

## Dates of 2021 Meetings

12 March

11 June

10 September

12 November

# DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Meeting on Friday 12 November

10am – 12.30pm

The Bridge, Glasgow Road, Dumfries DG2 9AW 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)
- Hugh Carr** - Dumfries and Galloway Further and Higher  
Education Sector
- 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
- John Dougan** - Vice Chair  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Laura Douglas** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Maureen Dowden** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
- Professor Russel Griggs** - Chair  
South of Scotland Enterprise
- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)
- Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector

- Helen Keron** - Chair  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Craig McGoldrick** - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Service, Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Carol McGuire** - Local Commander, Police Scotland,  
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Jane Maitland** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Jane Morrison-Ross** - Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise (advisor)
- Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)
- Andrew Wood** - Chairman  
SWestrans

**Dates of Meetings 2021****12 March 11 June 10 September 12 November****DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD****FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2021  
10am – 12.30pm  
The Bridge and By MS Teams  
AGENDA**

- 10.00am 1. DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2021 (attached)**
- 10.05am 2. COVID RESPONSE, RENEWAL AND RECOVERY UPDATE (attached); AND DISCUSSION GROUPS ON WORKFORCE STRATEGY**
- 10.35am 3. THIRD SECTOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY BUSINESS PLAN (presentation)**
- 10.55am 4. PLACE – LOCALITY PLANNING UPDATE (attached)**
- 11.05am 5. KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS – UPDATES (attached)**
- 11.20am 6. LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND LOCALITY PLAN ANNUAL REPORTS 2020/21 (attached)**
- 11.40am 7. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPROVEMENT BOARD (attached) – DISCUSSION GROUPS**
- 12.10pm 8. BUSINESS BRIEFING – NOVEMBER 2021 (attached)**
- 12.15pm 9. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN (attached)**
- 12.25pm 10. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FORWARD PROGRAMME (attached)**
- 12.30pm CLOSE**



**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
Friday 10 September 2021 at 10am  
Easterbrook Hall, Bankend Road, Dumfries and by MS Teams**

**Present**

- Elaine Murray** - Leader  
(Chair) Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Ian Carruthers** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Derek Crichton** - Director Communities  
(*substitute*) Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)
- Laura Douglas** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- John Henderson** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector  
(*substitute*)
- Helen Keron** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector
- Craig McGoldrick** - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,  
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Carol McGuire** - Local Commander, Police Scotland  
Dumfries and Galloway Division (advisor)
- Jane Maitland** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Nick Morris** - Chair  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Jane Morrison- Ross** - Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise (advisor)
- Gavin Stevenson** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council (advisor)

**Valerie White** - Director of Public Health  
(*substitute*) NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)

**Andrew Wood** - Chairman  
SWestrans

### Apologies

**Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)

**Hugh Carr** - Dumfries and Galloway Further and Higher Education Sector

**Colin Cook** - Location Director for Dumfries and Galloway  
Scottish Government (observer)

**Rob Davidson** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council

**John Dougan** - Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

**Maureen Dowden** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector

**Professor Russel Griggs** - South of Scotland Enterprise

**Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (advisor)

**Sheena Horner** - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector

### In attendance

**Joanna Campbell** - Principal and CEO Dumfries & Galloway College (Item 3)

**Serena Dunlop** - Covid -19 Response, Renewal and Recovery Team Dumfries  
and Galloway Council (Item 2)

**Simon Fieldhouse** - Environment Manager (item 4)

**Richard Grieveson** - Chief Officer, RRR (Item 2)

**Stephen Jack** - Lifelong Learning Manager

**Annie Johnson** - Covid – 19 RRR Team (Item 2)

**Kirsty Peden** - Community Engagement Manager (Item 2)

**Mark Thomson** - Covid – 19 RRR Team (item 2)

**13 members present, including 6 advisors, from 11 partners.**

The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting

## **1. DRAFT MINUTE OF MEETING OF DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD ON 12 JUNE 2021**

1.1 **APPROVED** as a correct record

1.2 **AGREED** that Workforce Development Planning be discussed at the November meeting, particularly in the context of Covid Recovery and the co-ordination/synergies of the Regional Economic Strategy and the Health and Social Care Plan

**ACTION: RRR CHIEF OFFICER**

## **2. COVID RESPONSE, RENEWAL AND RECOVERY**

### 2.1 Current Status and Response

#### 2.1.1

- **AGREED** the Partnership needs to take urgent collective action to increase the workforce in both the private and public sector and **ENDORSED** the Workforce Summit.
- **RECOGNISED** the longer term challenge of the area's population and demographics, compounded by the UK's exit from the EU and Covid Pandemic and **AGREED** that as part of our Population 155 Project there are reports from each organisation about what they can do to support growth of population in the longer term, and to identify short term solutions to critical areas.
- **AGREED** that 'Workforce' is a priority in the CPP Covid Recovery Plan and that the Workforce discussion at the next meeting includes understanding the consequences and challenges to communities, modelling and multi-agency response to identify options available and actions required.

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER RRR**

#### 2.2.2 **NOTED** the current status of the pandemic.

- Case numbers saw a peak on 27 August of 653 per 100,000 which is higher than peak in January.; number of people requiring hospital and critical care and outbreaks are being managed locally.
- Vaccination uptake has been exceptional, thanks to the huge amount of work by partners.
- 13 static community testing sites across the region which do lateral flow tests for asymptomatic symptoms supported by 2 mobile testing unit; last week alone, 3000 packs of 7 lateral flow tests were handed out which equates to 21,000 tests ; supporting local businesses to test their staff e.g., Stena, DG Pride event
- Horizon scanning for wider challenges taking place to include the winter months, to ensure we can provide key lifeline services over the coming months
- Two ongoing consultations from Scottish Government –Self Isolation Support grant scheme extension and mainstreaming on legislative measures for any future pandemics or future issues related to Covid..

**ACTION: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/CHIEF OFFICER RRR**

2.2.3 **NOTED** and commented on the Response to Covid update report.

### 2.3 Recovery Plan

2.3.1 **NOTED** and commented on progress of the COVID Recovery Plan to date;

- Draft Recovery Plan is a dynamic document which will evolve, and importance of Lead Officers will help engage the pace of change. Once lead officers are assigned they will work with partners to identify achievable timescales at pace and Recovery Plan will align with review of all the strategies and plans.
- **AGREED** to widen workforce issues as Recovery Plan Objective 1 focusses on employment opportunities for younger people and include a workforce summit within the Plan
- **HIGHLIGHTED** recovery has to be done within existing resources and to identify the top 5 objectives which are most critical
- Strategic framework with emerging themes e.g., equity of opportunity for the population, inequalities and deprivation of particular communities, and workforce issues including population support and growth issues already agreed. Top 5 priorities should sit within this framework to get more tailored action with immediate impact.
- **ENSURE** communication and engagement with communities is critical to support delivery of the plan and details will be brought before the CPP Board.
- **NOTED** Ministerial interest and informing ministers together with help, support and direction of the Board are key to driving forward the Recovery Plan.

2.3.2 **ASKED** all partners to consider nominated lead officers to deliver early actions within the next 2 weeks.

2.3.3 **AGREED** the Covid- 19 Recovery Plan as set out in paragraph 1.3 and the Appendix with discussed amendments

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER RRR**

### 3. DIGITAL PARTICIPATION CHARTER **AGREED**

3.1 that Community Planning Partnership Board member organisations be invited to sign up to Scotland's Digital Participation Charter.

3.2 that the College would explore potential digital collaboration opportunities with other Community Planning partners, building on the new Digital Skills Hub.

3.3 a progress report on digital collaboration be brought to a future meeting.

**ACTION: DAGCOL PRINCIPAL AND LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER, DGC**

**12 members present, including 5 advisors, from 11 partners**

#### **4. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY CLIMATE EMERGENCY UPDATE**

4.1 **NOTED** range of activities by partners around the Climate Change agenda;

4.2 **ALSO NOTED** the development of a Citizens' Panel to engage with citizens across the region around the Council's work on Climate Change.

4.3 **AGREED** to encourage community planning partners to promote the net zero ambition within their organisations through engagement in the Regional Stakeholders Group being established by the Council; and .

4.4 **AGREED** Board members be advised of the six individual communities identified in the report

**ACTION: ENVIRONMENT MANAGER, DGC**

#### **5. BUSINESS BRIEFING – SEPTEMBER 2021**

**NOTED** the position of the issues in the report; and in particular

- Professor Malcolm Foley appointed as the Chair of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership for 2021 – 23;
- The Community Planning Executive Group scrutinised the Children's Services Executive Group's Annual Report and agreed their arrangements be updated, which has resulted in the Group being renamed as the Children's Services Strategy and Planning Partnership and chaired by Jim Brown, the Council's Head of Education and Chief Education Officer with refreshed Terms of Reference;
- **AGREED** the updated Community Planning Risk register
- Dumfries and Galloway is one of the first areas to welcome an Afghan family in the Locally Employed People Scheme and **AGREED** to support participation in the new wider Afghan Citizens Scheme
- Partner engagement around locality/Place planning is developing well

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

#### **6. KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS – UPDATES**

**NOTED** the updates from the Key Plans and Strategies that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as follows:

##### **6.1 Children's Services Plan**

**NOTED**

##### **6.2 Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan**

**NOTED**

##### **6.3 Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan**

**NOTED** the input from Community Planning Partners into the development of the new CLD Plan and that the final plan will be brought to the next CPPB meeting for endorsement.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**



**6.4 COVID Recovery Plan**

**NOTED** (see also Item 2)

**6.5 Employability and Skills Plan**

**NOTED**

**6.6 Health and Social Care Strategic Plan**

**NOTED** and reiterated the point made at 1.2 that the new Strategic Plan must be complementary to other Plans and Strategies, particularly the new Regional Economic Strategy in relation to workforce issues.

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

**6.7 Local Child Poverty Action Report**

**NOTED**

**6.8 Local Development Plan 2**

**NOTED**

**6.9 Local Housing Strategy**

**NOTED**

**6.10 Poverty and Inequality Strategy**

**NOTED**

**6.11 Regional Transport Strategy**

**NOTED** the Strategy is due for renewal.

**6.12 South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy**

**NOTED** the Strategy had been agreed by the Regional Economic Partnership and would be shared with the CPP Board.

**7. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – FORWARD PROGRAMME**

7.1 **AGREED** the Board meeting arrangements and programme as set out in the Appendix, with the additional of Workforce Issues and Digital Collaboration as agreed during this meeting.

7.2 **NOTED** the proposal to have the joint meeting with the Youth Council in October, with a focus on the Youth Council's work and mental health and wellbeing, including suicide prevention.

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

Item 2**REFOCUSING OUR RECOVERY - DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP COVID-19 RECOVERY  
PLAN****1. Background**

1.1 The Refocusing our Recovery report provides in summary, progress made since the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board on 10 September 2021 and recommendations made at the meeting in relation to the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan.

1.2 At the Community Planning Partnership Board meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September the CPPB considered the Covid-19 Recovery Plan Report and draft Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan.

1.3 The Report outlined steps in the development of the draft Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan and recommended how we can take forward Recovery as a collective endeavour.

1.4 Feedback from the Board was enthusiastic and offered clear direction for the future development of the CPP Covid Recovery Plan, this included:

- Identification of Lead Officers
- Timescales for delivery of each action
- Top 5 Recovery Priorities

1.5 The Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan has been redesigned to reflect this feedback and demonstrates clear responsibility to emerging Recovery Priorities. Whilst initial Lead Officers have been identified, it is recognised that they are almost exclusively Council or NHS Officers and there is perhaps further opportunity to broaden the range of partners supporting this work.

1.6 The updated Covid Recovery Plan has been developed in collaboration with the identified Lead Officers drawing out Recovery Actions aligned with CPP Recovery Objectives, highlighting:

- Local and National Context
- Emerging Recovery Priorities aligned to each current Strategy / Plan
- Identified Lead Officer for each Strategy / Plan
- Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions – New or existing contribution to Recovery
- Identified Timescales associated to each Recovery Action
- Contribution to each of the agreed CPPB Recovery Objectives

1.7 CPPB also highlighted the importance of engagement as we develop our local approach to recovery. Dumfries and Galloway Council is currently holding

Community Conversations, engaging with citizens, customers, partners, and staff to understand:

- *What do people want to see in the future?*
- *What do they want to do in the future?*

1.8 The initial findings of the Engagement Programme will be reported to the Dumfries and Galloway Council RRR Sub Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> October highlighting thematic areas for recovery. Materials from this Engagement Programme and other engagement exercises over the past 128 months can also inform the Dumfries and Galloway CPP Covid Recovery Plan.

## **2. Key issues**

2.1 The Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan is complex by nature due to the requirement for recovery on multiple levels.

2.2 To promote positive discussion and challenge in the progress towards Recovery for Dumfries and Galloway. It is proposed the Executive Group and CPPB focus on the following Local Recovery Priorities:

1. Employability and Education
2. Workforce Challenges
3. Place – Community resilience
4. Digital
5. Personal Resilience

2.3 On a scheduled basis the Executive Group would consider one of the above Recovery Priorities. Shaping the future by identifying key contributions to the Community Planning Partnership Recovery Objectives and maximising opportunities to deliver the specific Recovery Priority.

2.4 This activity would be supported by the Council's RRR Team, ensuring engagement with Lead Officers continues to be productive and collaborative.

2.5 To monitor progress towards the Local Recovery Priorities outlined in paragraph 2.2 the RRR Team will develop specific Implementation Plans to support the delivery of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Recovery Plan.

2.6 At the last meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Board a detailed discussion took place in regard to escalating workforce pressures across the partnership. As detailed at 2.2 above Workforce is identified as a key priority area to develop a focussed multi agency approach.

2.7 There are currently a significant number of workforce pressures across key, lifeline services at present. Staffing pressures have been exacerbated by consequence of COVID. This has led to a reduced workforce in both frontline and support services across the partnership. Many of these services directly support our

most vulnerable communities and therefore the development of multi agency solutions is a priority.

### 2.8 Workforce Pressures – Health & Social Care

The Health & Social Care sector is facing significant challenges in having sufficient resources to meet unmet need specific to Care at Home packages. Recruitment and retention of the staff required to deliver these care packages has been highlighted as the most significant challenge, whilst recognising that high levels of unmet need has an impact on the wider Health and Social Care system, for example increasing the numbers of delayed discharges from Hospitals.

At the request of the Chief Executives of Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway, a Task Group, working in parallel with the DGC group, chaired by the Chief Officer RRR has also been established specific to these lifeline services to consider a range of immediate approaches to increasing recruitment and retention within the Care at Home sphere.

The H&SC Task group identified that a targeted recruitment process in the coming weeks via a series of recruitment roadshows at which candidates will be able to undertake a fast-track application and interview process is was an appropriate early step to address these challenges. Taking this approach will provide a supportive and proactive environment for prospective candidates to express an interest and significantly reduce the timescales in applying for a post within the Health & Social Care CASS team.

A Pilot Event was scheduled for Monday 25 October at the Bridge in Dumfries, specific to recruitment for Care at Home. This activity was supported by a targeted communications and marketing campaign which included;

- Radio Adverts
- Newspaper Adverts
- Social Media
- Leaflets / Flyers / pop up displays

The pilot recruitment event was a success with over 30 individuals in attendance and 19 conditional offers of employment being made. Critical, further engagement with Third Sector and Independent Private Sector providers to ensure a sector wide approach to future recruitment events is ongoing. The key aim is to identify new individuals to the sector.

2.9 In addition to the Health and Social Care sector, the Community Planning Partnership Board are invited to discuss and direct the work in relation to this topic by identifying other service areas where a joint multi agency approach to workforce recruitment can be taken forward as an action that brings about improvement.

## 3. Next steps

3.1 Scottish Government published the Covid Recovery Strategy for a Fairer Future on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 [covid-recovery-strategy-fairer-future.pdf](https://www.scotland.nhs.uk/media/123456/covid-recovery-strategy-fairer-future.pdf).

The Strategy recognises and builds on a number of areas of work already in progress and other studies, including the Calls to Action developed by the Social Renewal Advisory Board.

3.2 The need for Recovery to be a “Collective Endeavour” involving Government, Public, Private Voluntary and Third Sectors. Communities is embedded throughout the Strategy.

3.3 It is clear from the Strategy that Government acknowledge the key role CPPs have in taking forward Recovery locally and recognise the importance of the work undertaken to date as well as the ongoing role for CPPs in COVID Recovery.

3.4 Scottish Government have confirmed their intention to establish joint oversight of the COVID Recovery Policy Programme and associated measures of progress to capture and better understand Recovery activity being undertaken both locally via CPPs and constituent organisations as well as the range of National activities. It is expected that further details of this framework will be published in Dec 2021. Details of this will be reported to CPEG / CPP thereafter.

3.5 A summary of this has been added to the National Context section of the Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan for completeness.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Board is invited to:

- 4.1 note progress made since last update to Community Planning Partnership Board
- 4.2 approve Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership COVID Recovery Plan
- 4.3 note the development and introduction of specific Implementation Plan aligned to each Local Recovery Priority
- 4.4 note the publication of the Scottish Government’s COVID Recovery Strategy, the role of CPPs in this and the intention to publish further details of oversight arrangements in Dec 2021
- 4.5 Provide direction by identifying service areas where a joint multi agency approach to workforce recruitment can be taken forward as an action that brings about improvement

Serena Dunlop, Directorate Business Manager, Response, Renew and Recovery Team

3 November 2021

#### **Appendix**

1 DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN



# **‘Refocusing our Recovery’**

Dumfries and Galloway

Community Planning Partnership Covid Recovery Plan

As at 8 November 2021

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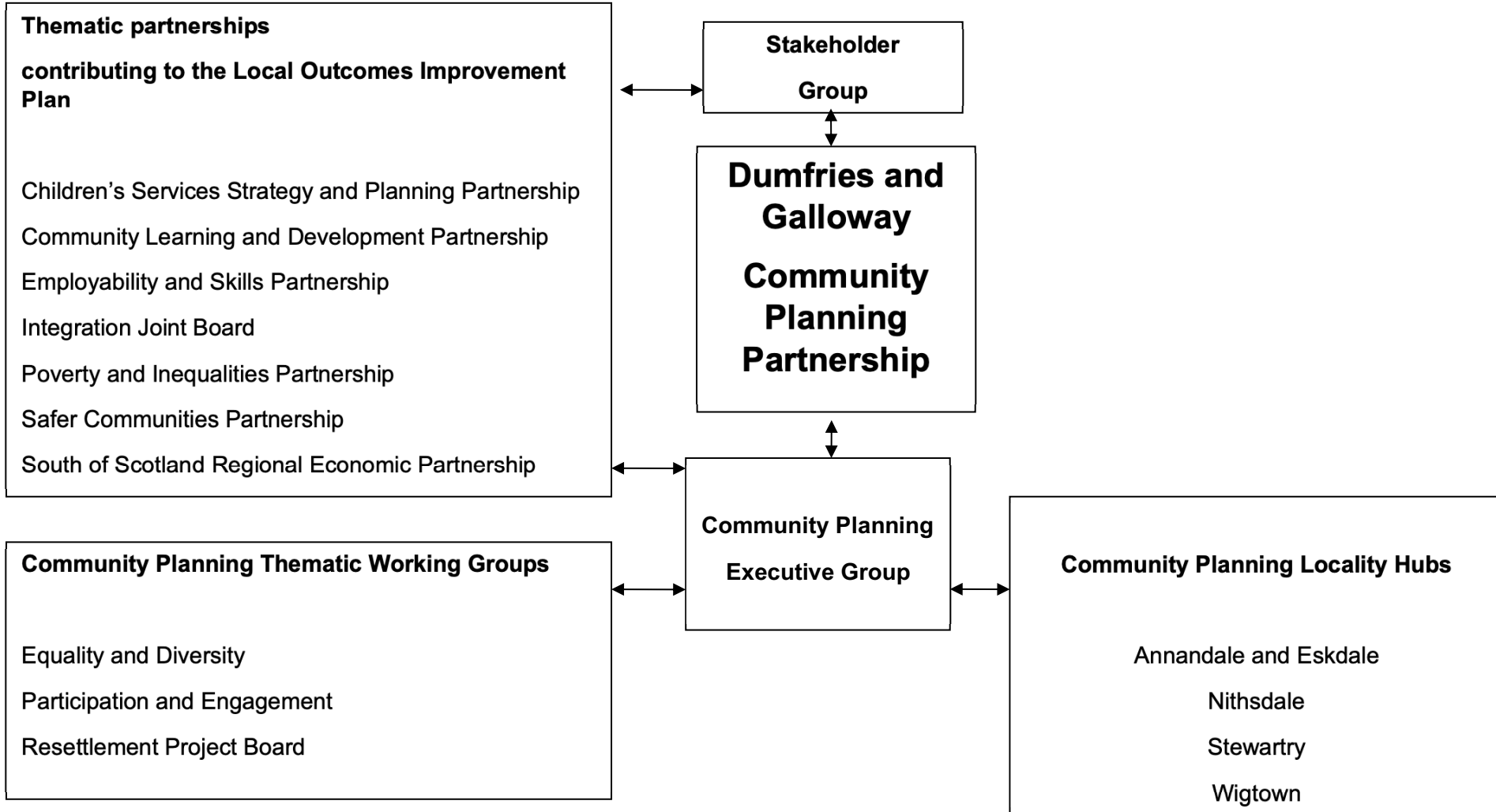
## Local Context

Community Planning Executive Group initiated a rapid review and challenge of existing Community Planning Partnership Strategies and Plans to identify those actions which need to be accelerated or introduced, to support Recovery. This is an important step forward in ensuring a shared focus on Recovery, and alignment with National Recovery Outcomes. In the preparation of the CPPB Covid Recovery Plan it is noted that each of the partners will be advancing their own Covid-19 re-mobilisation plans for their respective organisations. The CPPB Covid Recovery Plan is a dynamic document and is intended to reflect actions where the partnership needs to work together and at pace to support Recovery.

The CPPB Covid Recovery Plan demonstrates the depth of planning already in place across the Partnership within Key Strategies and Plans. This Recovery Plan details of the Emerging Priorities to achieve the “Collective Endeavour” of Recovery.



### Community Planning Governance and Operating Protocol



## National Context

Scottish Government published their COVID Recovery Strategy on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The strategy recognises and builds on a number of areas of work already underway and other studies, including the findings and Calls to Action developed by the Social Renewal Advisory Board. The need for Recovery to be a “Collective Endeavour” involving Government, Public, Private, Voluntary and Third Sectors and Communities is embedded throughout the strategy.

Overarching Vision for Recovery:

- Address the systematic inequalities made worse by COVID
- Make progress towards a wellbeing economy
- Accelerate inclusive person-centred public services

Recovery Outcomes:

The Report sets out a wide range of commitments to be delivered in the next 18 months, grouped under the following three outcomes;

- Financial Security for low income households
- Wellbeing of Children and Young People
- Good, green jobs and fair work

[Covid-19 Recovery Strategy Fairer Future](#)

[Social Renewal Advisory Board Recommendations](#)

The Strategy outlines CPPs have a key role in taking forward Recovery locally and recognise the importance of the work undertaken to date as well as the ongoing role for CPPs in COVID Recovery. Scottish Government have confirmed their intention to establish joint oversight of the COVID Recovery Policy Programme and associated measures of progress to capture and better understand Recovery activity being undertaken both locally via CPPs and constituent organisations as well as the range of National activities. It is expected that further details of this framework will be published in Dec 2021.

[National Performance Framework](#)

### National and Local Recovery Outcomes/ Objectives

Covid Recovery Strategy Fairer Future

Recovery Outcomes

Financial Security for low income households

Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Good Green Jobs and Fair Work

Community Planning Partnership Board COVID-19 Recovery Plan

Recovery Objectives

1. Education and Employment Opportunities are maximised	5. People and Connected Digitally
2. Town Centres are restarted	6. People are Connect Physically
3. Vulnerable People are Safe and Healthy	7. Volunteering is Embedded across the Region
4. Community Health Model is Developed	8. Our Communities are Vibrant

<b>Children's Services Plan – Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body - Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHSD&amp;G</b> supported by the Chief Officers Group (COG) and Children's Services Strategy and Planning Partnership			
<b>Planned Revision Date</b> - Plan Agreed 2020/ Next update 2023 – Annual Report to COG – December 2021			
<b>Status of review</b> - The Partnership continues to reflect on the relevance of existing priorities, aims and actions. As part of the annual reporting cycle the impact of the pandemic will be considered along with other emerging issues and developments, and any changes brought forward in the Annual Report to COG, DGC and NHSD&G.			
<b>Lead Officer</b> – Darren Little, Children Services Manager			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. Deliver on the ambitions of The Promise	1.1 Review Corporate Parenting Plan in light of The Promise and The Plan 2012-24	Ongoing	R1 R3
2 Refresh our GIRFEC arrangements	2.1 Review and refresh multi-agency 'Request for Assistance' 2.2 Participate in the GIRFEC refresh consultation and engagement activities 2.3 Review GIRFEC products and processes in light of new GIRFEC guidance	Dec 21 Oct 21 – Jan 22 TBC 22	R1 R3

## Community Justice Improvement Plan - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – DGC and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** – 3 year Improvement Plan due to be reported in March 2022

**Status of review**

**July – October 2021 Research / SNSA**

- Assessment of national guidance; data/intelligence; and performance information
- Service mapping
- Scoping/discussions with strategic partners

**Consultations**

- Written community survey
- Focus groups: Service users, staff, community (online/ in person as appropriate)
- Elected Member Workshop -potential
- Youth Council Workshop – potential

**Lead Officer** – Vikki Binnie, Community Justice Manager, Social Work Services

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Support partners locally and nationally to reduce the use of remand. This will also require engagement with local judiciary.	1.1 Maximise the helps and involvement of the Third Sector	Ongoing	R3
2. Encourage the increased use of bail support and supervision through	2.1 Support the development of the new Diversionary and Non-Custodial Team within Justice Social Work 2.2 Highlight the positive impact of this approach and support development of robust community approaches	Ongoing	R3

## Refocusing our Recovery

**Item 2 - Appendix 1**

highlighting the benefits of this approach.			
3. Support and improve models for diversion through collaborative working.	3.1 Support the development of the new Diversionary and Non-Custodial Team within Justice Social Work 3.2 Highlight the positive impact of this approach and support development of robust community approaches using the skills of a number of partners, including third sector. This will also be a priority for Youth Justice.	Ongoing	R3
4. Support the increased use of alternatives to prosecution. Highlight the positive impact of this approach and support development of robust community approaches.	4.1 Support the development of the new Diversionary and Non-Custodial Team within Justice Social Work 4.2 Highlight the positive impact of this approach and support development of robust community approaches	Ongoing	R3
5. Support and raise awareness of national work to reduce recall to prison.	5.1 Report work of National Recover, Renew Transform strategy to local partners. This is a national priority being led nationally.	Ongoing	R1
6. Continue to raise awareness and impact of trauma. Support local Trauma Champions within Council and Health.	6.1 Continue to raise awareness of trauma and its impact. 6.2 Maximise opportunities associated to Trauma informed Practice 6.3 Raise awareness of how trauma links with other strategic partnerships, e.g. ADP, VAWG, Suicide Prevention	Ongoing	R3
7 Promote and support Housing First model in Dumfries and Galloway.	7.1 Promote and support Housing First model in Dumfries and Galloway. 7.2 Review of Community Housing Register with Partners	Two year project, referrals now taking place	R2
8 Empower those with lived experience and service users to collaborate more	8.1 Service user consultation underway with those using Justice Service 8.2 Develop Peer support Service for people with lived experience of justice currently under consideration.	1 year contracts awarded by end 2021. Part of longer term plan which will include challenging	R3

effectively and shape future services		recruitment practices and <b>encouraging</b> the employment of those with criminal convictions.	
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**Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners’ Strategic Plan - Contributions to Recovery**

**Decision Making Body** – Communities Committee; and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** – The new Plan was presented to the Communities Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021; the review date is 2024. An annual report is produced and submitted for approval to the relevant Council Committee and to the CPP Board for endorsement.

**Status of review** – The CLD Partnership undertook a programme of stakeholder engagement and benchmarking during 2021 and produced a Plan which has specific section on the impact of Covid on its programme of work. There is a detailed one year Action Plan and a Strategic three year Action Plan

**Lead Officer** – Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager, DGC

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Community Recovery and Renewal	<p><b>Theme 2 – Learning, Skills and Employability (along with 3 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key Recovery action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted pre-employability pipeline support being provided through CLD partners to those who need it most.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 5 – Community Development, Empowerment and Renewal (along with 4 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key recovery actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Streamlining processes for community groups and organisations to aid recovery.</li> <li>CLD Partners are working with local groups and organisations to help aid recovery following the impacts of Covid.</li> </ul>	October 2022	R1 R2 R3 R5 R6 R7 R8



	<p><u>Key recovery actions</u>  <b>Theme 8 - Volunteering (along with 3 supporting objectives)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers are being matched to opportunities that best suit their skills and experience (promoting use of Third Sector D&amp;G’s website for volunteering opportunities).</li> <li>• Increasing opportunities for young volunteers.</li> <li>• Providing accredited awards for volunteers.</li> </ul> <p><u>Key recovery actions</u>  <b>Theme 9 – Workforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure our CLD Workforce have the necessary skills and training to help support our communities to recover, and in particular around:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Digital Skills</li> <li>- Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>- Community engagement</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Approaches</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>2. Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p><b>Theme 4 – Health &amp; Wellbeing (along with 3 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key recovery actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLD Partners are working together to offer a range of activities and learning opportunities aimed at improving Health &amp; Wellbeing and targeted at:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-those specifically affected negatively by the impacts of Covid</li> <li>-those with low confidence</li> <li>-practitioners</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<p>R3</p>

3. Tackling Inequalities	<p><b>Theme 3 – Inclusion and equalities (along with 6 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key recovery action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing tailored support to those experiencing poverty and hardest to reach to help build confidence, become more independent, develop new skills and to become self-sufficient.</li> </ul> <p><b>Theme 7 – Digital (3 along with 3 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key recovery actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Skills for staff and communities</li> <li>• Access to Digital devices/ broadband for those who need them most</li> </ul>		R3 R5
4. Climate Change	<p><b>Theme 6 – Climate Change (along with 2 supporting objectives)</b></p> <p><u>Key recovery actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLD Partners are working with local groups and communities to provide training, information sessions and courses to increase understanding and awareness of Climate Change</li> <li>• Partners are working with communities to take forward ideas and suggestions to help respond positively to Climate Change</li> </ul>		R3 R7 R8
5. Children and Young People	<p><b>Theme 1 - Children and Young People – attainment and achievement (along with 8 supporting objectives)</b></p>		R1 R7

	<p><u>Key recovery action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase opportunities for young people to participate in accredited award programmes with a view to increase engagement beyond the number of young people participating pre-pandemic.</li></ul>		
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## Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** – Agreed in September 2021 updated plan to CPPB November 2021. Formally reviewed by Stakeholders in 2022, late May 2022/ Early June.

**Status of review** –CPEG taking a lead role on this element of the overarching Recovery Plan. Analysis of CPPB Strategies and Plans completed; and national research being reflected in the Emerging Recovery Objectives and Actions currently not included in CPPB Key Strategies and Plans. Local Recovery Priority Implementation Plans will be presented to CPEG for challenge and discussion.

\* *Current Plans/ Strategies*

**Lead Officer** – Richard Grieveson, Chief Officer Response Renew and Recovery

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Education and Employment Opportunities are maximised	1.1 Development of a systematic and system wide approach to recruitment across D&G starting with Health and Social Care 1.2 Development of Workforce Summit and methodologies to encourage a regional approach to maximise Employment opportunities 1.3 Building on the Summer Programme delivered for Children and Young People across the Region  * <i>Children's Services Plan</i> * <i>Employability and Skills Plan</i> * <i>CLD Partners Strategy</i>	1.1 Commenced  1.2 Commenced  1.3 Evaluation of the Summer Programme	R1 R3
2. Town Centres are restarted	2.1 Coordinate partners activities in the locality hubs through lead officers of initiatives and projects		R2 R4 R8

	<p>2.2 Use intelligence from complaints and visitor management arrangements to inform deployment of support/ infrastructure design</p> <p>2.3 Utilise learning from Visitor Management Programme Summer 2021</p> <p>* <i>South of Scotland Economic Strategy</i></p> <p>* <i>Regional Transport Strategy</i></p>	2.3 Evaluation of Visitor Management and wider Engagement will be presented to Dumfries and Galloway Council in December 2021	
3. Vulnerable People are Safe and Healthy	<p>3.1 Increase Support for Domestic Violence</p> <p>* <i>Community Justice Improvement Plan</i></p> <p>* <i>Children's Services Plan</i></p> <p>* <i>Health and Social Care Strategic Plan</i></p> <p>* <i>Poverty and Inequality Strategy</i></p> <p>* <i>Local Child Poverty Action Plan</i></p> <p>* <i>ADP Strategy and Action plan</i></p>	3.1 Consider appropriate group for this to be taken forward at pace	R1 R3 R4
4. Community Health Model is Developed	<p>4.1 Community Testing Arrangements</p> <p>4.2 Vaccination Programme beyond Phase 3</p> <p>4.3 Increased Support for Mental Health</p> <p>4.4 Develop a comprehensive plan for the promotion of Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>4.5 Embed Counselling in schools and review CAMHS working across agencies</p>	<p>1.1 Ongoing</p> <p>1.2 Ongoing</p> <p>1.3 Link with current group arrangements</p> <p>1.4 Consider appropriate Group for this to be taken forward</p>	R3 R4 R5
5. People and Connected Digitally	<p>5.1 Those who need it most have access to a device/ broadband etc</p> <p>5.2 Digital Training and upskilling for our communities</p> <p>5.3 Digital training and upskilling for our workforce</p> <p>5.4 Improved Broadband coverage</p>	5.1 Consider appropriate arrangements for this to be take forward	R1 R3 R5

	<p>5.5 DAGCOL - Develop Digital Hubs to fulfil original vision/ funding award</p> <p>5.6 Increase in Partners signed up to the Digital Strategy</p> <p>5.7 Identify measures and steps to promote Digital inclusion</p> <p><i>* Digital Participation Charter</i></p> <p><i>* CLD Partners Strategic Plan</i></p> <p><i>* Borderlands Digital Programme</i></p>		
6. People are Connect Physically	<p>6.1 Physical activity promoted</p> <p><i>* Regional Transport Strategy</i></p> <p><i>* Active Travel Strategy</i></p>	<p><i>Links to Place Planning Partnership Group</i></p> <p><i>20 Minute neighbourhood</i></p>	<p>R2</p> <p>R3</p> <p>R4</p> <p>R6</p> <p>R8</p>
7. Volunteering is Embedded across the region	<p>7.1 Build on strong community and personal resilience</p> <p>7.2 Capitalise on trust and shared respect between public bodies and communities</p> <p>7.3 Peer to Peer learning</p> <p>7.4 Coordination of Volunteer offer</p> <p>7.5 Support for volunteers Recognition and rewards are in place</p> <p><i>* Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan - Investing in Volunteering</i></p> <p><i>* Development of Volunteering within NHS</i></p> <p><i>* <a href="http://tsdg.org.uk">Volunteering - Third Sector Dumfries &amp; Galloway (tsdg.org.uk)</a></i></p>		<p>R1</p> <p>R3</p> <p>R4</p> <p>R5</p> <p>R6</p> <p>R7</p> <p>R8</p>
8. Our Communities are Vibrant	<p>8.1 Empowerment is supported</p> <p>8.2 Civic Pride is encouraged and supported</p> <p>8.3 Community led Planning</p> <p>8.4 Development of Community Led Local Place Plans</p> <p>8.5 Personal and Community Resilience</p> <p>8.6 Build and Extend Community led – Place based funding</p> <p>8.7 Continue to build on Locality Hub Model</p> <p>8.8 Partners respond to emerging need/ ideas which help communities to recovery</p>	<p><i>Local Development Plan 2 and 3 considerations</i></p> <p><i>Establishment of the Place Planning Partnership Group</i></p>	<p>R1</p> <p>R2</p> <p>R3</p> <p>R4</p> <p>R5</p> <p>R6</p> <p>R7</p> <p>R8</p>

	<p>8.9 Being able to take forward ideas being suggested by local groups/ organisations to respond to the Climate change agenda</p> <p>8.10 All Public Sector partners – Community Asset transfer and Participation requests</p> <p>8.11 City Status and City of Culture entries</p> <p>8.12 20 Minute Neighbourhoods</p> <p><i>* DGC Council Plan and Area Committee Funding</i></p> <p><i>* SoS Regional Economic Strategy</i></p> <p><i>* Local Development Plan 2 and 3</i></p> <p><i>* Local Housing Strategy</i></p> <p><i>* CLD Partners Strategic Plan</i></p>		
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<b>Employability and Skills Plan - Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body</b> – Economy and Resources Committee; and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board			
<b>Planned Revision Date</b> – Action Plan in development to include impact of COVID			
<b>Status of review</b> – In development			
<b>Lead Officer</b> – Lynne Burgess, Employability, Skills and Partnership Manager, DGC			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. Job Creation and Fair Work	1.1 Fair Work Practices and creating a diverse range of opportunities for young people and those facing barriers in accessing the labour market 1.2 Health and Social Care sector employment opportunities	1.1 Immediate and ongoing to embed within delivery across DGC 1.2 <25 via Kickstart until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022. 25+ Job Creation programme Jan–Jun 2022	R1
2. Public Sector Leadership role in support to Young People	2.1 Positive Destinations for Young People – including Care Experienced Young People 2.2 Kick Start vacancies are matched with Job vacancies 2.3 Young People Guarantee five asks of employers	2.1 Young Person’s Guarantee Partnership Action Plan (LEP Action Plan subgroup) 2.2 Employability & Skills Team; until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022 2.3 HR – awaiting CoSLA guidance	R1 R3



	2.4	More joined up support for care experienced young people, family and learning support	2.4	Young Person's Guarantee Partnership Action Plan	
3. Public Sector Leadership role in our support to people who are long term unemployed, in precarious work and in work and in poverty	3.1	Local Employability and Skills Partnership developing a collaborative regional Action Plan	3.1	Interim action plan in place. Action plan for 2022-2025 developed by 31/3/2022	R1 R3 R7
	3.2	Targeted pre-employability pipeline support through CLD partners	3.2	As part of D&G LEP action plan	
	3.3	Third Sector and Public Sector volunteering opportunities and work experience pathways – leading to longer term employment	3.3	As part of D&G LEP action plan	
4. Promote Public and Third Sector bodies as Anchor organisations for fair employment, procurement	1.1	Community Wealth Building – start with public sector procurement	4.1	Partnerships Team: Community Wealth Building plan for DGC as anchor organisation developed by 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2021	R1 R3

<b>Health and Social Care Strategic Plan - Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body</b> – DGC, NHSD&G and IJB – endorsed Community Planning Partnership Board			
<b>Planned Revision Date</b> – Due to be agreed in April 2022.			
<b>Status of review</b> – Stakeholder Engagement ongoing; extensive data through the strategic needs Assessment available			
<b>Lead Officer</b> – Deputy Chief Officer, Nicole Hamlet, HSCP			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. System flow and creating capacity	1.1 Sustained focus on delayed discharges to mitigate 98% occupancy levels at DGRI	Update pending	R3 R4
2. Tailoring Health and Wellbeing supports to those who need them most	2.1 NHSD&G – New Public Health Governance Committee		R4 R6 R8
3. Community Support Model	3.1 Community Led Place Plans 3.2 Community Testing Programme 3.3 Vaccination Programme 3.4 Whole system approach Test of change of Physical activity restarted 3.5 Raise awareness of activities that are available to communities (one stop shop/ single place of access) 3.6 Links to 20 Minute Neighbourhoods		R3 R4 R6 R7 R8
4. Addiction support – Early intervention/ prevention	4.1 Systematic and system wide approach to early intervention and prevention to reduce the number of addiction cases and drug related death 4.2 Build on partnership activity		R3 R4

## Refocusing our Recovery

**Item 2 - Appendix 1**

5 HSCP - Home Teams model	5.1 Early establishment of Home Teams – identify the next steps required and build on the Councils investment in Single Access Point		R3 R4
6 Recruitment to Social Care	6.1 Development of a systematic and systemwide approach to recruitment, across D&G starting with Health and Social Care	6.1 Commenced 22/09/2021	R4

## Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) - Contributions to Recovery

**DECISION MAKING BODY** - DGC and NHSD&G. Proposal for future accountability and lead officer arrangements to be brought forward by newly formed Sub-Group 4 of Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.

**PLANNED REVISION DATE** - Annual Report 2020/21 on LCPAR for approval to DGC and NHSD&G – December 2021; and endorsement by CPPB – March 2022

**STATUS OF REVIEW** - The LCPAR for 2020/2021 is currently in development and the impact of COVID-19 will be reflected in the progress being reported and the updated Action Plan for 2020-23. The Action Plan for 2020-23 will be reviewed by Sub-Group 4 of Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, and it is likely that additional Recovery Priorities will emerge and can be added to this Plan.

**LEAD OFFICER** – Laura Gibson, NHS Dumfries and Galloway - Chair of Sub-Group

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Reducing the impact of poverty on children and young people	1.1 Establish a Sub-Group of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership to develop our approach to Child Poverty. 1.2 Review LCPAR Action Plan for 2020-23 1.3 Remove barriers to learning associated with poverty and deprivation including responding to the recommendations which emerge from the review of Scottish Attainment Challenge (when available) 1.4 All schools to prioritise Closing the attainment gap between the most and the least disadvantaged children and young people as expected from the National Improvement Framework 2021/22, as set out in the Education Plan for 2021/22 and the South West Regional Improvement Collaborative plan actions.	1.1 Nov 21  1.2 Jun 22 1.3 Ongoing  1.4 August 21 ongoing	R1 R3

<b>Local Development Plan - Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body – DGC Full Council</b>			
<b>Planned Revision Date – Awaiting Updated Planning Act Guidance for LDP</b>			
<b>Status of review – In development</b>			
<b>Lead Officer – Shona McCoy, Team Leader Local Development Plan</b>			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. Supporting community bodies to develop LPPs. Depending on the area covered by the LPP it could help support town centre regeneration activity and planning.	1.1 Working group created which comprises officers from Communities and Economy and Resources Directorates. 1.2 Objectives of group are to ensure the Council has a coherent approach to Communities and Place and that the Council will coordinate their resources effectively to provide the best possible support and assistance to communities across the region. 1.3 A Place Planning Partner's Group has also been established to ensure external partners understand what is meant by place and how they can also support communities.	Early stages of working group. Working group has met a couple of times and there is a schedule of future meetings.	R2 R4 R8
2. Work with developers and landowners to prepare Masterplans for sites allocated for development in Local Development Plan 2.	2.1 Working with housing associations and developers of large sites to develop a masterplan for the site they are proposing to develop. 2.2 Masterplans have been prepared and adopted for sites in Annan, Moffat, Dumfries and Langholm.		R2 R6 R8

## Refocusing our Recovery

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3. Prepare Local Development Plan 3	3.1 Waiting on the Scottish Government publishing the secondary regulations needed to inform the process. 3.2 Also waiting on the draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) which will determine the content of LDP3.	Once started the process of preparing and adopting the plan is likely to take 5 years. That process won't start until the secondary regulations come into force.	R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8

## Local Housing Strategy/ Strategic Housing Investment Plan - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – Economy and Resources Committee; and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** – The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) sets out the Council’s aspirations for new affordable housing, as defined by the Local Housing Strategy, over a 5 year period. It is subject to annual review and due for submission to Scottish Government by 29 October 2021

**Status of review** – The 14 September 2021 meeting of Economy and Resources Committee noted the allocation of over £106m from the national Affordable Housing Supply Programme and agreed the annual review of the SHIP including new pipeline projects. This will be submitted to the Scottish Government ahead of the deadline date.

**Lead Officer** – James Little, Strategic Housing Investment Manager

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Strategic Housing Investment Plan delivery	1.1 Consultation with members of the Council’s Development Forum and Strategic Housing Forum 1.2 Submission to the Scottish Government 1.3 Work with partner organisations to identify new pipeline projects that meet housing need and deliver SHIP objectives 1.4 Support town centre regeneration via allocations from the Council’s Town Centre Living Fund	1.1 Complete - On target for 29 October 2021 deadline 1.2 15 February 2022 1.3 Ongoing 1.4 15 February 2022	R2 R4 R6 R8
2. Community Led Housing Projects	2.1 Promote the work of South of Scotland Community Housing with partner organisations 2.2 Work with the Scottish Government to support localised housing need and demand assessments throughout the region, funded by the national Rural Housing Fund	2.1 Ongoing regular Engagement 2.2 Ongoing 31 March 2022 2.3 31 March 2022	R2 R4 R6 R8

## Refocusing our Recovery

**Item 2 - Appendix 1**

	2.3 Enable development that supports sustainability of local communities and services via allocations from the Council's Town Centre Living Fund		
	2.4 Taking learning from this work will feed into Local Place Plans developed with Community Groups.	2.4 February 2022	
3. Review of Common Housing Register <i>*This work is being led by the Wheatley Group. The Council is a partner organisation of the Common Housing Register.</i>	3.1 Consultation led by Homes 4 DG with key stakeholders	3.1 Ongoing, due for completion 31 January 2022	R2
	3.2 RSL partners have allocations policies with agreed lettings targets that meet the needs of key strategic groups	3.2 31 May 2022	R4 R6
	3.3 Increased lettings targets for people referred by the Housing Options and homelessness Service	3.3 31 May 2022	R8



<b>Local Outcomes Improvement Plan - Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body</b> – Community Planning Partnership Board			
<b>Planned Revision Date</b> - Annual Report to CPPB – November 2021. Formally reviewed by Stakeholders in 2022.			
<b>Status of review</b> - The Annual report for 2020/2021 is in development for consideration by the Executive Group in October, then approval by the Board in November 2021. It will include any recommendations for changes to the eight Outcomes to reflect COVID research relating to inequalities.			
<b>Lead Officer</b> – Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. Deepening inequalities for the identified groups in the LOIP experiencing inequalities – particularly minority protected characteristics of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, race, religion or belief; and veterans and unemployed people	<p>LOIP Outcomes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support links to the</li> <li>2. Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.</li> <li>3. Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.</li> <li>4. There is affordable and warm housing for those who need it most.</li> <li>5. The money available to people on Benefits and low wages is maximised</li> <li>6. People are safe and feel safe.</li> <li>7. People are well connected</li> <li>8. Individuals and communities are empowered.</li> </ol> <p>The LOIP draws on the Equality Outcomes of all the public sector partners, all of which are aimed at reducing the</p>	<p>Annual report is in development for consideration by Executive Group in October, then approval by the Board in November 2021.</p> <p>Includes recommendations for changes to Eight outcomes to reflect COVID Research relating to inequalities</p>	<p>R1</p> <p>R3</p> <p>R4</p> <p>R6</p> <p>R7</p> <p>R8</p>

	<p>inequalities faced by people with minority Protected Characteristics.</p> <p>The LOIP also reflects the Fairer Scotland Duty on some of the public sector partners which is aimed at reducing the inequalities faced by a range of groups.</p>		
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## Locality Plan on Food Sharing - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** - Annual Report to CPPB – November 2021. The Locality Plan is due to be formally reviewed with stakeholders in autumn 2022.

**Status of review** - The Annual Report for 2020/2021 is in development for consideration by the Executive Group in October, then approval by the Board in November 2021. It will include any recommendations for changes to the four Outcomes to reflect COVID research relating to inequalities.

**Lead Officer** – Liz, Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Deepening inequalities for the identified groups in the LOIP experiencing inequalities	Outcome 2: Support is available to people who need help with food where, when and how they need it  Outcome 3: Involvement in food sharing helps with other aspects of people's lives – volunteering and	Ongoing	R3
2. Organisational networking consolidated during COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdowns	Outcome Four: Our food sharing arrangements are as efficient and effective as possible - (includes liaison in Regional and four local Community Food Networks)	Ongoing	R7
3. Advances in dignified food provision – free school meals direct payments	Outcome 1 - People are able to meet their own food needs (includes direct payments for free school meals, cooking and shopping support; community food growing strategy)	Ongoing	R3

<b>Poverty and Inequalities Strategy and Action Plan - Contributions to Recovery</b>			
<b>Decision Making Body</b> – Community Planning Partnership Board			
<b>Planned Revision Date</b> – Action Plan to CPPB September 2021			
<b>Status of review</b> - Strategy recently agreed - in March 2021 - and included research and impact of Covid including Social Renewal Advisory Board Report; and Scottish Government Report on impact of Covid on public sector equality duty. Action Plan in development and reflecting further Covid research, including from the Poverty Alliance			
<b>Lead Officer</b> – Mark Molloy, Service Manager, Young People			
<b>Emerging Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions</b>	<b>Recovery Action Timescale / Status</b>	<b>Recovery Objective Contribution</b>
1. Tackling Severe and Persistent Poverty & Destitution and Building Individuals and Communities Ability to Deal with the Effects of Poverty	1.1 Establishment of Subgroup of the Poverty & Inequalities Partnership to develop a partnership action plan to progress a partnership approach to this priority. 1.2 Agreement by partnership that Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway to become lead organisation for this priority 1.3 Development of a 1 year shared action plan that is outcome focussed and has measurable actions to address issues around this priority.	1.1 October 2021  1.2 October 2021  1.3 January 2022	R3
2. Maximising Income and reducing debt of people facing poverty	2.1 Establishment of Subgroup of the Poverty & Inequalities Partnership to develop a partnership action plan to progress a partnership approach to this priority. 2.2 Agreement by partnership that Citizens Advise to become lead organisation for this priority 2.3 Development of a 1 year shared action plan that is outcome focussed and has measurable actions to address issues around this priority.	2.1 October 2021  2.2 October 2021  2.3 January 2022	R3

## Refocusing our Recovery

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3. Reducing financial pressures on people facing poverty	3.1 Establishment of Subgroup of the Poverty & Inequalities Partnership to develop a partnership action plan to progress a partnership approach to this priority.	3.1	October 2021	R3
	3.2 Agreement by partnership that Loreburn Housing to become lead organisation for this priority.	3.2	October 2021	
	3.3 Development of a 1 year shared action plan that is outcome focussed and has measurable actions to address issues around this priority.	3.3	January 2022	
4. Measuring the impact of the new strategy.	4.1 Development of a new poverty & inequalities partnership approach to monitoring and evaluation to ensure that we know if we are making a difference.	4.1	December 2021	R3

## Regional Transport Strategy - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – Swestrans Board, DGC and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** - Annual Report to CPPB – November 2021. Formally reviewed by Stakeholders in 2022, late May 2022/ Early June.

**Status of review** - Strategy under development. Last reported to SWestrans Board at its meeting in March 2021. Currently undergoing procurement to secure the necessary external support to deliver the strategy. Due to report to SWestrans Board in November 2021.

**Lead Officer** – Douglas Kirkpatrick, Lead Officer, South West of Scotland Transport Partnership (SWestrans)

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Reduce Carbon emissions of Fleet	1.1 Identify, coordinate, align and increase investment in both the SWestrans bus fleet and DGC's general fleet	1.1 Complete (item 9 to FPT 31/08/21)	R5
	1.2 Develop a Low Carbon Vehicle Replacement Strategy for the Community Transport Network	1.2 Ongoing review, due March 2022	
2. Redesign new Public Transport Model	2.1 New sustainable transport delivery model to be developed and delivered by April 2024	2.1 Agreed by DGC (item 16 Communities 26/06/21), agreed by SWestrans Board 24/09/21 subject to resource request to DGC. Initial high-level actions ongoing, due April 2024.	R2 R6 R8
	2.2 Investigate the case for DGC internal bus fleet to become a PSV Operator.		

		2.2	Included in development of new PT Model, due August 2022	
3. Community Transport Model	3.1	TSD&G – Public Social Partnership (PSP) Community Transport - establish a Community and Social Transport Social Enterprise Organisation		R2 R6 R8
	3.2	TSD&G – PSP Community Transport - establish the NHS D&G Transport Hub		
	3.3	TSD&G – PSP Community Transport - develop an Employability and Training Programme		R1
		3.1	Ongoing workstream, due March 2022.	
		3.2	Funding identified and operational model being developed, due March 2022.	
		3.3	Funding identified and employment of officer underway, due March 2023.	

## South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy - Contributions to Recovery

**Decision Making Body** – DGC, SBC, SOSE and endorsed by Community Planning Partnership Board

**Planned Revision Date** – Scheduled for agreement in September 2022

**Status of review** – The RES was launched on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 ([South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership - Regional Economic Strategy \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk)). Development of Delivery Plan for the first 3 years is in hand.

**Lead Officer** – Juliette Cooke, Economic Policy and Partnership Team Leader

Emerging Recovery Priorities	Early/ Ongoing Recovery Actions	Recovery Action Timescale / Status	Recovery Objective Contribution
1. Skilled and Ambitious People	1.1 Enabling Access 1.2 Attracting & Retaining Young People 1.3 Preparing For the Future 1.4 Building Lifelong Learning & Opportunity	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R1 R3 R5 R6
2. Innovative And Enterprising	2.1 Embracing Research & Innovation 2.2 Enhancing Business Support Services 2.3 Activating Networks & Business Interaction 2.4 Creating Flexible & Accessible Workspaces	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R2 R3 R5 R6 R8
3. Rewarding and Fair Work	3.1 Growing & Diversifying Our Economy 3.2 Attracting & Securing New Investment 3.3 Improving Productivity & Competitiveness 3.4 Securing Fair Working Conditions & Wages	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R1 R3 R5 R6 R8
4. Cultural and Creative Excellence	4.2 Celebrating & Enabling Creativity 4.3 Championing A New Creative Identity 4.4 Investing In Visitor Economy Infrastructure	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R8



	4.5	Boosting Culture & Heritage Assets		
5. Green and Sustainable Economy	5.1	Conserving & Managing Natural Capital	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R1
	5.2	Seizing The Economic Opportunity of Transitioning to Zero Carbon		R2
	5.3	Improving Efficiency of Homes & Buildings		R3
	5.4	Supporting Community Wealth Building and Growing Regional Supply Chain		R4
				R5
			R6	
			R7	
			R8	
6. Thriving and Distinct Communities	6.1	Revitalising Towns and Rural Communities	Delivery Plan to REP on 5 <sup>th</sup> November	R2
	6.2	Creating And Sustaining High Quality Affordable Homes		R5
	6.3	Enhancing Digital & Transport Connections		R6
	6.4	Activating & Empowering Communities, The Third Sector and Social Enterprise		R8

### Hidden Harms

Harm 1: Suppress the virus, protecting against the direct and tragic harm to your health.

Harm 2: Support broader health, protecting our health and social care services, and your health and wellbeing.

Harm 3: Mitigate social harms, protecting against broader harms to your way of life.

Harm 4: Support the economy, protecting against the devastating impact for business.

## Glossary

CPPB	Community Planning Partnership Board
CPEG	Community Planning Executive Group
DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council
ELG	Economic Leadership Group
HSCP	Health and Social Care Partnership
LESP	Local Employability and Skills Partnership
NHSD&G	National Health Service Dumfries and Galloway
PS	Police Scotland
REP	Regional Economic Partnership
RRR	Response, Renew and Recovery Team, Dumfries and Galloway Council
SG	Scottish Government
SFRS	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
SOSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
TSD&G	Third Sector interface Dumfries and Galloway

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Developed by Serena Dunlop, Directorate Business Manager, RRR Team

**Item 4****DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING LOCALITY ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE****Background**

1. Locality Planning has been developing and has moved on since previous reports to the CPP Board. Several factors are driving this development:

- national drivers pushing forward the community empowerment agenda, and in particular, Place and Placemaking including the Scottish Government's [Programme for Government](#) published in September 2021, implementing the [Social Renewal Advisory Board's Calls for Action](#) ; development of the 20 Minute Neighbourhood concept and the implementation of the Planning Act requirements for Local Place Plans.
- the coming together of partners and communities through the Locality Hubs, originally established for the COVID response, and agreed by the CPP Board in September 2020 as its geographic forums.
- The establishment of the Dumfries and Galloway Place Planning Partnership, bringing together the lead officers for key locality initiatives (**Appendix 1**) to ensure there is co-ordination and no duplication.

**2. Development of the Locality Hubs**

2.1 The Locality Hubs have sustained their role as a focal point for partners to respond to Covid; they are the trusted locus for partners working at local level to network, share information and coordinate activity around community development and empowerment, health and wellbeing, resilience activities and volunteering. Visitor Management was also co-ordinated and driven by a Locality Hub structure.

2.2 .The Locality Hubs are co-ordinated by Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) Engagement Officers. The current attendees are Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) Ward Officers; Health and Wellbeing Officers and with attendance by other partners including DGC Economy and Development and South of Scotland Enterprise Officers. Continued leadership of the Locality Hubs is built in to the TSDG Business Plan

2.3. The Locality Hubs now have a solid, well- paced foundation and time has allowed the development of relationships and trust among local officers, the conditions for equity of status and active listening. It is considered important that as the Hubs fulfil the remit agreed in September 2020 that the pace that builds on this success.

2.4 As the original development timescale could not be achieved due to the COVID lockdown and a continuing need to focus on Response, it has not been appropriate to review the Hubs at this stage. Further consideration will be given to this in 2023.

### 3. Progress of the Place Planning Partnership

3.1 The partners working on Place have come together recently as the Place Planning Partnership PPP (partners are listed in **Appendix 2**)

The Place Planning Partnership aims:

- to develop coherence in joint working arrangements
- to better understand the requirements of community Place Plans, statutory Local Place Plans and Borderlands Place Plans,
- to develop joint workforce training in Place and locality working (delivered by John Howie- NHS Health Scotland, Place Organisational Lead
- develop a co-ordinated offer to communities to support them to develop their Place Plans
- to identify and share best practice at national level and in other areas
- to develop peer learning across our communities

3.2 It continues to be important that the parallel initiatives are able to develop independently so that we avoid complicating or distorting their individual objectives; The Community Planning Office is supporting the PPP; and this forum is adding value to the individual initiatives

### 4. Place Plans and Locality Planning

4.1 Nick Wright, Scotland's Towns Partnership concluded from his research into Place for Scottish Government that to be effective Plans must be:

- led by the local community
- have significant engagement, using for example the Place Standard Tool (**Appendix 3**)
- Communities should be able to call on the advice and support of local and national partners with a variety of skills
- should reflect more than spatial features looking at all aspects of what makes a place worth living in and can inform the community and community planning partners of priorities and support required.

4.2 These principles have been supported by the PPP and as requirements are developed for the Local Place Plans for Borderlands and the Planning Act, consistency across partners and requirements will be as consistent as possible.

### 5. Best practice

Discussions are continuing with other CPPs about how they are working through the complexities of a cluttered landscape of required locality initiatives. At this time, our good relationships and early sharing of information and thinking means that we are relatively well-positioned to manage these interlinked initiatives.

### 6. Recommendations

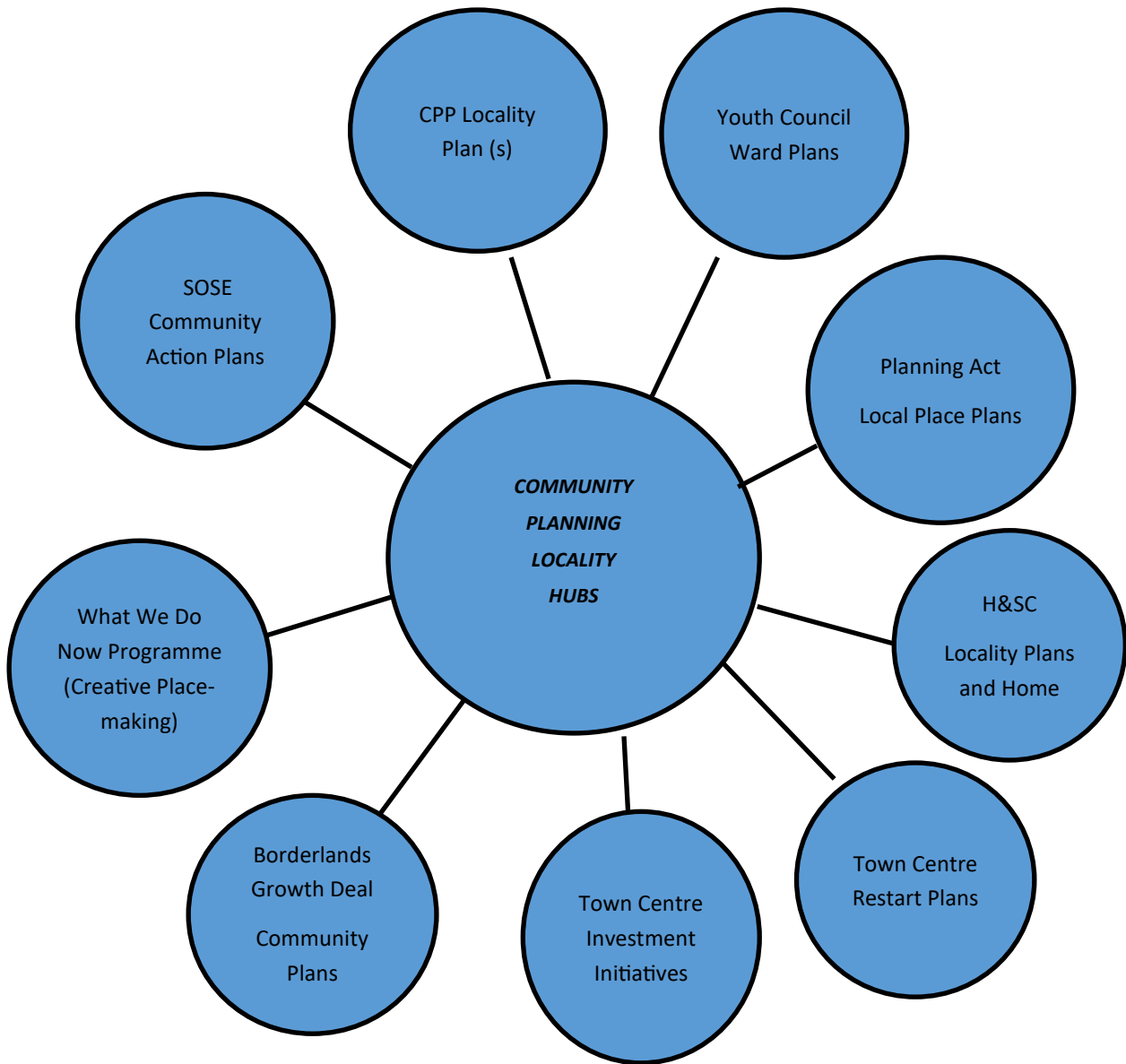
The Board is invited to discuss the locality initiatives that their organisation/partnership is involved in and share their thinking about the way forward to give guidance and direction to the PPP.

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Jamie Ferguson, Community Development and Empowerment Manager  
2 November 2021

**Appendices – 4**

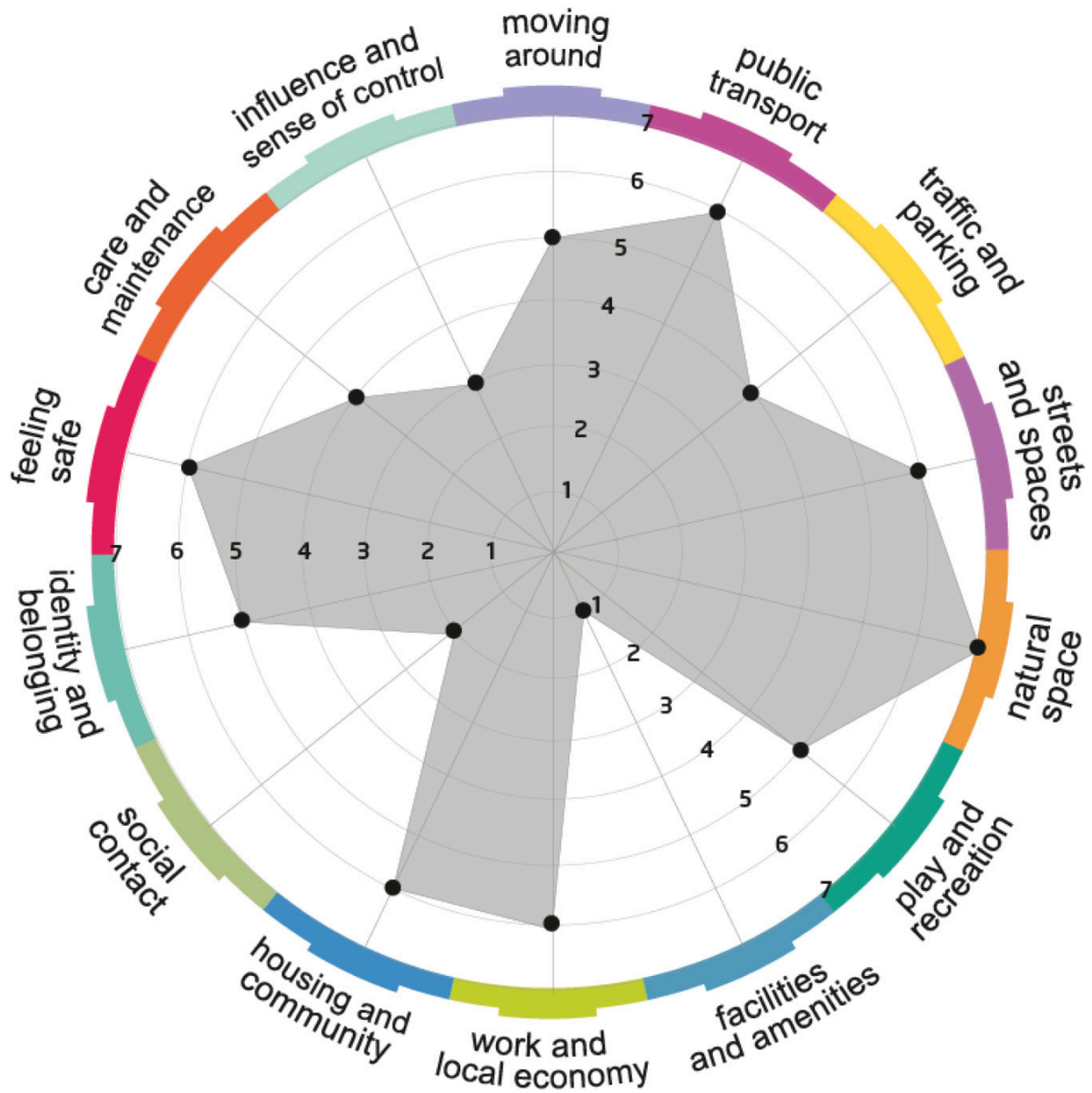
- 1 D&G Locality Planning Initiatives
- 2 Place Planning Partnership Membership
- 3 Place Standard Tool



**Item 4 Appendix 2**

**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING  
PLACE PLANNING PARTNERSHIP**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jamie Ferguson</li> <li>• Caitlin Wallace</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borderlands Growth Initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Travers</li> <li>• Donna Mounce</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Gardiner</li> <li>• Stuart Hamilton</li> <li>• Shona McCoy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Social Care Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Hamlet</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South of Scotland Enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kate Musgrave</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stove</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katherine Wheeler</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claire Brown</li> </ul>



**The Place Standard**

**<https://www.placestandard.scot/>**



Item 5**CURRENT KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2021****1. Background**

The Board has identified twelve key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:

- Children's Services Plan
- Community Justice Improvement Plan
- Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan
- COVID Recovery Plan
- Employability and Skills Plan
- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan
- Local Child Poverty Action Report
- Local Development Plan 2
- Local Housing Strategy
- Poverty and Inequalities Strategy
- Regional Transport Strategy
- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy

**2. Update reports**

2.1 Lead officers for all 11 of the Strategies and Plans have provided progress reports for this meeting and are detailed in the **Appendices** - the Covid Recovery Plan is a separate item on the agenda, Item 2

**3. Recommendation**

Board Members are invited to scrutinise and note the progress being made in the key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager and lead officers  
 1 November 2021

**Appendices -**

- 1 - Updates on key Strategies and Plans
- 2 - CLD Partners Strategic Plan 2021-24
- 3 - 3 Year Action Plan

**UPDATES ON KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS****1. Children's Services Plan**

1.1 The following update provides information about progress on each of the six priorities within the Children's Services Plan, with details of emerging issues and next steps. The Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership (CSSaPP) are currently leading on the production of the 2020-21 Joint Annual Report on the Children's Services Plan and are seeking position statements and information from the Priority Leads. CSSaPP will use the reporting process to review current priorities and high-level actions in the plan, and to re-prioritise if necessary.

1.2 Priority 1: Children and young people are safe and free from harm  
Over the course of 2020-21 and the Covid-19 pandemic, the PPC has focused on the immediate high-end business of protecting children and on regular reporting to Chief Officers. An interim Chair was in place for most of this period, with Hamish McGhie appointed as Independent Chair in August 2021. The new Chair will prioritise the reporting and review of the Priority 1 actions.

1.3 Priority 2: The life chances and outcomes for care experienced children and young people improve.  
This priority is led by the Corporate Parenting Group. Our Corporate Parenting Plan is in the process of being revised in response to the findings of the Independent Care Review. The plan is being re-drafted to better reflect the findings of the Review and will be renamed 'Our Promise'. Work on this is moving forward, but some actions are progressing at a somewhat slower pace than originally envisaged; and this is the result of significant staffing issues

1.4 Priority 3: The impact of poverty on children and young people is reduced  
The Poverty and Inequalities Partnership have established a fourth sub-group which will focus on Child Poverty. Terms of reference for the group have been agreed and the sub-group is to be chaired by a representative from Public Health. The sub-group will initially be looking at publishing the 2020-21 Child Poverty Action Report by the end of this year, and the development of this report will assist in determining the direction of future action-planning.

1.5 Priority 4: The mental health and wellbeing of children and young people improves.  
This priority is led by the Mental Health Strategy Group. The high-level actions include the development of a Wellbeing Pathway; counselling in schools; and recognition of, and early intervention for, peri-natal mental health issues. Recruitment is in progress for the peri-natal mental health posts: a psychologist and nurse are in post and the position of midwife is out to advertisement. Additional funding has been received to fund infant mental health but there are other peri-natal professional posts needed (psychiatry, pharmacy, Occupational Therapy and Administration). An NHS sub-group of the Mental Health in Schools group is looking at finalising pathways into various levels of mental health support across the NHS.

**Community Planning Partnership Board**

1.6 Priority 5: Children and young people with complex needs and disabilities are enabled to reach their potential.

This priority is led by the Disability Strategy Group. Interim arrangements are in place to continue the work of the group following retirement of the Chair. Recruitment is underway for a new post-holder who will have a wider remit within the Women and Child Health Directorate. The new post-holder is expected to take up the Chair of the Disability Strategy Group, but this is likely to be in the New Year.

1.7 Priority 6. How we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people improves.

The Priority 6 group are expanding their focus from 'parenting' to a more holistic approach to family support, and a sub-group is creating a roadmap of support for parents and professionals. With the expanded focus, the group are establishing closer links with the Corporate Parenting Group with regard to common issues around family support. The group's action plan is up-to-date.

1.8 Related issues

1.8.1 Children's Rights and incorporation of UNCRC into Scottish legislation.

Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway's first Children's Rights Report has been produced and published jointly, covering the period 2017-20. The report is available on the Council Website on the page with our Children's Services Plan and reports on the plan [Children's Services Plan 2020 to 2023 \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk). At a joint meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council and Youth Council a decision was taken to establish a Member, Officer and Youth Council working group to consider our future approach to realising Children's Rights.

1.8.2 Forthcoming Scottish Government Guidance on GIRFEC.

Scottish Government are currently developing six types of guidance relating to GIRFEC, both statutory and non-statutory. Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS are represented on working groups. The guidance on Wellbeing Assessment will be statutory and this will undergo public consultation. The remaining guidance will be open to consultation with GIRFEC stakeholders, including DGC and NHS D&G, and our GIRFEC Leadership Group will collate a single response on this. The release of revised GIRFEC guidance will have implications for staff learning and development and CSSaPP are currently exploring options for multi-agency children's services learning and development.

**Lead officer: Jim Brown, Chair Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership**

## **2. Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan**

2.1 As detailed in previous reports and whilst further considering the next Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan which must be underpinned by a local Strategic Needs and Strength Assessment (SNSA), an opportunity presented itself to join with Community Justice Ayrshire Partnership in commissioning Azets to undertake the lengthy data gathering and analysis work which is required for the SNSA. Azets have experience of working with public bodies and have recently worked with the Highland Community Justice Partnership (HCJP) to produce a 'Health Check' report as part of their SNSA which includes performance indicators and a dashboard of KPIs.

2.2 Community Justice Ayrshire have recently gone through a rigorous procurement exercise before awarding Azets the contract to undertake this work across the three Ayrshires. Thanks to the close working between Community Justice Managers in Dumfries and Galloway and Ayrshire, it was recognised there may be a great opportunity to include Dumfries and Galloway in this, working collaboratively and creating economy of scale and a substantial saving for this piece of work to our local partnership. The final report would be specific to our area. Following a series of discussions Azets provided us with two options and costing for the suggested SNSA analysis work for Dumfries & Galloway. A proposal then went to the Community Justice Partnership on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in relation to accessing this support and was agreed on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

2.3 Work remains ongoing on the review of the National Strategy for Community Justice, a consultation event is taking place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October through the National Community Justice Network for discussion and feedback.

2.4 The proposal and consultation for a National Care Service (NCS) for Scotland remains a concern. The deadline for responses to the consultation has been extended to 2<sup>nd</sup> November. If this goes ahead there are significant implications for Social Work, our partners within Justice Social Work and ultimately Community Justice Partnerships as the proposals include moving them to sit within the NCS. There is not sufficient information within the consultation document to ascertain how that might impact on relationships with Community Planning.

2.5 Work has taken place on the production of a contract strategy for a new Peer Led Support service for those with lived experience of the justice system. The funding has been allocated to the Community Justice Partnership by colleagues in Justice Social Work and the Community Justice Partnership Manager will retain oversight of the service. We will utilise a peer support/development approach to understand and learn from the local experience of those who have been in, are currently in, or have been touched by the justice system. Recognising the regional differences across Dumfries and Galloway we intend to fund two projects, one East and one West so that different approaches and innovation are encouraged. The aims of the project/s are:

- To understand the lived experiences of people at each stage of the justice system
- For feedback and evidence from those with lived experience to be considered to help shape future CJOIP areas of focus and outcomes and influence the development of justice services.

To achieve these aims the following objectives of the project have been agreed:

- To employ people with lived experience of the justice system to develop peer support groups for others with experience of justice services.
- To understand the demographic of the local justice cohort and those at risk of entering the justice system in Dumfries and Galloway.
- To understand the needs of the local justice cohort and those at risk of entering the justice system in Dumfries and Galloway.
- To identify from this to what extent the needs of individuals and their families are met within local service provision.
- To enable the voices of those with lived experience to be heard and shape future service provision.

**Lead Officer: Vikki Binnie, Community Justice Partnership Manager, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

### **3. Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021**

#### **3.1 CLD Partnership – developing a new CLD Plan 2021-2024**

##### **3.1.1 Approval and Endorsement**

The new CLD Partners' Plan 2021-2024 was presented and approved at the Council's Communities Committee on 5 October 2021. This followed a final round of engagement with Partners on the content of the main Plan and input into the accompanying 3-year action plan.

3.1.2 A summary of the results from the public consultation have now been made available on the Council's website and are available through the following link.

[CLD Partners Strategic Plan \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

3.1.3 Our new Plan and accompanying 3-year action plan are attached for endorsement by the Community Planning Partnership Board in **Appendices 2 and 3**. Education Scotland and Scottish Government have been notified as to progress and when they can expect to see a final version published.

##### **3.2 New Inspection Model**

3.2.1 Education Scotland have published the draft new quality framework for the Community Learning & Development Sector in the last couple of weeks (How good is our community learning and development? (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)

[How good is our community learning and development?](#)

3.2.2 This iteration of HGIOCLD reflects changes in CLD and the wider education sector landscape. It recognises the wide range of practitioners and organisations adopting CLD methodologies. The draft framework sets out the standards HM Inspectors will use to evaluate and report on quality and improvement in CLD. It will also support the sector to engage in self-evaluation for continuous improvement.

3.2.3 A series of webinar events are being offered across November/December 2021 and representatives from the D&G CLD Partnership will be attending to find out more.

3.2.4 The new framework along with discussion on the implementation of the new Plan will take place at the next CLD Partnership meeting scheduled for 25 November 2021.

##### **3.3 CLD South West Network**

The South West Network are participating in a national practice sharing event taking place during November and December 2021 along with the other regional networks in place across Scotland. This has been developed through the national CPD Network and in partnership with Education Scotland and the CLD Standards Council. The SW Network will be specifically offering input on:

- New Scots (South Ayrshire Council)
- Family learning in an early years setting (Dumfries & Galloway Council)
- Health & Wellbeing (East Ayrshire Council)

**Lead Officer: Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager, Chair CLD Partnership**

**Appendix 2 – CLD Partners' Strategic Plan 2021-24**

**Appendix 3 – 3 Year Action Plan**

## 4. Employability and Skills Plan

### 4.1 Background

Work to implement the No One Left Behind policy to provide a more aligned approach to national and local employability support in Scotland is continuing. The strategy promotes a strengthened partnership approach where national and local government works together with third and private sector training providers to identify local needs and make informed, evidence-based decisions, flexing these to meet emerging labour market demands.

### 4.2 D&G Local Employability & Skills Partnership Improvement Action Plan

4.2.1 With support from the Improvement Service and Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development Group (SLAED) local partners have completed the self-evaluation process and now have an agreed improvement action plan to support improved partnership effectiveness in line with the nationally agreed Employability Partnership Framework.

4.2.2 A free interactive guide for employers in Dumfries and Galloway has been developed to help businesses navigate funding, incentives and support that is available to help grow and develop their workforce. The guide was developed by a LEP subgroup, the Employer Engagement Partnership following discussions with employers who wanted an easy way to understand the help and assistance that is available in the region, including incentives for recruiting and training staff, apprenticeships, and broader business support.

### 4.3 No One Left Behind Phase 2

4.3.1 The Scottish Government have now confirmed their decision to proceed with implementation of the second phase of No One Left Behind from April 2022. The decision to proceed with further implementation will see the Employability Fund and Community Jobs Scotland cease in March 2022 with future associated funding transferring to No One Left Behind. This will be delivered through the agreed move towards a local governance approach which allows Local Employability Partnerships, statutory bodies including Skills Development Scotland, Department for Work and Pensions, Colleges, NHS, the third sector and business representatives to work together with local communities to design and deliver services that best meet both individual and labour market / business aspirations in each local area.

4.3.2 This will be supported by the development of further national standards and supporting frameworks including:

- **Procurement:** Scottish & Local Government will develop and implement a national commissioning framework
- Local Employability Partnerships will develop a local **Delivery Plan** enabling more inclusive, aligned, integrated and responsive services.
- A **Customer Charter, Service Standard Framework** and a **Continuous Improvement Toolkit** will also be developed.

### 4.4 Long Term Unemployed Intermediate Labour Market

The Programme for Government set out a £20 million investment through No One Left Behind to support people who are facing Long Term Unemployment. Scottish and Local Government have agreed to commit up to £5 million of this being ring-fenced to provide opportunities within third sector organisations. This additional investment will be managed through No One Left Behind and will help support approximately 12 third sector employers and provide additional community benefits.

**Lead Officer: Lynne Burgess, Employability, Skills & Partnerships Manager, Economy & Development, Dumfries & Galloway Council**



## **5. Health and Social Care Strategic Plan**

5.1 The Health and Social Care Partnership(H&SCP) continues to have ongoing system pressures as a result of managing the impact of the Covid pandemic and the increase in demand for all services within the HSCP.

5.2 National work is being undertaken regarding the proposals for a new National Care Service with the IJB and the HSCP having held local workshops regarding the response submitted on 2 November 2021.

5.3 It is expected that the IJB's new Strategic Commissioning Plan will be finalised by March 2022.

5.2 The four Locality Performance Reports are being submitted to each of the Council's Area Committees during November for scrutiny on progress. These reports can be found here: [Committee structure \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk)

**Lead Officer: Julie White, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care**

## **6. Local Child Poverty Action Report**

6.1 As previously reported to the Board, the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership has created a sub-group 'Developing our approach to Child Poverty with the remit to produce the D&G 2020/21 LCPAR, including updating the 2020-23 Action Plan. and bring forward recommendations for the future lead officer and decision-making routes

6.2 The Chair of the Sub-Group is Laura Gibson from Public Health, and membership includes NHSD&G, Council, D&G Citizens Advice Service, Registered Social Landlords, Third Sector D&G and the Tackling Poverty Reference Group.

6.3 The first meeting of the group is planned for November 2021 with the initial focus to include development of the D&G 2020/21 LCPAR, so that this can be brought forward to the NHS and Council for approval in December 2021, and thereafter to the CPP Board and IJB for endorsement.

6.4 This year's 2020/21 Annual Report will be 'light touch' with a detailed self assessment to be undertaken with the Improvement Service in the new year.

**Lead Officer: Gillian Brydson, Director of Skills, Education and Learning, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **7. Local Development Plan**

### **7.1 Background**

The Council's Local Development Plan guides the future use and development of land in towns, villages and the rural area. It is a corporate document for the Council (as planning authority) and its Community Planning Partners. The Plan applies the land use elements of the Community Plan (LOIP) and other Council and Government strategies into an overall spatial plan for the region, providing a means to join up messages about place, people, and delivery. It is available on the Council's website at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp2](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp2)

### **7.2 National updates**

7.2.1 The Planning (Scotland) Act 2019 provides an opportunity to develop the joined-up message about place, people and delivery through the requirement in the Planning Act for community bodies to prepare Local Place Plans for their area. Local Place Plans provide a new opportunity for communities to proactively feed into the development planning system. Although Local Authorities are still waiting on the secondary legislation needed to enact this and other parts of The Act, officers across the Council are working together to explore how various work streams and requirements can be aligned to ensure that decisions that are made on behalf of communities accurately reflect their issues, interests and aspirations, and that resources are targeted effectively.

7.2.2 The other significant change at the national level is the status and content of Scotland's National Planning Framework - NPF4. The NPF is a long term plan for Scotland that sets out where development and infrastructure is needed to support sustainable and inclusive growth. For the first time NPF4 will include detailed national policy on a number of planning topics, which means once adopted, NPF4 will have the same status as the Local Development Plan when determining planning applications. NPF4 will also address the following high level outcomes:

- Meeting the housing needs of people living in Scotland including, in particular, the housing needs for older people and disabled people
- Improving the health and well-being of people living in Scotland
- Increasing the population of rural areas of Scotland
- Improving equality and eliminating discrimination
- Meeting any targets relating to the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases
- Securing positive effects for biodiversity

The draft is anticipated in the Autumn.

7.2.3 Finally, the Improvement Service have published a new briefing on [Place and Wellbeing](#). It raises awareness of the impact that the places where people live, work and play have on their health and wellbeing. It provides practical guidance for land use planners, public health practitioners and policy makers to work together, using a whole systems approach to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. It introduces land use planners to the public health system and public health professionals to the planning system and outlines a number of key opportunities for more integrated working to realise shared ambitions.

**Lead Officer: Shona McCoy, Team Leader, Local Development Plan, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **8. Local Housing Strategy**

8.1 'The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 places a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to produce a Local Housing Strategy (LHS), which sets out its strategic priorities and plans for the delivery of housing and related services. The Strategic Housing Forum, which is the subject of an annual report to this meeting, was established to facilitate contributions from partner organisations to inform the strategies development. This thematic partnership continues to meet to review and monitor delivery of the LHS action plan.

8.2 The LHS shapes the delivery of the Affordable Housing Supply and Energy Efficient Scotland programmes for 2021/22 in Dumfries and Galloway and will be supported by a total budget allocation of over £26 million from the Scottish Government. This is further supplemented by leveraging additional finance from external sources including Registered Social Landlords and Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding. While improving the living standards of many local people and reducing fuel poverty, this significant investment will also help create and sustain a range of good quality jobs in the construction sector, including apprenticeships and training opportunities.

8.3 The LHS details the strategic approach of the Local Authority and its partners to delivering high quality housing related services across all tenures, to meet identified need in its region. It also has a key role to play in contributing to the effective integration of adult health and social care. Delivery of the LHS plays a significant role in supporting the Council priorities to 'Urgently respond to climate change and transition to a carbon neutral region', 'Protect our most vulnerable people', 'Provide the best start in life for all our children', 'Be an inclusive Council' and 'Build the local economy'.

### **8.4 Strategic Housing Investment Plan**

8.4.1 The core purpose of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) is to set out the key priorities for affordable housing development in the region and identify the resources required for delivery in alignment with the objectives of the LHS. This is supported by funding from the Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) which aims to increase and accelerate the supply of homes across all tenures. For the 5 year period from 2021/22 – 2025/26, Dumfries and Galloway Council have been allocated £106.148 million, split into separate sums for each financial year. This long term allocation is intended to assist plan and deliver affordable homes in line with the priorities of the LHS and SHIP.

8.4.2 Public Health Scotland recently published 'Healthy housing for Scotland' which is a briefing paper setting out the fundamental link between housing and public health. The World Health Organization has highlighted poor housing conditions as one of the mechanisms through which social and environmental inequality translates into health inequality, which further affects quality of life and wellbeing. To improve physical health and mental wellbeing and tackle health inequalities we need to ensure people have access to a warm, dry, safe, affordable home which meets their needs. Housing can influence health directly through condition, security of tenure, overcrowding and suitability for inhabitants' needs. Wider aspects of housing that influence health indirectly include affordability and poverty, housing satisfaction, choice and control, social isolation, access to key services such as health care, and environmental sustainability.

8.4.3 The 2021 annual review was agreed by the Economy and Resources Committee on 14 September 2021. Members also agreed the inclusion of three new development projects from across the region. These additional opportunities will assist the Council to maximise new affordable housing investment in the region and are located in Stranraer, Collin and Gretna.

8.4.4 Work is ongoing to identify further pipeline projects that will help meet demand for high quality, energy efficient homes. The 16 November 2021 meeting of the Economy and Resources Committee is being asked to agree the scope of a Vacant and Derelict Land and Property Strategy, which will help to deliver local community aspirations and secure additional funding to tackle the problem of unused sites.

### 8.5 Lochside Collaborative Regeneration Proposal

8.5.1 The Lochside Transformational Regeneration Area Collaborative Regeneration Proposal submitted to the Council by the Wheatley Group was given support by Elected Members at the 15 June 2021 meeting of the Council's Economy and Resources Committee. It sets out a number of key delivery outcomes based on Green Infrastructure, Community, Added Value, Housing, Employment and Equality, and Health and Wellbeing. Significant experience has been gained by the Wheatley Group through partnership working to regenerate areas of Glasgow. This way of working has been shown to deliver greater positive outcomes for those living in locations suffering from deprivation. In addition, it provides a route to enable the leverage of significant investment into an area. The Wheatley Group also recognise that the approach required in different areas, both across the country and the region, needs to be developed on an individual basis. They have sought to engage with Council Officers at an early stage to help shape the collaborative regeneration proposal to reflect local objectives and circumstances.

8.5.2 The Council is committed to the National Standards for Community Engagement. These are the national good-practice principles designed to improve and guide the process of community engagement. They are also designed to maximise inclusivity and equalities, ensuring that seldom heard voices are fully included. The Wheatley Group has agreed to delivering these standards through their work in the delivery of the Lochside Collaborative Regeneration project. Place-making is a collaborative process that includes design, development, renewal, or regeneration of an area. Actively listening to communities is key and the outcome should be places that are sustainable, well designed and provides homes that meet people's needs, utilising the local services.

8.5.3 Sustainable communities promote interaction and create positive, diverse neighbourhoods. High quality design plays a key role in ensuring wellbeing, delivering good health outcomes, creating social connections, and improving access to services. The Partnership Proposal references the collaborative approach taken in other Transformational Regeneration Areas, including the establishment of Local Delivery Groups. This work provides a useful template, however, partners recognise the uniqueness of Dumfries and Galloway and will adapt the approach to suit the expressed needs of this locality. Work is currently underway to develop the Heads of Terms to take forward this work and to agree the process of engagement with the local community, taking a place based approach.

### 8.6 Town Centre Living Fund

8.6.1 The Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2) highlights support for the Town Centre First principle, an approach to decisions that considers the health and vibrancy of town centres from the outset. Enabling development of high quality and affordable housing in these locations increases the number of people living in our town centres while also supporting the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration Action Plan. In addition, the Town Centre Living Fund aims to support objectives set out in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal:

- Empower local communities to imagine and then build a long-term future for the towns they live in
- Retain and increase our working age population and our resident workforce

## Community Planning Partnership Board

- Maintain and raise the standard of the physical environment in our towns and town centres
- Maintain and increase the number of people living in our towns and town centres.

8.6.2 The 14 September 2021 meeting of the Council's Economy and Resources Committee agreed funding allocations from throughout the region. Four projects, including the delivery of a community led project seeking to reuse a derelict building, the refurbishment of a long term empty flat on Castle Douglas high street, conversion of a commercial property in Stranraer into two affordable homes and the delivery of major renovation works to a listed building in Dumfries town centre have all been supported.

8.6.3 Increasing high-quality accommodation is a key driver to create footfall and support the regeneration of town centres. It also helps to lower carbon emissions by providing homes within easy access of services and employment, reducing the need for travel and car ownership. The use of empty properties helps retain and maintain the area's built heritage and finding a new use for brownfield sites reduces the impact of development on the environment while improving how people feel about their local area. A number of projects have now been supported through this route, including in some of the region's smaller towns, which will also help sustain local services such as schools and public transport.

### 8.7 Energy Efficient Scotland: Area Based Scheme

8.7.1 The Energy Efficient Scotland Area Based Scheme (ABS) 2021/22 projects for Dumfries and Galloway were agreed by Elected Members at the 15 June 2021 meeting of Economy and Resources Committee. They are supported by an allocation from the Scottish Government of £2.38 million with the aim to assist homeowners, as well as people living in the private rented sector and have the following objectives:-

- To reduce fuel poverty
- To reduce carbon emissions
- To attract Energy Companies Obligation (ECO) funding.

8.7.2 ABS draw on a range of data sources including the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), child poverty and the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS). The Dumfries and Galloway Local Housing Strategy 2018-23 seeks to maximise the use of funding to deliver energy efficiency measures to homes in the private sector. While the reduction of fuel poverty is a key driver, by reducing carbon emissions, the project also contributes to the Climate Emergency Declaration Strategic Plan which aims to ensure the region is net zero for carbon emissions by 2025. Improving the energy efficiency of existing homes in the private sector helps provide a key contribution to this aspiration.

8.7.3 In the first seven years of the ABS Projects, there have been more than 1,923 energy efficiency measures installed across Dumfries and Galloway. These will save over 59,780t of carbon in their lifetime and result in fuel bill savings for local residents in excess of £13.6m at current prices.

8.7.4 The Council continues to work with the Energy Agency (EA) to develop and deliver the ABS programme. They are a charitable organisation providing free and impartial advice to households. In partnership with the Energy Savings Trust they also deliver the energy efficiency advice centre for South West Scotland. This partnership approach allows local people to benefit from their expertise and the awards received highlights that the approach taken is considered best practice. The EA carries out a range of promotional activity, including attendance at

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Community Council meetings, promotional events, mailings and media advertising. They have received recognition for the high standard of their work in the south west, picking up prizes at the UK wide National Energy Awards and the Scottish Energy Efficiency Awards.

**Lead Officer: Jamie Little, Strategic Housing Investment, Economy and Resources Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

## **9. Poverty and Inequality Strategy**

9.1 The Partnership's four Sub-Groups now have appointed lead organisations:

- **Sub Group 1:** Tackling Severe and Persistent Poverty & Destitution and Building Individuals and Communities Ability to Deal with the Effects of Poverty
  - **Lead Organisation:** Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
- **Sub Group 2:** Maximising Income and Reducing Debt of People Facing Poverty
  - **Lead Organisation:** Dumfries & Galloway Citizen Advice Service
- **Sub Group 3:** Reducing Financial Pressures on People Facing Poverty
  - **Lead Organisation:** Loreburn Housing
- **Sub-Group 4: Developing our approach to Child Poverty**, including the 2020/21 Annual Report and updating the 2020-23 Action Plan
  - **Lead Organisation:** NHS Dumfries & Galloway

9.5 The Sub-Group on the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the Strategy and Partnership led by the Council's Anti-Poverty Officer has met three times and the draft Framework was discussed at the PIP's last meeting – it includes how the PIP will evaluate its success as a forum; the identification of specific actions (which will include some individual activities of partners and some collective actions, with the focus being on added value), how to increase the voice of people with lived experience and evaluation approaches to assess the impact of our Action Plan. The final Framework should be agreed by the Partnership on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

9.6 Key actions of the new Partnership moving forward include:

- Consultation by Dumfries and Galloway Council Employability and Skills Team on the new Scottish Government Parent Employability Support Funding.
- Consultation on the new Period Poverty Act – Guidance for Responsible Bodies 2021
- Analysis of the Challenge Poverty Week D&G activity (see 9.7 below)
- Creation of a dedicated page on the CPP website about PIP research and reports with work undertaken with partners to create an interactive resource.

9.7 Challenge Poverty Week 2021

9.7.1 The annual national awareness raising, 'Challenge Poverty Week' took place last month. We published daily [dedicated webpages](#) which included videos, Factsheets and details of all supporting organisations within our region for each day's theme:

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October – Launch

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Financial Wellbeing

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Social Security Scotland

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Employment

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Home, Fuel, Digital Connectivity & Period Poverty

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Supporting Young People and Families

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October – Tackling Poverty throughout our communities

9.7.2 There was around 230 engagements per day and the Gov Delivery daily posts: averaged: Council Staff = 2,371 and public = 2,042

**Lead Officers: Wendy Jesson, Anti-Poverty Officer and Mark Molloy, Service Manager, Communities Directorate, Dumfries and Galloway Council.**



## **10. Regional Transport Strategy**

### **10.1 New Regional Transport Strategy**

SWestrans, as a Regional Transport Partnership, has a duty to draw up a strategy for transport within its region. The current Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) was published in 2008.

10.2 The SWestrans Board has agreed to produce a new RTS that will be fully reflective of the particular circumstances of Dumfries and Galloway and set within the current and emerging local policy context (e.g. Local Development Plan 2, Regional Economic Strategy, Dumfries and Galloway Council Plan, Borderlands Growth Deal etc.). The RTS will also reflect the broader context of national policy and legislative environments as expressed through the National Transport Strategy 2, National Planning Framework 4, Climate Targets, Transport (Scotland) Act 2019, Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, Strategic Transport Projects Review 2 etc.

10.3 Procurement of suitable support for the development and production of the RTS has been undertaken and a short summary of the key stages and estimated timeline are shown below:

### **10.4 Case for Change / Main Issues Report (Nov 21 – Mar 22)**

- Set out the current policy environment in which the RTS will sit.
- Set out the current supply side by transport mode in Dumfries and Galloway and to/from Dumfries and Galloway and the level of connectivity provided to residents.
- Identify the main transport problems affecting Dumfries and Galloway residents, and how these impact on residents' life choices and opportunities.
- Identify any opportunities both in the short and long term that can improve Dumfries and Galloway's social and economic wellbeing, health and environmental performance.
- Set out a number of scenarios to define the future context for (i) travel patterns (people and goods, taking account of, amongst other things, COVID-19), (ii) the supply of transport services in the light of technological change and (iii) the infrastructure requirements over the planning horizon of the Strategy.
- Acknowledge the importance of achieving value for money, in understanding what works well in delivering different outcomes in Dumfries and Galloway, from previous experience and research elsewhere.

### **10.5 Vision and objectives (Nov 21 – Mar 22)**

- Generate and agree an overarching vision and a set of RTS Objectives which capture what the RTS is setting out to achieve.

### **10.6 Engagement and Consultation (throughout)**

- Proportionate engagement with stakeholders and the public at key stages throughout the RTS development period. Depending on progress against Covid19 much of this may be undertaken remotely.

### **10.7 Option Generation and Sifting (Feb 22 – Jul 22)**

- The RTS will comprise both a framework to guide decision making in transport and a set of actions and initiatives for SWestrans to take forward across the period of the RTS. Options are likely to include policy statements, capital infrastructure projects and revenue-based projects. An appropriate long list of options will be generated based on the problems, issues and opportunities set out in the Case for Change. These options

will be grounded in a clear understanding of the Dumfries and Galloway context and what is realistic and deliverable in this environment.

- A sifting process should be undertaken to generate a robust short list for further development including:
  - Review of transport improvement schemes or interventions already under development/ consideration.
  - Consideration of measures and policies that will ensure use of existing infrastructure is maximised.
  - Consideration of future infrastructure requirements where that is necessary.
  - Consideration of Digital and Technological advancements.

#### 10.8 Option Development (Feb 22 – Jul 22)

Options will be developed to a stage where there is a clear picture of how they would look in a Dumfries and Galloway context. This will include detailed engagement with SWestrans partners Dumfries and Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise and NHS Dumfries and Galloway as well as others.

#### 10.9 Options Appraisal (Jul 22 – Jan 23)

A proportionate options appraisal will be undertaken in line with STAG and the RTS objectives. The outputs from this appraisal will be in a form to determine whether the option should be incorporated in the RTS. This will include all assessments in line with the statutory requirements and duties placed upon SWestrans in the production of a RTS including but not limited to:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment for the new Strategy, in line with the Environmental Assessment Act (2005) and the SEA Guidance
- Equality Impact Assessment in line with the Equalities Act 2010
- Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities Impact Assessment
- Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact

#### 10.10 Draft RTS / Delivery Plan (Jul 22 – Jan 23)

A Draft RTS and the accompanying Delivery Plan will be produced for a 12-week statutory consultation.

#### 10.11 Final RTS (Mar 23)

Final RTS and Delivery Plan.

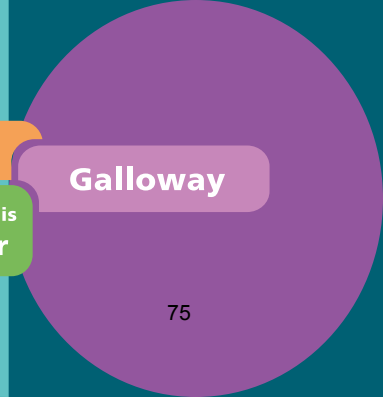
**Lead Officer:** Douglas Kirkpatrick – SWestrans



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

# Community Learning and Development Partners' Strategic Plan

2021-24



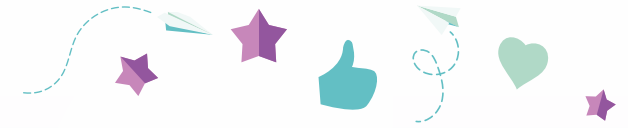
Dumfries & Galloway  
Together is Better

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# FOREWORD



It gives me great pleasure to introduce Dumfries & Galloway's third Community Learning & Development (CLD) Partners' Strategic Plan covering the period 2021-2024, and which forms part of our statutory responsibilities as required through the CLD (Scotland) regulations 2013.

The Plan has been developed through our CLD Partnership over an eleven-month period and has been informed through extensive consultation activities involving our communities, local groups and organisations, practitioners, learners, volunteers and hard to reach individuals.

Our CLD Sector has never been more important, and during our response to the Covid Pandemic we witnessed true partnership working in action, together with our communities to ensure our most vulnerable had access to food, medicine and health & wellbeing supports. We also witnessed a closing of the digital gap where many families and individuals benefitted from access to digital devices and associated digital skills support to help address inequalities across our region. However there is still much work to do, and this is one of the key priorities outlined within our new Plan.

The forthcoming period will of course be focused on helping our communities to recover; supporting our most vulnerable; addressing further inequalities created by the Covid Pandemic; putting "Place" at the heart of our recovery efforts; tackling climate change together and improving the health & wellbeing of our communities.

This new Plan also makes a significant contribution to our new Community Planning Partnership Recovery Plan and our Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, and I have every confidence that the ambitions and actions outlined in our new 3-year action plan will make a positive difference to our communities over the next few years.

On behalf of our Community Planning Partnership, I wholeheartedly endorse this plan and look forward to seeing our CLD Partnership driving this forward with our communities.



**Cllr Elaine Murray**  
DGC Council Leader  
Chair, Community Planning  
Partnership Board



# INTRODUCTION



The Community Learning & Development (Scotland) Regulations 2013 place a statutory requirement on local authorities to publish a plan every 3 years outlining how it will co-ordinate and secure “adequate and efficient” Community Learning & Development (CLD) provision with other sector partners.

This new Plan sees us move into the third cycle of CLD planning within Dumfries and Galloway and over this time our CLD Partnership has continued to grow and strengthen. CLD approaches have become more prevalent and visible across partners, local groups and organisations across our region over the last few years.

In the face of the global Covid Pandemic, the importance of CLD has never been more critical in terms of supporting our most vulnerable and working with and alongside our communities. The work of CLD Partners and, in particular, the impact that CLD has had over the last 12 months has led to:

- Volunteers playing an increasingly important role to support local groups, organisations and also helping to provide essential services during the Covid Pandemic;
- Increased engagement and development of a shared understanding of priorities with our local communities which has seen a shift in approach where public bodies and partners are actively working with and alongside communities to help turn plans into action;
- An increased number of groups and organisations are doing more for themselves and taking a lead within their respective geographical areas for the benefit of their local communities;
- The emergence of Locality Hubs through the Covid Pandemic has now become the recognised model for local Community Planning;
- Dumfries and Galloway being recognised at a national level on a regular basis in terms of sector best practice;
- The profile and understanding of what CLD is all about being enhanced through Social Media;
- Service provision moving online and innovative approaches being deployed to support our young people and most vulnerable in different ways.

# WHAT IS COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT?

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CLD is a field of professional practice that enables people to identify their own individual and collective goals, to engage in learning and take action to bring about change for themselves and their communities. It uses a range of formal and informal methods of learning and social development with individuals and groups in their communities.

The Scottish Government's National Performance Framework sets out the strategic objectives for all public services, including those delivering CLD. Within this, CLD's specific focus is:

- improved life chances for people of all ages through learning, personal development and active citizenship;
- stronger, more resilient, supportive, influential and inclusive communities.

The types of activities that the Scottish Government wishes to see partners undertaking to deliver CLD outcomes includes the following:

- community development (building the capacity of communities to meet their own needs, engaging with and influencing decision makers);
- youth work, family learning and other early intervention work with children, young people and families;
- community-based adult learning, including adult literacies and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL);
- volunteer development;
- learning for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the community, for example, people with disabilities, care leavers or offenders;
- learning support and guidance in the community.

CLD programmes and activities are developed in discussion with communities, participants and learners, working particularly with those excluded from participation in the decisions and processes that shape their lives.

The Dumfries & Galloway CLD Partnership has developed a short animated video to help demonstrate who contributes to CLD and the impact it can have. This can be viewed through the following link: [CLD Partners Strategic Plan \(dumgal.gov.uk\)](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/CLD-Partners-Strategic-Plan)

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POLICY CONTEXT – LOCAL AND NATIONAL

National drivers		Local Policy context	Key recent intelligence/reference points (D&G)	
Working with Scotland's Communities 2018	Planning for change – A review of CLD Plans in Scotland 2018-2021	D&G Council Plan 2017 – 2022 and mid-term review	CSEG Children's Services vulnerability assessment-2021	Digital Inclusion in D & G Third Sector (Oct 2020)
Improved life chances and empowering communities; CLD in Scotland: findings from Inspection evidence 2016-2019	Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015	Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2017-2027	D&G Youth Council Action Plans for each of the 12 wards and nominated Action Plans for the 7 nominated groups.	South Of Scotland Third Sector: A Partnership approach to Covid 19 -Response and Recovery Planning. Aug 2020
National Family Learning review	Digital Strategy for Scotland – A Changing Nation: How Scotland will Thrive in a Digital World	D&G Locality Plan on Food Sharing 2017-2027	D&G community Conversations 2020/21	Rural Covid Life- Jan 2021
The requirements for CLD (Scotland) Regulations 2013	Strategic Guidance for Community Planning Partnerships: CLD 2012	D&G Children's Services Plan 2020-2023	NHS Dumfries and Galloway Volunteering Annual Report - July 2021	Evaluation of DGC Anti-Poverty Strategy and final report 2019/20.  Poverty & Deprivation in D & G 2020(North Star Consulting).
UN Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC)	Social Renewal Advisory Board – Calls To Action	Inequalities & Poverty (Strategy)	CLD Partners' annual end of year report 2018-2021	Review of the Covid Community Support Cell
Perceptions and experiences of Community safety in Scotland (SCSN -July 2020)	Scottish Government National Performance Framework	D&G Community Justice Improvement Plan 2 – 2018-2021	DGC Education Standards annual report	Youth Work Quality Standards Report (annual)



Public Health Scotland Priorities	Scottish Government Health & Wellbeing Outcomes	D&G Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2024	Children’s Services Annual Report 2020	Local community action plans	
Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014		Police Scotland Local Plan	Local Child Poverty Action Report – Annual Report 2019/20	LOIP Annual Report	
		Scottish Fire & Rescue Plan	DGC Climate Emergency Action Plan	Locality Plan Annual Report	
		DGC Community Participation & Engagement Strategy	The Shared Action Plan between DGC and D&G Youth Council	Participation Requests and Community Asset Transfer Annual Reports	
		Education Annual Plan			
		Health & Social Care Strategic Commissioning Plan 2022-2025 (in development)			
		DGC Volunteer Strategy			
		South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy 2021-2031			
		Equalities Outcomes 2021-2025 (across Community Planning Partners)			
Community Planning Partners Covid Recovery Plan					

## HOW WE HAVE USED DATA/INTELLIGENCE?

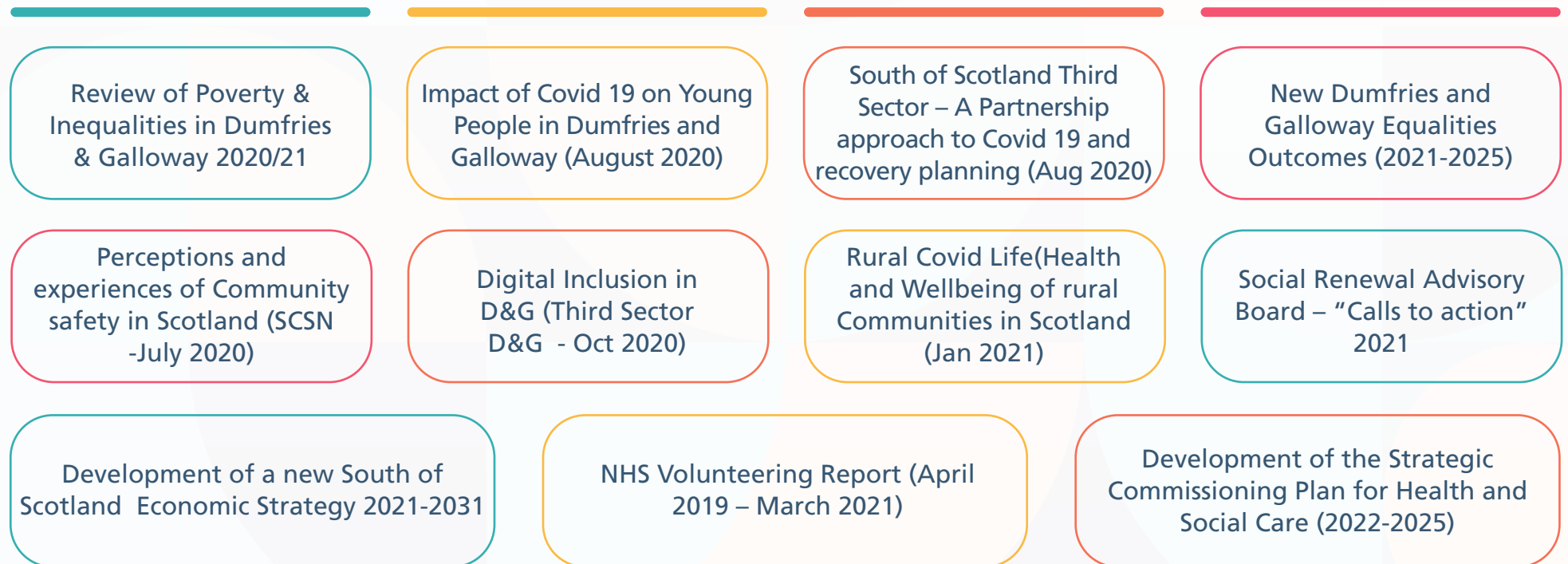


Data and intelligence continues to play a critical role in terms of informing the work of CLD Partners within Dumfries & Galloway and identifying the key issues facing our local communities and the people we support.

The significant research exercise undertaken in 2018 during the Year of Young People and which involved capturing the voices of over 10,000 Young People continues to be a key reference point and particularly with regards to the analysis undertaken against the Place Standard.

The previous research work undertaken by the Crichton Institute on “understanding the dimensions of poverty and deprivation in Dumfries & Galloway” has been further superseded during 2020/21 by the updated Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation statistics published in 2020 and the localised work within D&G around a new approach to Tackling Poverty & Inequalities.

The Covid pandemic led to a range of both informal and formal intelligence being captured with the following research being key to informing the priorities identified for our communities as outlined within our 2021/22 action plan.



## Key statistics about Dumfries and Dalloway (D&G)



### CLD Standards Council Membership

31 local authority members

19 voluntary/third sector members

2021 Participation measure  
93.1%+

1.2% increase from 2020

+16-19 year olds across D+G were participating in education, employment or training.

### Poverty

Around 1 in 5 residents in D&G live in poverty.\*

8.8% of the working age population in D&G are considered employment deprived (being unemployed or unable to work due to illness.\*

Fuel poverty within D&G (28%) higher than the national average as a whole (25%)\*

3589 children registered for free school meals (as at May 2020)

### Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)

19 data zones within D&G sit within 20% most deprived in Scotland:

- Annandale South (2)
- Mid and Upper Nithsdale (3)
- Nith (1)
- North West Dumfries (8)
- Stranraer & Rhins (5)

### Digital Exclusion (2017)

49.25% of households did not receive 4G mobile data from all providers.

13% of households did not receive broadband speeds of at least 10 megabits per second (Mbps)

High likelihood of digital exclusion

Source – digital heatmap 2017, Tech Partnership

\*source – Future approach to tackling poverty in Dumfries & Galloway – January 2021 (Nick Hopkins consulting)

## DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CLD PARTNERSHIP



Lead responsibilities within the local authority for the CLD Regulations and developing a new plan sit with the Communities Directorate (Community Planning & Engagement), however the work is very much led and driven through the Dumfries & Galloway CLD Partnership. The Partnership is now well embedded and established within Community Planning structures and is contributing to a number of related thematic partnerships and working groups.

Since the previous CLD Planning process stronger connections, in particular, have been made with the Children's Services Executive Group where the CLD Partnership now leads on Priority 6 (supporting parents and carers); Employability & Skills Partnership; Poverty and Inequalities Partnership; Re-Settlement Board; and the Community Justice Partnership.

CLD approaches are also more commonly being used to support the work of Safer Communities Partnerships where community engagement is playing an increasingly important role in early intervention and prevention and is fundamental to the local Dumfries and Galloway Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Local Plans, in addition to the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2020-2024.

The membership and reach of the CLD Partnership has also widened and increased over the last 3 years with current core membership as follows:

<b>D&amp;G Council</b>	<b>Non-Council</b>	
Lifelong Learning (DGC)	Health and Social Care Community Development	Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
Youth Work (DGC)	NHS Public Health	Children's Hearings Scotland
Community Development and Empowerment (DGC)	Department for Work & Pensions	
Culture (DGC)	Dumfries & Galloway College	<b>NEW during 2020/21</b>
Education (DGC)	Skills Development Scotland	Inequalities and Poverty
Active Schools (DGC)	DG Unlimited	Children's Services
Employability & Skills (DGC)	DG Voice	Community Justice Partnership
	LGBT Youth	Social Security Scotland
	Education Scotland	South of Scotland Enterprise

Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue are also involved in a wide range of early intervention and prevention initiatives with CLD Partners. The CLD Partnership plan to build on this and establish more formal links with these organisations through the CLD Partnership during 2021/22.

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**Examples of how CLD Partners contribute to the LOIP outcomes**

Outcome	Examples
<b>Outcome 1</b> – Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre employability pipeline support such as confidence building, writing CV's, volunteering, apprenticeships</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 2</b> – Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accredited awards for young people and adults; ESOL; Duke of Edinburgh's Award.</li> <li>• PEEP Programme supporting parents</li> <li>• Digital Skills</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3</b> – Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities and interventions that support positive Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing (both formal and informal)</li> <li>• Youth Information in Schools Project (low level psychological support)</li> <li>• Progress of Syrian Refugee Re-settlement programme</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 4</b> – There is affordable and warm housing for those who need it most	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the Covid Pandemic the Council dedicated Gypsy Traveller sites reached capacity. Those entering the region were supported with a needs assessment which helped identify any specific needs. This led to food, health and other provision being made available to support families through partners involved in the Gypsy Traveller Liaison Group.</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 5</b> – The money available to people on benefits and low wages are maximised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help was provided to vulnerable learners during Covid Pandemic to access grants and particularly those who struggled with online forms/submitting claims digitally.</li> <li>• Additional funding was made available for care experienced young people through the Individual Grants Scheme which aims to support young people to access items and equipment to support their well-being.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Outcome 6</b> – People are safe and feel safe.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLD approaches have been used to engage with communities in relation to the re-opening of town centres and encouraging visitors back into the region post Covid travel restrictions. This allowed partners to work with Community Councils, businesses and visitor attraction management to agree a plan to ensure this was handled carefully and to increase community confidence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 7</b> – People are well connected.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-ordination of applications for Connecting Scotland funding.</li> <li>• Digital skills training for staff, practitioners and our communities.</li> <li>• The College working with transport suppliers to ensure that bespoke transport is available for all students coming to college without charge, particularly important through the Covid19 pandemic when sharing of cars for example is to be avoided.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outcome 8</b> – Individuals and communities are empowered.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued development of Youth Democracy forums including the Champions Board Project that aims to support and empower care experienced young people, and Dumfries and Galloway's Regional Youth Council.</li> <li>• 10,000 Voices in Action Project which is a youth-led participatory budgeting project that has seen £120,000 invested in the last 2 years for events, groups, equipment and provisions for young people across all 12 ward areas.</li> <li>• Place/Locality Planning.</li> <li>• Community Asset Transfers.</li> <li>• Community conversations, listening events and taking positive actions stemming from this.</li> </ul>



## GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

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Arrangements surrounding governance in relation to the CLD Partnership and reporting on our CLD Partners' Plan are robust and embedded within Community Planning structures.

All CLD Partners are committed to a Terms of Reference for the Partnership to ensure roles, responsibilities and expectations are clear. This is reinforced with a commitment to the CLD Standards Council values and principles:

- Self-determination
- Inclusion
- Empowerment
- Working collaboratively
- Promotion of learning as a lifelong learning activity

Reporting and scrutiny of our partners arrangements and progress against our plan are considered as follows:

- Quarterly updates on the Action Plan to the Community Planning Partnership Board
- Annual report submitted to the Community Planning Board/ Executive Group on the Partnership
- Performance updates reported to Council Committees and Partner Boards
- Evidence contributions included as part of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan Annual reports
- An evaluative annual report on our CLD Partners' Plan 2018-2021 has been completed for each year of the plan. This includes a range of performance information, case studies, impact stories and evaluative evidence.

Appendix 1 demonstrates where the CLD Partnership sits as part of the Community Planning operating framework.



# QUALITY ASSURANCE AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT



CLD Partners continue to commit to self-evaluation and reflective practice to help drive improvement. In addition to the learning identified following the Education Scotland Inspection in 2017/18, a comprehensive self-evaluation exercise was undertaken in 2019 against a selection of the Quality Indicators outlined in “how good is the learning and development in our community?”

- 2.1 Impact on learners
- 4.2 Improving impacts for sharing wider practice
- 8.1 Partnership working

Whilst the peak Covid response period during 2020 hampered more formal self-evaluation activities, our annual CLD Plan evaluative reports have included reflective analysis of areas for improvement identified through the CLD Partnership. A refreshed self-evaluation against some of the Quality Indicators outlined in the new quality framework “How good is our community learning & development? (4th Edition)” shall take place in late 2021/early 2022 and then on annual basis thereafter.

Elsewhere, comprehensive annual reports are prepared and scrutinised by appropriate Committees and covering key areas such as Community Asset Transfers, Participatory Budgeting, Volunteering and the Youth Work Quality & Standards report.

Going forward, other areas currently being developed are securing the Investing in Volunteers standard through Volunteering Scotland for Council Services and investigating CLD Standards Council Standards Mark status through the CLD Partnership.



# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



The CLD Partnership has considered the national 2018 research (Working with Scotland's Communities) commissioned through the CLD Standards Council in relation to future workforce trends. Within Dumfries & Galloway there is evidence of an ageing workforce in some CLD related services, however Youth Work, in particular, continues to maximise external funding streams available and which has created a range of new fixed term posts across the sector and led to a number of apprenticeship opportunities.

The impacts of Covid 19 have also presented new challenges for our workforce in terms of being able to best meet the changing needs of learners and our communities. Some of the key learning priorities identified include:

**Digital Skills**

**Trauma Informed Approaches**

**Community Engagement Techniques**

**Health & Wellbeing**

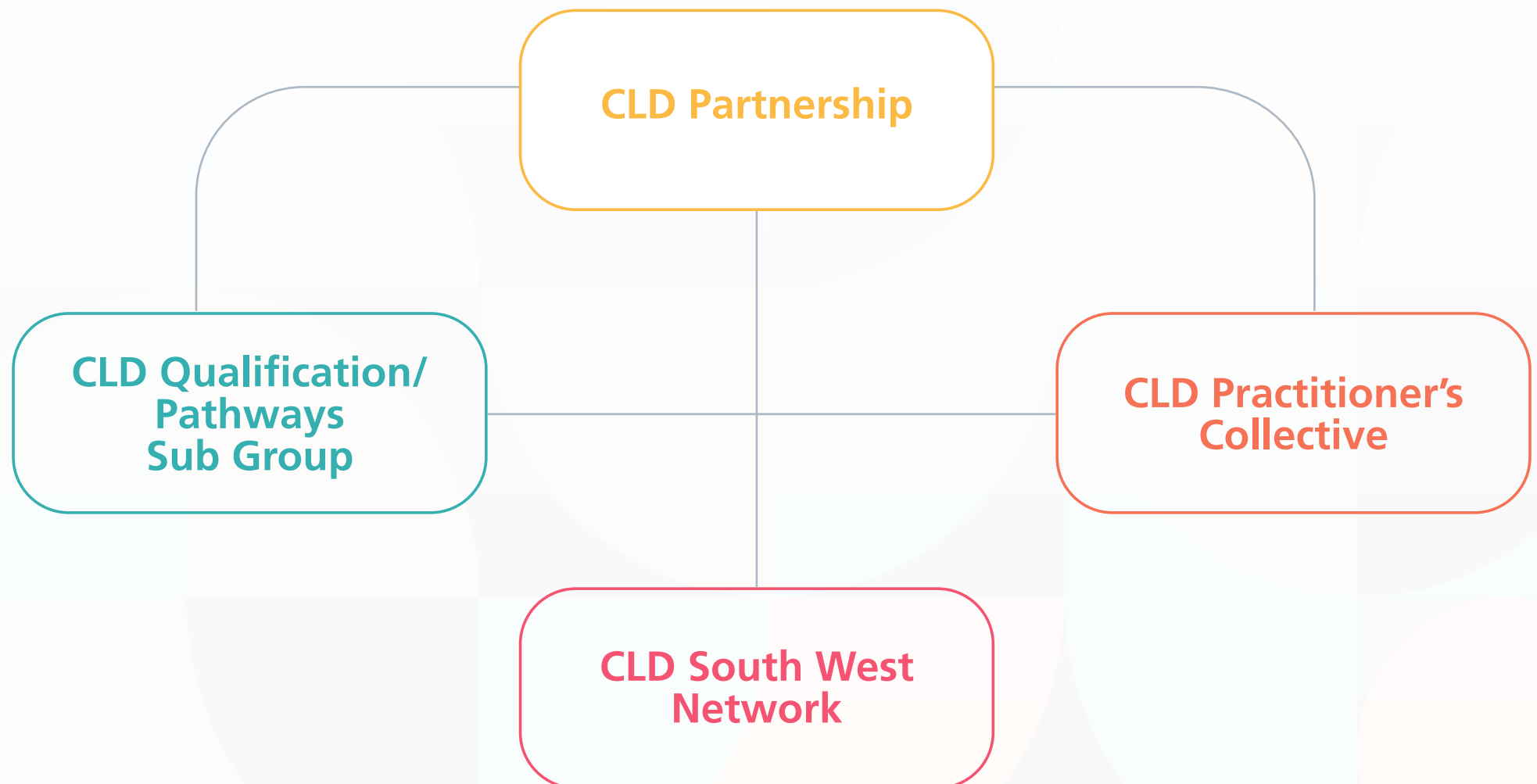
Opportunities have been capitalised upon to support progression pathways into CLD Sector employment and which has included apprenticeships, graduate placements and work placements.

This work is being further progressed during 2021 through the establishment of a new sub group through the CLD Partnership and involving D&G College and related CLD Sector Partners to identify need and create a new flexible qualifications route to support CLD Pathways including PDA's, NC, HNC, HND and Degree level qualifications. This would see increased focus on working within the Senior Phase to help increase awareness, understanding and interest in CLD related careers and to build a sustainable model for the future.

A D&G practitioner led CLD Collective has also emerged with links to the CLD Partnership to help support practitioners across the region and to act as a sounding board/consultee on key CLD related matters both locally and nationally.

This will also assist in identifying the workforce needs of volunteers and practitioners working within community organisations.

**A summary of the CLD workforce consultation is attached in Appendix 2.**



## POTENTIAL UNMET NEED

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### DIGITAL

The Covid pandemic has highlighted gaps and inequalities with regards to digital skills, access to broadband and digital devices and this continues to present a challenge for those residing in Dumfries & Galloway.

The Digital Inclusion report commissioned through Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway in 2020 highlighted some key findings as follows:

- There was no single integrated strategy or coordinating body for digital.
- 59% failure rate for funding bids.- 11 successful and 17 unsuccessful.
- 31 sources of potential funding identified from £500 – multi- year grants of £60,000 or part-funded grants £100,000.
- Data identifies a mix of invisible groups who are digitally excluded such as over 65's and those individuals with mental health issues.
- Disabled people who are digitally excluded could be as high as 20,000.

Partners need to work closer together over the next 12 months, in particular, to help close the digital gap and better understand where support is required in terms of access to devices, broadband and digital skills including promotion of the SCVO checklists for foundation skills, work and life.

### INFORMATION

The stakeholder consultation in relation to the CLD Plan highlighted a high demand for health and wellbeing activities and being able to connect socially again such as joining a club. The feedback suggests that information is not reaching everyone in terms of what is on offer/available within our communities and therefore partners need to consider ways to address this by utilising different methods to target harder to reach audiences as well as maximising use around single information points. This work will include how we can better support those with visual and hearing impairments to ensure equality of access to key information.

### DYSLEXIA

Information provided through Dyslexia Scotland suggests that up to 10% of the population in Dumfries & Galloway may have dyslexic needs but many may never have been assessed. In order to enable CLD workers to support people with dyslexic needs (whether or not they have been diagnosed), it has been recommended by Dyslexia Scotland that practitioners should attend dyslexia awareness training; increase their knowledge by becoming familiar with the Scottish working definition of dyslexia and access to the wide range of resources Dyslexia Scotland offers such as the leaflets, a specific CLD module, Post Assessment Pack for Adults, career guidance materials and using the dedicated Helpline. Closer links also need to be formed with the Dyslexia Scotland South West branch.

## South West Educational Improvement Collaborative

Over the last few years close relationships have been formed between Dumfries & Galloway Council and North, South and East Ayrshire Councils as part of the CLD South West Network and South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC).

This has led to CLD becoming more embedded within the SWEIC 2021/22 Recovery Plan and particularly across the following areas:

- CLD Contribution to Developing the Young Workforce
- CLD Contribution to Closing the Poverty related Attainment Gap
- Development of joint Professional Learning workshops with education
- Exploring opportunities around Family Learning & Engagement including digital, health & wellbeing, literacy, numeracy and STEM

## CLD South West Network

The network continues to meet on a quarterly basis and membership has recently been expanded to include Team Leaders from across the various local authority areas and including representation from Education Scotland and the SWEIC. The main focus continues to be on:

- Sharing best practice
- Identifying needs of our CLD Workforce
- CLD Planning and Quality Improvement
- Maximising funding opportunities
- Developing the evidence base for CLD
- Digital skills

More specialised practitioner groups have also been formed around the key areas of ESOL, Adult Learning and Family Learning.

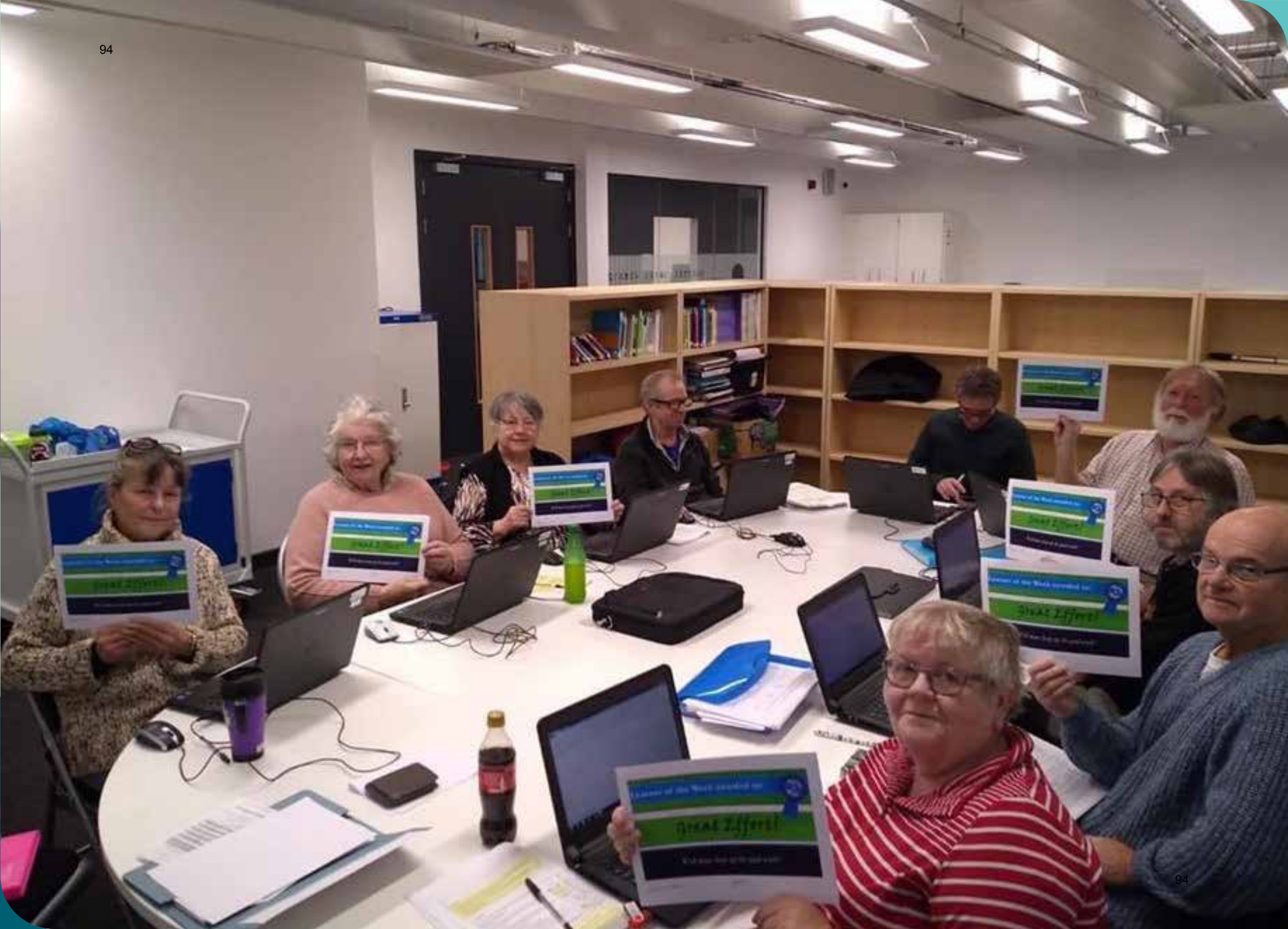
Some high level learning priorities for the SW Network going forward are detailed below with more detailed priorities attached in Appendix 3.

**PEER Evaluation**

**Workforce Planning**

**Leadership**

**Coaching & Mentoring**



# LOCALITY/PLACE PLANNING

Within Dumfries and Galloway locality/place planning continues to play an increasingly important role in terms of Covid Recovery and Community Renewal and this will continue over the lifetime of this new CLD Plan.

It is proposed that during 2021/22 a programme of work will involve:

- analysis of the '20 Minute Neighbourhood' profile of the 14 towns included within the restart programme
- understanding the updated Profile of the 12 Wards in our region, including the key changes and developments during the last five years
- considering the implications and requirements in relation to the Locality Plans referenced in the Planning legislation
- consider progress in the developments relating to partnership activity, particularly with Third Sector D&G, South of Scotland Enterprise and Health partners

The engagement of stakeholders (citizens, customers, staff, Elected Members and partners, particularly Community Councils) is key to this agenda, and so the programme of work will be taken forward with their involvement.



# SOCIAL RENEWAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY



As CLD Partners within D&G it is vital that we consider the key recommendations and “calls to action” stemming from the work of the Scottish Government Social Renewal Advisory Board and also the priorities outlined in the new Regional Economic Strategy for the South of Scotland which has followed extensive consultation with our communities. It is clear the new CLD Plan and associated CLD Partners have a key role to play in contributing to these key agendas and therefore this will be a focus within our actions plans.





A number of preconditions for social renewal, which are aligned with Christie's\* four pillars (prevention, partnership, people and performance) are still very relevant as we emerge from Covid and focus on Community Recovery:

- Ensuring people have enough money to meet their basic needs and address the crisis of inequality.
- We need to protect those groups who are hit hardest by every crisis.
- We need a new partnership between people / government / services that radically challenges our understanding of the relationship between people and public authorities.
- We need to make sure we embed the best partnership and practice that we have seen from people across the full range of public, third and community sectors during the response.
- We need strong communities and a vibrant third sector, working with national and local government, to deliver the long-term change we are looking to see.
- We need a strong focus on place itself.
- We need to move equality from the margins of policymaking and service delivery to its very centre.

\*Christie Commission's Report of 2011 on the Future Delivery of Public Services.



## DEVELOPING OUR NEW PLAN



The CLD Partnership has led the planning and approach to developing this new Plan and has taken into account the national guidance note on CLD Planning; Learning events with Education Scotland and adherence to the National Standards for Community Engagement. This led to the following model being adopted to help identify the key priorities of our learners and communities:



To try and capture as wide a range of responses as possible it was decided through the CLD Partnership that the consultation would be supported through 3 separate surveys targeted at individuals; groups and organisations and practitioners and volunteers.

Initial questions were scoped out through a sub group of the CLD Partnership; these were then tested out through learners and local groups that partners work with to help simplify language and to check they were easily understandable and to help inform the final versions. With language and understanding of the term CLD being highlighted as a potential barrier through the test groups, it was decided to produce a short animated video to run alongside the consultation and to aid understand of who contributes to CLD and what it is all about.

The response to our 3 surveys was very positive with completion rates as follows:

## Practitioners and Volunteers

Public Surveys **57**



## Groups and Organisations

Public Surveys **35**



## Individuals

Public Surveys **129**



## Groups and Organisations

Focus Group Participation **10**



## Learners/Adults

Focus Group Participation **23**



## Young People

Focus Group Participation **98**

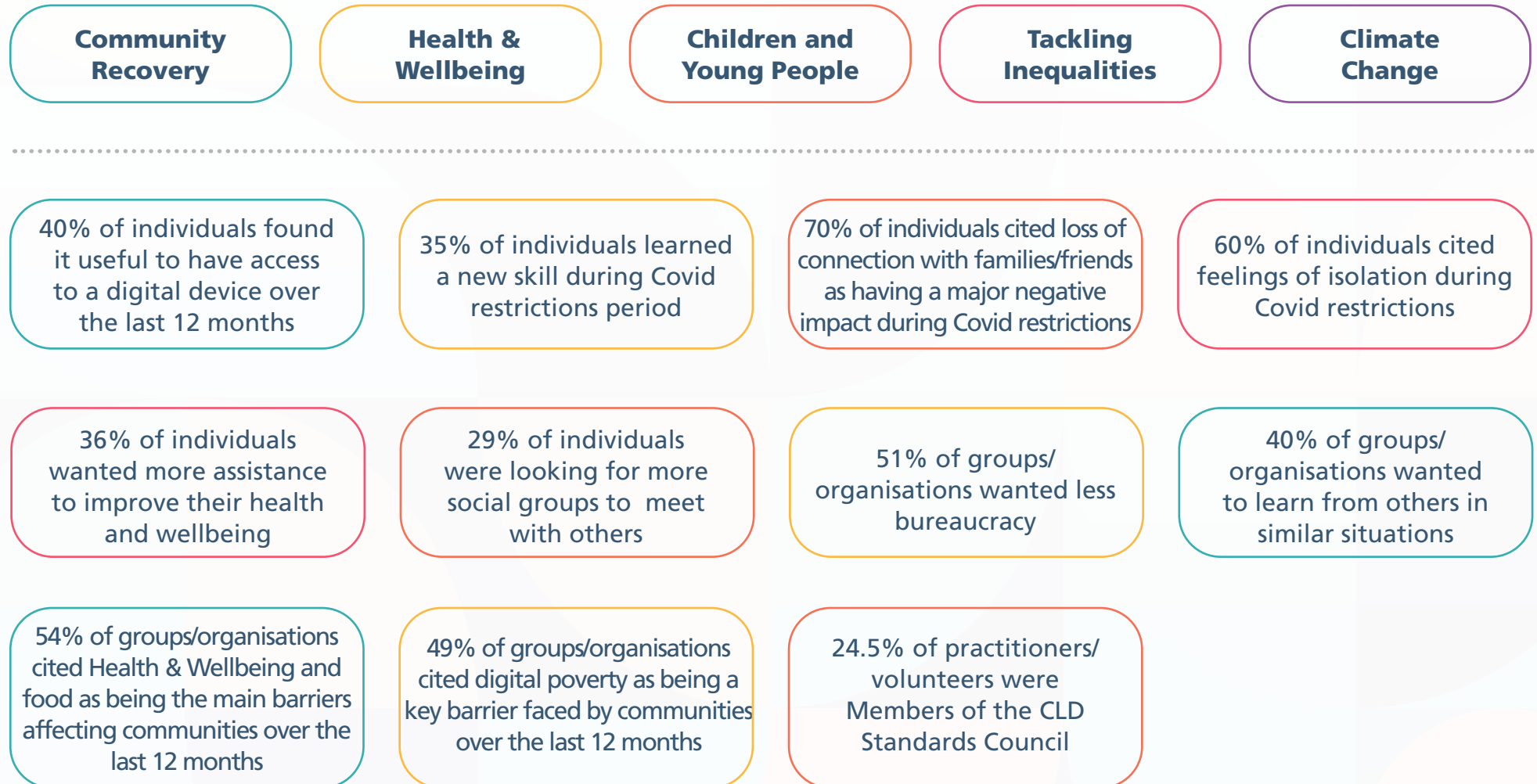


## Volunteers and Practitioners

Focus Group Participation **17**



## High level messages from public consultation



## OUR VISION AND PRIORITIES

Our CLD Partnership have developed the following vision and priorities for the next 3 years following assessment, analysis and consideration of the relevant secondary research available, particularly in relation to Covid 19. This also includes the results of the public consultation, focus groups and discussions with key partners:

Vision		
"CLD is at the heart of our Covid recovery with partners working with our communities to help increase life chances for our most vulnerable people, develop healthy and vibrant communities; and ensure a fairer, more equitable society for all."		
Priority Themes		
Children & Young People - Attainment & Achievement 	Learning, skills & employability 	Inclusion & equalities 
Health & Wellbeing 	Community Development, Empowerment & Renewal 	Climate Change 
Enabling themes		
Workforce Development 	Governance & Quality Assurance 	Volunteering 
	Digital 	

The themes are underpinned by a set of objectives, key actions and performance measures. This will be refreshed on a regular basis to take into account emerging priorities within our communities.

# CLD PARTNERS' STRATEGIC PLAN

## PRIORITIES 2021-2024

### 1. CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Raising attainment, achievement and participation

professionals

pupils

parents

Increase partnership working in POLICY DEVELOPMENT in schools

### 2. LEARNING, SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

LIFE SKILLS and accreditation

Support individuals to have EQUALITY of ACCESS to a PROSPEROUS FUTURE.

### LISTENING EVENTS

### 5. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EMPOWERMENT AND RENEWAL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### 6. CLIMATE CHANGE

NO PLANET B

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

GREEN SKILLS to meet future labour market demands

PARTICIPATORY Budgeting Approaches

### 7. DIGITAL TRAINING

REDUCE DIGITAL EXCLUSION

DIGITAL champions

CONNECTING SCOTLAND FUNDING

### 8. VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEER MATCHING

GUIDANCE and SUPPORT in place for volunteers

Increasing OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

& CELEBRATION

### 9. WORKFORCE

DIVERSITY

Meeting workforce LEARNING NEEDS

### 10. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

### 3. INCLUSION & EQUALITIES

(protected characteristics)

ESOL/ New Scots integration

Feel safe to report HATE CRIME

WELCOME

Tervetuloa

Bine ati venit

RECEBER

Bienvenido

Faitte

Добро дошли

Vitaj

SERVICES and INFORMATION ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE and AVAILABLE TO ALL

### 4. HEALTH & WELLBEING

Involve a wider range of people in LOCAL DECISION MAKING and ACTIVITIES

TARGETED APPROACHES to supporting our most vulnerable and hardest to reach

REGISTER → CLD Standards Council

ENSURE SKILLS:

- DIGITAL
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- HEALTH & WELLBEING
- TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACHES



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

## Appendix 1 – CLD Partnership & the Community Planning Operating Framework



## Appendix 2 – Findings from CLD Plan Public Consultation

Female (96)	Male (33)
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What help and support have you found useful over the last 12 months that should continue?		
Being able to access a digital device	52	40%
Having someone to talk to	46	36%
Learning a new skill/gaining a new qualification	45	35%
Looking after your health & wellbeing	44	34%

Have you experienced any new positive changes on your life over the last 12 months?		
Learning a new skill	45	35%
Exercising more outside	41	31%
Helping others	38	29%
More confident in using a digital device	35	27%

What do you feel the main negative impacts of Covid have been on yourself/other people?		
Loss of connections with friends/families	90	70%
Feeling isolated	77	60%
Unable to take part in activities which you enjoy	67	52%
Feeling less safe	55	43%

Is there any help and support you feel you need which is not being met?		
Joining a group/club	37	29%
Looking after my health & wellbeing	29	22%
Having someone to talk to	26	20%
Learning a new skill/getting a qualification	17	13%

What help/support would be of assistance to you over the next 12 months?		
Improving your health & wellbeing	47	36%
Social groups to meet with others	38	29%
Improving digital skills	35	27%
Taking up a new activity	34	26%

Are there any key learning/skills/qualifications that you would like to gain/achieve?		
Digital skills	34	26%
Health & Wellbeing	22	17%
Volunteering	19	15%
Literacy/numeracy	14	11%

Are you experiencing any barriers which are affecting you being able to access services/activities?		
Poor broadband	29	22.5%
Cost	28	22%
Information on what is available	28	22%
Digital skills	15	12%



Priority themes		
Community Recovery	64	50%
Health & Wellbeing	51	40%
Climate Emergency	48	37%
Children & Young People	41	32%

## Groups and Organisations

Groups and organisations	35
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What advice/support would help your organisations to become stronger in the future?		
Less bureaucracy	18	51%
Partnership working	15	43%
Learning from others who are in a similar situation	14	40%
Short term funding to test new things	11	31%

What community needs have been successfully met over the last 12 months?		
Community spirit/acts of kindness	21	60%
Access to food	20	57%
Supporting our most vulnerable	16	46%
Local groups/organisations working well together	12	34%

Are you aware of any barriers which have affected communities over the last 12 months?		
Health & Wellbeing	19	54%
Food Poverty	19	54%
Digital Poverty	17	49%
Being able to join a group/club	15	43%

Priority themes		
Community Recovery	22	63%
Tackling inequalities	13	37%
Health & Wellbeing	12	34%
Climate emergency	12	34%

## Practitioners and Volunteers

Practitioners and volunteers	37 female	16 male	4 Prefer not to say
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## Confidence in digital skills

	Very confident	Confident	Fairly Confident	Not Confident
Practitioner	26.5%	38.2%	26.5%	8.8%
Volunteer	30%	30%	30%	10%

Practitioner career plans over next 12 months		
Continue to progress a career in CLD	20	69%
Part time study	2	7%
Plan to retire	2	7%
Volunteer plans over next 12 months		
Volunteer outwith CLD	15	52%
Volunteer within CLD	14	48%
Part time study	5	17%

Are you a member of the CLD Standards Council?		
Full Member	12	21%
Associate Member	2	3.5%
Not a member	27	47%
Plan to join in the future	1	2%
Priority Themes		
Health & Wellbeing	33	58%
Tackling Inequalities	26	46%
Community Recovery	20	35%
Climate Emergency	20	35%

### Appendix 3 – Summary of the CLD South West Network workforce needs undertaken in 2021

What do you want to learn from others? Top 5 responses	What skills, training or practice can you share with others?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Skills for staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth participation – working with schools</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovative ways to work with young people outdoors / outreach / street work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with locality partnership</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balancing home and office working</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online workshops for adults</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employability skills for young people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Asset transfer and supporting local groups with it</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to capture valuable quantitative and qualitative evidence for the work we do, what systems/tools are used to do this? How do you decide what you capture?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remote delivery of family learning and effective approach in engaging families</li> </ul>

What training/CPD do you need?	Other suggestions ideas?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff wellbeing – supporting your team/staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learning across traditional boundaries and LA areas would be excellent</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How to best deliver IT skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buddy programme</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Something around Covid recovery and the effects Covid has had</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shadowing, practice sharing</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering accredited training to learners/communities</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximising social media platforms to engage with families</li> </ul>	



COMMUNITY  
LEARNING &  
DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP

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or require it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000**



COMMUNITY  
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DEVELOPMENT  
PARTNERSHIP



### Priority Themes

#### Theme 1 – Children & Young People – Attainment and Achievement

#### Contribution to LOIP Outcome

Outcome 2 – Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.

Outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.

#### Key – S (short-term, 1 year) ; M (medium term, 2 years); L (Longer term, 3 years)

Objective	Key Actions	Key contributors	Timeline	Success factors/measures	
1.1	Build on existing children's rights activity across the CLD sector by identifying areas for improvement and taking positive action, and in doing so help children to better experience their rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen awareness of the UNCRC Children's rights and "the Promise" across CLD Partners through training and the sharing of learning.</li> <li>Promote use of national training available for practitioners.</li> <li>Integrate and embed the rights into Service planning and partnership monitoring and evaluation.</li> <li>Implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Rights Report for Dumfries and Galloway 2017-2020</li> <li>Co-production of a new Youth Participation Strategy alongside young people that will</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Work (DGC)</li> <li>Lifelong Learning (DGC)</li> <li>Education (DGC)</li> <li>Employability &amp; Skills (DGC)</li> <li>South West Educational Improvement Collaboratives (SWEIC)</li> </ul>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of practitioners trained and impact gathered through ongoing evaluation</li> <li>No. of young people involved in the ongoing development and review of the Rights Report, CLD Partnership Plan and Youth Participation Strategy implementation</li> </ul>

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		strengthen youth democracy structures in D&G.			
1.2	Focus our joint CLD Partner resources on meeting the emerging health and wellbeing needs of our children and young people to help aid recovery from the short and longer-term impacts of Covid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key messages from Covid evaluative reports and CLD Plan consultation to inform service planning.</li> <li>Tailor a range of interventions and supports across partners targeted at those who need assistance most.</li> <li>Region wide provision for young people with caring responsibilities (Young Carers) will be piloted in collaboration with the Young Carers Project.</li> <li>Capture evidence and case studies to help demonstrate impact.</li> </ul>	<p>CLD Partnership</p> <p>Youth Work (DGC) Lifelong Learning (DGC)</p> <p>Health &amp; Social Care (HSC) Community Development</p> <p>SWEIC</p>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of young people supported against those identified as needing support</li> <li>Evidence that interventions have had a positive impact</li> <li>No. of young people engaging with services</li> <li>No. of young people reporting an increase in their confidence and other well-being indicators as a result of interventions</li> <li>No. of YP benefitting from targeted community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> </ul>
1.3	Ensuring partners continue to adopt a co-ordinated approach to targeting resources to ensure our young people are achieving and are supported to reach their full potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivering activities and initiatives around community based engagement and youth work.</li> <li>Increase the opportunities for young people to participate in accredited award programmes i.e. Duke of Edinburgh's Award with a view to increase</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Work (DGC) Lifelong Learning (DGC) Education (DGC) Employability &amp; Skills (DGC)</p> <p>D&amp;G College Skills Development Scotland</p>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of young people completing accredited awards i.e. Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Dynamic Youth Awards and Youth Achievement Awards</li> <li>Young People's learning portfolios and case</li> </ul>

Item 5 Appendix 3

		<p>engagement beyond the number of young people participating pre-pandemic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to track achievement within and out with the school day to improve career choices, positive destinations and life opportunities and covering the 16-24 age bracket.</li> <li>• Increase work placement opportunities and developing pathways to increase opportunities for senior phase students.</li> <li>• Embedding of Youth Awards/Accredited Awards.</li> <li>• Increasing Work placements/pathways/Senior Phase opportunities.</li> <li>• Promoting use and uptake of My World of Work (MWOW).</li> <li>• Contribute to the new Recognising Skills &amp; Achievement Policy.</li> <li>• CLD Partners are offering placements to young people through the Kickstart Scheme to aid employability.</li> </ul>	<p>Young Person’s Guarantee Partnership SWEIC</p>		<p>studies will assess the impact of participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of children using MWOW</li> <li>• No. of schools with effective tracking in place</li> <li>• Participation measure</li> <li>• No. of youth awards achieved</li> <li>• No. of work placements secured against identified need</li> <li>• No. of young people in meaningful employment, education or training (Youth Guarantee Partnership)</li> <li>• Reduction in the number of young people with an ‘unknown’ status</li> <li>• Number of young people sustaining their Kickstart employment or gaining further employment as a result of the Kickstart Scheme</li> <li>• No. of young people participating in universal and targeted youth work provisions</li> </ul>
<p>1.4</p>	<p>Increase opportunities and participation rates in STEM related</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrate STEM learning into activities and programmes.</li> </ul>	<p>STEM Partnership Lifelong Learning (DGC)</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of young people participating in STEM activities</li> </ul>

## Item 5 Appendix 3

	activities, including work to help inform future career choices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation in annual conference/STEM learning events.</li> <li>• Utilisation of Education Scotland funding to increase and widen opportunities.</li> </ul>	Education (DGC) Youth Work (DGC) D&G College  Youth Work Partnership  SWEIC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of young people progressing into STEM careers</li> </ul>
1.5	Develop a new universal offer for Family Learning in partnership with Schools to help reduce the poverty related attainment gap and support our most vulnerable parents and carers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the existing model for Family Learning in partnership with Education to help develop a new model which builds capacity and leads to increased provision across our schools.</li> <li>• Engage with schools to investigate how Family Learning approaches can be made more universal.</li> <li>• Agree a new model and provide upskilling/support as required.</li> <li>• Monitor new approach to capture best practice and share across the authority.</li> </ul>	Lifelong Learning (DGC) Education (DGC)  SWEIC	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of Family Learning activities</li> <li>• No. of practitioners able to support Family Learning activities</li> </ul>
1.6	Increase the use of Pupil Equity Funding involving the CLD Sector to improve outcomes and experiences for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify best practice where the CLD Sector has effectively utilised PEF both locally and nationally.</li> <li>• Build an evidence base to demonstrate where CLD can most effectively contribute.</li> <li>• Engage with Head Teachers and Parent Councils to develop a</li> </ul>	Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC) Education (DGC)  Third Sector providers  SWEIC	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of PEF funding allocated to CLD Sector</li> </ul>



## Item 5 Appendix 3

		shared understanding around where CLD can contribute.			
1.7	Build upon and continue to develop the role of the D&G Youth Council and the Youth Work Partnership in capturing key issues affecting young people and helping to improve service provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Council Elections, including the Scottish Youth Parliament, will be delivered between September – November 2021 and will see a new cohort of young people aged 12-25 elected to represent their geographic area or communities of interest. Orientation will take place between December 2021 – January 2022.</li> <li>Joint Meetings will take place between Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Community Planning Partnership annually.</li> <li>Re-establish the Listen2Us and wider Champions Board forums in collaboration with care experienced young people.</li> <li>Develop the existing Regional Youth Work Partnership model that includes 4 Locality Youth Work Partnerships and 1 overarching Youth Work Strategic.</li> </ul>	<p>Youth Work Partnership</p> <p>Youth Work (DGC)</p> <p>Youth Council</p> <p>CLD Partnership</p>	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of young people who express an interest in standing,</li> <li>No. who participate in training and campaigning</li> <li>Improved networks for young people elected to nominated Youth Councillor roles with Third Sector Organisations including Carers Project, Dumfries and Galloway Multi-cultural Association, LGBT Youth Scotland and DG Voice</li> <li>Progress and complete actions outlined within the Joint Action Plan developed by the Youth Council and Dumfries and Galloway Council</li> <li>Increased representation and inclusion of young people in local, regional and national decision making forums</li> <li>End of project report for term 1 of the Youth Council will be presented in late 2021 that details all work undertaken by the Youth Council over their term from April 2019 – November 2021</li> </ul>

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					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress against the Listen2Us Action Plan (reported via Corporate Parenting Group)</li> <li>• No. of young people involved in Listen2Us and Champions Board</li> </ul>
1.8	Develop CLD Partners' role in Learning for Sustainability and contribution to Scottish Government Education outcomes	<p>Support actions and activities which encourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning which is focussed on building personal and social development.</li> <li>• Learning which focuses on understanding citizenship (inclusive of relationships with others, socio-ecological relationships &amp; community relationships).</li> <li>• Developing a community approach to attainment which is inclusive and achievable (i.e. outdoor learning for health and wellbeing).</li> <li>• Learning will focus on skills for life and work beyond formal education.</li> <li>• Ensuring that partners are active in closing the poverty-related attainment gap and reducing inequity within education.</li> </ul>	<p>Lifelong Learning (DGC) Education (DGC) Youth Work (DGC) Employability &amp; Skills (DGC)</p> <p>SWEIC</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of young people participating</li> <li>• No. of young people citing improvements in confidence</li> <li>• No. of new activities utilising outdoors/natural environment</li> <li>• Evidence of attainment gap narrowing</li> </ul>

Theme 2 – Learning, Skills and Employability					
Contribution to the LOIP					
Outcome 1 – Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support.					
Outcome 2 – Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.					
	Objective	Actions	Key Contributors	Timeline	Success Factors
2.1	CLD Partners facilitate a co-ordinated range of learning opportunities, informal interventions and accredited courses/qualifications targeted at those who need help most to help build confidence, combat isolation and improve health and well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of health and wellbeing related activities, informal and formal accredited opportunities which are easily accessible.</li> <li>• Create a central information point to make it easier for our communities to know what is available in their local areas.</li> <li>• CLD Partners are helping to inform and contribute to the Regional Skills Investment Plan.</li> <li>• Opportunities for learning and new employment emerging through Borderlands and the South of Scotland Enterprise Agency are being maximised.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership  Youth Work (DGC) Lifelong Learning (DGC) Employability & Skills (DGC)  HSC Community Development  SOSE  Third sector providers	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. progressing from informal learning to securing accreditation</li> <li>• No. securing new jobs</li> <li>• % citing improved confidence/health &amp; wellbeing</li> <li>• No. of community-based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> <li>• No. of Community Food Providers accessing training</li> </ul>
2.2	CLD Partners are playing a key role in helping people to prepare for employment opportunities and secure employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree clear roles &amp; responsibilities with the Local Employability Partnership.</li> <li>• Contribute to the Young Person's Guarantee Partnership &amp; No One Left Behind (NOLB)25+ group with a particular focus on pre-employability pipeline supports.</li> </ul>	Young Person's Guarantee Partnership  NOLB 25+  Third Sector Employability Forum	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of participants gaining a qualification, (passed assessment required and certification gained increasing skills)</li> <li>• No. of participants achieving an increase in income</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the PACE Partnership and help to support those facing the risk of redundancy with a particular emphasis on learning new skills/increasing confidence.</li> </ul>	Skills Development Scotland (SDS)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of unemployed participants commencing employment or self-employment</li> <li>No. of employed participants gaining new employment or self-employment (promotion/progression with existing employer, progression to another employer)</li> <li>No. of participants sustaining employment or self-employment for 13/26 and 52 weeks</li> </ul>
2.3	Develop a new Lifelong Learning framework for D&G through CLD Partners to help promote what is available and aid the progression of learning at all levels and across all ages.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capture lifelong learning activity currently available across partners.</li> <li>Identify key learning requirements from CLD Plan consultation and informal feedback.</li> <li>Engage with partners to consider what a cohesive pathway might look like.</li> <li>Agree a new model and promote across the region.</li> <li>Investigate ways to recognise prior learning (including volunteering experiences) in</li> </ul>	D&G College Lifelong Learning (DGC) NHS Youth Work (DGC) TSDG Employability & Skills Partnership	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new pathway framework is in place</li> <li>Creation of a resource (online or physical) that informs communities of the offer from partners</li> <li>Increased number of people are accessing informal learning opportunities and accredited awards</li> <li>Participation and progression rates amongst learners</li> </ul>

		order to fast track progression through formal qualifications.			
<b>Theme 3 – Inclusion and equalities</b>					
<b>Contribution to the LOIP</b>					
Outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.					
	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Key Contributors</b>		<b>Success Factors</b>
3.1	Focusing work around those within protected characteristics groups: Age Disability Sex (Gender) Gender Reassignment (Transgender Identity) Marriage and Civil partnership Pregnancy and Maternity Race Religion or Belief Sexual Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring our CLD activities are open and inclusive and that any barriers to participation are removed wherever possible.</li> <li>Provide tailored support in terms of confidence building, learning &amp; skills and meeting identified need.</li> <li>Targeting of initiatives and activities which eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.</li> <li>Respecting the needs of particular groups and facilitating specific sessions/activities as may be required and requested.</li> <li>Equalities impact assessments are being utilised by partners to inform their work and service planning.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership  Poverty & Inequalities Partnership	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of targeted work with the minority protected characteristics groups</li> <li>No. progressing from informal learning to securing accreditation</li> <li>No. securing new jobs</li> <li>% citing improved confidence/health &amp; wellbeing</li> <li>No. of community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> </ul>
3.2	Providing tailored support to those experiencing poverty and hardest to reach to help build confidence, become more independent, develop new skills and to become self-sufficient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify those who need assistance most through CLD Partners and Tackling poverty Reference Group.</li> <li>Develop a clear offer of co-ordinated support with partners.</li> </ul>	Poverty & Inequalities Partnership  Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC) Employability & Skills (DGC)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of learners citing increases in confidence</li> <li>No. of staff trained/more confident</li> <li>No of individuals supported</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate progression and impact.</li> <li>• Making our services easier to access by providing additional help, training, information and support to those with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visual impairments</li> <li>- Hearing impairments</li> <li>- Dyslexia</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	D&G College		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner links established with SW Branch of Dyslexia Scotland</li> </ul>
3.3	Ensuring equality of opportunity and support is available to those involved in the Justice System at every stage, including victims and families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide dedicated support for learning within HM Prison through Lifelong Learning and which allows for continuation upon release and re-integration into the community.</li> <li>• Agree networks of support through Community Justice Partners.</li> <li>• Track progress, progression and positive impacts.</li> </ul>	Community Justice Partnership Lifelong Learning (DGC)	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of learners supported</li> <li>• No. progressing into education/employment on release</li> </ul>
3.4	Improving how we support parents and carers to meet the needs of their children and young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Family Centre models and approaches to help support our most vulnerable families.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity of our parents through parental involvement and engagement programmes.</li> <li>• Deliver a range of learning opportunities for parents, carers and families to help secure qualifications, progression into volunteering and employment.</li> </ul>	Children's Services Plan Priority 6 Working Group (Whole Family Support) Social Work (DGC) NHS Dumfries & Galloway	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of participants gaining a qualification, (passed assessment required and certification gained increasing skills)</li> <li>• No. of participants achieving an increase in income</li> <li>• No. of unemployed participants commencing employment or self-employment</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise use and uptake of the new Parental Employability Support Fund.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of employed participants gaining new employment or self-employment (promotion/progression with existing employer, progression to another employer)</li> <li>No. of participants sustaining employment or self-employment for 13/26 and 52 weeks</li> <li>No. of parents benefitting from new Parental Support Fund</li> </ul>
3.5	Increase the level of ESOL provision and associated support available to Syrian/Afghan refugees as part of the Resettlement Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise CLD Partners to increase the weekly number of hours available for ESOL Learning.</li> <li>Partners are working together to remove any barriers and are adopting a learner centred approach.</li> </ul>	<p>Lifelong Learning (DGC) D&amp;G College</p> <p>Resettlement Board – Employability &amp; Skills Workstream</p>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESOL Learners have access to the same learning offer</li> <li>No. of adults progressing into employment has increased</li> </ul>
3.6	Gypsy Traveller families within Dumfries & Galloway are having their needs met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The specific needs of Gypsy Traveller families are understood.</li> <li>Partners have a co-ordinated approach to accommodation, health and learning needs to help improve the quality of life for Gypsy Traveller families.</li> </ul>	Gypsy Traveller Liaison Group	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of positive interventions recorded</li> </ul>

Theme 4 - Health & Wellbeing					
Contribution to LOIP					
Outcome 3 – Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced.					
	Objective	Key Actions	Key Contributors		Success Factors
4.1	Recognise and understand the specific impacts that Covid -19 has had on health & wellbeing and prioritise support to those who need it most.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have access to the most up to date information/intelligence to help inform local priorities.</li> <li>Continue to ensure that our most vulnerable are accessing - the support they need at all times (i.e. food, health, digital, health) - are being supported to access funding that they are entitled to (including new Young Start benefit scheme).</li> </ul>	Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC)  HSC Community Development Social Security Scotland  Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (TSDG)	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of Community Food Providers supported</li> <li>No. of Food Providers Network meetings</li> <li>No. of community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> <li>Joint promotion of community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> </ul>
4.2	Developing and promoting a clear offer through CLD Partners to support the health & wellbeing of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of a new regional model for Health Improvement which meets the needs of our local communities.</li> <li>CLD Partners are working together to offer a range of activities and learning opportunities aimed at improving Health &amp; Wellbeing and targeted at:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-those specifically affected negatively by the impacts of Covid</li> <li>-those with low confidence</li> <li>-practitioners</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC)  NHS D&G  HSC Community Development Social Security Scotland TSDG	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of people benefitting and citing improvements in confidence/wellbeing</li> <li>No. of tailored opportunities on offer</li> <li>No. of community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making it simpler for the community to be made aware of and access the wide range of opportunities available including access to groups and clubs.</li> </ul>			
4.3	Evidencing and promoting the positive impacts that recreational, cultural and leisure activities can have on the health & wellbeing of our communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide activities for our communities to improve their health &amp; wellbeing through cultural and leisure experiences.</li> <li>Build the evidence base to help demonstrate the impact that culture and leisure can have on communities.</li> </ul>	Leisure & Culture (DGC) Active Schools (DGC) DG Unlimited HSC Community Development	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of opportunities available</li> <li>Development of case studies</li> <li>Increase in no of community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> <li>No. of community based initiatives and activities for disabled people and those with Autism in the local community</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 5 – Community Development, Empowerment and Renewal</b>					
<b>Contribution to the LOIP</b>					
Outcome 6 – People are safe and feel safe.					
Outcome 7 – People are well connected.					
Outcome 8 – Individuals and communities are empowered.					
	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Contributors</b>		<b>Success Factors</b>
<b>'To build communities based on justice, equality and mutual respect'</b>					
5.1	Supporting communities to grow, strengthen and recover from the impacts of Covid.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLD Partners are working with local groups and organisations to</li> </ul>	Community Development,	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of groups/organisations supported and</li> </ul>

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		<p>help recovery following the impacts of Covid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help and support is being provided for new community led projects which will stimulate community wealth building and growth.</li> <li>• Partners are facilitating listening events with our communities, groups, businesses and organisations to explore opportunities and ideas and transfer them into action.</li> <li>• Individuals and communities are able to have more control/influence over decisions that affect their lives/local areas.</li> <li>• The concept of “20 minute neighbourhoods” is developed and recognises strengths, gaps and opportunities within our communities.</li> <li>• Place/locality planning and community led recovery is at the heart of our work with communities and is helping understand and realise local aspirations and ambitions.</li> </ul>	<p>Engagement &amp; Ward Working (DGC)</p> <p>TSDG</p> <p>South of Scotland Enterprise</p> <p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p> <p>Private Sector Businesses</p> <p>Youth Work (DGC)</p> <p>Economic Development (DGC)</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p> <p>Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Social Enterprises</p>		<p>successfully engaged with to achieve their aspirations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of new projects successfully supported</li> </ul>
<p>5.2</p>	<p>Continuing to support and work with communities to take a lead in transferring/managing community assets/services for the benefit of their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners have streamlined and effective processes in place which reduce bureaucracy and speed up decision making.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Development, Empowerment &amp; Engagement</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowerment of communities through Community Asset Transfers</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are feeling confident in taking on responsibility for assets.</li> <li>• Maximise involvement of communities in Participatory Budgeting approaches.</li> </ul>	<p>TSDG SOSE</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G Police Scotland Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue</p> <p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p>		
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Building upon existing best practice and further develop our approaches to Community Engagement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing use of consultation mandates as appropriate.</li> <li>• Facilitating formal training/learning opportunities.</li> <li>• Capturing the voices of our communities through listening events and turning these into positive actions.</li> <li>• Increasing the number of practitioners and partner organisations trained in community engagement practices.</li> <li>• We are listening to parents and carers to help meet the needs of their child.</li> <li>• Recognising the new Locality Hubs as the main reference point for local Community Planning and maximise opportunities stemming from this.</li> <li>• Community Councils are being supported and empowered to become more representational</li> </ul>	<p>Community Development &amp; Engagement (DGC)</p> <p>TSDG SOSE</p> <p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p> <p>Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Police Scotland Scottish Fire &amp; Rescue</p> <p>D&amp;G Participation and Engagement Network</p> <p>Community Planning Participation &amp;</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of consultation mandates approved</li> <li>• No of practitioners trained in community engagement approaches</li> <li>• Percentage of Community Councils satisfied with the support provided by the Community Planning and Engagement Service</li> </ul>

		<p>and taking a lead on key issues affecting their communities through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-good governance</li> <li>-training and sharing of best practice</li> <li>- working in partnership with key public bodies and agencies</li> </ul>	<p>Engagement working group</p>		
5.4	<p>CLD Partners are helping our communities to feel safe and which is leading to increased community confidence.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local communities/businesses are able to raise issues and have concerns affecting their communities dealt with proactively.</li> <li>• A range of early intervention and preventative initiatives are being deployed in communities to help reduce anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>	<p>Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy Group</p> <p>Community Justice Partnership</p> <p>Safer Communities Partnership</p> <p>Youth Work (DGC)</p> <p>Community Planning &amp; Engagement (DGC)</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>Scottish Fires &amp; Rescue</p> <p>Third Sector Organisations</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Results of Community Safety surveys</li> </ul>

Theme 6 – Climate Change					
Contribution to LOIP					
Outcome 8 – Individuals and communities are empowered.					
	Objectives	Key Actions	Key Contributors		Success Measures
6.1	CLD Partners are actively working with practitioners, individuals and communities to help increase awareness and understanding of climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CLD Partners are working with local groups and communities to provide training, information sessions and courses to increase understanding and awareness of Climate Change.</li> <li>Investigate what “Green” skills pathways may look like to meet future labour market demands.</li> </ul>	Community Development (DGC) Youth Work (DGC) Education (DGC) Lifelong Learning (DGC) Arts & Culture (DGC) D&G College  Climate Emergency Officers Working Group  TSDG SOSE  Scottish Rural College – Dumfries  NHS D&G Health & Social Care Partnership  Economic Development (DGC)  Private Sector	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>% of participants citing increased awareness/understanding</li> <li>No of practitioners receiving training</li> </ul>

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			<p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p>		
<p>6.2</p>	<p>CLD Partners are actively working with individuals and communities to help support action to mitigate the effects of Climate Change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLD Partners are working with communities to help identify and take forward projects and initiatives which would positively contribute to Climate change.</li> <li>• Integrate a carbon neutral approach into service planning and provision.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for CLD to get involved in the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.</li> </ul>	<p>Community Development (DGC)                  Youth Work (DGC)                  Education (DGC)                  Lifelong Learning (DGC)                  Arts &amp; Culture (DGC)                  D&amp;G College</p> <p>Climate Emergency Officers Working Group</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p> <p>Health &amp; Social Care Partnership</p> <p>Economic Development (DGC)</p> <p>TSDG                  SOSE</p> <p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p>	<p>S/M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of projects supported</li> <li>• Producing case studies/identifying best practice</li> <li>• Climate change toolkit for staff teams</li> <li>• No of Climate Change Champions in place</li> </ul>

Enabling Themes					
Theme 7 – Digital					
Contribution to LOIP					
Outcome 7 – People are well connected.					
	Objective	Key Actions	Key Contributors		Success Factors
7.1	Providing targeted support through CLD Partners to ensure that those who need assistance most are able to become more confident in using the essential digital skills for life and work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a strategic lead for Digital inclusion through CP Partners</li> <li>Analyse recent research undertaken on digital exclusion in Dumfries and Galloway to identify key gaps.</li> <li>Develop a co-ordinated digital skills programme and informal support offer through partners.</li> <li>Track and monitor progress of learning and confidence.</li> <li>Partners are working together and with community groups/organisations to maximise opportunities linked to the new South of Scotland Digital Skills Hub.</li> <li>Develop digital volunteers/champions to support communities.</li> </ul>	D&G College TSDG  Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC)  People & Transformation (DGC)  Poverty & Inequalities Partnership  SOSE  Voluntary groups & organisations	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of partners with digital exclusion plans in place</li> <li>% citing increased confidence in digital skills</li> <li>No. of groups/organisations within D&amp;G benefitting from the new digital skills hub</li> <li>No. of digital volunteers/champions in place</li> </ul>
7.2	Ensuring that funding opportunities available to support the purchase of digital devices; improve connectivity and reduce digital exclusion are co-ordinated across partners and targeted at those who need assistance most.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use CLD Partner intelligence to identify gaps.</li> <li>Further develop the D&amp;G Digital Partnership to share best practice and identify local need.</li> </ul>	D&G College Youth Work Lifelong Learning SOSE TSDG	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have worked together to co-ordinate applications and reduced digital gap</li> <li>Amount of funding secured from Connecting Scotland</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximise use of Connecting Scotland funding to help eliminate digital exclusion.</li> </ul>	<p>Voluntary groups &amp; organisations</p> <p>HSC Community Development</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of devices issued through Connecting Scotland funding</li> </ul>
7.3	Supporting the CLD workforce to develop a high level of digital competence to enable them to support others and make best use of new digital platforms and technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess digital gaps in the workforce.</li> <li>Design and implement a programme to upskill and support practitioners.</li> </ul>	<p>CLD Partnership</p> <p>HSC Community Development</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p>	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment of skills gap complete</li> <li>% of practitioners citing increased knowledge/confidence in skills</li> <li>No of Digital Champions in place</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 8 – Volunteering</b>					
<b>Contribution to LOIP</b>					
Outcome 8 – Individuals and communities are empowered.					
	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Contributors</b>		<b>Success Measures</b>
8.1	CLD partners are working together to share best practice, co-ordinate opportunities and ensure high quality experiences for our volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have effective procedures, guidance and support arrangements in place for volunteers.</li> <li>Volunteers are being matched to opportunities that best suit their skills and experience and partners are utilising and promoting the new TSDG website for volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>Best practice is shared through the CLD Partnership.</li> </ul>	<p>DGC Volunteering Group</p> <p>TSDG</p> <p>HSC Community Development</p> <p>NHS D&amp;G</p> <p>Lifelong Learning (DGC)</p> <p>Youth Work (DGC)</p> <p>Young Person's Guarantee Partnership</p>	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of volunteers matched to new opportunities</li> <li>No. of volunteers being supported through the NHS Community Health Development Volunteer Programme pathway</li> <li>No. of volunteer led &amp; community based health &amp; wellbeing initiatives/activities</li> </ul>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DGC achieve accreditation through Volunteering Scotland.</li> <li>• NHS achieve accreditation through investing in volunteers.</li> <li>• Increasing opportunities for young volunteers.</li> <li>• Attracting retirees into volunteering.</li> <li>• Investigate use of the Ladder of Participation tool to help measure community representation and participation.</li> </ul>	Voluntary groups & organisations		
8.2	Providing accredited opportunities for volunteers to build confidence and maximise their impact.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers are being engaged to identify need and have access to the support they require.</li> <li>• Partners are offering a range of accredited awards to support volunteers.</li> </ul>	Community Development (DGC) TSDG HSC Community Development NHS D&G Lifelong Learning (DGC) Youth Work (DGC)  Young Person's Guarantee Partnership  Voluntary groups & organisations	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of volunteers citing increased confidence</li> <li>• No of volunteers achieving accredited awards</li> </ul>
8.3	Recognise the efforts and achievements of volunteering through celebration events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of celebration events are organised each year.</li> </ul>	As above.	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of celebration events held</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners are maximising informal opportunities/success stories to raise the profile of volunteering and thanks volunteers.</li> </ul>			
<b>Theme 9 – Workforce</b>					
<b>Contribution to LOIP</b>					
Outcome 2 – Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most.					
9.1	Develop a new sustainable qualification pathway within the region to increase the number of people pursuing careers within CLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess what qualifications are currently being offered through key partners.</li> <li>Re-fresh/update content of courses, where appropriate.</li> <li>Increase awareness of what is available and ensure a network of work placements is available to support progression.</li> <li>Secure cohorts in NC/HNC qualifications at D&amp;G College from 2022 academic year.</li> <li>Help support the current workforce gap within Health &amp; Social care</li> </ul>	D&G College Lifelong Learning Youth Work Employability & Skills TSDG Education University of the West of Scotland (UWS)  D&G CLD Practitioner’s Collective  Youth Work Practitioner’s Forums  Employability Training Practitioner’s Forum	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of people progressing into formal CLD qualifications</li> </ul>
9.2	Ensure our CLD Workforce have the necessary skills and training to help support our communities to recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collate recent research undertaken on the needs of our workforce</li> <li>Ensure that training and support is provided across the following key areas, in particular:</li> </ul> <p>- Digital Skills</p>	D&G College Lifelong Learning Youth Work Employability & Skills TSDG Education	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of courses/learning events facilitated to meet the needs of practitioner’s</li> <li>No. of practitioner’s citing that their needs have been met</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>- Community engagement</li> <li>- Trauma Informed Approaches</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor to ensure approaches are integrated into practice.</li> </ul>	<p>D&amp;G CLD Practitioner's Collective</p> <p>Youth Work Practitioner's Forums</p> <p>Employability Training Practitioner's Forum</p> <p>SW Network/SWEIC</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No of Practitioners receiving practice supervision</li> </ul>
9.3	Support the development of the CLD Practitioners' Collective to support CLD practitioners in their practice and act as an advisory group on local and national CLD matters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A self-sustaining network is established with clear governance arrangements in place.</li> <li>• Facilitate learning opportunities and peer support mechanisms for practitioners.</li> <li>• Capture the views of practitioners to help inform local and national planning.</li> <li>• Increase learning opportunities and support for CLD practitioner's working within local third sector groups and organisations.</li> <li>• Capture any unexpected outcomes or actions identified.</li> </ul>	<p>D&amp;G CLD Practitioner's Collective</p> <p>CLD Partnership</p> <p>Voluntary groups and organisations</p>	S/M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of learning events facilitated</li> <li>• No. of third sector practitioner's benefitting</li> <li>• No of Practitioners engaging in peer support opportunities</li> <li>• No of events delivered</li> </ul>
9.4	To encourage and increase membership to professional body for CLD (CLD Standards Council).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practitioners are being made aware of the opportunities available and benefits of being a member.</li> </ul>	<p>D&amp;G CLD Practitioner's Collective</p> <p>CLD Partnership</p>	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No. of practitioner's affiliated to professional bodies</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practitioners are actively working to a set of professional standards. (i.e. CLD Core Competences)</li> <li>Encourage membership to other relevant networks/national organisation such as Youth Link and the Scottish Community Development Network, etc.</li> </ul>	Youth Work Practitioner's Forum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of practitioners engaging in the Practitioner's Collective</li> </ul>
9.5	Undertake a full analysis of the CLD Partner Workforce to help inform our future workforce needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise research undertaken through CLD Plan consultation to identify a baseline position.</li> <li>Undertake an annual partner survey on the needs of the joint CLD workforce and to inform succession planning.</li> <li>Integrate broader needs of the workforce through the SWEIC.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership SW Network/SWEIC	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of CLD Sector staff</li> <li>Participation levels in annual survey</li> </ul>
<b>Theme 10 - Governance and Quality Assurance</b>					
	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Key Actions</b>	<b>Key Contributors</b>		<b>Success measures</b>
10.1	Agree and implement an updated Terms of Reference for the CLD Partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners have jointly developed and agreed a new Terms of Reference.</li> <li>Partners are committing to the expectations outlined in the Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Terms of reference agreed and reviewed on an annual basis</li> </ul>
10.2	Undertake a partner self-evaluation against the new Quality Indicators and develop an improvement plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review previous self-evaluation activity and improvement plan.</li> <li>Identify most beneficial QI's to focus on as a partnership.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership Education Scotland	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual self-evaluation undertaken with improvement plan in place</li> </ul>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate a self-evaluation and develop an improvement plan.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-evaluation of CLD Partnership survey</li> </ul>
10.3	Complete an annual evaluative report on the work of the Partnership and secure approval through the Community Planning Partnership Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the previous 3 year's end of year reports.</li> <li>Establish a post-Covid baseline for CLD related performance information.</li> <li>Agree on any revised performance measures and present a report on 2021-2024 plan to the CPPB.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>End of year reports approved at Community Planning Partnership Board</li> <li>Review performance framework</li> </ul>
10.4	Investigate securing CLD Standards Council Standards Mark status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the CLD Standards Council Standards Mark for CLD Partnership and Practitioner's Collective</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership D&G CLD Practitioner's Collective	M/L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No of partners contributing to Standards Mark</li> </ul>
10.5	Increase the involvement and representation of local groups and organisations through the CLD Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider specific needs emerging through public consultation.</li> <li>Identify ways to increase engagement such as specific listening events/community conversations.</li> </ul>	CLD Partnership	M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No. of local groups/organisations having their voices heard through CLD Partnership</li> </ul>

**N.B. Targets (increase/decrease/dates) will be set for the quantitative measures through the CLD Partnership. In addition, there will be qualitative measures with evidence as well as case studies and personal testimonies.**

Item 6**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND LOCALITY PLAN ON FOOD SHARING ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22****1. Background**

1.1 The Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plan on Food Sharing were agreed by the Strategic Partnership on 15 September 2017 and published by the statutory due date of 1 October 2017. Final amendments were agreed at the Community Planning Partnership Board on 15 November 2017.

1.2 There is a statutory requirement within the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act to produce an Annual Report on the LOIP and the Locality Plan. These are the fourth Annual Reports.

**2. LOIP**

2.1 The LOIP Annual Report is in development following agreement of the Performance Management Framework by the Board in June 2021, but similar to other CPP across Scotland:

- there are some key performance reports that are not yet available for LOIPs which normally provide Performance data for our Annual Report;
- the capacity of staff to contribute to this report has been limited due to Covid Recovery activity;
- some personal testimonies and Case Studies have been received but others are still in development, particularly to reflect the impact of the Covid Pandemic; and
- the engagement with stakeholders, particularly those with lived experience of inequalities, has not yet been undertaken.

2.2 The draft LOIP is therefore not presented to this meeting of the Board – it is intended that it will be further developed over the coming weeks and discussed with the Equality and Diversity Working Group, Poverty and Inequalities Partnership and Community Planning Executive Group and submitted to the next Board meeting for approval.

**3. Locality Plan on Food Sharing**

3.1 The position regarding the Locality Plan on food sharing is however more positive due to the significant performance monitoring data required as part of the Scottish Government Grants distributed during the Covid Pandemic; the publication of research around this specific issues; and ongoing engagement with the Regional Food Network and the Local Food Networks. The draft Annual Report is attached as the **Appendix**. The overall assessment is that we have made good progress over the last year.

3.2 The Board is invited to:

- highlight any areas where performance is considered not satisfactory and requirements improvement
- indicate any additional performance information that should be included in the Annual Report

3.3 Once the performance information has been finalised – any amendments or additions identified by the Board – the document will be designed, published and promoted.

4. Review of the LOIP and Locality Plan(s)

4.1 The LOIP and the Locality Plan are due to have a formal review in 2022 – a proposal for the stakeholder engagement will be brought to the June meeting for approval. This will give an opportunity for the full impact of Covid Pandemic on inequalities to be assessed and any changes to the Outcomes, or the key groups.

4.2 It will also give the Partnership an opportunity to review the statutory requirement to produce Locality Plan(s) – for example, if there should be geographic Plan(s) for those areas experiencing the greatest inequalities and/or thematic issues.

## 5. Recommendations

The Board is invited to:

5.1 note that the LOIP Annual Report for 2020/21 is in development and will be presented to the next meeting for approval; and

5.2 agree the fourth Dumfries and Galloway Locality Plan on food sharing Annual Report, for 1 October 2020-31 March 2021, subject to any additions or amendments identified at the meeting.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager and  
Ingrid Gemmell, Ward Manager  
2 November 2021

## Appendices

Draft Annual Report on the Dumfries and Galloway Locality Plan on Food Sharing - 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021

**Dumfries and Galloway  
Locality Plan on Food Sharing  
2017-2027**

**Annual Report  
1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021**  
(Draft as at 27 October 2021)

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Development of the Performance Management Framework (PMF)**
- 3. Dumfries and Galloway Locality Plan Outcomes**
  - 3.1 Outcome 1 – People are able to meet their own food needs
  - 3.2 Outcome 2 – Support is available to people who need help with food where, when and how they need it.
  - 3.3 Outcome 3 – Involvement in food sharing helps with other aspects of people’s lives
  - 3.4 Outcome 4 – Our food sharing arrangements are as efficient and effective as possible
  - 3.5 Performance Indicators and Projects that support the four Outcomes
- 4. Next steps**



## 1. Introduction

This Annual Report contains a collection of evidence from a range of sources for our fourth Annual Report on the Locality Plan on Food Sharing from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

Our Locality Plan looks at an issue that affects geographical areas in different ways and requires different solutions across our region.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had considerable social and economic impacts on households. Income losses arising from the COVID-19 crisis have significantly contributed to an increase in the number of persons who are food insecure with shutdowns and restrictions creating new layers of hardship and food insecurity. These challenges have hit all communities throughout the region, but some groups have been identified as being more at risk. These include:

- Financially at-risk households
- Marginalised households
- Short term isolators, including those asked to self-isolate under Test and Protect
- People at increased or extreme clinical risk from Coronavirus and required to undertake stringent physical distancing
- People unable to access food and/or essentials due to other barriers.

Despite the challenges, we are satisfied that we are making good progress in all four Outcomes. Communities have been the first responders to food insecurity and there are clear benefits of putting communities at the heart of action to tackle the issue.

Communities across our region have responded incredibly positively to the growing need, ensuring that people were able to access food and other essentials.

There are many community food initiatives, ranging from community cafes, food growing projects, and school holiday clubs where people can get involved in volunteering, growing vegetables, giving time and donating food.

This report sets out some of the work which took place during the reporting period and highlights the outstanding contribution made by our local communities during this very difficult time.

## **2. Development of the Performance Management Framework (PMF)**

- 2.1 The Scottish Government Guidance on Locality Plans and the Performance Management arrangements, including the Annual Reports is light touch and there is a real commitment to local flexibility.
- 2.2 CPPs are now into their fourth year of Locality Plans with established arrangements for the Annual Reports with access to the information and support available to provide evidence for these Reports.
- 2.3 Officers developed a Performance Management Framework which would evidence progress through qualitative (case studies and personal testimonies) information, supported by quantitative (indicators and projects) data.
- 2.4 The assessment of progress is based on a standard analysis, previously used for the Single Outcome Agreement and other strategic level Performance Reports.

### 3.1 Outcome 1: People are able to meet their own food needs – Good

**Progress** (Key groups – food share providers, families on low incomes, individuals on low incomes, supermarkets)

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Consumption**

The Scottish Health Survey (SHS) provides information on the health, and factors relating to health, of adults and children in Scotland.

There is wide recognition that excessive consumption of foods high in fat, sugar and salt and low consumption of fibre, fruit and vegetables and other healthy foods has wide-ranging consequences for the health of the nation.

Evidence from reported fruit and vegetable consumption is often used as an indicator of a healthy diet. The Scottish Health Survey (SHS) 2020 results reported that 20% of the population in Dumfries & Galloway consumed 5 or more portions of fruit or vegetables per day, which remains the same as last year, and below the Scottish figure of 22%.

People in our region averaged 3.2 portions per day which is the same as last year. The Scottish average has reduced and is now also 3.2.

#### **Dumfries and Galloway Sustainable Food Partnership**

The D&G Sustainable Food Partnership brings together stakeholders and partners from across the entire region, covering Stranraer to Langholm, Sanquhar to Whithorn. Members of the SFP represent different sectors across the food system.

By working collaboratively, we are bringing a joined up approach to food policy, ensuring that everyone has equal access to affordable and healthy food that is good for the environment, and good for the people who produce, cook and serve it.

Core goals of the Partnership are:

- Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food.
- Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement.
- Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy.
- Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action.
- Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.
- Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local and sustainable food supply chains.

By building networks between communities, food producers, food businesses, health practitioners and local authority officers we are able to identify shared needs, aspirations and barriers. This approach supports a holistic approach to addressing food justice and food sovereignty and enables people experiencing food insecurity to have their voices heard by policy makers. These networks additionally feed into Scottish Government policy and strategy.

New projects are emerging that are addressing root causes of unequal access to affordable, good healthy food. We want to support the development of community food networks that foster peer support and collaborative working

The pandemic has made the flaws and failings in our food system visible. Our supply chains lack resilience, our production lacks diversity. Many, many people live on the edge of food poverty and food insecurity. People working in the food system, from hospitality to production are often on insecure working arrangements. Our food system globally is responsible for around 1 third of greenhouse gas emissions. Good, quality, locally sourced food is not widely available, and can be prohibitively expensive.

However, communities came together to support each other, mutual aid and solidarity networks sprung up everywhere. More people became aware of the problems within our food system and want to be part of changing it.

The Partnership has been set up explicitly to address these problems, and to work collaboratively to find solutions. Our food system is complex, and addressing systemic issues requires joined up working.

We will continue to ensure a joined-up approach, and to ensure that marginalised communities are engaged meaningfully so that their voices are heard.

We are planning a series of engagement events that are bringing together people from across sectors to join conversations around co-creating healthy, fair and sustainable food systems.

We are also seeking additional resources to support the creation of a D&G community food network, linking up the local food networks that have emerged through the pandemic and enabling cross regional collaboration.

### **Free School Meals**

We know that providing free school meals to all children has wide ranging benefits, including:

- improving children's health
- removing the poverty trap that prevents parents moving into employment
- supporting the rural economy and promoting sustainable food
- reducing health inequalities
- helping low income families

Prior to March 2020, Dumfries and Galloway Council's delivery model for Free School Meals (FSM) was that all children and young people entitled to FSM were able to receive this at their school using a pre-ordering system (Primary) and a pre-payment card system (Secondary) using the Young Scot National Entitled Card.

Dumfries and Galloway Council prioritised supporting our most vulnerable families and communities throughout the COVID-19 emergency and following the decision by the Scottish Government in March 2020 to close schools, we implemented a two-choice model of delivery for FSM to ensure that families had access to nutritionally balanced food until our schools were able to re-open.

The initial model established in March for FSM provision consisted of two options for families to choose from: 1) A food pack delivered to families' homes twice a week 2) Collection of a food pack from their local Childcare Hub. Both of these options provided lunch items for seven days per week for each child registered for FSM within the household; and were also made available during the Easter holiday period.

Eligibility for FSM was extended to include families in receipt of a Council Tax Reduction which was an additional 375 children. Families were not automatically signed up to receive this provision - registration was required and this was promoted to parents by group call, e-mail, local media, social media and on the Council's new COVID 19 Website.

The Ad Hoc COVID-19 Sub Committee on 24 April 2020 agreed to the additional option of a Direct Payment to families of £17.50 per week, per child (£2.50 per day), payable fortnightly via BACS payment or PayPoint Voucher. This was in line with our Council's commitment to promoting choice and independence and removing stigma. Social Work Services carried out vulnerability checks prior to cash payments being paid. This arrangement is also in place in a number of other Scottish councils

Entitlement to and up-take of the FSM provision have both increased during this period and is currently at 85%.

As at 22 May 2020, the number of children and young people who were registered for Free School Meals and the take up of the three delivery options are as follows:

	Number of children and young people registered
Primary (including nursery)	2230
Secondary	1359
<b>Total</b>	<b>3589</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,964</b>
Total Number of Free School Meals Provided during COVID-19	149,903
Total Number of Cash Payments made during COVID-19	8,248

The difference in the figures above between the number of children and young people registered and the number receiving the three options (375) are those who registered due to the extension of the scheme. It is important to note that of the 884 families that opted for the choice of receiving a food parcel, some of these were shielding or had been re-referred from Social Work to re-instate a food parcel.

Dumfries and Galloway Council also delivered a Holiday Food Programme (previously known as Holiday Hunger) for a number of years, initially funded through the Anti-Poverty Policy Development Funding Budget and reported as part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy. A Review of the arrangements was carried out in October 2019 and a different delivery model was agreed which invited Third Sector organisations to apply for funding to deliver projects that include activities as well as food provision. This new model of delivery ensured that there were free holiday food provision and activities available 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 seen a 34% increased uptake by children and young people

Awards were made to Third Sector organisations for the Holiday Food Programme in February 2020 and Easter 2020 and the February projects were delivered successfully. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions the Easter provision could not be delivered and in consultation with the organisations and Internal Audit, the funding has been continued into later in 2020/21, until it would be safe for them to implement their projects.

Due to the restrictions still in place as a result of COVID-19, it was not possible for the Third Sector organisations to deliver holiday food programmes in the Summer holiday period 2020. Therefore, a different model was required for this period.

Holiday Food provision during the October and Christmas Holidays 2020 was also delivered using Direct Payments to families.

From 1 April 2021, the Scottish Government started phasing in payments of £10.00 per week per child under the new Scottish Child Payment Benefit which was delivered through Social Security Scotland. This payment is intended by the Scottish Government to help to cover the costs of food within the school holiday periods and was allocated on the same basis as the criteria for Free School Meals. This means that holiday food provision will no longer be required.

### **Affordable Provisions**

Access to provisions within a rural setting due to accessibility, affordability and limited public transport was a challenge. We know that for some individuals particularly those previously shielding that there is anxiety about using public transport, getting to a supermarket once in town, queuing, shopping and then returning home. In some areas due to limited public transport this could take a number of hours.

Access to affordable provisions within a rural setting was also an increasing challenge due to the limited availability of a range of cheaper products and reduced (if any) availability of supermarket delivery services. We now know that this is the reason behind some of the requests.

It was soon evident that food packages were being requested from communities where traditionally there had been minimal need and that there was a significant increase in requests. Whilst the higher prices of food in local shops and the lack of opportunity to travel to larger stores were anecdotally reported as key reasons for the rise in demand, it was recognised that further exploration was needed.

In May 2020, a team were brought together to look at the following areas:

- Explore the reasons for increased demand in Community Food Provision requests
- Collate examples of good practice both locally and nationally which support access to affordable household provisions
- Explore ways of generating further community-based initiatives to support access to affordable household provisions

Various reasons were put forward for an increase in demand, largely through anecdotal feedback from practitioners working in the areas, informed by their conversations with Community Food Providers.

These aligned to 4 key themes:

- Cost of provisions
- Access to provisions
- Income
- Safety and other support options

The impact of a lack of infrastructure was significant, compounded by reduced availability of transport options, a feeling of being unsafe in public places and increased time spent queuing (which brings both physical and psychological demands). These factors combined meant that whilst for some, although food could be afforded it felt at times impossible to obtain it safely, other than via local voluntary providers,

With the recognition that a significant number of people would experience reductions in income, or difficulties in accessing food, systems were set up to distribute emergency food parcels. This involved both existing and new providers and covered both food items and pre prepared meals.

Alongside reasons for an increase in provision were examples of actions at a range of levels and involving both the community and independent sector to mitigate the impacts of food insecurity.

The areas of good practice can be themed as:

- Community resilience – action of local people
- Local shops – additional provision to support access to provisions
- Communication and networks
- Miscellaneous

Local shops were highlighted as lifelines during the initial crisis and appeared to be able to get provisions not available in larger stores. Some however did report difficulties, potentially putting isolated communities at risk. More recently, it has been reported (anecdotally) that there is a return to supermarket shopping leading to a drop in trade for local businesses.

The value of the person centred approach to provision was also noted. A number of organisations reported that by getting to know their client group (both during lockdown and for those more established, prior to this), they were able to facilitate access to other areas of provision which could have a longer term impact on the need for food donations.

The examples of good practice tended to support the challenges of infrastructure rather than affordability. As discussed earlier, the reasons for the latter are complex and whilst local schemes which support availability of lower cost brands and address wider circumstances can and are being developed, broader regional and national change is needed to tackle this. This requires more strategic planning and longer term thinking than the initial reaction to Covid-19 allowed.

### Case Study – Summerhill Community Centre

We work to improve opportunities, improve life chances and help reduce poverty for all ages in the wider community.

Our approach is very grassroots, *by the community – for the community*. We have over 80 volunteers between our activities, and they are all part of the planning processes and delivery.

Our activities that have a connection with food include:

Our Youth Project which has three different age groups that bring together children and young people each night for fun, educational, creative and sporting activities. Each evening session includes home made meals and snacks delivered by the kitchen rota of youth volunteers.

Our D&G Community Buddies Project brings people together through health and wellbeing activities; day trips; social afternoons; fitness; training opportunities and home visits when requested. Homemade meals, bread and bakery along with group snacks are all made by volunteers.

Our environmental Project includes our mini allotment and our unique Community Land Art. Our development ideas have all originated from global issues that affect us locally. For example – raising awareness about Rainforests being the lungs of our world and themed issues highlighting the need for working together to build safe and healthy communities that are self sufficient and provide basic needs - food for all.

Our Summerhill Food Sharing HUB has been developed with many strands that engage the wider community on many different levels through FOOD.

Our unique model of food sharing is dependent upon our fantastic Fareshare partnership whereby Summerhill Centre is the Hub for the Dumfries area. We have created new possibilities to incorporate many different strands and ways to access food which is so crucial within our very diverse communities. This maybe cooking; eating; growing or shopping through our Community Pantry or food parcels when needed or our weekly homemade meals and bread making workshops.

In addition to our community activities, we also manage and maintain our Centre and provide a venue for community members and groups.





We are a helping hand to make ends meet for some people. We provide a more dignified, informal and friendly approach and support that also increases community spirit and reduces isolation.

Each of our food related activities may help to reduce shopping bills, access fresh and local healthy food, reduce debt and enable the low income budgets to stretch further.

Providing opportunities and connecting people through daily food activities helps to overcome the many obstacles of modern life. Our children and young people all receive nightly supper, and some take items home for the rest of their family. Some may need extra food hampers.

There are also many social benefits and new skills opportunities, such as our weekly cooking and home baking sessions. Delivering homemade meals and visits to the food pantry, lunch time gatherings also generate conversations about the food and new ideas flow. For some people, access to this food has been a life line in their time of crisis or despair.

We are more aware of the financial barriers and lack of food security that has a ripple effect upon individuals life chances and high levels of poverty amongst low income workers (in particular) who struggle to pay rent and subsequently have high debts. The huge impact upon children, young people and families leads to more deprivation and increased mental and physical health issues. Reduced aspirations and daily struggles for each individual means that they have to fight harder for a better future. We have seen the huge difference when having food security and knowing there will be healthy food each day for all the family.

We have learned the need for supporting our community in a dignified manner and the need for local grassroot support networks that are available day and night. We see this having a major impact whereby some young people have had opportunities to change their lifestyles and leave gang culture to be more involved with community activities and also focus on their future. For some young people, they only attend for supper but that's fine. Being creative and thinking about each individuals interests has enabled us to engage some with actually cooking the supper.

We also recognise and are very thankful for the financial support from Dumfries and Galloway Council towards our Food Sharing Hub.

We now raise more awareness about individuals circumstances being very unique and there needs to be a collective approach from staff and volunteers to ensure we all understand the many complex circumstances and stressful experiences that each individual maybe going through, regardless of how they may present themselves. Kindness, dignity and treating everyone equal: supporting or signposting people where needed is now embodied into all volunteer inductions and regular evaluation processes.

Our food sharing projects have become an integral part of our centre activities. These have been developed to meet many diverse needs and also develop new skills and abilities.

Our Pantry has also become a social support hub and provides a level of weekly food security for all who visit.

In the future Our Food Security and Basic Needs Community Action Plan is developing well. We need to maintain the grassroots approach –

By the Community - For the Community

Our Action Plan incorporates the many strands of our Food Sharing Hub, increasing food security and reducing food hunger with the actions to become sustainable for the future.

Adult feedback from evaluations / discussions

*'We love the pantry. The food bills are reduced by at least £30 per week and I can pay off most of our debt before Christmas.'*

(Single mum with 3 children)

*'I always check what's for supper that night cause it's my best time and I like the KFC Chicken with dips then fruit. I take some home for my family too.'*

(14 years old)

*'Thank you for the food parcel and clothes today -really appreciate this as I am just out of prison and really struggling.'*

(Txt message from young man 24 years old)

*'Dear staff*

*Thank you for everything.*

*For the lovely homemade meals and especially the lasagne and fresh bread, mum said it was delicious.*

*Also, a big thank you for the daily newspaper being delivered and your volunteers who cheered up mum every day. Please pass on our thanks to all the cooks and helpers too.*

### **Improving Referral Pathways**

Multi-sectoral partnerships with a shared aim and clear pathways between services can make more effective use of existing resources.

To help reduce the need for emergency food provisions, it was recognised that referral pathways are essential in supporting those who are facing an income crisis. In response, we have developed a model/pathway for referrals through a single point of contact for anyone who requires support.

Our Social Work Access Team has a central telephone line through which callers are triaged to identify the most appropriate support available e.g. crisis grant, emergency food, support with energy costs etc. The aim is to help those with financial worries to easily access advice and cash-based support which could help alleviate their situation.

The Scottish Government is promoting a 'cash first' approach to tackle food insecurity where people are able to access supplies safely, recognising that people need to be able to afford the essentials that they will need. This approach provides individuals and families with a greater level of dignity, respect as well choice.

### **Scottish Welfare Fund**

During the reporting period demand for Crisis Grants has increased 28% and spend by 96% compared to the same period last year. At the start of the COVID emergency there was a significant increase in demand for Crisis Grants. (47% increase in April 2020). At the start of the emergency there was a reduction in demand for Community Care Grants due to the restrictions on moving address, however, at the half year point there was a 13% increase in application numbers and a 15% increase in spend.

Since the start of March 2020, 19% of crisis applications cited COVID as the reason for their application. Customers in Crisis would generally be paid via a text message which can be cashed at the nearest paypoint outlet. Alternative arrangements have been made for those who were self-isolating and therefore unable to leave the property. Examples of these include sending the text to a support worker or friend who will complete and deliver the money/items which the individual's needs. In a few cases payment has been made by Bank Transfer, however this takes a number of working days and is not suitable for those in Crisis.

From 12 October 2020, as part of the package of supports on offer to those who are required to self-isolate (because they tested positive for COVID19 or are identified as a close contact), a Self-Isolation Support Grant was introduced. This is being administered via Scottish Welfare Fund.

To be eligible for the £500 grant payment the following criteria must be met:

- Have been required to self-isolate at the request of NHS Test & Protect, on or after 28th September and
- Are employed or self-employed and it is not possible to work from home and Income is reduced as a result e.g. receiving Statutory Sick Pay or no pay
- In receipt of Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit; Income-based Employment and Support Allowance; Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance; Income Support; Housing Benefit; and/or Pension Credit

### **3.2 Outcome 2: Support is available to people who need help with food where, when and how they need it – good progress**

(Key groups – food share providers, families on low incomes, individuals on low incomes, Revenues and Benefits Team, FIAT Team, DWP).

#### **Evolving Emergency Response to Covid – 19**

During the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local authority, voluntary groups, charities and communities worked together to ensure that those the risk of food insecurity were able to access emergency provisions.

Initially we identified 19 key Community Food Providers who were recognised as having strength and experience in supporting their communities in relation to food needs and were willing to continue to prepare and distribute food packages/ meals to individuals and families in need.

These Community Food Providers are independent voluntary groups with a variety of governance structures. All the providers function in different ways with very little consistency in terms of delivery models, coverage, food sources and nutritional value and consistency of food provided.

Some Community Food Providers cover small local settlements whereas others cover large areas across the region. Some have teams of over 80 volunteers along with an infrastructure of drivers. Others have less than 5.

Immediate support was provided to individuals and families who were having to self-isolate/ participate in Test and Protect. Referrals came through from the Test and Protect Team to the Social Work Access Team who offer support including emergency food, support to access prescriptions as well as other essentials.

Provision was also made for people who were at increased or extreme risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (including those asked to shield until end July 2020) and Financially at-risk households, which include individuals and families who found themselves financially at risk due to a reduction in income and savings because of hours being reduced, being made redundant, awaiting benefits etc.

We worked very closely with local Registered Social Landlords to reach those in temporary accommodation and those who are homeless and in need of support around food, energy and connectivity.

Gypsy Travelling communities were supported by Community Food Providers via the Council's Community Liaison Officer to ensure that they had access to emergency supplies. This is a connection which was not in place previously and indicates the level of need from a community that typically would not approach services for this kind of assistance.

Families and individuals within the Vulnerable Person Resettlement Scheme were being supported through DGC and Third Sector organisations.

Support was also made available to victims of domestic abuse and relationship breakdowns.

Working in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Association (DGMA), ethnic minority communities were able to access information in a range of languages and DGVoice provided accessible and easy read formats to help individual identify support available.

Most Community Food Providers prepared and delivered (where required) due to the rural nature of D&G and the logistical and financial barriers that can be faced by individuals and families in accessing main towns.

With the persistence of COVID-19, the challenge has been to work with local organisations to ensure that there is access to nutritious food across the region to anyone who is in need regardless of location or financial status.

### Data Collection

Data, including weekly performance information helped both providers and the Community Support Group, who were supporting their efforts to understand need and demand, including the number of individuals and families benefitting, the number of volunteers involved, resources required in terms of time and the miles covered to reach those in need.

However, it was challenging to understand the raw data provided by Community Food Providers as there is no standardised definition of a food parcel. What is delivered to the doorstep of people requiring a food parcel is, to some extent dependent on where they live and what the local food provider has, or can make, available at that time.

In partnership with Providers our data collection was refined throughout the year to provide all partners with a more meaningful set of measures to allow a better representation of the nature and level of demand and provision, allowing us to better understand:

- The estimated total number of meals provided in the week (via food parcels and/ or prepared meals)
- the number of people benefitting from the food and, of those, how many were new/ first time beneficiaries
- the contribution volunteers and paid staff
- travel costs

The table below provides information from October 2020 - March 2021

	<b>26 weeks/ 6 months</b>
Total no. food parcels distributed	27,214
Equivalent number of meals	289,356
Prepared meals	59,272
<b>Total meals</b>	<b>349,480</b>
Average no. people fed each week	2,835

New people/ first time visits over the period	1,944
No. weekly shops	6,185
No. of active volunteers during the period	433
No. volunteer hours worked	37,572
No. paid staff hours	30,681
Miles travelled	63,006

In addition to this 1853 hot meals were provided for 145 people involving 4 volunteer hours a week and 1671 miles travelled. This was in addition to meals in the above table

An example of the level of volunteer effort that has “matched” the financial contribution invested is shown below based on data gathered from providers:

- Volunteer time = 30,000 hours (19 weeks) = 41,053 (26 weeks)
- Costed @ Living Wage of £9.30 per hour = £381,790

Moving into the winter months, Community Food Providers were acutely aware that food insecurity was highly likely to increase due to anticipated increased unemployment, continuation of the furlough scheme, rising bills, reintroduction of sanctions and the potential for local clusters and associated lockdowns.

Given that there is always potential for the impact of winter weather, the need to access food aid at a very local level so as to avoid difficulty in getting provisions to people was looked at and implemented using the most appropriate provider within any particular locality. Local approaches such as this have enabled us to work with a broader range of providers who are now offering very local supports in rural settlements which were harder to reach previously i.e. Isle Futures who feature in a case study below.

### Isle Futures

Isle Futures, a small charity organisation manages the Isle of Whithorn community hub, of St Ninian’s Hall, tea room and shop. Despite our tea room and hall being closed due to restrictions, our kitchen was very much open and we are able to continue to supply meals to our community through the shop, in the form of meals to reheat and a takeaway service twice a week. As such, we were very keen to become part of the scheme to provide hot meals, via referral from social services, to people in our community and beyond, utilising our amazing volunteers to help deliver such a vital service to those more vulnerable people around us.

Because of this scheme, we quickly identified such a person, living alone, just outside the village, who was suffering grief, loneliness and isolation. He has no means of communication having no landline, mobile phone or computer. He has no family around him, but thankfully has two neighbours who keep an eye on him most days. Working with social services and his two neighbours we have set in



place a system of providing him with a hot, home cooked meal 4 times a week at lunchtime. He has chosen to come and collect the meals himself, which gives him a purpose to get up and dressed, and an interaction, however small, with other people.

So far it has worked extremely well and everyone feels that the scheme has been of positive benefit to him. Last week he did not turn up for his meal. This flagged up an issue immediately, so we were able to contact his neighbour who went to check on him. Unfortunately, he was having a significantly bad time with his depression, but his neighbours were able to come and collect his meals for him to ensure he was still being fed. This is an excellent example of a small community working together, with social services to ensure the health and wellbeing of vulnerable people within the community. We all feel that he will continue to benefit from this service, and it has a positive impact on his physical and mental health.

### **River of Life**

The River of Life Pantry provides a wide range of surplus food generously donated by local supermarkets - Aldi (Glasgow Road, and Annan Road) Marks and Spencer, Lidl and Tesco, Lockerbie Road. From fresh produce, tinned food and sandwiches, to pastries, cereals and beverages, there is something for everyone. We also receive donations of toiletries, clothing, children's books and toys from individuals.



We are open every evening from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The food is completely free, and no prior referrals are necessary.

We also provide emergency food parcels to individuals and families who are unable to attend the drop-in sessions, mainly by referral through Social Work.

Our work is a vital service that has dramatically reduced food insecurity on various levels and provided a lifeline to many who would have otherwise gone hungry. We have provided a stable, reliable supply and access to fresh, nutritious food which has had a positive impact on the mental, physical and emotional well being of our service users. Our no-referral, drop-in sessions have drastically reduced waiting times for essential food items and given people the choice and confidence to meet personal and specific dietary needs. Through interaction with service users, we have also identified and resolved crisis situations.

We are keenly aware of the extent of people's needs and how easily anyone can lose their food security, making them reliant on services like ours for basic needs.

We've seen a significant impact on mental health; people lack confidence, feel depressed, vulnerable and anxious, and need more support and reassurance. COVID-19 tested the resilience of food supply chains and created high levels of food insecurity. It also, however, created opportunities to find robust, innovative solutions to food distribution, resulting in positive response initiatives, engagement and collaboration between the local council, food producers/suppliers and community groups across the region.

We have learnt to have more compassion and understanding for people because the pandemic has showed us all how unpredictable life is.

Services like ours are vital in ensuring that people have access to food, basic necessities and also receive the right help and support. We are more collaborative in our approach to work, to find more resources within the community to support people and provide stability for them in crisis situations.

For these reasons, the Pantry has remained open throughout the Pandemic and enforced the necessary protocols - social-distancing, hand sanitisation and the wearing of PPE - to allow this to happen. It has been necessary to provide a safe environment for our volunteers and service users to ensure an uninterrupted food supply.

Our vision is to help people break free from food insecurity and food poverty by identifying their underlying causes and providing support and information to help people resolve crises situations. Through signposting and partnership with other organisations, we aim to

- Provide one-to-one support/mentoring using a person-centred approach to identify deeper needs
- Provide nutrition education to encourage healthier lifestyle choices
- Provide and encourage access to new skills like cookery classes through partnership with other community groups to empower or service users

With adequate funding, we could also provide cooked food or partner with local restaurants to make cost-effective meals that serve communities which would also help keep the restaurant in business. This would help to combat food waste which is high on our agenda.

People using The Pantry have said they don't think they would have survived the Pandemic without our service. Some have indicated that they would have had absolutely nothing to eat without our help. By providing basic food and essential everyday items like toilet roll and shampoo, we have made a huge difference to their lives and general wellbeing. All our service users are overwhelmed with gratitude for what we provide.

We have also had many who say they are touched and impressed by how friendly and welcoming our volunteers are and appreciate how much time and attention we give to each of them. Some say The Pantry is a "God send", and has "restored their faith in mankind," or that the Pantry "means everything" to them.

For people on low income, having the Pantry means they can afford other essentials. For most of our service users, it has been the opportunity to talk to someone and feel like they belong to a community.

Through our interaction with service users, we have been able to identify other areas of need like

- Access to emergency funding to pay utility bills



- Bed linen and homeware/accessories (particularly for victims of domestic violence who have been rehoused)
- The need for basic toiletries

### **Testimonial for the River of Life Food Project during Covid-19**

When we first met Carol [name changed] she was very ill with the Covid-19 virus. Having been discharged from hospital she was referred to us as a person who was in need of help from our free food delivery service.

Carol has always been very appreciative of our help & contact, as she lives alone. Over the months that we have known her, she has shared with us many personal details about her past including her many health issues & how she lost contact with her young family in the past.

She has certainly taken us into her confidence & once lockdown restrictions were lifted she has visited us at the church in person for a 'coffee morning' on more than one occasion.

She usually phones every day for a short chat, telling us about her day.

Although she suffers from poor health, we have seen her health improve over the months & she has a lot more energy than when we first met her.

When we first met Carol, we assumed she was between 60-70 years of age. We now know her poor health had a negative effect on how she looked. She now looks more like her true age of 46.

Her outlook is now much better. She is trying to give up smoking & is looking forward to soon moving to another house where she doesn't have to live in the negative atmosphere of her present location.

Carol has said on more than one occasion that she doesn't know how she would have coped without our help & support & we feel she will probably need to rely on our help for quite a while to come. She doesn't yet have the energy or strength to carry shopping home & doesn't have the internet to shop online.

The change in Carol over the past few months has been very positive.

### **Lochside Community Association/Grub Club**

As a centre the LCA do the main running of the centre, a space to rent/hire to the community and other organisations.



Grub club was originally set up to Combat holiday hunger for children and their families as we recognised there was a need in our area. Numbers multiplied during the pandemic and widened the area of who were using the facility, we found a rise in young people who were in homeless accommodation and more elderly, living alone using our service.

We also subscribe to Fareshare and Fareshare go, which is excess/slight damaged / short dated food from supermarkets.

This enables us to keep our costings down to deliver grub club but also gives us the opportunity to share our excess to people in need of help, in which we make up food parcels for collection and some for delivery to the more elderly/vulnerable.

Other excess food is put on a sharing table outside centre for anyone in the community to help themselves, contributing to our to overall food waste. We also keep a stock of dried/tinned and frozen food in case of emergencies. This is mainly through a referral from professionals, or some of our community finding themselves in a predicament.

Grub Club also made a small amount of ready meals for our more vulnerable residents that may not be fit to cook from scratch and welcomed homemade soups/puddings and some main courses that were all ready to heat in a microwave or oven. This multiplied during the pandemic with us taking referrals from professional bodies.

We also received a lot of kind donations of pre loved clothes, household goods, bedding and curtain, this allows us to share in the community to people starting out with very little, and our children and adults that have maybe outgrown clothes or in need of some but living on a tight budget or below the breadline to have some smart, clean and warm clothes.

Going by our feedback and reports, we have made a huge difference to people's lives even before Covid hit, but the help we delivered during the pandemic was a huge lifeline to many as people found themselves in a dilemma , whether that be through furlough, loss of jobs, unable to get shopping, provisions through panic buying, delivery slots, even children between nursery and primary 3 did not automatically receive a free school meal or direct payment although they were entitled whilst at school, this put a lot of families under huge pressure and poverty, as we are not means tested this allowed people to ask for help without stigma or judgement attached.

We delivered door to door during the whole of lockdown, this helped not only with food but also with people's mental health and well being, children sitting at window waiting on their own wee takeaway, someone to pass time of day and a different face. We also delivered activity packs for kids. Afternoon teas, flowers, magazine and pen to our more elderly/ vulnerable residents. The impact we had on lots of families was very welcomed and appreciated.

Although some days were challenging as we were keeping our volunteers to the bare minimum to keep ourselves safe, working many hours to make sure our community had help and were fed. And had provisions and being able to sign post them to help them get other assistance.

The main thing I learned that we may stay in a community that is high in deprivation and poverty, however when it came to helping others, sharing, donations, we are the richest community out there, coming together for each other, kindness beyond measure, I was very proud to be part of this and being able to help and wouldn't hesitate to do it all over again. The appreciation from everyone, kind comments let you know why we do it without stigma or judgement. Not for recognition, publicity or our own self-worth, that's what makes our community great.

Originally, we invited our children and their families into the centre to enjoy free activities during holidays and with the bonus of lunch this alleviated any stigma.

When lockdown happened, our whole programme needed to change, it was remodelled over and over and sometimes overnight, we were constantly adjusting to suit ever changing guidelines, sourcing PPE and food provisions to be able to deliver safely and efficiently whilst limiting our costings, sometimes running on empty. What we delivered inhouse became delivery and our numbers multiplied X 4 and that was capping our numbers and area. We enhanced our service so we covered all age groups and people in need, we provided different options to cover individual needs, this included packed lunches for children and families, food parcels for people in need and were able to cook for themselves, ready meals for people that may get carers or to put in microwave or oven for themselves but not capable to prepare a nutritional meal. High risk that were unable to have assistance from family due to isolation, these being delivered far and wide as well. After isolation but still not being able to be in centre we then remodelled again to a takeaway service with residents being able to pick up for other family members and neighbours, this was a massive help as it reduced queues and waiting time, this ensured we were keeping us safe as well. As time goes by we may still need to remodel again as now we are a popular outlet for hot food we may not have the capacity to go back to how we originally started with sit in and activities, but we will need to wait and see what the future holds,

The plans for future is to relook at how we deliver grub club , whether it stays as a takeaway, maybe a community café to complement new park.

If we are able to go back to normal delivery.

However I think our area will need this service for the foreseeable through recovery period and also the wider community and age groups may also need continuous support of some sort, short term hospital discharges, young homeless, elderly/vulnerable. Social work referrals.

This will also depend on funding on how far we will be able to expand and deliver.

I think the biggest support was to working families and private lets, that had managed without this service until covid struck and found themselves struggling to survive and pay their way, peoples drop in wages, made redundant, self employed unable to work, yet these were the ones that were not entitled to any help, they were not in systems for free school meals or universal credit , which takes weeks for application, private lets not eligible for utility top ups or monies, food parcel from housing partnerships.

Comments and reports received from these were evident that if it wasn't for our service and our community sharing table and mostly our non-judgemental approach they would have struggled to make ends meet and keep a roof over their head. The system made the poorer better off which by no means do I disagree with, but the system also made the working poorer due to not being entitled as they were over the threshold by pennies. Ones with young children who were entitled to FSM up to Primary 3 finding themselves to find provision to feed them lunch whilst dropping in wages , finding extra for electric and gas as they were at home rather than at work or school , lack of funds to be able to bulk buy or multi buy offers.

The need for our service will only get greater as all these extra monies are taken back, universal credit, direct payment for FSM during holidays , this has created a dependency and people will find themselves deeper into deprivation and poverty just as winter approaches as well, so it will be fuel poverty as well as food.

### Testimonies

**Recipient A – We’ve been living in a never-ending nightmare.** Prior to the pandemic my partner decided to go self-employed and work alongside their cousin with their new business. The Covid-19 pandemic struck and we were in lockdown with four children under 8. As the business was new and my partner was not within their first-year tax return we were not entitled to any financial assistance. We live in a Private Let with the rent eating up most of our monthly household income. We were not entitled any to assistance with our rent. Our income was virtually mere pennies over being entitled to any help with school meals and everything that could possibly go wrong or break seems to have done so during this time. Initially, we considered ourselves lucky because the new business had already earned some really loyal customers who tried to give my partner and their cousin odd jobs throughout the pandemic to keep the wolf away from the door. The truth of the matter is that the fact my partner had no choice but to go out the door to carry on working was terrifying. We were in lockdown whilst my partner was leaving the house to do odd jobs to not even bring much money home. At times we had very little to feed the children or disposable income to afford essentials such as gas and electric. Often these would run out. Grub Club and the FareShare parcels available at Lochside Community Centre have virtually saved our lives. It makes me feel so ashamed as a mother and I really thought that I did not deserve to have such beautiful and amazing children because I have listened to my children be upset and crying because they have been hungry and cold. It has been heart breaking.

**Recipient B –** Things have been very difficult for me. I struggle a lot with my mental health and have battled on and off for many years with addiction. My relationship with my partner and family has broken down and I lost my job. I had to apply for Universal Credit during the pandemic. I have not always been a perfect human but I have always been a grafter. I always used to think I could survive anything so long as I had my job to keep me going. Having a job means that I have some pride. Universal Credit is a cruel system. I don’t know how they expect people to stay alive with nothing maybe that is the point. They want us to give up, go away and die. I don’t know Lochside very well but somebody told me to go some shop with free stuff as they’re all local people that care about the community and I’d be able to get help. I did, man it took a lot for me to go to their door. I was told that because my name wasn’t on a list so I couldn’t receive any help. I sat on the wall outside the shop and just broke down crying. A passer by stopped to ask what was wrong and then told me to get myself along to the community centre in Lochside. I am glad I did as I finally got somebody to just listen to me and help me out – I got some food to eat there and then. I hadn’t eaten for days. I’m not a beggar but was practically reduced to beg for help.

**Wooden Spoon Group (COVID version) Upper Nithsdale Family Project**

Prior to Covid-19 we delivered the 'Wooden Spoon' at the local leisure centre hall. This comprised of a home-cooked two course free evening meal for vulnerable children in primary school. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions around social distancing and lockdown we were unable to deliver this service as normal. The funding has allowed us to provide twice weekly home delivered two course home-cooked meal to children, their siblings and parent(s) who reside in the family home. It was especially important that the children's siblings and parents were included in this service delivery so that each person in that household received a two course meal. We have our own service vehicle and staff have planned, prepared, cooked and delivered the meals to the family homes. We have also supplied each family with a basic household bag each containing: toilet roll, hygiene products, laundry powder, bread, milk and cereal. The children and families receiving this support have been assessed as low income, living in poverty and vulnerable more so during this unsettling time.

**Case Study One:**

We support a mum and her two son's, aged 7 yrs and 14 yrs, this family were referred to the service after mum and dad's relationship broke down and dad left the area with no means of the family contacting him. Mum discovered that dad had left the family in a considerable amount of debt and mum was really struggling in all areas of family life. Whilst supporting the family the Family Support Practitioner identified that the family would benefit from the home-cooked meal and basic household item service that we offer. Each week both boys are excitedly waiting on their two-course home-cooked meal that they and their mum receive along with the basic household items. Having this service has reduced more financial pressure on this family and allowed the family to have breathing space from their worries and anxieties. The family report that on these delivery days they all eat together and the youngest boy is especially excited about that experience. Mum is working with Citizen Advice on sorting out the debt she was left with and has a financial budget plan.

**Case Study Two:**

We supported a family who due to possible Covid symptoms had to self-isolate. Unfortunately, both parents work at the local meat factory and received only statutory sick pay during their self-isolation. This was extremely difficult for a family of four to manage running their household on a very low income during the 14 days. We were able to support the family through this time with the home-cooked evening meals and basic household items. We were also able to apply for Emergency Funding due to Covid to ensure their rent, council tax, gas and electric were all paid.

### 3.3 Outcome 3: Involvement in food sharing helps with other aspects of people's lives – Good Progress

(Key groups – food share providers, families on low incomes, individuals on low incomes, lifelong learning and Employability and Skills Service).

#### Training

Through working with providers, we identified several opportunities which would support volunteers to build their skills and competences. Participation in this training ensured that many of the Community Food Providers had capacity within their organisations to continue to provide support in the safest way possible. Courses included, basic health and safety, food and hygiene, first aid and the protection of vulnerable adults.

The table below details a range of courses and the number of volunteers who participated

Course	Number participants
Online Basic First Aid	18
Classroom Basic First Aid	11
3 day First Aid at Work	4
Elementary REHIS Food Hygiene	26
Basic Food Safety	4
Health and Safety	14
Intermediate Food Hygiene	1

#### Accredited Learning – SVQ in Volunteering Skills

Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) are based upon national standards and provide evidence that learners can do their jobs well. Studied in the workplace, in college or with training providers, SVQs are available in many subject areas.

The Award in Volunteering Skills at SCQF levels 3, 4 and 5 provides formal recognition of volunteering activity. Through participation in volunteering activities, candidates develop a range of skills and personal development experiences which will help to prepare them for responsibility, further education and employment.

Candidates learn about the context of volunteering; plan a volunteering placement; review and reflect on their own skills and volunteering experience; and complete an investigative project.

10 volunteers from a range of Community Food Providers started the course, 8 finished, all gaining a SVQ Level 3 qualification.

### **Risk Assessment and Review:**

All organisations have a risk assessments in place to cover their operations which includes responding to the risks presented by COVID-19. Due to the identification of further strains which are thought to more contagious we worked with local specialists to access additional advice and support for many of the providers.

### **Connectivity**

There have been various mechanisms through which digital connectivity and inclusion have been delivered in our region since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. The opportunity to support individuals and families has highlighted the high demand for, and gaps, in access to digital devices and connectivity, and the disadvantage experienced by those not digitally connected.

A report commissioned by (TSDG) also in October 2020 studied the needs of people and groups in the region, highlighting the significant number of individuals in the region with little or no online access and the potential and available sources of funding to address need. The main recommendation for the way forward was that a “coordinated approach is taken on a regional basis to accelerate the impact and ensure all groups requiring digital inclusion are catered for. This should provide the vehicle and continuum to link national policy and programmes, through region-wide activities, to local application and action.”

#### Case Study

Service User X: Is 18 years old, they were struggling financially every month due to low Universal Credit payments. They could not access internet at home as could not afford it and during lock-down all libraries and communal facilities were closed due to Covid-19. Service user X felt isolated and struggled with their mental health.

Once service user X was given a mobile device, they accessed social media and could communicate with family and friend, making them less socially isolated. Service user X also worked on their CV, could access their emails, and actively investigated local employment/training opportunities. Service user X was able to email a vacancy that was advertised, enabling them to apply appropriately.

Service user X is happier, more relaxed and feels part of the world and much less isolated, which has improved their mental health. Service user X is also managing better financially.

### **Scottish Government Connecting Scotland Programme (originally named the Get Online Initiative)**

Connecting Scotland is a Scottish Government programme set up in response to coronavirus. It provides iPads, Chromebooks and support to develop digital skills for people who are all of the following:

- digitally excluded – do not have an appropriate device and/or are not connected to the internet at home;
- on low incomes so cannot afford to buy a device or pay for internet access;
- at risk of isolation due to coronavirus because they are in the extremely high vulnerability group or the higher risk of severe illness group.

Getting online helped individuals access the services and support that they needed. It also helped them to keep in contact with their friends and family. Applications were assessed by SCVO and local authorities. Awards will be made from the allocation of devices per local authority area. Information on how to apply and guidance can be found on the Support DG website: Connecting Scotland

### Testimonies

*Individual 1:* 73 year-old man, registered blind has been receiving regular training sessions from his designated volunteer and is gaining more confidence when using the device and now makes regular contact with family in Glasgow, Ireland and London.

*Individual 2:* Three year-old girl who is non-verbal, is able to communicate with mum through the device .

*Family 1:* Teenage mum in foster care who was isolated with a new baby has been able to do online learning and explore college courses for next year. It is also helped her be able to look up things about baby development and link into on-line forums with other young mums.

*Family 2:* Kinship family where gran has had a stroke and struggles to communicate verbally. They live in an isolated spot with poor public transport and having the laptop has helped keep in touch with family, do on-line shopping, homework and keep in touch with professionals.

### Touch Base Project, Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

In March 2020 as the UK went into lockdown calls to Dumfries and Galloway Council's (D&G Council) emergency support line increased significantly. It was identified that there was no immediate solution to address the complete stop of face to face contacts which brought about real isolation to members of our communities.



**THIRD SECTOR**  
Dumfries and Galloway

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway were able to respond to this need with the development of a new responsive project called Touch Base, a telephone companion service. TSDG had signed up 1,000 COVID volunteers and some of these volunteers were used to deliver Touch Base.

Touch Base was launched in May 2020 with D&G Council call handlers using a script to assess if a caller would benefit from a referral to Touch Base. Those callers identified by the D&G Council call handlers that expressed an interest in Touch Base were referred to the service and were contacted by either an Engagement Officer or Associate of TSDG.

The call dealt with any immediate needs, gathered demographic information on each potential Service User and established if Touch Base was required and/or was the appropriate level of service.

In the first week, more than 80 referrals were received. In total Touch Base received more than 170 referrals, the majority being received between May – June



2020. However, as time went on, there was a flurry of referrals in November and December 2020. TSDG at this point recognised a capacity issue with the volunteers and as a result no further referrals were accepted.

Several potential service users were transferred to other services as their issues and needs were deemed to need higher level support. Many potential service users declined Touch Base as they did not need the service. In most cases they had been offered or referred to the service and felt it was 'ungrateful' to decline the offer of support by the D&G Council call handlers. This issue was resolved with changes to the call handlers' script. Once the service need was confirmed and the profile completed the Touch Base Coordinator (an Engagement Officer from TSDG) matched Service Users to Volunteer Phone Companions.

Initially, Touch Base was able to call on support from 12 volunteers from D&G Befriending Project and donations of mobile phones and sim cards from Carphone Warehouse and Tesco. However, call capacity had to be increased due to the huge unanticipated demand for the service, and as volunteers started to leave the service. A further 19 volunteers were recruited between June – August 2020 and a further 5 volunteers were recruited in January 2021. Many volunteers were recruited from the list of TSDG COVID volunteers. The number of service user's volunteers were calling varied from 1 –5, with calls varying from 5 – 45 minutes.

The Phone Companions were asked, initially, to check on food & medicine needs being met, as well as building a relationship. As time has moved on, the calls have included chats about family, holidays, the current COVID situation, the American election, Prince Philip, hobbies & interests. In addition, many of those service users still with Touch Base have health conditions that impact on their daily life and they have been regularly encouraged to contact their GP about their concerns.

In addition, as a result of feedback, the co-ordinator has been able to facilitate lawns being mowed, housing repairs being expedited, Talking books to be sorted, and referrals to Psychology have been made.

As the service was coming to an end, referrals were made to Food Train Friends, and Nithsdale Health & Wellbeing Team.

Feedback from some of the Touch Base service users has included:

They were pleased that **“someone was keeping in touch”, “watching out for them”,** ensuring **“someone cared about [them]”** or was **“keeping an eye on them”** and one caller echoed comments reported elsewhere in the report that the call **“made [her] week”**.

Asked about what they would have done without Touch Base most Service users either preferred not to contemplate that question or they said that they would have **“felt a burden on the neighbours”,** would have had **“no contact outside”** or would have got **“very depressed”**.

Apart from the thanks for the service and praise for all those involved one comment which summarised the connectivity the service gave some users was **“Thank you it made me feel like I was back in the land of the living”**. Encouragingly the Touch Base Scheme was also very helpful to the wellbeing of Volunteers. Examples include,

*"I have also felt a sense of being able to help. Which I think has been good for my wellbeing",*

*"It's a 2-way street -it's been as beneficial for me as my service users" and "Making the calls has helped me to focus when maybe I was feeling a bit low. It gives me satisfaction to feel I am helping someone else".*

Now that Touch Base is winding down, the views of one volunteer who has been with the service since June 2020 sums up the positive ripples that Touch Base has created:

*"I just wanted to say a big thank you for allowing me to be a volunteer for Touchbase. With being stuck at home last year when this pandemic kicked off, I felt useless not being able to help. For me I feel I have been able to give something back and help in some way.*

*I spoke to my clients yesterday and they have all said, what a wonderful service this has been, it has helped them in many ways, friendships have been formed. The trust that has been built up, has allowed a couple of them to offload. This on its own has helped them get through a dark day for them. For me this has been a great help also. Stuck at home afraid some days, not knowing what was round the corner, it also enabled me to chat.*

*Touchbase, has been a wonderful service reaching so many people. The fantastic support from Christine and the Touchbase Team, who are only a phone call or an email away, has enabled myself and many other volunteers to be able to help others during the Pandemic.*

As the co-ordinator of the service, Christine says *"I have felt privileged to have been able to support both the service users and the volunteers during the past 12 months. I have seen volunteers give unstintingly of their time (even calling their service users on Christmas Day as they would be on their own), offer support & guidance to their service users and create friendships. I have learned so much while supporting the volunteer".*

## **Community Resilience**

The Community resilience response has been vast and varied, the support being delivered to communities across our region by local community resilience teams and volunteers, has and continues to include shopping, meal provision, working with pharmacies in delivering prescriptions, dog walking, mental health support through telephone calls and wellbeing checks to ensure that members of the community are keeping safe and well and to prevent loneliness and isolation.

Building upon the learning and feedback received during the course of the pandemic, a robust training plan is being developed to include support for the use of technology and online communications; legislation and public protection; health and safety as well as a greater overall awareness of resilience.

### **Community Resilience - Thornhill Street Volunteers**

Thornhill Community Council were due to hold a normal Community Council meeting on the night that the Government announced that the Country was going into lockdown (March 2020). The agenda was cancelled

A meeting was held in relation to Thornhill Community Councils response to the lockdown.

This was the response:

Through the Community Facebook Group a request was put out for residents who were fit and able to volunteer to be a Street Volunteers.

The Street Volunteers were to cover all areas of the Community Council (including the rural parts).

A couple from the village very generously donated to have 1000 Hello Cards printed so they could be put through every door in the Community Council Area advising who the local contact was if needed.

The Volunteers where possible were kept as local to their home as possible, this helped as the residents knew them and they knew the neighbours who may be in need of help. It was left up to the Volunteer how they wished to help out.

Within 5 days of the request going out over 100 people were willing to assist. They had been allocated their area, the Hello Cards had been printed and had been distributed by them. The feedback at this time was very positive from the community that the this had been set-up in a short time.

The Street Volunteers carried out numerous tasks the main being obtaining groceries, newspaper, prescriptions and posting parcels. There was dog walking, welfare telephone calls and ordering on-line also carried out. Some of the volunteers carried out the tasks for over a year a number of friendships have been built up from this.

The Community Facebook Group was how the Community Council got the information out to the Street Volunteers and appeared to work very well.

The Community Facebook Group was also used to:

- give updates on local shops opening hours  
details of local shops/businesses willing to deliver groceries etc to Thornhill area
- place any posts in relation to the lockdown and Covid from Scottish Government NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council and Thornhill Community Council

The Group which is a private group and its membership is for residents of Mid and Upper Nithsdale During the pandemic persons were allowed to join who had elderly/vulnerable relatives residing in Thornhill Community Council area who may not have had access to Facebook and they could advise what was being posted.

local knowledge was the key to setting up the Volunteers getting it set up early having one person managing it so that everyone was getting the same advice. communicating on a regular basis with volunteers contact with local shops/businesses advising what was in place and how we could help them and they help us these were key points in making it work

**Below is a post from someone residing outwith our area**

*I wonder if you could pass on my thanks to the street volunteers for all their help during lockdown. My parents live in Thornhill & are both considered at high risk as over 70 - so have been self isolating since 23 March. I work for NHS & live over an hour away - so not easy for me to drop off shopping etc. It's been great knowing that there is help available to them locally. Thank you very much to everyone involved*

**This was a few of the responses to her post**

*All the helpers have been great helping the elderly people in village very much appreciated*

*Fantastic community spirit. Every one of the street volunteers have played such an important role in helping the most vulnerable amongst us. Well done to all of you*

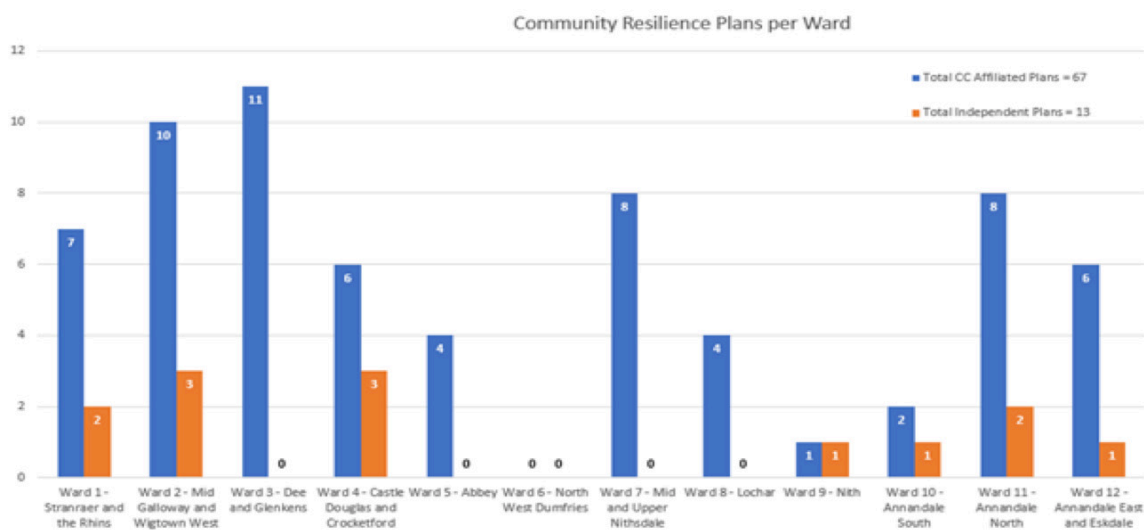
*We've had many occasions when name of street Volunteer has gone above and beyond for us. This great community effort has been, and still is, pure gold. Thanks to everyon*

*Fantastic effort from all involved Big thanks to everyone*

**From The Volunteers**

*Pleasure to help out*

Below provides a list of all Community Resilience Teams by Ward



### **3.4 Outcome 4: Food sharing arrangements are as efficient and effective as possible**

(Key groups – food share providers, families on low incomes, individuals on low incomes)

#### **Out of Hour Arrangements**

Similarly to many local authorities, Dumfries and Galloway Council continued to manage local helplines linked to the National Assistance Helplines through which people can access a range of services, including emergency income, food, fuel, and other wellbeing supports. Most integrated money and employability advice in to call scripts and some asked about the whole needs of all members of the household so as to provide wraparound support.

The Council's Solution Centre responded to emergency calls where there was an urgent need for provisions and the Fire and Rescue Service provided emergency out of hours response by holding a number of emergency parcels in each of their fire stations across the region. This additional support was extremely helpful when there wasn't the opportunity to get immediate support from our Community Food Providers.

#### **Fareshare**

FareShare in Dumfries and Galloway is one of the projects which is part of the Anti-Poverty Strategy Action Plan and over the last five years the number of organisations who have become members of this food sharing organisation which is managed by the national Move-On Project has increased to 15 who are based throughout the Region.

The total amount of food delivered by Fareshare to the 15 organisations supported from 1/1/20 - 8/12/20 is as follows:

- 210 tonnes of food delivered into Dumfries and Galloway.
- 500,010 meal portions.
- £750,015 value of stock delivered.

This volume of food delivered far exceeds the minimum amount which is guaranteed per year by Fareshare and is continuing to have an incredibly positive an impact on food poverty within Dumfries and Galloway. The contract with Fareshare for all of our Community Food Members together is for 85.68 tonnes per year and this had been exceeded by 123.32 tonnes by December 2020.

FareShare deliveries have been used to either distribute food surplus, supplement food parcels or for the food supplied to be used towards producing cooked/ready meals which are then passed on to those in need. Fareshare and all of the organisations supported reduce food waste on a huge scale and the also contribute towards reducing the carbon footprint of our Region.

At their meeting on 9 February 2021, Communities Committee agreed that the costs for the membership and delivery for the 15 organisations who are current members would be covered again from April 2021 – March 2022. A waiting list for additional organisations to join and become Community Food Members of Fareshare is maintained and as soon as Move On is able to increase the number of deliveries to our Region, we will add these new members to this project.

### **Community Food Providers Networks**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the activities of Community Food Providers had not previously been coordinated on a regional basis. Through the development of the regional and local food networks we are supporting the transition of many of the local groups from providing emergency food aid as the primary response and to develop more dignified models which promote choice, participation and community development and support pathways out of crisis.

These new locality partnerships are proving successful in creating improved opportunities for Community Food Providers to work together, share resources, identify and respond to need or gaps in provision, avoid any duplication and plan for the future to the longer-term sustainability of food provision.

In order to build capacity and a broader understanding of Community Food Provider staff and volunteers have participated in training, webinars, research topics and built contacts and relationships with other local authority areas to identify and share good practice.

There have been many valuable lessons learnt that we can all build on as we work toward COVID recovery and renewal, but we must do so with a clear shared ambition.

### 3.5 Performance measures that support the four Locality Plan Outcomes

As part of the Anti-Poverty strategy there were two projects

**P4C1AP4.1d - School Clothing Grants** which started on 01/04/2020 and was completed on 28/08/2020.

Narrative entered by Wendy 10 May 2021

The Free School Clothing Grant allocations of £134.00 per pupil were all completed during the first few weeks of the School Summer Holidays in July 2020. Every child who is registered as eligible to receive Free School Meals also receives this additional benefit which allows their parents /guardians to purchase a range of school uniform products including shoes and accessories. Dumfries & Galloway Council award the sum of £134.00 per pupil which is £34.00 more per pupil than the minimum amount set by the Scottish Government, we are one of the highest paying local authorities in Scotland in terms of this grant which is supplemented through funding from our Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Policy Development Funding.

**P4C1AP4.1d - Holiday Food Fund Project** which started on 01/04/2020 and was completed on 30/10/2020.

No narrative entered.

Wendy may be able to provide narrative to support this project.

Key Performance Indicator	March 2021		Q4 2020/21		H2 2020/21		2020/21		Annual Target 2020/21	Responsible Officer(s)
	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target	Value	Target		
P4C3M6CP&E_P101 Number of children, young person and adults support to improve life changes through participation in youth work, lifelong learning and wellbeing activities - AREA			2592	3321	5461	6338	10626	13867	13,867	Karen Brownlie; Stephen Jack; Mark Molloy
P4C3M6CP&E_P102 % of young people and adults who report an improvement in their confidence, skills, individual, family, community or working life following participation in youth work, lifelong learning and wellbeing activities (AREA)			71.14%	75%	79.45%	75%	81.18%	75%	75%	Karen Brownlie; Stephen Jack; Mark Molloy

#### **4. Next steps**

The Locality Plan continues to move forward with public and third sector partners having regular and constructive dialogue about food issues specifically.

Particular areas of improvement are:

- Consistent recording of volunteers' journeys and sharing learning and practice
- Regular engagement between third sector providers, especially in the Community Food Providers Network
- Capturing the good practice and transferrable practice from food related projects
- Development of the Dumfries and Galloway Healthy Weight and Physical Activity Strategy



## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD - RESEARCH ON COMMUNITY PLANNING: PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL

### 1. Background

Our Community Planning Partnership has been asked by the national Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) to comment on three issues (**Appendix 1** sets out the details):

- key findings from its research about the role of CPPs about COVID Recovery
- its planned three areas of focus

- the CPIB Priorities for 2021-23 (**Appendix 2**)

and to provide examples from our Community Planning Partnership in these areas

**1.1 Key messages** The CPIB research appears to have been drawn from a range of different returns to Scottish Government for different purposes over the last year. The key messages drawn from this research are identified as being:

- The pandemic required a whole systems approach across Scotland
- Empowerment delivers results
- CPPs provided the key vehicle for multi-agency working at a local level
- We must not lose the gains we have made in the last 15 months
- Given the anticipated increase in inequalities and associated demand from Covid, national and local priorities will need to be rebalanced to support a more targeted approach.

**1.2 Areas of focus** The CPIB has identified three areas of focus to meet future expectations:

- Refocusing Priorities
- Involving and empowering communities
- Relationships structures and bureaucracy

### 1.3 CPIB Priorities

- Inequalities
- Climate change and sustainability
- Promoting children and young people's life chances
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Place
- Income and Employment

2. At the CPP Board meeting, it's intended that we will break into discussion groups for members to comment on these issues and provide examples of activity or future plans or requests from their sector or organisation as well as from a broader CPP perspective to inform our response to the CPIB.

**Community Planning Partnership Board**

3. The previous CPIB Chair had been invited to come to one of our meetings. This did not prove possible and the invitation has been extended to the new Chair Sandra Black. Our response to this consultation exercise will be a useful focus of discussion when she attends our meeting

**4. Recommendations**

The CPP Board is invited to agree its response to the CPIB consultation on its Key messages, areas of focus; and Priorities; and provide examples of our activity in relation to these issues.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
1 November 2021

**Appendices – 1**

- 1 - Letter from CPIB October 2021
- 2 - CPIB Priorities 2021-2023

Our Ref: SB/MAMcG/CPB  
 Contact: Sandra Black  
 Telephone: 0141 618 7355  
 E-mail: sandra.black@renfrewshire.gov.uk  
 Date: October 2021



## FAO: Chairs of Community Planning Partnership Boards (By Email)

Dear CPP Chair

### Community Planning Improvement Board – Research on Community Planning: Progress & Potential

I'm writing as chair of the Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB) to share our recent research into the critical role Community Planning has played during Covid and the significant contribution community planning can make to Covid recovery plans in Scotland.

Community Planning has flourished during the COVID response, with partners working flexibly across boundaries to co-ordinate support for local communities. There is an opportunity to build on this momentum and to identify new opportunities by which Community Planning structures can continue to achieve improved outcomes for local communities as part of the COVID recovery period. This is particularly pertinent as we mark the ten-year anniversary of the Christie Commission and reflect on the progress made to date. Community Planning provides a key vehicle to deliver on the Christie vision, driving local partners to work together to deliver collectively for their communities.

The CPIB provides leadership and improvement support for Community Planning in Scotland, with senior level membership drawn from key statutory Community Planning partners. Through its relationship with key Community Planning stakeholders, the CPIB has played an instrumental role in building a strong evidence base around where Community Planning and CP partners are working well together and achieving positive outcomes for their communities, and also on the nature of issues and barriers to progress.

The recent CPIB research on the critical role Community Planning has played during COVID and the role that partners can achieve through Community Planning to support COVID recovery across local communities is enclosed in Annex 1.

The key messages highlighted in this research are as follows:

- **The pandemic required a whole systems response across Scotland.** It needed all the Community Planning partners to work together, and with the third sector and communities, to deliver an effective response at local levels.



Chief Executive: Sandra Black  
 Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1WB  
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- **Empowerment delivers results.** Community Planning has responded with pace, agility and impact during the pandemic. This has been assisted by empowerment and greater flexibility at both local and national levels, for example, enabling rapid and flexible responses across local communities and supporting work to direct national funding and resources to where it is needed most e.g. Connecting Scotland.
- **Community Planning Partnerships provided the key vehicle for multi-agency working at a local level.** Existing relationships, infrastructure and ways of working have been fundamental within local emergency and resilience planning structures, supporting rapid and co-ordinated community led responses and joined up planning and delivery by key partners. Community Planning enabled partners to work together in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances, empower communities and front-line staff, and forge holistic approaches. The focus on place and knowledge of the local community, a keystone of community planning approaches, was essential to this
- **We must not lose the gains we have made in the last 15 months.** From a public service reform perspective, we must build on the momentum we have created from the pandemic and use it as a catalyst for further reform. This is particularly pertinent as we mark the ten year anniversary of the Christie Commission and reflect on the progress made, and what more Community Planning can do to deliver on the Christie recommendations in terms of community empowerment, partnership and the focus on improved outcomes
- **Given the anticipated increase in inequalities and associated demand from Covid, national and local priorities will need to be rebalanced to support a more targeted approach.** This will be particularly important as we strive to balance a range of demands on services and supports across communities and investing in those things that we know will make the difference for future generations. This may require a rebalancing of local and national policy priorities policy towards a narrower set of priorities, including a meaningful shift from universality towards greater targeting. This will be essential if we are to encourage the more ambitious approach to preventative investment advocated for by Christie

To support local and national recovery, the CPIB has identified the following areas of focus for Community Planning to meet future expectations:

- **Re-Focusing Priorities:** aligning and refocussing priorities and targets in Local Outcomes Improvement Plans and locality plans to play into longer term recovery plans
- **Involving and empowering communities:** strengthening relationships with communities and embracing the value that volunteers, community bodies and third sector organisations can play in recovery and renewal efforts
- **Relationships, structures and bureaucracy:** Building on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working and relationships that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis and promoting delivery models which emphasise empowerment

We would welcome your reflections on these key findings and areas of focus, including any examples from your own CPP you would like to share.

The CPIB has a key role in supporting Community Planning to make a significant contribution to Scotland's recovery. The role of the CPIB has recently been refocused to ensure it is well positioned to help build on the progress achieved to date, and to respond effectively to the opportunities and challenges facing Community Planning during these unprecedented times. The CPIB priorities for 2021-2023 are available on the [CPIB website](#).

The CPIB is keen to actively engage with partnerships to ensure its work programme is informed by local priorities and experiences and we would welcome your thoughts on the priorities identified. We will continue to keep Community Planning partners updated with progress and provide regular opportunities to contribute to work as it develops. CPIB members will also continue to share progress updates within their organisations and sectors therefore members of local CPPs may also be contributing to the CPIB work via this route.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about your experiences and improvement priorities. If you would have any questions, please contact myself or Emily Lynch ([Emily.Lynch@improvementservice.org.uk](mailto:Emily.Lynch@improvementservice.org.uk)) and we will be happy to assist.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Black

**Chair of CPIB on behalf of Solace Scotland and Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council**

**Community Planning Improvement Board**  
**COMMUNITY PLANNING: PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL**  
**May 2021**

## Introduction

*This report sets out:*

- *A brief assessment of how and how far Community Planning in Scotland has strengthened in recent years*
- *How Community Planning has reached a new level in co-ordinating and supporting local responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic*
- *How Community Planning is ideally placed to perform a pivotal role in driving local recovery and renewal interventions in the coming years*
- *What CPPs and their partners need to focus on to do this effectively.*

## Evolution of Community Planning Following Statutory Reforms Pre-Covid

1. New statutory reforms to Community Planning, in Part 2 of the [Community Empowerment \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) and accompanying [Statutory Guidance](#), came into force in December 2016. These provisions introduced a statutory basis for Community Planning; built on public sector partners working together and with community bodies to improve outcomes – especially with a view to tackling inequalities of outcome – on locally identified priorities.
2. This statutory purpose is critical. The success of Community Planning is defined by the impact that partners make for their communities by working together; not by structures, procedures or how Board meetings are conducted. The Act also applies statutory duties on CPPs and named public sector organisations to ensure Community Planning fulfils this purpose effectively.
3. The Community Planning Improvement Board (CPIB), through its relationship with key Community Planning stakeholders, has played an instrumental role in building a strong evidence base around where Community Planning and CP partners are working well together and achieving positive outcomes for their communities, and also on the nature of issues and barriers to progress and where improvement support is needed to drive change.

## How Community Planning Has Progressed since the Act

4. We have gradually gained a picture of how much stronger Community Planning has become in light of these duties
5. A summary of this progress is provided in [Annexe A](#). In addition to evidence produced through the work of the CPIB, this also reflects:
  - 27 Best Value Audit Reports (BVARs) of local authorities, which the Accounts Commission has published since June 2017
  - a 2018 impact report by Audit Scotland, which summarised national and local progress against improvement recommendations in previous audit reports on Community Planning
6. This evidence points to steady and continuing improvement in Community Planning. However, based on this considerably more progress would be needed to meet fully the expectations of the 2015 Act and statutory guidance.

## How Community Planning Has Responded to the Pandemic

7. Community Planning has come into its own during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Based on self-reported feedback from CPPs (see [Annexe B](#)), Community Planning has played a critical role in supporting emergency response efforts. Existing relationships, infrastructure and ways of working have been fundamental within local emergency and resilience planning structures, supporting rapid and co-ordinated community led responses and joined up planning and delivery by key partners.
8. ***Mobilising Communities.*** In many cases, communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver assistance on vulnerable people in a matter of days. Community Planning provided essential support via recruiting, co-ordinating and supporting volunteers and community groups; and establishing online community hubs offering support and guidance and signposting to further resources. The community led response has enabled a more rapid and targeted delivery of support to those most in need, despite challenges (volume of volunteers and capacity to support community groups). This is valuable learning for CPPs in why and how they support empowerment in future.
9. ***Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships.*** Partnerships developed prior to the pandemic facilitated a smooth transition to emergency operations (e.g. one Community Planning Manager noted many of the members of a local Emergency Management Team were members of the area's CPP and had already build familiarity and trust). Existing partnerships have been used and refocussed across a range of social and economic recovery themes, drawing in new partners including business and the private sector. Thematic partnerships worked well at the start of the pandemic, springing into action despite the fact that the local CPP Board was effectively out of action at this point.
10. CPPs have also brought together partner recovery plans and identified areas where partners could join efforts. Many CPPs have looked to alter the way they operate to become more flexible and adaptable, recognising the fluidity of current and evolving pressures. This is particularly evident in relation to locality planning.
11. ***Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI).*** Many CPPs drew heavily on the knowledge, connections and expertise of TSIs to mobilise communities, co-ordinate volunteers and to provide support. Some reflected that there had been a strengthening of the relationship with the TSI and a greater parity of esteem as a result of the pandemic response.
12. ***Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.*** CPPs have played a key role in co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses. This was particularly important given the volume and frequency of new guidelines from the Scottish and UK Governments, the speed with which national guidelines were altered, and the need to ensure communities, community groups and partner organisations all had access to the latest guidance and support.
13. ***Reviewing and resetting existing LOIPs.*** Many CPPs have taken stock with communities to ensure alignment with other local recovery plans, and ensure priorities within their Local Outcome Improvement Plan best reflect circumstances for their area and communities in light of the Pandemic. A number of issues will have come into starker relief – such as exacerbated inequalities, the need for social and economic recovery and renewal, the importance of community resilience. As a result, many CPPs are likely to refresh their LOIP in order to update their local priorities, the extent of progress required or the way these are addressed.

## Looking Ahead: A Pivotal Role for Community Planning

14. Community planning and the close local partnership working it embodies are ideally placed to underpin recovery and renewal efforts across Scotland. The same collective responses by local public and third sector partners that have supported community efforts and helped people at risk during the Pandemic will continue to be vital as energies shift to recovery.
15. We cannot adequately safeguard the wellbeing and life chances of our vulnerable communities now and in future if we return to traditional models of service delivery built on silo-based, service-specific interventions. Local partners need to work together and with communities to understand what matters most to people and then shape comprehensive, holistic and seamless interventions that make a particular positive difference for those of our fellow citizens who need that support most. Recognition of this is already driving national policy on recovery from Covid and more widely (e.g. Scottish Government responses to the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery<sup>1</sup> and Social Renewal Advisory Board<sup>2</sup>; its Climate Change Plan<sup>3</sup>).
16. Community Planning provides an ideal space in which public services, other partners and communities themselves can contribute meaningfully to these national priorities and others. What is more, through Community Planning these partners can do so in ways that reflect local needs and circumstances, empower communities and front-line staff, and forge holistic approaches that connect and add value across a range of outcomes for a local area.

## Areas of Focus for Community Planning to Meet Future Expectations

17. **Re-Focusing Priorities:** CPPs should now be planning and organising for economic and social renewal in light of the Pandemic, with continued particular emphasis on safeguarding wellbeing and tackling inequalities, already established by the LOIP. Approaches shaped to the distinctive needs of Place and communities of interest will feature prominently in this. In many cases, CPPs will now or shortly be considering how they align and refocus priorities and targets in LOIPs and locality plans to play into longer term recovery efforts.
18. **Involving & empowering communities:** CPPs will want to strengthen relationships with communities. In many cases this will involve embedding recent and current positive actions in listening and responding to communities' needs. In particular, CPPs should work to secure trust of communities. Partnerships that were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and had already earned the buy-in and trust of the local community. The example of North Ayrshire (also taken forward elsewhere in Scotland) on embedding Kindness into the work of local public services has supported effective locality-based interventions.
20. CPPs will want to embrace the significant value that volunteers and organisations in all sectors can play in recovery and renewal efforts, and help overcome challenges facing all sectors. Recent experience has also demonstrated the value of Third Sector Interfaces as a strategic partner for CPPs that are committed to strengthening relationships with communities and to economic and social renewal; and the value of working with the private sector and local businesses
21. More specifically, the Pandemic has highlighted issues exist around digital inclusion for households and communities, including accessibility for them of information and support through IT and the extent of local broadband provision.

<sup>1</sup> [Economic Recovery Implementation Plan](#), Scottish Government (August 2020)

<sup>2</sup> [Social Renewal Advisory Board: Initial Response](#), Scottish Government (March 2021)

<sup>3</sup> [Securing a Green Recovery on a Path to Net Zero: Climate Change Plan 2018–2032 - Update](#), Scottish Government (December 2020)



22. ***Relationships, structures and bureaucracy.*** CPPs and partners will want to build on the expansion and strengthened quality of partnership working that have driven cohesive action for at-risk communities during the crisis. This includes embedding the improved communication, awareness and trust between partners and sectors – including the third sector which has responded rapidly and decisively to the crisis and local private sector which could offer longer term gains in partnership working. CPPs and partners can apply learning from delivery models using locality-based, multidisciplinary teams. These models, with trust placed in front-line staff and communities to go ahead and get things done, can continue to facilitate nimble (and often community-led) action to respond to local needs and priorities as part of longer term Community Planning. They can also continue to identify gaps and minimise duplication in delivery across partners and community groups, by co-ordinating local communications and support activity.
23. The recent [joint statement](#) by the outgoing Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government and COSLA President on progress with the [Local Governance Review](#) set out the importance of strengthening local democracy through the community, functional and fiscal empowerment of all Scotland's communities and public services. Discussions with Local Authorities and other partners are now proceeding at Official level on their place-based proposals for alternative governance arrangements. Following the parliamentary elections, the Review may continue to provide opportunities for CPPs and partners to propose new powers, where these can assist delivery of local priorities or empowerment for local communities. CPP partners might for instance consider where there might be opportunities to improve how local partnership arrangements like Local Resilience Partnerships, Children's Services Partnerships, Integration Joint Boards and CPPs themselves work and align their activity, to add collective value and minimise duplication of effort. The involvement of Community Councils has also been an important aspect of this work so far.
24. They can also reflect on where there might be scope to use Community Planning as a golden thread that connects local with regional and national ambitions. Many national priorities (including on economic recovery, social renewal and Climate Change targets) rely on the same qualities of partnership working and community engagement that Community Planning embodies. So Community Planning can be highly valuable in pursuing national priorities at local level, whether through CPPs incorporating these within these own priorities or by Community Planning providing a space that hosts and supports this wider partnership work.
25. CPPs can build on significant progress made in data sharing between partners during the Pandemic, particularly in relation to data protection requirements inhibiting partners' ability to share intelligence to allow help to be directed to vulnerable households. CPPs have identified some aspects of data sharing and collection that might be revisited (e.g. for Public Health Scotland and Local Authorities in sharing Test and Protect data concerning households who are required to isolate; frequency, coordination and timescales for Scottish Government requests for data).
26. ***Influencing evolving national policy and advocating role of community planning.*** Recent experiences have brought to life the enhanced impact that Community Planning can make in facilitating close partnership working in practice. At the same time, the importance of close partnership working across agencies and sectors and with communities is increasingly driving national policy priorities. As well as social, economic and environmental renewal, this is playing through in work to [Keep the Promise](#) for care-experienced children and young people, the recent [Independent Review of Adult Social Care](#) that is built on a collaborative, enabling and preventative approach, and much more.
27. These developments create a valuable symbiosis, where the ways of working embodied within Community Planning can drive our pursuit of many of Scotland's national, regional and local ambitions in

ways that embrace the skills and capacities of many players and build action in holistic ways that cut across specific policy priorities and reflect specific local circumstances.

28. This symbiosis demonstrates the value of Scottish Government recognising the power of local partnership working through Community Planning through which public sector bodies can discharge responsibilities for delivering major policy priorities, especially whole-system approaches for improving outcomes or enhancing the wellbeing and life chances of at-risk communities. CPPs and Community Planning partners should be offered, and should in turn seize, opportunities to contribute actively to evolving Scottish Government policy.
29. Many CPPs value the direct connection that Location Directors can make to the wider work of Scottish Government. As focus switches to recovery and renewal, the involvement of Location Directors to Community Planning is likely to become still more valuable and there is scope to reflect on how this can work best for all parties.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS MADE IN STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY PLANNING FOLLOWING REFORMS IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (S) ACT 2015 (PRE-COVID)

Summary of findings drawn from CPIB work, Accounts Commission BVARs and Audit Scotland Impact report

### Community Empowerment

- + Councils are increasingly showing **leadership** around the Community Empowerment agenda, including in partnership with others.
- + There are several examples of **community-led action plans**.
- + There is extensive use of Charrettes and other **community engagement activity** across many CPPs.
- *Practices in some councils still seem to be focused on **consultation and engagement, not empowerment**.*
- *Many communities do not feel that their **voices are actively influencing** decision-making by public bodies*
- ***Challenges** in implementing CPPs' commitment to **Community Engagement** because of factors such as: **lack of capacity within communities; Resource constraints for partners; the range and complexity of communities CPPs are seeking to reach***

### Planning for Improvement

- + LOIPs are **evidence-based** and clearly focused on **prevention and reducing inequality-related negative life outcomes**.
- + CPPs have been effective in using **City Region and Growth Deals** to support CPP strategic objectives, particularly for addressing economic disadvantage; and in aligning **Children's Services Planning** with their wider work.
- + Councils and partners are increasingly making more effective **use of data and intelligence** on community needs when setting priorities and targeting resources.
- *Some CPPs have made slower progress than others in **developing locality plans**.*
- *A continued **lack of alignment between national policy objectives and local improvement priorities** within CPPs, with national priorities often 'trumping' local partnership priorities when difficult choices have to be made.*
- *Challenges in **integrating community planning priorities with other significant programmes of change** such as health and social care integration and Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs).*

### Delivering on Plans

- + Many examples of (often innovative) projects and programmes that are making a **real difference in communities**.
- + There appears to be an increasing focus on CP partners working together to **tackle inequalities caused by poverty and disadvantage** within many communities, with efforts being made to 'join-up' activity in this area with wider national and local work.
- + Positive examples of CPP partners **strategically aligning their resources** (especially staff time and activity) around shared priorities.
- + Positive **operational joint working** in key areas such as community safety and working to improve outcomes for vulnerable young people.

- LOIPs often not yet backed up by **practical change delivery programmes** with agreed actions, allocated resources and clear measures of success.
- Difficulties in **pooling resources** (especially money) from organisations towards agreed priorities where internal priorities outcompete shared priorities.
- Difficulties encountered in **integrating** corporate and single-agency **delivery and planning models** with new locality/community-based planning arrangements (although a number of councils have been reviewing their locality delivery and governance arrangements in light of the 2015 Act).
- Limited evidence of CPPs **learning** from each other and **sharing innovation**.

#### Partnership Working

- + Most councils work well with their partners; **widespread support and commitment** to community planning among councils and partners.
- + Community planning continues to be seen as an **important vehicle for co-ordinating multi-agency work** in areas of shared interest; increasingly seen as useful for engaging jointly with communities to improve outcomes at local level.
- + Generally councils make good use of council-wide, locality and specific interest group **consultation arrangements**, using a wide range of consultation methods.
- *The culture and behaviour within CPPs often still fails to demonstrate effective **collaborative leadership**, with councils still being seen as the lead agency for driving and managing community planning.*
- *Difficulties in establishing **robust CPP governance arrangements** through which partners can and do truly hold each other to account for their performance.*
- *The level and quality of **third sector involvement** still varies considerably. In some areas, the TSI is finding it difficult to engage with the plethora of planning and delivery groups in place to support Community Planning.*

## EXAMPLES OF THE ROLE COMMUNITY PLANNING IS PLAYING IN COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

### ***Mobilising Communities***

**Aberdeenshire:** Early engagement with community groups in Buchan to understand what activities they were planning and how the various partners from the CPP could support those activities. An active network of community groups and CP partners evolved from this, which enabled swift and efficient communication, discussions on communities' needs, sharing of resources and support among partners. Also Local Voices (an online forum for households with income under £15k per year and at least one child) and Lived Experiences Online Forum (to tackle isolation and included weekly wellbeing calls) allowed residents to inform reshaping of local services and support around their needs and in the face of constraints imposed as a result of lockdown.

**Angus:** A lot of work with frontline staff has taken place, and the CPP wants to keep this level of empowerment and allow people to go ahead and get things done. Small pots of SG money available meaning people didn't have to go through massive processes. Many have taken a digital by default stance however, in Angus this has caused concern as through listening events local community people have expressed that they do not wish for this to become a permanent way of doing things. Many prefer face to face support and want this to be put back in place. Utilising our Community Councils and building their capacity is a key priority not just to support through COVID but to build on the work done through the Local Governance Review. We have a pilot projects underway to explore the long term sustainability and further develop local skills.

**Argyll and Bute:** Communities were supported and mobilised through the CPP in a variety of ways. Volunteer groups were supported with expenses and insurance. People who wanted to volunteer who were not currently part of an existing local group were given the opportunity to volunteer to support those who needed help. A supermarket pre-paid card scheme was set up for volunteer groups to purchase food for those shielding. Regular catch-ups were also held with community groups to answer questions and identify areas where the CPP / Council/ Care for People Partnership could address and respond to local issues.

Community groups also worked with Education and the wider Food team helping deliver free school meals and food parcels to those who were vulnerable. Examples of this included Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team and HM Coastguard, particularly on the islands.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** Over 2,000 volunteers have come forward during the pandemic. The Council, NHS, Health and Social Care Partnership and Third Sector Interface have been successfully working together through new Locality Hubs to make the best use of resources, with the new South of Scotland Enterprise, Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service contributing in both traditional and innovative ways. Food has been a key issue - currently, around 3,000 food parcels are going out on a weekly basis and during the peak of the pandemic last year there were about 7,000 food parcels being delivered; a new partnership approach combining tackling poverty and inequality has been developed to provide support for those most vulnerable people.

**Dundee:** Community led response supported by CP was effective, with the CPP key in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Faith in Community Dundee and TSI created an emergency food network with 23 different agencies providing emergency food. Using existing partnership contacts to coordinate and minimise duplication, they provided a quick, coherent local response. An information website was created by one group, with everyone's contributions.

**East Lothian:** Well over 1000 volunteers supporting shielding and vulnerable people.

**East Renfrewshire:** A key element of the community planning response, which compliments the council's humanitarian support is the coordinated community response via The Community Hub. This was led by the local third sector interface and was and still is the first point of contact for those looking for support (out with statutory support) and those offering their assistance. Weekly humanitarian planning meetings with council staff continue to ensure a collaborative approach with the third sector and communities that makes best use of the resources available. The Community Hub model will continue to develop and be key as we move towards recovery and their support offer will change accordingly.

**Edinburgh:** In April 2020, the Scottish Government launched the Ready Scotland volunteers appeal in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In Edinburgh, 5550 people signed up through Scotland Cares and were routed to Volunteer Edinburgh. Volunteer Edinburgh understood that it was important to "capture" these prospective volunteers (many of whom were new to volunteering) and to engage them to help meet an emerging support need from shielded and other vulnerable individuals.

Volunteer Edinburgh established the Community Taskforce Volunteers (CTVs) programme and developed from scratch, a robust, remote on-boarding process to enable the safe management and deployment of these volunteers. This process was developed with the expectation that the help of CTVs would be required beyond the immediate lockdown period and subject to funding, could potentially be developed to provide on-going ad-hoc support to people in need. There are currently 467 active CTVs. The CTV programme was set up to support people impacted by the pandemic. By providing easy access to reliable, trained and insured volunteers who can respond to ad-hoc support requests, some of the most vulnerable people in Edinburgh have been helped, particularly those who had no familial or neighbour support.

As of 28 June 2021, 5740 deployments of CTV support have been delivered. This has included 1479 shopping tasks, 1210 dog walking tasks, 97 prescription collections/delivery, 128 gardening tasks, 65 waste/recycling tasks and a variety of other one-off, practical tasks. In addition to providing support directly to members of the public, Community Taskforce Volunteers have been able to support statutory sector partners. A successful partnership has been forged with NHS Audiology to collect and deliver directly to patient's homes, repaired hearing aids. To date 492 hearing aids have been delivered. Engaging volunteers in this task has reduced the return time to patients by 6-9 days.

During winter 2020, Community Taskforce Volunteers were involved in supporting the Health and Social Care Partnership flu vaccination clinics across the city. 561 shifts were undertaken by CTVs, donating 2244 hours of volunteer time. Since the start of the COVID

vaccination clinics Community Taskforce Volunteers have undertaken 1326 shifts to provide support in community clinics, equivalent to 5304 hours of support.

In South West Edinburgh, the GoBeyond network enablers, Space and Broomhouse Hub, Big Hearts Community Trust and Whale Arts, are starting a conversation with the people who live and work there, about the area adopting a people led strategy to create a 'Community Wealth Building Locality', based on Wellbeing Economics and a greener recovery. This will be supported by the community anchor organisations mentioned, as well as embedded into the distributive and creative network that GoBeyond can facilitate, to involve many local and smaller community groups and initiatives, and led by people in local communities. The conversation will also involve the City of Edinburgh Community Planning Partners, Business and Scottish Government, about what this might mean for their understanding of the locality and the opportunities to 'build back better' and to be part of the growing community wealth and wellbeing economy approach locally and internationally.

**Falkirk:** CP will play an important role in recovery, with focus on grassroots and community engagement.

**Fife:** Found that place-based, community led approaches worked well to deliver emergency services at the start of the pandemic and that they will be crucial again in the recovery process. Helping Hand scheme for volunteers established in Fife. During the course of the pandemic Helping Hand has been inundated with requests from organisations, staff, volunteers and local people looking to help in their community. Although this has been great, a challenge with this has been coordinating offers and requests for help and also ensuring that all volunteers have something to do. In addition, Ready Scotland has also been rolled out which has meant that Helping Hand has had to make some changes and adapt. Helping Hand has been a success and the partnership wants to build on the momentum and sense of community connection.

**Inverclyde:** Community planning partners, the third sector and communities worked together to develop a pipeline of support to help individuals with shopping, food, prescriptions, escorts, repairs, digital support, dog walking and many bespoke requests for support that come from the community during the pandemic. This included the establishment of a shielding helpline, humanitarian assistance centre and helpline for anyone requiring support regardless of their circumstances, a prescription collection service, the distribution of food parcels to support those in need, keep in contact and welfare calls to local people and the development of a resource pack containing information on how to access food and support services. There was a coordinated and consistent approach to communications between all partners within the public and third sector to ensure that the community were kept up to date at all times regarding the support that was available.

In addition, a social movement, 'Inverclyde cares' is being developed to promote kindness and compassion. It is a partnership between services and communities and creates opportunities for acts of kindness, building on the resilience and capacity that communities demonstrated to look after each during the first lockdown.

**Midlothian:** CPP board took on the role of community resilience coordination at the outset, meeting weekly initially to ensure immediate response systems were pulled together. This

enabled swift creating local resilience hubs led by community councils, anchor community organisations supported by the Council CLD team and third sector front line staff, alongside adult health and care teams. Hundreds of local volunteers were enabled to direct their efforts to those most in need for food, medicine, social isolation, emergency repairs, banking and access to money. The initial collective response demonstrated how rules and boundaries could be adjusted swiftly in the face of the crisis. Resilience work was delegated to the partnership's "Care for people" multi agency group including community groups and third sector partners. This groups put systems of longer-term support in place and responded to the shielding groups' requirements. The CPP Board then turned its collective attention to the employment issue arising and a joint pledge was created and approved by the board committing all partners to co – working in practical ways to get Midlothian residents back into work.

The resulting joint working group under the Improving Opportunities theme of the CPP includes Colleges, DWP, and SSSA, Council, NHS, Third sector, employer's organisations, SDS and training providers. The shared action plan is now well underway, with initial successes including the retention of 100 pupils who had planned to leave for work (in the height of phase 1 lockdown) at the end of s4 in a vocational learning programme and remaining on the secondary school roll. A tripartite Kickstart programme has been created with 30 jobs in the council, 30 in the third sector and 30 in SME private sector employers.

**North Ayrshire** – Partner managed to set up Community Support Hubs really quickly – going live on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Partners worked together with volunteers and staff redeployed from elsewhere. This was aligned to the locality model already in place. See [here](#) for more information on one of these Hubs, in the Three Towns locality area. As this separate [report](#) describes, pre-existing work by North Ayrshire to drive a commitment to Kindness has supported accelerated impact from the work of the Three Towns Hub.

The Community Planning website was already well established as a central point for information. This was developed during the lockdown period with daily updates on what shops were open, who was providing deliveries, how partner services were operating and signposting to community support hubs. It was vital to quickly establish a reliable and responsive information service. Partners and communities supported this by providing updates and cascading the messaging.

The CPP also developed "Community Books" for each locality. Not just COVID focussed, it gives people information on all the links to information they may need in a crisis such as GP, Money Advice, etc. An online community centre was developed through Facebook. There were an overwhelming number of responses to volunteering.

**North Lanarkshire:** Communities responded very quickly at a locality level and mobilised resources and local knowledge to respond to immediate need. Community Support approaches were developed very quickly through partners working together to respond to national requirements and local need. Strategic group established to coordinate response (LA, NHS, and third sector interface), this has now evolved to become a Recovery and Renewal Group with direct link into Silver command and Resilience Partnership as required. Operational Locality Response (and later recovery) Teams were quickly established to support local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent



messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations.

**Outer Hebrides:** In a region where communities are traditionally self-reliant, neighbours quickly formed groups, many before statutory responses had been established, to cover their immediate area and set up WhatsApp and Facebook groups. Resident associations, local trusts, churches, and community councils have been reaching out to support their immediate community e.g. prescription & food delivery. Some of these local groups have been willing to be part of the larger, more formal co-ordinated response. While up-take of support (e.g. food parcel delivery) has been high, older indigenous communities have been slower or more reticent to accept aid. The TSI and third sector have supported statutory agencies to identify those who are not known to, or held on defined lists by, public sector bodies to ensure their immediate needs are being met.

**Perth and Kinross:** Communities responded much more quickly than the public sector and organised themselves to deliver food/prescriptions/check in on vulnerable people in a matter of days. 1000 volunteers registered and 70+ community organisations working with them. PKC led on support for those identified as shielding or otherwise vulnerable to try to complement local activities. They are now in the process of redrafting a Volunteering Strategy to try and capitalise on this level of interest and involvement. Of the 1000 registered: 302 happy to volunteer long term, 126 happy to be involved in a wellbeing helpline, 160 happy to help with ongoing food distribution, and 136 (with PVG) happy to help with prescription delivery. Greater ability for council and partners to be more proactive and less risk averse by placing more trust in communities. In recovery phase, resource will require a greater ask of partners and communities. Striving towards Trusted CP scheme. With emergency response powers enacted during lockdown, a community support webpage was created with information regarding funding, community groups, shielding, volunteering etc. A helpline and email were set up, staffed by people from community service.

2 Sisters Outbreak; The COVID-19 outbreak in Coupar Angus was a major incident during the pandemic where CPP partners came together to contain an outbreak of COVID-19. Within two weeks of the first positive test a total of 201 cases were recorded in Coupar Angus (174 from factory workers and 27 from close contacts). The factory was closed, and all workers had to self-isolate for a period of two weeks to contain the virus. The key challenges facing partner agencies were communications, food and welfare.

*Communications* - The workforce of over 700 permanent employees and around 300 agency staff were almost all foreign nationals, many of whom had limited English. 17 different languages in total were spoken across the affected group. Employees lived in communities across Tayside and in response partners, including the Council, PKAVS, NHS Tayside and partners from across Tayside so a range of approaches were required.: By continuing to reinforce clear and simple messages and reassuring affected individuals and families we were able to reduce community transmission and prevent the need for a local lockdown.

*Food and Welfare* - Over 100 households in Perth and Kinross had door to door checks in the first 24 hours and these continued throughout the period. Each household received a food parcel and information on testing and welfare support in Polish, Romanian and Bulgarian. Within 48 hours of the outbreak, the Council and community volunteers had

delivered over 700 food parcels and completed a doorstep welfare check to every affected household in Perth and Kinross. Colleagues in Angus and Dundee also completed welfare checks and delivered food parcels where necessary. Comprehensive information on restrictions was provided and crisis cash grants were given to people in serious financial difficulty.

**Renfrewshire** - Local interface engaged quickly with a volunteer data base set up. Extremely high number of volunteers have come forward and the hope is that the partnership engages with these people going forward. Many elderly volunteers have come forward however, concerns over whether they would be able to continue providing their help due to own health and shielding. In terms of empowerment, people have been able to just get on and do things, as they've been able to avoid the decision-making channels they have been using so far. Want to ensure groups that have worked well are sustained going forward. Neighbourhood hubs have been set up and are responding to the needs of people. As this has been successful, partnership is now exploring ways that this can be rolled out and become business as usual. See [here](#) for more information on Renfrewshire's Neighbourhood Hubs.

The effective partnership working that developed in response to the pandemic was highlighted in a recent report by the Carnegie Trust. The report highlighted the significant work that had been co-ordinated with all partners to ensure vulnerable people received support in relation to food, medicine, isolation: - 7 neighbourhood hubs were established in partnership with Renfrewshire HSCP, Renfrewshire Leisure and Engage Renfrewshire. Volunteering is integral to the approach being developed in Renfrewshire.

A local food network was established to support community food provision and regular resilience meetings were held with community partners to remove barriers and support activity. The hubs supported the Connecting Scotland programme, which provided digital devices and connectivity to those most vulnerable, and also provided cultural and creative, befriending and connection opportunities for local people.

Partners are now working together to embed this work into a more permanent model, with a key focus on continuing to develop partnership working at all levels across Renfrewshire's communities.

**Scottish Borders:** The response within the Borders from our communities and Resilient Teams was outstanding - Resilient Teams across the Borders were mobilised within a few days of lockdown and more Teams were established over the following weeks. The Emergency Planning Team supplied community volunteers and groups with appropriate PPE to support them in the tasks they were undertaking. Community Councils and sub-groups were also keen to support and liaised and worked in partnership with the Resilient Teams. These teams knew what was required at a very local level, and delivered food parcels, medication, food vouchers and also assisted with online shopping distribution. Many individuals described themselves as being "good neighbours" rather than volunteers and supported those within their communities. Community Assistance Hubs were set up in the first week of lockdown and were supported by community planning partners to provide a single point of contact for those seeking support. These Hubs have proved valuable and are continuing, with weekly community meetings to develop further partnership working at all levels.

**Shetland Islands:** Fantastic community response. CPP role was really to support the communities to respond in the way that fitted their own locality. Large numbers of volunteers which was coordinated through Red Cross and Third Sector response. Issues around data and connectivity. Communities don't have equal access to the internet which has been a real challenge. Shetland Islands are about to begin a round of community conversations working with community organisations listening to their experiences and how they think these new ways of working can be sustained.

**South Ayrshire:** There was a huge response from community groups to the pandemic in South Ayrshire. Groups such as St Meddans, Symington Village, Troon Harbour Group, Newlife Prestwick, Ballantrae Support Group and Coylton Community Support, plus many other others, helped to deliver frontline services such as food parcels, medication and phone calls to vulnerable/isolated people.

**South Lanarkshire:** The community response was phenomenal and led by local communities and organisations who mobilised quickly to support those in need. There were approximately 47 groups/organisations providing support to their communities. At a local level, the CPP took on a supporting role, through facilitation, building capacity, nurturing relationships/groups and problem solving. Work was undertaken to map community provision across the area. Gaps were quickly identified and areas where better collaboration between groups was required. Work was undertaken by Community Development Officers to develop local response networks and to forge links between the various community responders to ensure a more cohesive approach.

Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan (the local TSI) to identify local volunteer opportunities. In many of the areas the local private sector was also involved including a number of businesses offering their help, this included for example, vehicles (including LGV's), equipment and staff, such as drivers.

In response to the pandemic, a Community Wellbeing Helpline which provided support regarding any identified need was established and whilst this was delivered via the council, a partnership approach was taken, for example Scottish Fire and Rescue Services delivered prescriptions and community responders provided a range of supports to meet the needs of local people. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. Many communities, mostly in our rural area were well supported locally and did not use the Wellbeing Helpline.

Examples of support provided through the Helpline included help with money worries, power top ups, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. As time went on, the helpline was expanded to support the delivery of other services that had ceased/were challenging to deliver as a result of the pandemic such as the supply of hearing aid batteries, sanitary provision and passing on information to new mothers on behalf of the NHS.

The council used food fund monies to support the community responders and is operating a temporary food hub to manage the logistics of food supply. There was strong support in three key areas: CPP support; Third Sector/Community delivery response; and Linking need with community responders.

**West Lothian:** A good example of community mobilisation and community planning on the ground is the West Lothian Community Food Hub. A range of third sector organisations were very quick to respond to getting emergency food to people in the early stages of the pandemic. They then came together to form a food hub managed by third sector organisations, with funding from the council. There are around 33 community food providers involved, who are working together to ensure that all vulnerable people that need access to food can get it. The day to day operation of the hub is being run by the foodbanks. A video has been developed to demonstrate the work of the food hub over the last few months – <https://vimeo.com/453969458/b29097d9ff>

Close links with the TSI have been essential, as they have been responsible for coordinating the 1,200 volunteers who came forward.

### ***Using and refocusing existing partnership infrastructure and relationships***

**Aberdeen:** New partnerships have been formed. Oil companies have come forward and shown willingness to support and help. In October, an online event will take place with the business community in Aberdeen. A platform has been developed to give business a menu of options about how they might be able to support the partnership. This will help link businesses with longer term goals of the partnership e.g. apprenticeships, getting access to digital devices etc. and help create a new way of working. Aberdeen also developed a group for the council and HSCP to work together (not a part of the formal structure). Group has been meeting weekly to discuss resources for communities. This has been very helpful in terms of integrating resources around locality areas. There will be a review of locality planning structures, potential to integrate HSCP with CPP Aberdeen Locality group.

**Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire & Moray:** The Grampian Assistance Hub was launched to provide people across Grampian with a one-stop source of support and information on how to access social, practical and emotional support on Coronavirus (COVID-19). Set up by range of partners including all three local authorities, Police Scotland, NHS Grampian, Red Cross, volunteers and community groups.

**Aberdeenshire:** Council, NHS Grampian and other agencies set up a programme to deliver fresh food produce to some of the most disadvantaged rural households. They shared data to identify the households most in need. Achieved positive outcomes, supported by open and trusting working among partners.

**Angus:** In the early weeks of the outbreak, Angus Council set up an emergency response team, HAART (Humanitarian Assistance Angus Response Team) to coordinate efforts between the council's community team and VAA (Voluntary Action Angus) to deliver support to the community, particularly those who were shielding, and/or vulnerable. This included food parcels, prescriptions etc. This approach was so successful that the CPP have now used it to inform how community planning and partnership working are taken forward in the future. The pandemic has been a catalyst for change, with structures which didn't work well before being removed and the board, executive and wider partnership are now all working together. The change in structures has been positive, with everyone working well together. Interested in exploring the combining of structures further. A Task and Finish group has been formed to explore this using a demand management model; with wrapping around of services based on listening events and survey feedback. In addition, the mapping of customer pathways has begun which will feed into the planned service design sessions. The purpose of this will be to ensure everything is aligned. Also looking at utilising community councils and other existing groups to get message across about accessing services.

**Argyll and Bute:** Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners.

This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. The Fire Service

were also able to assist with checking on those who were shielded where contact was not able to be made. More recently, some fire stations are now being offered as testing centres. Public Health worked closely with the Caring for People Partnership to develop the strategy for the delivery of prescriptions by volunteers.

In November 2020, the Building Back Better (Communities) Group initiated a consultation asking Covid-19 community response groups and the wider community to share their experiences of the pandemic, including the impacts and the positives that could be built upon or strengthened in the future. The Building Back Better (Communities) Group is a sub-group of Argyll and Bute Council's overall Recovery Framework, established to ensure that the role of the community in responding to the pandemic, the impacts and the strengths of this, are included as part of the learning and development to Build Back Better. The current membership has lead officers from the Third Sector Interface, Argyll & Bute Council and NHS Highland. Key themes addressed by this group include Income Maximisation, Food, Volunteers and Volunteering, Social Isolation and Mental Health, Resilient Communities, Young People and Communication. It is seen that the CPP is the main body for which to embed the work of the Building Back Better group.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** There was a regional Community Food Providers Network which met occasionally, as the CPP's Locality Plan is focused on food sharing. From the start of the lockdown this Network was strengthened with more regular meetings on Zoom – participants were Dumfries and Galloway Council, Community Health Development Practitioners within the NHS, Third Sector Interface and the Community Food Providers. The focus has been on delivering emergency food to individuals and families in need across the region :people financially at risk, short term isolators, including those who are advised to self-isolate via Test and Protect, marginalised groups and people who have experienced physical barriers to accessing food and other essentials.

Since the cessation of shielding support, Community Food Providers have continued to meet referrals for those people who have been identified as being at extreme risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and require continued support with food provisions. The Network has been involved in determining the allocation of Hardship Fund monies to the Groups; and the Council has continued to pay for Fareshare registrations from its Anti- Poverty Budget as a result of the Network's influence.

A new Community Planning COVID Recovery Group has been established, chaired by the TSI; and a COVID Recovery Plan, developed initially by the Local Resilience Partnership then developed into a wider approach, complementing the Economic Recovery Plan.

**Dundee:** Made use of existing partnerships in order to facilitate the emergency response. Indeed, many members of the Emergency Management Team were also existing members of the CPP in Dundee, allowing a smooth transition to emergency planning mode. Pre-existing relationships meant trust already existed between partners and so work could get started a lot quicker. Communication between partners has improved with the ability to draw together cohesive responses. CP was important in helping identify gaps and build capacity. Dundee learnt that partnerships which were well embedded within their local communities were more easily able to respond and also had already earned the buy-in of the local community. Without these pre-existing relationships, the response would have been much slower/less effective. Due to restrictions brought in by Covid, plus the fact that many members of the CPP were also Emergency Management Team members, the CP Board

have not been able to meet frequently and certainly weren't available at the start of the crisis. However, the thematic partnerships were able to get up and running almost immediately and were self-sufficient enough to do vital work without the direction of the board.

**East Lothian:** Overall great partnership work happening with the help of good relationships between council and partners at both strategic and operational level. This contributed to good partnership working at local level. Built good working relationships at strategic level in last few years with Police. Since the pandemic, held weekly council management meetings to get updates and discuss key issues such as new restrictions. These helped cement good cooperation both at strategic and operational level.

**East Renfrewshire:** Community planning partners agreed to review operating structure to become more flexible and adaptable, as a direct response to the impacts of the pandemic. This video was produced to share and celebrate the early work of the partnership which was important when the number of formal meetings had very much reduced to allow a focus on action. When we did meet as a full partnership, this was online which worked well, with some partners feeling this format allowed for more open discussion.

**Edinburgh:** The Local Homelessness Resilience Group, a multi-agency group, comprising representation from the City of Edinburgh Council, Public Health and homeless support organisations (Streetwork, Cyrenians, Social Bite) was initially formed for the purpose of developing plans to support Edinburgh's homeless community during periods of adverse weather. At the outset of the pandemic, the membership of this established forum was widened and repurposed to focus on safeguarding this vulnerable community during the COVID lockdown period. During this period, in excess of 150 homeless persons were provided with accommodation, food and access to support. From a community planning perspective, this maximised the opportunities for housing stability, multi-agency effort centred on securing and accessing longer-term housing/repatriation (where appropriate), training and employment, immunisations and methadone programmes. The Edinburgh Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) Delivery Group, incorporating No One Left Behind, were presented with an issue needing a partnership response. The Hospitality industry in Edinburgh had been majorly impacted by COVID and was struggling to reopen and to recruit and retain staff. Absences due to COVID outbreaks were also a concern. In response, a short life working group was put in place under the LOIP Delivery Group to co-ordinate a collective response. This included:

- the Department of Work and Pensions creating 5 sector based work academies for 60 clients on Universal Credit to get the necessary skills and tickets to enter the industry;
- Edinburgh College adjusting their Skills Boost hospitality courses to respond to the higher level skills shortages;
- NHS Lothian working with Lothian buses to provide vaccination buses to reduce COVID absences in staff with a focus on those under 30;
- Skills Development Scotland providing PACE (redundancy support) to quickly retrain people made redundant to stop them becoming unemployed (this included extensive work with Edinburgh airport);
- University of Edinburgh promoting offers with students who were staying for the summer or returning early;

- the Chamber of Commerce surveying hospitality members to better understand the issues to respond from an evidence base. This led to increased recruitment into the industry and support for the City Centre recovery.

It was acknowledged early in the pandemic that waste build up at high rise flats would be an issue. With people stuck indoors for extended periods and increases in home deliveries there was a significantly higher risk of fire. To address this, Lothian Fire and Rescue Service met monthly with officers from the City of Edinburgh Council to agree additional actions that could be undertaken. This included communicating with and educating residents about the dangers and the Council increasing waste collection at identified premises.

**Falkirk:** More aware of different groups and developed trust between groups. Some partner relationships have been significantly strengthened. Working better together than previously and more aware of each other's strengths than before.

**Fife:** Challenging times have shown CPP in action; despite not always following formal procedures. There are nine thematic partnerships in Fife; they are all being encouraged to think about the way they work and what their priorities will be going forward.

**Glasgow:** As the emergency phase of the pandemic gave way to the recovery phase, Glasgow set up a Social Recovery Taskforce to ensure that issues such as poverty and inequality were tackled as part of the Covid recovery in Glasgow. The Taskforce brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. From this a partnership was created between Glasgow Disability Alliance and Glasgow City Council to build on existing work and implement the recommendations of GDA's report.

Glasgow City Council were asked as part of SOLACE to hold Community Listening Events. This work has spurred a specific piece of Community Engagement to inform the SRT. They will also work in partnership with the Economic Recovery Taskforce.

**Inverclyde:** Inverclyde's Community Planning Partnership has developed a Covid-19 Partnership Recovery Plan to document partnership arrangements for recovery from the pandemic for Inverclyde. Three sub-groups have been established to focus on recovery activities across key areas and each recovery group has developed a detailed action plan. The three sub-groups are economic recovery, humanitarian recovery and education, sport and culture recovery. Progress is reported to every meeting of the Community Planning Partnership.

**Midlothian:** Working with partners such as the DWP, Edinburgh College and the Third Sector to improve employability in their area, with a specific focus on school leavers and those with barriers to employment. This focuses on large public-sector employers offering apprenticeships, training schemes and volunteering opportunities, whilst offering additional support to help others into employment in other organisations. Some highlights of what has been achieved working together so far include:

- 108 s4 pupils for the 6 Midlothian secondary schools who had planned to leave at 16 to seek work remained on the school roll and took up a programme of vocational learning / personal development managed by the Community learning service with support from



schools, FE and SDS colleagues. this prevented them entering the labour market at a time of crisis /lockdown and involved around 80 of them taking Foundation apprenticeships as part of continuing learning and qualifications to make them more competitive in the labour market

- Partnership agreement signed between Council and Regional DYW board embedding DYW staff in the high schools working collaboratively with Community learning, SDS, College and employers to increase connections between schools and the labour market
- Shared Kickstart bid by Council and third sector to deliver 60 local places under this DWP funded programme, with the council, acting as the Gateway for 30 places in third sector and taking on 30 young people itself (at living wage rates)
- Partnership delivery of PACE service to 8 local businesses making redundancies involving SDS, Community learning, DWP and College
- Shared jobs page created on the Economic Development “locate in Midlothian” webpage <https://locateinmidlothian.co.uk/jobs/> which is being used by employers to advertise live vacancies, with links to DWP/SDS / City region deal/ Council / College and third sector Employability services
- The Employability Pledge signed up to by the CPP in June 2020.

**North Ayrshire:** Partners supported the community support hub work, financially, with local intelligence and relationships and with staff and volunteer time. Following a period of focusing partner work on immediate pandemic responses, we then recommenced our usual meeting schedules, moving to on-line. A number of these meetings involve members of our community who may not have access to digital devices, sufficient data or the confidence or skills to participate. We have addressed these issues by providing devices/data to individuals via schemes such as Get Connected, as well as loaning out devices, and providing training.

**North Lanarkshire** – At an early stage of pandemic when focus was very much on response, action came from established relationships and a need for action rather than official CPP structures. As outlined above a Response, Recovery and Renewal Group was established to coordinate and support response efforts and then plan for recovery with the community and voluntary sector. Locality operational teams supported work across the 9 distinct areas of NL through local community and voluntary sector response efforts and volunteering focusing on referral processes for community assistance, consistent messaging, guidance and protocols and funding coordination and support for community and voluntary sector organisations. However, as we moved from initial reaction to more proactive and planned approaches we have started to reflect response and recovery across key partnership workstreams and structures and to use learning from uniform future partnership approaches. The pandemic highlighted ‘Community Planning’ in action and demonstrated that when we need to we can work differently, quickly and flexibly to act and respond to community need and to work with communities to make a difference.

**Orkney Islands:** Initial response to the crisis has been primarily Council led. However, now that the focus is moving towards recovery, several resilience groups have been set up. CPP now working closer together with council groups, relationships strengthened over time however, there is still room for improvement in terms of better aligning the work of partners. Delivery groups are still working on their usual priorities however, prioritising work and having increased focus on what needs to be done immediately. The recovery phase has

seen huge engagement from the business community. Businesses supported to set up their own steering group and report directly to the board.

**Outer Hebrides:** Partners in Uist, Barra and Harris collated information about support available for residents. Worked to make this available to as many people as possible and especially those who had no on-line access and who might be vulnerable but who were not necessarily on 'shielding lists' or known to public agencies. In Uist, for example, a Community Information & Services booklet was delivered to every household.

**Perth & Kinross:** Move to locality-based delivery model for services using multidisciplinary teams i.e. the potential to shift to 5 localities and 5 hubs would make delivering food parcels easier and more efficient than using 1 central model. Locality decision making worked very well; Council funding to support investment and delivery of locality action plan used to support local groups responding to COVID related issues. Given enough support and resource, locality decision making can be done efficiently and effectively. Devolved decision making and resource at a locality level comes with political and cultural issues. The need to respond quickly due to COVID allowed for less risk averse behaviour of information sharing between partners than before. Partners have also been flexible and responsive in redeploying staff to support the emergency response. For example, within the council, when lockdown began, parking attendants were re-tasked to collect and deliver prescriptions, deliver food packages to the shielding & vulnerable, as well as deliver technology i.e. iPads (Connecting Scotland project). They have only recently gone back to their day jobs.

**Scottish Borders:** Scottish Borders had an established Resilient Team network across the Borders, and therefore were able to ask for assistance within days of first lockdown.

Community Assistance Hubs were set up in the first week of lockdown and were supported by community planning partners to provide a single point of contact for those seeking support. These Hubs have proved valuable and are continuing, with weekly community meetings to develop further partnership working at all levels.

Looking at failings and where things haven't joined up but also looking at what has worked well will be key. During the pandemic, discovered people that were not receiving services prior to Covid-19 however, they are vulnerable groups and going forward this information needs to be captured as the CPP has a responsibility towards these people and ensuring that they are okay in the future. Challenge going forward is how to hold on to these people and ensure that they do not get lost along the way. Should this be local knowledge, stored in a database or picked up by community resilience teams? Even though the earlier response to the pandemic hasn't always gone through the CPPs, CPPs have a role in the resilience work. It is important to bring the right people to the table.

**Shetland Islands:** Specified partners were all heavily involved along with the TSI. The Resilience Partnership consists of the main CP partners so when Community Planning meetings were suspended the Resilience Partnership was still meeting most days. Management and Leadership Team (5 specified partners + public health) met regularly which was very focussed and provided leadership which has helped partnership working and resilience planning. Care for People Team had brought together people from across organisations in a way that had maybe been a gap before. Reflecting on whether there is a

longer-term role as an executive group that can be linked to partnership planning. A project called “Anchor” which provides support to vulnerable households has been vital in providing support to those who were vulnerable or shielding in this crisis.

**South Ayrshire:** Officers South Ayrshire Council quickly established, coordinated and managed a comprehensive community resilience response. Whilst this was principally Council led, partners were involved in the response. CPP meetings took place during the pandemic, with a focus on COVID-19 response. For the Strategic Delivery Partnerships (SDPs), discussion took place on what each of the SDPs were doing in relation to their current position and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and if there were any areas of focus that need to change.

**South Lanarkshire:** In relation to the Community Planning Partnership Board, meetings were reconvened online in July 2020 and the Board considered a range of COVID-19 updates at that meeting. The Partnership’s Progress Group started meeting again during May 2020 to share information/address challenges re the pandemic response. Before COVID the Board were in the midst of a governance review and have now agreed significant changes to how the Board operates and is structured. This includes working with communities to develop our new LOIP priorities and work has also started to support communities to develop new ‘Community Partnerships’ at a locality level. These structures will link directly with the CPP Board on a strategic level and with Neighbourhood Planning groups at a local level.

As a result of the local partnership activity, newly formed groups and some co-ordination groups continue to prepare for any future spike in the pandemic and to continue to assist in a post COVID future. Some partnership areas have been looking at more sustainable food provision which has included for example the establishment of community larders.

VASlan and the Third Sector Chief Officers Group have established a Business Continuity and Strategy Group to capture the key learning from the community responses and to build on this work for the future. The council has retained the Wellbeing Helpline and this continues to be supported by community responders. A local food network involving community food organisations in South Lanarkshire has been established with support from the council to respond to food insecurity. Whilst a partnership food network existed before the pandemic, the network has been reshaped as new organisations have emerged and new initiatives were developed to respond to new food insecurity challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the council has been regularly liaising with local food organisations to ensure food provision since March 2020, it is now supporting the development of the network by organising regular meetings and facilitating information sharing. The local food network aims at increasing collaboration between organisations and encouraging a partnership approach to tackle food insecurity.

**West Dunbartonshire:** There are five Delivery & Improvement Groups (DIGs) that operate within West Dunbartonshire; the flourishing DIG, the independent DIG, the nurtured DIG, the empowered DIG and the safe DIG. In normal times, the DIGs report back to Community Planning West Dunbartonshire, however as a result of the pandemic there have been no meetings of the CPWD for several months, but that hasn’t stopped the DIGs from assisting both the emergency response and recovery. The various DIGs have worked with local partners to improve employability, support frail and vulnerable people, provide additional support to those experiencing abuse, and community justice.

**West Lothian:** Similar to other areas, the immediate response to the pandemic was largely council-led. West Lothian CPP Board did not meet formally in the initial months, but quarterly meetings began again in September. Although the Board did not meet formally, partners did have ongoing discussions that grew organically from the start of the pandemic, building on existing CPP structures. An Economic Recovery and Growth Plan was developed and an economic recovery group continues to meet weekly to allow partners to gather and share data and ensure joined up approaches, reducing duplication and maximising resources to support businesses and local people seeking employment or training opportunities. This has rationalised a number of different groups that had been meeting into one group. A Health & Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty working group was set up to gather evidence of activity in response to social needs related to COVID-19, to understand the COVID-19 policy landscape and also the potential policy and financial barriers and challenges. This process captured key activity during the first phase of the pandemic and helped to identify future needs which will support the CPP in planning for the future. A community survey was carried out to ask for feedback on initial emerging priorities and additional issues. The initial work has highlighted broad themes which were reported to the CPP Board and have assisted discussion on determining the role of the CPP in recovery.

### ***Using the knowledge and expertise of the Third Sector Interface (TSI)***

**Aberdeenshire:** There is a strong partnership approach to the Third Sector in Aberdeenshire with the TSI Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, local third sector groups, Aberdeenshire Council and Rural Partnerships forming the Third Sector Strategy Group. In November 2020 they celebrated third sector week which included Covid response work in Aberdeenshire communities. Examples of this can be seen in these videos – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GuwBfRRSgl&feature=youtu.be>, <https://youtu.be/vrvsFg0tmO8>, <https://youtu.be/CYaNlyhwzcl>

**Angus:** Demand for local TSI was so high that the council were looking into extra support for call handlers. This work is further developing under the Transforming Services work through which we have developed a charter and principles underpinning how we will continue to collaborate and share services – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rU7vb8iXuF8&feature=youtu.be>

**Argyll and Bute:** The CPP through the Caring for People Partnership built on the close relationship with the TSI with the use of the volunteer database and promotion of volunteering opportunities. The TSI's input was actively sought into plans and strategies and they were key, active members with a lead role in both the Care for People partnership meetings, Test and Protect meetings and Building Back Better (Communities).

**Dumfries and Galloway:** The TSI database of volunteers was key to be able to register and approve volunteers quickly and efficiently at the start of lockdown with the Council issuing identify cards; and the Engagement Officers have supported the creation of locality hubs, where local representatives of key public sector partners came together to co-ordinate activity. Support for digital connectivity has also been developed with the TSI, the Council and Enterprise Agency, with long term arrangements now being put in place for the TSI to lead this work.

**East Renfrewshire:** The local TSI (Voluntary Action East Renfrewshire) has played a key role in the local Humanitarian response to the pandemic, coordinating the community response (The Community Hub) from the outset and working at pace. They are now working closely with the local vaccination programme team to offer transport solutions to those in need working with a number of local providers and routing all requests via their established Community Hub number. The council have aligned staff to help establish and develop the Hub model.

**Edinburgh:** Recognising the disproportionate impact of the COVID pandemic on those struggling with the consequences of social inequality and poverty, during May 2020, the City of Edinburgh and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council set up Locality Operational Groups (one in each of our 4 localities) and a Task Force to oversee its work. Brigading capability and capacity across public and voluntary sectors, each LOG has 6 voluntary sector members and 6 members from across the Council. The Groups sought, received, and reviewed referrals from agencies within their respective areas, with a focus on families and children and young people, who had not or did not currently meet the threshold for traditional support. The LOGs identified a lead agency to engage with appropriate support service(s), predominantly third sector partners, to ensure that vulnerable individuals and families received support. Since April 2020 over 250 referrals have been dealt with. Information gathered about emerging needs is fed into the Task Force and this is then shared with the Children's Partnership to assist in planning. This allows key decision makers to have real time information about emerging challenges in communities. One example has been digital poverty issues and an increasing recognition of the need for a more joined up City approach to supporting families to have access to and support to manage digital devices.

The Beat Hunger campaign was developed as an innovative approach to tackle food inequality and poverty and to empower the most vulnerable citizens within the North East of the City to make positive life choices. The initiative was funded from the Police Scotland's Deputy Chief Constable's Local Partnership and Initiative fund with support from retail partners including Edinburgh Community Foods, Capital Wholesalers, Asda and Tesco. Working in partnership with Edinburgh North East Foodbank, phase 1 focused on distributing 'Beat Boxes' to the most vulnerable within the locality (83 boxes distributed). As context, each box provided fresh and long-life ingredients provided by retailers, along with cooking utensils, a bespoke community cookbook created by Michelin starred chef, Martin Wishart, and a suite of literature covering family, financial and mental health together reading materials and activity ideas for children. Predicated on referrals from partners including, Community Renewal, Dr Bell's Family Centre, Castleview Primary School, Edinburgh City Mission and the City of Edinburgh Council, phase 2 supported 28 vulnerable families over a 4 week period (112 boxes distributed). Recognising the school holidays as an acute period, phase 3 capitalised on Edinburgh Community Foods' provision of school holiday food support boxes, with the contents having been supplemented with literature on mental health support and online safety (350 boxes distributed). Recognising the imperative of community voices, feedback was sought and has been overwhelmingly positive.

It was through using the strength of the Edinburgh Partnership collective efforts that a quick and effective response was achieved to make a difference and gain further strategic traction around the Fair Work agenda.

**Falkirk:** Very good relationship established between council and TSI. Pandemic response set up by council with help of TSI. Started by doing some of same work i.e. directory of community groups, but then took up joint approach. Partnership work happened naturally, with help of grass root.

**Inverclyde:** Volunteering was a significant part of the response to the pandemic within Inverclyde. CVS Inverclyde in their role as the TSI co-ordinated the majority of the volunteer response locally. This included 'Volunteer Inverclyde', an initiative to link local people with volunteering opportunities arising from Covid-19. Working in partnership with the CVS Inverclyde (the local TSI organisation), we created a single point of contact for residents in need during the coronavirus pandemic. A phone line which was operational 7 days per week helped people to access provisions, support and advice. Through our unique partnership with CVSI, those individuals whose needs could be better met within the community were referred to the Volunteer Coordinator. Hosted by CVSI, the Volunteer Coordinator spoke with each person to identify their needs and sign post them to the relevant 3rd sector organisation(s). Where appropriate, the Volunteer Coordinator would arrange for a volunteer to deliver food parcels, purchase additional fresh items to supplement food parcels, collect prescriptions and support access to other emergency provisions. The partnership with CVSI and the support of the diverse local 3rd sector provided the people of Inverclyde with a collaborative and holistic approach to support during difficult and unprecedented times.

**North Ayrshire:** There was a joint approach with the TSI to supporting local organisations. Fortnightly meetings took place between NAC officers with remits for funding, community development and social enterprise along with Third Sector colleagues. This was to share information about funding opportunities and organisations in need of help. We created a joint spreadsheet so we could track successful applications, and consequently identify gaps and opportunities. We also shared which organisations we were working with, to prevent duplication. NAC officers helped the TSI with outreach work to local organisations to establish need.

**North Lanarkshire:** TSI in NL has been a key and important partner throughout the pandemic. As outlined above a focused response and recovery partnership approach was established very early on with key CPP's (NHS, LA and TSI) to coordinate efforts to supporting community response. An action plan outlined key priorities and responsibility for delivery at any given time. The TSI was involved in managing the community assistance referral process, coordinating volunteer offers, communicating key messages and supporting work to engage the voluntary sector to understand and respond to their support needs. In terms of referrals the councils Financial Inclusion Team responded to and coordinated access to food requested through community assistance helpline while VANL supported and coordinated local approaches to accessing prescriptions, shopping, dog walking and befriending calls. They also worked with partners to develop protocols, support vol sector access to available funding and engage with the com and vol sector to assess and respond to their support needs.

**Renfrewshire:** Engage Renfrewshire, the TSI in Renfrewshire, worked together with Renfrewshire Council to identify the most appropriate third sector recipients for Scottish Government funding support for Covid-related activity. Council staff joined Engage's daily meeting during the early months of Covid to co-ordinate response and also share knowledge about local third sector activity. Engage Renfrewshire undertook all activities

relating to the recruitment of volunteers to support Neighbourhood Hubs set up by community planning partners in Renfrewshire. Engage Renfrewshire has played a key role in the group supporting community food responses to the Covid crisis and has also periodically facilitated meetings for third sector groups to share their experience, needs and future plans during the pandemic. Engage Renfrewshire has also played a key role in ensuring that local third sector groups have been able to access digital devices through the Connecting Scotland programme.

**Scottish Borders:** The Borders TSI joined the weekly Community Assistance Hub meetings and distributed key covid-19 messages out to communities, community councils, community centres and village halls. They have also assisted with digital champion support, transporting individuals to hospitals, vaccination appointments and dispersed micro-grants on behalf of national organisations and local wind-farms.

**South Ayrshire:** The Council and TSI (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire VASA) worked closely together to provide support to communities through the creation of the South Ayrshire Lifeline. To help coordinate volunteering across South Ayrshire the Council worked in partnership with VASA to promote and react to volunteering requests during the pandemic. Officers worked alongside VASA to develop volunteering opportunities and training throughout the pandemic. This partnership has helped form positive relationships and Community Planning Partners have agreed to continue to develop this partnership approach to volunteering to help establish a sustainable South Ayrshire volunteering network.

**South Lanarkshire** - Council and TSI worked closely to mobilise and support communities. Along with the local responses and the recruitment of local volunteers, approximately 1,500 central volunteers came forward and were supported by VASlan to identify local volunteer opportunities.

They were instrumental in managing the volunteer experience throughout the pandemic and they developed a new volunteer registration portal which ensured that all volunteer information was captured. By using their in-house Salesforce platform, they ensured swift communication of any volunteering opportunities to all volunteers as they became available. Voluntary groups were able to benefit from the efficiency of this system with one local organisation, LEAP receiving over 60 notes of interest within one hour of “broadcasting” their need. VASlan’s links with voluntary groups within the four main areas of South Lanarkshire further assisted with sharing information and ensured new and emerging groups received the support needed to provide necessary services to the community. VASlan initiated a community response group directory via their website to provide contact details and the type of support services available and has worked with a range of specialist providers to adapt their services to encompass revised and safe methods of service delivery during the pandemic. They were also able to support various groups with funding that supported local initiatives around the provision of food and distribution, volunteer expenses, activity packs and sundry equipment to support their applications to national funding sources.

**West Lothian:** Good links with the TSI, who coordinated the 1,200 volunteers as well as information sharing through their online Resource Hub. The TSI is working closely with NHS Lothian to support a local vaccination programme. There has been a strong response from volunteers to help out with this.

### ***Co-ordinating and connecting local and national responses.***

**Angus:** As lots of new groups have been formed local people often get confused about who they should receive support from and CPP played a key role in providing better coordination of these groups. For example, in some cases local people can receive up to three or four different food packs from different groups. Funding streams should be coordinated. A new function is being put in place to coordinate funding and lead the work of the Angus Response to Covid (ARC) team. This will complement the service redesign the Community Planning Partnership is working through. This will reshape the way we set actions and activity with an initial 2 pilots underway focusing on Woman's services and an Angus Transport Network.

**Argyll and Bute:** Good relationships established through the CPP enabled quick work of partners to create the required initial response. In Argyll and Bute this included a Caring for People Partnership led by Public Health, Argyll and Bute Council (Community Planning and Development team), TSI and also included community response groups and SFRS as key partners. This Caring for People Partnership were able to link with local groups to ensure prescriptions and food were delivered to those who needed assistance. Some of the community response groups are also active members of Local Area Community Planning Groups and have fed in their experience and updates to these meetings. The CPP through its links to partners and communities has played a key role in the local response.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** External funding is being monitored to give an overview of the region; ensure there is no duplication in effort and that communities most in need receive the support required. National Policy developments and local data and developments are published in a weekly Bulletin for all Councillors, MPs and MSPs and shared with partners. Updates on COVID are given at every CPP Board meeting.

**Glasgow:** The support and co-ordination provided by the CPP is important. New groups do not always have the right capacity/knowledge. Similar issues encountered in other areas where people are getting multiple knocks on their doors offering help. Everything needs to be tied to local evidence and needs. Call for a reset in relationship with the Scottish Government and closer working together.

**North Ayrshire:** One of the main roles of the Community Planning Team was signposting to relevant information. This was done through the Community Planning website with links to COVID support. We also published North Ayrshire wide daily briefings and if the information was available, we would also provide daily locality updates.

**North Lanarkshire:** It would have been useful at the earlier stages if there was better coordination of funds and a better grasp of what money is coming in and when. I think the approaches improved as LA's developed their response plans and better coordination locally has been built into the recovery planning (i.e., what's coming in and how communities are supported to access support. Again there was a gap between how to engage with and support newly formed groups which are doing a good job at supporting communities but often struggle to understand procedures, language, governance etc. and how more established community structures were able to access and respond to support. At the earlier stages support and opportunities from SG for the com and vol sector was not always as clear as it could be resulting in more work locally to target support to less established groups. Community support should be looked at in a rounded way.



**Perth & Kinross:** Local Action Partnerships (LAPs) are given a budget to support the delivery of their Locality Action Plan. In March 2020 LAPs agreed to open their budgets to bids from local community groups and voluntary organisations who were responding to needs in their community as a result of COVID-19 and lockdown. From March until the end of September 2020 over 70 different funding bids were supported by LAPs, committing over £180,000 in financial support to a variety of different projects and initiatives.

- *FeldyRoo* received funding to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people who were socially isolated in the Aberfeldy and wider Breadalbane area. The group delivered over 40,000 meals during this period and has received national recognition for their outstanding work in supporting community members during lockdown.
- *Logos* received a small grant to fund a Zoom account so they could deliver their youth activity sessions virtually and prevent young people from becoming isolated. This small grant has had a big impact on young people who could continue using the service in the Strathearn and Strathallan area throughout lockdown.

Food Support in Perth involved numerous organisations in Perth providing support for the most vulnerable during the lockdown period. Groups worked in partnership to set up places to access food throughout Perth city and provided a delivery and check-in service.

Examples of specific activities include:

- Letham4All purchased a larger refrigeration unit to store donated food from local businesses to support families in need of free or discounted food.
- National Christian Outreach Centre delivered 500 hot meals to elderly and vulnerable people living in the Perth area each week for 10 weeks.
- Perth Welfare Society supported people using Zoom, in Urdu and Punjabi, to apply for financial support, such as Universal credit. The group worked with local takeaways to deliver hot meals to vulnerable people in Perth.

**Renfrewshire:** Renfrewshire community planning have worked together to connect local and national responses. Public and third sector partners have worked together to ensure that local groups were aware of Scottish Government funding and that this funding was accessed by groups in the best position to utilise it effectively. The local volunteering effort was also co-ordinated with the national recruitment of volunteers, to minimise duplication and make the recruitment process smoother for volunteers. A local Food Group was established to connect national food provision with local community response. This provided local groups with supplies to maintain their own food provision and minimised duplication of provision and food wastage. A local panel was established to work with SCVO to deliver the national Connecting Scotland campaign to ensure that devices reached those most in need.

A Local Assistance Team was established in Renfrewshire to deliver national commitments to contact people isolating due to Covid. The Local Assistance Team connected with Neighbourhood Hubs to ensure that there was a response to needs that people raised during these calls. Renfrewshire Council hosted a site for asymptomatic testing in the Johnstone area. Local and national partners worked together to deliver an appropriate site at short notice and local communications resources were deployed to raise awareness and promote take up of testing.

**Scottish Borders:** Relationships within the CPP proved vital in relation to responding to the pandemic – an example would be the liaison between SBC and Registered Social Landlords to ensure vulnerable tenants were supported, and Fire & Rescue providing venues for NHS Mobile Testing Units.

The co-ordination and communications in relation to funding was difficult to understand at the start of the pandemic. Various funding streams available at the moment. Focus required on keeping track of where money has come from and what the funding will be used for to ensure groups aren't duplicating any work. Optimum position would be to join up efforts and maximise funding.

**Shetland Islands:** A key role was around the communication of information. Challenge around the national direction and how it fitted into the Shetland context in terms of capacity and proportionality.

**South Lanarkshire:** Shortly after the Wellbeing Helpline was established, the National Shielding Helpline was set up and much of the work of the team and the community responders then became focused on individuals and families who were shielding. The Wellbeing Helpline provided support regarding any identified need which included for example, provision of food, money worries, general wellbeing and mental health, getting online and finding a dog walker. Individual referral processes were agreed with each of the community response groups who supplied and delivered food, prescriptions and other interventions. The food fund monies were used to purchase ambient food for local community responders who were supporting their communities and other targeted groups such as homeless people and those living in sheltered housing accommodation.

### ***Refreshing/resetting existing LOIPs.***

**Aberdeen:** A short life working group has been formed to lead on the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan which was published in July 2020. While the plan is an immediate and dynamic response to the impact of Covid-19, it will inform the scheduled refresh of the LOIP in 2021. The plan aligns to the LOIP strategic themes of Economy, People and Place. Partners have been asked to prioritise their work around the Socio-Economic Rescue Plan to ensure activity across the partnership is coordinated. A [Route Map](#) for the refreshed LOIP has been published. In 2021, workshops will take place across the partnership and community to see the impact of the current situation on the LOIP and its priorities. Although priorities will likely remain the same, the workshops will give a better understanding of the data and highlight whether priorities remain valid for the future.

**Angus:** Angus Community Plan will not be refreshed as the priorities within it are still relevant. For example, a priority within the plan is around improving mental health. The action plans within the Community Plan are being reviewed to capture current and forecasted work to support the community's requirements now due to the pandemic. A full review will be carried out in 2022 which will include a review of the partnership, governance and participants.

**Argyll and Bute:** The LOIP in Argyll and Bute is due for renewal in 2023. The CPP agreed though to focus on 4 cross-cutting themes for the duration of the currently LOIP, in addition to the existing priorities. These 4 cross-cutting themes are Poverty, Social and Digital Isolation, Climate Change and Community Wealth Building.

**Dumfries and Galloway:** The eight Outcomes in the LOIP are discussed each year when the Annual Report is developed with stakeholders and presented to the Board in November. It has been recognised as a key document in guiding the response and recovery as it focussed on those people already experiencing inequality and has been reaffirmed by national and local research on the impact of COVID, including the Social Advisory Review Panel Report.

**Dundee:** Plan to review and update current outcomes, progress and targets.

**East Lothian:** The CPP is taking the lead in terms of economic recovery: drive economic development strategy, working with local communities, businesses etc.

**East Renfrewshire:** Partners agreed in September to focus on key priorities linked to local pandemic impacts focussing on inclusive growth and community wellbeing and connectivity with digital inclusion and tackling poverty being horizontal themes. The current LOIP – FairER plans require review early 2021. One option is to develop a 1-year transition plan to focus on Covid recovery with a three year plan thereafter. Partners will meet to consider this and appropriate governance arrangements early March.

**Edinburgh:** Edinburgh Partnership, through its LOIP Delivery Group, are in the process of reframing the LOIP to provide a renewed focus to address;

- the shift in strategic the context in the city over the last 12 months with recognition of the need for a strong post pandemic response to recovery which is fair, sustainable and delivers more resilient and healthy places to live; and
- opportunities to build on the strong foundation of collaborative working evidenced in Edinburgh between statutory, voluntary and communities' sectors during the pandemic response.

Significant within this is the reframing of the priority 'a good place to live' to focus on a public health led approach to place to help tackle poverty and reduce health inequalities.

**Falkirk:** Current LOIP requires review with plan to revise for January 2021. The board have asked to incorporate feedback from community groups, lessons learned and recovery. This is a challenging deadline given lost time for community engagement.

**Fife:** CPP was due to review progress on their LOIP in the coming year but in light of the Covid pandemic they have decided to pause that work and instead focus on five priority areas in the short term; tackling poverty and food insecurity; building community wealth through local economic development; promoting digital working and inclusion; supporting mental health and wellbeing; and addressing the climate emergency. The plan is to combine this with the refresh of the Council Recovery Plan. Aiming to adopt a 'sprint approach' where actions happens quickly and learning and experiences feed into the refreshed plan. 12 ambitions in the plan for Fife won't change however, some will be updated to reflect the learning and experiences from pandemic.

**Glasgow:** The Social Recovery Taskforce formed, enabled by the Community Planning Strategic Partnership as part of the council's renewal and recovery programme, brings together representatives from community planning partners, third sector and voluntary organisations, to look at how the city can rebuild and recover socially from coronavirus. They will also work in Partnership with Economic Recovery Taskforce. The work of the group will be used as a vehicle for a refresh on the LOIP and it is anticipated that the work plan of the Social Recovery Taskforce will in turn become the new Community Plan (Glasgow's equivalent of a LOIP).

**Inverclyde:** A review of Inverclyde's Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017-22 was carried out in the autumn of 2020. This enabled an assessment to be made regarding whether the LOIP priorities were still the right ones for Inverclyde. The review concluded that population, inequalities and the environment, culture and heritage are still very much priorities for Inverclyde. In addition, the review concluded the "local economy" should be added as a new priority, given that this was a growing issue prior to the pandemic and has been exacerbated by the impact of Covid-19.

**North Ayrshire:** The LOIP is still considered fit for purpose. It is comprehensive in terms of supporting local communities. We are looking at refreshing the "Fair for All" strategy which is focused on reducing inequalities and Locality Partnership priorities.

**North Lanarkshire:** CPP was already reviewing LOIP priorities and approaches and this continued throughout the pandemic, however as we moved to recovery approaches effort has focused on ensuring that learning and principles from both local and national review of the impact of the pandemic on communities and opportunities for improved partnership approaches are embedded across partnership priorities and approaches. This work continues.

**Perth & Kinross:** Creating new overarching 'Perth & Kinross offer' with a series of programmes of delivery under the five Es (Equalities, Empowerment, Education, Economy, and Environment). This includes new focused LOIP to be developed by CPP. Key areas include locality working, improving how communities participate in decision making, mental wellbeing and resilience, climate change, poverty, employability and digital participation.

**Renfrewshire:** Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Executive Group has focused on the individual and collective response of partners to the pandemic and also how this impacts on community planning priorities agreed pre-Covid. A Community Impact Assessment has been carried out during autumn/winter 20/21 and this will feed in to a Social Renewal Plan in spring 2021. An economic recovery plan has also been developed to update the previous economic strategy in the light of Covid.

**Scottish Borders:** The Community Planning Partnership established a Covid-19 key priorities and action plan during the pandemic to bring together the different strands of work that partners were working together on. The Partnership have agreed last month that a review would now be appropriate, which will look at resetting the Community Plan (LOIP), Locality Plans, performance and governance arrangements in light of the pandemic, including increased levels of poverty and other key priorities that will be part of recovery. This review will be concluded by Spring 2022.

**South Ayrshire:** The strategic themes in our LOIP were considered, and discussion took place to identify if there are new areas emerging/that will emerge as a result of COVID-19 under the strategic themes. It was agreed that there should be a more co-ordinated approach to the financial impact of the current health crisis with an emphasis on wider family which will be discussed through Children's Services. Financial Impact should also be a priority on its own as a major focus for the CPP – in order to reflect the wider community it was agreed that the strategic theme of '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps for Children and Young People**' should be redefined as '**Closing the Poverty-Related Outcomes Gaps**' to reflect families and the wider community. Further information can be found in our [2020 LOIP annual progress report](#).













**South Lanarkshire:** Prior to the pandemic an update of the LOIP was planned for this reporting year. This work has started and will also include initial COVID recovery actions that were agreed by the Board. Some of the themes include: Planning with communities; digital connectivity; mental and physical health. The first stages of community conversations will begin in March 2021 to inform a full review of the LOIP. A pan-Lanarkshire Partnership Economic Recovery Group has also been established.

**Shetland Islands:** Looked at LOIP and feel that the priorities are right for the longer term. Will do impact analysis on targets and data sets to see the likely impact of COVID.

**West Lothian:** The CPP developed a new LOIP in 2019 and presented a draft to the CPP Board in early March 2020. This has been put on hold as the CPP reflects on the impact of COVID-19 on communities. Initial consideration has been given to possible changes to the draft LOIP to refocus on COVID priorities and this will be further informed through the work of the Health and Wellbeing/Anti-Poverty Working Group, the Economic Recovery Plan and the Anti-Poverty action plan. It is intended that this will be revisited in early 2021 to ensure that the new LOIP reflects a more robust understanding of the impact of COVID-19 and to ensure that it does not duplicate the activity of all the recovery plans.

## Community Planning Improvement Board - Strategic Plan 2021/2022

The success of Community Planning is defined by the impact that partners make for their communities by working together. Community planning and the close local partnership working it embodies are ideally placed to underpin recovery and renewal efforts across Scotland. Local partners will need more than ever to work together and with communities to make a positive difference for citizens and safeguard the wellbeing and life chances of our vulnerable communities. The CPIB will provide leadership to influence policy, practice and reform at local and national levels to promote good practice, innovation and improvement in Community Planning.

	<b>Recovery Priorities</b>	<b>Strategic Themes</b>	<b>Agreeing Action</b>
	<p>The CPIB will undertake ‘deep dives’ on the following recovery priorities to gain a deeper understanding of key issues, their impact on communities and the role Community Planning can play in addressing these.</p>	<p>For each Recovery Priority, the CPIB will focus on what we are learning about what is working well, what the key barriers are, and what action is needed in each of the following strategic areas to drive improvement in Community Planning at local and national levels.</p>	<p>The CPIB will focus on what action is needed in the following three areas:</p>
May 2021	 <p>Inequalities</p>	 <p>Strengthened leadership and influence</p>  <p>Supporting innovation, improvement and sharing best practice</p>  <p>Community participation, particularly hard-to-reach groups, vulnerable and communities of interest</p>  <p>Effective decision making and good governance</p>  <p>Availability of high quality local data and insights to support decision making</p>  <p>Innovative approaches to joint planning, service design and resourcing</p>	
Aug 2021	 <p>Climate change &amp; sustainability</p>		
Oct 2021	 <p>Promoting Children &amp; Young People’s life chances</p>		
Feb 2022	 <p>Mental health and wellbeing</p>		
May 2022	 <p>Place</p>		
Aug 2022	 <p>Income and Employment</p>		

<p>Nov 2022</p>	 <p>Economic Recovery</p>		<p><b>By individual CP partners</b></p> <p>What do partners need to do within their own organisations to facilitate and effect change?</p> <p><b>Within local partnerships</b></p> <p>What do CPPs need to do to drive change?</p> <p><b>By the CPIB</b></p> <p>What do we collectively, as a board, need to do to try and influence and effect change at a national level?</p>
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Item 8**BUSINESS BRIEFING– SEPTEMBER 2021****1. Background**

This Briefing provides an update on recent developments since the last meeting of the Board on 10 September 2021.

**2. Key issues****2.1 Meetings of the Community Planning Executive Group (CPEG)**

Meetings of the Community Planning Executive Group have been scheduled for July-December 2021. The Minute of the 11 August meeting is attached as **Appendix 1**.

**2.2 Poverty and Inequalities Partnership**

The Poverty and Inequalities Partnership(PIP) has requested that a member from the Equality and Diversity Working Group join the Partnership, to develop the inequalities part of its remit. Given that a number of the public and third sector bodies are in membership of the PIP already, it is recommended that the representation is from an equality group.

**2.3 Strategic Digital Collaboration**

Following recent reports considered at both the previous Community Planning Partnership Board and also the Community Planning Executive Group, Dumfries and Galloway College and the Council are facilitating a strategic “round table” discussion on Wednesday 10 November 2021 involving key Community Planning partners involved in digital activity. This will map out the digital landscape including the current digital exclusion research work being undertaken by Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway and the digital skills work stemming from the Regional Economic Strategy and the new national Digital Health and Care Strategy. The ambition is to ensure alignment of strategic digital work, ensure all key partners have a shared understanding of this and to agree collective priorities and identify any gaps.

**3. Recommendations**

The Board is invited to note the position of the issues in this report.

Liz Manson  
Community Planning and Engagement Manager

**Appendices – 1**

1 – CPEG Minute of 11 August 2021

**COMMUNITY PLANNING EXECUTIVE GROUP  
On MS Teams  
Wednesday 11 August 2021**

**Item 8 Appendix**

**Present**

- Fiona Lees** - Interim Chief Executive  
(Chair) Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC)
- Jeff Ace** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway (NHS,D&DG)
- John Evans** - Director of Transformation and Development  
(*substitute*) South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE)
- Norma Austin Hart** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway (TS,D&G)
- Craig McGoldrick** - Local Senior Officer,  
Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS)
- Carol McGuire** - Local Commander  
Police Scotland (PS)

**Apologies**

- Jane Morrison-Ross** - Chief Executive  
SoSE

**In attendance**

- Stephen Jack** - Lifelong Learning Manager (Item 3)
- Liz Manson** - Community Planning and Engagement Manager
- Mark Thomson** - RRR Team, DGC (Item 2)



## 1. DRAFT MINUTE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING EXECUTIVE GROUP – 15 JULY 2021

**APPROVED** as a correct record

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

### 2. UPDATE ON COVID RECOVERY PLAN

2.1 **CONSIDERED** the draft Covid Recovery Plan and **AGREED** Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 be merged into one document; a further column identifying the Lead Officer be added; the Priorities be made more specific, focusing on what partners are going to do together rather than being a collation of individual partners' Recovery Plans.

2.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** the importance of the various youth employment initiatives across partners (DGC, PS, SFRS and TSD&G) being co-ordinated to ensure that there are positive destinations for our young people and the importance of 'fair work';

2.3 **AGREED** a greater focus on Place, **NOTING** the challenge of 20 minute neighbourhoods in our rural region and the importance of active travel, physical and digital connectivity and accessible services being in the Recovery Plan;

2.4 **RECOGNISED** that the outcome of COP26, and work taking place across partners in relation to climate change and carbon zero requirements may require changes to Recovery Plan in the longer term;

2.5 **AGREED** that volunteering has a high profile in the Plan, **NOTING** the TS, DG Volunteering Charter and the DGC Investing in Volunteers accreditation work;

2.6. **NOTED** the 'Hidden Harms' being developed by Scottish Government and these could be incorporated as required, **HIGHLIGHTING** particularly the issue of drug deaths;

2.7 **CONSIDERED** the adequacy of the proposed arrangements and timetable for the review of the 11 key Plans and Strategies, **HIGHLIGHTING** that all are being looked at in the context of Covid research so the impact of Covid is being reflected in them.

**ACTION: CHIEF OFFICER RRR, DGC**

### 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

3.1 **NOTED** the progress of the CLD Partnership during 2020/21;

3.2 **SUPPORTED** the forthcoming priorities:

- Approval and implementation of the new CLD Plan 2021-2024
- Taking forward priority year 1 actions and particularly those that will align with the refreshed Partnership Covid Recovery Plan
- Undertaking a partner self-evaluation against the refreshed Quality Indicators for Community Learning & Development

PUBLIC

- Supporting the CLD Practitioner's Collective to further develop
- Increasing involvement from local groups and organisations who contribute to CLD within their communities

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER, DGC**

#### **4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORKS FOR ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE LOIP AND LOCALITY PLAN 2020/21**

4.1 **APPROVED** the draft PMF for the LOIP Annual Report for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 with specific suggestions for amendments to be advised to the CPP Manager for consideration by the Development Group;

4.2 **APPROVED** the draft PMF for the Locality Plan Annual Report for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 2, with advice from regional food providers yet to come about the specific case studies and personal testimonies

4.3 **AGREED** that the LOIP and Locality Plan Outcomes are still relevant and do not require any change to reflect the findings of recent research and reports about the impact of Covid Pandemic – however, there has been a deepening of the inequalities identified in our Plans and especially for our key groups

**ACTION: ALL/COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

#### **5. CPP RISK REGISTER MONITORING REPORT**

**APPROVED** the updated Register in the Appendix for submission to the CPP Board

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

#### **6. UPDATE ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR CPP BOARD MEETINGS**

**NOTED** joint meeting of the CPP Board and Youth Council will take place in October and will focus on mental health and wellbeing and will include the Suicide Prevention Workshop.

**ACTION: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT MANAGER**

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Fiona Lees expressed her gratitude to colleagues for their support during her time as Interim Chief Executive of DGC and Chair of this Community Planning Executive Group. She had appreciated their skills and talents and enjoyed working in a great area with enormous potential. The Executive Group members thanked Fiona for her leadership and energy during the recent challenging months.

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP IMPROVEMENT PLAN

### 1. Background

This report presents the Community Planning Annual Improvement Plan which sets out the improvements made over the last year; and those proposed for the coming year.

### 2. Key issues

2.1 The Executive Group at its meeting on 11 October 2021 considered the draft Improvement Plan and agreed the attached as its recommendations to the CPP Board (**Appendix**).

2.2 Developments this year have included:

- ensuring that the membership and reports to the Community Planning Partnership Board reflects the new landscape of economic regeneration responsibilities
- first joint meeting with the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council
- successful establishment of the new Locality Hubs

2.3 Progress has however been limited in relation to:

- the development of a shared project to increase the region's population (Project 155)
- progress in the Play Charter project
- wider stakeholder engagement in the production of the LOIP and Locality Plan on food sharing
- website refresh

2.4 The improvement actions for the year ahead continue those not delivered in 2021 and introduces new formats for meetings, notably online discussion groups which provided to be a successful engagement method in the joint meeting with the Youth Council.

### 3. Recommendations

The CPP Board is invited to agree:

- 3.1 the CPP Improvement Plan for 2021; and
- 3.2 the improvements to be implemented in 2022

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
13 October 2021

### Appendices - 1

**Item 9 Appendix****Dumfries and Galloway Community  
Improvement Plan as at 28 October 2021**

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
1. Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fourth Annual Report on the LOIP.</li> </ul>	<p>The LOIP was agreed by the CPP Board at its November 2017 meeting and has focused directly on tackling inequality.</p> <p>The End of Year Performance Report for the LOIP 2020/21 is due to be agreed by the CPP Board in November 2021. In line with other CPPs it will be 'light touch' and compiled by partners using available quantitative and qualitative material during a challenging reporting year.</p>	<p>Develop further community engagement in the reporting arrangements for the 2021/22 Annual Report.</p> <p>A Review of the LOIP is scheduled for autumn 2022 – this is the mid point of the 2017-2027 timescale and also after the Local Government Elections in May 2022.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a fuller picture of partners' resources, in particular financial resources, and identify where and how discretionary spend can be aligned.</li> </ul>	<p>Some limited financial information on the five statutory partners and Third Sector Interface is detailed in Appendix 5 of the LOIP.</p> <p>The Executive Group completed its programme of sessions on the Budget and Business Planning challenges and timetable of the five statutory partners and Third Sector Interface in December 2019. DGC is updating partners at its meeting in October 2021</p>	Complete

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish baselines and targets to measure the impact of actions that are designed to reduce inequalities in Dumfries and Galloway.</li> </ul>	<p>The LOIP and the key strategic supporting contain targets which are requested for the Board at each meeting. In practice however, the Plans and Strategies have reduced their focused Action Plans and quantitative data and are presenting narrative.</p> <p>However, an updated Poverty and Deprivation Report was published in December 2020; research has been undertaken about the impact of Covid e.g. on young people and the Social Renewal Advisory Board so there is more factual evidence available about inequalities.</p> <p>Public Health Scotland has indicated an eagerness to work with CPPs to assist them with data and evidence for their LOIPs and other activities.</p> <p>In addition to Indicators and projects, personal testimonies and case studies are part of our performance management of the LOIP and Locality Plan, provided through a Commission by DGC with the Equality Partnership and Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway.</p>	<p>Encourage partnerships to again produce SMART (specific measurable agreed realistic and timetabled) Action Plans for reporting progress on their Strategies and Plans so that CPPB updates have quantitative, benchmarking and trend data to complement their qualitative narrative.</p> <p>Establish a close working relationship with Public Health Scotland to access professional data analysis and intelligence.</p> <p>Develop a deeper understanding of the new Fairer Scotland Duty Guidance.</p>

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
		Updated Guidance on the Fairer Scotland Duty has been published, with liaison taking place across partners to improve understanding and coordinated implementation.	



Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
2. Improve the operation of the Community Planning Partnership Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the Board membership to reflect the position of the Integration of Joint Board; the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency; and Community Council representation after the Elections in October 2019.</li> </ul>	<p>An Integration Joint Board representative has been appointed; and South of Scotland Enterprise has replaced Scottish Enterprise.</p> <p>The method of electing the Community Council representatives has been agreed but has not yet been progressed in recognition of the pressures and challenges facing Community Councils during the Covid Pandemic.</p> <p>Board meetings now offer online participation; however this has seen reduced engagement and exchanges during consideration of items</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>The Community Council representatives will be in place for the March 2022 Board meeting.</p> <p>Introduce different formats and styles of meetings to promote engagement and exchanges during consideration of the items presented, including workshop discussion forums</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the Board's arrangements with the forums associated with economic regeneration</li> <li>Establish the Safer Communities Partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South of Scotland Enterprise was created on 1 April 2020 and the Regional Economic Partnership has also now been created. The CPPB agreed that its private sector representation would be derived from the Economic Leadership Group</li> <li>The strategic level Safer Communities Partnership has been agreed but has not yet met. The Executive Group agreed in August 2021 that an Action Plan be</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete</li> <li>Implement the arrangements for the Safer Communities Partnership, including an Action Plan</li> </ul>

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
		developed and this is scheduled for discussion at the December 2021 meeting.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the Community Planning Partnership Board set out how they communicate decisions of the Partnership within their own organisations/ Sectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Board members in fulfilling their responsibilities by providing advice and information to share within organisations.</li> <li>Updates have been made to the website to ensure that the information is up to date and there have been some new types of information added. However, it has not been possible to refresh the structure and design of the site due to other pressures on the webteam and develop links with partners' websites to promote co-ordination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide advice and support as required.</li> <li>Refresh the website to make it an attractive resource and more effective links with other partners websites.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have two LOIP Outcomes at each Board meeting; annual meeting with Youth Councillors; 'play'; Project 155; and environment and sustainability built in to the programme.</li> </ul>	<p>The planned programme for the CPP Board meetings during 2021 was not possible due to the impact of COVID19 pandemic on partners activities and capacities.</p> <p>The Play and Project 155 initiatives have not been progressed as planned due to the limited capacity of the relevant Services and lead officers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold an annual meeting with Youth Councillors; and progress the 'Play Charter' and Project 155 initiatives.</li> </ul>

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
		<p>Environment and sustainability issues have progress with two reports during 2021.</p> <p>A special joint meeting with the Youth Council is taking place on 27 October 2021.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update CPP risk register and the Executive Group will monitor it on a six monthly basis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The updated Risk Register was agreed by the CPPB in November 2020 and presented to the Executive Group in June 2021.</li> </ul>	<p>Executive Group to monitor the Risk Register on a six monthly basis and the CPP Board to consider updates on an annual basis.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual discussion with Scottish Borders CPP Team to discuss shared issues</li> <li>Scottish Community Planning Improvement Board Chair to attend a D&amp;G CPP Board meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual discussion took place with Scottish Borders CPP in June 2021</li> <li>The invitation to the Community Planning Improvement Board to attend a CPP Board meeting continues to be pursued and it is hoped can be arranged for November 2021</li> </ul>	<p>Annual discussion with Scottish Borders CPP Team to discuss shared issues</p> <p>Scottish Community Planning Improvement Board Chair to attend a D&amp;G CPP Board meeting.</p>
<p>3. Improve the empowerment of individuals involved in Community Planning forums.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Collaboration Project (development of Moffat as The Access Town.)</li> </ul>	<p>There has ben no progress in this project during the reporting year</p>	<p>Receive a progress report to the Executive Group in 2022 on this geographical empowerment project, reflecting work ongoing around locality planning</p>

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a shared initiative – Project 155 (population growth for our region) – where all partners will have a contribution to make to provide fresh impetus for collective decision-making</li> </ul>	The national Population Strategy was published and reported to the CPP Board in March 2021; however progress has been limited due to the secondment of the lead officer to other duties and the impact of Covid	Progress Project 155 as soon as possible.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the capacity building of the Third Sector, in particular for its contribution to the CPPB, EG and other CP partnership groupings.</li> </ul>	TSD&G continues to review third sector representation on partnerships, including the CPP Board, Executive Group, Thematic Partnerships and Working Groups	Ongoing
4. Improve the Community Planning Partnerships Board's approach to using evidence	Involve appropriate stakeholders in the CPP Board four meetings during 2021; and in the evaluation of the LOIP and Locality Plan during 2020/21.	Wider stakeholder engagement in the evaluation of the LOIP and Locality Plan has not taken place due to changes in the Partnership arrangements and capacity of officers. However, capacity building work is now taking place with the Tackling Poverty Reference Group.	Engage with the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership about engagement and involvement in the Review of the LOIP and Locality Plan on food sharing and the Annual Reports during 2022
5. Improve the Community Planning Partnership Board's influence on the national agenda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for engagement with national groups and key individuals are sought on an ongoing basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership responses were submitted for the work of CPPs during Covid; the review of the Public Sector Equality Duty; new Fairer Scotland Duty Guidance; and in progress for the Scottish Government consultation on Food Banks.</li> </ul>	Continue to seek opportunities for engagement with national groups and key individuals.

Issue	Improvement Action 2020/21	Achievements 2020/21	Next action 2021/22
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership responses are encouraged where there is value in promoting a shared position; and a more efficient use of resources in preparing one response</li> </ul>		
6. Improve local community planning focus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop the locality hubs to be effective and efficient geographical partnership forums.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Locality Hubs have proved to be a successful forum for the COVID response and visitor management co-ordination. They are now developing to fulfil the membership and remit agreed by the CPPB in September 2020.</li> <li>A Locality/Place Planning Group was agreed by the CPPB in June 2021 and is now meeting to develop a co-ordinated approach to supporting communities with place Plans required for the Borderlands Place Programme; Planning Act Local Place Plans and other opportunities. Update report is on the CPPB agenda for November 2021</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop the Locality Hubs as the forum for local co-ordination and engagement of partners</li> <li>Continue to develop our approach to Place Making, including how public and third sector partners can support communities; Place Standard training; and sharing information on initiatives</li> </ul>

## COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD - PROGRAMME FOR 2022

### 1. Background

This report updates members on the Community Planning Partnership Board's meeting arrangements for 2022.

### 2. Key issues

2.1 The COVID emergency and Guidelines for social distancing have meant that meetings have been fully virtual or hybrid since March 2020 and it is intended that they will continue to be hybrid going forward.

2.2 Dates of meetings for 2022 are proposed as 11 March, 10 June, 9 September, and 11 November on the basis that Fridays are the only week day which is not regularly committed by partners for Board or Committee meetings

2.3 The Board meetings will be a mix of plenary sessions, presentations and breakout group discussions to allow members to engage effectively with each other and subject matter specialists.

### 3. Recommendations

The CPP Board is invited to agree the Board meeting arrangements and programme for 2022 as set out in the Appendix, with partners encouraged to bring reports and issues to partners for consideration.

Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager  
1 November 2021

### Appendices – 1

1 –programme for CPP Board meetings for 2022 as at 1 November 2021

**Item 10 Appendix**

**DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
WORK PROGRAMME 2022**

	<b>Programme</b>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D&amp;G Local Outcomes Improvement Plan Annual Report 2020/21</li> <li>• D&amp;G Climate Emergency Action Plan</li> <li>• Project 155</li> <li>• Play Charter</li> <li>• Digital Strategies and Hub Update</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint Meeting with the Youth Council</li> <li>• Local Child Poverty Action Plan Annual Report 2021/22 and Action Plan for 2021-23</li> <li>• Review of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2027-2027 and Locality Plan on Food Sharing 2017-2027</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual joint meeting with the Youth Council</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LOIP and Locality Plan Annual Reports 2021/22</li> <li>• Place – locality planning update</li> <li>• CPP Board Improvement Plan</li> <li>• CPP Board Risk Register</li> </ul>

## Notes:

- each meeting will receive an update on COVID Response, Renewal and Recovery; and performance updates on the 12 key Plans and Strategies that support the LOIP
- the Community Planning Improvement Board will participate in one of the meetings – date tbc