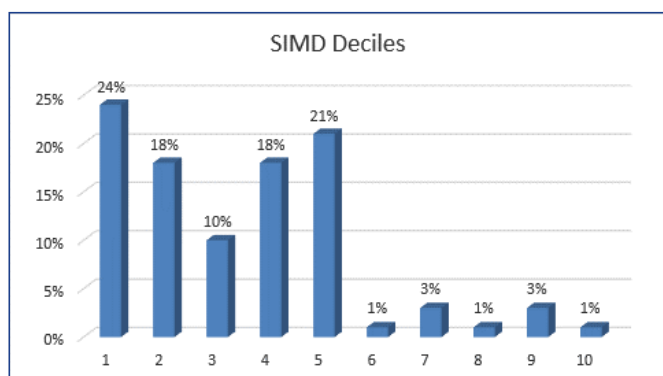
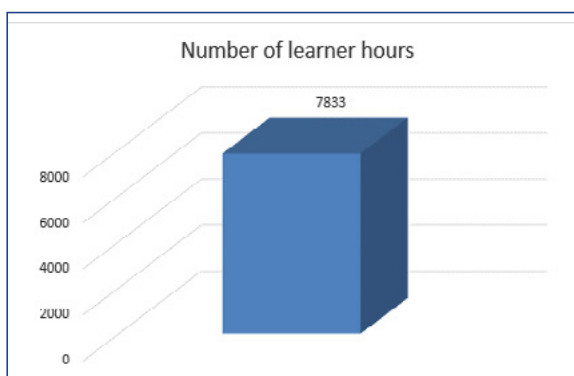
Learner Hours

These learners took part in 7598 learning hours which included 3720 in the SWAP programme and 2268 hours in adult literacies and ESOL provision.

5 family learning programmes were delivered involving 21 parents.

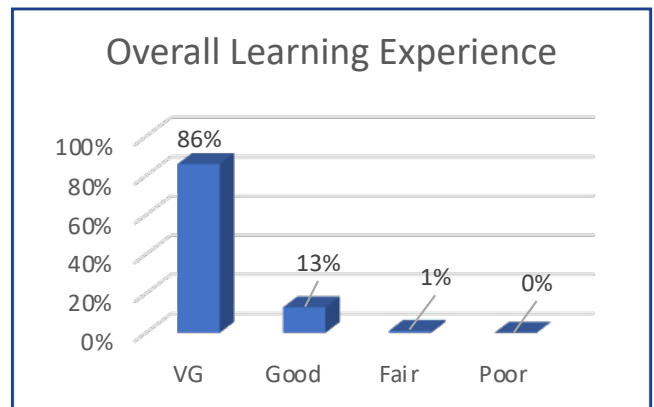
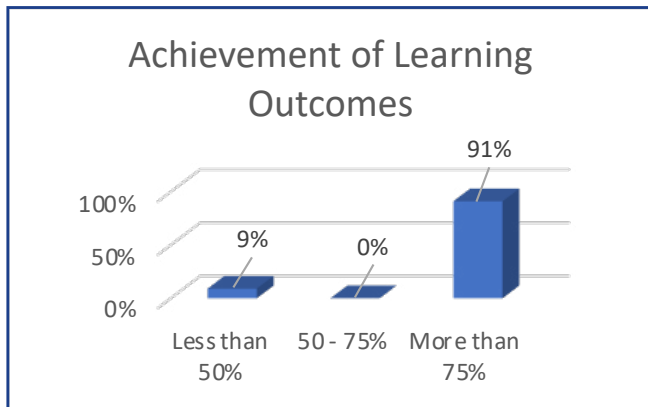
SIMD Data

This initial benchmarking exercise for 2020-21 demonstrated that 54% of learners resided in the Deciles 1 - 3 and 88% resided in Deciles 1 – 5. This demonstrates that learning programmes are targeted at the areas of greatest need.



Learners Achieving Learning Outcomes

Of the learners completing the programmes (where retention was accurately recorded), 91% of learners achieved more than 75 % of learning outcomes.

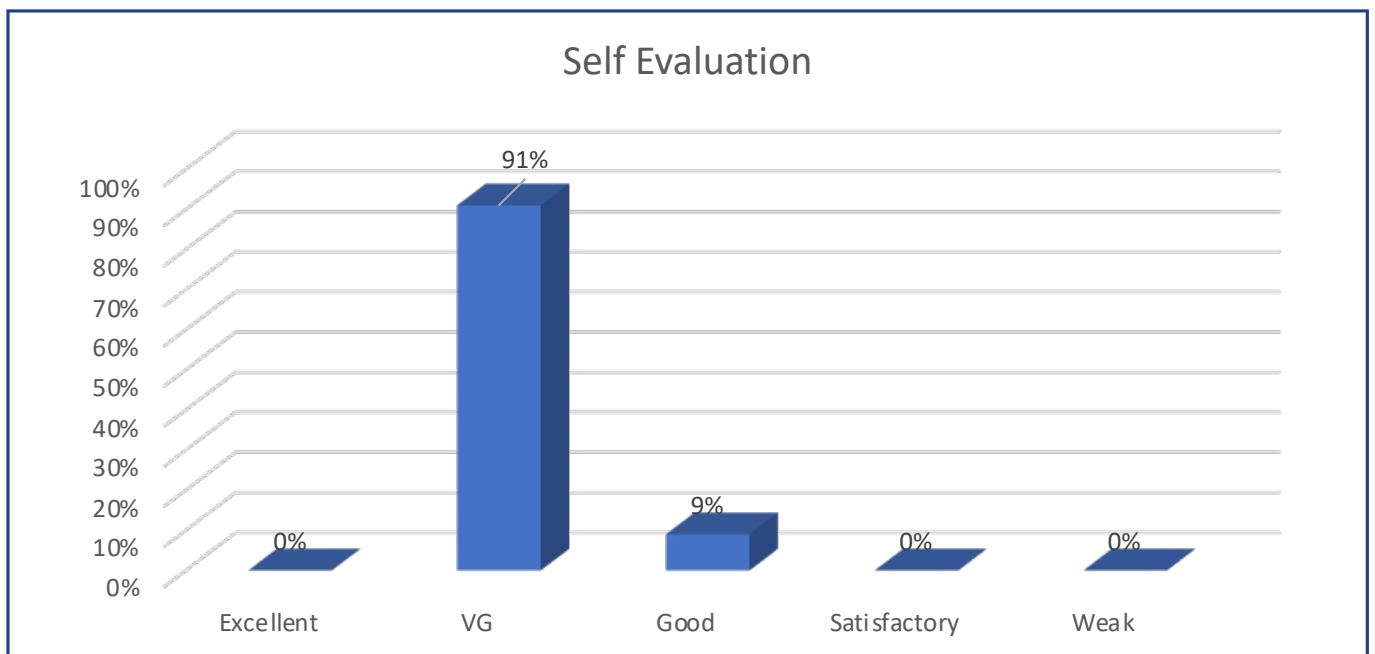


Overall Learning Experience

Learners rated their overall learning experience highly. 99% of all learners, rated their Learning Experience as Very Good or Good.

Self Evaluation

Using Quality Indicator 5.1 (Delivering the learning offer with learners) from the How Good is our Learning and Development in our Community framework, key workers evaluated all work carried out in South Ayrshire as very good or good.



CBAL Annual Report 21-22 - Key Stats

Number of programmes	64 plus 30 Literacies
Family Learning programmes	32
Number of learning places	583 plus 105 literacies
Hours of learning	7833 plus 3330 literacies
Numbers completing	523
Accreditation	167 (32%)

Learner Progression:

- College 29
- Uni 3
- Training 2
- Volunteering 67
- CLD 128
- FTE 21
- PTE 33

Community Based Adult Learning Recovery Fund

The Scottish Government provided a Covid-19 recovery investment for community-based adult learning (CBAL) to support local adult learning recovery needs in the financial year 2021/22. The investment was issued to VASA with the expectation that they collaborate with South Ayrshire Council's adult learning and CLD leads. Together, through the Employability and Lifelong Learning Partnership, we agreed how the investment could best support local adult learning needs as identified in our CLD plan.

Our CBAL Recovery Fund met the following outcomes:

- Adult learners shaped and informed decisions on the diverse opportunities and support they needed to help them recover from the impact of COVID-19 and re-engage in learning.
- Increased engagement, re-engagement and support for adult learners and communities who needed it most, including those disproportionately disadvantaged by COVID-19.
- Increased access to face to face learning opportunities with a focus on supporting educational, social and emotional recovery and renewal.
- Increased digital inclusion through the development of digital skills and the improvement of digital infrastructure for learning.
- Improved support for adult learners' mental health and well-being.
- Increased opportunities for adult learners to improve their health and well-being.
- Stronger social connections between adult learners, their communities and wider networks to tackle isolation and loneliness.
- Improved partnership working across providers which supports the delivery of education recovery and renewal.
- Improved outcomes for adult learners through, for example, the achievement of qualifications and the provision of positive pathways that build confidence and develop skills for learning, life and work.





Key Achievements

- 12 people successfully gained Food Hygiene certificate and are now able to use community kitchen for events in community and support local Food Pantry
- 11 successfully completed course and now able to support community events as first aiders
- 12 local people attended NHS “I CAN COOK” course
- 36 learners noted they had improved family learning support
- 6 families with complex needs participated in an intensive family engagement programme and benefited from having positive family interaction where peer support was evident - 1 child who hasn't been to school for a significant period was supported by his parent to start to try attending for two hours - 1 care experience family reported better communication with the young person – 2 families reported they had a good family experience that they have not experienced before
- 66 Industry recognised certificates gained by learners through the REHIS, Emergency First Aid courses and Bar Licence
- Improved employment situation -12 learners; Improved volunteering situation - 29 learners
- Learned new knowledge - 29 learners; Gained Skills – 23 learners
- Improved Mental Health & wellbeing – 23 learners
- 14 community volunteers gained First Aid in the Workplace certification
- On the practical kitchen skills course 4 of the group gained their first SQA qualification with 4 others achieving their first qualification at SCQF Level 6; 2 were able to continue their employment as a result of passing both exams and 1 gained new employment at a higher rate of pay (previous employment at minimum wage)

Delivering the Learning Offer - ESOL & Literacies

The Adult Literacies team of 6 Literacies Development Officers continue to deliver programmes to adults looking to improve their reading, writing, spelling, numeracy, and IT skills. On our team are Digital Champions, who continue to support individuals benefitting from the Connecting Scotland initiative.

Throughout the pandemic we piloted work in 2 primaries, working with parents who were feeling challenged by “home schooling” and promoted confidence in our own learners to continue to learn using a variety of digital platforms. This work has established a profile for the service with education staff and we continue to work with families.

We delivered our own bespoke 12 session training for literacies/ESOL volunteers and currently have over 70 active volunteers on our database. Many of the current volunteers have moved into sessional employment in the Literacies/ESOL team. They have benefitted from workforce development and have been supported in achieving the PDA ITESOL at Ayrshire college. This session (21/22), we trained an additional 13 volunteers.

For ‘New Scots’ recently arrived from Syria and Afghanistan, there were ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes from complete beginner to intermediate. We provided programmes in small groups or one to one with a tutor, to anyone who wanted to build their confidence, improve their chances of employment and at the same time, integrate into the community. The settling families are a small part of the ESOL service, and we continue to work with individuals (39) with 15 different linguistic profiles on our programmes.

Since April 2022, we welcomed Ukrainian learners into the service, engaging with 213 residents in South Ayrshire. The ESOL programme was delivered across South Ayrshire in various venues in Ayr, Girvan, Troon and Maybole. Our focus continues to be to respond to needs as they arise and provide quality and timely community-based adult literacies learning opportunities across South Ayrshire for all.

The Literacies work which covers all core skills (Communications, IT and Numeracy) was delivered to 105 registered learners both in one to one (volunteer support) and group activity. The team also delivered Literacies assessments for the Criminal Justice team to fulfil the requirement for court reports.

The marked increase in ESOL numbers has presented challenges for the team with Ukrainian numbers fluctuating on a weekly basis. We were able to register, assess level and deliver within 7 days of referral. Our class groups delivered at a capacity of more than 35. Furthermore, we provided ESOL support to 202 Ukrainian learners as well as the existing cohort of New Scots (39).

Finally, CLD in SAC are the first in Scotland to develop a community interpreter course. This project in collaboration with WEA is innovative in training a locality based, language support workforce. Fife college completed the SCQF levelling and we will deliver the initial pilot with North and East Ayrshire as part of the Pan-Ayrshire collaborative.



Success Story - Lynanne McRoberts and family



Hi, my name is Lynanne and I have 3 children, 2 twin boys and 1 girl and we live in Wallacetown. I first got involved with the parent and child group when the St John's School Expressions App mentioned that there was a group starting (this was after I filled out a survey expressing what interests and needs I had). I registered and then received a call from Ann-Marie with further details. I thought this would be great as there didn't seem to be much for parents and children together in the Wallacetown area. I wasn't nervous about joining the group as I'd met Ann-Marie who was taking the group previously who also runs the Girls Group my daughter attends.

I can only say that my boys love this group and can't wait for a Wednesday to come around. It's a different activity every week, even although it might be based around the same theme, e.g. outdoor activities. It's great interaction and quality time between me and the boys. To see the boys happy, makes me happy. Everyone at the group gets on really well and there's never

any complaining as they really enjoy themselves. It's nice to be around more adults, have some adult conversations and to be out of the house and not staring at four walls all day. The workers make us feel like one big family, which is amazing.

We have done so much in the group from arts and crafts, making masks, Father's Day Gifts to plaster of Paris plates with an autumn theme. STEM activities (making bows and arrows), fun at the park, den building, learning how to make outdoor fires and toasting marshmallows, which we will be getting a certificate for. We also had a bowling / lazerquest night, adults v children which we all enjoyed.

Since then, I have joined the Wallacetown Women's group and my boys are part of the Friday night Youth Group and my daughter and niece go to the girls group on a Wednesday night, all of this in the Wallacetown area. I feel the support myself and my family have received has been very good with all these activities now available in the Wallacetown community this has made a huge difference to our lives.

Thanks Lynanne

Priority 5

Community Empowerment & Engagement – Supporting our communities to thrive

A key role for CLD practitioners is Community Engagement. Over the past 12 months, we have supported and encouraged our communities to share their views on how their needs are best met and influence how services should be delivered, which has given communities the power to make and share decisions on how services are delivered. We have made significant strides to improve placemaking and create local place plans by listening to our communities, empowering them to take control and enable greater choices in how they lead their day to day lives. We published Place Plans for Girvan and Ayr North in the last 12 months.

Over the past few years, we have developed and delivered the Consultation Institute course and as the table outlines below, 78 partners have completed the course. It aims to update the participants understanding of the law and the process as well as demonstrating best practice and the risks associated with programmes of change where public stakeholder involvement is needed.

Attendees	Date	Number of participants
Elected Members	Feb 2023	16
Thriving Communities; Health and Social Care Partnership; Special Projects Team; Planning; Environmental Health; Organisational Development; Legal and Licensing; Economy and Regeneration; Libraries and Culture; Asset Management	Feb 2022	16
Elected Members	March 2022	17
Community Safety; Policy and Performance; Economic Development; Licensing; Education; Organisational Development; Neighbourhood Services; LibrariesV Employability and Skills; Housing; Planning; Community Engagement; Arts and Culture	November 2020	21
Community Engagement; Education; Community Planning; Community Learning and Development; Community Safety; Asset Management; Housing	2018/19	8
TOTAL		78

It covers these key areas:

- Your duties to consult and engage
- Best Practice public consultation – what lies ahead for your organisation
- The Law of Consultation and how it affects you
- Engaging the public on your Council Budget
- How an independent Quality Assurance will safeguard your reputation for public consultation
- Observing best practice standards in public engagement and consultation
- Update on Scottish issues, Empowerment Act, National Standards, Audit and recent Court of Session judgments relating to public consultation
- Avoiding Judicial Reviews

The Consultation Reference Group was established to enhance the standard of consultation and engagement activity across SAC. The officer's group provides support and guidance to services planning to carry out a consultation. The CRG also provides a reference point to share practice and access relevant documents relating to consultation that will ensure consistency, best practice and training.

This training covers:

- Consultation Charter
- The fundamentals of consultation and engagement
- Preparing for public consultation (Pre-Consultation)
- Conducting a public consultation
- Effective digital-first consultation
- Analysing results, feedback and feed-forward

Over the last year, we have made progress in supporting our local Community Councils to flourish. We have 29 active Community Councils being supported by Thriving Communities Officers from South Ayrshire Council. The Community engagement team have delivered a range of supports including:

- Carrying out a contested election in 3 areas. This included issuing 6000 ballot papers and overseeing the counting process
- Delivered Link officer training, facilitated for TC staff
- Finalised the new Scheme of Establishment and Guidance for Community Councils
- Delivered training for new and existing Community Councillors – 6 sessions, afternoon and evening in Troon, Ayr and Girvan
- Issued a survey to all community councils and will analyse these results in Year 2.
- Processed all Admin Grants/Accounts
- Finalised dissolved Community Councils who never established after the elections
- Worked with Community Councils to ensure they had an updated Constitution

We have also supported local community groups with funding support and over the past 12 months, we have continued to build good working relationships with community groups and social enterprises across all of our localities, develop connections with key funders (NCCBC, Foundation Scotland, National lottery), redesigned and launched the new updated Funding Alert which has had positive feedback, designed and launched two new grant making processes (3rd currently under development) and developed further the Positive partnership work between South Ayrshire Council and VASA.

Some Key strengths include:

- › 33 Dedicated funding reports developed
- › £324k investment to communities (int)
- › £1.6m of external funding delivered
- › Regeneration Capital Grant Fund – we supported the preparation of 4 x Stage 1 RCGF applications. Two of those, with a combined value of £2m, have progressed to Stage 2.
- › We supported Ayrshire Women’s Hub to gain £50k of investment through the Big Issue Invest’s Power Up Scotland programme.
- › Coastal Communities Fund – we managed the CCF grant process during Jan/Feb 2022. Nine eligible applications received; 8 grants were made totalling £119k.
- › LACER Funding – we submitted a proposal to use some of the LACER funding to establish a Social Enterprise Growth & Resilience Fund. £200k was allocated with 4 grants made to date totalling £78k. Four further applications are currently being assessed.
- › We provided support to 38 organisations over the past 12 months.
- › We worked with colleagues from across South Ayrshire and invited and assessed applications from local organisations for the Community Renewal Fund funding. A shortlist of 6 projects was submitted to the UK Government, of which 2 were awarded funding of just over £1m.

In addition, we continue to support the Wallacetown Community Energy Project - working with Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Community Assoc (CA) to develop the WCEP. We provided liaison with colleagues from Assets and Education to identify 3 education buildings that would form the focus of project. The CA secured a grant from the Coastal Communities Fund to undertake baseline and feasibility studies – both have now reported – and discussions will continue between CA and SAC. If implemented, this project can deliver, lower fuel bills, an income from power sold into the grid and a reduced carbon footprint.

Workforce Development

Thriving Communities have continued to support 3 members of staff to attend University to achieve their CLD qualification.

Senior staff from Thriving Communities took part in Education Scotland’s Professional Learning Programme looking at self-evaluation, evaluative writing, improvement actions and improvement planning.

All staff and partners have been upskilled in the new “How Good is our Community Learning and Development 4” framework with sessions delivered to frontline staff, Youth Services Strategic Group, Employability & Lifelong Learning Partnership and the CLD Partnership.



Youth Work Network

In August 2022, we set up our Youth Work Network with the intention of bringing local youth work organisations together. The network provides partners supporting youth work for young people aged 8-18 in South Ayrshire with an opportunity to engage with other practitioners, plan collaboratively, develop their skills, knowledge and practice and inform local and national youth work strategy. The group also supports the planning and delivery of South Ayrshire wide events, identifies staff training needs, champions innovative practice and highlights youth work funding opportunities.

Over the next year, we are excited to see the network grow and develop and plans are at an advanced stage to create a Network Small Grants Programme! The networks continue to meet between 6-8 times a year and all the meetings are in person and take place in the evening. We agreed to have an alternative chair to share responsibility of leading the group with partners. This group feeds into the wider South Ayrshire Youth Services Strategic Group.

The South Ayrshire Youth Work Network currently has 45 member organisations including South Ayrshire Council – Thriving Communities; Uniformed Youth Groups; Girvan Youth Trust; The Ark; VASA; Room 60; Champions Board; South Ayrshire Befrienders; South Ayrshire Young Carers Centre; LGBT Youth Scotland; The Gaiety and Voluntary Youth Work Groups.



Overview:

Over the past 12 months, the Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Partnership has developed significantly and now has representation from

several statutory and 3rd sector organisations as well as members of the community. It has been providing the Community Planning context in relation to the development of a “Team within the Community”. We continue

to provide leadership and commitment for the development and implementation of new ways of service delivery to support the Wallacetown Improvement Strategy.

Through a public health approach, the Partnership has supported the development of a strong resilient community voice, which has been able to lead positive change reflecting the experience of people living in the community. It encourages a trauma informed approach in the delivery of all services and is responsible for performance management including measuring impact, monitoring progress and evaluation.

A delivery plan has been developed to ensure appropriate governance and leadership is in place through the Strategic Delivery Partnership and Operational Groups to enable improved access to services and ensure better outcomes for people living in Wallacetown.

In addition, we will develop an action plan to support the implementation of local outcomes and will be reviewed as an action log at each Wallacetown Strategic Partnership meeting.

Community Voice meetings

Over the past year, there have been a series of Community Voice meetings with members of the community being joined by a wide range of services and agencies.

These meetings are used to discuss issues arising in the Wallacetown community but also ideas for development of wider community engagement. Issues raised have ranged from drug dealing and related antisocial behaviour, environmental issues through to safety concerns due to poor lighting in the area. The group have also been working on ideas for development and wider engagement which have included organisation of a fun day, family trips and development of specific themed groups. These meetings take place around 6-8 times per year and are held in person in the

evening to encourage greater attendance. These meetings feed into Wallacetown Strategic Delivery Group Partnership.

The group has a range of key partners involved including:

- Wallacetown Residents
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire & Rescue Service
- South Ayrshire HSCP
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran
- South Ayrshire Council
- Fort Seafield & Wallacetown Community Council
- Newton & Heathfield Community Council
- Elected Members
- 3rd Sector/VASA.

Action developed through Community Voice meetings during this reporting period:



- Purchase of play equipment through Participatory Budgeting – linked to community engagement/fun day. Wallacetown Community Fun Day (inc. partner engagement)
- Area audit of lighting and swift associated repairs
- Response to long standing Housing repairs
- Programme of broken window repairs
- Introduction of activities for young people
- Introduction of Women's Group
- Engagement with Ukrainian support group
- Link with summer programme with family engagement
- Development of drop in café
- Introduction of Pop-Up Cinema
- Increased police presence in area
- Progressed CCTV deployment per community request
- Progressed communal close improvement/repairs
- Progressed environmental initiative tackling fly tipping
- Link with Fort, Seafield & Wallacetown Resident's Association to progress renewable energy project.
- Development of Wallacetown Hub meeting space. Accessible front door to access services.

This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے ابھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਛਾਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਛਾਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਵੱਢੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

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