

Dates of Meetings 2020

13 March 1 July 11 September 13 November

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

**WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2020
12NOON – 2PM**

The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries, DG2 9AW and by Teams

AGENDA

12noon

**1. DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 13 MARCH 2020 (attached)**

12.05pm

**2. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20 ON THE DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCAL
CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2020-23
(attached)**

12.20pm

**3. COVID-19 PANDEMIC; RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESTART – UPDATES
FROM SECTORS – (copies to follow or verbal updates)**

- NHS, Health and Social Care
- Local Government
- Enterprise
- Police
- Fire and Rescue
- Third Sector
- Further and Higher Education
- Housing
- Private Sector
- Transport

1.50pm

**4. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FORWARD PROGRAMME
FOR 2020 (attached)**

2.00pm

CLOSE



Dates of 2020 Meetings

13 March

1 July

11 September

13 November

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Meeting on Wednesday 1 July 2020

at 12noon-2pm

At The Bridge, Dumfries and By 'MS Teams'

Members

- Elaine Murray** - Leader
Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Nick Morris** - Chair
Vice Chair
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Ian Carruthers** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Colin Cook** - Location Director for Dumfries and Galloway
Scottish Government (observer)
- Rob Davidson** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Andy Ferguson** - Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector
- Hugh Carr** - Dumfries and Galloway Further and Higher
Education Sector
- Linda Jones** - Local Commander, Police Scotland,
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Craig McGoldrick** - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Service, Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Jane Maitland** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council

- Maureen Dowden** - Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
- Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)
- Andrew Wood** - Chairman
SWestran

Names to be advised:

South of Scotland Enterprise – one Board Member and one advisor
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway – two Board members

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
Friday 13 March 2020
The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries**

Item 1

Present

- Elaine Murray** - Leader
(Chair) Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Nick Morris** - Chair
(Vice Chair) NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Ian Boddy** - Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector
- Ian Carruthers** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Rob Davidson** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Andy Ferguson** - Chair
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector
- Lorna Meahan** - Director Economy and Resources,
(*substitute*) Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)
- David Rennie** - Stakeholder and Partnerships
(*substitute*) Scottish Enterprise (advisor)
- Bill Robertson** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
- Stephen Stiff** - Area Commander
(*substitute*) Police Scotland Dumfries and Galloway Division
(advisor)
- Andrew Wood** - Chair
SWestrans



Apologies

- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Colin Cook** - Location Director for Dumfries and Galloway
Scottish Government (observer)
- Linda Jones** - Local Commander,
Police Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Division
(advisor)
- Jane Maitland** - Councillor
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Elaine Morrison** - Scottish Enterprise (advisor)
- Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)

In attendance

- Gillian Brydson** - Director Skills, Education and Learning,
Dumfries and Galloway Council (Items 3, 4 and
11)
- Graham Dunn** - Community Transport Public Social Partnership
Project Manager (Item 7)
- Douglas Kirkpatrick** - Transportation Manager,
Dumfries and Galloway Council (Item 7)
- Liz Manson** - Community Planning and Engagement Manager
(Items 5, 8 and 9)
- Kirsty Peden** - Community Engagement Manager
- Melanie McEwan** - Dumfries and Galloway Council (Item 6)
- Phil Myers** - Public Health Consultant
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (Item 4)

12 members present, including 4 advisors, from 8 partners.

The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting and Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Integration Joint Board, who was attending his first meeting.

1. DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2019

APPROVED as a correct record,

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Councillor Rob Davidson entered the meeting 13 members present from 8 partners.

Procedure

AGREED to take Item 11 first to allow the Chief Executive of NHSD&G to attend a Scottish Government Briefing.

11. UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS

11.1 The Chief Executive of NHS&G presented key planning assumptions about Coronavirus in our region

11.2 **NOTED** key issues

- Dumfries and Galloway is in a relatively good place because of our dispersed population; well established partnership working; strong community resilience; and a higher number of ventilation beds per head of population
- children are not being as affected by the virus and therefore school closures are not currently seen as a required control measure
- because this is a droplet virus, handwashing and social isolation are the two most effective containment measures
- there had been a lack of consistent information provided to decision-makers and key facilities to date about the issues, but this was being addressed
- health and social care services will be overwhelmed by the demand during the coming months and so support and understanding from partner organisations and our residents will be essential
- support for healthcare staff, especially those who will be at risk and those making very difficult and unprecedented decisions about patient prioritisation will be importance
- it is currently predicted there will be an end to the emergency designation in our region during the summer months with the timescale for the subsequent recovery for the health service and the economy requiring an estimated two year period.

11.3 **AGREED**

- to recommend to the Planning Groups that there should be single, authoritative spokesperson for all D&G partners who would be used to communicate information and this would perhaps best be a health professional
- to recommend to the Planning Groups that our support and appreciation for the work of the health and social care staff that are dealing with the crisis be

communicated in an appropriate way and at an appropriate time – for example. a letter of thanks

- any staffing resources across partner organisations in this Board can be called upon to support the work to contain and deal with the crisis
- this Board had a lead role in dealing with the Recovery Plan and consideration should be given by the Planning Groups about how best that work should be undertaken

ACTION: INTERIM COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLANNING MANAGER

Jeff Ace and Stephen Stiff left the meeting – 10 members present from 7 partners

2. BUSINESS UPDATE

2.1 **NOTED** the position of the issues in the report, including those being dealt with by the Executive Group;

2.2 **AGREED** to resettle up to eight small Arabic speaking families with low medical needs in the new UK Refugee Programme;

2.3 **AGREED** the issues to be submitted to the Local Governance Review consultation and in particular to highlight the development and maturity of current joint working arrangements for example in relation to health and social care and economic regeneration.

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

3. CURRENT KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES UPDATE

3.1 **NOTED** the progress being made in the ten Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan; and in particular:

3.2 **ENDORSED** the new Children's Services Plan, **HIGHLIGHTING** the relationship between Priority 3 (the impact of poverty on children and young people reduces) and the Local Child Poverty Action Report; and that consideration of the draft Report by relevant organisations and partnerships in advance of its submission to Scottish Government was important;

ACTION: CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXECUTIVE GROUP

3.3 **ENDORSED** the End of Year report for 2018/19 for the Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan;

3.4 **NOTED** the new funding arrangements for Day Centres and Day Services had been agreed and were now being implemented.

4. LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN – UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR 2019/20

4.1 **ENDORSED** the updated Action Plan for 2019/20 which addressed the recommendations of this Board, made in June 2019, and had also been informed by a self-evaluation against national recommendations;

4.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** the expectation that closer alignment with other Plans and Strategies will not only reduce and mitigate child poverty but will deliver efficiency savings and that this would be explicit in the Annual Report which will be submitted to the Board's June meeting for consideration;

4.3 **REAFFIRMED** that the 2020/21 Action Plan should include some specific actions that were within the control of the partners to mitigate and reduce child poverty e.g. reducing the costs of the School Day; improving take up of Free School Meals/automatic enrolment for clothing grants; improved referral pathways; use of Pupil Equity Fund and also reference to wider issues where the Action Plan was a compass for the wider drivers e.g. increasing household income; access to employment; and

4.4 **AGREED** the developing Children's Services, Child Poverty and Public Protection planning structure.

ACTION: CHAIR OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES EXECUTIVE GROUP

5. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAY IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

5.1 **NOTED** the discussions that have been taking place around Play with a range of services across partners;

5.2 **AGREED** to sign up to the Play Charter, **NOTING** there would be suitable promotion of this;

5.3 **ALSO AGREED** that the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Performance Framework includes performance measures relating to Play and Open Spaces under Outcome 3; and to recommend to the ten contributing Plans and Strategies that they do also, where appropriate; and

5.4 **FURTHER AGREED** that a progress report be submitted to a future meeting including the results of the Play survey.

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

6. DEVELOPING THE EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP IN DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

6.1 **NOTED** that since the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board there had been engagement with partners in the development of the arrangements for the proposed new Employability and Skills Partnership;

6.2 **AGREED** the Terms of Reference and membership of the new Partnership and **ENDORSED** the proposed agenda for the first meeting;

6.3 **AGREED** the initial, interim Chair as Councillor Rob Davidson, Chair of the Council's Economy and Resources Committee with the Chair and Deputy Chair to be appointed from within the Partnership's membership once fully established; and

6.4 Arising from the discussion, **NOTED** that at the recent meeting of the South of Scotland Convention, it had been agreed that Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHSD&G would act as hosts for employee training.

ACTION: EMPLOYABILITY AND SKILLS MANAGER, DGC

7. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PUBLIC SOCIAL PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS

7.1 **NOTED** the progress of the Community Transport Public Social Partnership to date;

7.2 **AGREED** to recommend to Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway and South of Scotland Enterprise that transitional funding be made available to maintain the PSP until it can be sustainable through the social enterprise model and/or other funding awards, given its importance to health and social care (particularly about accessing health appointments and reducing isolation) and employability (particularly in training drivers); and

7.3 **ENDORSED** the long-term strategy as a Social Enterprise and for an Integrated Health and Social Care Transport Hub; and

7.4 **AGREED** there should be a representative from SWestrans on the new Employability and Skills Partnership.

ACTION: TRANSPORTATION MANAGER DGC AND PROJECT MANAGER

8. RESPONSES TO CONSULTATIONS BY POLICE SCOTLAND AND SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS)

8.1 **ENDORSED** the response submitted to the Police Scotland consultation on the refreshed Joint Strategy for Policing as set out in Appendix 1, **HIGHLIGHTING** the issue of arrests along the M74 corridor not resulting in our region benefitting from the Proceeds from Crime; and

8.2 **AGREED** the response to be submitted to the SFRS consultation on Local Fire and Rescue Service Plans s set out in Appendix 2.

ACTION: POLICY OFFICER, DGC

9. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPROVEMENT BOARD

9.1 **WELCOMED** the engagement of CPPs in the work of the national Community Planning Improvement Board;

9.2 **AGREED** the priority issues to highlight to the CPIB for it work programme as:

- better alignment between the national policy agenda and community planning;
- defining 'what good looks like' particularly for vulnerable communities;
- supporting multi-agency working with national agencies to lay into the community planning environment;
- good practice in joint planning, design and resources;
- delivery of improvement support; and
- Evidencing good practice in relation to the resounding of community planning

9.3 **ALSO AGREED** to invite the CPIB to attend our November 2020 meeting; and

9.4 **FURTHER AGREED** to recommend to the CPIB that there should be private sector and community sector representation on the Board, to reflect the importance of these sectors and their involvement in CPPs.

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

10. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – PROGRAMME FOR 2020

10.1 **NOTED** the updated Performance Management Framework; and

10.2 **AGREED** the Board meeting arrangements and programme for 2020 with the addition of updates on Coronavirus Recovery and the development of Play and Project 155.

ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report

Annual Report 2019/20 and Action Plan 2020-23

Item 2 Appendix

Content

1. Foreword
2. Background to Local Child Poverty Action Reports and Annual Reports
3. Background to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
4. Partnership and reporting arrangements
5. Participation and engagement arrangements
6. Drivers of Child Poverty and high risk groups
7. National context and progress 2019/20
8. Local context and progress 2019/20
9. Draft Action Plan for 2020-23 including the impact of COVID19.
10. Implementation and Monitoring of the Action Plan 2020-23

Appendix 1 - Analysis of the Dumfries and Galloway self-assessment against the Findings of the national Poverty and Inequality Commission

Appendix 2 - Action Plan for 2019/20 and progress

Appendix 3 - Data about the current position of child poverty drivers, high priority groups and Protected Characteristics in Dumfries and Galloway

Appendix 4 - Strategies and Plans that have contributed to tackling child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway in 2019/20

Appendix 5 - Draft Action Plan for 2020-23

Figures

1. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child relating to child poverty
2. Dumfries and Galloway children's services, child poverty and public protection planning structure
3. The Drivers of Child Poverty
4. The highest priority groups experiencing child poverty
5. Scottish Child Poverty forecast
6. DGC Budget allocations 2019-2022 that tackle child poverty
7. Projects determined by Participatory Budgeting in April 2019
8. Pupil Equity Fund 2017/18 - areas of curriculum spend – Primary and Secondary
9. Free School Meals Uptake
10. Skills Development Scotland – investment in Dumfries and Galloway
11. Benefits contacts and financial gains 2019/20
12. DGC Tackling Poverty Funding 2020/21
13. Free School Meals take up during COVID-19
14. Small Business Grants during COVID19

1. Foreword

We are pleased to present this second Annual Report on the Local Child Poverty Action Report which evidences the wide range of actions that we have taken over the last year to tackle the Drivers of poverty and mitigate their impact.

Significant achievements during 2018/19 include investment in employability projects; auto-enrolment for school clothing grants and Free School Meals; improved literacy and numeracy of children living in areas of multiple deprivation; and our engagement with parents, children, young people and those with lived experience of poverty. These improvements have been secured against a challenging national and UK economic position and are grounded in our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Action Plan for the coming three years will undoubtedly be dominated by the COVID19 pandemic – we already know that those experiencing poverty have been hardest hit in the first Response stage; and it is clear from all forecasts that there will be a lasting impact that must be addressed in the ‘Recovery’ and ‘Restart’ stages. Prioritisation and flexibility, using evidence and engagement, will be key to getting this right, in particular maximising opportunities from new ways of working and delivering outcomes. In addition, the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency, the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and the refreshed Employability and Skills Partnership provide exciting opportunities for innovation and bold action.

Throughout our work, we must not lose sight of the broad vision of the first Anti-Poverty Strategy to tackle poverty in all its forms – financial poverty is an important focus but we need to ensure that we address poverty of opportunity and hope for this generation of children who are already coping with uncertainty about their education and health.

Local partners are unwavering and united in our determination to improve the lives of children living in poverty in Dumfries and Galloway and give them the positive future they deserve.

Jeff Ace
Chief Executive
NHS Dumfries and Galloway

Gavin Stevenson
Chief Executive
Dumfries and Galloway Council

2. Background to Local Child Poverty Action Reports

Children living in poverty are more likely to:

- have poor physical health
- experience mental health problems
- have low sense of wellbeing
- underachieve at school
- have employment difficulties in adult life
- experience social deprivation
- feel unsafe
- experience stigma and bullying at school.

The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 sets out the Scottish Government's statement of intent to eradicate child poverty in Scotland by 2030.

The subsequent national Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2018-2022, Every Child, Every Chance recognises that poverty is fundamentally about a lack of income. As a result, targets within the Act focus primarily on income measures, while the Delivery Plan actions are focused on increasing family incomes or reducing costs.

Although the greatest impact on child poverty will occur through nationally set policies and strategies, it is recognised that local agencies and communities have much to offer. As a result, the Act requires Local Authorities and Local Health Boards to jointly report, annually, on activities undertaken at a local level to further mitigate the impacts of child poverty.

The first Annual Reports were required by 30 June 2019. The Dumfries and Galloway Report for 2018/19 was endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership on 13 June 2019, with a requirement to develop a more focussed Action Plan; and it was formally agreed by Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) on 27 June 2019 and National Health Service (NHS)D&G Performance Committee on 2 September 2019.

In November 2019, the Poverty and Inequality Commission published their review of the first year's Local Child Poverty Action Reports(LCPAR). The review highlighted 22 recommendations for national and local partners to consider <https://povertyinequality.scot/publication/review-of-the-local-child-poverty-action-reports/>.(See Section 8.1 and Appendix 1 for information on our response to the review).

The region's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) has eight Outcomes, all of which are relevant to Child Poverty and the work in this Annual Report therefore contributes to the achievement of the LOIP. As food is identified as a key issue in our Child Poverty work, this Report also contributes to the achievement of the Outcomes of the Locality Plan on Food Sharing.

[Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan 2017-2027](#)

3. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) sets out the fundamental rights of all children and young people. The UK ratified the UNCRC in 1991.

The Scottish Government plans to legislate to incorporate the UNCRC into Scots law and is currently consulting about how best to do this as it believes that delivering the rights of children and young people as enshrined in the UNCRC is fundamental to making children's rights real and make Scotland the best place in the world to grow up.

From 1 April 2017, all public authorities must also report every three years on the steps they have taken to implement the UNCRC. The first reports are due in 2020.

Five of the 54 Articles have particular relevance to child poverty and therefore been embedded into this Annual Report and informed the future Action Plan.

Figure 1

UNCRC Articles relating to child poverty

Article 3: When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children. Governments should make sure children are protected and looked after by their parents, or by other people when this is needed. Governments should make sure that people and places responsible for looking after children are doing a good job.

Article 6: Every child has the right to be alive. Governments must make sure that children survive and develop in the best possible way.

Article 12: Children have the right to give their opinions freely on issues that affect them. Adults should listen and take children seriously.

Article 26: Governments should provide money or other support to help children from poor families.

Article 27: Children have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live so they can develop in the best possible way. The government should help families and children who cannot afford this.

Article 31: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities

<https://www.unicef.org/media/60981/file/convention-rights-child-text-child-friendly-version.pdf>

4. Partnership arrangements in Dumfries and Galloway for the LCPAR

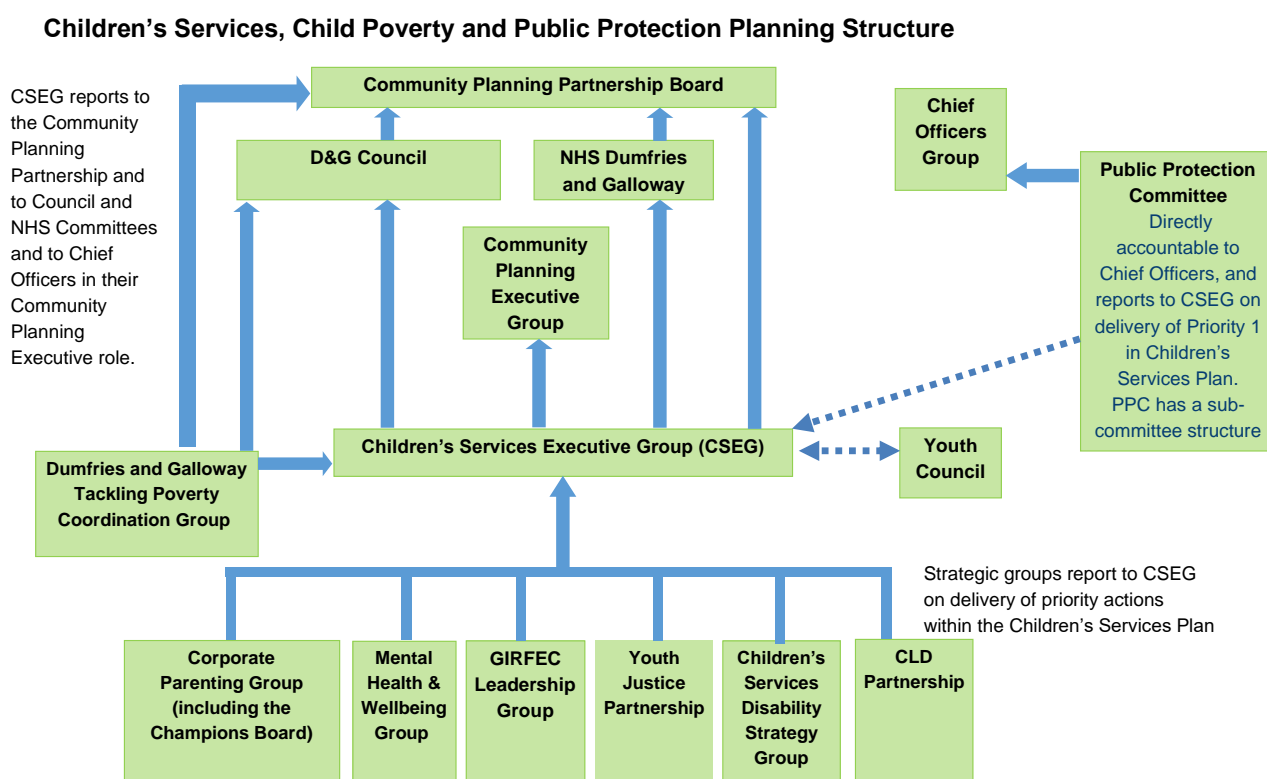
4.1 Children's Services Executive Group (CSEG) – this Group, chaired by the Director Skills, Education and Learning of DGC has responsibility for the development and monitoring of the LCPAR.

4.2 Community Planning Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group – this Group, chaired by a volunteer representative, has remit to feed in views and advice about wider tackling poverty matters.

4.3 Community Planning Executive Group – this Group, chaired by the Chief Executive of DGC considered the annual report of the CSEG at its meeting on 15 May 2019 and highlighted the importance of focusing on the most vulnerable children and seeking innovative approaches to the challenges facing partners.

4.4 Community Planning Partnership Board – this Group, chaired by the Leader of DGC with the Vice Chair, the Chair of NHSD&G agreed the 2019/20 Action Plan at its meeting on 13 March 2020; endorsed the analysis of the national Review of LCPARs and the development of our focus on the UNCRC; and agreed the alignment of the LCPAR with the new Children's Services Plan.

Figure 2 Dumfries and Galloway Children's Services, Child Poverty and Public Protection Planning Structure



5. Participation and Engagement arrangements

During 2019/20 there have been significant developments in relation to our engagement with stakeholders who have an interest in child poverty and the forums now available for ongoing involvement around this agenda are set out below:

5.1 Engagement with families, children and young people

- The Council's new Parental Involvement and Engagement Strategy and Scheme of Establishment for parent Councils were agreed in September 2019 and provide a clear framework for engagement, detailing a wide range of different opportunities. <https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement>

- The Champions Board and Listen2Us Group focus on care experience and involve care experienced young people working with senior officers of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

#WeCare is annual conference-style event organised by the Listen2Us group that focuses on providing opportunities for young people with experiences of care, aiming to build relationships between corporate parents and young people; and provide meaningful opportunities for young people to have their say on national or local initiatives. It also provides information and advice about support and finance available.

- An annual Youth Activism and Volunteer conference - #ROOTS2.0 - part of the legacy from Year of Young People, took place in October 2019.
- Our Youth Council was elected on 1 April 2019 and along with two Councillors for each of our 12 Wards, there are seven specialist Councillors for Additional Support Needs/Disabilities; Carers; Care Experienced; Ethnic Minority; Gypsy/Traveller; LGBT; and Parents; and four Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament. A joint Annual Meeting is to take place with both Dumfries and Galloway Council and The Community Planning Partnership Joint Board.
- The Council's Young People's Champion, Councillor Adam Wilson attends a range of events and supports activities and an Annual Report is submitted to Full Council. <https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s20404/Young%20Peoples%20Champion%20Annual%20Report%20201819%20Final%20Appendix.pdf>

5.2 Engagement with partners

- Community Planning Equality and Diversity Working Group – this Group, chaired by members on a rotational basis, has the remit to feed in views and advice about equality issues, and focuses on the Protected Characteristics.
- At national level, we work with the Poverty and Inequality Commission which became a statutory body in July 2019; have supported the development of the new Public Health Scotland which came into being on 1 April 2020; and have links with the Child Poverty Action Group, the Poverty Alliance, the Improvement Service, COSLA, NHS Chairs and Chief Executives forums.

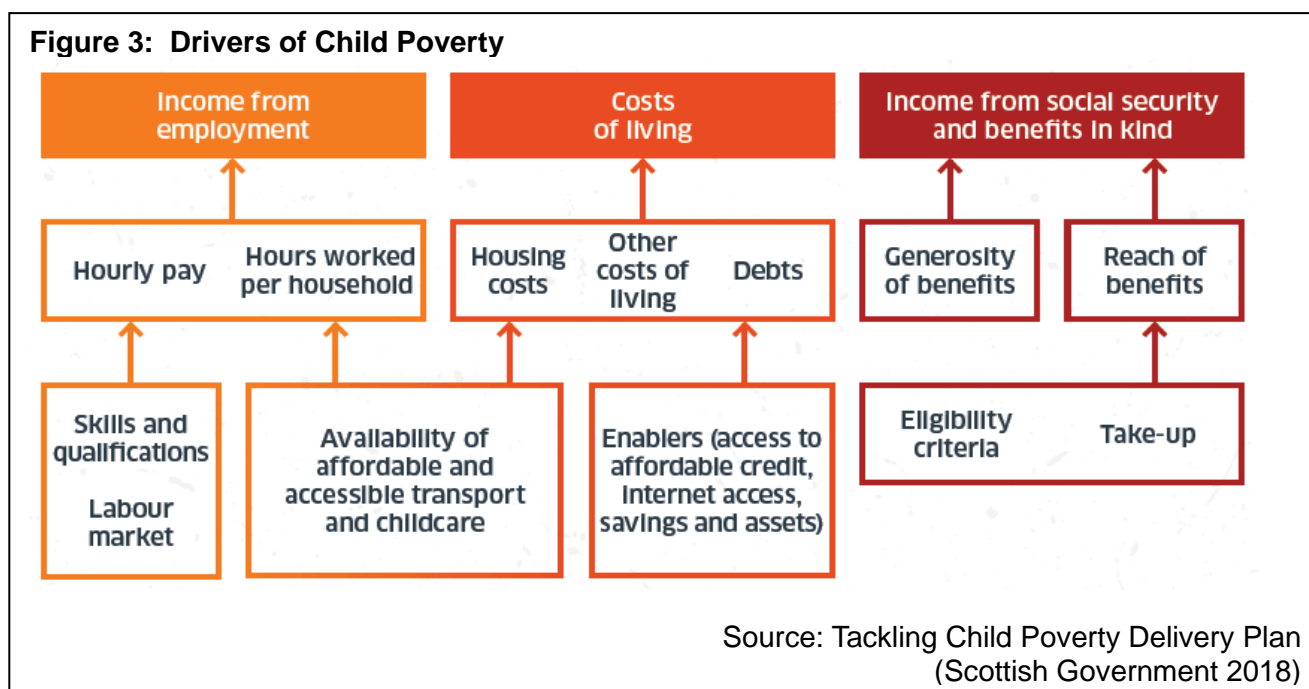
- During 2019, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway established a new Forum made up of organisations working in children's issues. This Forum provides the opportunity for consultation and engagement; a platform for the development of new joint projects and initiatives; and the opportunity to highlight key concerns or areas of best practice.
- Trades Unions continue to make a strong contribution to this agenda, particularly the EIS with publication of 'Face Up to Child Poverty' in August 2019; ongoing work around the Cost of the School Day project; and support resources for poverty proofing schools launched in April 2020.

<https://www.eis.org.uk/Content/images/campaigns/poverty/EIS%20poverty%20Advice%20Booklet%20pageWEB.pdf>

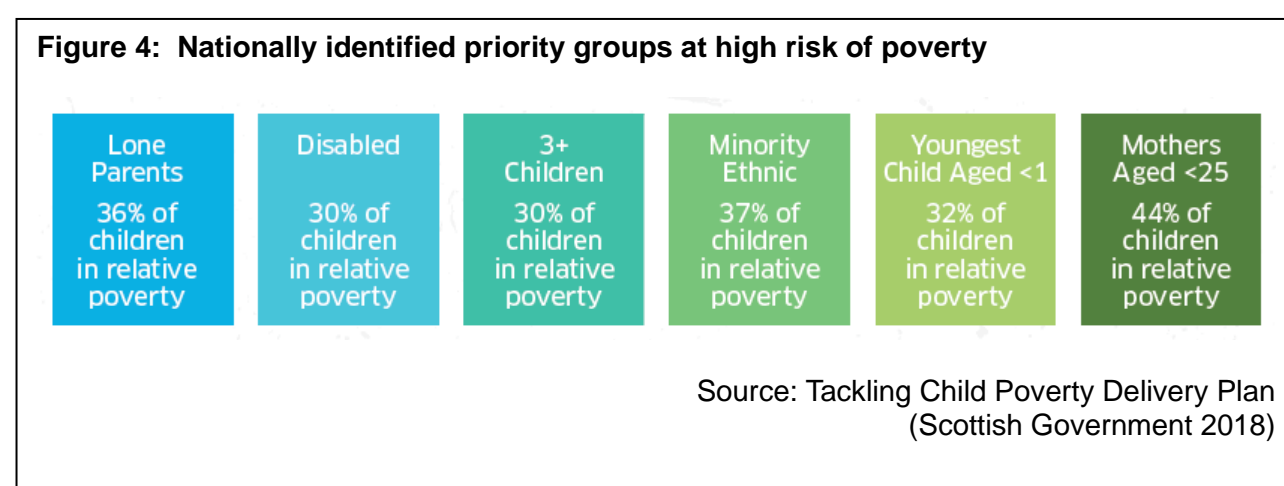
<https://www.eis.org.uk/Child-Poverty/PovertyPack>

6. Drivers of Child Poverty and high risk groups

6.1 The direct drivers of poverty fall in to three main categories – income from employment, costs of living and income from social security. The relationship of these drivers to wider thematic areas is summarised in **Figure 3** below.



6.2 The six priority groups identified at high risk of poverty are set out in **Figure 4**:



7. National Context and Targets

7.1 The Scottish Government has identified four key targets for child poverty by 2030:

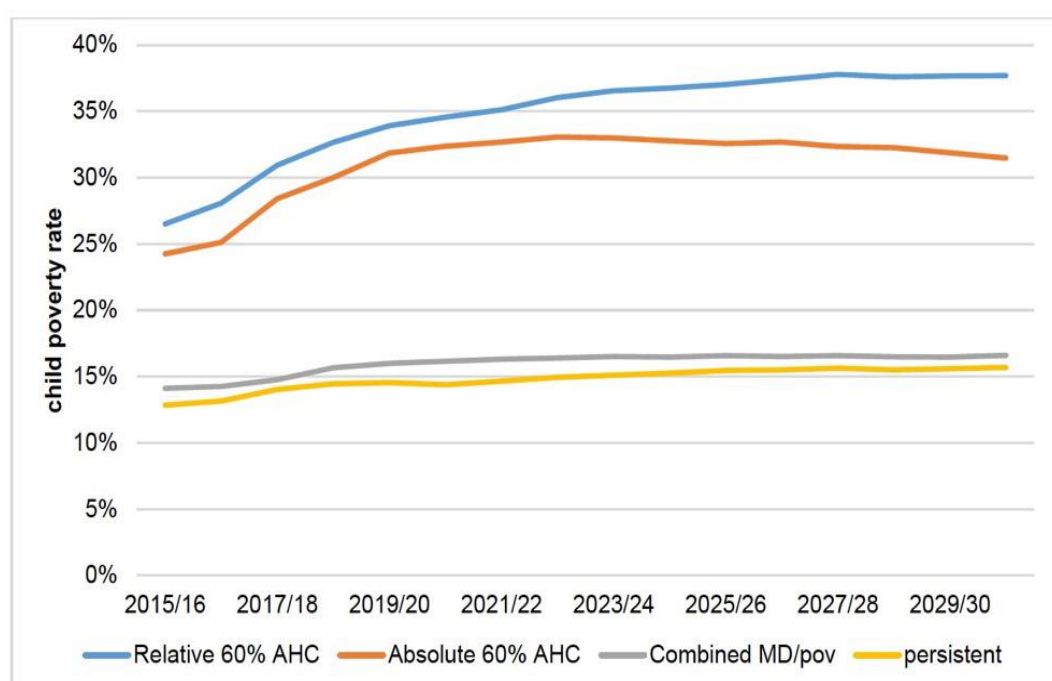
- less than 10% of children live in relative poverty (relative poverty is less than 60% of average UK household income for the year taking account of the size and composition of the household)
- less than 5% of children live in absolute poverty (absolute poverty is less than 60% of average UK household income for the financial year beginning 1 April 2010)
- less than 5% of children live in combined low income and material deprivation (low income is defined as less than 70% of average UK household income for the year, material deprivation is when families are unable to afford three or more items out of a list of basic necessities)
- less than 5% of children live in persistent poverty (persistent poverty is where a child has lived in relative poverty for three out of the last four years)

7.2 The most up to date national figures for these four measures are:

- In 2016/2017 an estimated 23% of children were in relative poverty
- In 2016/2017 an estimated 20% of children were in absolute poverty
- In 2016/2017 an estimated 11% of children were in combined low income and material deprivation
- In 2016/2017 an estimated 10% of children were in persistent poverty

7.3 Without intervention and mitigation at both a national and local level, it is forecasted that child poverty will increase across all four measures to 2030.

Figure 5: Child Poverty Rate Forecasts



Source: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan (Scottish Government 2018)

7.4 Recognising the external factors likely to impact on child poverty and the significant gap between existing poverty levels and the 2030 targets, the Scottish Government has set the following interim targets to be achieved by April 2023:

- Less than 18% of children are in relative poverty
- Less than 14% of children are in absolute poverty
- Less than 8% of children are in combined low income and material deprivation
- Less than 8% of children are in persistent poverty.

7.5 The 'End Poverty group has recently published a report which states that child poverty in Scotland has increased by 3.6% over the last year (14.5% in 2018/19 18.1% in 2019/20) using data Before Housing Costs

7.6 The new national body Public Health Scotland came into being on 1 April 2020 and part of its remit is to promote the Public Health Priorities, agreed in November 2018:

- A Scotland where we live in vibrant, healthy and safe places and communities
- A Scotland where we flourish in our early years
- A Scotland where we have good mental wellbeing
- A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- A Scotland where we have a sustainable, inclusive economy with equality of outcomes for all
- A Scotland where we eat well, have a healthy weight and are physically active

The Priorities are intended to be a foundation for the Whole System Approach, for public services, third sector, community organisations and others, to work better together to improve Scotland's health, and to empower people and communities.

In addition to the Public Health Priorities, NHS Scotland have also published a set of Principles and Guidance for their organisations to use to inform local activities in collaboration with community planning partners which will help to mitigate the impact of welfare reform on health and NHS services, service users and employees (see <http://www.healthscotland.scot/publications/welfare-reform-nhs-outcome-focussed-plan>)

8. Local Context

8.1 Local assessment against the Commission Review

A local Self Assessment exercise against the findings of the Poverty and Inequalities Commission Review of the 2018/19 LCPARs was completed and is set out in **Appendix 1**. It shows that of the 18 recommendations that were for local action, we fully achieved 7, partly achieved 10 and only 1 was not achieved. The Report for 2019/20 has addressed the issues identified for improvement.

8.2 Progress in the 2019/20 Action Plan

The final Action Plan for 2019-2020 was agreed by the CPP Board on 13 March 2020 and the progress in its implementation is detailed in **Appendix 2**. It evidences that of the 19 Actions, 7 were fully achieved; 9 were partly achieved; 2 were not achieved; and data is not yet available for 1.

8.3 Current position of the Drivers in Dumfries and Galloway

Appendix 3 sets out evidence about our region's current position in the three Drivers of Child Poverty, high priority risk groups and Protected Characteristics. From our analysis of this evidence elsewhere in the report, the key messages about the position in 2019/20 in relation to the three Drivers are as follows:

Income from employment

- *Current strategies and plans generally improved the availability of employment and training opportunities for Priority Groups, but we are still below the Scottish average for disabled people and minority ethnic people's employment*
- *The quality of jobs in our region, including zero hours contracts and Living Wage is still a challenge*

Costs of living

- *The costs of the school day have been reduced, including through the use of Pupil Equity Fund e.g. for school trips; and the removal of pupil contributions for home economics and technical subjects*
- *Eligibility and auto-enrolment for Free School Meals and School Clothing Grants has increased the number of families receiving support*
- *Partners are continually refreshing policies and eligibility criteria to secure free or reduced-price access to services and events*
- *There are still challenges about the costs of transport, fuel and food, particularly in remote rural areas, but a series of projects and investments have made a positive difference in reducing bills*

Income from social security and benefits in kind

- *National developments, such as the new Carers Allowance have been taken up by D&G families*
- *We are maximising our entitlement to Benefits*
- *Partners actively promote and support children and families to access sources of funding*

8.4 Contributions of other Plans and Strategies

Appendix 4 sets out the Strategies and Plans and associated projects and investment that contributed to our LCPAR over the last year. Significant contributions where resources were invested were as follows:

8.4.1 The Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan

(i) In February 2017, the Council allocated £250k of the Tackling Poverty Budget of 2017/18 to be determined by Participatory Budgeting to meet the Findings of an Evaluation, undertaken with Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSD&G)

The allocations were made in spring 2018 and detailed in last year's LCPAR. The outcomes reported in November 2019 highlighted that the monies had assisted with:

- Combating loneliness and social isolation caused by poverty
- Supporting individuals in crisis
- Access to affordable transport
- Food Insecurity
- Increasing incomes and reducing costs
- Reaching our most vulnerable and isolated within our communities
- The stigma of poverty
- Building resilience in young people to deal with financial pressures and other forms of poverty.

(ii) Funding was allocated by Dumfries and Galloway Council in February 2019 for the coming three years for a range of projects and services that will address some of the drivers and mitigate some of the impacts of child poverty as set out in **Figure 6** below.

Figure 6 DGC Budget allocations 2019-2022 that tackle child poverty

Project	2019/20 £	2020/21 £	2021/22 £
Credit Union Development	50	50	50
Taxicard Scheme	50	50	50
Distribution of Crisis Grants	260	260	260
School clothing grants	100	100	100
Employability	394	394	394
Increased Learning Support Provision & Building Capacity	100	100	100
Economic Inclusion Project	490	-	-

(iii) The budgets for some key services were mainstreamed into Service budgets for 2019/20, having received initial funding from the Tackling Budget in previous year(s) - the Cost of Home Economics and Technical Design Classes £195,000 per annum; Holiday Food Programme £200,000; and the Free Sanitary Products in Schools Project is now supported through funding from the Scottish Government.

(iv) The Council allocated £250k of the Tackling Poverty Budget of 2018/19 to be determined by Participatory Budgeting. This allocation was decided by the Steering Group to be for 'Making Ends Meet' with a focus on child poverty.

Figure 7 Projects from 2018/19 DGC Tackling Poverty Budget, determined by PB in April 2019:

Project Name	Organisation	Amount Awarded
No Barriers	Kate's Kitchen	£20,000
First Base Emergency Network	The First Base Agency	£6,680
Richer Lives	The Langholm Initiative	£20,000
Parent and Child Social	Langholm Playcare Ltd	£12,120
Grub Club	Lochside Community Association	£20,000
First Base Emergency Network	The First Base Agency	£16,800
Lochside is Families Together	Lochside is Families Together	£20,000
Equal Futures @ The Usual Place	Inspired Community Enterprise Trust Ltd	£11,980
Digital Connections	Learners Together	£16,020
Grow our Own - Community Support Project	Summerhill Community Centre	£10,000
ADS Community Café Coordinator	Alcohol & Drugs Support Southwest Scotland	£17,737
Aberlour Intensive Family Support	Aberlour Childcare Trust	£8,000
Move on Up	The IT Centre – Castle Douglas	£11,100
Stewartry Community Shop	The Furniture Project (Stranraer)	£1,323.00 (partial)
Teas, Tots and Tales	Teas, Tots & Tales – Stranraer	£875
Certificated Courses	Learners Forum	£2,280
Creating Affordable Meals (CAM)	Learners Forum	£696.30
Whithorn & District Community Bus	Whithorn Primary School Parent Council	£20,000
On the Road to Opportunity	Whithorn Youth Club	£20,000
Duke of Edinburgh - An Award For All	Dumfries Duke of Edinburgh	£4,388.70

(v) Area Committees were also allocated £200k for 2019/20 to fund projects that tackle the specific poverty challenges in their localities. The grants were agreed for 45 organisations/projects in September/October 2019 and included services and projects relating to transport, food, IT, play, music, sports and heritage.

8.4.2 Children's Services Plan

The Priorities of the Children's Service Plan for 2017-2020 were:

1. We will ensure that children and young people are safe and free from harm
2. We will ensure children and young people get support at the earliest appropriate time through prevention and early intervention
3. We will improve the wellbeing and life chances of our most vulnerable children and young people
4. We will work to reduce or remove barriers so that all children and young people have equality of opportunity
5. We will deliver the best possible health and wellbeing for all children and young people
6. We will raise attainment and be ambitious for all children and young people

The progress made in our 2017-20 Children's Services Plan has included:

- Our involvement in the Scottish Government's Realigning Children's Services programme and the findings from the Wellbeing surveys
- Engagement and consultation with children and young people.
- Findings and lessons from Initial and Significant Case Reviews
- Audit and self-evaluation activities
- A self-evaluation of our corporate parenting approaches
- National and local priorities
- Engagement with third sector organisations via the Third Sector Children and Young People's Forum

8.4.3 Pupil Equity Funding (PEF)

As part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge Programme for 2017/2018, the Scottish Government committed Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) of £1,200 for each child in Primary 1 to Secondary 3 (or equivalent) who was eligible for free school meals. Schools in our region received £2,881,200 in 2017/18; and £2,972,570 in 2018/19.

Areas of spend at the latest available data are as follows:

Figure 8 Pupil Equity Fund Spend by Curricular Area – Primary and Secondary 2017/18

Total	Literacy	Numeracy	Health and Wellbeing	Unknown	Balance
£2,881,200	£268,691	£145,281	£715,287	£1,338,625	£413,316
100%	9.33%	5.04%	24.83%	46.51%	14.3%

Key Outcome

- Improved Health and Wellbeing - confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- Increased physical activity and wellbeing
- Alleviation of financial barriers for identified children and young people – e.g. funding for uniforms, home learning kits, school trips.
- Improved attainment in literacy and numeracy
- Increased participation, engagement in learning and curricular access
- learning resources, PE kit bags, funded music tuition for individual children/young people and provision of stationery.
- Increased engagement and access to local facilities, local community groups, activities and events opportunities and experiences in social and life skills
- Increased access to a range of holiday activity programmes, pre-nursery clubs and parenting initiatives
- Increased engagement with parents, families and collaboration with partners
- Developed skills for life and work through digital technologies e.g. iPad provision
- Attainment gap remains concerning –a 50% gap between attainment levels of those in deciles 9 and 10 and those in decile 1. More coordinated identification of key vulnerable groups to allow focused and better targeted support and collective interventions is needed; and improved systems for capturing and using data to improve attainment and ambition for vulnerable groups

https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/20368/Education-Annual-Report/pdf/Dumfries_and_Galloway_Education_Annual_Report_2018.pdf?m=636700217186700000

8.4.4 Free School Meals (FSM); Clothing Grants; and Holiday Food programmes

- Auto-enrolment for school clothing grants for pupils receiving FSM was introduced during 2019/20.
- Improvements to the school meals range (Globetrotter menu); ability to deal with special dietary needs for medical or cultural reasons; online payment; and promotion including through social media were all approved in November 2019.

Figure 9 FSM D&G uptake – latest available figures 2017/18

School Ages	% D&G Uptake	% Scottish average Uptake
Primary 1-3	88.4%	79.6%
Primary 4-7	85.3%	84.4%
Total Primary 1-7	87.8%	80.5%
Secondary	70.6%	72.8%

The Primary 1–3 uptake has a marginal increase at 88.4% with the Scottish average at 79.6%. This uptake placed Dumfries and Galloway Council 2nd out of the 32 Scottish Authorities

The data figures highlight a decrease in (paid and free) school meals uptake by 3.7% to 52.%. This uptake places Dumfries and Galloway Council 12th out of the 32 Scottish Authorities.

- The approach to Holiday Hunger was changed in November 2019 to include activities as well as food provision. This new model of delivery also ensured that there has been free holiday food provision and activities for P1 to P6 children entitled to FSM in every ward since October 2019 and was delivered in the October, Christmas and February school holidays 2019/2020. This new model of delivery has seen a 34% increased uptake by children and young people.

8.4.5 Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

The current RES promoted the Living Wage and directed investment from the Council and Scottish Government Town Centre Funds. The creation of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership with investment in a range of projects across D&G and Scottish Borders of £10M; continuing work of the South of Scotland Alliance and Forum; and creation of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Partnership meant there was continued investment in projects that will support employment across the region and also set a new context for our economic agenda that will further develop in the next LCPAR.

8.4.6 Employability and Skills

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and other partners continued to make progress in a number of different programmes including No One Left Behind, Modern Apprenticeships and the Parental Employability Support Fund (which is specifically targeted at the six high Priority Groups detailed in Figure 4).

Figure 10 Skills Development Scotland – investment in Dumfries and Galloway

Nature of support	Amount
Local partnership projects	£2,693,000
Modern apprenticeship cost plus recruitment incentives, based on the apprentice's postcode	£1,737,000
Workforce and employability training costs, based on participant postcode	£4,430,000
Specific industry and employer projects	£251,000
Travel aid support for trainee	£4,681,000

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46297/sdsspend-dumfries-and-galloway-1819.pdf>

In the NHS, employability actions have focused on promoting NHS career opportunities and pathways into NHS employment via a range of activity including open day recruitment sessions for nursing staff, working closely with local higher and further education establishments in order to offer work placements, volunteering opportunities and where possible employment opportunities.

8.4.7 Play

The Council invested £500k in 2017/18 for the development of Inclusive Playparks at Stair Park, Stranraer; McJerro Park, Lockerbie; and Catherine Street, Dumfries and all now fully opened. Funding in 2018/19 was allocated to a further four Parks now finalising construction; Douglas Park, Newton Stewart Kirkland Drive, Kelloholm; Market Hill, Castle Douglas; and Newington Leisure Centre, Annan.

8.4.8 Other local grants and funding sources

Dumfries and Galloway Council actively promotes opportunities for pupils, young sportspeople and athletes to get financial assistance for these activities; and other sources for families e.g. the Armed Forces Fund which supports families in stress <https://dumgal.gov.uk/article/15243/Financial-support-for-education>

School Transport Policy – updated in November 2019

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s17564/School%20Transport%20Policy%20Report.pdf>

70.3% of all the free Youthbeatz tickets in 2019 (39,228 attendees) were for Dumfries and Galloway residents

8.4.9 Social Security Scotland

Young Carers Grants of £300 for each 16-18 year old and Best Start Food Benefits were introduced during 2018/19.

8.4.10 Homes and housing

The Fuel Poverty (Targets Definition and Strategy)(Scotland) Act 2019 was introduced and it defines a household to be in fuel poverty if more than 10% of its net income (after housing costs) is required to heat the home and pay for other fuel costs, with not enough money left for a decent standard of living. If more than 20% of net income is needed, the household is defined as being in extreme fuel poverty.

The most recent SHCS estimates that based on these definitions, 28% of households in Dumfries and Galloway (25% nationally) are living in fuel poverty. This includes 16% (12% nationally) in extreme fuel poverty. The Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland – Area Based Scheme for 2019/20 saw £2,063,30 invested particularly in rural properties; and whole streets in Annan Dumfries and Stranraer, selected due to their SIMD status. This is the sixth year of investment, reducing fuel bills by an estimated £11.7M.

8.4.11 Financial Wellbeing and support

The NHS Staff Working Well Strategy includes actions on financial inclusion for staff. This includes providing information for staff e.g. information on Credit Unions, welfare benefits. Work has also been undertaken to support staff financial wellbeing, with information on universal credit and available sources of support for staff experiencing money worries being made available

There has been substantial work undertaken to improve links between money advice and support services and health services. This has led to a greater number of referrals to support services and substantial financial gains for families living in Dumfries and Galloway

For 2019/2020 the number of referrals/client contacts and client financial gains resulting from NHS Dumfries and Galloway referrals are:

Figure 11 Benefits contacts and financial gains 2019/20

Service Provider	Number of referrals/client contacts	Client financial gains (£)	Financial gains (£) per referral/client
Dumfries and Galloway Council Financial Inclusion Assessment Team	313	114,980	368
Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service	292	240,578	824

Referrals and average financial gain have increased between 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 for all services. This could be the result of improved detection of need and/or increasing levels of financial needs.

Working with the Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative, Health Visiting staff and Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice staff have participated in an Improvement Practicum which has focused on reviewing and enhancing the processes for referral to financial and welfare advice. This has resulted in a more robust referral pathway, development of e-referrals and improved arrangements for feedback loops between the referring organisation and recipient service provider.

Referral rates from maternity and health visiting services into Money Advice service are continuing to increase and there is every likelihood that one of the impacts of COVID19 will be more people seeking financial and welfare advice. In essence, demand for money advice services is increasing at a time of static or decreased funding.

8.4.12 Best Start Strategy

The Best Start initiative has been rolled out for maternity and neonatal care. The relevant aspect of this work for child poverty is that women experience real continuity of care and carer, across the whole maternity journey, with vulnerable families being offered any additional tailored support they may require.

8.4.13 Other support

For the first time at the Youthbeatz Festival in 2019, there was a collection for items for foodbanks – 48,200 items were distributed to three local groups; and Council Communities Directorate staff prepared Christmas Hampers for distribution by community food providers.

9. Action Plan for 2020 - 23

In line with the decision of the CPP Board for closer alignment of the Children's Services Plan and this LCPAR, it is proposed that the Action Plan is for three years. The following issues have contributed and will influence the finalisation of the next Action Plan.

9.1 Anti-Poverty Strategy review and development of new approach; and funding for 2020/21

DGC has agreed the allocation of Tackling Poverty funding for 2020/21 as undernoted, retaining some of the funds to be determined when the longer-term priority issues arising from COVID19 are known.

Figure 12 DGC Tackling Poverty Funding 2020/21

Project/service area	£000
School clothing grants	100
Taxicards	70
Poverty and deprivation research	30
Tackling Poverty Reference Group and Co-ordination Group	10
Welfare and Housing Options Support Team	55
Community Transport	70
To be determined by Area Committees	200
To be determined by Participatory Budgeting	200
Unallocated	355
Total	1,090

£200k of Tackling Poverty Funding from 2019/20 Council Budget was allocated to Projects that address:

- Rural isolation particularly rural transport
- Fuel poverty
- Food and eating
- Financial Planning and Wellbeing Courses
- Developing hands on experience and new life skills through employment, peer group engagement and volunteering

The voting took place in March-April 2020 and there were 52 successful projects that will be implemented during the coming year.

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17630/Participatory-Budgeting-Your-Community-Your-Money-You-Decide->

9.2 New Children's Services Plan 2020 – 2023

The new Plan was endorsed by the CPP Board at its meeting on 13 March 2020 and gives a commitment to continuing to drive forward prevention and early intervention; recognising the need to move away from crisis driven responses. It highlights that the relationship between poverty and vulnerability is better understood at both national and local levels, and the new Plan identifies poverty as a key priority area and sets out the steps that the partners will take to address this important issue.

The proposed new Children's Service Plan Priorities for 2020-23 are:

1. Children and young people are safe and free from harm
2. The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve
3. The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced
4. The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves
5. Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential
6. How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

9.3 Pupil Equity Funding

The D&G allocation for 2020/21 is £2,883,480. Schools will develop their proposed use of the allocation, in consultation with parents, pupils and partners over the coming months

9.4 1140 hours early years childcare

The projects for the expansion of early years childcare provision for eligible children; and flexibility to fit the nursery and school days have been extended from the original due date of August 2020. We currently have 19 school nurseries, 10 funded providers and 29 childminding services offering over 1140 hours to over 1100 children.

9.5 Joint DGC and DG Youth Council Action Plan

The proposals in the draft Joint Action Plan are being developed by Council officers, in liaison with Committees, and decisions will be taken as soon as practicable. There will be a progress report to the next Joint meeting in February 2021.

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21517/Minute%20Appendix.pdf>

9.6 10,000 Voices Research

Key Findings were:

If they are not planning to stay in our region, the top three reasons our young people would leave are: 1.travel 2.study 3.work

The key questions relating to LCPAR and UN Convention Rights: (Scores out of maximum 1=awful 7=excellent)

Score	Question
4.25	There is an active local economy and the opportunity to access good-quality work
5	I can access a range of space with opportunities for play and recreation
4	I feel able to take part in decisions and help to change things for the better
3.5	Opportunities for young people to develop innovative projects and businesses and work within their local area
4.75	The homes in my area support the needs of the community
3.75	Opportunities to engage in activities focussed on culture and the arts (performance, production, heritage)

The top five issues affecting young people:

1. Bullying
2. Diet and body image
3. Mental health
4. Smoking
5. Transport

We have been awarded almost £250k from the Scottish Government's Investing in Communities Fund for a youth led Participatory Budgeting exercise for projects to address the top three issues from each Ward.

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s8071/Dumfries%20and%20Galloway%20Youth%20Council%20and%20Findings%20from%2010000%20Voices%20-%20Appendix.pdf>

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21115/10000%20Voices%20in%20Action%20-%20Young%20Peoples%20Participatory%20Budgeting.pdf>

9.7 South of Scotland Regional Economic Plan and Dumfries and Galloway Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

The creation of the South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) Agency on 1 April 2020 also sees the establishment of a new South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership which will drive forward economic regeneration for the South of Scotland. The D&G RES currently contains commitments for issues that contribute to the Child Poverty Drivers, particularly Living Wage, and is overseen by the D&G Economic Leadership Group.

9.8 Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal

The themes of this partnership agreement across the south of Scotland and north of England are: Place and Destination; Energy; Digital, Business Infrastructure; Natural Capital and there is a total programme budget of £394.5M.

9.9 South of Scotland Regional Skills Investment Plan 2019-22

The RSIP was published in September 2019 and the Action Plan has six themes, all of which contribute to the Child Poverty Drivers:

- Improving access to education, skills and training
- Better meeting the skills needs of all employers
- Growing and developing the workforce
- A region for young people
- Creating a culture of enterprise and innovation
- Future proofing the skills system

<https://www.sosep.co.uk/downloads/file/22/regional-skills-investment-plan>

The refreshed Dumfries and Galloway Employability and Skills Partnership, established in early 2020, has a remit that includes the strategic development of employability and skills provision in Dumfries and Galloway; identifying and maximising impacts of shared funding; delivering on No-one Left Behind (NOLB) and recommendations from Developing Scotland's Young Workforce. It is to produce an Action Plan for our region. The decision for the UK to exit the EU will require different programmes over the coming years.

9.10 Equality Outcomes

DGC, NHSD&G, Integration Joint Board, SoSE and SDS will be developing their new Equality Outcomes during 2020/21, which are to be agreed by 31 March 2021.

9.11 Play

The CPP Board agreed at its meeting on 13 March 2020 to sign the Play Charter for Scotland in recognition of its contribution to the physical and mental health of children; and the second round of the Inclusive Play projects of the Council are due for completion this year. Annan Playpark has also been successful in securing £33,750 from the Council's Regionwide Coastal Communities Fund for further development work

9.12 Project 155

From 2016 to 2041, the population of Dumfries and Galloway is projected to decline by approximately 7,700 people. Equating to a five per cent decrease, this contrasts with the projected growth rate for Scotland of five per cent over the same period. Therefore, the CPP Board agreed at its meeting on 13 March 2020 to develop a project to increase the Dumfries and Galloway population to increase our working age population. Initial work has begun to map trends and link into Scottish Government work.

9.13 Homes and housing

D&G has been allocated £2,118,95 for 2020/21 for the HEAPS ABS programme and the focus on remote rural households, and whole streets in Annan, Dumfries and Stranraer has been continued. The Wheatley Group has a battery storage system for tenants that enables cheaper energy costs

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=579&MId=5078&Ver=4> (Item 14C)

9.14 Other approaches

The draft Cultural Strategy includes a focus on enabling local cultural community and school activities to be more accessible to all groups; and the approach to our Major Events and Festivals sees events having an element of free access.

9.15 Impact of COVID19 pandemic

The implications of the COVID19 pandemic are going to have a significant impact on child poverty throughout the duration of our next Action Plan. There are a number of pieces of research already underway to inform the position and provide evidence for focussed actions including the following:

National level

9.15.1 Parliamentary Inquiries

The UK and Scottish Parliaments are conducting Inquiries into Equalities and disadvantaged groups. Emerging issues for the D&G response are: people in every Protected Characteristic group have been impacted by COVID19 and mental health is a particular issue for minority groups especially disabled people, minority ethnic, young and older people.

9.15.2 National local government analysis

The Improvement Service research has identified the impact of COVID19 pandemic on child poverty as follows:

- i. Children already living in poverty are likely to experience a greater impact of COVID 19, with potential for child poverty to become more ingrained. For already vulnerable families, the situation is likely to further compound family stress and trauma.
- ii. The number of children now likely to experience poverty will increase as a result of either temporary or longer-term loss of family income. This in turn will create additional demand on a range of public services including housing, childcare, rights and advice services.
- iii. Without concerted effort, the inequality between children with and without digital resources and other supports is likely to deepen.
- iv. Local bodies should prepare for more children becoming eligible for priority 2 places in nurseries and higher numbers eligible for clothing grants, free school meals and other supports targeted at children. There will also be increased demand from families for support from the Scottish Welfare Fund. It is important for local authorities to consider what more they can do to ensure families in need access the support available and make the best use of increased funding available to them to support families e.g. embedding advice services within childcare and school settings, developing financial inclusion pathways etc.
- v. Local authorities should consider how the value of existing supports might be increased to help meet the additional pressures low income families are facing – e.g. school clothing grant, free school meals

- vi. Local authorities and others should work to prioritise key activity which will enable and support economic recovery and ensure that the decisions they take are informed by the impact on children in or at risk of poverty.
- vii. Focusing on the key drivers of poverty and building on the work done to prepare the Local Child Poverty Action Report should support plans for preventing and mitigating the impact of higher levels of child poverty.

(Improvement Service Coronavirus: Considering the Implications for Child Poverty: Supporting local authorities and health boards to consider what steps they can take to respond effectively)

9.15.3 National survey of families

- The Child Poverty Action Group launched two surveys on 1 May 2020 aiming to understand how families across the UK are experiencing school closures, particularly when living on low incomes.
- Initial Findings published already indicate that the three main issues are: Money worries; Access to resources such as laptops, stationery, or a printer; and the emotional impact on children (absence from people networks) and parents (home schooling). The two things that have helped most are: good communication from schools; and getting laptops or tablets lent to pupils by their school

<https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/Parents%20and%20children%27s%20experiences%20of%20school%20closures%20-%20latest%20survey%20findings%2020%20May%202020.pdf>

Local issues

9.15.4 Free School Meals (FSM) and Holiday Food Programme

DGC exercised its discretion and gave automatic entitlement to FSM for any family registering for Council Tax benefit. This added 375 additional pupils. Choice was also offered (cash payment; vouchers; food boxes delivered) and we currently have 85% take up. Funding from the Council's £0.89M allocation from the Scottish Government Food Fund has offset some of the additional costs of £960k.

Figure 13 Free School Meals take up during COVID19 (as at 22 May 2020)

	Number of children and young people registered
Primary (including nursery)	2230
Secondary	1359
Total	3589
Option 1: Home Delivery of Food Pack	884
Option 2: Collection of Food Pack from School Childcare Hub	9
Option 3: Direct Payment to family of £17.50 per week (£2.50 per child per day)	3071
Total	3,964
Total Number of Free School Meals Provided during COVID-19	149,903
Total number of cash payments made during COVID-19	8,248

Holiday Food Programme

The arrangements for Holiday Food provision are changing for 2020/21 and the future. The planned community provision scheduled for Easter holidays 2020 could not be delivered and Council food boxes were made available. The findings of an Evaluation will determine the future arrangements which is planned to include options, including Direct Cash Payments.

9.15.5 Food insecurity

In addition to the provision of children's lunches through the FSM arrangements, families have been able to access food boxes from community food providers for children's other meals. The costs of this additional demand have been offset by some of the Council's allocation of monies from the Scottish Government Hardship Fund, currently an allocation of £800,000 for food purchase, meal preparation and volunteers' PPE and expenses, and £100,000 for Fareshare registrations.

9.15.6 Homes and Housing

£255k of the Hardship Fund has been allocated for temporary accommodation and a rent deposit Scheme; and £55k for energy costs.

9.15.7 Connectivity

Already 52 laptops have been made available to secondary school pupils, 37 to Primary school pupils and 47 to Through Schools and 100 reconditioned desktop devices are in progress to support home schooling; and an allocation of £10k has been made available to families for wifi and smartphones.

9.15.8 Business Support

Funding from the Scottish Government is being made available to employers, and self-employed people to assist them through the COVID19 crisis. This is in the form of grants and loans with DGC and SoSE also providing financial and other support including:

- a full year's 100% non-domestic rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure;
- £10,000 grants for small businesses in receipt of the Small Business Bonus Scheme Rural Relief, Nursery Relief, Disabled Relief or Business Growth Accelerator;
- £25,000 grants for hospitality, leisure and retail properties with a rateable value between £18,000 and £51,000;
- 1.6% relief for all properties, effectively freezing the poundage rate next year;
- £2,000 grants for the newly self-employed;
- hardship fund for tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses

Figure 14 funding made available for small businesses as at 5 June 2020

Number of small business grants	Value of grants	Number of applications	Scottish Government allocation
3501	£36.7M	4114	£51.2M

9.15.9 Employability support

SDS and other partners are promoting and adapting their support for individuals in accessing employment. In particular My World at Work programme; the Partnership for Employment support where businesses are facing closure; career education and Next steps programme. A partnership toolkit is also to be available. The Wheatley Group (DGHP) has a number of programmes including Modern Apprenticeship and a Pledge which sees a wage incentive for any employer taking on unemployed people who live in their homes or receive care services.

9.15.10 Debt

£10k of Hardship Funding has been allocated to D&G Citizens Advice Services to assist families with complex debt problems; and the Council suspended its debt recovery until June 2020.

9.15.11 Other Scottish Government COVID19 funding support for poverty

The Scottish Government allocated an additional £1.2M to Dumfries and Galloway for increased applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund; funding for the provision of sanitary products to tackle Period Poverty; and there has been an increase in applications to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

9.15.12 Draft Action Plan

A high level draft Action Plan for 2020 - 23 is attached at **Appendix 5**. Given the significant volume of research currently being undertaken, and the changing circumstances that will affect all contributors and aspects of the Plan, the CSEG will need to develop the detail over the coming months.




10. **Implementation and Monitoring**




The Action Plan for 2020-23 will be progressed and monitored through the bodies set out in Figure 1 with an Annual Report to the Council and Health Board for approval as required by the Act; and also to the Integration Joint Board and the CPP Board for endorsement - while the Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board remit is focussed on health and social care for adults and older people, it is recognised that work with families crosses agencies; and work on Realigning Children's Services analysis means that it is appropriate for it to be involved.







Update reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board will also be provided on a quarterly basis, as the LCPAR is identified as one of the key Strategies supporting the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.






**Poverty and Inequality Commission’s Review of the Local Child Poverty Action Reports 2019
Dumfries and Galloway self-evaluation response of our 2018/19 Plan against
the Commission’s recommendations**


Key  Achieved  Partly met  Not met

The Commission’s Recommendation		Status	Self Evaluation Response
1	Local authorities and health boards should consider how they can better involve people with direct lived experience. They should ensure that people’s voices are heard and helping to shape agendas. There are many organisations and community groups that could help with this and local authorities and health boards should look to make use of these resources.		Current opportunities to hear from people with direct lived experience include through the Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group, Parent Councils and Third Sector organisations. We will explore further opportunities to engage with lived experience.
2	The national partners group should consider what more they could do to support the involvement of people with lived experience. They could also investigate why the support offered in the guidance is not being taken up.	n/a	National Recommendation.
3	The Cabinet Secretary could single out authorities that have provided detailed engagement work involving people with direct lived experience as “exemplars” whose practice can be drawn on as a route to continuous improvement. Having the Cabinet Secretary do this would show the importance attached to this aspect of the reports.	n/a	National Recommendation.
4	Chief Executives of local authorities and health boards should make clear their commitment to tackling poverty.		The Chief Executives of the Council and NHS have evidenced a strong and sustained commitment over a number of years to tackling poverty through the LOIP; the Council’s Strategy; and regular dialogue with the TP Co-ordination Group. One additional demonstration could be the inclusion of a statement from both officers in the Annual Reports.
5	Future reports should provide more of a rationale for including different plans, strategies and reports and also evidence of how linking these		The rationale for including different plans, strategies and report was referenced within the

The Commission's Recommendation	Status	Self Evaluation Response
together is leading to efficiency savings.		2019 plan (for example CSP, Public Health Plan and Anti-Poverty Plan). Greater emphasis is required on employability and housing plans. Currently there are no links to the efficiency savings.
6 There is scope to improve how partnership working is reflected in future reports. The Commission recommends that local authorities and health boards consider their approach to partnership working and how they can better reflect it in next year's reports.		Whilst acknowledging that there are a number of partners involved, it is recognised that within large organisations (NHS, Council), there may be partnerships that could be advanced, such as Family Nurse Partnership, Community Learning and Development, Maternity Services, Housing and Employability and Skills.
7 We encourage all local authorities and health boards to think about the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Are they working with the right partners? The guidance included a list of potential partners and we would suggest that all local areas revisit this list to determine if they are working with the right partners. In particular, local partners should ensure they are working with the third sector and also the private sector. <input type="checkbox"/> How can the reports best set out the collaborations in place and how these are working and resourced? What partnership working has enabled local areas to do which they wouldn't have been otherwise able to do? What have the outcomes and benefits been?		The Children's Services Executive Group, which has responsibility for the Child Poverty Action Reports provides an annual report to the CP Executive Group and through it to the CPP Board, on its performance, membership and work plan. Every CP partnership is supported to review its arrangements on this annual basis, using best practice toolkits. A focus on the specific involvement of partners supporting the development of the Child Poverty Action Plan is seen to be beneficial.
8 The national partners group should consider what they can do to support the area of partnership working. This could involve highlighting areas which are demonstrating a strong approach to partnership working and sharing the learning from this.	n/a	National recommendation.
9 Some local areas were better than others at setting out relevant data and using this to measure progress. The Commission recommends that local authorities and health boards could review their use of data – in particular identify national surveys which provide local level data, consider how they can use their local surveys, and make better use of academic evidence		The 2019/20 plan has identified local data as a key priority to enable future planning and prioritisation of actions. Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed that child poverty data should be provided at Ward level, when it agreed the first



The Commission's Recommendation	Status	Self Evaluation Response
(e.g. from What Works Scotland). The national partners group could also consider what they could do to support this.		Child Poverty Action Plan annual report.
10 Local partners should consider the presentation of their action plans carefully and ensure that they provide sufficient information across all aspects mentioned in the guidance. They could also consider whether they have any actions that they feel are particularly important and share these as case studies to facilitate the sharing of good practice.		The first Dumfries & Galloway Action Plan for 2019/20 was a working document which was developed through a partnership approach, taking account of shared priorities and actions, often which existed also in other plans. The presentation will evolve as our planning arrangements develop and reflect the advice and direction from the CPP Board.
11 Local authorities and health boards should examine the list of actions and consider whether they are taking all of these actions. If not, they should consider including any they are not yet undertaking.		The Action Plan will review all activity as required.
12 Local authorities and health boards should ensure that they are adequately articulating how actions contribute to tackling poverty.		The CPP Board gave advice and direction about the future Action Plans making this explicit and so our future Action Plans will take this approach.
13 Local authorities and health boards should consider whether they are taking these actions which create the right conditions for tackling poverty.		Although we have taken an approach to only include those actions directly related to the drivers of child poverty, we also acknowledge the wider social and environmental determinants which impact on people's lives. An example could be transport and IT infrastructure.
14 The action plans should remain focused on actions which directly tackle poverty. Recognising that other actions are important, they could be included in a separate table.		We will continue to focus on the actions which tackle poverty while also recognising the wider social and environmental impacts of work across the partnership.
15 Where appropriate, the action plans should do more to articulate why priority groups are the targets of particular actions.		Our 2018/19 Plan and Report did not articulate why priority groups were targeted. We will focus on this as an area for improvement and engage with diversity groups about Protected Characteristics




The Commission's Recommendation	Status	Self Evaluation Response
16 Action plans could be clearer around who is taking the lead in delivering actions and the roles played by any supporting organisations.		A Lead service was included in our 2018/19 Plan and Report. We will continue to include this going forward. It is acknowledged that not every partner who contributes can be listed but broad examples were given and roles and responsibilities were stated within the narrative.
17 There is scope for the approach to evaluation and monitoring progress to be improved. The guidance is comprehensive here and we are aware of efforts being made to support this work. Therefore, the Commission recommends that the national partners group explore the barriers to good evaluation and consider what more they could do to support this area.	n/a	National Recommendation.
18 The Commission recommends that actions to support pregnant women in particular are highlighted and if these are not included in this year's action plans then there should be work to ensure they are in next year's.		Whilst a number of actions related to pregnant women, we recognise the need to focus on vulnerable pregnant woman. Links will be made to the Children's Services Plan 2020-23 which includes peri-natal mental health as a focus.
19 The Commission recommends that local partners take time to understand how close they are to taking the right actions and whether they are addressing all of the aspects the Commission has looked at.		The Children's Services Executive Group has reflected on these recommendations and will submit a Self Evaluation Report to the Community Planning Partnership Board. This will ensure that Plans we develop and take forward are informed by the Commission's findings.
20 The Commission also suggests that the national partners group develops a good practice depository. We saw examples of good actions being taken around the country and this would be an ideal way of sharing that. Local partners should contribute to this and also make good use of the knowledge that is shared.		We will contribute to and access national practice through this depository and use it to inform our planning processes.
21 Local partners should use the recommendations in this report to understand where they need to improve for next year. At the very least, they should focus on the three areas the Commission has highlighted as		A development session will be arranged across the partnership for early 2020, which will aim to bring partners together to engage and further




The Commission's Recommendation		Status	Self Evaluation Response
	priorities.		refine the actions and reporting, in line with the recommendations of the Commission. External facilitation will be sought and wider representation across the Community Planning Partnership invited.
22	The national partners group should work with local partners to understand the challenges and barriers in producing the reports. They could further consider whether there is additional support they could provide to local partners to help ensure the reports better reflect the guidance.		To support the progression of our Plan, we will invite national partners from the Poverty and Inequalities Commission to the development session.




Dumfries and Galloway Child Poverty Action Plan 2019/2020 Progress Report



RAG Key  Complete  In Progress  Delayed



Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
1	Provide a shared and detailed breakdown of poverty data by Ward across Dumfries and Galloway	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council, NHS Dumfries & Galloway (NHS D&G)	D&G Council Plan	12 x monthly reports	Improved data available, shared and being used to develop further action	Ward breakdown is provided monthly over a number of factors. Information is shared with partners	
2	Identify appropriate data sources for priority groups	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council, NHS D&G	D&G Council Plan, H&SCP Strategic Plan, NHS D&G Equality Outcomes	Ongoing monitoring of data regarding: 1. Lone parent families 2. Families which include a disabled adult or child 3. Larger families 4. Minority ethnic families 5. Families with a child under 1 year old 6. Families where the mother is under 25 years of age	Improved data available, shared and being used to develop further action	A large amount of data is currently available from the funds we administer and this is shared with partners The monthly data provided will be expanded to include these factors	




Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
3	Explore and scope opportunities to work with children and families to enquire about financial wellbeing	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Education & Learning	Education Plan	Exploration and scoping of opportunities to work with children and families to enquire about financial wellbeing complete	Opportunities for enquiring about financial wellbeing identified and examples of good practice shared	Support through the work of the DGC Financial Inclusion Team and the Social Work Intensive Family Support project.	
4	Review the transport costs and provision for children and young people	2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council (Communities)	D&G Council Plan	Review of transport costs and provision complete	Understanding of transport costs and provision used to inform further action around transport	Local work on possible reduced/free fare schemes was undertaken. The Scottish Government Budget 2020/21 includes the delivery a National Concessionary Travel scheme offering free bus travel for 18s and under. The Scottish Government will undertake work on design and due diligence with a view to introducing such a scheme in January 2021	
5	To provide information and training to staff in contact with vulnerable families on	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council, NHS D&G	Education Plan	Information developed and training delivered and evaluated	Improved staff knowledge and information on ELC shared with vulnerable families	Not yet delivered.	

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
	Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) Provision							
6	Establish new Automatic Registration system for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants	2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council	Education Plan	New automatic registration system developed and in use	Increased in number of children receiving free school meals and clothing grants	This is largely in place. The reuse of DWP data is an issue. This has been raised with the DWP/COSLA and Scottish Government	
7	Review Council Tax reduction thresholds	2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council	D&G Council Plan	Review completed on Council Tax reduction thresholds	More applications for Council Tax Reduction from eligible families	Council Tax Reduction is a national scheme governed by regulations as laid by the Scottish Government. Take up activities take place regularly	
8	Explore opportunities to provide welfare advice services in identified GP Practices	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G and GP clusters	Transforming Primary Care Programme/General Medical Service (GMS) Contract	Number of referrals to support services Additional income gained from health referrals	Increased financial gains for individuals and families Improved quality of life and mental health gains	Welfare advice for the under 60s is part of our commissioned service with Dumfries & Galloway Citizens Advice Service (DAGCAS) In order to expand current provision early discussions with GP Clusters in Nithsdale and Wigtownshire and DAGCAS has resulted in an interest to deliver additional services where demand is identified. This	

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
							action will be taken forward in 2020/2021	
9	Ensure clear referral pathways to Income Maximisation Services as part of social prescribing models are in place	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G	Transforming Primary Care Programme	Pathway in place and consistent approach to referral being adopted	Increased financial gains for individuals and families Improved quality of life and mental health gains	As part of social prescribing referral routes to DAGCAS have been implemented. As part of the referral pathway feedback mechanisms are in place	
10	Embed the Financial Inclusion Pathway within appropriate NHS services e.g. Health Visiting and Maternity Services	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G	Health Scotland -Mitigating the Impact of Welfare Reform outcome Focused Plan	Pathway in place and consistent approach to referral being adopted	Increased financial gains for individuals and families Improved quality of life and mental health gains	Work has progressed with Health Visiting teams and DAGCAS to formalise referral pathways. This work has been completed under the auspices of the National Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative Financial Inclusion Practicum. Work is now focusing on ensuring feedback loops between partners are robust	
11	Develop arrangements to replicate the <i>Financial Wellbeing</i>	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G	NHS D&G Working well Strategy	Feedback evaluation from staff	Improved quality of life and mental health gains for staff	Information on the Financial Wellbeing Workforce Initiative has been shared between the Council and NHS This information has	

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
	<i>Workforce Initiative</i> within NHS Dumfries and Galloway					Increased productivity and better patient outcomes	been included in workforce updates and features on internal web pages	
12	Work with partners to deliver a programme of awareness raising and training which supports use of the Child Poverty Impact Assessment Tool within stakeholder organisations	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G and partners	Tackling and reducing inequalities and health inequalities	Number of sessions delivered /number of participants Evidence of Impact Assessments being completed	Increased financial gains for individuals and families Improved quality of life and mental health gains	Work within the NHS and across the H&SCP has focused on continuing the embedding of the Integrated Impact Assessment. In 2020/2021 work will focus on supporting specific services to pilot use of the Child Poverty Impact Assessment Tool	
13	Develop web based financial inclusion information for staff on NHS Dumfries and Galloway's intranet site	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G	Health Scotland - Mitigating the Impact of Welfare Reform outcome Focused Plan	Web based information complete and available to staff Number of hits to sub-section of intranet	Increased financial gains for individuals and families Improved quality of life and mental health gains	Information on financial support has been promoted on the Intranet as part of ad hoc news items. There is now a requirement to provide permanent information on financial inclusion/wellbeing the intranet	

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
14	Deliver Poverty Awareness training to NHS and HSCP staff groups who have face to face contact with families, parents and vulnerable young people	1, 2, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	NHS D&G in partnership with D&G Citizens Advice	Health Scotland - Mitigating the Impact of Welfare Reform outcome Focused Plan and D&G Council Anti-Poverty Strategy	Number of staff trained in Poverty Awareness Evidence of staff confidence to raise money/work issues with patients/client	Increased financial gains for individuals and families and improved quality of life and mental health gains	Delayed	
15	Children have early access to increased hours of Early Learning and Childcare provision	1, 2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Education and Learning	Education Plan	1140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare is available to children across Dumfries and Galloway	Increased uptake of ELC hours from eligible families	Targeted take up campaigns take place with identified families before every annual intake	
16	Provide high quality education throughout the Broad General Education and Senior Phase and support establishments to narrow the outcomes gap for	1, 2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Education and Learning	Education Plan	The poverty-related attainment gap is reduced on all core measures as reported from Local Government Benchmarking Framework	Targeted interventions are impacting positively on the attainment and achievement of identified children and young people	Specific information on the individual groups is yet to be advised.	-

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
	disadvantaged groups							
17	Reduce the Cost of the School Day	2 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Education and Learning	Education Plan and D&G Council Youth Priorities	Outcome reports of all projects delivered with funding	Costs associated with school are reduced	Costs of certain subjects have been removed; PEF allocations covered the costs of school trips and materials; and the	
18	<i>Skills and Employability</i> Young people are supported to move into positive and sustainable destinations post school. See detail in CLD partners plan	1, 3 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	D&G Council and partners	Community Learning and Development Plan D&G Council Anti-Poverty Strategy No-one Left Behind	Number of young people who move into positive and sustainable destinations	Outcomes and life chances for our most vulnerable will improve Young people with additional support needs are moving into positive and sustainable destinations post school Increase in qualifications and reduction in Job Seekers Allowance claimants	Employability Coordination Groups operate across all school to identify young people in need of additional support. Partners work with the young person to agree next steps. Moved to online / remote support. In response to predicted increase in young people needing support due to Covid-19 impact a Youth Guarantee programme is being developed jointly by DYW, ESS and SDS, supported by Education.	
19	<i>Parental Engagement</i>	1, 2, 3	Education and Learning	Education Plan	Number of parents engaged in PEEP	Parents are better	Parental Engagement and Involvement Strategy and	

Action		Policy Driver* Priority Group**	Delivered by	Policy Link	Performance Measure	Intended Outcome	Progress to March 2020	RAG Status
	Implementation of PEEP programme to support parental engagement in areas of deprivation	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6				equipped to support early learning and progress towards developmental milestones of children accessing ELC	Parent Council Scheme agreed	

Data, Case Studies and Personal Testimonies about Child Poverty Drivers, Priority Groups and Protected Characteristics in Dumfries and Galloway

Part 1 – High level statistical evidence about the drivers of child poverty

Part 2 – High level statistical evidence about the high priority groups and other statistics

Part 3 – Other high-level statistical evidence relating to child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway

Part 4 - Case studies and personal testimonies

The following have been identified as useful data sources of which either directly or indirectly relate to child poverty

Scottish Public Health Information for Scotland

[\(https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/\)](https://scotland.shinyapps.io/ScotPHO_profiles_tool/)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/family-resources-survey--2>

Scottish Household Survey – published October 2019

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scotlands-people-annual-report-results-2018-scottish-household-survey/>

<https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00548564.pdf>

Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation – published January 2020

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-index-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

Scottish Welfare Fund statistics – published December 2019

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-welfare-fund-statistics-update-to-31-december-2019/>

Dumfries and Galloway Children's Services Plan 2018/19 Annual Report

<https://dumgal.gov.uk/media/20360/Children-s-Service-Plan-Annual-report-2018-2019/pdf/Joint-Annual-Report-Dumfries-Galloway-CS-Plan-2018-19.pdf?m=637188410091030000>

Skills Development Scotland

https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46350/1101_msw-winter-2020_dumfries-and-galloway.pdf

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46086/dumfries-and-galloway-rsa-infographic.pdf>

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/45943/dumfries-galloway.pdf>

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/45943/dumfries-galloway.pdf>

<https://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/media/46128/dumfries-and-galloway-rsa-summary-report.pdf>

Child Poverty Action Group

<https://cpag.org.uk/file/4912/download?token=ytkETSII>

Part 1 - Drivers of child poverty

Earnings

- Dumfries and Galloway average earnings £457
- Scotland average earning £543

Skills and qualifications

- 33% of adults have no qualifications (27% Scotland)
- 94% of school leavers enter a positive destination
- 60% of school leavers enter higher or further education
- 30% of school leavers enter employment/training or voluntary work

Accessible transport

- 44% of children live in rural areas (23% accessible rural, 21% remote rural)

Childcare

- Total of 4,034 childcare funded places
- 551 places taken by children in SIMD 5 datazone (most deprived)

Food insecurity and food costs (D&G Citizens Advice Service research)

- In some areas are paying up to 55 per cent more for the same items than people a few miles away
- In general, those in the poorest and the most rural areas are paying more than those in the better-off urban areas

Internet access

- 22% of households do not have internet access
- 25% of people do not make personal use of the internet

Debt, savings and assets

- 42% of all households identified as living in fuel poverty

Benefits

- 13% of working age adults are in receipt of benefits
- Total number in receipt of benefits is 11,670
- 16% of children identified as living in low-income families
- 16% of children identified as living in low-income families

Part 2 – High Risk Priority Groups

Lone parents in Dumfries and Galloway

- 3,864 lone parent households of which 37% are not in employment

Disabled children in Dumfries and Galloway

- 191 children aged under 16 years of age identified as having a physical disability
- 122 children aged under 16 years of age identified as having a long term learning disability

Families with more than 3 children In Dumfries and Galloway

- 2,160 families of 3+ children, 14% of all families (15,205)

Minority ethnic in Dumfries and Galloway

- Total of 1,873 people of ethnic minority (1.2%) in Dumfries and Galloway
- Of this total 600 are children

Youngest child aged under 1 year in Dumfries and Galloway

- 1,198 families/single parent families where youngest child is under one year of age (figure derived from ONS data for number of births 2018)

Mothers aged <25

- 450 mothers aged under 25 years of age

Part 3 - Other High Level Statistics relating to Child Poverty in Dumfries and Galloway

Rurality and deprivation

- 44% of children live in rural areas
- 13% of young people live in the most income deprived quintile

Young Carers

- 300 Carers aged under 16 years of age

Looked After Children

- There are 439 Looked After Children

Homeless

- 10% of homeless applications involve children

Housing

- 33% of households with children fail to meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard

Child Poverty by Electoral Ward in Dumfries and Galloway

The End Child Poverty (ECP) group's most recent statistics are for 2018/19. It should be noted that these figures are based on the Ward areas prior to the last Boundary Commission Boundary Changes which were completed in May 2017

Mid Galloway	37%
Abbey	22%
Annandale East and Eskdale	25%
Stranraer and North Rhins	34%
Annandale North	25%
North West Dumfries	36%
Wigtown West	34%
Nith	17%
Lochar	16%
Castle Douglas and Glenkens	28%
Mid and Upper Nithsdale	28%
Annandale South	25%
Dee	32%

Part 4 - Case Studies and Personal Testimonies

Case Study 1: Welfare and Housing Options (WHO) Support Team

Single parent with 4 children all born prior to 02/04/2017. Customer referred by Homeless Team as customer had rent arrears of £2197 and imminently due in court. Discussion with Housing Benefit Team resulted in a back payment of £2128.01 and an ongoing award of £65.35 per week. A home visit was then conducted by the WHO and Homeless officers who noted improvements to the living environment were required and supported a Community Care Grant of £249.90. A direct debit to pay the 2019/2020 Council Tax was arranged and as a result previous years Council Tax arrears were put on hold to allow her to pay without being pursued for more debt than she could manage. An award value of £1580.45 to the customer. Prior to the WHO Team support, the customer had been suffering from stress and anxiety and this had badly affected her mental wellbeing. With rent arrears cleared, the threat of eviction removed and full rent being paid going forward the customer's mental wellbeing improved.

Case Study 2: A family of 7, living in an Registered Social Landlord property were on a waiting list for a new property but due to rent arrears and not making regular repayments were unable to gain enough status to improve their chances of a Tenancy being offered. Customers were juggling their finances due to a change in their health-related benefits, their mental health being affected by debts and overcrowding and one family member attending a school outside of the catchment area due to bullying. A Homelessness Prevention Discretionary Housing Payment was awarded to clear the minimal arrears and as a result their prospects and health improved.

Case Study 3: Intensive Family Support Service

Two children were living at home with both parents, with their emotional and physical wellbeing impacted by parental substance misuse, and inadequate home conditions. The children were frightened when their father was under the influence of alcohol and were unable to predict his behaviours. Mother has a physical disability, which has impacted upon her own motivations to change the environment for her children. Both children were placed on the Child Protection Register in September 2018. The parents have now separated, with the children living with their mother, having contact at the weekend, during the day with their father. Intensive Family Support Service worked with the family from February 2019, with a focus on the following areas : • supporting both parents to implement appropriate boundaries and strategies in the home • support mother to declutter the home • support oldest child in understanding the importance of personal hygiene • providing information and practical advice on healthy eating involve the children in cooking healthy meals. • parents undertaking an exercise to consider their parenting styles, using an established model. Parents have shared that they realise that they have to consider cohesive parenting to implement the boundaries and structures required to ensure that the children feel secure, safe and encouraged. Also, IFSS made a referral to Financial Inclusion Team to address access to Benefits and financial management.

Young People A and B - race

Two young people A and B were also active members of DGMA youth groups campaigned and contested the Youth Council Election- they are now elected as Youth Councillors. A and B bring lived experience of race issues to the Youth Council and encourage minority communities' involvement in public life.

YP C - disability

C is a young person with a rare condition, Cerebellar Ataxia, who has been a member of DG Voice for approximately three years. A scooter is used and a service dog. C has attained a business/computing degree and has knowledge on a number of policy issues. DG Voice nominated C to join the Board of Inclusion Scotland. C is also an Ambassador for Ataxia UK, and active in Riding for the Disabled Association Incorporating Carriage Driving (RDA); and is a strong voice for disabled people in our region.

YP – D

D is 16 years old and transgender, first referred to LGBT Youth Scotland three years ago, having 1:1 support and attending youth groups. There have been challenges in coming out in school, with a negative impact on emotional and mental health. A referral to CAMHS/social work and child meetings in place in school to ensure the best support was available to ensure safety and to be able to achieve/progress in transition in school and in life. D is now a confident, friendly and caring young person who mixes well with other young people, is now fully out at school, dresses in their true gender, changed their legal name and plans to be a befriender.

Strategies and Plans supporting the delivery of the Child Poverty Action Plan 2019/20

This table sets out the key local Strategies and Plans which have supported the delivery of our Local Child Poverty Action Plan over the last year:

Strategy or Plan	Led by	Links to LCPAR Drivers
Anti-Poverty Strategy and Action Plan	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Income from social security and benefits in kind Income from employment Costs of Living
Best Start Strategy	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Income from social security and benefits in kind Costs of Living
Children's Services Plan	Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Income from social security and benefits in kind Costs of Living
Community Learning and Development Partners' Strategic Plan for Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Income from social security and benefits in kind Income from employment Costs of Living
Digital Health and Care Strategy 2020/2024	Health and Social Care Partnership	Costs of Living
Education Plan 2019/2020	Dumfries and Galloway Council	Income from social security and benefits in kind Income from employment Costs of Living
Health and Social Care Strategic Plan and supporting Health and Social Care Locality Plans	Health and Social Care Partnership	Not directly linked to the main LCPAR drivers but overall aim to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities can contribute to the drivers
Mitigating the Impacts of Welfare Reform Outcome Focused Plan	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Income from social security and benefits in kind Income from employment
Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Action Plan 2016/2026	NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Income from social security and benefits in kind Income from employment

Strategy or Plan	Led by	Links to LCPAR Drivers
Regional Economic Strategy	DGC	Income from employment
South of Scotland Economic Partnership Business Plan	South of Scotland Economic Partnership	Income from employment
Skills Development Scotland Needs Assessment	Skills Development Scotland	Income from employment

Moving Forward Draft Action Plan for 2020-23

We fully recognise the importance in ensuring that the longer-term Local Authority and Health Board response to Co-Vid 19 should not cause longer and deeper experiences of inequality, especially for children and young people. With this in mind we will make sure the future planning of and the delivery of child poverty actions is considered through a COVID-19 lens, while ensuring an equality and human rights approach is core to the work.

We will seek to utilise and build upon the resilience shown by communities and partners in responding to the pandemic. However, we must also recognise that not all communities are equal and more affluent communities will often be better placed to mobilise community support and resilience than others. We will therefore ensure that resources and support is targeted at those communities with the most need.

We have identified the following themes as key priorities for partners to address the Drivers of Child Poverty and the High Priority Groups over the next three years:

- Costs of the school day
- Employment and employability
- Financial Inclusion and increasing income from benefits and entitlements
- Food poverty, food costs and food insecurity
- Fuel poverty
- Housing
- Transport (access and affordability)
- Wellbeing – culture, health, leisure and sport

In addition to this there are a number of actions will we take to increase our understanding of child poverty and involve stakeholders:

- Developing our evidence base including data sharing and identifying local data
- Engagement and communication, particularly people with lived experience of poverty.

A high-level summary of actions to deliver on these themes are set out below:

Action	Driver/Issue	Who/Partnership
1. Develop D&G Employability and Skills Plan	Employment/ Employability	D&G Employability and Skills Partnership
2. Develop 'Project 155' to increase the working age population	Employment/ Employability	DGC and NHSD&G
3. Contribute to the South of Scotland Regional Economic Plan	Employment/ Employability	DGC/ Regional Economic Partnership
4. Implement the 1140 hours of free childcare	Employment Cost of living	DGC (Skills, Education and Learning)

Action	Driver/Issue	Who/Partnership
5. Build on DGC Transformation Programme work, School Transport Policy and PSP model to address access and affordability of public transport for access to work and education	Employment Cost of Living	SWestrans, DGC, TSD&G Sector, PSP on community transport
6. Develop Equality Outcomes that support the High Priority Groups experiencing child Poverty	Employment Cost of Living Income	DGC; H&SCP; NHSD&G, SOSE; SDS, SWestrans
7. Review financial inclusion pathways for health	Income	H&SCP; DGC (Financial Inclusion Assessment Team); and Financial Inclusion service providers (Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service)
8. Develop approaches that reduce the 'Cost of the School Day',	Cost of Living	DGC (Skills, Education and Learning)
9. Implement approaches with RSLs to address homelessness	Cost of Living	Strategic Housing Forum and Homeless Forum including RSL partners
10. Direct support and funding to fuel poverty	Cost of Living Income maximisation	DGC, Strategic Housing Forum and RSL partners
11. Explore opportunities to ensure food poverty and food insecurity is embedded within Public Health Priority 1 (Place) and Public Health Priority 6 (Eat well, healthy weight)	Cost of Living	Public Health Priority Implementation Groups with support from DGC, TSD&G and Community Food Providers Network
12. Explore opportunities to ensure culture, play, leisure and sport is embedded within Public Health Priority 6 (healthy weight, physically active)	Cost of Living	DG Unlimited (arts); Major Festivals and Events Partnership; Physical Activity Alliance with support from Play Scotland
13. Partnership events to develop the Local Child Poverty Action Plan during 2020-2023	Communication and Engagement	Children's Services Executive Group
14. Partnership event(s) to establish opportunities and identify areas for data sharing across sectors	Data sharing and evidence base	H&SCP (Performance and Intelligence Team); DGC; TSD&G; supported by equalities groups; RSLs; and the Improvement Service
15. Develop a Communication and Engagement Plan	Communication and Engagement	DGC; NHS D&G; and H&SCP;



Item 2

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 OF THE DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCAL CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2020-2023

1. Background

The Child Poverty Act introduced a requirement for Local Authorities and Health Boards to jointly prepare Local Child Poverty Action Reports (LCPAR), (which should include Action Plans). In order to align with Scottish Government annual progress reporting, local areas are required to submit their Child Poverty Action Reports by 30th June each year.

1.2 The first Annual Report was endorsed by the CPP Board in June 2019, with the discussion highlighting the contributions that partners were taking to address the Drivers and a more focussed Action Plan being required.

1.3 The Action Plan for 2019/20 was agreed at the last meeting of the CPP Board, in March 2020.

2. Annual Report for 2019/20

2.1 The attached Annual Report was agreed by Dumfries and Galloway Council on 25 June 2020. It will be submitted for agreement to NHS Dumfries and Galloway Board at its meeting on 6 July 2020. The Integration Joint Board has also been invited to endorse the Report.

2.2 Highlights of the 2019/20 Reports are:

- there is a stronger focus on the UN Convention of Children's Rights (section 3 of the Annual Report)
- a self-assessment against a set of 22 recommendations, drawn up by a national Commission after reviewing the 2018/19 Annual Reports from across all Scottish Councils and Health Boards. It shows that out of the 18 Recommendations relevant to local Reports, we had achieved 7; 10 are in progress; and 1 had not been achieved (Appendix 1 of the Annual Report)
- evidence of substantial improvements in relation to engagement with parents, children and young people (Section 5 of the Annual Report)
- evidence of significant activity and investment across partners, and positive impact, in relation to the three Drivers of Child Poverty and the Priority Groups (Section 8.4 of the Annual Report)
- achievement of the 2019/20 Action Plan. It shows that out of the 19 Actions: we have completed 7; 9 are in progress; 2 have been delayed; and data is not yet available for 1 (Appendix 2 of the Annual Report).

3. Action Plan for 2020-23

3.1 As agreed at the Board in March 2020, the Action Plan is aligned with the Children's Services Plan and is now for three years.

3.2 As members are very much aware, the COVID19 pandemic will have a significant impact on child poverty, but it is not possible at this early stage to assess exactly what that will be. A number of organisations are already undertaking research and analysis and this information will require careful assessment by the Children's Services Executive Group over the coming months to update and refine the outline Action Plan which is contained in the Annual Report (Appendix 5 of the Annual Report).

4. Recommendations

4.1 Endorse the Annual Report for 2019/20 of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report; and

4.2 Comment on the Action Plan for 2020-23 for consideration by the Children's Services Executive Group

Dr Gillian Brydson, Chair Children's Services Executive Group
Phillip Myers and Laura Gibson Public Health, NHSD&G

25 June 2020

Appendix – Annual Report 2019/20 of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report



THIRD SECTOR
Dumfries and Galloway

THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY
Covid-19 Crisis Recovery Planning
Securing the Gains and Building Back Better

June 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The voluntary sector's enormous response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been recognised by our partners at local, Scottish and UK levels. The sector is now ready to play its part in the recovery, by securing the gains of the last three months and building on the strengths that the crisis has generated.

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) has played a key role in the local response, working closely with statutory and third sector agencies to support our local communities. We believe that for this to continue, partnership working will have to be fair, balanced and sustainable. It should recognise the role of the third sector as a contributor to the human, social, economic and environmental capitals in our region.

TSDG is planning for the transition from lockdown to the new 'business as usual'. We are engaging with third sector organisations across the region to understand their plans for recovery, whilst also considering the transition for ourselves as an organisation. This report presents the findings of our **internal review**. It will be supplemented in the next month by the extended report which will include the findings from the wider research.

We invite our partners to consider the analysis and key actions which will take us forward:

Highlights of action plan:

- We will **build the links** between communities and the statutory sector by developing the partnership work of the TSDG locality hubs
- We will **strengthen the role of volunteering** and our 'super volunteers' with our new website and online resources
- We will **increase access to the third sector** by introducing a mobile app for the TSDG resilience map
- We will **strengthen the third sector** via our online programme of surgeries, forums, roadshows and events.
- We will **support the leadership of the sector** by building new online platforms for secure networking.
- We will **help the sector avoid a financial cliff-edge** with our enhanced online advisory service on funding
- We will **continue to support the most vulnerable** and isolated with our Touch Base telephone service and we will plan for its sustainable future.
- We will **strengthen the voice of the sector** during the recovery by implementing the findings of our research into how the sector is represented in public forums
- We will **respond to communities needs** in the recovery and beyond by growing new social enterprises.
- We will **strengthen the role of anchor organisations** by working with South of Scotland Enterprise and the Regional Economic Partnership on policy development

INTRODUCTION

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway is one of 32 third sector interfaces in Scotland. The network is funded by Scottish Government to provide four purposes in each local authority area:

- be a central source of knowledge about the third sector
- ensure a strong third sector voice
- develop the capacity of the sector to achieve change
- provide leadership, vision and co-ordination.

Covid-19

The third sector interfaces have played a critical role in the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic by supporting community resilience groups, recruiting volunteers and advising third sector organisations as they responded to the crisis. Around thirty thousand volunteers were registered by Scotland's TSIs and over 3000 community groups supported.

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

TSDG is planning for the transition from lockdown to the new 'business as usual'. We are engaging with third sector organisations across the region to understand their plans for recovery, whilst also considering the transition for ourselves as an organisation. Our planning will be based on a series of questions which we have applied to all areas of our business. We identified the lessons we had learned then applied these to the future. In turn this work will inform our thinking on how to support and encourage the wider third sector.

LESSONS LEARNED

As we reflect on our experiences of the first two months of lockdown we can identify clear areas of learning that will influence how we deliver our services in the future. Whilst the type of work we have been asked to do has, for the most part, remained the same, the volume of work has increased significantly and the focus has shifted to volunteering. Our learning can be considered under **five** main themes.

1. Flexibility and agility

Although our work has remained focused on our original key areas of activity, including volunteering, support, communications and funding, the Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated the flexibility of our team to adapt, resulting in our efforts being increased in each of these areas.

Within our organisation strong team working has been the basis of our ability to adapt, with extensive working across and between teams to 'get the job done'. Whilst our

communications, funding and volunteering work has continued, albeit on a greater scale, the focus of our business support and engagement teams has changed significantly, focussing almost entirely in the first two months of the crisis on responding to the needs of the most vulnerable in our communities through the referral process established with partners in the community cohesion cell. This has stretched the team considerably, but they have consistently delivered and adapted to the changes in their roles.

Within TSDG, our team have embraced and adapted to home working and the use of alternative technologies, including video conferencing to engage with partners and participate in meetings, both internally and externally.

Other third sector organisations have had to adapt their way of working whilst some have ceased operating during the crisis. This has resulted in some of our work being put on hold, particularly around key partnerships. The re-establishment of these relationships will form a key part of the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis and we will be flexible in our approach to ensure we meet the needs of our partners as they too emerge from the crisis.

Action: *Re-establish relationships with TSOs that have been dormant during the Covid-19 crisis.*

2. Raised profile and greater partnership working

The profile of TSDG has increased since the crisis began. This has strengthened our reputation and demonstrated the clear role we can play. Our communications have taken on a greater significance as we became a focus for connecting with the sector and volunteers.

We have played an active role in a wide range of decision-making structures, at Cell, Bronze and Silver levels, within both the local authority and NHS structures, with our opinion being sought to inform strategic decisions, helping to establish TSDG as a key partner in responding to the Covid crisis.

While there has been an improvement in relationships, it is still clear from our experience in the last three months that TSDG is not seen by everyone as an equal partner. TSDG is funded to deliver core objectives by the Scottish Government, but on occasion during the Covid crisis this has become blurred, with statutory partners assuming the lead in areas where TSDG has led in the past. Generally, staff have experienced an increase in being involved and respected in various settings.

Moving forward it will be important to establish clear roles and responsibilities and identify what TSDG can do both as a contributor and a leader in areas of joint work.

Action: *Establish clear roles and responsibilities during partnership working.*

3. Communications

Our daily communications work has increased in volume and pace. Our communications team has built on our solid foundations to further increase our reach, through the continued and increased use of social media, our twice-weekly bulletins and engagement with statutory partners at strategic level. The development of the DG Resilience Map

(www.dgresilience.org.uk) to showcase community activity in response to Covid-19 was developed and delivered quickly to meet the needs of our statutory partners and communities across the region. This has proved to be a highly valuable tool in community support and one we would wish to develop further.

The adoption of digital platforms has ensured that we remain engaged with both the sector and with partners. This is also reflected within TSDG, where we have used digital platforms (such as Slack) to ensure internal communication is effective. This has improved over time, with the constantly changing landscape and working from home impacting on internal communication in the early stages.

4. Volunteering

Our volunteering strategy was approved in January and became the basis of our f volunteering work in recent weeks, with TSDG becoming firmly established as the lead partner in the coordination of volunteering across the region.

Our own successful recruitment campaign resulted in more than 1300 volunteers being registered on our database. We have established clear processes for the support, management and appropriate referral of our volunteers, maintaining regular contact and carefully managing expectations as supply of volunteers has exceeded demand. This in itself has proved challenging and was further exacerbated by the launch of a national recruitment campaign which added a further 400 volunteers to our register.

We learnt quickly the importance of good data management and use of spreadsheets.

We have established effective protocols in partnership with statutory partners, to ensure that those in need in our communities can access appropriate support from our volunteer network.

In addition, we have expanded our volunteer network to include 'super volunteers', those that have undergone interviewing and PVG checks to allow them to carry out roles with additional responsibility. We have developed and launched a volunteer-led telephone support service-using our super volunteers-called Touch Base, to meet the demand for support for people experiencing social isolation.

The establishment of locality-based volunteering hubs, led by TSDG in partnership with ward officers and community development colleagues, has ensured that the support delivered to communities remains relevant to local need. This is enhanced by participation in region-wide partnership meetings such as the twice weekly community cohesion cell update meetings to allow sharing of good practice and to ensure a common understanding of approach.

It became clear relatively early in the crisis, that the demand for volunteers was not as high as anticipated. Communities rallied, local authority staff were deployed to Covid-specific roles within the community and there remained capacity within the NHS to respond to the Covid crisis without the need for additional volunteers. As a result, we quickly halted our volunteer recruitment and have worked hard to manage the enthusiasm and expectations of our volunteer pool. This has not been without its challenges, but we have communicated regularly with the volunteers that have come forward and have been ready to respond as

the situation continues to evolve and the demand for volunteers changes. We anticipate that there will continue to be a need for volunteers as the lockdown rules relax.

5. Funding support

TSIs across Scotland have been given key roles in the allocation of national funding to local groups and are heavily involved in the promotion, assessment and allocation of national funding streams, helping to bring significant amounts of funding into the region. We at TSDG have worked hard to ensure that our decision-making is evidence-based and built on the needs of the sector. It is also our view that Scottish Government funding may not have been distributed most effectively due to lack of co-ordination and that TSIs could have been used more to coordinate the distribution of funds at local level.

TSDG has had to become knowledgeable in the different funds in a very short space of time, sharing this knowledge with statutory partners. Because the majority of the funds are being managed nationally, it has been difficult to assess the allocation of national funds within the region and therefore the effectiveness of its use. We have been tasked by Scottish Government to assess the use of Covid-response funding in the third sector and have made efforts to contact organisations where they are known to have received funds.

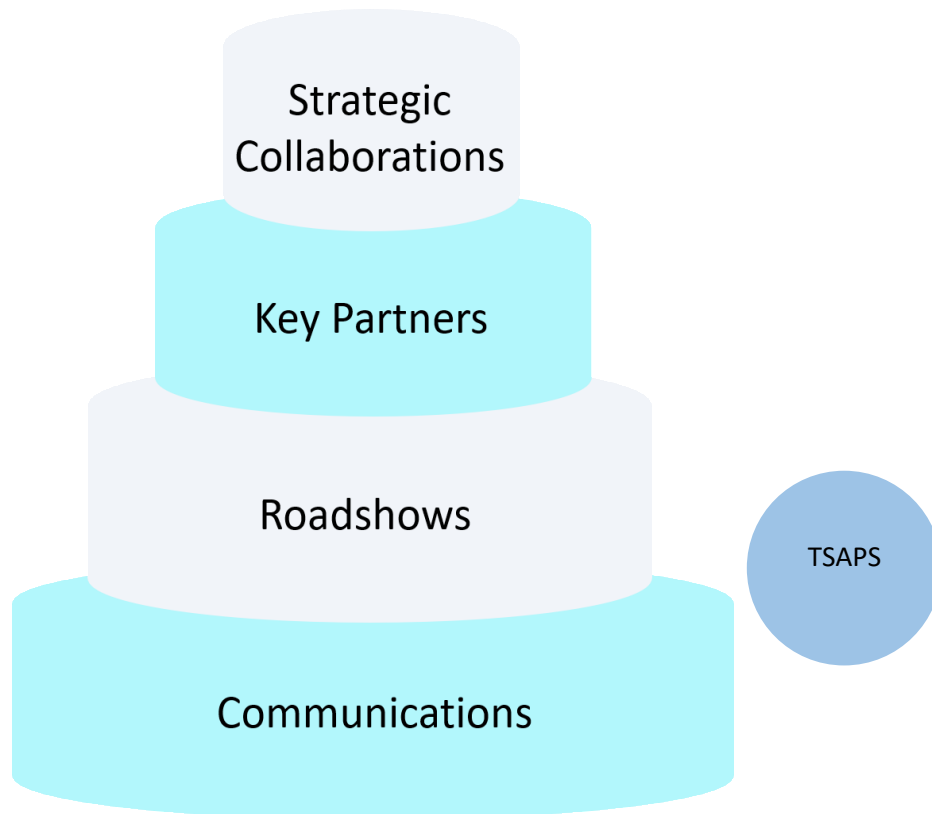
Action: *Assess the use of Covid-response funding in the third sector.*

PLANNING FOR THE SHORT TERM

TSDG staff were asked to consider what our focus should be in the short term, in the context of the Scottish Government's advice on Covid-19 and the lessons each of us has learned. The conversations centred around four main themes:

1. Support

In the coming weeks the focus will continue to be on responding to the current and developing needs of communities, third sector organisations and individuals impacted by Covid-19. TSDG will continue to use its delivery model:



1. Communications

Communications will remain vital, both externally to the sector and partners and also internally across TSDG teams. We will continue to embrace online tools to maintain effective communication as we look to balance continued support with planning for the future.

It will be important to start reinforcing the message that TSDG are 'here to help', using communication channels to promote the wider work of TSDG beyond the current focus on COVID. We will use our new filming and recording equipment to create material for use in the online event programme and to showcase the work of the sector.

Actions:

- *Continue to embrace online tools to maintain effective communication.*
- *Maintain and build on relationships established with key partners, including statutory partners.*
- *Reinforce the message that TSDG are 'here to help' beyond the confines of Covid.*
- *Create material for use in online events programme*
- *Showcase the work of the third sector using digital platforms.*

2. Volunteering

In the short term there will continue to be a need for volunteers, which will require ongoing management and coordination. We recognise that the availability of volunteers is likely to

change as lockdown measures are eased and people return to some sense of normality, including returning to work. Communication with the remaining volunteers will be vital.

We will continue to manage the volunteer resource and provide support to communities and individuals as required, working in partnership with statutory agencies as part of the formal referral process. We will continue to build on the success of the locality volunteer hubs, using them to explore how communities can play a part in the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis. We will also continue to recruit 'super volunteers' as they are needed.

The Touch Base service will continue and will be demand -led, responding to demand as identified through referral pathways.

As the role of volunteers continues it will be important to consider ongoing support and training both for volunteers and also the organisations managing and working with volunteers. This includes organisations looking to re-establish themselves following lockdown. The goodwill of volunteers during Covid-19 should be captured to leave a lasting volunteering legacy for existing or established organisations.

Shielding has been extended to the end of July. This will be one of our 'tests' for deciding to make changes. Already some peer-to-peer groups providing support within their communities are starting to archive Facebook pages, as they recognise that work is being done by other groups within their communities. In some instances, the content of Facebook pages is becoming more general and less Covid-19 based. Some of the smaller communities are instead developing their Facebook pages to become community forums. Some of that is because TSDG and council services for volunteering are working, but also because some communities have been able to develop informal support mechanisms that meet the needs of their own communities.

With communities having on-hand access to volunteers in recent weeks it will be important to consider exit strategies for volunteers, to prevent a culture of reliance or over-dependency, whilst also considering what support communities will need to recover and move away from dependency.

Actions:

- *Continue to manage the volunteer database and provide support to communities and individuals as required, working in partnership with statutory agencies as part of the formal referral process.*
- *build on the success of the locality volunteer hubs, using them to explore how communities can play a part in the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis*
- *Continue to deliver the Touch Base service in response to demand as identified through referral pathways.*
- *Develop an exit strategy for Touch Base.*
- *Provide ongoing support and develop training both for volunteers and also the organisations managing and working with volunteers.*
- *Capture goodwill of volunteers during Covid-19 and explore a lasting volunteering legacy for existing or established organisations*

3. Key Partners and Funding

The use of online tools will be vital in delivering training and support; we have started to explore the immediate, short term and longer term needs of the sector and look to develop appropriate tools to provide this support. We have already participated in online webinars and we will launch our own online programme of events and support in early July.

As more of the sector starts to re-emerge it will be important to re-establish contact with those organisations that we have not worked with directly during the Covid-19 crisis, using our forums and networks to reengage with the sector.

It will also be important to establish a clear understanding of where each partner fits in relation to recovery to maximise complementarity and partnership working and minimise duplication. The continuation of locality hubs will play an important part in this, as will the continuation of communication within the established Cell structure. We anticipate further discussions with our partners in the locality hubs to redefine their role and activities to respond to the recovery phase. This may mean a review of our Third Sector Area Partnership (TSAP) model.

Actions:

- *Adapt our methods of engagement and support to include online platforms in place of community-based events.*
- *Launch an on-line programme of events and support*
- *Re-establish contact with organisations that we have not worked with directly during Covid-19, including through forums and networks*
- *Establish a clear understanding of where each partner fits in relation to recovery, at both strategic level and within the locality hubs.*
- *Explore the need to review the Third Sector Area Partnership model.*

The administration of national funds will continue into the recovery period and TSDG will continue to monitor the availability of funds and, where appropriate, play a role in the distribution of funding. We will maintain links with national bodies and the wider TSI network to ensure that Dumfries and Galloway have access to relevant funding streams. We will enhance our funding service by providing more analysis of use of funds in D&G.

It will be important to explore the use of alternative platforms for delivering advice on funding and for engaging national funders in local discussions. Funding will be one of the key components of our online offer.

Action:

- *Communicate our analysis of third sector funding in the region via our funding bulletin and the website.*

4. Strategic Collaborations

The successful partnership working has already created strategic collaborations between third sector organisations and statutory partners. For example, in improving access to digital devices and skills for vulnerable groups and co-ordinating the response to emergency food requests. We hope that these will continue to flourish with the help of locality hubs and other online communications.

PLANNING FOR MEDIUM TERM UP TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

As an organisation TSDG would wish to continue to work towards its vision '*to improve the quality of life of the most disadvantaged and deprived people and communities in Dumfries and Galloway*' and to do this by being the lead agency for the third sector response in the area's recovery from Covid-19.

When planning for the longer term, discussions within TSDG centred on the following themes:

1. Partnership working

The Covid crisis has made us all work differently and there will be a need to re-evaluate the way we work. This presents an opportunity for more and better partnership working, not only between TSDG and our statutory partners, but there will also be a real opportunity for more joined up working and strategic collaboration between third sector organisations and between the third, public and private sectors. There will be the opportunity for creative thinking and doing things differently. We will build up our relationship with South of Scotland Enterprise and the Regional Economic Partnership to ensure a focus on the third sector in their recovery plans.

The council's cell structure has been of particular benefit. We would like to take the lessons from this experience to the health and social care partnership where the home teams are currently being developed. We are engaged in conversations about them and would want to be part of the home teams if we are adequately resourced.

The newly established volunteering/locality hubs have demonstrated excellent partnership working and we believe they should continue. One of the strongest features of the hubs has been the participation of all the DGC ward officers. Their contribution empowers the hubs with a full understanding of the local communities.

We are keen to explore how the hubs can complement or become integrated into the TSDG TSAP model. It is our preference that they be combined into the one model, which would strengthen the TSAPs and have clear continued benefit for communities, both during the recover from Covid and beyond.

The role of anchor organisations will increase in strategic importance and we believe the locality hubs could have a significant part to play in this work. We will also work with South of Scotland Enterprise and local authority economic development teams to encourage anchor organisations in a place-based approach to recovery.

The third sector forums will have an important role to play and we are already working to establish an online mechanism for effective networking and to facilitate collaboration across the sector. Our third sector Chief Officers Group (COGITS) will also be important for influencing strategic decision-making throughout the recovery process and beyond.

Building on the success of the DG Resilience tool, we are well into the process of developing the DG Locator online tool. This will provide access to more third sector organisations, raising the sector's profile and increasing networking opportunities. Other online opportunities will be embraced to further raise the profile of the sector to maximise their sustainability during the challenging times ahead.

While the new normal might seem like an opportunity for fresh thinking there is a risk that some of the bigger agencies revert to the previously unequal relationship where decisions are made about the third sector without their involvement. We must all work hard not to return to the silos, but instead maintain the true spirit of true and equitable partnerships.

Actions:

- *Build our relationship with South of Scotland Enterprise and the Regional Economic Partnership*
- *Continue to contribute to the community cohesion cell, both in its current and future format as appropriate.*
- *Participate in conversations around the development of health and social care home teams.*
- *Support community organisations to become anchor or pivotal organisations in the place-based approach*
- *Continue to support locality hubs and explore their relationship with the TSAP model.*
- *Establish an online platform for effective networking and collaboration across the third sector, including third sector forums and Chief Officers Group (COGITS).*
- *Develop and launch the DG Locator online tool.*
- *Use online tools to raise the profile of the third sector*
- *Work to maintain true and equitable partnerships with statutory agencies.*

2. Support

We are currently conducting research across the South of Scotland into the third sector's recovery plans in partnership with our TSI colleagues in the Scottish Borders.

As our methods of engagement develop and change so too will the skill set within our team. We are already taking steps to ensure that our team are best equipped to take new methods of working forward, with training and capacity building already underway. We are currently developing a new way of blended working for the whole team, which will embrace the new ways of working online as demands dictate.

We will build on the relationships we have established with our partners to ensure that there is no duplication of support and to ensure that all partners are clear on their role moving forward, allowing third sector organisations and communities to access the best

support from the appropriate place and recognising that no one organisation can be all things to all people. We will build on the partnership working that has been established to strengthen the work in communities so that they come out stronger and more resilient.

Actions:

- *Raise the profile of TSDG in relation to non-Covid related work.*
- *Re-establish our generic support package to third sector.*
- *Continue to engage with third sector organisations in relation to their recovery planning to determine what support they require.*
- *Develop and launch a package of online training and support, informed by our own market research.*
- *Re-establish our roadshow model, using online tools.*
- *Invest in developing the skill set of the TSDG team to ensure they can make best use of alternative methods of engagement using online tools*
- *Develop and introduce a blended model of working for TSDG, embracing office, home and remote working.*
- *Build on relationships with partners to strengthen communities and ensure there is no duplication of support.*

3. Volunteering

Volunteers actively involved in the Covid response will return to work, volunteer fatigue may increase and shielding and self-isolation will continue, all of which will impact the ability to volunteer both in relation to Covid and also in relation to the wider third sector as it re-emerges post Covid.

In recent months TSDG has been recognised as the lead organisation in recruiting and coordinating volunteers to support communities during the crisis. In the coming months we will be working to strengthen this role, working with volunteers and volunteer involving organisations to ensure that the requirement for volunteers is met and that the willingness of volunteers recruited during Covid can be sustained and shared across the wider third sector, leaving a positive legacy of volunteering in Dumfries and Galloway.

It will be important to understand the contribution that other partners want to and can play in supporting volunteering.

While Touch Base is needed we will continue to provide this volunteer-led service. Development of an exit strategy for Touch Base will be a priority before the end of the year.

Actions:

- *Develop and maintain TSDG's role as the lead organisation for recruiting and coordinating volunteers using all online tools including our new website*
- *Work with partners to establish a legacy for volunteering post-Covid that will benefit the wider third sector.*

- *Establish a joint understanding of the role that partner organisations can play in supporting volunteering.*
- *Create an exit strategy for Touch Base*

4. Funding

During the Covid crisis there has been a significant amount of funding available for third sector organisations to access, both at local and national level. TSDG has been instrumental in directing this funding locally and has built a great deal of knowledge in relation to the funds available. It will be important that we keep abreast of the changing funding landscape to ensure that Dumfries and Galloway continues to benefit from national funding streams and to ensure that the funding is used effectively. It is important that organisations do not face a cliff-edge when Covid related support is finished. We will also enhance our funding service by providing more analysis of funding in the region.

Actions:

- *Maintain a comprehensive understanding and analysis of the funding streams available to third sector organisations across Dumfries and Galloway and communicate this to the sector*
- *Work with and support third sector organisations to access and secure funding.*

CONCLUSION

Whilst the Covid crisis has undoubtedly impacted greatly on TSDG, the wider third sector and our partners, it is important that we learn from our experiences. We must take the positives from the past three months to shape the way that we work, building stronger and more equitable partnerships that will bring real benefits to the communities we work to support and helping to ensure that we can continue to improve the quality of life of the most disadvantaged and deprived people and communities in Dumfries and Galloway.



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 1 JULY 2020
COVID19 PANDEMIC – RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESTART**

Sector: Local Government

Contact name: Richard Grieveson

Email: richard.grieveson@dumgal.gov.uk

Telephone: 07712 666 856

1. Response

1.1 Key challenges and issues in relation to:

Service Delivery:

- Redesigning services at speed to deliver them in a different way e.g. school education; leisure and support; youth work, adult learning
- Resilience in home care provision
- New legislation and Regulations e.g. around environmental health; licensing

Staffing:

- Health and safety of frontline staff e.g. home carers; Social Workers; waste operatives; burials
- Managing the staff who are shielding /off sick/key workers
- Majority of staff cannot fulfil their role from home (e.g. roads maintenance; Streetscene; cleaners; libraries)

Finance:

- Additional costs of extending Free School Meals entitlement and Holiday Food Programme (DGC decision)
- Additional costs of supporting businesses (e.g. rent holidays)
- Loss of income – fees and charges (e.g. weddings, leisure, social care, school meals); suspension of C Tax Recovery
- Additional costs for PPE, additional cleaning and IT equipment

Vulnerable People

- Supporting people already experiencing poverty and inequalities (including e.g. zero hours contracts; women, Black and Ethnic Minorities) and new people never before needing assistance
- Supporting people experiencing Domestic abuse, Alcohol and Drug Misuse and new people previously unknown to agencies
- Ensuring children and shielding people have the right support in place
- Mental health a particular issues across minority Protected Characteristics

1.2 Five positive outcomes

- Clear common purpose
- Partnership approach with third sector organisations and local people volunteering
- New and creative approaches to communicating and engaging
- Accelerated digital solutions in all aspects of our work (access to services e.g. registration of births and deaths; democratic decision-making)
- Flexible approach to deployment of staff within Council and with partners

2. Recovery and Restart

2.1 Three key challenges and issues in relation to:

Service Delivery:

- Balancing citizen and business demand for easing of restrictions e.g. Waste Recycling Centres, Museums and Gallery openings with the need to keep people safe
- Balance between education and social work and all other services
- Enabling town centre recovery (e.g. co-ordinating road closures, licensing, environmental health)

Staffing:

- Retaining right level of 'COVID response'/management while returning to routine service delivery
- Phasing in the return to work bases
- Managing social distancing in workplaces

Finance:

- Additional cost of school delivery model
- Additional costs of redesigned services (e.g. smaller numbers in leisure facilities)
- Loss of income – Council Tax, Non-Domestic Rates, fees and charges, debtors

Vulnerable People

- Increased number of individuals and families needing support (financial poverty, newly unemployed)
- Increased number of local businesses needing support (understanding new Guidelines, selling in a different way)
- Tailored approaches to most vulnerable people at risk (elderly people, women, children, BME, LGBT, disabled people)

2.2 Three key lessons learned that will be continued

- Flexibility and responsiveness to priority issues
- Improved communications with partners, MPs and MSPs
- Co-ordination, analysis and reporting of research and information

3. Partnership working

- Develop joint working supporting local vulnerable people – enabling third sector organisations/H&SCP Home Teams/Ward Working
- Develop joint working with private sector and enterprise bodies – co-ordination of business support; future employment; town centre regeneration; maximise opportunities through South of Scotland Forum; Borderlands Inclusive Growth
- Joint lobbying to Scottish Government on funding and local needs
- Joint approach to research and analysis of impact on the region of COVID19 and lessons learned.

Background reports

Dumfries and Galloway Council – 26 June 2020

Response, Recovery and Restart (Item 11)

Financial Implications of COVID (Item 12)

Education Phasing Recovery Plan (item 13)

<https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=137&MId=4940&Ver=4>



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 1 JULY 2020
COVID19 PANDEMIC – RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESTART**

Sector: Housing

Sector Contact name: Matt Foreman

Email: matt.foreman@dghp.org.uk

Telephone: 07458 116308

1 Response

1.1 Three key challenges and issues in relation to:

Service Delivery:

- Increased number of customers struggling financially
- Increasing arrears for customers and an increase in customers needing support to access benefit advice (many of whom had not done so before)
- Increasing number of customers struggling to cope with increased costs of living at home including food, energy costs, and other items to support families
- Increased pressures on temporary accommodation and homelessness due to reduced ability to rehouse
- Increased incidents of ASB with limited ability to resolve cases through home visits

Staffing:

- Supporting flexible working to help with responsibilities with children whilst at home
- Ability for staff to work from home for an extended period of time. Initial response was excellent but becomes more challenging to sustain
- Support for mental wellbeing of team dealing with some difficult circumstances with customers and at home

Finance:

- Reduced income from customers unable to pay rent due to UC payment processing or awaiting furlough payments
- Provision of EatWell Project required investment upfront to meet customer need quickly through food deliveries

Vulnerable People

- Regular contact made with targeting for most vulnerable customers. DGHP have proactively made over 30,000 contacts with customers over last 12 weeks
- Lack of digital access for some customers reduces support available
- Increasingly complex cases with mental health and addictions becoming more prevalent as restrictions remained in place, putting increased strain on services

1.2 Three positive benefits/outcomes

- Improved relationship with customers we have contacted and flexibly provided help and support and with strategic partners working together to solve issues
- We have moved our digital skills and delivery models at pace compared to corporate strategy
- Opportunity to change what we do going forward and not just revert back to what we used to do

2 Recovery and Restart

2.1 Three key challenges and issues in relation to:

Service Delivery:

- Need to repair vacant homes quickly and make available for letting to homelessness households and other households in urgent need for rehousing
- Approach to gain access to complete gas serving and other compliance works in homes will become important as shielding restrictions are lifted
- Managing the pace to start delivering services in customers homes against the increasing customer expectations. Communications becomes increasingly important for the coming months – challenges with materials pipeline and construction services
- Ensuring smooth restart of construction services including availability of materials in supply chain may present some challenges

Staffing:

- Managing expectations that we are not going to remobilise immediately and home working for many will remain the norm
- Helping to provide reassurance and clarity around schooling arrangements in future. Providing flexible working and support to enable parenting/home schooling alongside homeworking
- Ensuring we have enough PPE to remobilise services over the coming weeks and months

Finance:

- Continued focus on support to access benefits for customers. Significant concern that once the furlough scheme ends, we could see a second wave of customers impacted financially through reduced hours and job losses
- Challenge to manage financial impact for individual households and customers. During lockdown, some customers have not paid or engaged with available support despite significant efforts to do so from housing providers. The Housing Sector, working with Government, will need to consider how to deal with large number of cases and arrears that would normally have progressed for legal action at this stage of non-payment and non-engagement by customers

- Ensuring Housing remains a key priority for future funding to deliver new homes, regeneration of areas and more supported housing. This will be in a changed context nationally with more competing pressures on budgets

Vulnerable People

- Clarity on approach and level of support for customers that have been self-isolating/shielding if support removed as restrictions lifted
- Ensuring we adapt our model and continue to use technology to support customers
- Ensuring we manage the changes carefully with customers and communities and have clear routes of communication for vulnerable customers

2.2 Three key lessons learned that will be continued:

- The partnership approach in D&G has been excellent. At a time of real crisis the agencies were extremely supportive. Working together to focus on our communities
- Communities across D&G are very resilient and resourceful in the main and often just need support to help themselves, not just direct intervention
- The delivery model for housing services is likely to change to a blended model of home working, community working and home working

Partnership working

Issues where partnership working is required in the future:

- With increased pressure on more complex cases with mental health and addictions we need to ensure our current service provision is sufficient as the need increases
- Need to work together in the longer term to make sure the region has a coherent financial recovery plan that moves beyond just recovery but considers any opportunities to increase the population as people realise they can work from home more
- Opportunity for Housing to work with the Council and other partners to review pressure points such as Rapid Rehousing Pathways and other models of Care and Support that could help reduce the pressure on statutory services
- Consider how we work together to improve digital access across the region as digital service provision increases across all sectors

Background reports

(please insert hyperlinks to websites; key reports/materials)



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 1 JULY 2020
COVID19 PANDEMIC – RESPONSE, RECOVERY AND RESTART**

Sector: Transport

Sector Contact name: Douglas Kirkpatrick

Email: douglas.kirkpatrick@dumgal.gov.uk

Telephone: 01387 260136

1. Response

1.1 Key challenges and issues in relation to:

Local Bus:

From mid-March 2020, the UK Government were advising against non-essential travel. On 23 March 2020, the Prime Minister announced measures which included an instruction that travel would only be allowed for limited essential purposes.

Operator deliverability issues materialised at a greater rate than sectoral guidance or the financial support for businesses/citizens were announced. A number of operators informed SWestrans and Dumfries and Galloway Council of their decision to reduce services as they could not deliver the normal level of service due to a daily reduction in staff availability, issues with the supply of components and consumables, and much reduced patronage (impact of reduced fares before Govt. support was announced both in terms of income and outgoings).

Across the region there has been a reduction in local bus service levels (based on operator deliverability and national decision to discourage the usage of public transport).

Whilst the demand for public transport was very low in the response stage, a level of service/form of transport was vital for essential journeys by key workers and for access to services such as supermarkets and pharmacies. For Dumfries and Galloway this presented challenges, as larger bus companies made a decision nationally to default to their Sunday service level. This has a greater impact in rural regions where Sunday service levels are poorer, resulting in challenges to overcome.

Staffing:

- There are limited numbers of qualified bus drivers across the region and a proportion are in a shielding category. Staff absence was therefore high and caused deliverability issues.
- Health and safety of staff is paramount. Staff being public facing and potentially encountering a high number of people meant that this was challenging. Conflicting information on risk and safety measures and changing guidance added to this challenge.
- Retention of employees has been a focus in the decisions taken locally as well as nationally. This has been successful in the Response phase but the risks may have been delayed until the Recovery and Restart phase.

Finance:

The Scottish Government agreed to provide bus operators with additional financial assistance to maintain essential services. This was intended to offset the impact that reduced demand was having on the viability of local services for key workers and to protect the industry for the future. Concessionary travel reimbursement and Bus Service Operator Grant payments have been maintained at the levels forecasted prior to the impact of CV19. Operators continue to receive additional payments matching the difference between actual payments and those previously forecasted levels. This arrangement is being kept under review.

In line with Government advice on payment options for public bodies SWestrans has taken positive action to support our suppliers during the CV19 outbreak by initially paying for local bus contracts at a 100% rate up to 10 May 2020.

This support was provided to:

- meet contractual requirements;
- ensure staff were retained;
- assist in maintaining the financial viability of our suppliers; and
- to enable a resumption of normal service once the outbreak is over.

The Government also provided a number of support packages to assist businesses and has issued guidance on payment options for public bodies through a Scottish Procurement Policy Note (SSPN 5/2020). SWestrans, with assistance from Dumfries and Galloway Council, undertook a review in line with this guidance to determine and agree a modified interim payment rate for local bus contracts with suppliers.

The completed review agreed modified interim payment rates with suppliers for contracts ranging from 90% to 100% with effect from 11 May 2020. Suppliers agreed to operate on an 'open book' basis and are prepared to make available to the SWestrans, on request, any data, including that from ledgers, cash-flow forecasts, balance sheets and profit and loss accounts. Payment is predicated on staff being retained, for the period covered by payment, and paid and payment in the supply chain to ensure cash flow and supplier survival.

Vulnerable People:

- A number of protected characteristics tend to be more reliant on public transport (younger people, older people, women, people with disabilities) and therefore the reduction in service may have disproportionately affected their essential journeys.
- Reduction of bus journeys is thought to have a greater impact on low income families associated with their greater reliance on public transport. They may also have had less opportunities to use private vehicles to make essential trips, as well as possibly having to make more essential trips to shop as less financially able to do large shops.
- Despite some mitigation measures in place, some vulnerable groups, such as people who are older or who have learning disabilities, may have found some information about travel and transport services complex. The fast-pace of service changes, sometimes inconsistent between transport modes and operators, and limited resource meant that the changing information was not publicised across all usual communication methods.
- For those living in remote rural areas, the limited number of journeys pre-COVID 19 meant any reduction would make meaningful trip to services extremely difficult. Dumfries and Galloway Council ensured that their service timetables in deep rural areas and connecting outlying communities has remained at pre-COVID 19 levels. SWestrans has worked closely with local operators to amalgamate services and change services at short notice to serve as many communities as possible.

1.2 Positive benefits/outcomes

Cross-working between partners

Maintained a level of strategically necessary bus and rail services. Continuing to run these services enabled many key essential workers to continue to travel to and from work at this challenging time.

SWestrans has worked with Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS, Third Sector transport operators and commercial transport operators to help get workers and the public to where they needed to be. This was an achievement given the situation and resources available. Together public transport has operated throughout the Response period and followed Government's lead on doing so safely for staff and passengers.

Where it could not be met within public transport timetables, partners worked together to provide for essential transport needs. Alternative transport arrangements put in place, in partnership with the NHS, for health workers on an individual basis where required. Provided alternative transport for families and individuals who

needed to access health services without public transport and could not access public transport.

Operator willingness

Operator willingness to adapt their services to regional transport needs varied. However, the large majority have been extremely helpful and accommodating, and their efforts have reinforced that our local bus and taxi operators are part of the communities in which they serve.

Network sustainability

Responding to COVID-19 has had a profound impact on all parts of the transport network and has placed significant financial and delivery pressures on operators and commissioners. Elements of the network were in a fragile position prior to the epidemic and will undoubtedly continue to be so in the Recovery and Restart phases. However, the work undertaken across a number of partners has ensured that the transport network is in a position to enter the Recover phase.

2. Recovery and Restart

2.1 Transport Transition Plan

The Scottish Government has recently published the Transport Transition Plan which sets out how transport will fit into the national Route Map for easing existing CV19 restrictions.

The Transport Transition Plan states that during Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Route Map, physical distancing will be applied to Public Transport and will still be a consideration for Phase 4.

At the time of writing we are in Phase 2 which allows for public transport services to be increased. To this end discussions are underway with all our local operators to see what bus services can be reintroduced with a focus on journeys for work and schools. A number of services are increasing the week beginning 29 June 2020. A further iteration of bus services to be increased soon after (by the following week) with journey frequency and timetable still to be finalised with operators. Rail operators are working to an agreed staged return in partnership with Transport Scotland and the Department for Transport (for services that call at Lockerbie).

A fully integrated Transport and Travel model will be needed locally to address the restart challenges. The model will embed the national Travel Hierarchy in our decision making and will promote walking, wheeling, cycling, public transport and shared transport options in preference to single occupancy private car use for the movement of people.

2.2 Key challenges and issues:

Network Fragility

The region's economic and social recovery from COVID-19 will only be successful if appropriate transport and travel provision is in place to facilitate all stages of recovery and restart.

The current understanding is that the local bus network is unlikely to emerge in the format it was operating pre-COVID and will be subject to physical distancing for some time (subject to national guidance). SWestrans are, and will continue to, maintain a high level of frequent dialogue with operators to understand the ongoing situation and where possible facilitate the return to full-service levels.

A number of immediate and ongoing issues/challenges have been identified by the SWestrans Board and these have provided a framework in which officers can progress discussions with partners and suppliers to meet the transport needs of our residents as we continue the recovery phase from CV19.

School Transport

Due to complex nature of the bus network and the relationship between all elements of bus service delivery (commercially operated local bus services, subsidised local bus services, community transport, school transport), negative impacts to one element from the COVID-19 Response can impact on the whole network.

School transport has the potential to be the single biggest demand on our sparse bus resources across the region. At the time of writing we are awaiting clearer guidance from the Scottish Government regarding the recent announcement on the return to schools. Therefore, the level of local bus provision will largely depend on how transport facilitates the education model.

A great deal of detailed planning work is currently underway at pace for the restart of schools in August 2020 and this will be fed into the ongoing discussions with operators later this month with the intention of increasing services on the local bus network as soon as possible.

Community and Social Transport

The emergency response to CV19 has highlighted the extreme hardship that some of our residents are suffering and it is clear that the lack of access to services is a significant barrier for improving the wellbeing and prospects of these residents. Therefore, there will need to be a particular focus on how to manage and deliver need-based transport solutions within communities for health and social care, schools and to ensure that these most vulnerable residents within our region can access the essential services they require.

A meeting of the Public Social Partnership (PSP) Steering Group was held on 4 June 2020 to discuss the significant challenges to the sector and agree a road map on how Community Transport could become a key delivery element of the overarching model.

Working to an unknown future

Given changes to employment practices and travel behaviour, transport Recovery and Restart is trying to address an unknown demand both locally and nationally.

Preparing, reacting and delivering on an ever-changing policy environment and the associated guidance is resulting in an increased and challenging workload. Across all sectors we are working to an unknown future and timetable – timing of phases of recovery are necessarily unclear and the possibility of immediate return to local/regional or national lockdown does not provide business certainty.

SWestrans is working closely with all companies to action and implement the recently published Scottish Government CV19 guidance for transport operators.

There is transport input across various partner workstreams to implement the Scottish Government CV19 guidance for the travelling public across all modes.

The current requirement for 2m physical distancing reduces capacity to be between 10% and 25% of “normal” capacity and as we move through the Route Map phases any potential reduction to 1m for example will have a fundamental impact on demand for transport which will need to be managed.

Active Travel

Intervention measures are required to lock-in the recent increase in walking/cycling and to aid public safety and physical distancing. This will aid the recovery of our economic centres and contribute to our climate change commitments.

For schools and town centres in a rural area such as Dumfries and Galloway, one of the biggest challenges will be the impact the crisis will have on public and school transport both in terms of capacity and attitudes towards use. We must ensure that any associated uptake of unsustainable travel modes to facilitate this displaced travel demand is minimised.

In April 2020, the Scottish Government announced a £10m fund to support the recovery effort by providing temporary walking, cycling and wheeling space during CV19 restrictions – the ‘Spaces for People Fund’ (SfP) which is being administered by Sustrans. The fund is to also to facilitate the creation of safe spaces for local businesses and town centres to attract back customers who feel safe while moving around and queueing.

To achieve this, work across a number of partners is ongoing to facilitate safe and encouraging environments to walk and wheel where reasonable. This work is being

led by Dumfries and Galloway Council who have been successful in securing 'Spaces for People' funding.

Staffing:

Much of the staffing issues experienced in the Response stage are still applicable in the Recovery and Restart phase. Additional staffing complexity regarding compliance with rules in place for the travelling public (most notably the compulsory wearing of face coverings and limited patronage capacity associated with required social distancing).

Finance:

The full extent of the financial impact of Response and financial implications for Recovery and Restart are being assessed at this stage. Transport operator finances have been, and will continue to, be heavily impacted by the reduction in patronage, both on transport network work and private hire work. The financial support to maintain operator and network viability is ongoing and under regular review. National financial sectoral support needs to be rural-proofed as it may have unintended consequences.

Vulnerable People:

Those hardest hit by poor transport provision impacts on all the region – poor transport provision not purely a transport problem to solve – economic development, health and social care, opportunities for young people, social isolation issues for older people etc.

In particular, the arrangements to meet equality legislation around accessibility is a significant challenge that needs consideration, given the restraints on access arrangements and vehicle capacity. Furthermore, the impact on wider public safety measures are having negative impacts for those with certain disabilities (i.e. those with impaired hearing can no longer lip read when staff wear face masks).

2.2 Three key lessons learned that will be continued

- Transport is integral to the economic and social wellbeing of the region and will be a critical element in achieving a successful recovery.
- Partnership working across the commercial, statutory and voluntary sectors is possible and the continued involvement of all sectors will be key to the delivery of a transport network.
- There is a real need for individuals in all areas of our region to access essential services and without an affordable transport option these individuals face extreme challenges. Flexible needs-based transport options are required and will need to be appropriately funded.

3. **Partnership working**

Issues where partnership working is required in the future

- Partnership working and financial support required to deliver a sustainable transport network that delivers for the region. This work has started with the Council's Transformation work and PSP model. Transport and travel are important to the region's recovery and restart
- To recognise the impacts that service reductions/changes will have across our region and to mitigate these.
- Ensuring that travel is safe for the public (whether on transport or walking and cycling) and to maximise opportunities around increased walking and cycling, place making and achieving climate change commitments

Background reports

(please insert hyperlinks to websites; key reports/materials)

- Scotland COVID-19 Transport Transition Plan
<https://www.transport.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/transport-transition-plan/>
- Sustrans 'Spaces for People' Fund
<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/our-blog/projects/2020/scotland/spaces-for-people-making-essential-travel-and-exercise-safer-during-coronavirus/>
- Public Transport and Travel Transformation Event
https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/media/22077/Transformation-News-Public-Transport-and-Travel/pdf/0196-19_Public_Transport_Travel_Newspaper.pdf?m=637091659864030000



**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
WORK PROGRAMME 2020**

Meeting	Agenda items	Additional attendees
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LOIP and Locality Plan Annual Reports 2019/20 • Antisocial Behaviour Strategy 2020-2024 • Dumfries and Galloway Climate Change Emergency Action Plan • Annual Reports from Partnerships and Plans that support the LOIP • COVID19 Recovery and Restart 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dumfries and Galloway CPP Board Improvement Plan Annual Report • Scottish Community Planning Improvement Board • Updates on current key Strategic issues (focussed on 10,000 Voices) • COVID19 Recovery and Restart 	<p>Youth Council including MSYPs</p> <p>Community Planning Improvement Board representative</p>

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD - PROGRAMME FOR 2020

1. Background

This report updates members on the Community Planning Partnership Board's current programme of work and meeting arrangements for 2020.

2. Key issues

2.1 The Board at its meeting on 16 November 2019 agreed its forward plan for 2020; and that the meetings during 2020 should be a workshop format, with a wider range of partnerships participating in the discussions. The forward programme includes an annual meeting with the Youth Council, which was agreed in June 2019.

2.2 The COVID emergency and Guidelines for social distancing have meant that the Workshop format has not been able to take place; and the demands on all organisations and Board members has changed the scheduling, content and format of this meeting.

2.3 Consideration will be given to the format of the next meetings, taking into account the COVID Guidelines which apply at that time. The involvement of a wider group of participants will be accommodated if possible.

3. Recommendations

The CPP Board is invited to agree the Board meeting arrangements and programme for 2020.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager
24 June 2020

Appendices – 1

1 –programme for CPP Board meetings for 2020 as at 24 June 2020