

**STRATEGIC DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD OF 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023**



**FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND GROWTH SDP**

**Date of last meetings: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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

N/A

**Follow up action agreed by the SDP CHAIRS EXECUTIVE following 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 meeting:**

Following approval by the CP Board on 20<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed by the SDP Chairs Executive that work will take place by each of the SDPs to agree high level strategic outcomes with supporting priorities as part of the development of the new Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. These will be presented to the Community Planning Executive later in the year prior to going out for consultation in January 2024.

**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 have been one meeting of the SDP on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June. Key areas of progress arising from this meeting includes:

**COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING**

Members were provided with an update of the progress of Community Wealth Building (CWB) within South Ayrshire. CWB 'is a people centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy and places control and benefits in the hands of local people' (CLES). Members heard about the SAC CWB Framework, progress around the five pillars of CWB, the Catalyst Fund which has focus on Procurement, Fair Work, Land & Assets and Plural Ownership with the themes of capacity building, job creation, town centres, arts, culture and heritage. Information was also provided on the links between CWB and placemaking. **There is a CWB regional event planned for 27<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Troon Walker Halls.**

**COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS INCLUDING FUEL AND FOOD POVERTY**

Fuel and food poverty continue to be standing agenda items for the SDP. There have been no recent meetings of the Community Food Network however members were advised that additional funding had been received for the food pantries which continue to be well used. The Household Boost fund has been designed to support vulnerable households alleviate pressure on household budgets as the cost-of-living crisis escalates. Before progressing to grant application, claimants are provided with a budgeting assessment to identify potential areas to save/reduce or offer debt solutions as well as a benefit check to maximise their current income before progressing to grant application. Applications are limited to one per household. To date 1013 households have received £274,350 in total of grant payments to date. The Energy Agency (Home Energy Advice Team) are still experiencing a high number of calls although call volumes are dropping slightly. The team are still processing a high number of fuel vouchers. The Energycarer Service continues to be in high demand. More outreach work and community drop-ins are taking place including attendance at the Job Centre, Care and Share drop in, attending Newton Foodbank and Community Hub and attendance at local community events.

## **EMPLOYABILITY AND LIFELONG LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

An extensive update was provided on progress to date with the main points highlighted:

The **CLD Plan mid term report** was presented at Service and Partnership Panel on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. There was positive feedback on the work of the CLD partnership.

**Fair Work Event 23 May 2023:** 25 Employers attended and attracted 190 people.

**PAVE Programme – Pathways for Adults Volunteering in Education:** Ten participants have completed the PAVE programme with placements in various departments within Ayr Academy, Braehead Primary, Newton Early Years, Dalmilling Primary School and Annbank Primary School. All candidates completed a PVG check and had a short interview with TC and school staff prior to starting the placement and completed a number of accredited training courses over a period of 8 weeks. Participants are currently being supported to apply for job vacancies.

**Carers Event:** Thriving Communities Employability Team hosted an event for Carers on Wednesday 7th June 2023 at the Cutty Sark, Ayr. This was supported by a number of partners including Skills Development Scotland (SDS), Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), VASA, Police Scotland, Fire Service, Barnardo's, South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership, VASA, Carers Centre, UWS and Ayrshire College promoting support available to carers.

**Closing the Disability Gap:** A Local Employability Partnership sub-group has been established to monitor and review the Disability Employment Gap within South Ayrshire. This group has expanded with additional partners and now includes – South Ayrshire Council, SDS, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, DWP, Hansel, Ayrshire College, and SEN schools/departments from Girvan and Ayr. The groups aim is to increase employment opportunities for people with disabilities. To launch this initiative an event will be held on 31 August 2023 for employers, clients and training providers. The event will consist of information sessions for employers to access and hear about the Fair Work principles and there will be a reverse jobs fair for people with additional support needs to showcase their skills and talents to the employers.

**No One Left Behind (NOLB) Scottish Government Grant:** The Scottish Government grant has now been confirmed and spend will be agreed at the Local Employability Partnership meeting on 22 June 2023. A proportion of the grant will be ringfenced for interventions that tackle child poverty. We intend to introduce new initiatives to complement our key worker support which include:

- Parental Transition Fund
- Targeted Employer Recruitment Incentives
- Commissioned Training
- Tailored Jobs Programme

### **Thriving Communities/Ayrshire College - Targeted Summer Activity:**

#### ***Connecting Communities***

A Connecting Communities Summer Programme is planned for families from across South Ayrshire with Ayrshire College and Thriving Communities in July with each locality attending one day per week for 4 weeks. Staff from Thriving Communities will identify families who will benefit from attending the sessions. Parents will cook a family meal to take home and they will also be provided with enough ingredients to replicate the meal at home.

- Childcare will be provided by the college for school age children;
- Choice of Child Activity: Sport, Media, Music, Drama, or a Play Activity for younger children;
- Active Schools Assistants will deliver sporting activities to the children alongside HN students from Ayrshire College;
- Lunch will be provided as well as snacks and drinks; and
- Transport will be provided where required.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> August, Ayrshire College hosted a Celebration of Success for all participants from the different cohorts.

### **Care Experienced Cooking Programme**

Ayrshire College has accessed funding to provide the opportunity for care experienced young people to attend college throughout the summer holidays to take part in a cooking group. The programme will be delivered by Ayrshire College and Thriving Communities Employability Team with a focus on cooking, healthy eating, and food poverty.

### **CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN**

The refresh of the Child Poverty Action Plan will be supported by several workshops with partners to consider data and key areas of need. The first workshop session, held on the 12<sup>th</sup> May, was facilitated by the Improvement Service. A second workshop session, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June, was led by Public Health Scotland introducing a '**systems and data-driven approach to strategic child poverty planning**'. It was agreed at this session, that South Ayrshire will participate in this process to develop a *Child Poverty Strategy* with supporting action plan and that further workshop sessions will be arranged to support the process mapping. This will be fully supported by Public Health Scotland.

### **Child Poverty Accelerator Fund**

The Scottish Government has recently launched the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund which aims to enhance an area's approach to tackling child poverty practice. The fund will 'support small scale projects to generate evidence on a known problem, adapt a promising approach from elsewhere to work in an area, or re-design a service or services to deliver greater impact on child poverty'. Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding a bid for South Ayrshire. Bids must be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> September (5pm). Further information on the fund can be found [here](#).

### **KEY ISSUES**

- A review of the membership of the SDP will take place in consideration of the approval given by the CP Board to incorporate 'growth' into the remit of the SDP and links to Community Wealth Building and wider economy and regeneration.
- Refresh of the Local Child Poverty Action plan considering the new National Child Poverty plan.
- Continued implementation of the delivery plan for Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021.
- Provide the Community Planning Board with an update on Ayrshire Growth Deal and Community Wealth Building (and in particular how community wealth building ties in with place-planning and regeneration) to be arranged for a future CP Board meeting.
- Continue to make connections within the SDP and members on support available to our local communities because of the cost-of-living crisis; and
- Development of a Strategic Outcome and supporting priorities in preparation for the new Local Outcomes Improvement 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 supported by Susan McCardie**

**Date: August 2023**