

## Dates of 2024 Meetings

1 March

7 June

13 September

4 December

## DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Meeting on Wednesday 4 December 2024

1.30pm – 4.15pm

MS Teams and in the Council Hall, Council HQ,  
English Street, Dumfries DG1 2DD

### Members

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Gail Macgregor</b><br>Co-Chair | - Leader<br>Dumfries and Galloway Council   |
| <b>Richard Brodie</b>             | Councillor<br>Dumfries and Galloway Council   |
| <b>Marsali Caig</b><br>Co-Chair   | - Vice Chair<br>NHS Dumfries and Galloway   |
| <b>Joanna Campbell</b>            | - Principal and Chief Executive<br>Dumfries and Galloway College                            |
| <b>John Campbell</b>              | - Chairman<br>SWestrans   |
| <b>Linda Dorward</b>              | - Councillor<br>Dumfries and Galloway Council   |
| <b>John Dougan</b>                | - Chair<br>Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway   |
| <b>Alex Lamb</b>                  | - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector  |
| <b>Professor Russel Griggs</b>    | - Chair<br>South of Scotland Enterprise   |
| <b>Derek Heaton</b>               | - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue<br>Service, Dumfries and Galloway Division |
| <b>Sheena Horner</b>              | - Dumfries and Galloway Private Sector  |
| <b>Iain Howie</b>                 | - Councillor<br>Dumfries and Galloway Council   |
| <b>Maureen Johnstone</b>          | - Councillor<br>Dumfries and Galloway Council   |

- Andy McFarlane** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Steven Meikle** - Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland  
Dumfries and Galloway Division
- Shona Mitchell** - Head of Operations  
Skills Development Scotland
- Jane Morrison-Ross** - Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise
- Dawn Roberts** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Jo Shearer** - Vice Chair  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Stephen Thompson** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Alan Webb** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Julie White** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Valerie White** - Chair - Community Planning Senior Leadership  
Team (Advisor)
- Claire Renton** - Place Director for Dumfries and Galloway  
Scottish Government (observer)

## Dates of Meetings 2024

1 March 7 June 13 September 4 December

### DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD

**WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024**  
**1.30pm – 4.15pm**  
**Main Council Hall, English Street, Dumfries**  
**MS Teams/Hybrid**  
**AGENDA**

<b>1.30PM</b>	<b>1. DRAFT MINUTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13 SEPTEMBER 2024</b>	<b>4 - 12</b>
<b>1.35PM</b>	<b>2. COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTION LOG</b>	<b>13 - 17</b>
<b>1.40PM</b>	<b>3. LOIP AND COMMUNITY PLANNING UPDATE REPORT</b>	<b>18 - 44</b>
<b>2.10PM</b>	<b>4. LOIP END OF YEAR REPORT 2023/24</b>	<b>45 - 75</b>
<b>2.30PM</b>	<b>5. SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND LINKS TO THE LOIP</b>	<b>76 - 99</b>
<b>2.50PM</b>	<b>6. HOUSING CHALLENGES AND EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>100 - 114</b>
<b>3.15PM</b>	<b>7. UPDATES ON KEY PLANS AND STRATEGIES</b>	<b>115 - 152</b>
<b>3.25PM</b>	<b>8. BUSINESS BRIEF</b>	<b>153 - 211</b>
<b>3.40PM</b>	<b>9. FORWARD PLAN ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<b>212 - 214</b>
<b>3.50PM</b>	<b>10. CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN REPORT</b>	<b>215 - 288</b>
<b>4.15PM</b>	<b>11. CLOSE</b>	



**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY  
COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
Friday 13 September 2024  
Council HQ, English Street, Dumfries  
and by MS Teams - 10.00am**

**Item 1****Present**

- Gail Macgregor** - Leader  
**Co-Chair** Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Marsali Caig** - Vice Chair  
**Co-Chair** NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- John Campbell** - Chair  
SWestrans
- Rob Davidson** - Strategy Manager Community Wealth Building  
**(Substitute)** South of Scotland Enterprise
- Linda Dorward** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- John Dougan** - Chair  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Derek Heaton** - Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service,  
Dumfries and Galloway Division
- Iain Howie** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Maureen Johnstone** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Alex Lamb** - Dumfries and Galloway Housing Sector
- Andy McFarlane** - Chair  
Dumfries and Galloway Integration Joint Board
- Dawn Roberts** - Chief Executive  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Jo Shearer** - Vice Chair  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway



PUBLIC

- Stephen Thompson** - Councillor  
Dumfries and Galloway Council
- Alan Webb** - Chief Executive  
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway
- Julie White** - Chief Executive  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Valerie White** - Director of Public Health  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Claire Renton** - Place Director for Dumfries and Galloway  
Scottish Government (observer)

**Apologies**

- Joanna Campbell** - Dumfries and Galloway College
- Professor Russel Griggs** - Chair  
South of Scotland Enterprise
- Steven Meikle** - Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland  
Dumfries and Galloway Division
- Shona Mitchell** - Head of Operations  
Skills Development Scotland
- Jane Morrison- Ross** - Chief Executive  
South of Scotland Enterprise

**In attendance**

- Kirstie Beattie** - Child Poverty Project Officer, Employability and Skills Service  
(Item 7)
- Louise Church** - Galloway and West Dumfries Member of Scottish Youth  
Parliament
- Max Heughan** - Youth Councillor, Mid Galloway and Wigtown West
- Stephen Jack** - Lifelong Learning Manager
- Regan Jackson** - Senior Youth Development Officer
- Darren Little** - Children's Services Manager (Item 5)
- Ailsa McDairmant** - Youth Councillor, Annandale South

PUBLIC

**Thomas Paine** - Youth Councillor, LGBT Youth Councillor

**Fiona Paton** - Child Health Commissioner, NHS D&G (Item 5)

**Lydia-Elizabeth Shaw** - Youth Councillor

**Felicia Szloboda** - Improvement Service (Item 4)

**Riley True** - Youth Councillor, Lochar

**Stewart Val Walker** - Youth Councillor, Dee and Glenkens

**18 members present from 9 partners**

The Chair **WELCOMED** everyone to the meeting, and in particular the members of the Youth Council, and new Board members Marsali Caig, Vice Chair of NHS Dumfries and Galloway, replacing Nick Morris; Derek Heaton who replaces Andy Kenna as the Local Senior Officer for the Dumfries and Galloway Division of SFRS; Chief Superintendent Steven Meikle the new local policing commander; Valerie White as a new advisor representing the CPSLT; and Claire Renton, Place Director and the new Scottish Government observer replacing Colin Cook.

**1. DRAFT MINUTE OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2024**

**APPROVED** as a correct record.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

**2. COMMUNITY PLANNING ACTION LOG**

**NOTED** that the majority of actions are sitting at green; **HIGHLIGHTED** discussions around poverty and associated partnership activity at the CPSLT meeting held on 27 August and it was agreed this should dove-tail in with the work being led by the Children's Services Manager in relation to developing the next Child Poverty Action Plan report to help avoid duplication of effort and this will be further considered at the next meeting on 27 September.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

**3. DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY YOUTH COUNCIL – PRIORITIES**

3.1 **RECEIVED** a presentation from the Youth Councillors on the work of Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council.

**3.2 HIGHLIGHTED:**

- Focused on finding out what young people think and want to see change to make their communities better for young people throughout Dumfries and Galloway;
- Their general priorities of involving young people in decision making and children's rights, mental health and wellbeing, climate change and environmental action and equalities awareness and accessibility;
- Their role in developing the Children's Rights Report and Action Plan for Dumfries and Galloway over the last year.

**3.3 NOTED:**

- NHS keen to involve the Youth Council in their climate change/environmental action Board;
- Employability and Skills keen to explore how young people can be engaged in evaluating Services;
- TSDG keen to explore joint decision making around funding;
- Youth Councillors keen to share how they collate and use information from the postcard campaign in terms of influence and decision making and how they can encourage communities to understand and promote children's rights.

3.4 **DISCUSSED** what Youth Councillors have enjoyed which included attending meetings both locally and nationally and consultation work, and the challenge of balancing school and work of Youth Council.

#### **4. IMPROVEMENT SERVICE – UNCRC AND CHILDREN’S RIGHTS - NATIONAL PICTURE AND SUPPORT RESOURCES**

4.1 **RECEIVED** a presentation from Felicia Szloboda, Child Poverty and UNCRC Project Officer from the Improvement Service on Children’s Rights and the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 and its implications for Local Authorities.

4.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** the framework which allows each organisation to look across their practice and identify where there is a need to focus activity or resources to implement children’s rights and the framework can be used flexibly e.g., to develop an action plan; and

4.3 **NOTED** the main complaints received by young people related to transport. **DISCUSSED** how learning, intelligence and good practice is shared and support provided for challenges at Peer Support Network meetings; how legislation will be enforced by the law and **NOTED** aspiration to help Local Authorities resolve issues at the local complaints level through a child friendly complaints procedure. **HIGHLIGHTED** Scotland is the first devolved nation to incorporate children’s rights into Scot’s law.

4.4 **AGREED** contact details and additional information from the presentation will be cascaded to Board members.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

#### **5. CHILDREN’S RIGHTS IN DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY**

5.1 **THANKED** members of the Youth Council for their contribution to the right’s agenda locally and **RECOGNISED** Improvement Service colleagues who supported the initial Elected Member, Youth Council and Officer working group and for their provision of the framework.

5.2 **NOTED** the current position in relation to children’s rights and UNCRC in Dumfries and Galloway;

5.3 **HIGHLIGHTED** positive progress both in terms of the work within the Council and NHS; commitment from Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Board and their respective management teams to children’s rights; 110 of our schools achieving at least bronze of Rights Respecting Schools award, 32 achieving silver and 10 achieving gold which is vitally important in raising awareness and support to understand children’s rights; Council has worked with SPSO through Education and Social Work to pilot a child friendly complaints procedure locally and looking to embed within their core practice; brought forward a new Advocacy Plan through Health and Social Care Partnership; agreed to repeat engagement with young people in advance of the next Rights Report; **AGREED** to give an update on all the actions that were agreed as part of the Rights Report in 2025 alongside the Children’s Services Plan at Full Council, NHS Board and CPPB before next Rights Report published in 2026 covering the period 23-26; and **NOTED** NHS are



developing a Steering group to look at each of the points through the Rights Report Action Plan and to ensure their incorporation throughout the NHS.

5.4 **PROVIDED** feedback to officers in relation to the potential for the 2023-26 Rights Report to include contributions wider than purely Council and NHS activity, the potential for there to be an area or specific areas of focus and what this could be, and any other suggestions for officers supporting this work; and comments **NOTED** included making sure all adults across the region know about children's rights; Community Planning Partners keen to have a "collective voice" as opposed to taking an individual organisation perspective; what impact and difference does the Children's Rights report make in other sectors; distinction between UNCRC incorporation which is a duty on Public Bodies and wider issue of children's rights which is an intention for us all to uphold and protect Children's Rights; support for the next Right's report to include contributions from wider Community Planning partners and not just Council/NHS; support to also have a deeper focus on a specific theme (Youth Council were asked to consider what this theme might be); interest from Board members in terms of the complaints process and how these will be handled and also powers of enforcement; and confirmation on how we are tracking actions.

5.5 **NOTED** an e-learning module to raise awareness of children's rights created for NHS and Council staff could be shared across Community Planning Partners;

5.6 **CONSIDERED** the views and comments of the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council; and **NOTED** that while the Council and NHS are integral to the Children's Rights Report bringing in other organisations and training would be beneficial to the next report, as it's the Youth Council's view that the most informed view is the best view.

5.7 **CONSIDERED** and **AGREED** the offer from Children in Scotland to provide Rights Related training for Board and CPSLT members.

5.8 **AGREED** to provide Board Members with more details on Rights Respecting School awards, benefits and how this is being promoted to parents; **NOTED** while individual school developments about Rights Respecting Schools awards will vary, however a consistent approach to accessing information is being developed through a children's services web offer targeted at children and young people, parents and carers and professionals across the partnership.

**ACTION: CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGER**

**Linda Dorward left the meeting**

**17 members present from 9 partners**

## **6. TOBACCO AND VAPING CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND PROPOSED ACTIONS**

6.1 **HIGHLIGHTED** concern about tobacco and vaping through 10,000 Voices has led directly to an action in the LOIP to co-produce an education and awareness raising programme with children and young people and NHS will arrange meeting with Youth Council to take this work forward.

6.2 **DISCUSSED** and **CONSIDERED** the key issues highlighted within the report; and comments **NOTED** included importance of accessible smoking cessation services for pregnant women and wider family members and also reassuring young people of the confidentiality surrounding participation in cessation services to encourage uptake; importance of prevention and stopping people smoking in the first place; smoking rates in areas of poverty and deprivation are higher; create places where there is support within communities rather than health harming behaviour; and **NOTED** risks associated with discarded vapes (fire/pollution hazard).

**Andy McFarlane left the meeting**

**16 members present from 9 partners**

6.3 **CONSIDERED** the views of the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council; and comments **NOTED** including pricing of vapes which is significantly lower than cigarettes; role of Licensing Board; illegal vapes and potentially damaging chemical contents and impact on health; concern about visibility of vapes for sale; lack of health warnings; advertising and marketing of vapes; confidential access to cessation services; and addiction.

**Andy McFarlane joined the meeting**

**17 members present from 9 partners**

6.4 **CONSIDERED** and **AGREED** to the proposed actions as detailed at section 3.2; including writing to Scottish Government, UK Government and to use COSLA to help raise concerns and support positive actions; clarifying role/powers that Trading Standards have to control buying and selling of vapes; and CPSLT to discuss Community Planning position in terms of retailers.

**ACTION: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/ LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

**Iain Howie, Jo Shearer and Derek Heaton left the meeting**

**14 members present from 8 partners**

## **7. ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS - SCHOOLS TRANSITIONS PROJECT**

7.1 **RECEIVED** a presentation in relation to the ASN Schools Transition Project which is going to encompass whole family support and will look to support young people in school with additional support needs with their transition from school and onwards, employment support and engaging with employers;

7.2 **HIGHLIGHTED** Dumfries and Galloway's disability employment gap has increased by 4% since 2016 and at 40.4% makes it the lowest performing Local Authority in Scotland; and **NOTED** that the pilot project will focus on pupils on the school rolls who are assessed and declared as being disabled and at risk of leaving without a positive destination; and also increasing opportunities around apprenticeships.

7.3 **NOTED** the strong links between the project outcomes and LOIP Outcomes;

7.4 **CONSIDERED** the views of CPPB Members and the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council; and comments **NOTED** included opportunity to link parents/ help families out of poverty; evidence impact by capturing real life stories; offer to link with NHS Workforce Director and encouraged other organisations to do likewise; the work in schools to get

colleagues and schools ready to support young people; confirmed whole family approach; and opportunity to discuss how the project will sit within Children's Services Plan Sub Group for disabled children with complex care needs.

7.5 **AGREED** to receive progress updates on the project through the six-monthly Local Employability Partnership updates to the CPPB.

**ACTION: CHILD POVERTY PROJECT OFFICER**

## 8. UPDATES ON KEY PLANS AND STRATEGIES

### 8.1 Children's Services Plan

**NOTED**

### 8.2 Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Outcome Improvement Plan

**NOTED** the Partnership are looking for funding, particularly around lived/living experience work and Whole Family Support.

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

**NOTED** The recommendations from the National Independent Review of CLD are now available and these are attached in Appendix 3.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

### 8.4 Local Development Plan 2

8.4.1 **NOTED** the series of community engagement sessions which took place during May and June 2024 to help "sense check" the evidence already gathered to support the development of the LDP3; and current draft of Community Wealth Building schedule as part of the Evidence Report for LDP3.

8.4.2 **ENDORSED** David Rowland to be contacted also for input;

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

### 8.5 Local Housing Strategy

**NOTED** offer to attend Housing Emergency Action Plan workshop on 30 September (10-12pm, Council Hall, Dumfries/Hybrid).

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

### 8.6 Regional Transport Strategy

**NOTED** opportunity to tie in/align with Programme for Government around some of the key issues of active travel and sustainable travel.

8.7 **NOTED** the summary updates highlighted at paragraph 3.2 and **CONSIDERED** the requests made by lead officers.

8.8 **NOTED** the progress being made in relation to the key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as detailed in Appendix.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**

**9. BUSINESS BRIEF**

9.1 **ENDORSED** our involvement in the national Community Planning self-assessment checklist work as detailed at paragraph 3.1;

9.2 **NOTED** the update on tackling de-population as detailed in Appendix 1;

9.3 **NOTED** the position statement on the LOIP Action Plan projects as detailed in Appendix 2;

9.4 **NOTED** the update in relation to use of the UKSPF – Communities and Place fund as detailed in Appendix 3;

9.5 **ENDORSED** the request for Dumfries and Galloway to register interest in the Health Equity pilot opportunity as detailed at 3.5;

9.6 **CONSIDERED** the Population Health Framework as detailed at 3.6.2 and **AGREED** that the CPSLT will collate comments and submit on behalf of the Community Planning Partnership in liaison with the Chair.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER/ CPSLT**

**10. FORWARD PLAN ARRANGEMENTS**

10.1 **NOTED** the confirmed meeting dates for 2024;

10.2 **CONSIDERED** and **AGREED** the proposed business for 2024.

**ACTION: LIFELONG LEARNING MANAGER**



**ITEM 2 – CPPB ACTION LOG**

Ref	ISSUE RAISED	RAISED BY	ALLOCATED TO	STATUS/COMPLETION	WHEN
<b>Operational Actions</b>					
<b>COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – ACTION LOG – FRIDAY 7 JUNE 2024</b>					
	<p><b><u>ITEM 3 – Poverty and Inequalities Partnership update</u></b></p> <p>3.5 <b>APPROVED</b> CPSLT to help identify and co-ordinate all partner activity linked to Child Poverty to support a “single focus” and evidence that the work Partners are undertaking collectively is of benefit and is addressing the impact of poverty e.g. in terms of access to healthcare services, employability, income maximisation, transport etc; identify how poverty and child poverty can be addressed through the LOIP and actions of the workstreams already in place; and present back to a future board meeting with a proposition about how to monitor going forward with an</p>	CEO TSDG	CPSLT	<p>This was discussed at the CPSLT meeting held on 27 August and it was agreed this should be dove-tail in with the work being led by the Children’s Services Manager in relation to developing the next Child Poverty Action Plan report to help avoid duplication of effort.</p> <p>This has been further considered at both the September and November meetings of the CPSLT. The Child Poverty Action Plan report is included as an agenda item for the December meeting.</p>	

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	outcomes and impact view rather than activity view.				
	<p><b>ITEM 8 – Business Brief</b>  8.3 <b>NOTED</b> Dumfries and Galloway Council will receive £30,000 to help research the causes of local population decline, to inform the development of future policy interventions; and <b>AGREED</b> to ask CPSLT to look at how all Community Planning Partners might engage with this work and share learning; and <b>ACKNOWLEDGED</b> population is reducing but pressures are increasing and therefore need to collectively work together on our population strategy in support of Scottish Population Strategy to make sure maximise organisation contributions.</p>				<p>The Council lead Officer on this project shared an updated briefing for the August CPSLT meeting and key partners are now supporting this work. A further update is included within the Business Brief item at December Board meeting.</p>
<b>COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – ACTION LOG – FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2024</b>					
	<p><b>Item 3 – Youth Council priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NHS keen to involve the Youth Council in their climate</li> </ul>	Vice Chair NHS Board			<p>Contact has been made with the Youth Council to discuss opportunities.</p>

	<p>change/environmental action Board;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employability and Skills keen to explore how young people can be engaged in evaluating Services;</li> <li>• TSDG keen to explore joint decision making around funding;</li> </ul>			TSDG have worked with the Youth Council around a joint application to test this concept.	
	<b><u>Item 4 – Improvement Service</u></b>				
	<b>AGREED</b> contact details and additional information from the presentation will be cascaded to Board members.	Chair	Lifelong Learning Manager	Presentation circulated to Board members on 29 October 2024	
	<p><b><u>Item 5 – Children’s Rights in Dumfries and Galloway</u></b></p> <p><b>CONSIDERED</b> the views of the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council; and comments <b>NOTED</b> that while the Council and NHS are integral to the Children’s Rights Report bringing in other organisations and training would be beneficial to the next report, as it’s the Youth Council’s view that the most informed view is the best view.</p>	Chair	<p>Children’s Services Manager</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Manager</p>	Training for Board Members and those involved with the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team is being arranged with Children in Scotland and it is anticipated that this will take place early 2025.	



	<p><b>CONSIDERED</b> and <b>AGREED</b> the offer from Children in Scotland to provide Rights related training for Board and CPSLT Members</p>				
	<p><b>Item 6 - TOBACCO AND VAPING CONSENSUS STATEMENT AND PROPOSED ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>HIGHLIGHTED</b> concern about tobacco and vaping through 10,000 Voices has led directly to an action in the LOIP to co-produce an education and awareness raising programme with children and young people and NHS will arrange meeting with Youth Council to take this work forward</p> <p><b>CONSIDERED</b> and <b>AGREED</b> to the proposed actions as detailed at section 3.2; including writing to Scottish Government, UK Government and to use COSLA to help raise concerns and support positive actions; clarifying role/powers that Trading Standards have to control buying and selling of vapes; and CPSLT to discuss Community Planning position in terms of retailers.</p>	<p>Chair</p>	<p>Director Public Health and D&amp;G Youth Council</p>	<p>A draft statement and letter to Scottish/UK Governments are included in the papers for the December Board meeting along with clarification on the enforcement powers of Trading Standards.</p> <p>Both were discussed and agreed at the November CPSLT meeting.</p>	



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	<p><b>Item 5</b> <b>Agreed</b> to provide Board Members with more details on Rights Respecting School Awards, benefits and how this is being promoted to parents.</p>	Chair	Children's Services Manager	An update is included in Item 3 of the December CPPB meeting.	
	<p><b>Item 7 ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NEEDS - SCHOOLS TRANSITIONS PROJECT</b></p> <p><b>AGREED</b> to receive progress updates on the project through the six-monthly Local Employability Partnership updates to the CPPB.</p>	Chair	Employability, Skills and Partnerships Manager	This will be integrated into future 6 monthly reports from the LEP.	

#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CPPB	Community Planning Partnership Board
CPSLT	Community Planning Senior Leadership Team
SoSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
TSDG	Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
LOIP	Local Outcomes Improvement Plan
RSL's	Registered Social Landlords
IJB	Integration Joint Board
SDS	Skills Development Scotland



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 3**

<b>Author:</b> <b>Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities</b>
<b>Report Title: Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Community Planning key updates</b>	
<b><u>1. Situation:</u></b> 1.1 The report provides an update on the ongoing development work surrounding the implementation of the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and the refreshed Community Planning model.	
<b><u>2. Background:</u></b> 2.1 At the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) meeting held on 1 September 2023, Board Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the LOIP and agreed that this would be kept as a “live” document and updated as and when important new data and intelligence becomes available such as key messages from the Census.</li> </ul> 2.2 An accompanying LOIP Action Plan was subsequently approved at the CPPB held on 1 December 2023 and partners are working together to take forward the respective projects and key actions.	
<b><u>3. Key issues</u></b> <b><u>3.1 Progress updates</u></b> <b><u>3.1.1 Ministerial Visit – Friday 1 November</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Minister of Public Health, Jenny Minto, visited Dumfries and Galloway on 1 November as part of a planned session with the NHS and which the Council also contributed to. The programme for day included discussions on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dental Services</li> <li>- Overview of Community Planning within Dumfries and Galloway</li> <li>- Active Lives Pathway (included a visit to the Easi-obics class within The Bridge)</li> <li>- Child Poverty – discussion with four Dumfries and Galloway Youth Councillors around the launch of the “Through Young Eyes” film and sharing their experiences of being involved with the project</li> <li>- Anchor Organisations</li> <li>- Community Transport</li> <li>- Visit to Summerhill Community Centre</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An overview and feedback from the day will be verbally provided at this meeting.</li> </ul> <b><u>3.1.2 Follow up actions from September CPPB Meeting</u></b> <b><u>3.1.2.1 UNCRC</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in Scotland have been contacted in relation to UNCRC training for Board Members. It is proposed that this training is also extended to CPSLT members with a view to arranging this for early 2025. Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway</li> </ul>	

has also offered the assistance of their lead for Children, Young People and Families to support the session.

- A request was made for additional information to be provided on the Rights Respecting School awards, benefits, and how this is being promoted to parents and this is detailed below:
  - The UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools across the UK to embed children’s human rights in their ethos and culture. The Award recognises achievement in putting the [UN Convention on the Right of the Child](#) at the heart of a school’s practice to improve wellbeing and help all children and young people realise their potential.
  - The Award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. Schools involved in the Award have reported a positive impact on relationships and wellbeing, leading to better learning and behaviour, improved academic standards and less bullying.
  - A video about the award is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RuG0ltHTRUM&t=512s>
- **What does the Award involve?**
  - Schools involved in the Rights Respecting Schools Award work towards the recognition that they have embedded children’s and young people’s rights in their school’s practice and ethos. Schools are required to implement three evidence-based strands that cover the leadership of the school, knowledge and understanding of children’s rights, ethos and relationships and the empowerment of children and young people. There are three levels to the Award:
    - Bronze: Rights Committed
    - Silver: Rights Aware
    - Gold: Rights Respecting
- All three levels of the Award include an element of communication and engagement with the school community, which includes parents and carers. The journey to Gold: Rights Respecting, the highest stage of the Award granted by UNICEF UK, can take three to four years. Silver and Gold accreditations are valid for three years, after which time schools must be re-accredited. Read more about [what a Rights Respecting School is](#).
- **Rights Respecting Schools Award in Dumfries and Galloway**
  - As of June 2024, 110 local schools have achieved at least Bronze level accreditation for RRSA, with 32 achieving Silver and 10 achieving Gold.
  - Following on from the successful ‘Sharing Practice’ festivals which were attended by over 700 multi-agency practitioners, events targeted at parents and carers, but open to all community members, are being developed for 2025. These will be used as a platform to promote UNCRC and the Rights Respecting Schools Award.
  - A new Children’s Services web-platform has also been developed which features a dedicated section on ‘rights’, and this will be subject to a promotional campaign in the coming months.

### 3.1.2.2 Tobacco/Vaping

- As requested at the September Board meeting, a discussion has taken place with the Council's Community Protection Manager to discuss the powers Trading Standards currently have in relation to helping to address concerns raised about Vaping and this has been confirmed as:
  - powers of entry to all business premises that sell vapes and tobacco;
  - taking test purchases for underage sales and powers of seizure and detention of non-compliant vapes or tobacco;
  - As a specialist reporting agency, also able to report offences directly to the Crown Office;
  - issue fixed penalty notices for underage sales;
  - In light of the growing scale of the issue the Service are looking at options for increasing capacity to support these key areas;
  - As an example, 270 illegal vapes were seized from a Town Centre shop at the end of October. This follows on from 117 non-complaint vapes being seized back in September.
- With the enactment of the UK Government Vaping Bill which devolved administrations have pledged to support, these powers will be enhanced, although it is unclear whether this will bring any additional resources to support local authorities in delivering extended powers.
- A draft statement on behalf of the CPP Board and Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council and proposed letter to both the UK and Scottish Governments, as requested by the Board at its September meeting, have been developed and these were considered by the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team on 15 November. The Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents. Final draft statements are presented in **Appendix 1** for approval. It is proposed that the joint statement is issued by the Community Planning Partnership as a formal press release.

### 3.1.3 LOIP Action Plan

- A summary progress overview detailing the current position with the various projects is attached in **Appendix 2**.
- Updated templates in relation to Digital Exclusion and the Disability Employment Gap were discussed and agreed at the November CPSLT meeting and these are attached in **Appendices 3A and 3B** for endorsement.
- Overall, since the projects were originally agreed there has been progress made against all, however timescales have slipped in some cases due to capacity and competing pressures and this may affect the originally outlined end dates. These are being reviewed at the January CPSLT meeting.
- A more detailed verbal update in relation to Anchor Organisations and Community Transport will be provided at this meeting by the respective lead officers.

### 3.1.4 LOIP - 2024/25 Performance Management Framework (PMF)

- The proposed performance management framework for the 2024/25 LOIP report continues to be shaped through the Public Health input into Community Planning (PHICP) Working Group.
- The proposed content is based on some recent benchmarking undertaken across other CPP end of year reports published across the Country.

- It has been suggested through the PHICP Working Group that a “1-3-20” approach could be adopted to help ensure that the document is as succinct as possible (this approach consists of a 1 page outline of the key messages; 3 page executive summary and then 20 pages evidencing impact and that this should be professionally presented).
- The work undertaken through Public Health Scotland has helped to identify and understand the most relevant medium/long term indicators to help evidence progress and compare on a national basis, however in terms of identifying the most relevant short-term indicators it has been agreed to take a closer looking at the indicators already being collated through the supporting Strategic Partnerships and better align these against our LOIP Outcomes where they help to evidence impact.
- Going forward the CPSLT are in agreement that case studies and testimonies should be drawn from the various Community Planning Strategic Partnerships as opposed to individual Partner organisations and this will better demonstrate the broader Community Planning impacts. The format being proposed will look like:
  - Foreword from Co-Chairs
  - Brief background on statutory context
  - Some high level statistics about our region (i.e. info graphs)
  - An analysis of progress and impacts against each of the 12 Outcomes supporting our 3 high level themes of (Health and Wellbeing, Work and Where We Live)
  - This would include examples of strong partnership projects/initiatives which are making a difference
  - Case study/testimonies
  - Short term trend data (particularly in relation to key areas such as Child Poverty, Tackling Health Inequalities, Employability)
  - Medium/Long Term data
  - Summary of LOIP Action Plan projects and impacts (including Locality Plans)
  - Highlighting other key work undertaken through the CPSLT and CPPB throughout the reporting year which has made a positive difference.

### 3.1.5 Communications

- At the November CPSLT meeting a draft Easy Read version of the LOIP was tabled for comment and consideration. The suggestion made through the Localised Working Group meeting was to adopt a similar template model to that used for the Health and Social Care Plan. An updated template using simpler/fewer words and some pictorial icons is attached as a second draft in **Appendix 4**.
- There is also an opportunity to increase awareness of Community Planning and the LOIP by utilising the Council’s Community Bulletin which has a reach of circa 17K individuals. It is suggested that a Community Planning update could be provided on a quarterly basis through this commencing in 2025.

### 4. Recommendation:

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Note** the feedback from the Ministerial visit as detailed at paragraph 3.1.1;

4.2 **Note** the position in relation to UNCRC training and the additional information in relation to the Rights Respecting School award as detailed at paragraph 3.1.2.1;

4.3 **Consider** the position with Tobacco/Vaping as detailed at paragraph 3.1.2.2 and **agree** the joint statement with the Youth Council which would be issued by the Community Planning Partnership through a formal press release; and **agree** the letter to both UK and Scottish Governments as detailed in **Appendix 1**;

4.4 **Consider** the updates on the LOIP Action Plan as detailed in **Appendix 2** and **endorse** the updated project templates as outlined in **Appendices 3A and 3B**;

4.5 **Consider** the outline model for the 2024/25 LOIP Performance Framework as detailed at paragraph 3.1.4; and

4.6 **Consider** the draft Easy Read LOIP document as detailed in **Appendix 4**.

**Stephen Jack**  
**Lifelong Learning Manager**  
19 November 2024

**Appendices (5)**

**Appendix 1 – Joint statement and proposed letter to UK/Scottish Governments**

**Appendix 2 – LOIP Action Plan progress**

**Appendix 3A – Updated LOIP Action Plan – Digital**

**Appendix 3B - Updated LOIP Action Plan – Disability Employment**

**Appendix 4 – Draft Easy Read LOIP**

## APPENDIX 1

### Draft letter to Scottish and UK Governments

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership following discussion at our meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 held in partnership with our Youth Council. At this meeting we took the opportunity to reflect on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and action that we can take as Community Planning Partners to ensure we uphold these rights as is now required by the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024.

Engagement work led by our Local Authorities Youth Work Services called 10,000 Voices <sup>1</sup> in 2023 highlighted that the top issue affecting Young People across our region was smoking and vaping. Following this feedback we have included an action in our Local Outcome Improvement Plan to work with Children and Young People to co-produce and deliver awareness sessions on the harms of tobacco and vaping and we will also be looking at how we can best promote and design our Quit Your Way Services so that young people feel comfortable accessing support to quit smoking or use of e-cigarettes.

We have also been considering what we can do to advocate for UK and Scottish Government Action to uphold Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health. We heard a very clear message from our Youth Council members that children and young people want to be protected from the harm of both tobacco and vaping, the promotion of vaping in particular with brightly coloured packaging and flavours designed to be attractive to children and young people was of grave concern. The Youth Council expressed concern about the as yet unknown health harms of vaping, the environmental impact of vapes and impact of fires related to vaping devices – these concerns were also held by Community Planning Partnership Board members.

At the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September the Community Planning Partners reviewed the Public Health System position statement on stopping tobacco smoking and youth vaping <sup>2</sup> and support its position that there are no public health benefits to vaping for those who have never smoked and that there is no public health benefits to young people vaping and that e-cigarettes are not products for children or young people. The Community Planning Partnership welcomes the work undertaken by both UK and Scottish Governments to introduce the Tobacco and Vapes Bill but we also call for further urgent action in this area from both UK and Scottish Governments on the following areas as outlined in the position statement:

**Price** – introduction of a minimum price for e-cigarettes and a higher minimum price for tobacco.



**Availability**- introduction of a licence fee for shops that sell tobacco and e-cigarettes, this fee could help support local authority enforcement.

**Environment** – we would welcome an urgent consultation on extending restrictions in places that are currently smoke free to also become vape free, especially in areas where there are children and young people.

**Promotion** – Restrictions on flavours, display and packaging of all types of vapes and nicotine products must be implemented to ensure that children and young people are not targeted to start using these products.

**Control** – fixed penalty fines for retailers breaching registrations must be set at a level to act as active deterrent and funding to support enforcement of these penalties will require at least short term increase in funding for local authorities applying fixed penalties.

We thank you for giving the above areas of action consideration.

Kind Regards.

1. 10,000 Voices Consultation 2023 Report. Dumfries and Galloway Council [10,000 Voices Consultation 2023](#)
2. Scottish Public Health System Position Statement Stopping Smoking and Youth Vaping March 2024 [Stopping tobacco smoking and youth vaping](#)



## **Draft Position Statement on behalf of D&G Community Planning Partnership and Youth Council**

At its meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership meet with the local Youth Council.

Our meeting allowed reflection on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and action that we can take as Community Planning Partners to ensure we uphold these rights as is now required by the UNCRC (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024. In the context of Article 24 – Every child has the right to the best possible health we reflected on the findings from the 10,000 Voices <sup>1</sup> Consultation in 2023 which highlighted that the top issue affecting young people across our region was smoking and vaping and the Public Health System position statement on Stopping tobacco smoking and youth vaping <sup>2</sup>.

The Community Planner Partnership (CPP) and Youth Council recognise the significant health harm caused by smoking and are also gravely concerned about the levels of vaping being seen in children and young people across our region.

The CPP and Youth Council support the position that there is no public health benefit to vaping for those who have never smoked and that there is no public health benefits to young people vaping and e-cigarettes are not products for children or young people.

We heard a very clear message from our Youth Council members that children and young people want to be protected from the harm of both tobacco and vaping, the promotion of vaping in particular with brightly coloured packaging and flavours designed to be attractive to children and young people was of grave concern. The Youth Council expressed concern about the health harms of vaping, the environmental impact of vapes and impact of fires related to vaping devices – these concerns were also held by CPP Board members.

The CPP and Youth Council have jointly written to the Scottish and UK government welcoming the introduction of the Tobacco and Vaping Bill and seeking further urgent action to reduce smoking and vaping in children and young people.

The CPP are also taking forward work to co-produce and deliver awareness sessions on the harm of tobacco and vaping and to see how we can best promote and design our Quit Your Way Services so that young people feel comfortable accessing support to quit smoking or use of e-cigarettes.



The CPP and Youth Council are also calling on local retailers to consider how they can play their part in reducing the availability, promotion and marketing of vaping products to children and young people and also give consideration to the significant environmental impacts of single use e-cigarettes.




For information and support on stopping smoking or vaping please contact the Quit Your Way Service on 01556 505713 or 07736 955 211 or email [dg.quityourway@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.quityourway@nhs.scot)



1. 10,000 Voices Consultation 2023 Report. Dumfries and Galloway Council [10,000 Voices Consultation 2023](#)
2. Scottish Public Health System Position Statement Stopping Smoking and Youth Vaping March 2024 [Stopping tobacco smoking and youth vaping](#)

DRAFT


## APPENDIX 2 – LOIP ACTION PLAN PENTANA TEMPLATES (SUMMARY)


Description	Ref	Main named Lead	Main contributors	Progress status	RAG status
<b>Community Wealth Building</b>	1	SoSE (Rob Davidson, strategy Manager - CWB)	Council TSDG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two initial scoping meetings held.</li> <li>• 5 workshops linked to each CWB pillar to be held end of 2024/first quarter 2025.</li> <li>• Some cross-over with the 3<sup>rd</sup> CWB pillar(workforce) and the work ongoing through Anchor Organisations in project 2.</li> <li>• Detail of Council Community Asset Transfers which utilised the Social Value tool being assessed to help build a picture of impact and geographical coverage across the region.</li> </ul>	
<b>Anchor Organisation Benchmarking</b>	2	NHS (Valerie White, Director Public Health)	All CP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial partner workshop took place on Tuesday 18 June with all CP Partners represented and facilitated through Director public Health and Public Health Scotland.</li> <li>• NHS and Skills Development Scotland completed a self-assessment earlier in the year.</li> <li>• Each organisation has now tested out the self-assessment framework. Experiences and learning were shared at a workshop session held on 5 November 2024 facilitated through Director Public Health and Public Health Scotland.</li> <li>• Areas of key strengths and gaps across Partners being identified to help identify shared improvement actions.</li> </ul>	

<b>Climate/Environment</b>	2.1	Council (Sarah Farrell, Climate Emergency Project Officer)	All CP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead contacts from across CP Partners have been identified.</li> <li>• Initial information gathering has commenced including a detailed return from the NHS (including Health and Social Care).</li> <li>• This template is being assessed for consideration across all partners.</li> <li>• Sharing of best practice to be scheduled for first quarter 2025.</li> </ul>	
<b>Reducing the D&amp;G Disability Employment Gap</b>	2.2	Council (Lynne Burgess, Employability, Skills and Partnerships Manager)	Workforce leads from CP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following discussion at the CPSLT, a revised project template has been submitted for consideration at the December CPPB.</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Transport</b>	3	TSDG (Alan Webb, CEO TSDG)	Council SoSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report presented to May CPSLT meeting on key priorities and timelines.</li> <li>• Funding to support a dedicated project post secured through Council, SoSE and NHS.</li> <li>• Following recruitment an appointment has been made and has now started in post.</li> <li>• Programme now integrated to the work of the Community Transport Strategic Development Group (CTSDG), attended by all stakeholders and many CT providers, to ensure the future CT model is designed with integrated transport and community needs at the centre.</li> <li>• A range of visits undertaken and planned with CT providers, partners and communities.</li> </ul>	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revisiting timelines and gateway points with updated profile coming to next CPSLT for assurance.</li> </ul>	
<b>Digital</b>	4	TSDG (Alan Webb) Council (Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager)	Digital leads across CP Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial priority areas identified from TSDG research.</li> <li>Scoping work has commenced.</li> <li>Citizen's Advice Scotland have released information highlighting that the number of clients seeking help to use online devices jumped from 1,932 in 2021/22 to 3,065 in 2023/24.</li> <li>Following recent national updates launched in Autumn 2024 in relation to an Audit Scotland Report on Tackling Digital Exclusion and associated recommendations, and also updated pledges linked to Scotland's Digital Inclusion Charter through SCVO, a revised project template has been developed for further consideration at the December CPPB.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tobacco and Vaping</b>	5	NHS (Abbie Robertson, Team Lead, Quit Your Way)	Council (Youth Work) Other interested partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tobacco and Vaping consensus paper prepared by Director Public Health in preparation for September CPPB.</li> <li>Background research paper produced in partnership with Quit Your Way (QYW) and a student at Glasgow University entitled "<i>What vaping-related attitudes, knowledge, communication practices and behaviour are present among parents of adolescents in a rural area of Scotland, and how do these</i></li> </ul>	

				<p><i>factors influence children’s vaping attitudes and behaviour?”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full paper considered by the CPPB in September and involved input from the D&amp;G Youth Council. The CPPB approved all actions.</li> <li>• A joint statement between CPPB and Youth Council and letter to both Scottish and UK Governments has now been prepared for agreement at the December CPPB meeting.</li> <li>• The first draft of the Tobacco and Vaping Training is now complete and is inclusive of some of the main themes arising from the views of young people surveyed across the region through on-going school work through our Tobacco Control Practitioner.</li> <li>• A meeting has taken place with key partner leads from Youth Work Services and QYW to put initial plans in place for running a series of focus groups with young people attending youth service settings across the region in January 2025. This milestone has been slightly amended to accommodate a request that Youth Services be more involved in the planning of this work in order that a range of young people, including those who are currently vaping and or smoking get the opportunity to feedback. The project is a month behind schedule for finishing a draft presentation and coupled with the beginning of P5-7 early intervention and prevention</li> </ul>	
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				<p>sessions in schools now offered and being delivered in schools across the region by Quit Your Way, this has slightly delayed being able to work with pupils in the 3 secondary schools named in relation to this presentation. It is expected that this work will run alongside the work with focus groups in youth settings taking place in January 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These sessions will be facilitated by Quit Your Way with support from staff running the groups to ensure we can engage with children in an environment that they feel comfortable in, without the need for them to travel and gain requisite permissions.</li> <li>• A facilitated session will take place with the Youth Council to get insight and feedback on the presentation once the January focus groups are complete.</li> <li>• The group are due to meet again in December to ensure that a timetable can be developed for January based on the activity of groups across the region that month.</li> </ul>	
<b>Locality Plan</b>	6	Council (Stuart Hamilton, Ward Manager)	Leads from CP Partners with a remit for Place Locality Hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposed timeline, Locality Plan template and way forward agreed by CPPB on 7 June.</li> <li>• The Nithsdale Locality Hub has reviewed the agreed approach to Locality Planning and the background to Kirkconnel and Kelloholm being selected as the pilot. Dumfries and Galloway Council’s Ward Manager in Upper Nithsdale is</li> </ul>	

				<p>currently undertaking a desk-top review of existing data resources and colleagues within the Community Planning and Engagement Team are providing support to identify further sources of information and insight into this community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An initial desk-top review of existing data resources has been undertaken by Dumfries and Galloway Council’s Ward Manager for Mid &amp; Upper Nithsdale. The Ward Manager with the support of Nithsdale Locality Hub Members is currently gathering further data in relation to specific factors to inform the Needs Assessment. This additional piece of work will be concluded before the end of 2024.</li> <li>• A Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Locality Planning Working Group will meet in January 2025 to consider the Needs Assessment and identify potential themes for intervention. Following this the prioritised themes will be agreed through engagement with the community and thereafter Community Planning Partners will be required to identify interventions that are either already in progress that will contribute to improving the theme or identifying new interventions required.</li> </ul>	
<b>Review of Plans and Strategies</b>	7	Council (Stephen Jack, Lifelong)	Chris Allan, Consultant in Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update report was considered at the August CPSLT meeting detailing the current Strategic Partnerships which contribute to our</li> </ul>	



		learning Manager)	Health (NHS)	<p>Community Planning model and the accompanying Plans/Strategies and how these support the 12 LOIP Outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapping has been undertaken on the supporting delivery plans and a more detailed assessment is underway looking at the various short term performance measures which support the various Strategic Plans with a view to this informing the new LOIP reporting framework.</li></ul>	
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## Appendix 3A

### 4. DIGITAL

## Project (Action) Metadata

This should be completed for both improvement projects and sub actions

Service Business Plan:	Community Planning Partnership Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033
Council Priority and Commitment / Key Function / Transformation Activities that this contributes to:	<p>Contribution to LOIP Themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>• Work</li> <li>• Where We Live</li> </ul> <p>Specific LOIP Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capitalise on opportunities to collaborate digitally and eliminate digital exclusion</li> </ul>
Project/Sub Action Title:	<p>Implement the findings from the TSDG Digital Exclusion Research and accompanying CP Partner Digital Action Plan</p> <p>Consider the recommendations stemming from Audit Scotland's Tackling digital exclusion report published in August 2024 and take forward relevant priority actions from a Dumfries and Galloway perspective</p>
Detailed description:	<p>Identify a realistic number of key actions stemming from the Digital Action Plan which can be taken forward by CP Partners.</p> <p>Implement the key recommendations affecting Community Planning Partners as detailed in the Audit Scotland Report.</p> <p>Make a pledge to support SCVO's updated Digital Inclusion Charter.</p>
Desired outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The digital exclusion research has informed CP Partners' respective Service design</li> <li>• Digital exclusion has reduced with barriers being removed</li> <li>• We have a better understanding of digital support available through Public Bodies and the Voluntary Sector across Dumfries and Galloway</li> </ul>
Planned Start Date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2024</li> </ul>
When was the actual start date of the project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 2024</li> </ul>
Due date:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 2025</li> </ul>
Can this project be segmented at area level? If yes, please provide details:	Some localised examples can be provided

**Appendix 3A**  
**4. DIGITAL**



Is this a sub action? If so, please provide the title of the parent project.	<<Insert code and title of the parent project>>
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## Appendix 3A

### 4. DIGITAL

### Project (Action)Detail – Pentana use

**Project settings - milestones and/or sub projects must only be used to monitor progress and not the progress bar.**

Projects should be set up with sufficient milestones (and/or sub actions with milestones) to provide the assurance that the work is progressing in accordance with the plan and that the desired outcomes will be achieved within the timescale planned. Milestones should be at a level that will allow you to test/scrutinise progress/delivery during monthly monitoring.

Milestone 1	Description	<p>To take forward a key action identified in Audit Scotland's Digital Inclusion report of August 2024 as follows:</p> <p>Work with partners to develop a clear approach to tackling digital exclusion as part of their strategies and plans, based on an understanding of digital exclusion locally, who is affected and how. They should map out local resources and assets across the public, private and third sectors, and provide clear routes to digital support and accessible information on the support available to local communities</p>
	Due Date	March 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 2	Description	<p>Consider the key findings from TSDG's Digital Exclusion research and where gaps/issues were identified. Work with CP Partners to help address the following:</p> <p>Access – capture what CP Partners are currently doing to increase access to digital for those who do not have a device</p> <p>Motivation – Develop a framework for digital volunteering and deploy to help increase motivation/understand benefits of using digital</p> <p>Skills – Improve and increase the provision of our digital skills offer within communities</p> <p>Age – Identify providers who work with the over 80 age group to help target digital support</p> <p>Income – Support those within the lowest income groups to access devices and increase digital skills</p> <p>Disability – Create knowledge transfer between disability groups and sharing of information with multi-agency groups regarding accessibility to digital due to design</p>

## Appendix 3A

### 4. DIGITAL

		<p>Literacy – Build on existing programmes through Lifelong Learning, College and other partners to help remove Literacy as a barrier to digital skills</p> <p>Social Housing – work with RSL's to target support for those who currently are not using digital</p>
	Due Date	June 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 3	Description	Working with BT, run three Landline Digital Switchover knowledge sessions to improve awareness of upcoming changes and increase the likelihood that those most in need of additional support/equipment/provision are identified and registered. This will be further supported by all CP partners promoting access to switchover help and advice through their services/external presence using materials provided from BT via TSDG.
	Due Date	March 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 4	Description	<p>Make a commitment through the Community Planning Partnership Board to sign up to SCVO's updated Digital Participation Charter and the high-level commitments around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding</li> <li>• Approach</li> <li>• Resource</li> <li>• Partnership</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>
	Due Date	March 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 5	Description	Prepare a progress/evidence report on how CP Partners' are working together to tackle digital exclusion and improving connectivity
	Due Date	September 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 6	Description	
	Due Date	
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 7	Description	
	Due Date	
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 8	Description	
	Due Date	
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 9		

## Appendix 3A

### 4. DIGITAL



<i>Add in further milestones as required</i>		
Are there sub-actions/s if so, please provide the title(s)	<<Insert code and title of the sub actions>>	
<b>Ownership</b>		
Head of Service (Managed by)	Alan Webb, CEO, TSDG Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager	
Service Manager or equivalent (Assigned to)		
Officer/s maintaining the data (Administered by)		
Service responsible for the project		
<b>Reporting</b>		
Where will the performance information be reported?	Community Planning Senior Leadership Team/ Community Planning Partnership Board	

## APPENDIX 3B

<b>Project (Action) Reducing D&amp;G Disability Employment Gap</b>	
<b>This should be completed for both improvement projects and sub actions</b>	
Service Business Plan:	Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan
Council Priority and Commitment / Key Function / Transformation Activities that this contributes to:	This area of work contributes to all themes within the LOIP Health and Wellbeing, Work and Where We Live although the main Impact is to Theme 2 - Work
Project/Sub Action Title:	Enable Dumfries and Galloway's public sector employers to lead by example in reducing the disability employment gap.
Detailed description:	Building on the work undertaken by the Local Employability & Skills Partnership in response to an independent review of D&G Disability Employment Gap <a href="#">DGLEP Disability Employment Gap DGLEP_0.pdf (dgemployability.co.uk)</a> . This action will support recommendation 5.1 of the report "Establish a working group to improve public sector recruitment of disabled people annually."
Desired outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an improvement in transitions, support and inclusion in work within the public sector for people with disabilities.</li> <li>• The overall disability Employment Gap in Dumfries and Galloway is reduced.</li> <li>• There is an increase in the number of people within DG public sector with a disability (2.5%)</li> </ul>
Planned Start Date:	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2024
When was the actual start date of the project?	30 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Due date:	Phase 1 – March 2025
Can this project be segmented at area level? If yes, please provide details:	N/A
Is this a sub action? If so, please provide the title of the parent project.	<<Insert code and title of the parent project>>

## APPENDIX 3B

<b>Project (Action) Detail – Pentana use</b>		
<b>Project settings - milestones and/or sub projects <u>must</u> only be used to monitor progress and not the progress bar.</b>		
Projects should be set up with sufficient milestones (and/or sub actions with milestones) to provide the assurance that the work is progressing in accordance with the plan and that the desired outcomes will be achieved within the timescale planned. Milestones should be at a level that will allow you to test/scrutinise progress/delivery during monthly monitoring.		
Milestone 1	Description	Meeting held with DGC leads to gain commitment to take action to support recommendation 5.1
	Due Date	September 2024
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 2	Description	Establish a working group involving key partners from within DGC who have an interest in reducing the disability employment gap to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a shared commitment to take action to increase the number of disabled individuals recruited by DGC</li> <li>• To map the existing data and develop accurate baseline</li> <li>• Review existing recruitment practices and identify areas for innovation and improvement</li> <li>• Begin to develop a workplan</li> </ul>
	Due Date	October 2024
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 3	Description	Reconvene working group to focus on the priorities; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reviewing mainstream recruitment and retention approaches</li> <li>2. Reviewing relevant policies and procedures</li> <li>3. Strengthening and developing links to specialist/ tailored interventions</li> <li>4. To build partnerships with other anchor organisations</li> <li>5. Use data and evidence to understand and improve access to opportunities within DGC for those with disabilities.</li> <li>6. Create opportunities for the voices of those with lived experience to shape the way forward.</li> </ol>
	Due Date	December 2024
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 4	Description	Monitor workplan
	Due Date	February 2025
	Weighting (if required)	
Milestone 5	Description	
	Due Date	March 2025
	Weighting (if required)	Review workplan – including creating new annual plan.
<i>Add in further milestones as required</i>		
Are there sub-actions/s if so, please		<<Insert code and title of the sub actions>>












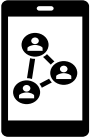
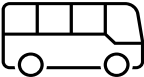

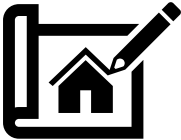

## APPENDIX 3B



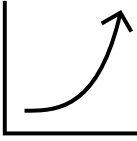
provide the title(s)	
<b>Ownership</b>	
Head of Service (Managed by)	Head of Thriving Communities
Service Manager (Assigned to)	Employability, Skills & Partnerships Manager
Officer/s maintaining the data (Administered by)	
Service responsible for the project	Thriving Communities
<b>Reporting</b>	
Where will the performance information be reported?	Community Planning Senior Leadership Team/ Community Planning Partnership Board

APPENDIX 4

LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023-2033 (Easy Read version)

	<p><b>What is Community Planning?</b></p> <p>It is a process where large public bodies such as Council's, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue work together with the voluntary sector, local groups and organisations and communities to help improve the lives of people within our local communities.</p>
	<p><b>Is there a legal requirement?</b></p> <p>Yes, Community Planning Partnerships are required to produce a Plan referred to as a Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. This is stated as part of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.</p>
	<p><b>What is the aim of the Plan?</b></p> <p>To make Dumfries and Galloway a better, fairer place for everyone who lives and works within our region.</p> <p>Our Plan was agreed in September 2023 by the Community Planning Partnership Board.</p>
	<p><b>What are some of the key challenges facing our region?</b></p> <p>A declining population and particularly those who are of a working age.</p> <p>Increase in Child Poverty.</p> <p>An ageing population.</p> <p>More people are living with long-term health conditions.</p> <p>Increased demand for Health and Social Care Services.</p>
	<p><b>What are some of the things we want to achieve?</b></p> <p>Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.</p>

       	<p>Reduce some of the health inequalities that exist in our communities – for example, certain groups of people have poorer health and live shorter lives.</p> <p>Support those, particularly those most vulnerable, that are still struggling with the impacts of the cost of living.</p> <p>Helping more of our working age population to secure good employment.</p> <p>Provide training, skills, apprenticeship and volunteering opportunities across our Community Planning Partners to help fill gaps in our workforce.</p> <p>Increase support to help improve digital skills and access to devices for those who are experiencing digital exclusion. Increase broadband speed and mobile phone network coverage, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>Further develop our Community Transport model to increase access opportunities for those who currently face rural isolation.</p> <p>Help our environment by reducing Carbon Emissions and combatting climate change with our main public bodies (Anchor Organisations) leading by example.</p> <p>Help to address the housing emergency through the provision of better quality and more affordable homes.</p>
	<p><b>Locality Plans</b> Community Planning Partnerships also need to identify specific communities within their region which experience greater health and economic challenges compared with other areas.</p>

	<p>A more focused plan is then developed with the local community and partners to help address local challenges.</p> <p>The Community Planning Partnership has identified 8 geographic areas across the region which would benefit from a Locality Plan.</p> <p>As part of an initial pilot, the Kirkconnel/Kelloholm area within Upper Nithsdale will be the first area to have a Plan developed in partnership with the local community.</p>
  	<p><b>How will we know we are getting there?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular progress checks and scrutiny by the Community Planning Board and partners.</li> <li>• Listening to our communities.</li> <li>• Building in feedback/suggestions from those who have lived experience.</li> <li>• Measure progress against national and local statistics.</li> <li>• Gather impact stories and case studies.</li> <li>• Publish our progress on an annual basis.</li> </ul>



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
– WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 4**

<b>Authors:</b> <b>Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager</b> <b>Liz Manson – Community Planning and Engagement Manager</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities</b>
<b>Report Title: Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033 Annual Report 2023/24</b>	
<b>1. Situation:</b>	
<p>1.1 The report provides an update on the development of the LOIP Annual Reports for 2023/24.</p>	
<b>2. Background:</b>	
<p>2.1 At the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 1 September 2023, Board Members approved the new LOIP and agreed that this would be kept as a “live” document and updated as and when important new data and intelligence becomes available such as key messages from the Census.</p>	
<p>2.2 The Community Planning Performance Framework includes within it the publication of the statutory Annual Report on the LOIP; and that it will contain quantitative and qualitative performance information from across partners.</p>	
<p>2.3 The new national body Public Health Scotland committed to support Community Planning Partnerships with dedicated resource; and the approach taken by our CPP was to establish a Localised Working Group which would support our work on the LOIP and help develop the background Profiles for the Locality Plans. The core membership of the Group comprised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Valerie White, Director Public Health, NHSD&amp;G</li> <li>- Chris Allan, Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership (DGH&amp;SCP)</li> <li>- Kirstin McNicol, Public Health Scotland</li> <li>- Stephen Jack, D&amp;G Community Planning</li> <li>- Other specialist and advisors as required on an Ad-Hoc basis</li> </ul>	
<p>Although PHS has changed its support arrangements and is no longer actively involved, the Localised Working Group, now named Public Health input into Community Planning, continues meet on a regular basis to develop the LOIP Action Plans and any proposed changes to the LOIP itself as required at 2.1.</p>	
<p>2.4 An outline Performance Framework for the Annual Report 2023/24 was considered by the Senior Leadership Team on 17 May 2024 where it was agreed each of the 12 Outcomes should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a small number of national Indicators which give trend information as well as the current year’s performance to give a long-term strategic overview;</li> </ul>	

- a small selection of partners' projects and services undertaken during the reporting year, which support different vulnerable groups and/or address different aspects of the Outcome; and a Case Study and/or Personal Testimony - giving a deeper dive into a project or activity undertaken by a partner(s) and detailing any lessons learned for the future and evidences the impact a project or service has had on an individual's wellbeing.

2.5 There was particular support for having a greater focus on the relevant national Indicators being developed around Place and Wellbeing as well as the incorporating the Indicators in the Improvement Service's Local Outcomes Profiles which are presented with a clear 'red/amber/green' assessment and therefore contribute to the assessment of the current position for each Outcome.

### **3. Key issues**

3.1 A menu of 76 possible performance indicators, identified by the Community Planning Senior Leadership Team (CPSLT) and supported by the Localised Working Group were identified, split across the 12 Outcomes of the LOIP and a selection of these have been used within the 2023/24 LOIP Annual Report.

3.2 The local projects/actions have been suggested by partners, drawn from the various performance reports produced for 2023/24.

3.3. The Personal Testimonies and Case Studies have been drawn from the Commission on Representation and Engagement (Third Sector and Protected Characteristics) and partners' suggestions.

3.4 The draft LOIP Annual Report for 2023/24 was considered by the CPSLT on 15 November and comments received have been reflected in the updated version which is attached in the **Appendix**. Updated figures may be available within our timescale for a small number of national Indicators and will be advised to the Board. Comments and suggestions from the Board are invited for the final version. Once approved, the document will be designed and will include relevant pictures/graphics along with a Foreword by the Co-Chairs.

3.5 The overall position shows that we have made good progress in two Outcomes and satisfactory progress in ten Outcomes.

#### **Future Annual Reports**

3.6 As previously highlighted to the CPPB, due to the previous LOIP coming to an end and the new LOIP being agreed at mid point during a reporting year (September 2024), we are very much in a transitional phase as we move towards a new Performance Framework for 2024/25 and beyond. The intention is that this will focus on the added value of partnership working through the Community Planning Thematic Partnerships and associated impacts on our local communities as opposed to drawing on the performance data and key work from individual partner agencies.

3.7 Work is also taking place at national level to support a wide range of performance data being available to Community Planning Partnerships to give an overview of all aspects of work in each area and provide comparative assessments.

**4. Recommendation:**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Consider** and provide any comments on the content of the 2023/24 LOIP Annual Report;

4.2 **Agree** the progress assessment as set out in 3.5; and

4.2 **Note** the arrangements for future Annual Reports as detailed at paragraph 3.6 and 3.7.

12 November 2024

**Appendices (1)**

**Appendix 1** - 2023/24 LOIP Annual Report as at 12 November 2024

**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023 -2033  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24**

**Summary of Progress**






Outcome 1	satisfactory progress
Outcome 2	satisfactory progress
Outcome 3	satisfactory progress
Outcome 4	satisfactory progress
Outcome 5	satisfactory progress
Outcome 6	good progress
Outcome 7	satisfactory progress
Outcome 8	satisfactory progress
Outcome 9	satisfactory progress
Outcome 10	good progress
Outcome 11	satisfactory progress
Outcome 12	satisfactory progress






**Key to assessment**




<b>Poor progress</b>	all performance indicators and projects are red or amber; and the case studies and personal testimonies identify areas for significant improvement
<b>Satisfactory progress</b>	performance indicators and projects are a mix of red, amber and green; and the case studies and personal testimonies identify positive outcomes
<b>Good progress</b>	there are no red performance indicators or projects; and the case studies and personal testimonies identify positive outcomes



### Key to symbols

Performance Indicator Status	
	Alert
	Warning
	OK
	Not Applicable
	Data Only





Project Status	
	Cancelled
	Overdue
	Check progress
	On schedule
	Completed



Long Term Trends		
	Improving	Performance is improving but there may be short term or annual variations
	No change	No significant statistical change in performance
	Getting worse	Performance has declined but there may be short term or annual variations

Other symbols	
*	Indicator is included in the Community Planning Outcomes Profile - a set of Scotland-wide core measures which Community Planning Partnerships are encouraged to use in their LOIPs and Locality Plans.

Sources			
CPOP	Community Planning Outcomes Profile	SFRS	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
DAGCOL	Dumfries and Galloway College	SG	Scottish Government
DGC	Dumfries and Galloway Council	SHS	Scottish Household Survey
Ofcom	The Office of Communications	SOSE	South of Scotland Enterprise
ONS	Office of National Statistics	SPHO	Scottish Public Health Observatory
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency	TSDG	Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

### Outcome 1 - Help mitigate the impacts of the cost-of-living for those who are affected most

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Median Earnings*	CPOP	To monitor income for adults who are employed on adult rates of pay not affected by absence.	D&G: £476.83 Scotland: £540.43		
Out of Work Benefits*	CPOP	To monitor percentage of the population aged 16-64 years in receipt of out of work benefits.	D&G: 15.4% Scotland: 14.4%		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Value of additional benefits identified through Financial Inclusion Advice income maximisation services which focus on pension age benefits	DGC	To increase income for a key protected characteristic of age (older people).	£4.816m additional Benefits achieved against a target of £4m	
Crisis Grant Processing Time	DGC	To process applications within target time of next working day.	D&G: 0.9 days Scotland: 1 day	

### Case Study - Assisting people with disabilities to access energy and food vouchers (DGVoice)

With the support of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Tackling Poverty and Inequalities funding we have been able to help 55 people with energy vouchers and around 85 people with food vouchers across the region, so far. These are people who either have a disability or care for someone in their family who has.

One gentleman has requested support on a number of occasions, as he simply cannot manage on his pension. This gentleman's ability to manage his income is out of his control, as the money coming in does not cover his outgoings, due to the unforeseen catastrophic increase in energy and food prices and not because he has been irresponsible with money. He has cut his shopping to a bare minimum, has lost weight because of it; is walking everywhere to save money and has phoned when he has credit, or walked several miles to call in in person, when he finds himself without phone credit. He has significant health concerns with COPD and also other serious long-term conditions. DG Voice has been able to support him through the worst times and enabled him to quickly get access to food and electricity.

**Personal Testimony - Andrew's story - accessing support in a remote rural area (LGBT Plus)**

Andrew is a 46-year-old gay man living in a remote part of Dumfries and Galloway. This personal testimony highlights the importance of a holistic approach to wellbeing that addresses both mental health and financial stability.

**Support Services and Mental Health Concerns**

Andrew's journey began with support services in Dumfries and Galloway, which recognised his mental health concerns and the need for intervention. Access to mental health support is crucial for individuals in the LGBT+ community, as they often face discrimination and social stigma that can lead to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. The support service provided a safe space for Andrew to address these concerns.

**Financial support**







To help mitigate the financial impacts of the cost-of-living, vouchers can be distributed which support:



- Food Security: Supermarket vouchers allowed Andrew to purchase nutritious food, ensuring he had access to regular meals, which is essential for overall well-being.
- Communication: The vouchers also helped top up Andrew's mobile phone and internet, enabling him to stay connected with support services, friends, and family. In remote areas, phone connectivity can be vital for maintaining social ties and accessing help in emergencies.
- Transportation: Andrew used the vouchers to buy fuel for his trips to the hospital and doctor appointments. Lack of transportation options is a common issue in remote areas, and this support facilitated access to healthcare services.

**Outcomes**

- Better engagement with Services: Andrew felt more connected and supported in his journey to better mental health. This engagement is crucial for long-term well-being.
- Reduced Isolation: Financial support helped alleviate some of the social isolation as Andrew was able to participate in community activities and maintain social connections, improving his overall quality of life.
- Improved Well-Being: Andrew's mental health improved as he received the necessary support and resources to address his concerns.

## Outcome 2 - Reduce health inequalities in the areas of our region which experience the greatest negative impacts

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Alcohol specific deaths	SPHO	Age-sex standardised rate per 100,000 (5-year rolling average).	D&G: 15.9 Scotland: 21.4		
Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE)	SPHO	Healthy Life Expectancy is an estimate (3-year aggregate) of how many years a person might live in a 'healthy' state.	D&G: Male 62.3 / Female 59.2 Scotland: M 60.4 / F 61.1		
Primary 1 Body Mass Index (BMI)*	CPOP	Percentage of Primary 1 school children with a healthy Body Mass Index. BMI higher than 0.4th centile and less than 91st centile.	D&G: 79.9% Scotland: 81.4%		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Deliver Active Communities physical activity programme which supports older adults with long term conditions.	DGC	People are active, resilient and improving their health and wellbeing	Progress: 100%	
Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	TSDG	To support initiatives promoting mental health and wellbeing at a small scale, grass roots, community level to those aged 16 and over.	30 projects in Dumfries and Galloway were funded, totalling £440,217	

### Case Study - Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust – combatting social exclusion and isolation

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund has as its overarching aim to support community-based initiatives that promote and develop good mental health and wellbeing and/or mitigate and protect against the impact of distress and mental ill health within the adult population (aged 16 or over), with a particular focus on prevention and early intervention.

Specifically, it aims to:

- Tackle mental health inequalities through supporting a range of 'at risk' groups.
- Address priority issues of social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention and poverty and inequality with a particular emphasis on responding to the cost-of-living crisis and support to those facing socio-economic disadvantage.
- Support small 'grass roots' community groups and organisations to deliver such activities.
- Provide opportunities for people to connect with each other, build trusted relationships and revitalise communities.

The priorities for the Fund in Dumfries and Galloway are based on the existing strategic context at national and regional levels:

















- Social isolation and loneliness.
- Suicide prevention.
- Poverty and inequality with a particular emphasis on responding to the cost-of-living crisis and support to those facing socio-economic disadvantage.



The Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Trust has been successful in securing awards from the Fund in Round 1 - a Good Share project with a value of £30,000 which created libraries of resources and equipment available to the community; trained volunteers and community ambassadors; Food Share and Check and Chat Services. Building on this, in Round 3 the Trust secured £45,000 for a community-led approach to tackling poverty and inequalities and combatting social exclusion and loneliness. It focuses on addressing health needs, combatting food poverty, and tackling social isolation. The plan includes continuing services like the Check and Chat Service and Warm Hub, funding for a Part-time Support Worker, financial advice, transportation and additional resources. The end result is a sustainable service supporting the wellbeing of vulnerable residents.

The Good Share Project achieved the following outcomes:

- People in Upper Nithsdale feel less socially isolated and able to live independently in their own homes contributing to the development of a more connected, resilient and stronger community.
- People have access to support services and activities that contribute to the fund outcome of more people both feeling safe and being supported and able to manage their mental health and well-being.
- Local people have access to activities, resources, information and advice to support their mental health and well-being - contributing to both the removal of barriers to advice, support and services to reduce the health and social care inequalities and to ensuring that more people being supported to manage their mental health distress or crisis.
- Strong and robust partnerships are in place to support local people that contribute to the fund outcome of ensuring safer and more effective care and support for mental health and well-being that improve people's chosen outcomes and lived experience.

### Outcome 3 - Improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens through targeted approaches

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
People aged 65+ with high levels of care needs who are cared for at home	SPHO	Percentage of people aged 65+ with high levels of care needs who are cared for at home	D&G: 49.8% Scotland: 36.7%		
Crime Rate*	CPOP	Number of crimes and offences per 10,000 population	D&G: 1895 Scotland: 1270		
Dwelling Fires*	CPOP	Number of dwelling fires per 100,000 population	D&G: 60.4 Scotland: 79.0		
Emergency Admissions*	CPOP	Number of emergency hospital admissions (for those aged 65+) per 100,000 population (aged 65+)	D&G: 21884.00 Scotland: 23112.59		
Unplanned Hospital Attendances*	CPOP	Number of emergency department attendances per 100,000 population	D&G: 29705.63 Scotland: 24101.59		
Healthy Birthweight*	CPOP	Percentage of babies with a healthy birthweight	D&G: 79.60% Scotland: 80.44%		
Early Mortality*	CPOP	Number of European age standardised deaths for persons under 75 per 100,000 persons per year	D&G: 401 Scotland: 448		
Wellbeing*	CPOP	Average of estimates of life satisfaction, happiness and anxiety	D&G: 7.36 Scotland: 7.35		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant which includes support for current and former Service personnel.	DGC	Armed Forces Covenant includes support for current and former Service personnel, especially with Education and Housing needs.	Progress: 100%	
Number of Let's Motivate training sessions delivered to care staff and volunteers	DGC	Specialist physical activity training programme for care homes or community groups working with older people.	Value: 10 Target: 6	

### Case Study - Empowering our LGBT community







Empowering individuals and communities within the LGBT+ community is a crucial step towards creating a more inclusive and equitable society. Our holistic support is as follows:


- **Education and Awareness:** Help to provide educational opportunities to increase awareness about the importance of civic engagement and participation. Conduct workshops and groups that address the unique challenges faced by the LGBT+ community and the role individuals can play in shaping our communities.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Establish mentorship / peer support programs where experienced members of the LGBT+ community can guide and support newcomers. These mentors can help individuals build confidence, navigate the complexities of participation, and offer advice on joining boards or councils.
- **Skills Development:** Offer training programs that focus on developing the skills needed for effective participation. This can include workshops on public speaking, leadership, advocacy, and conflict resolution.
- **Creating Safe Spaces:** Ensure that there are safe and inclusive spaces where individuals can express themselves without fear of discrimination or prejudice. This can be physical spaces or online platforms, depending on the community's preferences.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Facilitate networking events and gatherings where individuals can connect with like-minded peers and potential mentors. Building a strong support network is crucial for empowerment.
- **Access to Information:** Provide easy access to information about opportunities to join boards, community councils, or advocacy groups. Make sure individuals are aware of open positions, eligibility criteria, and application processes.


- **Support for Public Speaking:** Offer public speaking training and opportunities for LGBT+ individuals to share their stories and experiences (Human Library). This can help build their confidence and encourage them to speak up in various settings.
- **Advocacy Training:** Teach individuals about advocacy techniques and strategies. Encourage them to champion causes that are important to the LGBT+ community and provide guidance on how to effectively advocate for change.
- **Mobilising Resources:** Support initiatives that provide financial assistance and /or resources to individuals who want to participate in boards or community councils but may face economic barriers. Removing financial obstacles can make participation more accessible.
- **Collaboration with Allies:** Encourage collaboration between the LGBT+ community and allies who can help amplify voices and provide additional resources and opportunities.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish clear and accessible feedback mechanisms so that individuals feel their opinions are valued and that their input can lead to meaningful change.
- **Visibility and Representation:** Promote representation of LGBT+ individuals in leadership roles within boards, community councils, and community organisations. Seeing fellow community members in influential positions can inspire others to get involved.
- **Celebrating Successes:** Recognise and celebrate the achievements of individuals who have successfully joined boards, councils, or advocacy groups. Highlight their contributions to inspire others.



### Outcome 4 - Work together as partners to eliminate child poverty

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
% uptake free school meals	SG	Percentage of pupils taking free school meals out of those registered.	Primary: D&G 86.6% Scotland 72.1%  Secondary: D&G 63.7% Scotland 62.7%  Special: D&G 81.8% Scotland 78.0%		
Child Poverty*	CPOP	Percentage of children in low-income families.	D&G: 27.15% Scotland: 22.99		
Attainment*	CPOP	Average attainment percentage, based on highest level of qualification achieved by school leavers.	D&G: 5.6 Scotland: 5.6		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Deliver the free school uniform and warm winter clothes projects	DGC	To reduce expenditure	1350 items of school uniforms distributed;  1,258 items of warm winter clothing collected	

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Summer of Play for Children and Young People	DGC	Free summer events and activities specifically targeted to children and young people who sit within the six priority groups as included within region's Annual Child Poverty Action Plan report.	10,069 children and young people aged 5-16 years old took part in at least of one of the activities on offer.	

### Case Study - Accessible Financial Wellbeing Support for Priority Families Project

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service (DAGCAS) has developed and are currently delivering the above pilot project as a proof of concept in conjunction with NHS Dumfries and Galloway. It is developing, implementing and evaluating measures to provide greater access to financial wellbeing support for priority families in family, children and community settings across Dumfries and Galloway.

This is being achieved through the provision of 2 Financial Capability Advisers (covering East and West) who are linking closely and building relationships with community-based staff from NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the Third Sector to deliver financial wellbeing and wider advice and support.

DAGCAS will also be working with specific staff groups to deliver this project such as NHS Community Link Workers and Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Development Workers and Ward Workers.

We wish to formalise this project to deliver more outreach to more areas within our vision of Right Place; Right Time; Right Way, thereby increasing the geographical expansion into additional locations and to reach more vulnerable groups including (but not limited to) the following:

- Outreach to schools as well as within NHS settings e.g. to Parents at 9am after they have dropped the children off
- Partnership working with Aberlour, Quarriers, Family Placement team (they deal with kinship carers and foster carers)
- Outreach to independent Toddlers Groups, private nurseries etc
- Promotional work at local celebratory events such as gala days and village days

Our project supports all of the following primary focuses of the Child Poverty Practice Accelerator Fund (CPAF) Round 2 proposals:

- identification of potential improvements to service design and delivery that could improve the impact of existing activity to tackle child poverty
- improving the uptake and engagement of priority families with services
- improving the understanding, targeting and monitoring and evaluation of activities' impact on tackling child poverty
- bringing a greater range of services and sectors to bear on tackling child poverty efforts

This project will test approaches to accelerate action to tackle child poverty as well as providing support to enhance our area's approach to tackling child poverty. This small-scale project will generate evidence on a known problem as well as adapting a promising approach to re-design an existing service to deliver greater impact on child poverty. This project will also evaluate a promising approach, while adapting an effective pilot to be delivered at a larger scale, while testing an effective approach in another setting.







There is a clear case for testing a new model of service delivery specifically targeting priority families that could be integrated into future service delivery as we already have evidence of effectiveness through the following results which have been achieved by the project to date:




- Approximately 90 introductory sessions using multi-channel approaches including 22 in-person awareness-raising sessions carried out
- 16 priority referrals addressed
- £52, 000 in financial gains returned to 38 client families supported thus far

Our project proves there is a clear additionality through targeted work to improve the experience of priority families and connectivity between different services.

We will be successfully targeting all of the following Priority Groups: lone parent households, minority ethnic households, households with three or more children, households with a baby under one, households where an adult or child is disabled and households with a mother under 25.

### Outcome 5 - Grow and maximise the potential of the working age population to help increase employability

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Positive Destination*	CPOP	Percentage of school leavers in positive and sustained destinations.	D&G: 95.6% Scotland 92.8%		
% of Households that are workless	ONS	To measure on an annual basis the percentage of workless households.	D&G: 24.4% Scotland 17.4%		
Dependency ratio (the population of children and older people expressed as a percentage of people aged 16 to 64)	SG	To have a sustainable and growing working age population.	D&G: 73.75 Scotland: 57.52		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Number of people engaged in entrepreneurship	SOSE	To evidence impact of Awakening Entrepreneurial Talent, one of six areas of strategic focus.	1,455 people engaged in entrepreneurship	
Working with partners, deliver the Local Employability Programme	DGC	To provide positive interventions which support local people.	Progress: 100%	
Build on and extend the success of the Kickstart model for work experience and training	DGC	To fund a further 30 placements for local unemployed people to gain work experience and develop their skills.	Progress: 100%	

## Case study - Addressing the Disability Employment Gap in Dumfries and Galloway

In 2016, the Scottish Government set out an ambition to halve Scotland's Disability Employment Gap (DEG), the difference between the proportion of disabled people employed and non-disabled people employment. With a target to achieve this by 2038 and Action Plan to support it, currently Scotland is ahead of target - meeting its milestone for 2023 last year.

Dumfries and Galloway's DEG has increased by 4% since 2016 and, at 40.4%, makes it the lowest performing region/area in Scotland. To investigate the factors affecting this and develop an appropriate response the LEP commissioned an independent expert to produce a plan for reducing the Disability Employment Gap in Dumfries and Galloway which was published in February 2024.

















The report concluded that the lack of significant progress in Dumfries and Galloway in relation to the DEG can be attributed to a combination of economic factors, exacerbated by local factors that include limited transitions support for disabled school leavers; a lack of specialist employability provision to effectively engage and support disabled people into work, and a lack of support for employers to access workplace equality skills and disabled candidates.


In order for Dumfries and Galloway to halve its 2022 DEG by 2038, it requires a long-term strategy to support 5,037 disabled people into employment in the region - an average of 336 people annually. A Report commissioned by the Local Employability Partnership resulted in recommendations being agreed to:

- Improve transitions support for disabled school leavers.
- Establish specialist employment support across the region.
- Continue work to improve coordination and management of the existing employability provision.
- Foster greater alignment and inclusivity across local businesses.
- Enable Dumfries and Galloway's public sector employers to lead by example.

There are now 35 'Disability Confident' Employers in our region.

**Outcome 6 - Address the skills and recruitment gaps in key sector specific posts to increase capacity, capabilities and ease workforce pressures**

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend	
Population aged 16-64 with low/no qualifications	ONS	% of resident population of area aged 16-64 below SCQF4 or no qualifications	D&G: 15.7% Scotland: 20.3%			
Employment by industry in region	ONS	% proportion of total employee jobs	Health and social work activities	19.6		
			Wholesale and retail trade	16.1		
			Accommodation and food service	10.7		
			Education	8.9		
			Manufacturing	8.9		
			Administrative and support services	5.4		
			Transportation and storage	5.4		
			<a href="#">(Largest sectors 2023</a> excludes HM Forces and farm-based agriculture)			

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Continue to support the Advanced Manufacturing (AIMS) project working with Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders colleges and local businesses and entrepreneurs.	DGC	To support businesses and individuals in Dumfries and Galloway to innovate, develop, prove, and introduce new products and services.	Progress: 100%	

### Case Study - Addressing staffing and skills shortages in Health and Social Care





A range of programmes were delivered in 2023/24 to address the short, medium and long-term staff shortages across key clinical staff groups within Health and Social Care.


In Nursing, Allied Health Professional (AHP) and Midwifery we continued our international recruitment programme which focused on addressing shortages across inpatient care. A key part of this programme saw us increase support in practice and development of those individuals in order to retain them long term. We embedded our newly qualified staff recruitment programme for a second year which has enabled us to recruit newly qualified staff to account for upcoming retirements. We have continued to build strong links with the University of the West of Scotland (UWS) and Dumfries College with an increased commitment to support placements for HND level students. The collaborative working has seen the creation of a new entry programme to Nursing that feeds into the 2nd year Nursing Degree at UWS. A skills review of our Health Care Support Worker roles was also undertaken across the organisation which saw many staff upgraded and a programme of upskilling and role creation taking place to enable this staff group to safely undertake appropriate clinical tasks. We also continued with the development of nursing staff into Advanced Nurse Practitioners who play a key role in providing patient care.

For medical and Dental staff, we attended conferences and job fairs to promote the region and increased our efforts to fill medical posts on a permanent basis. We actively took part in a number of national rural and remote recruitment meetings to address the shortages nationally and participated in learning sessions with our Centre for Workforce Supply and other NHS Board areas to look at what we can do together moving into 24/25 to improve attraction and retention of medical staff.

A number of bespoke local recruitment events, and social media campaigns took place that successfully saw a number of AHP and GP staff recruited to the region and we have also successfully continued to drive and deliver our Young People programme across the Health and Social Care Sector, engaging with nearly 500 students at our Inspiring Futures events and offering over 90, weeklong Work Experience placements for school age students age 15 plus.

### Outcome 7 - Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into local employability

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Volunteering rates	SHS	% of adults who have done some form of volunteering in the last 12 months (SHS 2022)	D&G: 29% Scotland: 46%		
Employment Rate*	CPOP	Percentage of the economically active population (aged 16-64) who are in employment	D&G: 67.7% Scotland: 73.8%		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Number of volunteers supporting Youth Work and Lifelong Learning activities	DGC	To support the delivery of Youth Work and Lifelong Learning activities	511 volunteers in 2023/24	

### Case Study - Lockerbie Academy Charity Fair - volunteering and the opportunities for working in the third sector

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) in partnership with Lockerbie Academy held a Charity Fair to introduce pupils of all ages to volunteering and the opportunities for working in the third sector. We invited charities across Lockerbie to attend the event and to make their stalls as interactive as possible.

We found that during the event some pupils had prepared questions to ask the organisations in attendance and even though the main focus for the charities was to recruit new volunteers and promote their services, there were a several senior pupils that expressed an interest in work opportunities in the third sector locally. As part of TSDG work we have a focus on employability, and we had a manned stall to show all the organisations across the region were young people to gain further skills or work.

The event was successful with 14 organisations attending the event. They took the opportunity to speak to nearly every year group in the school. The feedback from the event was positive and the due to its success the school would like this to be a standing event at the end of each academic year. For TSDG looking forward it would be our aim to have a greater emphasis on working in the third sector at future events.



**Personal Testimony - Volunteering with the DGMA**





I have been a member/service user with DGMA for more than 13 years. I cannot think of life without the DGMA in Dumfries and Galloway. It's been a great support for me and my family; especially my children have enjoyed DGMA's activities for kids so much. They taught my children how to do art and to make candles, soap, jewellery, perfume etc.




I have really enjoyed attending the ESOL classes, particularly the grammar course online in evenings which helped me look after my children at the same time. I also attended the Driving Theory Test Course which was arranged by DGMA and delivered by the Council's Lifelong Learning Team to gain a better understanding of the real experience of the theory test.

I have now started to volunteer with the DGMA as a shop assistant for a couple of days a week while my children are in school, and I go home in time to pick them up afterwards. I am still learning, and play an active role in presentation at the shop. I take pride in my work and I've felt so satisfied with the work I was assigned, which has been recognised and appreciated by the other team members. I think getting this valuable experience in the shop will help me improve my chances of getting a job by building up a better CV.

I have many questions and enquiries about my situations in life, e.g. household bills, health situations, printing needs, lots of daily tasks and customs in Scotland that I don't know much about it, but I can ask the staff in DGMA and I always get help and the advice I need. DGMA is a very good place for me and the wider community members. The services are good, and there are plenty learning opportunities.

**Outcome 8 - Work with our local communities to develop an inclusive, thriving economy and to promote Fair Work**

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance (latest available data)	Status	Long Trend
Business Survival*	CPOP	Proportion of newly-born enterprises surviving 3 years	D&G: 61.6% Scotland: 57.4%		
Fragility*	CPOP	A combined index of three indicators: depopulation; old age dependency ratio; and rural depopulation. A rising index indicates an increasingly fragile demographic.	D&G: 111.0 Scotland: 109.2		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Number of real Living Wage jobs supported (created, safeguarded, or transitioned)	SOSE	Evidencing impact of Advocating for Fair Work and Equalities	377 new jobs created 1,316 jobs safeguarded 13 jobs transitioned	
Help communities to develop place plans and deliver their ambitions, through engagement and advice to communities working with local partners.	DGC	Rural communities and places are vibrant and thriving	Progress: 100%	
Provide funding and support for a wide range of community led economic regeneration across the region, through the development of viable projects.	DGC	To fund and support community led economic regeneration projects such as Stranraer Furniture Project, Carsphairn Rural Skills Centre, Space to Grow Moffat, Lets Get Sporty, Glenluce Healthy Living and Langholm Primary School.	Progress: 100%	

## Case Study - The promotion of Fair Work in the Cultural Strategy

The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy 2022-2030 was developed through extensive engagement and is providing the framework for our culture, creativity and heritage sector to enhance its sustainability, and to continue to grow.

It has 'People' as one of its three Themes as supporting the next generation of cultural, creative and heritage practitioners is essential and as well as expanding our culture, creativity and heritage sector's already significant contribution to our economy, it also seeks to ensure that this contribution is acknowledged and valued.







Fair Work is seen to be especially important for a sector that is often driven by the 'gig' economy. Sole traders, freelancers, creative micro-businesses and volunteers are the backbone of our region's cultural economy and so there are specific Objectives to make a positive difference:




- Support the development of high-quality creative, cultural and heritage activity programmes that give our creative and culture sector the opportunity to develop their potential'
- Work to retain and attract talent to our region and support opportunities for young people to create and engage with creative, cultural and heritage activity in their local area.
- Apply Fair Work principles across the cultural, creative and heritage workforce – in particular, ensuring freelancers, sole traders, volunteers and professionals working to support the sector have equal rights and representation.

The Strategy is supporting the professional development of workers and volunteers and encourage experimentation and innovation by creative practitioners. It underlines the importance of working with education providers such as Dumfries and Galloway College and others, to promote our sector as a viable career path and finding ways to retain and attract talent.

The new Cultural Partnership has five Thematic Groups as part of its structure, with one being: Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work with a remit for Promoting and shaping best practice regionally for Fair Work, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Health and Safety, governance in cultural organisations.

### Outcome 9 - Capitalise on opportunities to collaborate digitally and eliminate digital exclusion

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Households with internet access	SHS	Households with home internet access by net annual household income (2022)	D&G: 86% Scotland: 91%		
Full fibre fixed broadband coverage	Ofcom	Coverage of residential and commercial premises by fixed broadband networks	D&G: 26% Scotland: 52%		
% premises able to receive superfast broadband	Ofcom	Coverage of residential and commercial premises able to receive superfast broadband (30Mbps or higher)	D&G: 90% Scotland: 95%		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Number of clients that have increased their digital capabilities	SOSE	Advancing innovation and improving productivity	32 clients increased their digital capabilities	
Deliver public access to wi-fi across all Council buildings.	DGC	Digital connectivity supports thriving rural communities	Progress: 60%	
Develop DGLocator as a regionwide tool with partners	TSDG	Website and free app which help to promote the services provided by third sector organisations across the region	Current services on DGLocator: 1,161. Current organisations on DGLocator: 726. Total current downloads: 11,688. Total website views since launch: 11,850	

### Case Study - Supporting New Scots with digital access

There are two Objectives relating to digital access in the CLD Partners Delivery Plan:

- Provide 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; and
- Support 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.




A key target group for this support is over 400 people who have arrived here since 2022 in our Resettlement Schemes and asylum seekers and the Objectives have been fulfilled by providing access to digital devices and wifi connections. This has been a shared approach by Lifelong Learning, Community Planning and Engagement and Schools Services in the Council; Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway; and Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL) the local Refugee Action charity and covers all needs for example:

- SIM cards with a small amount of data available for immediate arrivals in their Welcome Bags
- Provision of tablets to families from the Connecting Scotland fund
- Provision of digital devices for school pupils from schools
- Signposting and support for digital skills through Lifelong Learning, often related to the classes for English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL)

A Progress Visit by Education Scotland Inspectorate on the region's Community Learning and Development activity took place in February 2024. The Report had overall very positive feedback from Inspectors, who commented "Most adults are accessing learning opportunities that meet their individual needs. This is helping to improve their skills and confidence in the use of digital technology and is having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing."

**Outcome 10 - Improve transport connectivity across our region to increase opportunities to access employment, education and leisure, particularly in our most rural areas**

Note: No National Indicators relevant to this Outcome

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Implement the Active Travel Strategy which will promote active and sustainable travel.	DGC	To promote active and sustainable travel through the Active Travel Strategy 2022- 2032	Progress: 100%	
Deliver the Community Transport Programme	DGC/ TSDG	To enable residents to access a range of services including transporting patients to health appointments	1,012 journeys (70%) within D&G and 273 (30%) out of region	
Regional Transport Strategy	SWestrans	To produce and agree an updated Regional Transport Strategy for 2023-42.	RTS agreed by SWestrans Board in June 2023 and approved by Scottish Ministers in March 2024.	

**Case Study - Supporting Behaviour Change in Active Travel - Cycling**

The region's Active Travel Strategy 2022-2032 recognises that achieving an increase in walking and cycling rates does not only depend on new and improved infrastructure it also requires a change in attitude and behaviour towards active travel as the best choice for short journeys. This Case Study details some of the work taking place around cycling.

Work in schools

- Improved bike storage provision for schools plus bicycles for new cyclists
- Bikeability and Play on Pedals programmes have been delivered through the Active Schools and Community Sport Officers, with 69.1% of primary schools delivering Level 2 Bikeability training
- There are 33 Cycling Friendly Schools, covering 6800 pupils.
- Sustrans I Bike Schools Programme has delivered 2,723 pupil engagement instances.

### Workplaces

- There are 9 Cycling Friendly Employers across Dumfries and Galloway, employing over 3,000 staff.

### Awareness campaigns for all road users

- Cycling Scotland in conjunction with Police Scotland provide the national 'Give Everyone Cycle Space' campaign.
- Police Scotland's Pop-Up Bairns road safety initiative.
- Training course for HGV and bus drivers about respect for cyclists and pedestrians over 5-years, 1 module per year.
- HGVs have cycle clear systems that warn drivers when a cyclist is approaching

### Tourism opportunities

- Host destination for the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships staging the Para Cycling World Championships in Dumfries
- UCI Bike Region Label awarded to the South of Scotland, led by the South of Scotland Enterprise and the Active Travel Team
- 2023 Summer of Cycling with £20,000 funding to various events including the 10@Kirroughtree endurance event, the Celebration of Cycling weekend in Penpont, a Family Cycling Festival at The Crichton and the Rocks and Wheels cycle challenge in Dalbeattie.





### Promoting physical activity



- Sustrans I Bike Communities Programme has engaged over 350 people, 120 of them new to the project. This covers training and use of the Etrikes, loans of bikes to Ukrainian visitors, starting delivery with patients at Midpark hospital, strengthening links with other cycling organisations, continued delivery of cycle skills training and confidence building
- Sustrans volunteers have contributed to 48 adult cycle training sessions, including 6 led rides.

### Accessibility

- Dalbeattie Community Initiative and their EBike Initiative and support for the development of the Rocks and Wheels project
- Wigtownshire Stuff's Bike Project for the coastal communities of Stranraer, the Rhins and the Machars to encourage more people, especially individuals with support needs and their families.
- The Access to Bikes (A2B) project has provided bikes to Lincluden and North West Community Campus - stationary fleets in on-site containers of around 50 bikes per school; and Closeburn - a mini-fleet of 14. There have been 50 bikes loaned, 10 bikes gifted, 1,328 individual bike use instances, and 206 bike activities.

**Outcome 11 - Work with our communities to help reduce carbon emissions and positively combat Climate Change through education, behavioural change and supporting initiatives which will make a positive difference**

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Trend
Percentage of household waste generated that is recycled	SEPA	Household waste recycling rate	D&G: 45.1% Scotland: 43.3%		
Carbon emissions*	CPOP	Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> ) emissions per capita within the local authority area	D&G: 5.7 tCO <sub>2</sub> e Scotland: 4.3 tCO <sub>2</sub> e		

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Value of investment in Net Zero opportunities	SOSE	Evidencing impact of Accelerating Net Zero and Natural Capital Solutions in 2023/24	Forecast out-turn: £40,798,089	
Short courses offered aimed specifically at upskilling staff already working in the industry, with the focus on renewable energy, hybrid and electric vehicles.	DAGCOL	Provide skills and training to key industries - including green energy measures and electric vehicle maintenance	Six students have successfully completed the Hybrid Electric Vehicle Level Two and Three training courses	

**Case Study - Climate Change Citizen's Panel**

In June 2019, Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed a for a Climate Emergency Declaration which included a 12-point plan to identify, monitor and implement options to support the transition towards a regional net zero carbon status. One of the commitments was the establishment of a Citizen's Panel to focus engagement on climate change.

The Community Chartering Network (CCN) was commissioned to facilitate the formation and participation of the panel, which successfully engaged with specific communities and stakeholders that were representative of the region's demographic.







On conclusion of the citizen panel meetings, CCN produced a detailed report on the issues raised by contributors during the discussions. The report, considered by the Economy and Infrastructure Committee in November 2024, was structured around 6 priority themes:

- Enabling Partnership Working - through effective dialogue and collaboration between communities, authorities, experts and stakeholders around the transition to net-zero.
- Building Community Self-Sufficiency - local wealth-building and resilience strategies such as diversifying business spaces and housing, local energy and food security, and community-led place plans were seen as necessary for communities to lead on their own transition.
- Retaining Young People - vital to underpinning local self-sufficiency and the regional net-zero strategy.
- Flooding - more meaningful partnership-working and knowledge-sharing with communities around responses to flood risk and planning.
- Optimal Land Use and Management - including carbon capture, local farming, food security and addressing challenges around scientific research and land ownership.
- Effective Green Transport Infrastructure – seen as vital for connecting communities sustainably, enabling access between home and essential services, and to work or study. Joined-up, journey-centred active and public transport routes established through partnership-working, with communities presenting the case for credible demand for new or re-established routes.

Material from the full report - for example flooding and community resilience - has also been used to help develop Service Plans and inform work on the Climate Change Duties Report and local place planning.



## Outcome 12 - Develop high quality, affordable homes to help meet identified demand and improve the quality of lives of our communities

National Indicators relevant to this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance latest available data	Status	Long Trend
Percentage of dwellings with an Environmental Performance Certificate band C or above	SG	Energy efficiency and environmental impact ratings for buildings based on standardised usage.	D&G: 24% Scotland: 45% <sup>(a)</sup>		
Fuel Poverty*	CPOP	Percentage of households in fuel poverty	D&G 28.8% Scotland: 24.4% <sup>(b)</sup>		

### Notes:

(a) In the most recent Scottish House Condition Survey data (2022) 52% of homes were now rated as EPC band C or better, compared to 45% in 2019. However, the Scottish Government has not published data at a local authority level so it is likely that the local figure will also have increased.

(b) These are 2019 figures. Due to the Covid pandemic, changes to the way data is collected and fuel cost increases, more recent data has not been released at CPP level.

Local partners' projects and services addressing this Outcome	Source	Purpose	Performance 2023/24	Status
Deliver the 2023/24 Affordable Housing Supply Programme	DGC	Support partners in delivering the commitment in the 2023/24 Affordable Housing Supply Programme in Dumfries and Galloway	Progress: 100%	
Home Fire Safety Advice	SFRS	Support partners by providing free Home Fire Safety Advice	1,076 Home Fire Safety Visits carried out	

## Case Study - Emergency Energy Payment Assistance Programme for vulnerable and older people

The project aim was to provide emergency energy vouchers to any housing tenure who are experiencing financial difficulties. Funding was allocated to the following Project Partners:

- The Hub - Support for Winter Fuel Project
- Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service - Support to Private Rented Sector tenants within Dumfries and Galloway
- Cunninghame Housing Association - Voucher support to Wheatley Group tenants, Home Group tenants and to their own tenants
- Loreburn Housing Association - Voucher support to tenants
- Irvine Housing Association – Voucher support to tenants

### Results

- 1,918 Vouchers have been issued to residents in need of support
- Lemon Aid Fuel Poverty Project: a total of 4,275 people given advice and support; 347 people reconnected after Self Disconnection; 1,768 people with restricted meters assisted; 1,539 fuel vouchers / energy top-ups provided
- Amount of Financial Gain / Debt Reduction Achieved: £284,572
- Referrals from Partner Agencies: 596
- Approximately 155 homes have benefitted from the delivery of winter briquettes which significantly reduced fuel bills for older residents over the winter months.
- £126,243 of Fuel Debt Funding has been secured for residents within our region.

Most of these results are positively exceeding targets for the year and, in time, there will be more trend data to pinpoint performance for the future.

### Learning and Improvement

Following review, a monitoring system has been put in place where the relevant Project Partner can check on each address to which Vouchers are issued to ensure that this is not occurring on more than one occasion, this will prevent people claiming more than they should and enable more people to receive the benefits.



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 5**

<p><b>Author: Garry Legg, Head of Planning, Strategy and Partnerships</b></p>	<p><b>Responsible Senior Officer:</b>  <b>Jane Morrison-Ross, Chief Executive SoSE</b>  <b>Steve Rogers, Head of Economy and Environment, DGC</b></p>
<p><b>Report Title: SOUTH OF SCOTLAND REGIONAL ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AND LINKS TO THE LOIP</b></p>	
<p><b><u>1. Situation:</u></b></p> <p>1.1 At the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) held in March 2024, as part of items identified for the forward Plan, a future update on the work of the Regional Economic Partnership and associated Regional Economic Strategy was requested and specifically how this contributes to the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan 2023-2033.</p> <p>1.2 The South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP) has recently reviewed and refreshed the South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Delivery Plan. The refreshed three-year RES Delivery Plan was approved by the REP at their meeting on 30 September 2024 and has subsequently been endorsed individually by Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council and SOSE. This is the second Delivery Plan for the RES and forms part of the ongoing monitoring and review of its delivery.</p>	
<p><b><u>2. Background:</u></b></p> <p>2.1 The ten-year South of Scotland RES was launched in 2021 along with an associated Delivery Plan. These documents were produced after extensive engagement with a wide range of stakeholders and communities throughout the South of Scotland. There were 47 actions in the first Delivery Plan which helped support the six key RES themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theme 1 – Skilled and Ambitious People</li> <li>Theme 2 - Innovating and Enterprising</li> <li>Theme 3 - Rewarding Fair Work</li> <li>Theme 4 – Cultural and Creative Excellence</li> <li>Theme 5 – Green and Sustainable Economy</li> <li>Theme 6 – Thriving and Distinct Communities</li> </ul> <p>2.2 There has been significant progress since the first Delivery Plan was launched. Key successes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Going live with a new Invest in South of Scotland website to promote the region as a great place to do business;</li> <li>• The launch of the Cycling Partnership Strategy and the region being awarded the prestigious international UCI Bike Region Label;</li> </ul>	



- The development of a Regional Land Use Framework;
- Launching the South of Scotland Housing Action Plan;
- The development of the South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy;
- The South of Scotland Creative Economy Guide;
- The creation of a Net Zero Investment Guide.

2.3 The RES and its Delivery Plan plays a critical role in contributing to national, as well as regional and local economic ambitions, with the Delivery Plan both well aligned with the priorities in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation.

2.4 In 2023 and following a refresh in membership, the REP reviewed and reaffirmed the vision, focus and themes in the RES. They agreed three key priorities for the next three years: Housing, Transport and Skills. These three topics were already key themes in the RES and were identified as critical to unlocking the vision in the RES for a green, fair and flourishing South of Scotland. There was further REP agreement on the importance of Net Zero and Nature, Place, Community Wealth Building and Investment as cross-cutting threads.

2.5 The REP (which includes members from Dumfries and Galloway Council, NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Third Sector D&G among others) commissioned a refresh of the RES Delivery Plan to reflect these priorities. This Delivery Plan covers 2025-27 and is a successor to the first Delivery Plan which was launched in 2021.

2.6 Through discussion and feedback with the REP, key principles were agreed to guide this refresh. There was agreement that this refresh and updated plan should be about:

- a. Arriving at a consensus on a smaller number of areas for collaborative action - to help sharpen our delivery focus
- b. A clear focus on strategic actions – those that:
  - i. are of relevance to the whole of the South of Scotland – regional
  - ii. are outside the day-to-day operational scope of partners
  - iii. will result in a tangible (and regionally significant) difference
- c. Articulating and driving regional collaboration – providing a focal point for partners to come together
- d. Being ambitious but ensuring what we commit to is manageable i.e. partners can resource and deliver
- e. Recognising what needs to be prioritised over and above other important activities
- f. And not attempting to capture all the important things that are being tackled at local and organisational levels – but the opportunity could be taken to highlight some of these as well as showcasing successes from the first Delivery Plan



2.7 Over the next three years the revised delivery plan will focus on the most significant issues for people, businesses and communities throughout the South of Scotland and areas where a collective approach is required to create the necessary scale and pace of change that would make a difference.

### **3. Key issues:**

3.1 The refreshed plan has identified three priority issues and nine additional actions, set out in the table below. A copy of the revised RES Delivery Plan which includes more information on the listed actions and priorities, along with several associated case studies, has been provided at **Appendix 1**.

	<b>Action</b>
<b>Priority Action 1</b>	Collaborate to deliver more homes, and more choice of homes.
<b>Priority Action 2</b>	Investigate opportunities to enhance transport connectivity.
<b>Priority Action 3</b>	Develop proposals to expand and adapt skills provision to meet future skills needs.
<b>Action 1</b>	Delivering and promoting support for our enterprises.
<b>Action 2</b>	Creating and implementing an Inward Investment plan.
<b>Action 3</b>	The creation of a spatial diagram for the South showcasing key regional projects and investments.
<b>Action 4</b>	Support cultural development and enhance our film and screen offering.
<b>Action 5</b>	Champion the new Natural Capital Innovation Zone by delivering the Regional Land Use Framework.
<b>Action 6</b>	Create pathways to Net Zero for key sectors in our regional economy.
<b>Action 7</b>	Design, develop and implement a pilot scheme to help identify the best way to retrofit homes to meet Net Zero standards.
<b>Action 8</b>	Map expertise, advice and support available for enterprising communities.
<b>Action 9</b>	Map our digital interventions, gaps and opportunities in the South.

**Table 1 – RES Delivery Plan actions 2025-27**

3.2 All twelve actions in the refreshed Delivery Plan will deliver against multiple LOIP outcomes. For example, the priority actions on housing, transport and skills in the RES Delivery Plan directly align with the LOIP outcomes WWL4 (linked to housing), WWL2 (linked to Transport) and WO2 (skills and recruitment gaps), but also aim to support and grow our working age population (WO1), work with our communities to promote a



thriving economy (WO4) and improve the health and wellbeing of our citizens (HWB3). Targeted actions on digital collaboration, Net Zero transition and enterprising communities align with LOIP outcomes WWL1 (Digital), WWL3 (Climate Change) and WO3 (volunteering) respectively.

3.3 The actions are being taken forward collaboratively with partners from across the region working together to put the plan into action. For example, the action on housing is being led by the REP's Strategic Action Group on Housing which has members from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, SOSE, South of Scotland Community Housing, Wheatley Homes South (representing D&G RSLs), Scottish Borders Housing Association (representing Borders RSLs) and the Scottish Government. Similar partner groups (both formal and informal) are leading each action.

3.4 A communications plan is being developed for the launch later this month as well as an ongoing campaign to promote the plan and bring it to life for a wider audience across the South of Scotland through social media and videos.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Note** the refreshed RES Delivery Plan which has been endorsed by the REP and individual members (including Dumfries & Galloway Council) and which will support multiple LOIP outcomes;

4.2 **Consider** how the D&G CPP can continue to support regional work to deliver the twelve actions in the refreshed RES Delivery Plan for 2025-27.

#### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 – Regional Economic Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-2027**





# Collaborating to Deliver

## Delivery Plan (2025 - 2027)

NOVEMBER 2024





# REP

## South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership

### Members of the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership



Communities representatives

Social Enterprise representatives

Private Sector representatives

Young People representatives

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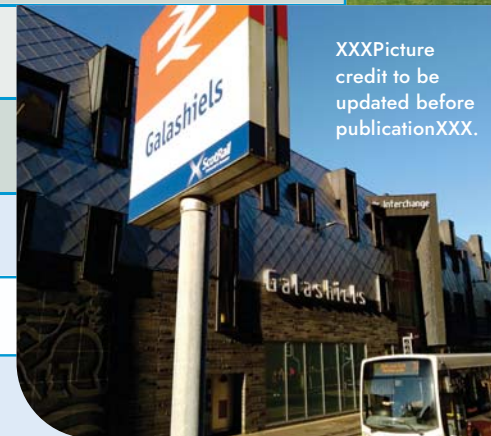


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Across 2025-2027 we will:

Number	Action
Priority Action 1	Collaborate to deliver more homes – and more choice of homes – by implementing the actions in our <a href="#">Housing Action Plan</a> for the South of Scotland.
Priority Action 2	Investigate opportunities to enhance transport connectivity and sustainability in the South of Scotland.
Priority Action 3	Develop proposals to expand and adapt skills provision to meet the future skills opportunities and needs of the region.
Action 1	Put in place a stronger partnership model for delivering and promoting support for our enterprises.
Action 2	Create and implement a partnership Inward Investment plan.
Action 3	Create a spatial diagram for the South of Scotland to showcase key regional projects, connections, and investments.
Action 4	Support cultural strategy development and creative placemaking, expand mapping of the creative economy and enhance our film and screen offering.
Action 5	Champion the Natural Capital Innovation Zone through the delivery of the Borderlands Programme, the Regional Land Use Framework, and innovative partnerships.
Action 6	Create pathways for a Just Transition to Net Zero for key sectors and parts of our regional economy.
Action 7	Design, develop and implement a pilot to identify the best way of retrofitting homes across the region to meet Net Zero standards.
Action 8	Map expertise, advice and support available to enterprising communities and use this to create a structured and joined up 'pathway' to access support.
Action 9	Map our digital interventions, gaps and opportunities in the South and use this mapping to agree a core set of regional digital priorities.



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# 2022 - 2024: Delivering for the South of Scotland

Our first RES Delivery Plan was published in 2021 after extensive engagement, discussion and debate – within and beyond the REP – about what was needed to achieve the ambitions in the RES. There were 47 actions in the plan which supported the strategy’s six themes.

Our first RES Delivery Plan provided a powerful focus for partners. It brought the RES to life and helped us to coordinate and align what we were doing. Our relationships and partnerships within the REP and beyond are stronger now through working together to deliver on those actions.

We are proud of how far we have come and it is a testament to the commitment of our partners that we have made real progress against those actions. Key successes so far include:

- Going live with a new **Invest in South of Scotland** website to promote the region as a great place to do business.
- Launching our **Cycling Partnership Strategy** and successfully hosting UCI Cycling World Championship events, culminating in the South of Scotland being awarded the prestigious international UCI **Bike Region** Label.
- Spearheading pioneering projects such as the South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership, part of a Scottish Government pilot, that has developed and consulted on the first **Regional Land Use Framework** for the South of Scotland.
- Collaborating to launch a South of Scotland **Housing Action Plan** which sets out ten tangible actions that REP members will take together to create more homes and more choice of homes in the South of Scotland.
- Developing and launching the **South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy**, a ten-year plan to increase the visitor economy by £1 billion and support a further 6,000 jobs.

- Deepening our understanding of key regional sectors and opportunities such as our mapping of the vibrant creative industry sector in the South of Scotland with the findings brought together in our **South of Scotland Creative Economy Guide**.
- Coming together to create and launch our first South of Scotland Net Zero investment prospectus, **A guide to investing in the Just Transition to Net Zero**, which promotes some of the most compelling investment opportunities in the region.

We have launched a new website where people can find out more about what we – the REP as a collective partnership – have been doing and how they can get involved. Please visit the website or our **Facebook** and **LinkedIn** pages to find out more.

We know we still have much to do to meet the ambition for the South of Scotland in the ten-year RES and need to act quickly. We continue our work with real momentum, even stronger partnerships, and greater clarity to focus on where we can make the biggest difference.



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## Case Study #1

# Net Zero Investment Guide

Members of the Regional Economic Partnership have come together in the Invest in South of Scotland Partnership to launch a Net Zero Investment Guide for the South of Scotland. The guide aims to help the South of Scotland become the UK's first Net Zero region - at the same time as building an economy for the future.



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The guide promotes some of the most compelling investment opportunities available in the region, focusing on three key strengths of the South of Scotland: renewable energy, natural capital, and our aspiration of enhancing our values-based and Fair Work economy.

South of Scotland Enterprise, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, Skills Development Scotland, and South of Scotland Destination Alliance worked in partnership with Scottish Development International and Scottish Government to develop and launch the guide to demonstrate the opportunities in the South of Scotland. It was officially launched in August 2023 by Màiri McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy.

The guide highlights the rich natural resources of the area, alongside a strong research base and a supportive business environment. The South of Scotland hosts a thriving community of entrepreneurs, start-ups and well-established companies that are meeting the Net Zero challenge in innovative ways, and the guide provides good examples of these while outlining further opportunity. It showcases some of the businesses that are supporting the vision of a green, fair and flourishing region, and forms part of the invitation to Invest In South of Scotland.



# 2025 - 2027: Our Actions

Over the next three years we will concentrate on those issues that are most important to communities, businesses and people across the South of Scotland and where action will unlock our region's huge potential, help those already here to thrive, and attract a new generation to live, work, visit, learn and invest in the South of Scotland.

We have three priority actions that respond to what our communities, businesses and people tell us is most important and urgent:

- Creating a thriving **housing** market in the South of Scotland with homes where they are needed to attract and retain people, jobs, and investment in the region
- Enhancing **transport** options to help people to better access training, employment and services while meeting our Net Zero ambitions
- Making sure everyone has the **skills** and training they need to thrive throughout their lives and to support our future economy.

These are three significant areas of work with a lot already happening on housing, transport, and skills across the region and nationally. Our actions are designed to add impact and expertise to that existing work, as well as influencing what is happening nationally to make sure it supports the South of Scotland.

We also have **nine additional actions** that support other priorities in the RES and make the most of our strengths and opportunities in the South of Scotland. Some of these actions have evolved from our last RES Delivery Plan, while others are new to address gaps, new opportunities or where a fresh approach is needed.

Net Zero and a Nature Positive Future, Community Wealth Building, Placemaking and Attracting Investment are key aspects of these actions too, providing a thread and focus that underpins our activity throughout this plan.

We will also **continue to champion** several actions from our first Delivery Plan. These are actions which are still underway, either as originally set out in the last Delivery Plan or which have evolved, often with a focus now on delivery and implementation. These areas are important to the vision in the RES, have strong partnership commitments and our full support.

Our actions are mutually supportive and each action supports at least one of the six RES themes. In many cases an action supports several themes, as set out in the table in the Annex.

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## Priority Action 1

### Collaborate to deliver more homes – and more choice of homes – by implementing the actions in our Housing Action Plan for the South of Scotland.

Creating more homes – of all types and tenures – is one of the key regional opportunities and challenges for the South of Scotland and has led to the launch of our Housing Action Plan. It is essential that people, including those of working age, can find the homes they need. Creating those homes also brings huge opportunities for our construction sector.

#### We will do this by:

- Implementing the ten actions in our Housing Action Plan including: growing our own construction and development sector; promoting the region as a place to build homes; increasing choice of home types and tenures; and creating an enabling planning environment.
- Sharing ideas, evidence and, where appropriate, joint projects with those working on similar issues such as the retrofit of homes to meet our Net Zero ambitions.
- Reviewing our Housing Action Plan ahead of the end of its initial two years to guide future work.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Strategic Action Group on Housing.

#### Key partners:

Colleges, Communities, Councils, Crichton Campus Leadership Group, NHS, Private Sector, Registered Social Landlords, Scottish Government, SOSE, South of Scotland Community Housing.

## Priority Action 2

### Investigate opportunities to enhance transport connectivity and sustainability in the South of Scotland.

Our region's transport connectivity is key to unlocking our economic, social, and environmental ambitions for the region. Our Strategic Action Group on Transport aims to identify opportunities to develop a more sustainable, inclusive, safe, accessible, and integrated transport network in the South.

#### We will do this by:

- Using a data led approach to strengthen the case for transport investment in the South.
- Speaking with one voice to advise and influence regional and national partners, including the Scottish and UK Governments, on the need for different approaches to address transport issues faced in the South.
- Exploring more strategic integration across regional transport partners and building connections with adjoining transport partnerships north and south of the border.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Strategic Action Group on Transport.

#### Key partners:

Councils, NHS, Private Sector, SEStran, SOSE, SWestrans, Third Sector, Transport Scotland.

## Priority Action 3

### Develop proposals to expand and adapt skills provision to meet the future skills opportunities and needs of the region.

Through our Education and Skills Strategic Coordination Group, we will support a range of future skills opportunities, particularly those that help our construction, energy, and land-based sectors. This builds on evidence gathered by “mapping and gapping” our regional skills needs, an action in our first Delivery Plan. We will also seize any opportunities presented through the reform of regional skills planning which enhances our responsiveness and impacts.

#### We will do this by:

- Developing proposals through a task and finish group to expand future skills provision and take up in the region, including articulating: what would be required to support a scaling up of provision; what barriers exist to support such a scaling up; and what support would be required from regional and national partners to turn such proposals into deliverable action.
- Overseeing delivery of agreed actions from these proposals.
- Engaging with the Scottish Government's programme of national skills reform.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Education and Skills Strategic Coordination Group.

#### Key partners:

ESSCG Partners, Private Sector, Scottish Government.



## 2025 -2027: Our Actions

### Action 1

#### Put in place a stronger partnership model for delivering and promoting support for our enterprises.

Across the South of Scotland, a great network exists bringing together organisations that support businesses and social enterprises. Through the business support actions in our last Delivery Plan, we have built a deeper understanding of what support each organisation can provide and the gaps we now need to address to help our businesses to thrive.

#### We will do this by:

- Enhancing and coordinating the support available to enterprise to drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and growth, including among underrepresented groups.
- Tailoring our collective offer to our enterprises to best meet the particular needs of business in the South of Scotland, including our many micro, and small and medium-sized enterprises.
- Finding new ways to promote our support and get the message out about how we can help business.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

Business Gateway, Business Organisations, VisitScotland, South of Scotland Destination Alliance.

### Action 2

#### Create and implement a partnership Inward Investment plan.

We are raising the profile of the South of Scotland as a great place to do business, to attract and boost investment in the region. We have improved our inward investment proposition and now there is more we can do to promote the South of Scotland on a global platform and make sure our partnership provides a seamless experience for prospective investors.

#### We will do this by:

- Developing and implementing a partnership Inward Investment plan and protocol to guide our regional investment and coordination.
- Promoting and further developing the new **Invest in the South of Scotland** website.
- Finding and implementing new ways to showcase all the region has to offer, for example through targeted use of the GlobalScots Network to promote the South of Scotland internationally.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Invest in South of Scotland Partnership.

#### Key partners:

Councils, Department for Business and Trade, Scottish Development International, Skills Development Scotland, South of Scotland Destination Alliance, South of Scotland Enterprise.

### Action 3

#### Create a spatial diagram for the South of Scotland to showcase key regional projects, connections, and investments.

Significant investment is coming into many of our places and communities in the South. We want to do more to tell the story about what is happening which will build confidence about the future of the region and generate further investment. Showcasing the major initiatives in an accessible and visual way will appeal to prospective investors and can be deployed across our work – from Housing and Inward Investment to Natural Capital and Net Zero.

#### We will do this by:

- Creating a comprehensive spatial diagram for the South of Scotland which shows key regional connections, developments, and investments.
- Using this diagram to look ahead and create a collective pipeline of the next generation of regionally significant projects.

#### Co-ordinated by:

REP Secretariat.

#### Key partners:

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Councils, Edinburgh City and South East Scotland City Region Partners, National Partners, REP Members, SOSE.

## Action 4

### Support cultural strategy development and creative placemaking, expand mapping of the creative economy and enhance our film and screen offering.

We have a strong and vibrant base of creative and cultural businesses, social enterprises and organisations who are growing in ambition. Building on the previous RES Delivery Plan, we want to enhance the scope and strength of the cultural offering of the South of Scotland and create opportunities for more innovation, investment, and competitiveness.

#### We will do this by:

- Supporting and championing cultural strategy development, creative placemaking activity and partnerships across both Council areas – this will coordinate and add to existing strategies and activity.
- Expanding our pioneering mapping of the creative economy in the South.
- Launching and implementing the South of Scotland Screen Strategy 2025-2030 to enhance our offering for film and screen in the region.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

Colleges and Universities, Creative Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), National Partners, Private Sector, Scottish Government, Screen Scotland, Skills Development Scotland, South of Scotland Destination Alliance, Third Sector, VisitScotland.

## Action 5

### Champion the Natural Capital Innovation Zone through the delivery of the Borderlands Programme, the Regional Land Use Framework and innovative partnerships.

The creation of Scotland's first Natural Capital Innovation Zone (NCIZ) celebrates the wealth of natural and social capital across the South of Scotland and the significant opportunity for related new market opportunities including nature-based solutions. We will consolidate the establishment of the NCIZ by working with existing partnerships, such as the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere (GSAB) and Regional Land Use Partnership (RLUP) and enhance activity with the Scottish Government and national and regional partners.

#### We will do this by:

- Launching pilot projects through the Borderlands Natural Capital Programme to pioneer innovative land and marine management and build and strengthen partnerships with public, private and third sector organisations.
- Using data analysis and opportunity mapping to develop a Natural Capital responsible inward investment prospectus, building on our growing investment profile including the Invest in South of Scotland website and Net Zero Investment Guide.
- Deliver the Regional Land Use Framework through collaborative action.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

Borders Forest Trust, Colleges and Universities, CONFOR, Crichton Carbon Centre, Crown Estates, Forestry and Land Scotland, GSAB, HES, NatureScot, NFUS, Private Sector, RLUP, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Land and Estates, Solway Firth Partnership, Third Sector, Tweed Forum.

## Action 6

### Create pathways for a Just Transition to Net Zero for key sectors and parts of our regional economy.

Our region has exciting and significant Net Zero opportunities which are essential to Scotland's Net Zero ambitions and a sustainable future. By developing and leveraging these opportunities, we will drive the change needed and attract investment to accelerate our, and Scotland's, Just Transition to a resilient and regenerative wellbeing economy. In the South of Scotland, we aim to lead the way, building on national Just Transition Plans and the evidence base to ensure we are focussed on those key regional sectors across which we can have the greatest impact.

#### We will do this by:

- Developing co-ordinated Net Zero plans with key parts of our economy in the South of Scotland, building on evidence from the recent regional emission baselines for our region and aligning with national Just Transition Plans and the national Climate Intelligence Service.
- Collaborating with partners in key sectors to begin implementing, accelerating and attracting investment in these pathways.
- Responding to opportunities arising from the Green Industrial Strategy.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

To be identified through comprehensive stakeholder mapping.

## 2025 - 2027: Our Actions

### Action 7

**Design, develop and implement a pilot to identify the best way of retrofitting homes across the region to meet Net Zero standards.**

**CLES**, working closely with six of the region's Registered Social Landlords, has recommended collective action to galvanise and facilitate delivery in retrofitting our homes to meet Net Zero standards. Co-ordination is needed to deliver this work, secure institutional buy-in at scale and create a pipeline of rural retrofit which delivers meaningful economic and social benefits for the South.

#### We will do this by:

- Designing, developing, and implementing a pilot to identify the most common archetypes in our social housing stock, assess baseline efficiency, retrofit the homes, and monitor benefits.
- Working with industry to identify and address skills gaps and tenant engagement as a key part of the pilot.
- Using learning from the pilot to inform wider rollout.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Registered Social Landlords, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

Colleges and Universities, Councils, Private Sector, Scottish Government.

### Action 8

**Map expertise, advice and support available to enterprising communities and use this to create a structured and joined up 'pathway' to access support.**

Through Place Planning, we are empowering our communities to reach their full potential. A significant effort is underway to enhance the capacity of communities, Third Sector, social enterprises, and other stakeholders working alongside statutory partners and businesses to address community-led planning priorities and lead on community-based projects across the South of Scotland. Many organisations are providing invaluable expertise, knowledge, and experience, but there is more we want to do to address gaps, join up our offer and make it simpler for enterprising communities to get the help they need.

#### We will do this by:

- Mapping the expertise, advice and support available to enterprising communities across our organisations and beyond, including identifying key gaps.
- Enhancing our support to address key gaps identified through mapping, including attracting additional investment that communities can directly access.
- Creating and communicating a clear pathway so communities access the right support whichever organisation they approach.
- Promoting and building more awareness of our collective offer, opportunities and what is already happening.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE, TSIs.

#### Key partners:

Key community anchor organisations, National Partners.

### Action 9

**Map our digital interventions, gaps and opportunities in the South and use this mapping to agree a core set of regional digital priorities.**

Exciting programmes are underway to invest in digital connectivity across our region. In particular, the Borderlands Digital Infrastructure Programme, Project Gigabit and Innovative Regions have the potential to transform connectivity across our places, organisations, and communities. We want to get even smarter at coordinating across these different interventions to make sure we are getting the most out of investment and creating transformation.

#### We will do this by:

- Mapping our digital interventions, gaps, and opportunities in the South.
- Using our mapping to strengthen cross-organisation working and better coordinate across key digital programmes and opportunities.

#### Co-ordinated by:

Councils, SOSE.

#### Key partners:

Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Private Sector, Scottish Government, Scotland 5G Centre, TSIs.

## Case Study #2

# South of Scotland Regional Land Use Partnership

The South of Scotland is one of the pilot regions for the Scottish Government's Regional Land Use Partnership initiative, designed to test governance structures that deliver a collaborative approach to land use change decision-making.



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The aim is to deliver sustainable land use that addresses climate change and biodiversity loss and supports a wellbeing economy. The South of Scotland partnership has collaborated to create a [Regional Land Use Framework \(RLUF\)](#) to inform and help guide critical decision making around finite land resources. An innovative approach to governance has seen the REP, supported by an Advisory Group chaired by REP members and including representatives from communities, the land use sector and government bodies, oversee its development.

This regional collaboration has brought together a wide range of people from the public sector, landowners, communities and the third sector across the South of Scotland. Over 600 individuals participated in extensive engagement and a draft RLUF was published in 2023 which set out a concise vision and objectives for sustainable land use across the South. It recognised the need for inclusive engagement between those making decisions about land, and the wide range of people and interests affected by such decisions, and that the finite natural capital of the region needed to be able to deliver multiple benefits for our businesses, communities, and visitors.

A consultation on the draft RLUF concluded in February 2024, prior to submission to the Scottish Government. It includes a set of recommendations around governance and over 30 actions that will showcase the South of Scotland's position as the national Natural Capital Innovation Zone.



# Putting Our Plan into Action

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This Delivery Plan captures and helps coordinate the important strategic actions – the bigger things we know we need to do together – making clear what activities will make the biggest contributions to getting us to where we want to be. Our principles and commitments are outlined below:

1



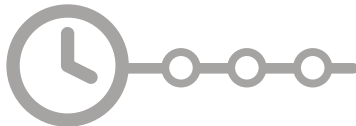
Specific actions in this Delivery Plan are the **sole or joint responsibility of those partner organisations** involved who are key to their delivery. This approach respects that individual partner organisations will have their own governance, monitoring, evaluation, and approvals processes in place. It also gives partners the flexibility they need to determine the most appropriate delivery approaches, include new opportunities as they emerge, and deploy their resources to have maximum effect as well as contribute to wider objectives they may have.

2



The REP will continue to have **strategic oversight**, as a forum which enables partners' efforts to be better aligned and co-ordinated, helping efforts to go further and more to be achieved for less. The REP will monitor progress against the actions on a quarterly basis.

3



The activity set out under each action in this plan is anticipated to be delivered within the **three-year lifetime** of the plan.

4



Alongside members' sole or joint evaluation of specific actions, there will be an overall **evaluation of the effectiveness of the plan in driving the regional collaboration and delivery** that it seeks to achieve. A wider Performance Measurement Framework is also being developed for the ten-year RES.

For further information on the RES, the REP or actions within the Plan, please visit [southofscotlandrep.com](https://southofscotlandrep.com) or contact [sosrep@sose.scot](mailto:sosrep@sose.scot).

## Case Study #3

# South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy

The South of Scotland's first RES Delivery Plan included a commitment to "Develop a South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Destination Development & Marketing Strategy".



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This recognised both the need to develop the visitor economy for our region post Covid and the importance of an agreed vision that translates Scotland Outlook 2030, our national shared vision for tourism, for the needs and opportunities of the South of Scotland, recognising that the visitor economy is a huge area of opportunity for our region.

The South of Scotland Responsible Tourism Strategy has been developed by five partners: SOSE, South of Scotland Destination Alliance, Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries and Galloway Council and VisitScotland. The strategy is a first for the South of Scotland and sets an ambitious ten-year vision for our visitor economy. Building on an inclusive, transparent, and far-reaching consultation process which included the REP, businesses, communities and key individuals, the new strategy has an ambitious vision that:

***"We will make the South of Scotland a thriving, responsible, year-round destination; leveraging our unique geography, culture, history and landscape to create Scotland's fastest growing visitor economy, attracting international visitors, creating quality employment and powering community prosperity."***

At the heart of the strategy is a 'Team South' approach with partnership and collaboration driving actions over the next ten years to increase our visitor economy by £1 billion, supporting a further 6,000 jobs across the region.

## Case Study #4

# South of Scotland Regional Skills Pathfinder

The South of Scotland is one of two pilot regions for the Scottish Funding Council's Regional Tertiary Pathfinder, created to understand how to make the education and skills system more responsive, integrated, and supportive of economic recovery and inclusive growth in each region.



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Building on existing collaborative working, and rooted in local understanding of skills needs, the Pathfinder group in the South of Scotland prioritised projects which would have the most impact on securing simpler pathways and improved outcomes for learners; alignment of provision against societal and employer need; and enhanced coherence and sustainability across provision. Concluding in early 2024, the pathfinder activity focused on three key strands: digital skills, land-based learning, and degree pathways.

SRUC and Borders College have been working in partnership to develop a Rural Skills joint prospectus, which was launched in June 2023, showcasing the complete range of learning pathways. Over the next two years, new jointly delivered land-based provision will also be put in place. The project appointed a Business Development Officer to act as an innovation broker to promote joint activity and help develop a place-based innovation scheme.

A partnership between Dumfries and Galloway College, the University of the West of Scotland and Dumfries and Galloway Council aimed to deliver a broader range of programmes and integrated pathways for learners from school through to degree level provision. The partnership developed two new integrated degree pathways (launched in academic year 2023-24): the BSc Cybersecurity and BA Business; and exploration of new opportunities in Health and Social Care are now being reviewed. To underpin efficient delivery an agreement is also in place between the institutions for a shared resource model.

The Digital Skills Pathfinder aimed to enhance regional competitiveness by improving digital opportunities for post-16 learners in the region. This led to changes to core curriculum and several highly successful "Meet the Learner" events which brought employers and learners together and promoted inclusivity and widened participation. A Digital Skills Provision Map of digital skills training for employers was also published in 2024, to simplify how best to access support and training.



# Glossary

**Business Gateway** is a publicly funded service contributing to the economic wellbeing of Scotland by providing access to free business support services.

**City region and growth deals** are packages of funding and decision-making powers, agreed between the Scottish Government, the UK Government, and regional partners. They are designed to bring about long-term improvements to regional economies, attracting additional investment, creating new jobs, and accelerating inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

**Community Wealth Building** is an approach to economic development that changes the way that our economies function, retaining more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people. It has five principles: plural ownership of the economy; making financial power work for local places; fair employment and just labour markets; progressive procurement of goods and services; and socially productive use of land and property.

**Creative economy** is the interface between creativity, culture, economics, and technology. It has the potential to generate income, jobs, and exports while at the same time promoting social inclusion, cultural diversity, and human development.

**Fair Work** is work that offers all individuals an effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment, and respect. It balances the rights and responsibilities of employers and workers. It generates benefits for individuals, organisations, and society.

**Just Transition** is both the outcome and the process that must be undertaken in partnership with those impacted by the transition to Net Zero. It supports a Net Zero and climate resilient economy in a way that delivers fairness and tackles inequality and injustice.

**Natural capital** is a term for the habitats and ecosystems that provide social, environmental, and economic benefits, ensuring the wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit here.

**Net Zero** means that the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere and the amount we are able to take out will add up to zero. Not all emissions can be avoided. To get to net zero any emissions we create would be balanced by schemes that offset the same amount of greenhouse gases entering the atmosphere.

**Place planning** offers communities the opportunity to develop proposals for their local area, expressing their aspirations and ambitions for change. Local Place Plans were introduced by the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, which contains a right for communities to produce their own plans.

**Productivity** is a measure of business or economic performance that shows how efficiently the business, region or country is producing goods or services.

**Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)** are independent landlords (including housing associations, housing cooperatives, Abbeyfield societies and co-ownership societies) registered with the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR), which own and manage houses on a not-for-profit basis.

**SEStran** is the **South East of Scotland Transport Partnership** which aims to lead the development of a transportation system for South East Scotland, enabling business to function effectively and provide everyone living in the region with improved access to healthcare, education, public services and employment opportunities.

**SG**, the **Scottish Government**, is the devolved government for Scotland and has a range of responsibilities that include: the economy, education, health, justice, rural affairs, housing, environment, equal opportunities, consumer advocacy and advice, transport and taxation.

**Small and medium-sized enterprises** are businesses with fewer than 250 employees.

**SOSE**, **South of Scotland Enterprise**, is the economic and community development agency for the South of Scotland. It aims to help businesses and enterprising communities throughout Dumfries and Galloway and Scottish Borders to thrive, grow, and fulfil their best potential.

**Supply chain** is an entire system of producing and delivering a product or service, from the very beginning stage of sourcing the raw materials to the final delivery of the product or service to the end user.

**SWestrans**, the **South West of Scotland Transport Partnership**, is one of seven Regional Transport Partnerships in Scotland and covers an area aligned with the boundaries of Dumfries and Galloway Council.

**Third Sector** includes charities; voluntary organisations; religious organisations; sporting organisations; community organisations; cooperatives; social enterprises; professional associations; chambers of commerce; development trusts and welfare organisations. The Third Sector delivers essential services, helps to improve people's wellbeing and contributes to economic growth. It plays a vital role in supporting communities at a local level.

**Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs)** are charitable organisations that perform four key functions in their communities: act as a source of local intelligence; enable local voices to be heard; provide leadership, vision and coordination; and build capacity and make connections.

**Wellbeing economy** is an economy designed to serve people and the planet, not the other way around. Rather than treating economic growth as an end in itself and pursuing it at all costs, a wellbeing economy puts human and planetary needs at the centre of its activities, ensuring that these needs are all equally met, by default.



# Annex: Alignment of Our Actions and Priorities

Theme	Priority	Actions	KEY: P: Priority Action   A: Action
1. Skilled and Ambitious People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling access to skills, training &amp; employment</li> <li>Attracting &amp; Retaining People with a Diversity of Skills, Ambition &amp; Knowledge</li> <li>Preparing for the Future of Work</li> <li>Building Lifelong Learning &amp; Opportunity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P1, P3, A4, A7, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A2, A3, A4, A5, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9</li> </ul>	
2. Innovative and Enterprising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embracing Research &amp; Innovation</li> <li>Enhancing Business Support Services</li> <li>Activating Networks &amp; Business Interaction</li> <li>Creating Flexible &amp; Accessible Workspaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P1, P2, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9</li> <li>P1, A1, A2, A6, A9</li> <li>P1, P3, A1, A7</li> <li>A1</li> </ul>	
3. Rewarding and Fair Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growing &amp; Diversifying Our Economy</li> <li>Attracting &amp; Securing New Investment</li> <li>Improving Productivity &amp; Competitiveness</li> <li>Securing and Improving Fair Working Conditions &amp; Wages</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P1, P2, P3, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A1, A6, A7, A9</li> <li>P3, A2</li> </ul>	
4. Cultural and Creative Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Celebrating &amp; Enabling Creativity</li> <li>Championing a New Regional Identity</li> <li>Investing in Visitor Economy Infrastructure</li> <li>Boosting Culture &amp; Heritage Assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A4</li> <li>P1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7</li> <li>P2, A2, A3, A5</li> <li>A3, A4, A5</li> </ul>	
5. Green and Sustainable Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harnessing &amp; Enhancing Natural Capital</li> <li>Seizing the Economic Opportunity of a Just Transition to Net Zero</li> <li>Improving Efficiency of Homes &amp; Buildings</li> <li>Supporting Community Wealth Building and Growing Regional Supply Chains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P3, A2, A5</li> <li>P1, P2, P3, A6, A7</li> <li>P1, P3, A2, A7</li> <li>P1, P3, A1, A2, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9</li> </ul>	
6. Thriving and Distinct Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revitalising Towns and Rural Communities</li> <li>Creating and Sustaining High Quality, Affordable Homes</li> <li>Enhancing Digital &amp; Transport Connections</li> <li>Activating &amp; Empowering Communities, the Third Sector and Social Enterprise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P1, P2, A2, A3, A4, A5, A8, A9</li> <li>P1, P3, A3, A7</li> <li>P2, A3, A6, A9</li> <li>P1, P2, A1, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8</li> </ul>	



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**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 6**

<b>Author: Jamie Little, Strategic Housing and Regeneration Team Leader</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer: Steve Rogers, Head of Economy and Environment</b>
<b>Report Title: Housing Emergency Action Plan for Dumfries and Galloway</b>	
<b><u>1. Situation:</u></b>	
<p>1.1 The 27 June meeting of Dumfries and Galloway Council agreed to declare a housing emergency in the region, becoming the ninth local authority to do so. This followed a notice of motion submitted by Councillor Paula Stevenson and seconded by Councillor Linda Dorward.</p> <p>1.2 This decision was made on the basis that the Scottish Housing Regulator has declared that there is a 'heightened risk of systemic failure' in the delivery of housing and homelessness services at Dumfries and Galloway Council, and the acute nature of the crisis. Furthermore, the severe shortage of social rented homes, and additional pressures for accessible and family homes.</p> <p>1.3 Dumfries and Galloway Council also noted the impact the lack of accessible homes had on other service areas including Health and Social Care. Pressure on the Registered Social Landlord (RSL) sector was also cited, with RSLs finding themselves unable to develop future housing due to increasing interest rates. This was despite the range of Council efforts to tackle structural pressures including, Strategic Housing Investment Plan and lobbying Scottish Government for additional, and targeted funding.</p>	
<b><u>2. Background:</u></b>	
<p>2.1 On 16 May 2024, the Scottish Government declared a national housing emergency. Work is now underway to produce an action plan aimed at alleviating the current pressure on the sector locally, however the Scottish Government have not yet set out their commitments nationally.</p> <p>2.2 The CPPB have previously been advised that a meeting of key stakeholders had been arranged to ensure full input from partner organisations in the development of the housing emergency action plan. The Board were asked to provide their full support to this work, by ensuring appropriate attendance at the session on 30 September. The overview presentation which supported this session is attached in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>	



2.3 Representation from across the CPPB and wider was achieved, with partner organisations offering significant and positive contributions to the development of the emergency housing action plan, which is currently shaped around three main themes:

- Enabling the delivery of more market and affordable homes.
- Making the best use of existing homes.
- Enhancing housing access & prevention of Homelessness

2.4 An Elected Member seminar has also been arranged for the 7 January 2025, ahead of presentation of the final draft action plan to the 30 January 2025 meeting of the Councils' Tackling Poverty, Inequalities and Housing Sub-Committee.

2.5 A draft action included in the plan is to work with South of Scotland Enterprise and Scottish Borders Council to deliver the South of Scotland Housing Action Plan (SSHAP), attracting private developers to the region alongside growing those already here to provide more mixed tenure opportunities. The SSHAP was published and launched on 23 July by the Scottish Governments' Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan MSP.

2.6 Housing was identified as a key challenge in the South of Scotland in the launch of the first Regional Economic Strategy in 2021. The position has become even more acute in the proceeding years, intensifying the focus of this work for the Regional Economic Partnership. Work is already underway to deliver relevant actions in the short term, including:

- Scoping the feasibility and developing plans to create new student and key worker accommodation
- Supporting and shaping work to develop proposals to significantly increase construction skills provision in the region
- Developing and running a targeted marketing campaign to reach and support those in the construction sector who want to start up, grow or innovate in the South of Scotland.

2.7 Further to this work, the preparation of the next Local Housing Strategy is at an advanced stage and will now be supported by the Council's new HNDA. An officer working group has been established and a regular programme of consultation has been developed to ensure appropriate input from all stakeholders. The intention is for this work to complete in March 2025 ahead of the LHS being considered by Council Committee.



2.8 The draft Housing Emergency Declaration Action Plan is attached in **Appendix 2** for interest and comment.

### **3. Key issues:**

- 3.1 Through the Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers (ALACHO), a collaborative response with other organisations including the Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland, and Shelter Scotland has been issued to the Scottish Government calling on them to:
- Urgently increase the supply of new social homes
  - Maximise the use of existing homes for people in need
  - Fully fund local authority homelessness services
  - Maximise affordability across all tenures.
- 3.2 The Scottish Government's Affordable Housing Supply Programme for 2024-25 has been reduced by around 22%, from £713.145m to £555.845m nationally. The impact of this locally sees the regions previous allocation reducing from £20.524m to £15.529m.
- 3.3 The development of high quality, energy efficient dwellings contributes to tackling a range of socio-economic challenges and helps to provide secure homes that have a positive effect on the lives of people living in the region. These include young families, those living on low incomes, the homeless or those with specialist housing needs.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government have also advised that in the absence of future year budget assumptions, and to aid programme management, they will operate carry-forward limits for 2025-26 – 2027-28 of 80%/60%/40% of current allocations, placing further uncertainty on our ability to support future developments.
- 3.5 In April 2024 the SHR published their risk assessment of social landlords stating systemic failure is now impacting the delivery of homelessness services in some areas of Scotland. Dumfries and Galloway are included within a list of eight local authority areas deemed by the SHR to be at heightened risk of systemic failure.
- 3.6 The Council continues to participate in resettlement schemes, working closely with partner organisations to identify suitable housing options for asylum seekers and those displaced by conflict in their home countries.
- 3.7 There is evidence, that the private rented sector in Dumfries & Galloway may be shrinking with private landlord registrations reducing by 3% between 2022 and 2023.





#### **4. Recommendations**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Ensure** that appropriate input and resource is provided to support the development and delivery of the Local Housing Strategy and South of Scotland Housing Action Plan;

4.2 **Ensure** that all relevant partner organisations collaborate in the delivery of the housing emergency action plan, to alleviate the significant pressure on the sector at this time; and

4.3 **Consider** and provide comment on the draft action plan at attached in **Appendix 2**.

#### **Appendices (1)**

**Appendix 1 – Overview presentation**

**Appendix 2 – Draft Housing Emergency Action Plan**

## APPENDIX 1

# Dumfries and Galloway Housing Emergency

### Welcome to the Housing Emergency Stakeholder Session

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 Dumfries and Galloway Council declared a Housing Emergency due to the acute shortage of housing in the area. This emergency is driven by a complex range of issues including rising house prices and rents, reducing household incomes, growing construction costs, a drop in the number of new homes being built, a shrinking private rented sector and a local population which is both ageing and declining.

This empowers government, public bodies and partners to pursue action or policies that would not normally be permitted in order to ensure the safety and protection of citizens and communities

Declaring a housing emergency in Dumfries and Galloway Council is a call to action for government, public bodies and partners

Today, at the Housing Emergency Stakeholder session, partners are urged to identify the actions and interventions that will be most impactful in tackling housing shortage and to commit to their planning and delivery.



...bring partners together to forge commitments aimed at tackling housing shortage which maximise resources, pursue innovation, coordinate planning and target delivery

<p><b>Introduction</b>  <b>11.00 –11.15</b>  Briefing session  Housing Emergency: The evidence, the impact, and the need for action</p>	<p><b>Shelter Scotland - Scottish Empty Homes Partnership</b>  <b>11.15- 11.30</b>  National Position,  Tahmina Nizam  National Manager</p>	<p><b>Partner perspectives on housing shortage</b>  <b>11.30 –12.00</b>  Panel session  Our emergency response: What needs to happen?</p>	<p><b>Scoping solutions</b>  <b>12.00 –12.30</b>  Interactive audience session  Our emergency response: What's on and off the table?</p>	<p><b>Partner pledge</b>  <b>12.30 –13.00</b>  Commitments to delivery  Closing plenary</p>
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Today, we are delighted to invite partners to debate, prioritise and programme solutions to increase housing availability around four themes:

Enabling the delivery of more market homes in Dumfries and Galloway

Enabling the delivery of more affordable homes in Dumfries and Galloway

Making the best use of existing homes in Dumfries and Galloway

Consider short term options for allocations policies in Dumfries and Galloway

## What is the evidence of housing pressure in Dumfries and Galloway

- The Scottish Government has reduced the Affordable Housing Supply Programme for 2024-25 by around 22%, from £713.145m to £555.845m nationally. The impact of this locally was confirmed on the 21 May 2024, with the regions previous allocation reducing from £20.524m to £15.751m
- There were 998 homeless applications in Dumfries & Galloway in 2021/22 and 1,157 homeless applications in 2023/24. This represents an increase of 27%
- Across Dumfries & Galloway there are 2,757 waiting list applicants on the D&G4MoreHomes Common Housing Register (CHR) who have expressed demand for social housing. This equates to roughly 2.5 applicants to every 1 available social tenancy. Loreburn Housing Association (HA) operates a separate waiting list from the Homes4D&G CHR, with 2,044 applicants
- The average house price in Dumfries and Galloway was £161,000 in June 2024 (provisional), similar to the revised figure for June 2023. Across Scotland, the average house price rose by 4.3% over the same period
- 2% of all homes in Dumfries and Galloway are Seconds Homes this is higher than the national proportion at 1%
- 2% of dwellings are long term Empty

## Market Homes: Key Issues

- The provisional average house price in Dumfries and Galloway in June 2024 was £161,000. This was in line with the average of £160,000 in June 2023 (revised), a 0.3% change. Across Dumfries & Galloway in 2021, households would require to spend on average 5.18 times the median income to afford the median house price, with variances from 4.51 in Mid Galloway to 6.48 in Stewartry.
- House price analysis: House prices have grown steadily in Dumfries & Galloway over the last 11 years and on average by 26% between 2012 and 2023. 41% of households in Dumfries & Galloway cannot afford to access home ownership at market entry levels and 61% cannot afford median house prices.

Detailed analysis of house prices reveals a 30% increase in the average house price across Dumfries & Galloway from £140,859 in 2017/18 to £183,002 in 2022/23. This analysis also shows a slowing of house price inflation across the pre-Covid period (average 1% increase per annum 2012-2019) relative to the average 6% increase per annum experienced over the last 4 years (2019-2023) which is higher than the national level of 5%.

- Dumfries & Galloway has a lower proportion of social rented stock (20%) when compared with Scotland (24%)
- Skills shortages and building site constraints are barriers to market housing development

## Existing Homes: Key Issues

- There are 567 homes in Dumfries & Galloway registered for a short-term let license, with the majority (501) registered as a secondary let. Furthermore, 1,415 dwellings are classified as non-domestic properties on the Council Tax register such as chalets, caravans or self-catering units).
- There is evidence, that the private rented sector in Dumfries & Galloway may be shrinking with private landlord registrations reducing by 3% between 2022 and 2023
- Registers of Scotland recently extracted the attached information for Dumfries and Galloway. A reduction from 10776 registered properties at 31 March 2021 to 9940 at 31 March 2024 (8%)  
An average yearly reduction in new Landlord Registration applications of 3%
- Despite a relatively static tenure profile over the last two decades, the number of homes in the social housing sector has grown by 8% (1,012 homes) from 13,356 homes in 2011 to 14,368 homes in 2023, however there are still a lower proportion of social homes in the area compared to national figures
- 41% of households in Dumfries & Galloway cannot afford to access home ownership at market entry levels and 61% cannot afford median house prices
- Local Housing Allowance rates for Dumfries & Galloway are lower than the average private rent in Dumfries & Galloway by 13%. Based on a 30% income to rent ratio, 37% of households in Dumfries & Galloway cannot afford private rented sector rents, with a further 30% of whom cannot afford Mid-Market Rent levels

- 37% of respondents to our key worker survey, said they currently experiencing issues with recruiting staff
- Lower wage reflects the income inequality in the Dumfries & Galloway economy with 40% of the household population earning less than £25k per annum and 34% earning more than average incomes at £45k

## What are we doing to tackle housing shortage?

At a national level...

In October 2023, the Scottish Government published the Rural & Islands Action Plan setting out actions to improve access to the high quality affordable and market housing needed to enable rural communities to live, work and thrive including:

11,000 affordable homes in rural communities

25M Rural Affordable Homes Fund for Key Workforce Housing

£30M Rural and Islands Housing Fund for community led housing

Reform and modernise compulsory purchase legislation

New powers to apply higher Council Tax rates for 2nd homes

Extended use of rural housing burdens

Enable modern methods of construction in

Address construction supply chains and

Rural & Island areas

skills shortages

### At a local level...

Dumfries and Galloway Council Local Housing Strategy (LHS), outlines the vision and investment priorities for tackling housing need and addressing housing shortage

- Strategic Housing Investment Plan Annual Funding
- 1,702 new build affordable housing units delivered over the next 5 years by the SHIP
- Town Centre Living Fund has also proven to be a successful mechanism in bringing empty homes back into use.
- Vacant and Derelict Land: The reuse of persistent vacant and derelict land, including brownfield sites,
- An average of 1,087 social tenancies (8% per annum) have turned over in Dumfries & Galloway each year from a stock of 14,368 units.

## APPENDIX 2

### Housing Emergency Declaration Action Plan --- Actions Only

Theme 1 – Delivery of More Homes –	PROGRESS	Responsible Lead	Timescale for Completion
Continue to lobby SG for Increase in AHSP in partnership with COSLA/SOLACE/ALACHO and review of the benchmarks			
Work with partners to deliver the level of quality homes projected in the Strategic Housing Investment Plan			
Repurpose vacant spaces/buildings to homes and map public sector land and buildings that could potentially provide affordable homes			
Examine new ways to accelerate new build delivery considering housing emergency declaration in collaboration with colleagues from development management			
Evidence the feasibility of Mid-market rent and low-cost homes for sale, including for key workers, to enable a development pipeline.			
Provide range of housing options for older people and people with complex needs, and encourage downsizing where appropriate			
Consider the need for Short-Term Let control areas in pressured markets			
Prioritise Buy Back Scheme and enable RSLs to increase their stock via purchase of empty properties, as well as new builds.			

Work with stakeholders, including the Scottish Government, to improve planning decision times for all housing developments			
Explore an approach to develop modular and other forms of innovative housing by working in partnership with housing providers			
Recognise the declaration of a housing emergency when considering planning applications proposed for new developments			
Explore temporary relaxation of Developer Contribution requirements to support housing delivery			
Work in partnership with South of Scotland Community Housing and RSLs to deliver community led homes			
Work with SOSE and SBC to deliver the South of Scotland Housing Action Plan, attracting private developers to the region			

<b>Theme 2 - Making Best use of Empty homes</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Lead</b>	<b>Timescale for Completion</b>
	Reduce private sector empty properties by delivering a new Empty Homes Strategy.		
	Participate in the development of a national Matchmaker Scheme		
	Work with Council Tax Colleagues, to engage with empty property owners, including social media and publicity campaigns		



Hold a member's seminar and further engagement work to review use of resources such as the Town Centre Living Fund			
Highlight potential funding opportunities should the Council decide to introduce a Visitor Levy			
Develop a specific empty homes pilot project with short term funding from the Scottish Government			

<b>Enhancing housing access &amp; prevention of Homelessness</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Responsible Lead</b>	<b>Timescale for completions</b>
Reduce the number of homelessness applications arising due to properties failing to meet the tolerable standard.			
Establish a working group with RSL's and the third sector to improve tenancy sustainment			
Review housing allocation policies and strategies tackling housing crisis to maximise the availability of housing across the region			
Work in partnership with housing colleague's and NHS to improve hospital discharges, aids and adaptations and tenancy support			
Make 50% of RSL new tenancies available to homeless, or potentially homeless, households			
Continue to develop and embed initiatives identified in the RRTP to improve housing options and access within the Private Rented Sector for homeless or potentially homeless households			

Fully consider the impacts of 'local connection' and seek Scottish Government support to manage if required.			
Work with private landlords to halt the decline in the sector and ensure this tenure type remains an option for those that require it.			
Establish a Housing Emergency Programme Board.	.		



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 4 DECEMBER 2024  
CURRENT KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES UPDATES**

**ITEM 7**

<b>Author:</b> <b>Stephen Jack, Lifelong learning Manager</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer:</b> <b>Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities Services</b>
<b>Report: Current Key Strategic Issues Updates</b>	
<b><u>1. Situation:</u></b> 1.1 This report provides the quarterly updates on the Plans and Strategies which contribute to the LOIP.	
<b><u>2. Background:</u></b> 2.1 The Board has identified twelve key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alcohol and Drugs Strategy</li> <li>- Children’s Services Plan</li> <li>- Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan</li> <li>- Community Learning and Development (CLD) Partners’ Strategic Plan</li> <li>- Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy</li> <li>- Employability and Skills Plan</li> <li>- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan</li> <li>- Local Development Plan 2</li> <li>- Local Housing Strategy</li> <li>- Poverty and Inequalities Strategy</li> <li>- Regional Transport Strategy</li> <li>- South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy</li> </ul> 2.2 Reporting on the Child Poverty Action Plan is now incorporated within the work of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.  2.3 Following consideration at the July Community Planning Leadership Team meeting it was agreed that future reporting to the Board would be streamlined and would move to six-monthly updates, on rotation, to ease burdens on Partners. This would also halve the number of updates being presented to each Board meeting.	
<b><u>3. Key issues:</u></b> 3.1 Lead officers for 4 of the Strategies and Plans have provided more detailed progress updates for this meeting and these are detailed in <b>Appendix 1</b> .  3.2 Some key issues to bring to Board members attention include:  <b><u>3.2.1 Alcohol and Drugs Strategy</u></b> <b><u>Key headline statistics:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number of drug related deaths in Dumfries and Galloway dropped from 35 in 2022-23 to 12 in 2023-24; a decrease of 68%.</li> <li>• The number of Naloxone kits distributed in Dumfries and Galloway has almost doubled in the last year; from 359 in 2022-23 to 707 in 2023-24.</li> </ul>	

- The number of Alcohol specific deaths in Dumfries and Galloway decreased slightly from 36 to 32; still the second highest figure ever for the region.
- The annual report is attached in **Appendix 2** and the ADP would welcome any feedback/observations on this.
- CPP organisations are encouraged to do what they can to help reduce stigma towards people who use substances and their families.

### 3.2.2 Employability and Skills Plan

- 684 individuals registered with the LEP funded Employability and Skills Service, this represents a 150% increase from 273 at the same point in 2023.
- Parental engagement highlighted as an ongoing challenge particularly with families in work but experiencing poverty, the LEP would welcome any support and assistance with helping to reach this specific group.

### 3.2.3 Regional Economic Strategy

- Re-refresh of the RES Delivery Plan completed and as covered earlier in the meeting.
- Three key plans launched in the last quarter:
  - South of Scotland Housing Action Plan
  - Regional Land Use Framework
  - Natural Capital Innovation Zone

### 3.2.4 Poverty and Inequalities Strategy

- A review of the operation, membership and governance of the partnership and its five sub-groups, including how they relate to the work of the Equality and Diversity Working Group and to the CPP was completed earlier in the year.
- Planning ahead for the Winter and the Winter Warmth campaign.

## **4. Recommendation:**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Note** the key issues highlighted at Section 3 and **consider** the requests made by lead officers;

4.2 **Note** the progress being made in relation to the key Strategies and Plans that support the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan as detailed in **Appendix 1**; and

4.3 **Provide** any constructive comments, feedback and observations that will be fed back to lead officers including on the ADP Annual report.

**Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager**

## **Appendices (2)**

- 1 - Updates on key Strategies and Plans
- 2 - ADP Annual Report

**ITEM 7 APPENDIX 1  
 UPDATES ON KEY STRATEGIES AND PLANS**

**1. Alcohol and Drugs Strategy**

<p><b>1.1 Key issues/progress updates in relation to the delivery of your existing Plan/Strategy for highlighting to Board Members:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing issue regarding ADP contracts which were due to start on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 but have still to be tendered. Extensions have been agreed with current service providers to continue to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. Plans are in progress to have the contracts tendered before Christmas.</li> <li>• ADP Delivery plan year 2 actions are being progressed by the ADP subgroups. This is updated quarterly. No current issues in delivering actions</li> <li>• ADP Performance Report 2023/24 (see <b>Appendix 2</b>) presented to September ADP Board</li> <li>• MAT Standards implementation going well overall, few issues around staff sickness causing some capacity issues</li> <li>• Nitazenes(synthetic opioid) and Xylazenes(non-opioid tranquiliser)pose a significant risk of overdose and possible death if they are cut with other drugs. They are currently circulating elsewhere in Scotland and could find their way into the local drugs supply.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.2 Any specific decisions/feedback you require from Board Members?:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on the ADP Performance report would be welcome</li> <li>• Ask if all CPP organisations do what they can to help reduce stigma towards people who use substances and their families</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.3 Key activities/projects/initiatives ongoing which specifically contribute to the three overarching Themes of the new LOIP and any positive impacts that they may be having on our local communities?:</b></p>	<p><b>Which LOIP Outcome/s does this contribute to?(see below ref)</b></p>
<p><b>1.3.1 Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pilot harm reduction initiative is being progressed for distribution of Nitazene and Xylazene strips which will allow people to test drugs in their possession for nitazenes/xylazine, enabling informed choice. Both these drugs pose a substantial risk of overdose, drug-related hospitalisation and drug-related death</li> <li>• Festive season planning underway which will address alcohol related and drug related harm reduction messaging across services and social media</li> </ul>	<p><b>HWB3</b></p> <p><b>HWB3</b></p>

<p><b>1.3.2 Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a community of practice for lived/living experience staff to share information and best practice, build knowledge, develop expertise, solve problems, develop tools and techniques for knowledge sharing and engage in collaborative learning</li> <li>Practitioner Forum half day event set for 12<sup>th</sup> November, which brings together staff from a range of organisations who work with people who uses substances. The theme for this year's event is Recovery</li> <li>A range of training sessions being delivered, including trauma and substance use and motivational Interviewing</li> </ul>	<b>WO2</b>
<p><b>1.3.3 Where We Live</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing development of Recovery Communities, helping to deliver key ADP initiatives such as overdose awareness to local communities</li> <li>Recovery Communities taking part in community activities such as Sandside Community Gardens, members link in with other community groups such as Mental Health Association and Bethany Christian Trust.</li> </ul>	<b>HWB3</b>
<p><b>1.4 Key Performance information relevant to your Plan/Strategy:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of drug related deaths in Dumfries and Galloway dropped from 35 in 2022-23 to 12 in 2023-24; a decrease of 68%</li> <li>The number of Naloxone kits distributed in Dumfries and Galloway has almost doubled in the last year; from 359 in 2022-23 to 707 in 2023-24</li> <li>The number of Alcohol specific deaths in Dumfries and Galloway decreased slightly from 36 to 32; still the second highest figure ever for the region</li> <li>There has been significant progress in implementing the MAT Standards in Dumfries and Galloway. ( see appendix 3.1)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.5 Future Plans/Priorities:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conducting a table top exercise to establish roles and responsibilities and which partner organisations would be involved if a multiple overdose (fatal/non-fatal) incident occurred</li> <li>ADP Contracts to be tendered and awarded by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025</li> <li>Recovery communities plan to be finalised</li> </ul>	

**Lead officer: Jackie Davies, ADP Strategic Lead**

**Appendix 2 - Annual performance Report 23-24**

**2. Dumfries and Galloway Local Employability and Skills Partnership Delivery Plan 2022-2027****2.1 Key issues/progress updates in relation to the delivery of your existing Plan/ Strategy for highlighting to Board Members:****2.1.2 Overall performance**

2.1.2.1 To the end of Q2 (Apr - Sep 2024) there were 684 individuals registered with the LEP funded Employability and Skills Service, this represents a 150% increase from 273 at the same point in 2023.

2.1.1.2. The figure includes:

- 249 new clients registered in the quarter.
- 210 outcomes were achieved:
  - 89 moved into work,
  - 99 progressed to accredited training and
  - 20 moved onto volunteering/ work experience and
  - 1 into a modern apprenticeship.
- Of these 42% female and 56 % male (2% preferred not to say)

2.1.2.3 The LEP Delivery Plan focused on the agreed priority groups and performance over the quarter in supporting these groups is as follows:

**2.1.2 Young people most at risk of not participating in education, training or employment especially those who have care experience.**

2.1.2.1 Of the 273 individuals being supported 50% (342) were under 25 and 8% identified care experience as a barrier to employment. Support is offered working in partnership with education and Skills Development Scotland, which includes:

- work within schools through Education Coordination Groups
- a programme aimed at supporting young people with disabilities to transition post education

2.1.2.2. In Q2 a number of new programmes were commissioned for delivery. These include specialist support for young people who have experienced care, training and employment support for young people leaving school through Let's Get Sporty and a partnership with DG College to offer a transitional college course for 20 young people not in employment or training.

**2.1.3 Those with Physical and mental health conditions, including disabilities and additional support needs.**

2.1.3.1 309 (45%) of the current caseload of clients recognise themselves as having a disability or long-term health condition. Following the publication of the DG Disability Employment Gap report a range of support was commissioned. This includes:

- expanding Project Search to a second site in Stranraer and providing an additional 12 young people a place on the programme
- Beginning delivery of the engagement and barrier removal service for disabled people targeting 180 individuals through Triage Central Ltd
- A supported employment service was re-established in the region with a target of supporting 120 individuals into work in the next 12 months.
- A pilot service providing whole family support for families with a disabled family member was started in this quarter and is being delivered by Wigtownshire staff.



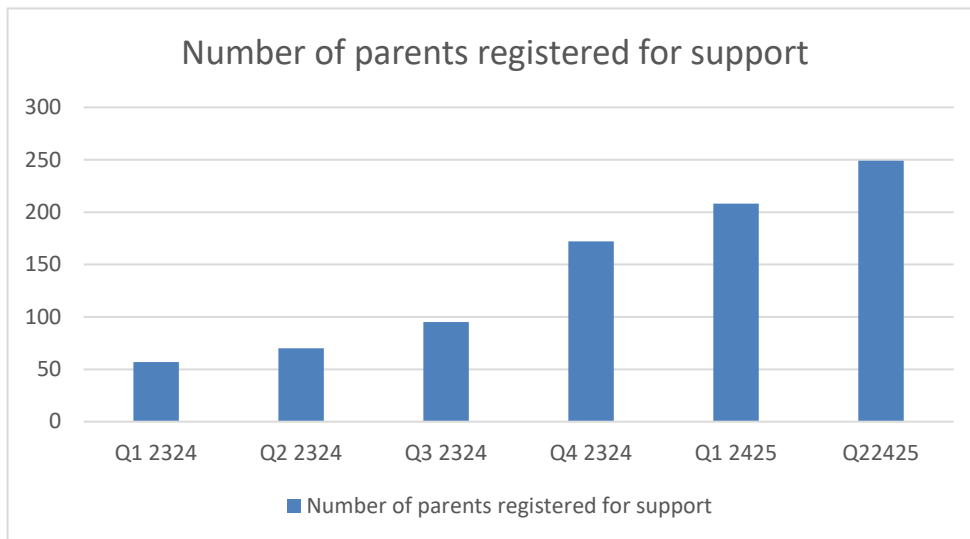
- In addition, the Dumfries and Galloway Council funded Placement Plus Phase 2 commenced. This programme will provide a minimum of 15 six month paid placements within Council services for people with disabilities or long-term health conditions.

**2.1.4 Those who are long term unemployed.**

Within the current caseload of clients 26% have never worked and 16% have been unemployed for more than 2 years. These figures are significantly higher than in the previous 23-24 year. To help those who have limited, or no work experience employability training programmes are delivered across the region by CEIS. In Q2 these were delivered in Dumfries, Annan, Moffat, Sanquhar and Stranraer.

**2.1.5 Families, with children, experiencing poverty.**

2.1.5.1 All LEP in Scotland were provided with No One Left Behind Child Poverty funding in 2024/25. As a result, a significant amount of work has gone into engaging and supporting parents in the region which has resulted in a steady increase in the number of parents registered on the pathway.



2.1.5.2 Interventions to support parents include all employability activity as well as targeted engagement and early support provided by Let’s Get Sporty and Right Options, creating employability hubs in Upper Nithsdale and Stranraer, Enterprise programmes for parents, training to increase the number of childminders working locally.

2.1.5.3 Two Employability and Skills Hubs have been established following consultation and engagement work with parents. These are in Hillview Leisure Centre in Upper Nithsdale and Queen Street in Stranraer. These have been established in partnership between DG LEP and the Community Development Trusts in the areas.

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**2.1.6 Employers and SMEs in D&G, especially those facing skills shortages.**

In Q2 employer engagement activity which will support all client in the region was commissioned. While the commission will work region wide and with all sectors there will be a particular focus on:

- Health and Social Care
- Retail
- Construction
- Agriculture and Forestry
- Hospitality
- Transport and Logistics
- Manufacturing
- Children and Early Years
- Public Sector
- Third Sector

**2.1.7 Place based focus**

2.1.7.1 The breakdown of client registration for the Quarter:

Postcode		
DG1	Dumfries	109
DG2	Dumfries	134
DG3	Thornhill	19
DG4	Sanquhar	45
DG5	Dalbeattie	22
DG6	Kirkcudbright	20
DG7	Castle Douglas	42
DG8	Newton Stewart	53
DG9	Stranraer	98
DG10	Moffat	8
DG11	Lockerbie	47
DG12	Annan	75
DG13	Langholm	4
DG14	Canonbie	2
DG16	Gretna	6

2.1.7.2 Community Employability Cafes are now running in Gretna, Stranraer, Dumfries town, Lochside, Moffat and Sanquhar. These will operate weekly until March 2025. Employability training has been delivered in Dumfries, Castle Douglas and Stranraer.

2.1.7.3 ESS will continue to increase delivery in communities, and using DG LEP Scottish Government funding has more than doubled the number of Employment Key Workers in the region. This will allow greater activity and engagement in communities.

**2.2 Any specific decisions/feedback you require from Board Members?:**

Parental engagement is improving but remains difficult. A number of families are in work and in poverty and engagement is particularly difficult with this group. DWP have been able to provide indicative figures of the numbers of the workforce within anchor organisations who may be eligible for employability support – assistance to engage that group would be welcome.

<p><b>2.3 Key activities/projects/initiatives ongoing which specifically contribute to the three overarching Themes of the new LOIP and any positive impacts that they may be having on our local communities?:</b></p>	<p><b>Which LOIP Outcome/s does this contribute to?</b></p>
<p><b>2.3.1 <u>Health and Wellbeing</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work together as partners to eliminate poverty by focusing on a place and person based approach to improving employment outcomes for people the LEP plan contributes to wider initiatives to reduce poverty across the region. The plan is underpinned by the principles of Fair Work</li> </ul>	<p><b>HWB4</b></p>
<p><b>2.3.2 <u>Work</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Grow and maximise the potential of the working age population to help increase employability</b> – a significant programme of work is underway to improve employment outcomes from those aged 16 upwards in the region. This includes employability and skills programmes, one to one key worker support, targeted interventions including training for those aged under 24 and barrier removal initiatives such as driving lessons and funding for transport and clothing.</li> <li>• <b>Address the skills and recruitment gaps in key sector specific posts to increase capacity, capabilities and ease workforce pressures</b> – The upcoming employer engagement provision will bring the work of employability closer to those looking for work.</li> <li>• <b>Increase volunteering opportunities to help develop skills, build capacity and support progression into local employability</b> – The SPF Programme Board approved providing funding to Third Sector DG to appoint a post to enhance the volunteering offer as part of the employability offer in the region. In this quarter 10 clients were volunteering.</li> <li>• <b>Work with our local communities to develop an inclusive, thriving economy and to promote Fair Work</b> – The LEP continues to work to the principles of Fair Work and promotes this where possible to employers in the region. It was recently approved by the LEP that any funding directly to employers must require them to undertake the Fair Work Assessment and pay the RLW to the candidate as a minimum.</li> </ul>	<p><b>WO1-4</b></p>
<p><b>2.4 Future Plans/Priorities:</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work focused on:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tackling poverty</li> <li>○ Tackling the disability employment gap</li> <li>○ Rolling out the place-based approach underpinned by service design</li> <li>○ Continued capacity building in our provider supply chain</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

**Lead Officer: Lynne Burgess, Employability, Skills and Partnership Manager**

Community Planning Partnership Board

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**3. Regional Economic Strategy**

<p><b>3.1 Key issues/progress updates in relation to the delivery of your existing Plan/Strategy for highlighting to Board Members:</b></p> <p>The refresh of the Regional Economic Strategy Delivery Plan has been completed. The Plan has been agreed by the South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership, and endorsed by Scottish Borders Council, Dumfries &amp; Galloway Council's Economy and Infrastructure Committee and South of Scotland Enterprise Board.</p> <p>The three-year Delivery Plan covering 2025-2027 has three Key Priorities and nine additional actions. An update on actions relevant to the CPPB will be provided at future meetings. A copy of the Plan will be available from the <a href="#">REP website</a> shortly.</p>	
<p><b>3.2 Any specific decisions/feedback you require from Board Members?:</b></p> <p>No decisions required</p>	
<p><b>3.3 Key activities/projects/initiatives ongoing which specifically contribute to the three overarching Themes of the new LOIP and any positive impacts that they may be having on our local communities?:</b></p>	<p><b>Which LOIP Outcome/s does this contribute to?(see below ref)</b></p>
<p><u>Where We Live</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of <u>South of Scotland Housing Action Plan</u> in July 2024. REP partners are progressing various actions. These include discussions between South of Scotland Community Housing and Registered Social Landlords about potential joint projects; and developing a marketing brief for a campaign to encourage the construction sector to grow and innovate in the South of Scotland,</li> <li>• Launch of <u>Regional Land Use Framework</u> at the September meeting of the Regional Economic Partnership. This document sets out a concise vision and objectives for land use across the region as well as giving information on existing land use (and the benefits it provides) and drivers for land use change</li> <li>• Launch of the <u>Natural Capital Innovation Zone</u> in November.</li> </ul>	<p><u>WWL4</u></p> <p><u>WWL3</u></p> <p><u>WWL3</u></p>
<p><b>3.4 Key Performance information relevant to your Plan/Strategy:</b></p> <p>As noted above, the refresh of the Regional Economic Strategy Delivery Plan has now been completed. An update on progress on actions relevant to the CPPB will be provided at future meetings.</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Future Plans/Priorities:</b></p> <p>Priorities for 2025-2027 can be found in the <a href="#">Delivery Plan</a> on the Regional Economic Partnership's website.</p>	

**4. Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Strategy****4.1 What are the key issues/progress updates/future plans in terms of the delivery of your current Plan/Strategy that you would like to bring to the attention of Board Members?**

4.1.1. Over the spring and summer the Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Partnership concluded:

- A review of the operation, membership and governance of the partnership and its five sub-groups, including how they relate to the work of the Equality and Diversity Working Group and to the CPP.
- A review of the involvement of communities/ people with lived experience of poverty.
- A review of the action plans for each of the sub-groups, identifying those actions set out within the plans which have been completed, those which will be newly prioritised, and those which should be jettisoned, and further areas for action that have come to the fore since the creation of the plans.

4.1.2 Recommendations have been made and are in the process of being implemented in relation to the work of the Partnership, including:

- Making minutes of the partnership publicly available.
- Distributing partnership minutes across members of the sub group.
- Communicating with wider stakeholders on work taking place to tackle poverty.
- The development of a public facing entry point to information about poverty and work taking place to tackle poverty in Dumfries and Galloway.
- More effective engagement with people with lived experience of poverty, and with the Tackling Poverty Reference Group.
- More effective engagement with the LEP and Equalities and Diversity Working Group.

4.1.3 A short life working group has been convened to look at the use of data by the Partnership and its sub groups which will report back to the first meeting of 2025.

4.1.4 The Partnership has agreed to develop processes for responding to impact assessments being carried out by partners. It is still seeking resources to undertake a pilot 'poverty audit' process. In relation to that it is in discussion with Dumfries and Galloway Council about potential links to its 'Customer Insights' programme.

4.1.5 The most immediate strategic task for the Partnership is to respond to the Council's proposed budget plans for 2024/25. A meeting has been set with council officers to facilitate this response, as the first stage of our engagement on the issue.

**4.2 Any specific decisions/feedback you require from Board Members?:**

No.

**4.3 In terms of your existing Plan/Strategy, what are the current key activities/projects/initiatives ongoing which specifically contribute to the****Which LOIP Outcome/s**

<p>three new overarching Themes for the new LOIP and any positive impacts that they may be having on our local communities?</p>	<p>does this contribute to?(see below ref)</p>
<p><b>4.3.1 Note: Not all the priority actions undertaken by the subgroups are listed here, we will be glad to furnish Community Planning Partners with additional information on request.</b></p> <p><b>4.3.2 Sub-Group One (Community Responses and Tackling Severe and Enduring Poverty)</b></p> <p>4.3.2.1 Has progressed work on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping foodbank and pantry provision across the region.</li> <li>• Rolling out successful pilots of advice provision in foodbanks.</li> <li>• Providing training for frontline staff in responding to poverty amongst clients.</li> <li>• Dissemination of information about cash first and community provision across the region, through leaflets and the DG locator.</li> </ul> <p>4.3.2.2. The sub group is currently considering how it can support the development of a 'multi bank' offer in communities across the region, based on exemplars elsewhere in Scotland the UK, and building on existing local provision.</p> <p><b>4.3.3 Sub-Group Two (Maximising Income and Reducing Debt)</b></p> <p>4.3.3.1 continues to develop its work on the possible creation of a referral portal for Dumfries and Galloway. Discussions are currently underway to ensure that this complements the Single Access Point initiative.</p> <p>4.3.3.2 Backed by the sub group, DAGCAS were successful in accessing funding from the Scottish Government's Child Poverty Accelerator Fund for their Accessible Financial Wellbeing Support for Priority Families Project Schools offering support to families with young children reached through schools, nurseries, third sector organisations, the DGC Family Placement team and others.</p> <p>4.3.3.3 Sub Group Two hopes shortly to begin implementation of its Child Trust Fund project, which aims to reunite 1,450 pupils with their Child Trust Fund, a potential gain of £2.175m.</p> <p>4.3.3.4 It will shortly complete contact with all families who currently receive Free School Meals within the region to offer information and support to apply for the Social Security Scotland Child Payment Grant, worth £25.00 per week, per child.</p> <p><b>4.3.4 Sub Group 3 (Reducing Financial Pressures)</b></p> <p>This sub group currently has a twin focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging with Thistle Credit Union, which has taken over Solway Credit Union, exploring their aspirations and how we can maximise the availability of affordable credit and savings products to people in the region.</li> </ul>	<p>HWB1, HWB2, HWB3, HWB4</p>

- Contributing to the delivery of the Partnerships' Winter Warmth campaign, discussed below.

#### 4.3.5 Sub-Group 4: Tackling Child Poverty

4.3.5.1 There has been a change in leadership within the sub group, following on from a review involving the Partnership in discussion with senior officers from Community Planning Partners.

4.3.5.2 The focus of the group will now shift from reporting to the Scottish Government on the progress of work in the region on child poverty as per the statutory responsibility of the NHS/ Council, to developing its own action plan. This will focus on work targeting children's and parental benefits, and work where intermediary organisations are focused on children and parents, with engagement with schools likely to be a significant element of the work.

4.3.5.3 Work was concluded on the successful CPAF bid with sub group 1 and surveying partners in relation to the delivery of food provision through breakfast clubs, holiday and weekend provision and other out of school activities.

#### 4.3.6 Sub Group 5: Communications

The sub group has developed an action plan which includes work on:

- The further development of the Cost of Living Website.
- Rolling communication 'grids' in accordance with needs identified by the other sub groups.
- Creating a 'Poverty in Dumfries and Galloway' portal for members of the general public seeking help or seeking to offer help, and members of the general public and interested staff from partners seeking information or data about work taking place/ looking to link with existing work.
- Further development of the use of broadcast, printed and social media to push key messages.

#### 4.4 What are your main issues, risks and proactive initiatives going into the Winter Resilience Planning period:

4.4.1 The Partnership is about to launch its Winter Warmth campaign at the end of November, building on its work from last year.

4.4.2 The Council has led community based outreach built around the offer of warm winter clothing during November. This has involved a wide range of key voluntary and statutory sector partners.

4.4.3 The campaign will be delivered across broadcast, social and printed media backed by:

- The distribution of leaflets across frontline staff and locations focused on communicating simple messages about where to seek help, with a version for older people containing basic advice about keeping warm and safe in the Winter.
- New content on the Cost of Living Website reflecting what is described in the leaflet.



4.4.4 A further push will also be given to dissemination of last year's video training, walking front line staff through fuel poverty issues and where help is available locally, which aims to build the capacity of frontline staff to respond appropriately, with information and referral, to fuel poverty issues affecting the people they work with.

**Lead Officer: Nick Hopkins, Independent Chair, Poverty and Inequalities Partnership**



**Dumfries and Galloway  
Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

# **Annual Performance Report 2023/24**

August 2024

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## Foreword from Chair

As the Independent Chair of Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP), I am pleased to present our annual performance report for 2023-24. In doing so, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who are working tirelessly to reduce harm from substance use including people with lived or living experience, family members and friends, front line staff, the ADP Support Team and our colleagues from across the partnership. Your commitment, passion and hard work are the driving forces behind our progress, and it is through your support that we will make a meaningful difference in Dumfries and Galloway. On behalf of the Partnership, I would like to thank every single one of you.

Nationally we are finding that trends are changing regarding the types of drugs which are being used and the level of alcohol use is increasing. We are working with our Partners locally and nationally to share learning and ask difficult questions so that the experiences and perspective of people in Dumfries and Galloway are represented and heard.

There is no doubt that it is a challenging time for alcohol and drug partnerships across the whole of Scotland, and it is no different in Dumfries and Galloway. I know and understand the challenges we face across our communities regarding substance use, particularly post pandemic and in the midst of one of the worst cost of living crisis for many years. I also believe that a rural area like Dumfries and Galloway has specific challenges regarding equitable access to services.

Despite these circumstances, this report demonstrates that throughout 2023-24 Dumfries and Galloway often performed better than the Scottish average for a wide range of performance indicators, and that our staff and services have pulled together to support people who use substances.

Many people have taken part in engagement activities throughout the year including surveys, the MAT standards experiential interviews, the ADP development day and the practitioner forum. I would like to thank everyone who participated in these activities for sharing their views and telling us about their experiences so that we can continue to improve our services.

There will likely be tough times ahead and some difficult decisions required, but the ADP is reflecting on performance in 2023-24 to help inform the way forward to meet the many challenges that we will face. With this report, we aim to provide transparency into our activities, progress, and the impact we are striving to achieve.

As we reflect on our achievements, challenges and the road ahead, we remain committed to achieving our vision of people living longer, happier and healthier lives free from any harm caused by substance use. Thank you again to all involved in our shared mission to reduce alcohol and drug harm across Dumfries and Galloway.

Warm regards,

Penny Halliday  
Independent Chair

## Executive Summary

Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) leads the development and delivery of a local comprehensive and evidence based strategy to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related harm across Dumfries and Galloway.

This performance report focuses on our activity in 2023/24 and considers how the ADP is delivering on its strategy using a range of performance indicators.

### Strategic Planning and Commissioning:

The Dumfries and Galloway ADP Strategy 2023-2026 was approved in June 2023. During 2023/24, the ADP developed contract specifications for the following drug and alcohol services:

- a region wide drug and alcohol service
- a family support service
- an assertive outreach service
- a talking therapies service

The new contracts are due to go out to tender at the beginning of August 2024 with the new contracts starting from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

### Dumfries and Galloway ADP Projects in 2023/24:

There were 9 key projects which were progressed in 2023/24:

- Implementing and embedding the MAT Standards
- Tackling harm from substance use
- Supporting residential rehabilitation
- Increasing Naloxone provision
- Establishing the ADP website
- Establishing a local early warning group
- Delivering a practitioner forum
- Delivering the ADP development day
- Supporting Dumfries and Galloway Recovery Together Groups

### Performance - how we are getting on:

#### Recovery Orientated Systems of Care - Access to Services

- The proportion of people who wait no longer than 3 weeks to start drug or alcohol treatment has consistently remained above the national waiting times target.
- Substantially fewer people had a residential rehabilitation placement in 2023/24 compared to the previous year.

### **Recovery Orientated Systems of Care - Substance Use Harm**

- Alcohol related admission rates to general acute hospitals and alcohol specific death rates are consistently better in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- Admissions to psychiatric hospitals are higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland for drug related and alcohol related conditions.
- In 2023, there was no difference in the rate of drug related deaths in Dumfries and Galloway compared with Scotland.

### **Recovery Orientated Systems of Care - MAT Standards**

- Dumfries and Galloway is below target for MAT 1 with people in Dumfries and Galloway waiting longer to be offered a first MAT assessment than people in most other areas of Scotland.
- The proportion of people prescribed long acting injectable buprenorphine, Buvidal®, is higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- Dumfries and Galloway exceeded the target for MAT 3 with nearly 100% of high risk people contacted by the Assertive Outreach team within 1 day of referral.

### **Prevention and Early Intervention**

- The number of Alcohol Brief Interventions being delivered and counted is considerably below target.
- The number of Naloxone kits distributed in Dumfries and Galloway has almost doubled in the last year.

### **A Public Health Approach to Justice**

- The rate at which crimes relating to drugs are committed is consistently higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- The rate at which driving offences relating to drug or alcohol use are committed is higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.

### **Getting it Right for Children and Young People**

- Since the pandemic, the rate of alcohol related admissions has been lower in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.

# 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the activity of Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) in 2023/24 and consider how the ADP is delivering on its strategy using a range of performance indicators.

## *What is an Alcohol and Drug Partnership?*

### **The National Context**

“Rights, Respect and Recovery: Alcohol and Drug Treatment Strategy” is the Scottish Government’s Strategy to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths ([here](#)).

The National Mission sets out to reduce deaths and improve lives impacted by drugs. The “National Mission on Drug Deaths: Plan 2022-2026” sets out the approach to achieve the aim and vision of the Mission through an outcomes focused approach ([here](#)).

The national “Alcohol and Drug Partnerships: delivery framework” places responsibilities on each Local Authority and NHS Board to participate in the ADP and to ensure that other local partners can contribute appropriately to the delivery of these national strategies and priorities at a local level. The partnership arrangements enable the expression of views from interested groups ([here](#)).

### **Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership**

Dumfries and Galloway ADP leads the development and delivery of a local comprehensive and evidence based strategy to reduce the level of alcohol and drug related harm across Dumfries and Galloway. The ADP promotes this strategy for alcohol and drug services, and makes recommendations to local public bodies, including the Integration Joint Board (IJB), about which services are needed and how they are funded.

Dumfries and Galloway ADP is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
- Chief Operating Officer
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, (Elected Member)
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Children and Families Social Work
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Justice Social Work
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Adult Social Work
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Public Protection
- Dumfries and Galloway Council, Housing
- Dumfries and Galloway Community Justice Partnership
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Finance
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Mental Health Directorate
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway, Public Health
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway, (non-executive board member)
- People With Lived Experience
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prison Service, (HMP Dumfries)
- Third Sector Representation
- Violence Against Women



There are no vacant positions on the ADP Board but the ADP is currently reviewing the membership of its board to ensure active representation from a range of organisations.

The ADP has an Independent Chair. The work of the ADP is facilitated by the ADP Support Team.

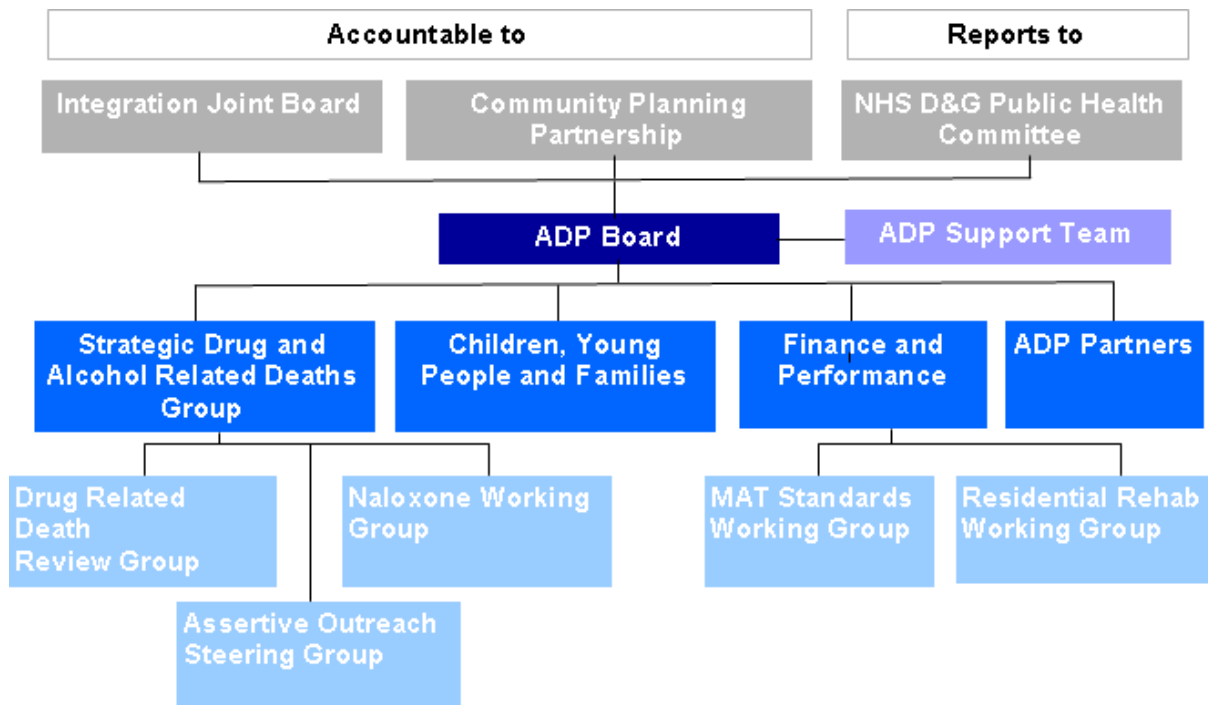
Dumfries and Galloway ADP has a Board ([here](#)) and 4 subgroups that contribute to the delivery of our Strategy and the associated Delivery Plan:

- ADP Finance and Performance ([here](#))
- Strategic Alcohol and Drug Death Group ([here](#))
- ADP Children, Young People and Families ([here](#))
- ADP Partners ([here](#))

The ADP also establishes various working groups to progress specific pieces of work including a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards working group, a Naloxone working group, an Assertive Outreach steering group and a Residential Rehabilitation working group.

A Lived Experience group is also planned as a formal part of the structure.

The ADP is accountable to Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership and reports to NHS Dumfries and Galloway Public Health Committee. The Integration Joint Board (IJB) holds funds from the Scottish Government on behalf of the ADP and the ADP must report to the IJB to give assurance on financial governance following Best Value Principles.



## 2. Strategic Planning

### Dumfries and Galloway ADP Strategy

Dumfries and Galloway ADP follows a 3 year strategic commissioning cycle:

- gathering and analysing information including people's views (analyse)
- developing strategies, plans and frameworks (plan)
- implementing the strategy and commissioning services to deliver on goals of the strategy (do)
- reviewing performance and the effectiveness of strategy to inform future strategy (review)



The Dumfries and Galloway ADP Strategy 2023-2026 was approved in June 2023 ([here](#)). The Strategy was developed in line with the Partnership Delivery Framework and in partnership with people who have lived experience of alcohol or drug related harm. The ADP strategy is supported by a Delivery Plan ([here](#)) and underpinned by a Performance Management Framework which supports the review stage of the strategy ([here](#)).

The Strategy has 4 key priority areas which provide direction to the partnership:

- Developing a recovery orientated system of care
- Prevention and targeted early intervention
- Getting it right for children, young people and families
- A public health approach to justice

**Our strategic vision:** “Dumfries and Galloway is an area where we live long, healthy and active lives regardless of where we come from; where individuals, families and communities have the right to health and a life free from the harms of alcohol and drugs and are treated with dignity and respect”.

Dumfries and Galloway ADP is currently in the implementation phase of the strategic commissioning cycle. During 2023/24, the ADP developed contract specifications with strong engagement from staff, family members and service users for the following services:

- a region wide drug and alcohol service
- a family support service
- an assertive outreach service
- a talking therapies service

The new contract specifications are very similar to the previous specifications as these were identified as the key needs of people who participated in engagement exercises. One additional specification to the contract for the region wide service is to ensure the MAT standards are implemented.

The process of completing the new procurement strategy documentation took longer than expected due to the detailed information required. At the end of 2023/24, the contracts were still waiting to go out to tender. Existing contracts were extended to cover the delay. The revised timeline means the contracts should now go out to tender at the beginning of August 2024 with the new contracts starting from the 01 October 2024. In future, the ADP will start procurement much earlier in the strategic commissioning cycle and create a detailed timetable to ensure that milestones are met and potential issues are identified as soon as possible.

### 3. Dumfries and Galloway ADP Projects in 2023/24

There were 9 key projects which were progressed in 2023/24:

- Implementing and embedding the MAT Standards
- Tackling harm from substance use
- Supporting residential rehabilitation
- Increasing Naloxone provision
- Establishing the ADP website
- Establishing a local early warning group
- Delivering a practitioner forum
- Delivering the ADP development day
- Supporting Dumfries and Galloway Recovery Together Groups

#### 3.1 Implementing and embedding the MAT Standards

The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards are evidenced based national standards to enable the delivery of safe, accessible, high quality drug treatment across Scotland (Scottish Government 2021).

There has been significant progress in implementing the MAT Standards in Dumfries and Galloway. In July 2024, the national MAT Standard Implementation Team published a benchmarking report ([here](#)). In this report, each area in Scotland was assigned a Red, Amber, Green or Blue (RAGB) scoring for the Standards depending on implementation progress against each standard. Dumfries and Galloway achieved the following RAGB scores:

RAGB Score	Definition	Standards
Blue	There is evidence of sustained implementation	3 and 4
Green	There is evidence of full implementation	2 and 5
Provisional Green	There is evidence of implementation, however, full implementation is not confirmed by all three evidence streams	1, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10
Amber	There is evidence of partial implementation	No standards
Red	There is no or limited evidence of implementation	No standards

The table above shows Dumfries and Galloway achieved sustained implementation for 2 MAT Standards. Dumfries and Galloway is the only ADP in Scotland to achieve a 'blue' score for more than 1 MAT Standard. Feedback from the Scottish Government outlines that a 'provisional green' status is the best that can be awarded for MAT 6 to 10 at this stage as the reporting criteria has not been fully developed for these standards.

The MAT programme continues until March 2026 when full sustainable implementation is expected by Scottish Government and Public Health Scotland.

## MAT 1 – All people accessing services have the option to start MAT from the same day of presentation

### Key Messages:

- ✓ The experiential feedback from people who use services highlighted no concerns around length of time to start Opiate Substitution Treatment.
- ✓ People who use services reported receiving an appointment quickly and a prescription for Opiate Substitution Treatment at their first appointment with no delay in waiting to receive a prescription.
- ✗ More work needs to be done to ensure people are offered a first MAT assessment within 1 day of referral. The numerical target states that 75% of people should have been offered a first MAT assessment within 1 day of referral.

**33%** of people were offered an appointment for Opiate Substitution Therapy within **1** day of referral.

Jan-Mar 2024



“ I found out about the service from my GP who referred me. The service contacted me very quickly and I got an appointment straight away. I was offered treatment at my first appointment, there were no delays

”

## MAT 2 – All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT, and the appropriate dose

In December 2020, long acting injectable buprenorphine (Buvidal©) was rolled out and continued investment in this initiative has supported the delivery of Standard 2. Buvidal© is a new medication formulation with significant advantages compared to alternative opiate substitution treatments.

### Key Messages:

- ✓ Dumfries and Galloway has one of the highest proportion of people prescribed Buvidal© in Scotland with 38% of people on MAT prescribed Buvidal©. Across Scotland, 18% of people on MAT are prescribed Buvidal©.
- ✓ People who use services said they felt informed of the range of treatment options and supported by staff to choose the best treatment which supports their recovery.

The type of drugs prescribed changed between March 2022 and March 2024:

- methadone (60% to 43%)
- long acting injectable buprenorphine (13% to 38%)
- oral buprenorphine (27% to 20%)

March 2022



March 2024



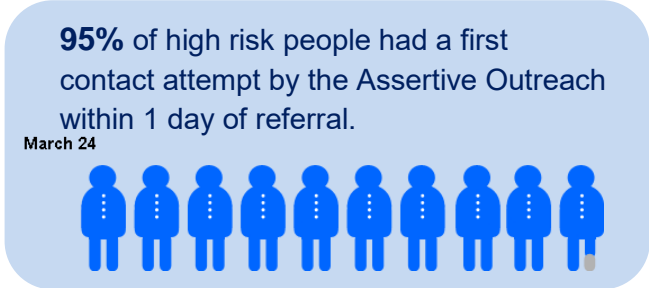
“ I was told about various options and given leaflets to take home. I was involved in making the decision about my treatment. I wanted to move from methadone to Buprenorphine. I had plenty of time to make my decision and was happy with the outcome. ”

### **MAT 3 - All people at high risk of drug related harm are proactively identified and offered support to commence or continue MAT dose**

In 2020, Dumfries and Galloway established a multi agency assertive outreach team. The Assertive Outreach team reach out to people known to have suffered a non fatal overdose or known to be at high risk of suffering a drug related death.

#### **Key Messages:**

- ✔ The target states 75% of high risk people should have a first contact attempt within 3 days of referral. Dumfries and Galloway exceeded this target with nearly 100% of people were contacted within 1 day of referral. Nationally, 97% of ADPs (28 ADPs out of 29) met the target of 3 days and 34% of ADPs (10 ADPs) including Dumfries and Galloway contacted at least 75% of people within 1 day of referral.
- ✔ Feedback from people who use services praised the rapid and extensive support provided by the Assertive Outreach team. People felt supported by the service.

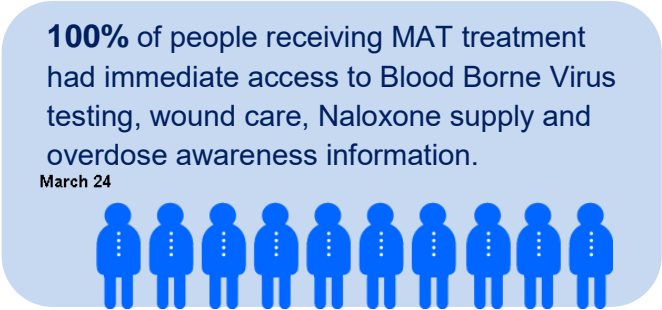


“ I experienced near fatal overdose once... I missed my appointments. Assertive Outreach got in touch with me and came to my house. They were there for me. I was put back on the treatment straight away and moved to the drug service after a while. I lost a lot of confidence but they have been there for me, they supported me throughout. ”

### **MAT 4 - All people are offered evidence based harm reduction at the point of MAT delivery**

#### **Key Messages:**

- ✔ Dumfries and Galloway is above the numerical target which states that 75% of people should have immediate access to harm reduction measures.
- ✔ Feedback from people who use services highlighted receiving harm reduction information and equipment at appointments.



## MAT 5 - All people will receive support to remain in treatment for as long as requested

### Key Messages:

- ✓ Dumfries and Galloway is above the numerical target which states that 75% of people should continue with MAT for 6 months or longer. Nationally, 89% of people on MAT were retained in treatment for 6 months or longer.
- ✓ Feedback from people who use services indicated that the majority of people felt reassured they could remain in treatment for as long as requested.

88% of people continued with MAT for 6 months or longer.

March 24



## MAT 6 - The system that provides MAT is psychologically informed (tier 1); routinely delivers evidence-based low intensity psychosocial interventions (tier 2); and supports individuals to grow social networks

### Key Messages:

- ✓ A specialist substance use clinical psychologist has been appointed and will lead on the implementation of MAT 6 and 10.
- ✓ The majority of people said they could access a variety of low intensity psychosocial interventions. This included relaxation techniques, breathing exercises and strategies to recognise and manage situations which may trigger relapse. People said learning about these interventions helped to build their confidence.

## MAT Standard 7 - All people have the option of MAT shared with Primary Care

### Key Messages:

- ✓ A local enhanced service for shared care between drug services and GP practices was implemented for many GP practices across Dumfries and Galloway. Half of the GP practices (17 out of 32) were participating in this service at the end of 2023/24.
- ✓ Feedback from people who use services showed that most people were aware shared care is offered through the specialist drug service. People who are currently in a shared care arrangement praised the support provided by GPs.
- ✗ More work needs to be done to increase the number of GP practices who offer shared care. Some people reported that they would like to access shared care but their GP practice does not currently offer the service.
- ✗ Some people highlighted fears around being judged or stigmatised by primary care settings as a barrier to entering into a shared care arrangement.

“My prescription is with GP who knows about drug addiction, understands my circumstances and is supportive.”

“My prescription is not with GP at present - local GP services could be better and less stigmatised.”

## **MAT Standard 8 - All people have access to independent advocacy and support for housing, welfare and income needs**

### **Key Messages:**

- ✓ Feedback from people who use services highlighted receiving information and leaflets about independent advocacy. People said they were able to access support with treatment, housing and finance.
- ✗ A challenge for MAT 8 is ensuring independent advocacy is available in the future. In 2023/24 the ADP commissioned a dedicated advocacy service for 1 year to support people who were taking part in the MAT interviews but there were no requests for advocacy support. Due to financial constraints, the ADP is no longer commissioning a dedicated advocacy service and there have been concerns about the lack of capacity in the advocacy service. Discussions are ongoing between the ADP and the advocacy service to ensure that people who use substances can receive support from advocacy services.

## **MAT Standard 9 - All people with co-occurring drug use and mental health difficulties can receive mental health care at the point of MAT delivery**

### **Key Messages:**

- ✓ Mental Health services are working together with substance use services to implement MAT 9.
- ✗ More work needs to be done to ensure people who use substances can access mental health support. Some people said they were unable to access adult mental health services and highlighted issues around as long waiting times and lack of appointments or referrals. People feel access to this service should be readily available.

“ It is difficult to get appointment with adult mental health services, the waiting times are so long and you have to be in recovery before you can get one. ”

“ I couldn't access adult mental health. They didn't want to know as I had a substance use problem. ”

## **MAT Standard 10 - All people receive trauma informed care**

### **Key Messages:**

- ✓ A specialist substance use clinical psychologist has been appointed and will lead on the implementation of MAT 6 and 10.
- ✓ People who use services highlighted positive experiences during treatment. People found staff supportive, approachable, understanding and non-judgemental. People said these attributes contributed to a supportive and stigma free environment.



“ They always ask if I need something, offer me refreshments. I am treated as an equal, they don't look down on me. ”

“ All staff are friendly, understanding and compassionate, non - judgemental. I feel like I am a human treated with a dignity. ”

### 3.2 Tackling Harm from Substance Use

A multi agency Drug Related Death (DRD) Review Group meets regularly and examines each suspected drug related death with input from key services who work with people who are using drugs. The objectives of the group are:

- To collect and examine the evidence then make a local assessment of whether each death is believed to be drug related or due to another medical cause.
- To determine whether there are any learning points that might help improve care or possibly avoid deaths for others who are using drugs.

Learning points are fed back into services and discussed at the Strategic Alcohol and Drug Related Death Group. The DRD Review Group has started to record any learning points so these will be included in future reports.

In 2023, the DRD Review Group considered **32 suspected** drug related deaths. The final figure for 2023 was **12 confirmed** drug related deaths.

In 2023, there were 12 drug related deaths in Dumfries and Galloway, a decrease of 25 drug related deaths compared with 2022. The ADP will be exploring potential reasons which could explain why drug related deaths decreased in 2023.

In 2023/24, we implemented a process to increase our learning and understanding around alcohol specific deaths. If someone who dies from an alcohol specific death was in contact with a substance use service in the 6 months prior to death, then the service will complete a review and feedback on any learning or outcome from the review.

### 3.3 Supporting Residential Rehabilitation

Each ADP in Scotland receives a ring fenced budget for Residential Rehabilitation. Dumfries and Galloway has a clear referral pathway and assessment process for any residential rehabilitation placement requests. As part of this process, there is a residential rehabilitation panel which discusses any applications for funding and assesses whether the people who have applied for funding meet the eligibility criteria. The panel consists of representatives from the following services:

- NHS Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service (2 members)
- We are With You (2 members)
- Justice Social Work (2 members)
- Housing (2 members)
- ADP Support Team (1 member)

In 2023/24, Dumfries and Galloway funded 6 residential rehabilitation placements. A small number of people had their applications for funding declined by

“ I now have contact with my daughter after rehab, the contact is better than I could have imagined ”

the panel. Potential reasons for an application being rejected include the person not engaging well with community services or the person having an outstanding criminal offence. Unsuccessful applicants are given feedback on their application and guidance to support them should they wish to make a future application. An appeals process is also in place for anyone who disagrees with the decision made by the panel.

There were fewer placements funded in 2023/24 because the funding for residential rehabilitation had been spent by October 2023. In previous years, the ADP has supplemented the funding but this was not possible in 2023/24 due to financial constraints across the partnership. The ADP implemented a waiting list to consider applications in chronological order once funding became available. Whilst the applications were on hold, the ADP received enquiries about placements and the funding situation but no formal applications were added to the waiting list. Reasons for the lack of formal applications might include staff being unaware of the waiting list, staff not putting forward applications as they were aware of the financial restraints, or people preferring to wait until they knew their application would be looked at by the panel.

### 3.4 Increasing Naloxone Provision

Naloxone can temporarily reduce the effects of an opiate overdose and prevent a non fatal overdose from becoming fatal. The Naloxone Working Group meets every three months to promote the provision of Take Home Naloxone Kits across the region.

#### Key Messages:

- ✓ Across Dumfries and Galloway, 252 police officers and 10 fire officers have been supplied with emergency Naloxone. This can be administered if they encounter someone who is experiencing a near fatal overdose.
- ✓ Community pharmacies across the region can now supply and administer emergency Naloxone kits.
- ✓ Dumfries and Galloway now has an additional Naloxone Nasal Spray available on formulary. This allows people to have a choice of nasal sprays.
- ✓ The custody suite can now distribute Naloxone.

In 2023/24, Dumfries and Galloway ADP distributed **707** Take Home Naloxone Kits.

### 3.5 Delivering the Practitioner Forum

In 2023/24, the ADP organised and delivered a practitioner forum with a theme of 'staff mental wellbeing'. The first workshop of the day focused on compassion fatigue and the second workshop focused on Early Intervention for Psychosis. Staff were also gifted a 'wellness pack' which contained items to promote self care including hand cream, lip balm and affirmation cards. Staff were given the opportunity to find out more about other services through market stalls and networking with colleagues.

The event was attended by around 45 members of staff

“ I enjoyed the day it was good to see workers from other organisations. It was good to learn more about other services and support like the Early Intervention Service. ”

from a range of services including We Are With You, Sexual Health, Apex, Justice Social Work and Alcohol and Drug Support South West Scotland.

The ADP plans to deliver a practitioner forum every year with workshop themes determined by staff.

### 3.6 Delivering the ADP Development Day

In 2023/24, the ADP worked with Figure 8, a private consultancy firm, to organise and deliver a development day. The development day was attended by people with lived experience and partners from a range of services including drug and alcohol services, NHS, social work, third sector and the police. The event focused on the future strategic priorities of the ADP, the vision and values of the ADP and the role of lived experience and peer research.

“ I liked the afternoon session when everyone was working together, listening to each other with respect and coming up with innovative ideas and solutions.

The ADP plans to host a development day every year.

### 3.7 Establishing the ADP Website

In October 2023, the ADP worked with CSU Web Designs to design and launch its own standalone website. Prior to this, the ADP had an information page on the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) website. A standalone website was developed in response to feedback from key stakeholders at a previous ADP Development Day. The feedback highlighted that a standalone ADP website would be beneficial as it would allow the ADP to share more information on a wide range of topics with a separate page for each topic. This would make it easier for people to navigate and locate information.

Between October 2023 and March 2024, the ADP website was visited **220 times** by **176 devices**.

The cost of creating and setting up the ADP website was below £1,400 which equates to a very small proportion of the ADP budget. There is also an annual website maintenance cost of around £300.

The website was developed in partnership with people with lived experience, family members and other partner agencies who played a crucial role in shaping the website design and content.

The ADP website provides information on a range of topics including:

- The ADP and the ADP Support Team
- Drug harm reduction measures
- Alcohol harm reduction measures
- Available services and support
- Dumfries and Galloway recovery groups

Top 3 information pages with the highest number of visitors:

- **MAT Standards**
- **ADP Support Team**
- **Documents including ADP Strategy**

The ADP Development Officer is responsible for updating information on the website. The ADP website can be accessed here: <https://dgadp.co.uk/>

### 3.8 Establishing a Local Early Warning Group

In 2023/24, the ADP set up a Local Early Warning Group. The purpose of the group is to monitor, assess and respond to alerts relating to potential emerging drug related harms in Dumfries and Galloway. The response of the group will vary depending on the level of threat posed by an alert.

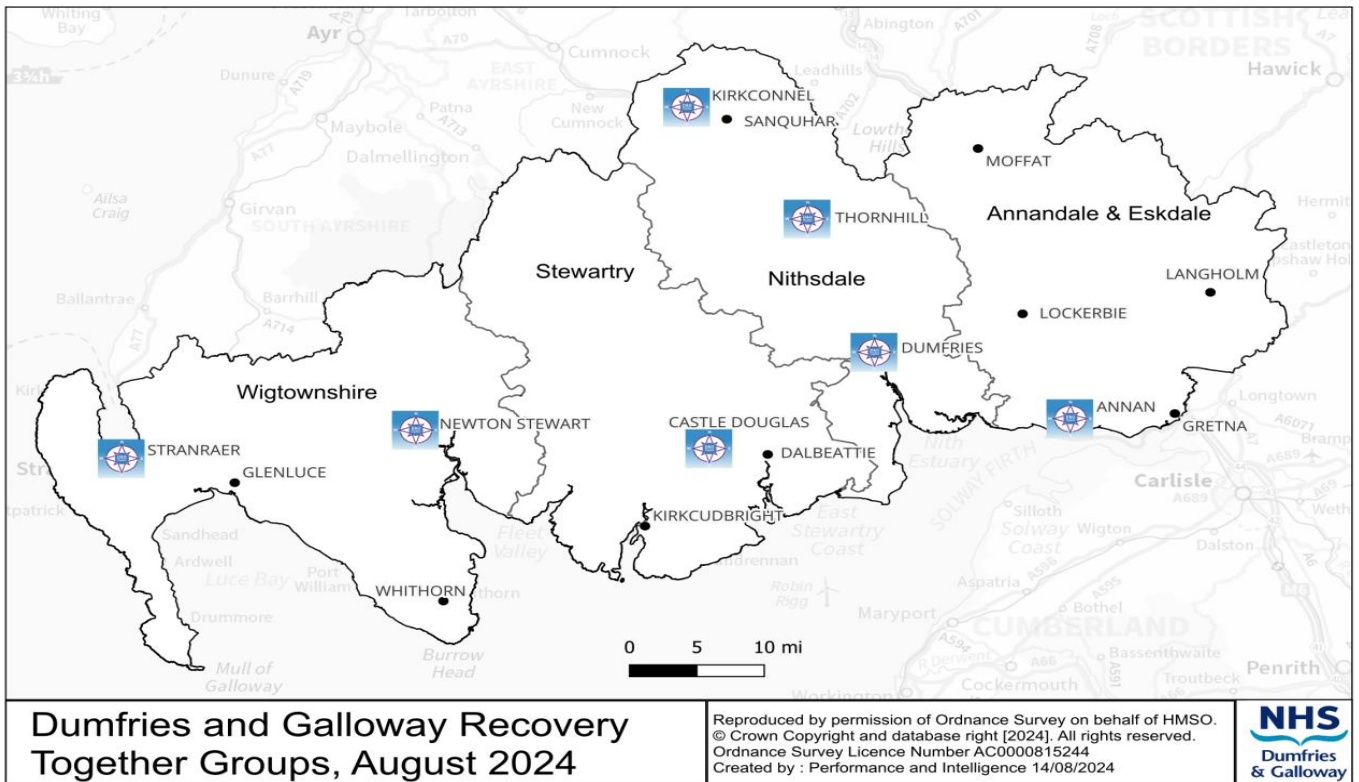
Information around current active alerts and trends is available on the ADP website. Drug alerts can be sent to the ADP by emailing the ADP mailbox ([dq.adp@nhs.scot](mailto:dq.adp@nhs.scot)) or submitting an online form on the ADP website (<https://dgadp.co.uk/trends-and-alerts/>).

### 3.9 Supporting Dumfries and Galloway Recovery Together Groups

At the end of 2023/24, Dumfries and Galloway Recovery Together had established 7 recovery groups across Dumfries and Galloway and 1 online recovery group. In total, there were 35 members in the Recovery Together Groups.

#### Highlights from 2023/24:

- ✓ New recovery groups were developed in Kelloholm and Thornhill.
- ✓ An early evening walking group was established in Dumfries and Annan.
- ✓ The groups delivered an Easter Egg Hunt for the public to reduce stigma and promote recovery.
- ✓ A team was created to consider fundraising opportunities and ideas for the group.
- ✓ Group members participated in various training opportunities including Naloxone, Committee Skills, Finance, Mental Health first aid and effective communication.





## 4. Delivering on the ADP Strategy


The indicators listed below are grouped according to the 4 core areas of the ADP Strategy.

### 4.1 Coding used

For each indicator there is a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) status:

- 

**Green:** We are meeting or exceeding the target or number we compare against
- 

**Amber:** We are within 3% of meeting the target or number we compare against
- 

**Red:** We are more than 3% away from meeting the target or number we compare against

The target is the standard set nationally that we compare against. For some indicators there is no national standard so we look to the Scotland average instead. For other indicators there is no target set nationally or locally. These indicators are for information.

*Please note the following for the tables below, 'TBC' indicates the data has not been published yet and '-' means the data is not available for that year.*

Sources:

- Public Health Scotland (PHS) (formerly ISD Scotland) ([here](#))
- NSS Discovery ([here](#))
- SCOTPHO profiles ([here](#))
- National Records of Scotland Statistical Publications ([here](#))
- Local Information Systems

### 4.2 Recovery orientated systems of care

#### Access to services

- In Dumfries and Galloway, the proportion of people who wait no longer than 3 weeks to commence drug or alcohol treatment has consistently remained above the 90% target.
- Substantially fewer people had a residential rehabilitation placement in 2023/24 compared to the previous year. The lower number of placements in 2023/24 was because funding for residential rehabilitation had been spent by October 2023. In previous years, the ADP has supplemented funding but this was not possible in 2023/24 due to financial constraints.

Indicator		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
ADP1 (B14)	Percentage of people who wait no longer than 3 weeks from referral to when they receive appropriate <b>drug treatment</b> that supports their recovery (Target: 90%)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Scotland	95%	96%	92%	93%	94%	
	Dumfries & Galloway	94%	98%	96%	99%	100%	
ADP1 (B14)	Percentage of people who wait no longer than 3 weeks from referral to when they receive appropriate <b>alcohol treatment</b> that supports their recovery (Target: 90%)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Scotland	94%	96%	92%	90%	92%	
	Dumfries & Galloway	97%	96%	96%	96%	97%	
ADP2	Number of referrals to alcohol and drug services	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	2,104	1,821	1,869	
ADP18	Number of people who have been successful in applying for a residential rehabilitation placement	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	23	6	

## MAT Standards

- In Dumfries and Galloway, there is still work to do to ensure that people can start MAT quickly. The target states that 75% of people should be offered a first MAT assessment within 1 day of referral. Out of the 29 ADPs across Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway was 1 of the 5 ADPs who did not meet this target.
- The proportion of people prescribed long acting injectable buprenorphine, Bupivald®, is higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- In Dumfries and Galloway, people who require support from the Assertive Outreach team are contacted and supported quickly. The target states 75% of high risk people should have a first contact attempt within 3 days of referral. Dumfries and Galloway exceeded this target with nearly 100% of people contacted within 1 day of referral. Nationally, 97% of ADPs (28 out of 29 ADPs) met the target of 3 days and 34% of ADPs (10 ADPs) including Dumfries and Galloway contacted at least 75% of people within 1 day of referral.
- The number of people on MAT with immediate access to IEP has gone up in the last year.
- Both Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland remain above target for MAT Standard 5 with over 75% of the people on the MAT caseload in treatment for 6 months or longer.

Indicator		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
New (MAT 1.1)	Percentage of caseload offered a first MAT assessment within 1 day of referral (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	Jan-Mar 20 -	Jan-Mar 21 -	Jan-Mar 22 -	Jan-Mar 23 -	Jan-Mar 24 33%
New (MAT 1.2)	Percentage of caseload who started OST within 1 day of referral (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	Jan-Mar 20 -	Jan-Mar 21 -	Jan-Mar 22 -	Jan-Mar 23 -	2023-24 29%
New (MAT 3.1)	Percentage of High Risk Events with a first contact attempt within 72 hours (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	Jan-Mar 20 -	Jan-Mar 21 -	Jan-Mar 22 -	Jan-Mar 23 -	Jan-Mar 24 98%
MAT 3.2	Percentage of High Risk Events assessed within 72 hours (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	Jan-Mar 20 -	Jan-Mar 21 -	Jan-Mar 22 -	Jan-Mar 23 -	Jan-Mar 24 84%
MAT 4.1	Immediate access to Blood Borne Virus (BBV) testing (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	March 20 -	March 21 -	March 22 -	March 23 100%	March 24 100%
MAT 4.2	Immediate access to Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	March 20 -	March 21 -	March 22 -	March 23 5%	March 24 100%
MAT 4.3	Immediate access to Naloxone and Overdose Awareness (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	March 20 -	March 21 -	March 22 -	March 23 100%	March 24 100%
MAT 4.4	Immediate access to Wound Care (Target: 75%)	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	March 20 -	March 21 -	March 22 -	March 23 100%	March 24 100%
MAT 5	Percentage of caseload retained in treatment for six months or more (Target: 75%)	Time Period Scotland Dumfries & Galloway	March 20 - -	March 21 - -	March 22 - -	March 23 90% 86%	March 24 90% 88%



## Substance use harm

- Alcohol related admission rates to general acute hospitals and alcohol specific death rates are consistently better in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- In the most recent data available, there was no real difference in the rate at which people are admitted to a general acute hospital for a drug related condition in Dumfries and Galloway compared with the rest of Scotland. This marks a change from previous years in which Dumfries and Galloway had a higher rate of drug related hospital admissions than Scotland.
- The rates of alcohol and drug related admissions to psychiatric hospitals were higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- In 2023, there was no difference in the rate of drug related deaths in Dumfries and Galloway compared with Scotland.

Indicator		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
ADP4	Number of referrals to Assertive Outreach for people who suffered a near fatal overdose and needed assertive outreach support	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	158	170	
ADP20	Number of alcohol related visits to the Emergency Department for people aged over 18 years old	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	354	265	340	406	393	
ADP21	Rate of alcohol related <b>acute hospital admissions</b> per 100,000 population	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	681	614	611	532	TBC
New	Rate of alcohol related <b>psychiatric hospital admissions</b> per 100,000 population	Dumfries & Galloway	437	419	443	422	TBC
		Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
ADP23	Rate of drug related <b>acute hospital admissions</b> per 100,000 population (3 year average ending...)	Scotland	49	39	40	45	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	47	30	57	61	TBC
New	Rate of drug related <b>psychiatric hospital admissions</b> per 100,000 population (3 year average ending...)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	221	233	228	197	TBC
ADP30	Rate of alcohol specific deaths per 100,000 population (5 year average ending...)	Dumfries & Galloway	240	243	236	200	TBC
		Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
ADP32	Rate of drug related deaths per 100,000 population (5 year average ending...)	Scotland	39	38	35	32	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	45	57	64	68	TBC
ADP30	Rate of alcohol specific deaths per 100,000 population (5 year average ending...)	Time Period	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
		Scotland	20	20	21	21	TBC
ADP32	Rate of drug related deaths per 100,000 population (5 year average ending...)	Dumfries & Galloway	13	13	13	16	TBC
		Time Period	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
ADP32	Rate of drug related deaths per 100,000 population (5 year average ending...)	Scotland	19	21	23	23	24
		Dumfries & Galloway	18	19	22	25	24



### 4.3 Prevention and early intervention

- The delivery of Alcohol Brief Interventions remains a considerable challenge for Dumfries and Galloway. The number of Alcohol Brief Interventions being delivered is considerably below target. In the last 4 years, national figures have not been available as national data collection was paused during the pandemic. National data collection resumed in 2023 but no national data has been published as of yet.
- The Alcohol Brief Intervention target states that 80% of Alcohol Brief Interventions should be delivered in the 3 priority settings of primary care, antenatal care and the accident and emergency department. In every year below, Dumfries and Galloway was below this target. The proportion delivered in priority settings decreased considerably at the start of the pandemic and has remained low. The most recent data shows a slight increase but still remains below the level before the pandemic.
- The number of Naloxone kits distributed in Dumfries and Galloway has almost doubled in the last year.
- Since 2020/21, the rate at which Naloxone kits were distributed to people who use drugs was lower in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland.
- The purpose of injecting equipment provision is to reduce injecting risk behaviours and help prevent the transmission of blood borne viruses such as hepatitis C amongst the population. The number of syringes distributed has been decreasing yearly.

Indicator			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
ADP11	Number of alcohol screenings (FAST screening) in all settings	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	2019-20 7,872	2020-21 5,765	2021-22 6,686	2022-23 5,692	2023-24 6,031
ADP9	Number of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) delivered in all settings	Time Period Scotland (Target: 61,081)	2019-20 75,616	2020-21 -	2021-22 -	2022-23 -	2023-24 -
		Dumfries & Galloway (Target: 1,743)	896	417	605	504	541
ADP10	Percentage of Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs) delivered in 3 priority settings (primary care, antenatal care, and accident and emergency) (Target: 80%)	Time Period Scotland	2019-20 83%	2020-21 -	2021-22 -	2022-23 -	2023-24 -
		Dumfries & Galloway (Target: 80%)	45%	6%	5%	9%	16%
ADP12	Number of Naloxone kits distributed to all recipients	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	2019-20 375	2020-21 239	2021-22 299	2022-23 359	2023-24 707
New	Number of Take Home Naloxone Kits per 1,000 persons who use drugs problematically (ages 15-64)	Time Period Scotland	2019-20 234	2020-21 391	2021-22 507	2022-23 501	2023-24 TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	355	344	398	426	TBC
ADP13	Number of needles dispensed by Injecting Equipment Providers	Time Period Dumfries & Galloway	2019-20 179,277	2020-21 154,475	2021-22 145,272	2022-23 122,046	2023-24 108,877

#### 4.4 A public health approach to justice

- Whilst the rate at which crimes relating to drugs are committed in Dumfries and Galloway has decreased since 2019/20, it still remains higher than the rate for Scotland as a whole. This indicator is based on the location where the crime occurred rather than where the person committing the crime lives. This means it will include any drug crimes which occur along the M74 or ferry ports. As such, the person committing the crime could live outside Dumfries and Galloway or even outside of Scotland.
- The rate at which driving offences relating to drug or alcohol use are committed is higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland. The higher rate in Dumfries and Galloway might be explained by the necessity of driving in a rural area compared to urban areas which have greater public transport options. This indicator is based on the location where the crime occurred rather than where the person committing the crime lives.

Indicator			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
ADP6	Number of referrals to Assertive Outreach for people recently released from prison	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	-	62
ADP24	Crude rate of drug crimes recorded per 100,000	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	65	65	51	49	47
		Dumfries & Galloway	91	81	81	76	57
New	Number of Take-Home Naloxone Kits distributed to people recently released from prison	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	1,002	1,240	1,690	1,929	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	24	15	10	19	34
New	Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol offences (rate per 10,000)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	12	15	14	14	15
		Dumfries & Galloway	14	10	12	22	27
New	Drunkenness and other disorderly conduct offences (rate per 10,000)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	10	11	9	7	4
		Dumfries & Galloway	4	3	3	5	4

## 4.5 Getting it right for children and young people

- Before the pandemic, the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions for people aged 11 to 25 years old was higher in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland. Since the pandemic, the rate of alcohol admissions in Dumfries and Galloway has decreased. In 2021-22, the most recent data available, Dumfries and Galloway is than Scotland.
- Before the pandemic, the rate at which people aged 11 to 25 years old were admitted to hospital for a drug related condition was lower in Dumfries and Galloway than Scotland. In the most recent data available, there is little difference in the rates for Dumfries and Galloway and Scotland.
- Dumfries and Galloway continues to have a lower rate of maternities recording drug use during pregnancy than the average across Scotland.
- There is little difference in the proportion of mothers identified as drinking 1 or more units at booking in Dumfries and Galloway compared with Scotland.

Indicator		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
ADP16	Number of referrals for children and young people (under 18 years) for own substance use	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	51	36	-	57	64	
ADP17	Number of referrals for children and young people (under 18 years) for parental substance use	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
	Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	24	29	
ADP22	Rate of alcohol related hospital admissions for children and young people aged 11 to 25 years (3 year average ending...)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	273	270	255	TBC	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	321	292	241	TBC	TBC
New	Rate of drug related hospital admissions for children and young people aged 11 to 25 years (3 year average ending...)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	162	174	168	TBC	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	149	165	165	TBC	TBC
New	Number of alcohol related visits to the Emergency Department for under 18s	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Dumfries & Galloway	51	33	51	28	36
ADP27	Rate of maternities recording drug use during pregnancy (3 year average ending...)	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	16	17	17	TBC	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	12	11	10	TBC	TBC
ADP28	Percentage of mothers identified as drinking 1 or more units at booking	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Scotland	26%	26%	26%	26%	TBC
		Dumfries & Galloway	31%	26%	29%	27%	TBC
New	Percentage of pregnant mothers receiving an Alcohol Screening at booking appointment	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
		Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	99%	99%
New	Percentage of pregnant mothers receiving an Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) at booking appointment	Time Period	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2022-24
		Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	-	0%	0%

## 5. The ADP Budget

### 5.1 Finance Overview

In 2023/24, the ADP delivered a financial position with an under spend of £199,070. The total budget available for the ADP in 2023/24 was £3.1 million and the expenditure was £2.9 million, as summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: ADP Funding Arrangements, 2023/24

Funding stream	2023/24 budget £000s
Funding Carried Forward from 2022/23	1,070
Additional Programme for Government Uplift	504
NHS Board Baseline Contribution	461
National Drug Mission	326
MAT Standards	269
Residential Rehabilitation	148
Agenda for Change Pay Uplift	116
Whole Family Approach	104
Taskforce Response Fund	58
Lived and Living Experience	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,071</b>

Table 2: ADP Expenditure, 2023/24

Service	2023/24 Actual Spend £,000
Buvidal Medication	572
MAT Standards	333
Regionwide D&A Service Contract	321
Assertive Outreach	225
Residential Rehab	198
Whole Family Approach Framework	195
Talking Therapies Contract	191
Assertive Outreach Contract	145
Family Support Service SLA	101
Hospital Liaison	95
MAT Leadership Role	89
Recovery Communities	65
Lochside Hub	63
Buvidal Pharmacy Support	63
Pharmacy Support	57
ADP Development Post	42
Advocacy	30
Hepatitis C Contact Tracing	28
Substance Misuse Coordinator	27
Criminal Justice - Forensic Social Work	26
Buvidal Shared Care Nurses	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,872</b>

In 2023/24, the financial position was only achieved by use of the £1.1 million funding carried forward from 2022/23. A smaller under spend of £199,070 from 2023/24 has been carried forward within the IJB reserves and will be included in the budget for 2024/25.

## The outcome of a programme funded in the past: Moving On

Between 01/12/2019 and 30/10/2023, the ADP invested just under £33,000 to help develop and support Moving On. Moving On offers free community based programmes relating to physical activity to people in recovery. The programmes are designed to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Specific programmes offered include Branching Out, an outdoor nature based programme, and physical activity programmes which involve 1 to 1 support with qualified staff within leisure facilities. Between 01/09/2021 and 30/09/2023:

- There were 37 referrals from people in recovery to Branching Out with 33 referrals starting the programme and 18 referrals finishing the programme.
- There were 127 referrals to physical activity programmes with 44 referrals starting the programme and 13 referrals finishing the programme.

An evaluation into the programme found that people who participated reported very high satisfaction with the programme:

- 83% of people said they felt happier



- 73% of people maintained or improved their health



Moving on has reached the end of its funded period with the ADP. The programme has secured additional funding from the UK Government which will support Autumn 2024 and Spring 2025 programmes.

“ Before the gym, I was at death doors and led a chaotic life!! The referral made to DGOne, meant everything to me and helped me a lot in both my mental and physical health.....I look great now.

”

“ It has brought my family together again, even got my nephew involved and has really helped us all. It's good to wake up in the morning, have a purpose and it feels great.

”



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 8**

<p><b>Author: Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager</b></p>	<p><b>Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities</b></p>
<p><b>Report Title: BUSINESS BRIEF</b></p>	
<p><b><u>1. Situation:</u></b>          This Briefing provides the CPPB with an update on the following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and Diversity Working Group</li> <li>• Development of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership</li> <li>• Participation and Engagement Working Group</li> <li>• Community Planning Self-Evaluation Tool</li> <li>• Collaboration for Health Equity Scotland</li> <li>• Population Health Framework</li> <li>• Guidance for Fair Funding for the Third Sector</li> <li>• Tackling Scotland’s Population Challenges</li> <li>• Membership Update</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>2. Background:</u></b>          2.1 The business brief is used to update CPPB Members on key local and national projects/initiatives which have key relevance to Community Planning along with relevant Governance matters as appropriate.</p>	
<p><b><u>3. Key Issues:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>3.1 Equality and Diversity Working Group</u></b>          3.1.1 The Community Planning Senior Leadership Team (CPSLT) considered the annual report from the Equality and Diversity Working Group at its September meeting. The CPSLT highlighted the important role that this group plays and agreed to help promote the work of the group and how it can support other partnerships and organisations. The terms of reference for the group is attached in <b>Appendix 1</b>. Key areas where support can be provided are detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can help to promote any local or national campaigns relating to the protected characteristics or those in hard to reach groups;</li> <li>• May be able to provide support for any awareness raising campaigns specific to protected characteristic groups;</li> <li>• Can provide advice and guidance on any policy development work from a lived experience point of view;</li> <li>• Can participate in Impact Assessments to provide a lived experience point of view and provide feedback on how policies may impact on those with a protected characteristic;</li> <li>• Act as a conduit between public sector agencies and community groups and protected characteristic groups to help share information;</li> </ul>	



- Should any partner wish to explore these opportunities further then you are invited to contact Linsey Little, Development Officer, Poverty and Inequalities.

### 3.2 Development of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership

3.2.1 The Cultural Strategy and Partnership were identified as key in relation to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcomes Agreement in January 2023 and therefore form part of the CPP Performance Management Framework and are reporting to the relevant forums. A progress report on the establishment of the Partnership was considered at the CPSLT meeting on 15 November 2024 and this is attached at **Appendix 2** for interest.

3.2.2 The development of the DGCP has been overseen by a Steering Group, comprised of the founder members of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership (Dumfries and Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, DG Unlimited (DGU), Museums and Heritage Network (MHN)) and a local member of the National Partnership for Culture. Secretariat support is being provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council. The Chair was initially the Council's Principal Officer for Arts and Museums, and following her retirement in summer 2024, the Community Planning and Engagement Manager has been supporting the Group as Chair.

3.2.3 Drawing on the arrangements for other partnership Chairs, an independent appointment was agreed following interviews on Wednesday 30 October 2024. The interview panel consisted of Lee Seton (DGC), Ailsa MacKay (DG Unlimited), Judith Hewitt (Museums and Heritage Network), Mark Geddes (South of Scotland Enterprise) and Matt Baker as a representative of the National Partnership for Culture. Katherine Wheeler has subsequently been appointed as the Chair. A part-time co-ordinator and administrator will be recruited and managed through DG Unlimited.

### 3.3 Participation and Engagement Working Group (PEWG)

3.3.1 The lead officer from the PEWG presented the annual report to the November CPSLT meeting.

3.3.2 It was highlighted that whilst two meetings took place across the reporting year (1 meeting and 1 workshop), 2 meetings had to be cancelled due to a high number of apologies being received and also exceptional weather circumstances. The focus has been on sharing experiences and methodologies of engagement activity across partners – what has worked well and what has been challenging. Examples of good practice are highlighted in the report attached in **Appendix 3** along with a copy of the annual workplan. Challenges and improvement actions identified for Partner consideration included:

- capacity of organisations to plan engagement activity on a medium to long term basis;
- on most occasions, partners are sharing engagement activity retrospectively or when published, which means that opportunities for co-ordinated scheduling and/or shared resourcing are not maximised;
- providing and maintaining online information to a high standard;
- and the turnover of staff and additional duties being allocated to officers responsible for engagement.





### 3.4 Community Planning self-assessment checklist

3.4.1 As updated at the September CPPB, all 32 Community Planning Partnerships in Scotland have been invited by the Improvement Service to participate in a national project about improving their arrangements, effectiveness and efficiency and our CPPB subsequently agreed to participate.

3.4.2 Three awareness sessions were made available to CPPB Members during October in preparation for the request to complete the self-assessment during November 2024. Each CP Partnership across the Country who participated are being offered a workshop to help explore the findings and these are being made available between January and May 2025 and will be scheduled in due course.

### 3.5 Collaboration for Health Equity Scotland (CHES)

3.5.1 The “expression of interest” application developed through CP Partners and endorsed by the CPPB was submitted by the due date.

3.5.2 Lead named Officers on the application were informed on the afternoon of the 4 October that our application had not been successful, however feedback could be provided and this is being arranged. Aberdeen City, South Lanarkshire, and North Ayrshire were the three areas selected.

3.5.3 There is also an opportunity to join the new CHES Learning System which would be useful in building connections with other areas interested in taking this work forward and sharing challenges and best practice and it is recommended that this is supported.

### 3.6 Population Health Framework

- The Director Public Health developed a draft response and received comments from Partners and Lead Officers and this was submitted by the due date and is attached at **Appendix 4** for interest.
- Public Health Scotland have also launched their Public Health Systems offer to Community Planning Partners and this is attached in **Appendix 5** for interest and awareness.

### 3.7 Community Planning Improvement Board – Guidance for Fair Funding of the Voluntary Sector

- The Community Planning Improvement Board have identified the need for sustainable funding for the voluntary (third) sector as a recurrent theme across its work streams. It agreed that the principles contained within the Verity House Agreement defining how Scottish Government and local government interact could, indeed should, apply equally in community planning partners’ relationships with the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector is vital to the achievement of Local Outcome Improvement Plans, so maintaining positive, ongoing relationships is important. This will be discussed further at the January CPSLT meeting and the Guidance document is attached at **Appendix 6** for reflection and discussion.



### 3.8 Tackling Scotland's Population Challenges

3.8.1 At the June CPPB an update was provided on Scottish Government's new Action Plan "Supporting and enabling sustainable communities: action plan to address depopulation." It was highlighted the Dumfries and Galloway Council had received funding to undertake some research into some of the key challenges Dumfries and Galloway faces and the research programme is now underway across four key themes working with our Community Planning Partners:

- Housing – review of current housing availability, the impact holiday lets and second home ownership
- Communities – Engaging with communities impacted by depopulation from a selection of rural, coastal and small towns
- Best Interventions – Desk based research looking at what interventions have worked elsewhere in similar populations and consideration to potential positive impact to Dumfries and Galloway
- Promoting migration in – promote the region and the opportunities to migrate to the region

The aim of the four research themes will be to create a report and action plan to provide direction to improving the population and demographic of the region.

3.7.2 The Improvement Service have just launched a new report entitled "Navigating Demographic Change" which is available to view through the following link:

[Navigating Demographic Change](#)

Within the report there are two interesting graphs detailing:

1. %change in population in Scotland 2011-2022; and
2. Proportion of 2022 population by age group.

These tables are attached in **Appendix 7** for interest

### 4. Recommendations:

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Consider** the support that the Equality and Diversity Working Group can offer as outlined at Section 3.1 and in **Appendix 1**;

4.2 **Note** the progress made with establishing the new Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership as detailed in Section 3.2 and as attached in **Appendix 2A** and **2B**;

4.3 **Consider** the updates and improvement actions in relation to the Participation and Engagement Working Group as detailed at section 3.3 and in **Appendix 3**;

4.4 **Note** the position with the Community Planning Self-Assessment Tool as detailed at Section 3.4;



- 4.5 **Note** the position with the Collaboration for Health Equity project as detailed at Section 3.5;
- 4.6 **Note** the feedback submitted as part of the Population Health Framework consultation as detailed in **Appendix 4** and the new Public Health Systems offer to Community Planning Partners as detailed in **Appendix 5**; and
- 4.7 **Consider** any initial feedback on the Fair Funding for Third Sector Guidance as detailed in **Appendix 6**.
- 4.8 **Note** the update on tackling Scotland's De-Population challenges as detailed at Section 3.8 and attached in **Appendix 7**.

#### **Appendices (9)**

**Appendix 1 – Equality and Diversity Working Group**

**Appendix 2A – Cultural Partnership report**

**Appendix 2B – Cultural Partnership Plan**

**Appendix 3A – PEWG Report**

**Appendix 3B - PEWG Work Plan**

**Appendix 4 – Feedback submitted to the Population Health Strategy Consultation**

**Appendix 5 – Public Health Systems offer**

**Appendix 6 – Guidance for Fair Funding for Third Sector**

**Appendix 7 - Demographic change**

## APPENDIX 1

### Dumfries and Galloway Equality and Diversity Working Group

#### Terms of Reference

##### Mission –

We work in partnership to empower people to make positive contributions to their communities, by challenging discrimination, by promoting greater integration and by maximising support for everyone across Dumfries and Galloway.

##### Remit -

- To improve co-ordination and integration between public sector organisations and communities of interest for the nine protected characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation
- identify opportunities for joint working that improve the efficiency of services in Dumfries and Galloway
- respond effectively to the needs of communities and individuals within the protected characteristics

##### Membership –

##### **Representative Diversity Groups**

- Age
  - Over 50s Group
  - An officer from the Youth Work Services (Young People)
- Disability
  - DGVoice
- Sex
  - An Officer from the Council's Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women service
- Marriage and civil partnerships
  - Dumfries and Galloway Council representative
- Pregnancy and maternity
  - NHS Dumfries and Galloway/ Health and Social Care Partnership representative
- Race
  - Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Association
- Religion and belief
  - Dumfries and Galloway Inter Faith Group
- Sexual orientation and Gender reassignment
  - LGBT Youth Scotland
  - LGBT Plus

**Public Sector**

- Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Dumfries and Galloway College  
NHS Dumfries and Galloway/Health and Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland
- Scotland's Rural College
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- Scottish Prison Service
- Swestrans
- University of Glasgow
- University of the West of Scotland

**Other Sectors**

- Dumfries and Galloway Chamber of Commerce
- Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service
- Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway

Further information on the Equality and Diversity Working Group can be found [here](#).



**APPENDIX 2A**

**COMMUNITY PLANNING SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM – 15 NOVEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 5**

<p><b>Author:</b> Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager and Chair of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership Steering Group</p>	<p><b>Responsible Senior Officer:</b> Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities</p>
<p><b>Report Title: Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership Steering Group Annual Report</b></p>	
<p><b><u>1. Situation:</u></b></p> <p>1.1 This is the first Annual Report relating to the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership.</p> <p>1.2 Liz Manson, the Chair of the Cultural Partnership Steering Group and Katharine Wheeler, the Chair of the Cultural Partnership will attend the meeting to present the report and answer any questions.</p>	
<p><b><u>2. Background:</u></b></p> <p>2.1 In March 2022, Dumfries and Galloway agreed the first Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2030 for the region and endorsed the approach to establish a Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership (DGCP) to oversee the delivery of the Strategy and maximise collaboration between partner agencies and individuals across the cultural sector (which covers both the arts and heritage sectors).</p> <p>2.2 The Cultural Strategy and Partnership are identified as key partners and Strategy in relation to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Local Outcomes Agreement in January 2023 and therefore are part of the CPP Performance Management Framework and are reporting to the relevant forums.</p> <p>2.3 A well-established and respected external consultant ‘Culture Radar’ was commissioned to develop the detailed arrangements, in consultation with the cultural sector. The final report was completed in spring 2024.</p> <p>2.4 The development of the DGCP is being overseen by a Steering Group, comprised of the founder members of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership (Dumfries and Galloway Council, South of Scotland Enterprise, DG Unlimited (DGU), Museums and Heritage Network (MHN)) and a local member of the National Partnership for Culture. Secretariat support is being provided by Dumfries and Galloway Council. The Chair was initially the Council’s Principal Officer for Arts and Museums, and following her retirement in summer 2024, the Community Planning and Engagement Manager has been supporting the Group as Chair.</p> <p>2.5 Attendance of Steering Group members has been consistently high, averaging 75% over the past year, which reflects the strong support of partners and commitment.</p>	

2.6 The Steering Group has drawn on the Culture Radar materials and has prepared a suite of materials for the Cultural Partnership to ratify at its initial meetings as follows:

2.6.1 Framework for the Cultural Partnership: [draft Cultural Partnership Framework: Remit](#)

The remit of the DGCP is to lead and oversee delivery of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy 2022-2030. This will include:

- To support the cultural sector as a whole to contribute to Dumfries and Galloway's economy, wellbeing and international profile.
- To facilitate the cultural sector working together to develop and deliver strategic priorities.
- To increase the visibility and impact of all those working in culture in Dumfries and Galloway.
- To support and improve the working environment, conditions and rewards for all those working in culture in Dumfries and Galloway.
- Managing the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Cultural Fund.

Membership

The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership is to be a strategic leadership group of organisations that have an invested interest in the cultural sector of Dumfries and Galloway.

The initial members of the Cultural Partnership will consist of the four founder members who will receive formal invitations in November to join the Partnership and identify their representative. The four founder members are:

- DG Unlimited
- Dumfries and Galloway Museums and Heritage Network
- Dumfries and Galloway Council (Leisure, Culture and Wellbeing)
- SOSE (Creative and Cultural Capital)

As the Partnership develops, it may seek to recruit additional members from the public sector, third sector or creative freelancers who can contribute to realising the ambitions of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy 2022 – 2030.

5 Thematic Groups:

- Culture and Health and Wellbeing
- Culture and Visitor Economy
- Culture and Place and Community Wealth Building
- Culture and Education and Skills
- Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work

Each Thematic Group will bring forward proposals for projects and initiatives that develop their theme and draw in new investment/partnerships to the cultural sector for delivery of these proposals. The DGCP Steering Group Action Plan looks to establish the Thematic Groups between January and March 2025.

During this period, we envision organising an in-person event for each theme to introduce each Thematic Group and its focus, with invitations being directed towards organisations that the Cultural Partnership identifies as aligned with the Group's remit.



All of the organisations in this CPP Senior Leadership Team will be invited to participate, and it is hoped that there will be a positive response. Thematic Groups will select a Lead from their membership who will chair meetings and also represent the group on the Cultural Partnership.

#### 2.6.2 Standing Orders for Meetings; Code of Conduct, Communications Plan, Risk Register and Budget

- Drafts of all these foundation matters have also been prepared. The Budget is currently only from Dumfries and Galloway Council but it is intended that external funding will be attracted to support the Delivery Plan.

#### 2.7 Appointment of Independent Chair

- Drawing on the arrangements for other partnership Chairs, an independent appointment was agreed following interviews on Wednesday 30 October 2024. The interview panel consisted of Lee Seton (DGC), Ailsa MacKay (DG Unlimited), Judith Hewitt (Museums and Heritage Network), Mark Geddes (South of Scotland Enterprise) and Matt Baker as a representative of the National Partnership for Culture.
- Katharine Wheeler was successful in this appointment.

#### 2.8 Appointment of Support Officers

- A part time Co-ordinator and an Administrator are to be recruited, who will be managed by DG Unlimited.

#### 2.9 Delivery Plan 2022-25

- Although the Cultural Partnership has not been in place to develop the first three-year Delivery Plan, nonetheless it is important to acknowledge that activity has been taking place by partners across the region. Therefore, an update on cultural sector activities in the context of the Cultural Strategy Objectives for 2022-25 has been prepared, with a focus on the most recent reporting year, and will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Board in December 2024. The current draft is attached as an **Appendix**.

#### 2.10 Regional Cultural Fund

- The Steering Group played a pivotal role in developing arrangements for the Regional Cultural Fund, a new fund which has been introduced to make grants of up to £5000 available to enhance, improve and promote community-led creative and cultural programmes and facilities in Dumfries and Galloway.
- A total of 19 projects from various sectors within the region, encompassing a diverse range of initiatives from the arts to heritage, successfully secured funding from this initiative.
- The Steering Group has also agreed a commission for a creative freelancer to document the projects financed by the Fund, aimed at producing marketing materials that highlight the unique and vibrant cultural sector in our region.

#### 2.11 Conclusion

- While it has taken some time to develop the arrangements for the Cultural Partnership, the last few months have seen significant progress and there has been strong support from across partners and the cultural sector throughout, ensuring it has been done in a measured and inclusive way.

### **3. Next Steps:**

#### **3.1 First Meeting of the Cultural Partnership – December 2024**

- The inaugural meeting of the Cultural Partnership is currently being scheduled for December 2024, following the successful appointment of a Chair. This meeting will bring together representatives from the four founding members with the Thematic Group Leads joining no later than April 2025.

#### **3.2 Cultural Partnership Inaugural Conference 2025**

- In late March/early April 2025, it is intended that the DGCP will host a high profile, in-person Conference to consolidate and celebrate the Cultural Partnership and contribute to the next Delivery Plan of the Cultural Strategy.

#### **3.3 Second Delivery Plan for 2025 - 2028**

- Following its establishment, the Cultural Partnership will develop the Delivery Plan for the Cultural Strategy covering the years 2025 to 2028. Possible indicators have been identified (for example the Council reports on attendances at its Museums and Galleries as part of the national Local Government Benchmarking Framework and there is a Scottish Household Survey section on Culture) as well as projects which evidence activity.

### **4. Recommendation:**

The Community Planning Senior Leadership Team is invited to:

4.1 note the progress to date;

4.2 give advice and guidance for the next steps of the Cultural Partnership; and

4.3 arrange representation in the Thematic Group(s) event as set out in 2.6.1.

## APPENDIX 2B

# DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY CULTURAL STRATEGY DELIVERY PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy 2022-2030 was agreed in February 2022 (linked [here](#)). Delivery Plans for three-year periods are to be developed by the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership.

As the Partnership has not been in place for the initial period, the first detailed Delivery Plan was not developed. However, activity by organisations and individuals has been undertaken in all aspects of the Strategy and this summary has been prepared to evidence their contribution.

The approach taken is to provide one or two initiatives for each of the 3 ambitions of the Strategy, showcasing the wide range of arts and heritage activities that have taken place over the recent period; regional and place focused initiatives, with the latter showing a balanced geographical spread across our large region. There are many other examples and activities as this is a vibrant sector, so the final report could be more comprehensive if members would wish that to be done.

The Delivery Plan for 2025 - 2027 will be developed by the Cultural Partnership and it will have a performance framework of projects and indicators.

## BASELINE POSITION

- The Scottish Household Survey 2022 indicated that 84% of adults in Dumfries and Galloway participated in various cultural activities, with the most common being attendance at theatre performances, visits to historic sites, art galleries, and cinemas
- The Scottish Household Survey 2022 also revealed that 31% of respondents in Dumfries and Galloway attributed their lack of engagement in cultural activities due to events/activities/locations being “too far away”. In contrast, however, only 5% noting identified lack of transport to be an issue
- Overall visitor figures to Dumfries and Galloway Council operated museums and galleries increased by ten percent in the year of 2022-2023 to 2023-2024, totaling 452,519 attendees
- In the 2022/2023 period, almost 3,000 individuals were volunteering within the Council's Cultural Services i.e. arts and museums and local archiving
- There are over 6,300 individuals employed in the cultural sector throughout the South of Scotland as of October 2024.

- Nearly 1,100 enterprises with a cultural emphasis are presently active in Dumfries and Galloway, encompassing sectors such as fashion and textiles, heritage, photography, and advertising.

**1: 1 APRIL 2022- 31 MARCH 2025**

Ambitions	Example of an Activity
<b>1. Our People</b>	
<p>1. Create, nurture and support a <b>diverse workforce</b> within Dumfries and Galloway’s creative and cultural sector that has the skills, knowledge and experience to involve and engage local communities and audiences (local, national and international) in cultural activity.</p>	<p><b><u>Dumfries Music Conference: Music Matters</u></b></p> <p>Music Matters is a library of short, ‘bitesize’ educational videos spanning all elements of the music industry, covering topics relating to performing, recording, sound engineering, radio hosting, journalism, marketing, multimedia content creation, photography and video. The videos, presented, first-hand, by industry professionals, are designed to educate and inspire those who have an interest in pursuing a career within the music industry. These videos look to support the development of a diverse workforce within the region that is equipped with the skills and knowledge to engage and connect local audiences through a variety of cultural activities.</p> <p>(Supported by The Regional Arts Fund 21/22 - £5,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dumfries Music Conference - <a href="#">Music Matters</a></li> </ul>
<p>2. Support the development of high-quality creative, cultural and heritage <b>activity programmes</b> that give our creative and culture sector the opportunity to develop their potential.</p>	<p><b><u>The Regional Cultural Fund</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Cultural Fund was introduced to make grants of up to £5000 to enhance, improve and promote community-led creative and cultural programmes and facilities in Dumfries and Galloway. 14 cultural and heritage projects from across Dumfries and Galloway were successful in their applications to the Regional Cultural Fund 24/25, totaling more than £62,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership Steering Group - <a href="#">The Regional Cultural Fund 2024/25</a></li> </ul>
<p>3. Work to retain and attract talent to our region and support <b>opportunities for young people</b> to create and engage with creative, cultural and heritage activity in their local area.</p>	<p><b><u>Creative Spaces Programme</u></b></p> <p>Situated in the heart of Dumfries, Creative Spaces collaborates with young creatives from across the region, providing young people with opportunities to engage in the arts. Whether it’s through events, workshops, mentorships, or our annual Associates Programme, Creative Spaces aim to enhance Dumfries and Galloway’s creative scene and provide by offering free access to opportunities and paid commissions to young people to enable them to engage and network with the cultural sector in our region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Stove Network - <a href="#">Creative Spaces</a></li> </ul>

	<p><b><u>Hidden Gems Festival – September 2024</u></b></p> <p>The Hidden Gems Festival is about promoting grassroots venues and promoting local artists the opportunity to perform. In Partnership with Up Yer Airts, a groundbreaking initiative empowering young people to curate vibrant cultural events, the festival seeks to offer young people in the region the opportunity to develop a career in the industry through supporting local musicians to thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hidden Gems/Up Yer Airts - <a href="#">Hidden Gems</a></li> </ul>
<p>4. Make sure that <b>people experiencing inequalities</b> have opportunities to create and engage with creative and cultural activity in Dumfries and Galloway that are accessible to everyone and are informed by an understanding of our communities' interests and aspirations</p>	<p><b><u>The Amazing Summer Fund – launched 2021</u></b></p> <p>This funding is for open to groups around the region to provide children and young people, aged 5–16 activities over the summer holiday period. The funded activities aim to enhance equity by widening opportunities for children from low-income families to play, socialise and access a range of experiences like performing arts sessions and film-making workshops, that broaden their experiences, supplement their learning and deliver positive outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council/Range of partners delivering across region - <a href="#">Amazing Summer Programme 2024</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Through Young Eyes – Film Screening and Q&amp;A Panel 2024</u></b></p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Council Youth Work Team supported a group of young people facing inequalities to engage in cultural activity through producing a short film 'Through Young Eyes', that explores how young people in our region perceive poverty and their own lived experiences of poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council - <a href="#">Through Young Eyes Event</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Paragon Ensemble – Nith Riff</u></b></p> <p>Nith Riff is a new inclusive, creative, group music performance project for adults with additional support needs based in Dumfries and Galloway. The project is led by Paragon's team of highly trained, experienced, professional musicians in partnership with Leonard Cheshire Disability and the Theatre Royal, providing opportunities for those with additional needs to engage in creative activities.</p> <p>(The Regional Arts Fund 21/22 - £6,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragon Music – <a href="#">Nith Riff</a></li> </ul>

<p>5. Apply <b>Fair Work principles</b> across the cultural, creative and heritage workforce – in particular, ensuring freelancers, sole traders, volunteers and professionals working to support the sector have equal rights and representation</p>	<p><b><u>Dumfries and Galloway Council Volunteer Strategy 2024 – 2029</u></b></p> <p>The Volunteer Strategy of Dumfries and Galloway Council has undergone a comprehensive review and update, incorporating feedback from both internal and external stakeholders. This process involved collaboration with Volunteer Scotland, recognised national experts in volunteering best practices, and cross-service volunteer managers, Elected Members, and, importantly, the volunteers themselves. This ensures that volunteers, including those in the creative and heritage sectors, are afforded equal rights and representation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council - <a href="#">Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee - August 29 2024</a></li> </ul>

Ambitions	Activity
<p><b>2. Our Place</b></p>	
<p>1. Support the development of creative, cultural and heritage <b>venues</b> across Dumfries and Galloway where people can come together to create and share creative and cultural experiences</p>	<p><b><u>Stranraer Museum</u></b></p> <p>Stranraer Museum reopened in June 2024 after extensive refurbishment of the building and displays. The refurbishment aimed to enhance the experience of both locals and visitors to the area by modernising the facilities and updating the display content, creating a space for people to come together to engage in cultural activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council - <a href="#">Undiscovered Scotland – Stranraer Museum Reopens</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Globe Inn Refurbishment</u></b></p> <p>The Globe Inn, a historic pub located in Dumfries, reopened in 2021 following a major refurbishment. This pub, which was a regular haunt of the renowned poet Robert Burns, showcases numerous artifacts associated with him, including his poet’s chair and his personal dining table. The refurbishment looked to preserve the historic Burns rooms, ensuring that they remain accessible to visitors and creating a space where fans of the poet can come together to celebrate his legacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Globe Inn - <a href="#">The Globe Inn Refurbishment</a></li> </ul>

<p>2. Support the development of a <b>hybrid approach</b> to the development of cultural activity embracing both physical and digital spaces.</p>	<p><b><u>Bridge2Creative@Online</u></b></p> <p>B2C@Online is an internet-based learning forum providing accessible tutorials in specialist creative practices that enable young people with Autism and additional barriers to pursue specialist creative activities in their own time and place. Tutorials are created by a range of talented artists and writers from Dumfries and Galloway, in collaboration with young people with Autism who attend the Better Lives Partnership- ‘Bridge to Creative’ programmes in Castle Douglas and Stranraer and embrace a hybrid approach by allowing individuals to engage through digital spaces.</p> <p>(The Regional Arts Fund 21/22 - £7,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Better Lives Partnership - <a href="#">The Better Lives Partnership - Bridge2Creative@Online</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Cample Line – Programme of Creative Workshops</u></b></p> <p>As part of their wider public programme covering the period spring-winter 2021, Cample Line undertook three series of workshops, enabling them to offer participatory and outreach opportunities to their local community, incorporating both online and in-person activities, including ink-making, eco-dyeing, creative writing and simple papermaking techniques.</p> <p>(The Regional Arts Fund 21/22 - £2,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cample Line - <a href="#">Cample Line - programme of creative workshops</a></li> </ul>
<p>3. Provide opportunities to experience, understand and shape the identity of Dumfries and Galloway by enabling the <b>history</b> and stories of our places to be explored, shared and re-imagined</p>	<p><b><u>Burns’ Tourism Action Plan (2023)</u></b></p> <p>A 6-month Burns’ action plan has been drawn-up with the aim of attracting more visitors through Dumfries and Galloway’s “unparalleled connections” to the Bard. The action group, which also includes the Ellisland Trust and The Globe Inn, has drawn up a six-month plan to increase the number of Burns-related visitors.</p> <p>Comprising 16 steps, the plan includes devising a new Burns audio walking tour, a guide’s portal and new signage at the local sites. Through implementing this action plan, the group seeks to elevate the profile of Burns-related tourism in the region, ensuring that both locals and tourists can explore the rich cultural heritage associated with the poet in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council/South of Scotland Destination Alliance - <a href="#">Burns’ Tourism Action Plan (2023)</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sandstone Steps Project (2023)</u></b></p>



	<p>The Sandstone Steps project revolves around an artist’s book in the form of a sculptural box, incorporating visual art, poetry and music through a cross pollination of new work from New York and Dumfries and Galloway. At the centre is the theme of the local sandstone that travelled across the Atlantic to contribute to the building of the everyday and the magnificent - and the people who travelled with it. This project offers a unique exploration of the history of Dumfries and Galloway.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The American Trust for the British Library (ATBL)/Dumfries and Galloway Council - <a href="#">Sandstone Steps Project (2023)</a></li> </ul>
<p>4. Support creative <b>placemaking within communities</b> to unlock aspirations, facilitate positive change, and use culture and heritage to help revitalise our towns and rural communities</p>	<p><b><u>What We Do Now Network</u></b></p> <p>What We Do Now is a growing network of hubs, practitioners, and partners passionate about the power of creativity in supporting our communities in Dumfries and Galloway to shape their own futures through creative placemaking activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stove Network – <a href="#">What We Do Now</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Sanctuary 2021 – Micro</u></b></p> <p>Sanctuary is a distinctive 24-hour arts event held in the Galloway Forest Dark Skies Park. In 2021, in response to the uncertainties brought about by COVID, Sanctuary transformed into ‘Micro’, featuring three participatory commissions at the Talnotry site, an example of collaborative creative placemaking. These artworks were integrated into the landscape and can be explored by individuals or family groups during the weekend of September 25th and 26th.</p> <p>(The Regional Arts Fund 21/22 - £3,000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanctuary Lab - <a href="#">Sanctuary Lab</a></li> </ul>
<p>5. Support the development of <b>events</b> that enhance and showcase the heritage, creative and cultural uniqueness of our places.</p>	<p><b><u>Annual Spring Fling</u></b></p> <p>Spring Fling is a vibrant visual art and craft open studios event covering the length and breadth of Dumfries and Galloway. Every year around 90 professional artists and makers throw open the doors of their studios over the late May Bank Holiday weekend. Visitors can get behind the scenes of artistic practice, experience artists and makers demonstrating and explaining their processes and inspirations and have the opportunity to buy a piece of art direct from the maker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upland - <a href="#">Spring Fling - Upland</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Dumfries and Galloway Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2023 – 2026</u></b></p>

	<p>In the 2023/2024 period, the Dumfries and Galloway Events Strategy provided financial assistance for 17 local events. These events drew nearly 65,000 participants, with over 28,000 attendees traveling from outside the Dumfries and Galloway region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council – <a href="#">The Dumfries and Galloway Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2023 - 2026</a></li> </ul>
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Ambitions	Activity
<p><b>3. Difference We Make</b></p>	
<p>1. Through advocacy and partnership working identify, promote and deliver opportunities for creativity, culture and heritage to <b>contribute to other key priority areas</b> such as the region’s economy, wellbeing, education and community development</p>	<p><b><u>The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership</u></b></p> <p>The Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership is currently in development. The aim of the Cultural Partnership is to work together to oversee delivery of the vision of the Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Strategy, so that by 2030 Dumfries and Galloway’s distinctive creativity, culture and heritage will have an international profile and be renowned for their contribution to the region’s economy and quality of life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Planning Partnership - <a href="#">Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership</a></li> </ul>
<p>2. Invest in creative, cultural and heritage <b>assets</b> that will sustain and enhance the region’s creative and cultural offer</p>	<p><b><u>Creative Caerlaverock</u></b></p> <p>Creative Caerlaverock is an innovative approach to creative learning, heritage and community arts working to realise and inspire new possibilities in working with the region’s historic locations and assets. Through gatherings, activities, groups and residencies, this co-created project is seeking new relationships, understandings and links to our region’s past so as to understand and connect with our future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stove Network - <a href="#">Creative Caerlaverock</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Creative Stranraer – Journey to the George (2024)</u></b></p> <p>Stranraer's cultural identity was celebrated and enhanced in 2024 with a variety of creative workshops, artist discussions, and public art exhibitions that highlighted local talent and heritage. This vibrant programming was closely tied to town centre initiatives looking to invite in local assets, such as the "Big Makeover" and the transformation of the George Hotel into a cultural hub. revitalisation of George Hotel as a cultural centre.</p>

	<p>(Regionwide Community Fund 23/24 - £3,525)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Stranraer – <a href="#">Creative Stranraer Projects</a></li> </ul>
<p>3. Make use of the region's creative and cultural identity to promote its distinctiveness, character, people, places, lifestyle offer and exceptional quality of life, <b>attracting people to the region</b> to live, work, visit and learn</p>	<p><b><u>Robert the Bruce 750<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (2024)</u></b></p> <p>In July 2024, the Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust, in partnership with The People's Project Dumfries, The Imaginarium and The Gallovidian Way, alongside local community groups and businesses, celebrated the 750th Anniversary of the Birth of Robert the Bruce. The programme of events were designed to showcase Dumfries &amp; Galloway's significant role in his life and Scottish Medieval history, while also attracting both locals and visitors to the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medieval Bruce Heritage Trust/The People's Project/The Imaginarium's Gallovidian - <a href="#">Robert the Bruce 750<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations (2024)</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Improving Castle Douglas and The Stewartry Visitor Experience</u></b></p> <p>This was a community-led tourism project to recruit and train volunteers to help run Castle Douglas' community-owned tourist information centre, serving as ambassadors for the town. Volunteers will also research local history to help web content to that attracts visitors to the region and will design and print town trail leaflets.</p> <p>A noticeboard is to be designed and placed outside the Crannog family activity centre will give a brief the history of the town, particularly the Carlingwark Loch Viking hoard. The cauldron and its treasure reside in the National Museum of Scotland</p> <p>(Regionwide Community Fund 23/24 - £2,067)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Castle Douglas Development Forum</li> </ul>
<p>4. Support and promote the use of creative and cultural activity to support <b>health and wellbeing</b> outcomes through initiatives such as social prescribing.</p>	<p><b><u>DG Creative Wellbeing Project</u></b></p> <p>Co-ordinated by OutPost Arts, DG Creative Wellbeing is a ground-breaking regional programme of artistic and cultural opportunities, events and activities that enhance people's wellbeing, communities, and healthcare environments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ OutPost Arts - <a href="#">DG Creative Wellbeing Project</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>For Enjoyment</u></b></p> <p>For Enjoyment is a Community Interest Company that provides</p>

	<p>open accessible creative workshops throughout Dumfries and Galloway. Any age or ability can attend and all equipment and materials are supplied. Their main regular workshops focus on Drawing Printing Painting and Photography, while they have a focus on nurturing people’s creative strengths, physical and mental wellbeing and combating social isolation through our large in person and online creative network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing For Enjoyment – <a href="#">For Enjoyment</a></li> </ul>
<p>5.Support the cultural and heritage sector in the transition to <b>achieving net zero carbon</b> status and ensure culture enables communities to have their voices heard and be actively involved in shaping a sustainable and low carbon future for our region</p>	<p><b><u>Wigtown Festival Company: Change the Stories</u></b></p> <p>The environment was a key theme during 2024’s Wigtown Book Festival, and a central strand was the Change The Stories initiative, with the aim to encourage visitors to consider how they travel to the festival and to think about new stories to tell about climate change.</p> <p>(The Regional Arts Fund 24/25 - £7,250)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wigtown Festival Company - <a href="#">Wigtown Festival Company: Change the Stories</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Greener Events Toolkit</u></b></p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Council has researched and launched Scotland’s first Greener Events Toolkit, to support the work of cultural and heritage festivals and events organisers. The Toolkit has been produced in collaboration with the Southern Uplands Partnership Services Ltd and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere. The Toolkit aims to encourage festivals and events to be planned and delivered in Dumfries and Galloway with a better understanding of how to reduce their carbon emissions and plan for their long-term sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dumfries and Galloway Council – <a href="#">Greener Events Toolkit</a></li> </ul>

6. Support culture and creativity as an engine of innovation that will drive **enterprise** and societal change in our region.

### **The Johnston, Kirkcudbright**

Kirkcudbright Development Trust led a project to create a Community Activity and Resource Centre in the former Johnston School building in Kirkcudbright which had fallen into disrepair. The newly refurbished Centre includes a Dark Space Planetarium, The Dark Art Gin Distillery, The Wee Pottery, and the Nursery and as well as hotdesking, encouraging creativity and innovation, while supporting the establishment of new businesses.

- Kirkcudbright Development Trust - [Kirkcudbright Development Trust](#)

### **Flourish, Dumfries**

Flourish was established in 2021 by The Guild Dumfries C.I.C, after successful Makers Markets and Pop Up Shops proved the need for a permanent space. The Guild redeveloped 111 High Street to create a Flourish, a permanent home for a year round retail collective on the ground floor, and also a dedicated workshop space, flexible meeting events space and offices on the first floor. As part of the project, the organisation also delivered a variety of activities and events, including creative workshops, after school clubs, exhibitions and talks.

Leah Halliday, who played a pivotal part in the launch of the venture as one of the directors of the award-winning social enterprise, personally took over the business in June 2024.

- [Flourish](#)



## APPENDIX 3A

## COMMUNITY PLANNING SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM - 15 NOVEMBER 2024

Item 6

<b>Author:</b> Kirsty Peden, Community Engagement Manager	<b>Responsible Senior Officer:</b> Liz Manson, Community Planning and Engagement Manager
<b>Report Title: Annual Report on the Community Planning Participation and Engagement Working Group</b>	
<p><b>1. Situation:</b></p> <p>The Community Planning Partnership Performance Framework outlines that Working Groups are established by the CPP Board or Executive Group (now CPSLT) for specific tasks and report annually on their remit, membership and seek approval on their annual Work Plan.</p> <p>The Participation and Engagement Working Group is one of the three Working Groups covered. The Senior Leadership Team remit includes this task, reporting on its findings to the CPP Board as part of the Business Update as appropriate.</p>	
<p><b>2. Background:</b></p> <p>2.1 The Participation and Engagement Working Group was established in 2016.</p> <p>2.2 Its remit is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a co-ordinated programme of participation and engagement activity across partners;</li> <li>• identify opportunities for joint engagement work to maximise links between related issues and reduce costs;</li> <li>• to share expertise and experience across partners; publicise the engagement opportunities available from local partners and feedback; and</li> <li>• oversee the development and working of the <a href="#">Participation and Engagement Network</a> (a form of citizens panel, supported by NHS Dumfries and Galloway)</li> </ul> <p>This work on community participation and engagement is complementary but separate to engagement activity with employees, customers and members of the partner organisations which is also ongoing.</p> <p>2.3 Its membership brings together the lead officers across 11 partners for community participation and engagement.: Council, NHS, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service; Health and Social Care Partnership; Third Sector D&amp;G; SWestrans; D&amp;G College; South of Scotland Enterprise; Healthcare Improvement Scotland; Skills Development Scotland; and Community Action through Participation and Engagement Network (CAPE).</p>	
<p><b>3. Key issues:</b></p> <p>3.1 Meetings of the Working Group take the format of two business meetings and two workshop style sessions involving wider staff with an interest or responsibility for engagement. There have been two meetings (1 business and 1 workshop) of the Working Group since the last Annual Report, with good attendance from across the partners at both. Two meetings (June and November 23) were cancelled due to the high</p>	

number of apologies received and exceptional weather circumstances. Attendance and contributions to the Working Group from partners has been challenging to maintain at times during this reporting period despite a significant level of engagement activity taking place.

3.2 The focus has been on sharing experiences and methodologies of engagement activity across partners – what has worked well and what has been challenging; and identifying forthcoming major engagement activity.

3.3 Examples of good practice and activity by partners in the Working Group over the last year are: D&G Health and Social Care Partnerships Right Care Right Place – consultation on the future of intermediate care in Dumfries and Galloway; the Councils Youth Council Elections with 4 young people elected to represent the views of young people at a national level and 29 Youth Councillors elected locally; the work of the [SOSE Youth Advisory Forum](#); [Police Scotland Youth Volunteers](#) in Stranraer; and supporting our local Guests to be representatives on the [Ukrainian Collective](#) representing views nationally.

3.4 Community Councils and other local groups contributed to Phase Two of the national programme of [Democracy Matters](#) considering the role of communities in the future of local democracy. In Dumfries and Galloway six conversations were held which in comparison to other Local Authority areas was significantly higher than average.

3.5 The challenges have been capacity of organisations to plan engagement activity on a medium to long term basis – on most occasions, partners are sharing engagement activity retrospectively or when published, which means that opportunities for co-ordinated scheduling and/or shared resourcing are not maximised; providing and maintaining online information to a high standard; and the turnover of staff and additional duties being allocated to officers responsible for engagement.

3.6 The [Participation and Engagement Network](#) continues to be available as an opportunity for citizens to engage in consultation activities across partners. Development of this as a primary method has paused due to limited capacity whilst other approaches are further utilised.

3.7 The Workplan of the Working Group for 2024/25 is attached as an Appendix.

#### **4. Recommendation:**

The Community Planning Senior Leadership Team is invited to:

- 4.1 consider the membership and activity of the Working Group for 2023/24; and
- 4.2 provide guidance and direction for the Workplan and Group moving forward.

31 October 2024

## **Appendix**

Community Planning Participation and Engagement Working Group Workplan 2024/25



## APPENDIX 3B



## PARTICIPATION & ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

### ACTION PLAN 2024/25 (as at March 2024)

#### Working Group Remit:

*To develop a co-ordinated programme of participation and engagement activity across partners; identify opportunities for joint engagement work to maximise links between related issues and reduce costs; to share expertise and experience across partners; publicise the engagement opportunities available from local partners and feedback; and oversee the development and working of the Participation and Engagement Network.*

**Membership:** Organisations and sectors represented on the Community Planning Partnership Board and Community Planning Senior Leadership Team and other organisations specialising in engagement:

- Dumfries and Galloway Council
- NHS Dumfries and Galloway
- Health & Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland
- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Skills Development Scotland
- South of Scotland Enterprise
- SWestrans
- Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway
- Further and Higher Education Sector: Dumfries and Galloway College
- Housing Sector: Loreburn Housing Association; Wheatley South
- Scottish Health Council
- Community Action through Participation and Engagement Network (CAPE)

**Chair:** Kirsty Peden, D&G Council

**Reports to:** D&G Community Planning Partnership

## APPENDIX 3B

Action	Target / performance measurement	Timescale	Lead	Progress
<b>The Working Group itself</b>				
1. Operation of Group and schedule of meetings	At least two meetings held; Action Plan developed and membership/attendance of five partners at each meeting	By 31 March 2025	Kirsty Peden , DGC	Meetings in calendars for June, September and November 2024  Scheduled for March 2025.
2. Report to Community Planning Partnership	CPP consider progress satisfactory	by 31 March 2025	Kirsty Peden, DGC	Report scheduled for CPP Senior Management Team in November 2024
<b>Remit and associated activities of the Working Group</b>				
3. Develop the number of members and partners' use of the D&G Participation and Engagement Network (PEN)	30 members 10 engagements by 5 partners	by 31 March 2025	NHSD&G	Registration for the Network has been simplified with a digital application form. All partners encouraging registration at consultation events.
4. Support the D&G Participatory Appraisal Network	number of members PA exercises	by 31 March 2024	tbc	Currently on hold due to change in staffing and leadership.
5. Expert officers are in place across partners training completed to a high standard e.g. Consultation Institute (CI)	20 new people trained across partners	by 31 March 2025	Kirsty Peden, DGC	Ongoing action. Officers previously trained from across all partners undernoted (organisations maintain their own updated lists)

## APPENDIX 3B

“Best Practice in Consultation”				Further cohort of CI planned for 2024 – agreed first and last session in person, other three online. Public sector partners pay proportion of the 20 places, any free offered to third sector.
6. Briefing/training of local Elected/Board members	C100 briefed/trained	by 31 March 2025	All lead officers for organisations	DGC – planned workshop with Elected Members.
7. Calendar of planned consultation and engagement activity across partners	Planned activity for the year ahead listed with hyperlinks to partners sites on the CPP webpage	ongoing	All Working Group Secretariat - co-ordination	Ongoing
8. Sharing best practice	At least 5 examples of best practice shared at Group meetings  Create a digital space for the sharing of practice, materials and feedback from engagement programmes accessible to all partners	by 31 March 2025	All	Workshop themes to include engagement with young people; digital engagement (including use of Mentimeter)



## APPENDIX 3B

Melinda Dolan, Ward Worker, Mid Galloway & Wigtown West	George Noakes	Senior Health Intelligence Analyst
Michael Smith, Project Manager, Newton Stewart Flood Protection Scheme	John McNaught Co-ordinator	Communication & Engagement
Naomi Spicer, Refugee Resettlement Officer	Kim Hollis	Community Mental Health Nursing
Nicola Simpson, Community Assets Manager	Team Leader	
Pamela Stuart, Team Leader, Registration Service Development	Laura Grierson	MacMillan Programme Support
Paula Doherty, Team Leader, Benefits & Welfare	Officer	
Peter McCormick, Principal Technician	Mairead Rowan	Health Improvement Officer
Rhona Macgregor, Community Learning & Development Worker	Nathalie Guillame Worker	Community Health Development
Rita Baniultye, Senior Engineer	Rod Edgar	Communications & Engagement
Seán O'Toole, Ward Worker, Castle Douglas & Crocketford	Manager	
Serena Dunlop, Directorate Business Manager	Sandra Graham	Project Officer
Steven Wylie, Ward Worker, Annandale North	Sheila Campbell	Building Healthy Communities
Stuart Hamilton, Ward Manager, Annandale East & Eskdale	Operating Manager	
Tony Topping, Team Leader, Network Strategy & Road Safety	Stella Milsom	Programme Manager Cancer
William Porteous, Project Manager	Sue Vest	Community Link Worker
Aileen Woods, Principal Valuer		
Amanda Beattie, Business Adviser		
Anna Johnson, National Scenic Area Officer	<b>Scottish Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders</b>	
Anne Sweetin, Business Support Manager	April Wilson	Community Liaison Support
Gordon Wright, Team Leader, Customer Service Development	Worker	
Heather Carnochan, Performance & Improvement Manager		
Helen Maytum, Valuation & Registration Support		
James Little, Housing Strategy & Gypsy Traveller Co-ordinator	<b>Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway</b>	
John Doig, Senior Planner	Claire Brown	Operations Manager
Josef Coombey, Policy Officer		
Juliette Cooke, Team Leader, Business Support		
Karen McLaughlin, Energy Management Officer		
Lesley Annan, Economic Development Officer		
L T Telfer, Employment Support Team Leader		
Lynne Burgess, Employability, Skills & Partnership Manager		
Marie Marshall, Senior Planner, Built Heritage Policy		

**APPENDIX 3B**

<p>Melissa McGarey, Team Leader, Project Delivery Pam Taylor, Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Project Officer Sarah Farrell, Climate Emergency Project Officer Shelley Bell, Economic Development Officer Shona McCoy, Team Leader, Local Development Plan Stephanie Carrick, Economic Development Officer Struan Robertson, Customer Services Development Co-ordinator</p>	
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## APPENDIX 4

### Feedback from Dumfries and Galloway CPP on Scottish Government Population Health Framework

Dumfries and Galloway CPP meet in September and the population health framework was shared for information, due to the meeting being focussed on our annual engagement with the Youth Council the CPP Board did not discuss the framework but remitted a discussion on this to be had with the Community Planning Senior Leadership team. This took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September with the feedback provided below:

- The framework is welcomed as the decline in population health and worsening of health inequalities is of grave concern. We know this has many impacts across our society and for the organisations we represent. It was also highlighted that it was helpful to have a framework which brings all the related and complementary plans and strategies together under the one umbrella. We noted that Health and Wellbeing is included within our updated LOIP and many of the suggested actions outlined for focus of CPPs are areas of work we are currently progressing.
- **Q1 Priority: Given the evidence on current trends and forecasts in Scotland's health what are the top priorities for collective action as begin to apply the framework in the first 2 years.** The significant impact of socio-economic determinants on health were noted and there were questions in regard to what would it really take to close our health gap. There was reference made to other Scandinavian countries where different welfare, tax systems and family support systems are in place. Whilst we all acknowledge the role we have to play in this agenda, we think it is important to recognise that wider changes are needed to really close the inequalities gap. We wondered if the framework could provide an opportunity for the government to start a conversation with the public around the scale of change that might be needed to tackle this. There was also support for a priority area to be strengthening and enabling local communities to provide leadership and action as this was felt to be the most sustainable way to effect change.
- **Q2 Ambition: Should the framework adopt a single Scotland level aim such as improving life expectancy or healthy life expectancy and narrowing the inequalities gap to galvanise whole system support for improvement and if so what should the measures be:** Focussing on healthy life expectancy and narrowing the inequalities gap had more support than just increases in life expectancy. Measures to look at happiness/wellbeing were also suggested as a potential option.
- **Q3 Principles: What steps can be taken to secure progress within each Guiding Principle of the Population Health Framework** – the importance of leadership and collaboration was highlighted. Strengthening understanding of the role organisations could play was considered important and the summary documents for what areas of the system could do would be welcomed – in particular our Higher and Further Education colleagues were keen to have a supporting guidance document regarding the role they could play. It was however, acknowledged that all organisations around the CPP table are responding to crisis and this does impact on ability to focus on prevention, even though it is vitally important to do. To enact the principles in these challenging times requires accountability to be clear and this links to the need to



develop new ways to establish cross sector accountability. A shared understanding of language and use of plain English was also felt to be important. Whilst perhaps not sitting quite in this question – communicating with the public about the challenging position we are in regarding population health and what role individuals can play for themselves and their communities (where this is possible) was felt to be important, whilst of course acknowledging the role of environment and circumstances. It was noted this is a challenging message to get across and it was felt strong national messages on this that could be supported locally would be helpful.

- **Q4 Actions: What specific additional actions should be taken in Scotland to have the biggest impact on supporting healthy living?** –legislation was felt to be an area of key importance in relation to health harming products, but it was also noted that legislation needs to be developed so that it can be effectively implemented to benefit population health and reduce health inequalities.
- **Q5 Equity: How can we improve equity in the population level prevention of ill health and early detection of a disease?** This was not discussed in detail but socio-economic factors were felt to be a big driver of this.
- **Q6 Accountability: What specific actions would improve accountability of different sectors to securing progress in moving to prevention focussed system.** It was noted that each partner has its own accountability and it was challenging to achieve shared accountability within current CPP structures. Testing new ways of joint accountability is something that could be trailed under the new framework.
- **Q7 Over the ten year horizon of the Framework what innovation could bring the greatest opportunity to secure health gains and reduce the burden of disease.** Communities role in innovation was highlighted as key to lasting change, support and funding to enable that was felt to be important and the role of the Third Sector in creating innovation was highlighted.
- **Q8 What will make this work any different from what has come before.** Ongoing cross party, cross government commitment and longer term and more sustainable approach to funding particularly for local communities and the Third Sector. Allowing local areas to do what works for them and their population, enabling CPPs to places of innovation. This requires CPPs to function highly as a team for their area and building high function teams takes time, a shared vision, commitment and the willingness to be brave and bold. It would be important that the framework is flexible enough to enable local areas to take forward work across the areas depending on the specific needs and challenges faced by the area.



# Specialist Public Health System Offer to Community Planning Partners

Scottish Directors of  
Public Health Group

Scottish Health  
Promotion Managers

Public Health   
Scotland

# INTRODUCTION

The Specialist Public Health System (local Public Health teams and Public Health Scotland) provides support and expertise across the three domains of public health:

- Health improvement
- Health protection
- Healthcare public health

The focus of this paper is on the first of these domains and specifically the support and guidance available to local government and their community planning partners to help them take action which will:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the local population
- Help prevent future ill-health
- Reduce inequalities in healthy life expectancy

We also work at a national level to influence legislation and national policy to drive improvements in local population health and wellbeing. In undertaking this work we recognise the critical role of a wide range of other public, third and private sector organisations.

# HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

This document outlines the key activities (summarised below) we undertake which support local systems to improve their populations health and wellbeing. You can click on each and it will take you to the relevant section. Each section has a box that outlines what we do, a box that signposts to sources of further information and boxes that provide a local worked example.

The [summary section](#) gives an overview of all the key activities listed below

- [Data and Intelligence](#)
- [Self-assessment tools](#)
- [Evidence, Modelling and Guidance](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Integrating Health Inequality Outcomes](#)
- [Networks and System Leadership](#)
- [Capacity building and Training](#)

This document ends with [how local partners might be able to access bespoke support](#) and [key contacts](#).

Click the button in the bottom left at any point to return to this page.



# SUMMARY

## DATA AND INTELLIGENCE

We collect, link, analyse, interpret and use data and intelligence. This can help local partners:

- Understand the needs of your populations (e.g. housing, health services, education, transport)
- Understand the profiles of your populations and how they are changing (e.g. health, behaviours, age, sex, ethnicity, income, employment, education)
- Identify your priority issues for action
- Track whether the changes you are making are leading to improvement

[Skip to the section](#)

## SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS

We develop and produce self-assessment tools that can help local partners:

- Identify priorities and opportunities for improvement by assessing themselves against standards of best/good practice

[Skip to the section](#)

## EVIDENCE, MODELLING & GUIDANCE

We review and collate research, evidence and current practice and develop guidance, outcome frameworks and models that can help you:

- Identify the most effective, evidence-informed actions that can improve the outcomes
- Learn from others about effective practice and innovative approaches
- Model the short, medium and long-term effects of those actions

[Skip to the section](#)

## EVALUATION

Linking closely with our work around evidence and modelling we evaluate (and assess the potential to evaluate) local and national projects, programmes and policies which can help local partners:

- Understand, assess and demonstrate the impact of actions, plans and policies on intended (and unintended) outcomes
- Develop clear theories of change against which progress can be assessed
- Understand what types of evaluation approaches should be applied in different situations and circumstances

[Skip to the section](#)

# SUMMARY (cont.)

## INTEGRATING HEALTH INEQUALITY OUTCOMES

Drawing on all the evidence and intelligence, we bring a consistent focus on health inequalities, wider determinants of health and the needs of vulnerable communities/groups which can help local partners:

- Understand and capture the potential impacts of local plans and policies as they are being developed so their impact can be maximised
- Embed action to improve health and reduce inequalities
- Understand and capture the actual impacts of local plans and policies to inform decisions around the need to continue, stop or amend

[Skip to the section](#)

## NETWORKING AND SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

We convene and support a wide variety of networks and facilitate connections with the wider public health and social care system (both locally and nationally) that can help local partners:

- Come together to share learning about what is and isn't working
- Spread learning and good practice across the whole system
- Connect work across different programmes and sectors and develop new relationships
- Support shared agenda setting and multiagency delivery

[Skip to the section](#)

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

We deliver training and actively engage and build capacity with communities and in conjunction with the third sector and community organisations. This can help local partners:

- Increase knowledge and skills across a wide variety of health-related topics and issues
- Feel more informed and equipped to influence and advocate for health and health inequality

[Skip to the section](#)

# DATA AND INTELLIGENCE

We collect, link, analyse, interpret and use data and intelligence. This can help local partners:

- Understand the needs of your populations (e.g. housing, health services, education, transport)
- Understand the profiles of your populations and how they are changing (e.g. health, behaviours, age, sex, ethnicity, income, employment, education)
- Identify your priority issues for action
- Track whether the changes you are making are leading to improvement

Online sources of help and further information:

- [One Stop Shop for Local Data](#) is a newly launched service by ONS which combines an array of local data into one place.
- [ScotPHO website](#) provides easy access to a range of health-related data sources including [ScotPHO profiles](#)
- [Metadata catalogue](#) provides metadata on publicly available health and wellbeing indicators for Scotland in one easily accessible place.
- [Care and Wellbeing Dashboard](#) provides a range of indicators structured around the social determinants of health, the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age which can lead to health inequalities.
- [Discovery](#) is an online management system that provides access to a range of comparative healthcare information.
- [Improvement Service Data and Intelligence site](#) brings together data and intelligence on councils' performance and impact, and outcomes across Scotland's communities.
- [Place Standard Tool](#) facilitates a structured conversation with communities which helps identify local community need and priorities.



# DATA AND INTELLIGENCE | LOCAL EXAMPLE

## THE WORK

- Lead/support development of community wealth and health outcomes and indicators for the three Local Outcome Development Plans with Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling councils

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- The local public health team, in partnership with Public Health Scotland is leading and supporting the development of local community wealth and health indicators for the 3 LOIPs based on the place standard measures developed by Public Health Scotland

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- In early stages but partnership agreement and involvement in development of Forth Valley wide outcomes and indicators
- Linking of measurable outcomes for healthy life expectancy with attainment and wealth outcomes and indicators across life stages
- Initial outcomes gap analysis to assess best measures to include in plans

## IMPACT

- Better measurement of community wealth and health progress across the CPP LOIP plans
- Better sharing of data for outcomes and indicators

# SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS

We develop and produce self-assessment tools that can help local partners:

- Identify priorities and opportunities for improvement by assessing themselves against standards of best/good practice

Examples of online sources of help and further information:

- [The anchor self-assessment framework](#) aims to help public sector organisations in Scotland recognise and make the most of their role as ‘anchor institutions’ to improve outcomes for local people and the environment. This framework is intended to support organisations to self-assess where they are now, decide where they want to get to, and begin to develop improvement plans that support Scotland's National Outcomes for health and overall ambition of a wellbeing economy.

# SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS | LOCAL EXAMPLE

## THE WORK

- Embedding Community Wealth Building and Anchor Institutions in new Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) in Dumfries and Galloway

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Co-ordination between local and national agencies to develop a briefing document on Community Wealth Building and Anchor Institutions (Public Health Scotland, Dumfries and Galloway Public Health Team, South of Scotland Enterprise)
- Facilitation of session with CPP partners using the Public Health Scotland Anchor Self-Assessment Framework

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Co-production of briefing paper for CPP Leadership structures increasing shared understanding of these approaches
- Using the Anchor framework to consider actions currently being taken forward by CPP partners and strengthened understand of the types of work that Anchor organisations can consider taking forward or strengthening

## IMPACT

- Community Wealth Building and Anchor approach embedded in new LOIP
- Increased understanding of the importance of anchor role and action that can be taken in this space. Is facilitating shared learning between organisations.

# EVIDENCE, MODELLING & GUIDANCE

We review and collate research, evidence and current practice and develop outcome frameworks, models, and practical guidance that can help you:

- Identify the most effective, evidence-informed actions that can be taken to improve outcomes
- Learn from others about effective practice and innovative approaches
- Model the short, medium and long-term effects of those actions

Online sources of help and further information:

- [Interactive Public Health Evidence Dashboard](#) is being developed - this inaugural map focuses on the risks and protective factors associated with self-harm in children and young people and what might work for primary and secondary prevention.
- [Health improvement outcome frameworks](#) across several health improvement topics. They are slightly dated but will still be helpful.
- [Outcome planning tool for local action to tackle child poverty](#) is a more recent example.
- [The Scottish Burden of Disease Study](#) is a population (national and local) health surveillance system which monitors how diseases, injuries and risk factors prevent the Scottish population from living longer lives in better health.
- [Whole system modelling tool](#) uses data and modelling to help inform the strategic decision making and tactical planning of Scotland's healthcare system.

## THE WORK

- Developing a multiagency physical activity strategy for Highland Community Planning Partnership

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

The local public health team led and supported a wide range of functions including:

- a review of the evidence to identify the need for the strategy and the most effective actions to take
- a review of the local population data and to identify priorities
- expertise on public health planning frameworks including logic models and driver diagrams

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Development of the strategy was based on sound public health principles, based on need and evidence informed
- Good degree of consultation and engagement with stakeholders including directly with communities

## IMPACT

- Better coordination and joint working between partners on the issue of physical activity
- Development of agreed vision and priorities and a greater focus from partners on progressing these priorities
- Increased knowledge of opportunities for physical activity and how to support people into opportunities
- Development of pathways between services and opportunities to support people to be more active

Linking closely with our work around evidence and modelling we evaluate (and assess the potential to evaluate) local and national projects, programmes and policies which can help local partners:

- Understand, assess and demonstrate the impact of actions, plans and policies on intended (and unintended) outcomes
- Develop clear theories of change on common priority topics against which progress can be assessed
- Understand what types of evaluation approaches should be applied in different situations and circumstances

Online sources of help and further information:

- [Tools for monitoring and evaluation](#) outlines various evaluation approaches and sources for further support
- [Evaluation Support Scotland](#) work with third sector organisations and funders so that they can measure and explain their impact.
- [Health improvement outcome frameworks](#) across several health improvement topics. They are slightly dated but will still be helpful.
- MAT standards [benchmarking report](#)

## THE WORK

- Mitigating population health impacts of the rising Cost of Living across the North East

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Project management support
- Establishing and facilitating steering group including representation from CPPs and H&SCPs across Grampian
- Development of framework utilising evidence base of what works to mitigate against adverse effects of rising cost of living, framework was used to guide discussions at workshops attended by partners from across Grampian
- Public Health Researchers analysed and themed the output of the workshops
- Preparation of reports to inform work

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Taking a multi-agency approach through the steering group enabled us to utilise networks already in place and capitalise on existing work
- Value of the workshops, being able to share some of the challenges faced, make new connections and network with others
- Understanding and raising awareness of barriers and enablers to work undertaken to mitigate against adverse effects of rising cost of living
- Highlighted good practice already in existence

## IMPACT

- Recommendations endorsed by North East Population Health Alliance
- Enabled an understanding that current work was focused on mitigation of impacts and that future work also needs to consider further upstream approaches to prevention of poverty.
- Recommendations helped inform existing work streams e.g. development of NHS Grampian and partners as 'Anchor' organisations.
- Greater understanding of barriers and enablers that could benefit from a collaborative approach across partners



# INTEGRATING HEALTH INEQUALITY OUTCOMES

Drawing on all the evidence and intelligence outlined in earlier sections we bring a consistent focus on health inequalities, wider determinants of health and the needs of vulnerable communities/groups which can help local partners:

- Understand and capture the potential impacts (e.g. on health outcomes and/or inequalities) of local plans and policies as they are being developed so their impact can be maximised
- Embed action to improve health and reduce inequalities into a wide range of existing or emerging services, policies or plans
- Understand and capture the actual impacts of local plans and policies to inform decisions around the need to continue, stop or amend

Examples of online sources of help and further information:

- [The Health Impact Assessment Unit](#) supports local partners in the use of health impact assessment to integrate health and health inequalities into all policies.
- [The Scottish Health Inequalities and Impact Assessment Network \(SHIAN\)](#) supports the increase in the use and quality of HIA and promotes a 'Health in All Policies' approach in Scotland.
- [Shaping Places for Wellbeing](#) is working with a number of local areas to develop guidance about how to embed health and wellbeing in local policy and/or practice.
- See the various sources of online information available around evaluation on the [evaluation section](#)
- [Health Inequalities section](#) on ScotPHO provides an overview of the different types of inequalities and access to different tools to calculate different inequality measures.

# INTEGRATING HEALTH INEQUALITY OUTCOMES | LOCAL EXAMPLE

## THE WORK

- Lead/support development of the Local Outcome Development Plan in the Western Isles

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- The local public health team led and supported the collection and analysis of data to identify the local need and prioritise actions and outcomes

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Partnership agreement and involvement in development of priority settings and locality specific commitments
- Linking of needs assessment to measurable outcomes through analysis
- Very good engagement with population and input into strategy priorities based on need and gap analysis

## IMPACT

- A more targeted and measurable approach by the CPP with increased use of evidence and data
- Action Plans prepared for settings that acknowledged partnership contributions

# NETWORKING AND SYSTEM LEADERSHIP

We convene and support a wide variety of networks and facilitate connections with the wider public health and social care system (both locally and nationally) that can help local partners:

- Come together to share learning about what is and isn't working
- Spread learning and good practice across the whole system
- Connect work across different programmes and sectors and develop new relationships
- Support shared agenda setting and multiagency delivery

Examples of Networks that may be helpful:

- [Scottish Prevention Hub](#) is a co-directed national partnership that aims to take a whole-system public health approach focused on primary prevention, to support the reduction of health and wellbeing inequalities in Scotland.
- **Public Health Actions Teams** (PHAcTs) are being developed to facilitate a whole-system approach to some of Scotland's main health improvement challenges (such as mental health and obesity). They bring all key stakeholders (national and local) to jointly identify, agree and coordinate action. These are currently being set up, please look out for further information.
- [Child Poverty National Peer Support Network and Online Network](#) which brings together those working to reduce child poverty in local communities across Scotland.
- [Place and Wellbeing Alliance](#) is a forum for stakeholders to share resources, ideas and lessons learned to enable the on-going delivery, appraisal, and improvement of place-based working.

# NETWORKING AND SYSTEM LEADERSHIP | LOCAL EXAMPLE

## THE WORK

- Leading and supporting the development of a whole system mental health and wellbeing delivery plan in Moray

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Co-chaired/ led on conversations and workshops with stakeholders
- Coordinated themes and areas to be addressed from the range of local and national strategies, delivery plans, and quality standards that currently exist and can feel overwhelming

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Genuine engagement and commitment from partners
- A real opportunity to strengthen relationships across mental health teams and workforce.
- An appreciation that mental health and wellbeing was being considered from a public health perspective and that prevention was being addressed

## IMPACT

- Clarity of understanding of the actions required to improve prevention, support, treatment and recovery across Moray
- Increased understand of different roles and how they can complement each other
- An understanding of what needs to happen to develop more flexible and responsive services to support people in distress
- Increased understanding of the opportunities to improve population mental health.

# CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

We deliver training and actively engage and build capacity with communities and in conjunction with the Third Sector and community organisations. This can help local partners:

- Increase knowledge and skills across a wide variety of health-related topics and issues
- Feel more informed and equipped to influence and advocate for health and health inequality

Examples of online sources of help and further information:

- [Learning Zone](#) provides access to a range of learning resources on public health and health inequalities.
- [Health Issues in the Community](#) is a course that helps people understand what affects their health and the health of their communities.
- [NHS Education for Scotland](#) are responsible for developing and delivering healthcare education and training for the NHS, health and social care sector and other public bodies.
- [NHS Inform Healthy Living pages](#) provide advice and tools to help people look after themselves. Includes mental wellbeing, eating well, contraception, immunisation and help to stop smoking.
- [The Health Impact Assessment Unit](#) supports local partners in the use of health impact assessment to integrate health and health inequalities into all policies.
- [Shaping Places for Wellbeing](#) is working with a number of local areas to develop guidance about how to embed health and wellbeing in local policy and/or practice.

# CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING | LOCAL EXAMPLE

## THE WORK

- Using Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) to take a 'rights-based approach' and increase learning and capacity in Dumfries and Galloway

## PUBLIC HEALTH SUPPORT

- Identified need to increase awareness of rights-based approach across H&SCP
- Increased understanding of Public Sector Duty across H&SCP
- Reviewed impact assessment guidance
- Reviewed internal training and awareness session for staff with local E&D leads and PHS with an Equality, Diversity, Inclusion focus to support practice
- Review of impact assessment guidance

## WHAT WORKED WELL

- Collaboration of national and local staff to deliver sessions and future plans to expand the offer

## IMPACT

- Production of updated impact assessment guidance
- Increased staff awareness and provided training opportunity for staff with practical learning examples for staff in the H&SCP

# ACCESSING SUPPORT

Throughout this pack we have provided sources of **online information** that anyone can routinely access. These are regularly reviewed and updated where possible.

We also provide **individual, bespoke advice and support** across each of the areas outlined in this paper and have expertise across all of the major public health issues like obesity, drugs, poverty and early years. We have given some examples of where bespoke input has supported local work.

If you are interested in finding out what bespoke support might be available please contact the health improvement or public health lead aligned to your local area. If you are not sure who this is please use the contact details provided in the next section.

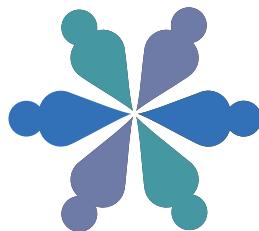
[PHS provides a range of data and intelligence](#) across all health improvement topics along with bespoke support attached to its national programmes of work. They will often provide this in partnership with local public health teams. To contact PHS please click [here](#).

Please note that capacity is limited and therefore each request is considered in relation to existing priorities and commitments.



# HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

Board	Generic point of contact for local public health team	Director of Public Health
<b>NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran</b>	<a href="mailto:lynne.mcniven@aapct.scot.nhs.uk">lynne.mcniven@aapct.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Lynne McNiven
<b>NHS Borders</b>	<a href="mailto:PublicHealth@borders.scot.nhs.uk">PublicHealth@borders.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Tim Patterson
<b>NHS Dumfries &amp; Galloway</b>	<a href="mailto:dg.phbsupportteam@nhs.scot">dg.phbsupportteam@nhs.scot</a>	Valerie White
<b>NHS Fife</b>	<a href="mailto:joy.tomlinson3@nhs.scot">joy.tomlinson3@nhs.scot</a> ; <a href="mailto:brenda.ward@nhs.scot">brenda.ward@nhs.scot</a>	Joy Tomlinson
<b>NHS Forth Valley</b>	<a href="mailto:Fv.PublicHealth@nhs.scot">Fv.PublicHealth@nhs.scot</a>	Jennifer Champion (interim)
<b>NHS Grampian</b>	<a href="mailto:gram.directorofpublichealth@nhs.scot">gram.directorofpublichealth@nhs.scot</a>	Susan Webb
<b>NHS Greater Glasgow &amp; Clyde</b>	<a href="mailto:emilia.crighton@ggc.scot.nhs.uk">emilia.crighton@ggc.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Emilia Crighton
<b>NHS Highland</b>	<a href="mailto:nhsh.dph@nhs.scot">nhsh.dph@nhs.scot</a>	Tim Allison
<b>NHS Lanarkshire</b>	<a href="mailto:josephine.pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk">josephine.pravinkumar@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk</a>	Josephine Pravinkumar
<b>NHS Lothian</b>	<a href="mailto:Loth.DPH@nhs.scot">Loth.DPH@nhs.scot</a>	Dona Milne
<b>NHS Orkney</b>	<a href="mailto:ork.publichealth@nhs.scot">ork.publichealth@nhs.scot</a>	Louise Wilson
<b>NHS Shetland</b>	<a href="mailto:Shet.publichealthshetland@nhs.scot">Shet.publichealthshetland@nhs.scot</a>	Susan Laidlaw
<b>NHS Tayside</b>	<a href="mailto:tay.directorofpublichealth@nhs.scot">tay.directorofpublichealth@nhs.scot</a>	Emma Fletcher
<b>NHS Western Isles</b>	<a href="mailto:wi.healthprotection@nhs.scot">wi.healthprotection@nhs.scot</a>	Vacant



Community Planning  
Improvement Board

# Guidance for Fair Funding of the Voluntary Sector

## Introduction

The Community Planning Improvement Board identified the need for sustainable funding for the voluntary (third) sector as a recurrent theme across its work streams.

It agreed that the principles contained within the [Verity House Agreement](#) defining how Scottish Government and local government interact could, indeed should, apply equally in community planning partners' relationships with the voluntary sector. The voluntary sector is vital to the achievement of Local Outcome Improvement Plans, so maintaining positive, ongoing relationships is important.

SCVO has developed [Fair Funding Principles](#) in consultation with the voluntary sector and the TSI Network has developed a [funding charter](#) for use in local areas based on the same principles. You can see how this has been developed in one local authority area in the [North Lanarkshire Community and Voluntary Sector Fair Funding Charter](#).

Therefore, the CPIB has drawn on the Verity House Agreement and the work of SCVO and the TSI Network to set out guidance that will make for a more strategic and equal relationship between public sector community planning partners and the voluntary sector in their local areas. The principles apply equally where the CPP or any of its members are working with an organisation representing the sector, such as a third sector interface (TSI) or when working with an individual charity, community organisation or social enterprise.

# Principles

- 1 A positive working relationship, based on **mutual trust and respect**.

Community Planning Partnerships recognise the significant contribution the voluntary sector makes to public services, including in prevention and early intervention. They recognise that a strategic investment approach is better for everyone than short-term, transactional relationships.

- 2 A **focus on the achievement of better outcomes** for individuals and communities, with jointly developed, simple structures for assurance and accountability that recognise context and reduce burdensome reporting.

CPPs recognise that an outcomes-based approach, where the individuals and communities who engage with the activities of the voluntary organisations are at the heart of the process and there is a trusting relationship works best for everyone. Funding arrangements should be proportionate and streamlined, not a “one size fits all” contract.

- 3 Councils and their community planning partners will work together with local representatives of the voluntary sector to **consult and collaborate as early as possible in all matters** where the voluntary sector has a key interest and/or is the key delivery mechanism.


CPP partners recognise that they are working with voluntary organisations because they have the right expertise and connections, not because they are a cheap option. They should be involved in planning at as early a stage as possible. This may be with individual organisations engaged with particular people or issues, or with representative organisations such as the third sector interfaces where there is a more strategic/broader interest.

- 4 **Activities and funding** of voluntary organisations will be reviewed regularly to ensure adequacy and alignment with effective delivery of outcomes.

It is important that investment in, and collaboration with, the voluntary sector is an active relationship that is focused on effective delivery for the people and communities in local areas. Following the [Principles of Positive Partnership](#) will help.

- 
- 5 In relation to funding, the default position will be **minimal restriction or direction of funding**, unless there is a clear, joint understanding that it is necessary.

The funded organisations are best placed to make best use of the allocated funding. They should be trusted to use the money effectively to achieve the agreed outcomes. It is not appropriate for the funder to micro-manage or direct the activities. The funder recognises that core costs are legitimate expenditure as, just like councils or health boards, organisations can't deliver frontline activities without the infrastructure to underpin it.

- 
- 6 **Community Planning Partnerships**, as the key partnership delivering shared local priorities, will recognise the voluntary sector as an equal partner. This should normally be through the third sector interface.

A key role of the TSI is to engage in community planning. They receive some funding from Scottish Government to enable this work, but it doesn't cover the increasingly wide range of activities they are called on to participate in. For example, Regional Economic Partnerships, IJBs or climate hubs. They can only do this effectively if CPPs respect their role and include them as equal partners. It is to the benefit of the CPP as a whole as it makes for a more strategic approach, and minimises the chances of problems arising that could easily have been avoided.

- 7 When funding voluntary organisations, community planning partners **will seek to ensure better strategic alignment on workforce issues, including fair work.**

When commissioning voluntary organisations, the CPP partners should take account of Fair Work Principles and ensure that their arrangements accommodate the payment of the Living Wage, as well as the other principles such as job security. Decision-making, communication and timescales for grants must enable organisations to meet their obligations as an employer. For example, where redundancies are necessary because funding comes to an end and recognising the need to access to training.

# What this looks like in practice

- Longer-term funding of three years or more.
- Flexible, unrestricted core funding, which enables organisations to provide security, plan effectively, and fulfil good governance requirements.
- Sustainable funding that includes inflation-based uplifts and core operating costs.
- Funding that accommodates paying staff at least the Real Living Wage and other Fair Work principles, and supporting volunteers.
- Accessible, streamlined, proportionate, and consistent approaches to applications and reporting, timely process and payments, and partnership between the funder and funded organisation.

## Multi-year funding

While of course there may be times when a one-off grant is appropriate, eg for a specific community event or improvement to a building, generally funding should be allocated for a minimum of three years. This takes away uncertainty, enables longer term planning and reduces the time both the organisation receiving the funding and the funder spend on bureaucracy. It represents an investment approach.

## Flexible funding

To achieve the best results for people and communities, the voluntary organisation should be able to develop what it does to meet emerging need and adapt to changing circumstances.

## Sustainable funding

In order to invest in staff and volunteers, property and longer-term priorities such as climate change, voluntary organisations need investment that supports development and infrastructure and enables scarce resources to be used to deliver frontline activities rather than perpetuating the never-ending cycle of chasing income. That includes being able to fulfil the Fair Work Principles.

## Accessible funding

Ideally, there should be a collaborative approach to commissioning, and CPP partners should recognise that not all commissioning needs to result in procurement. The approach taken should be proportionate to the nature of the activities and the size of the budget.

Application/bidding processes should be streamlined and designed to produce the best decisions, allowing sufficient time to prepare bids. Criteria should be clear from the outset and timescales clear for decision-making and communications. Similarly, monitoring and evaluation should be clear and proportionate.

## Good endings

When funding is coming to an end, it is important that the process is managed properly, respecting the staff and volunteers and especially the people and communities who have been receiving the services. There should be plenty notice and clear explanations of what will happen next.

# About the voluntary sector

There are around 46,000 voluntary organisations in Scotland, around half of which are registered charities. The others are community groups, social enterprises or community interest companies. The sector has a combined annual turnover of over £8.5 billion and employs over 135,000 staff, while 1.2 million people volunteer. It is important to remember that while volunteers give their time for free, they are not a free resource. For volunteering to be of a high quality and meet essential safeguarding requirements, there needs to be investment in recruitment, training and support as well as payment of expenses.

For most people in Scotland, voluntary organisations are part of everyday life. They are critical to Scotland's wellbeing, prosperity, and success. Voluntary organisations:

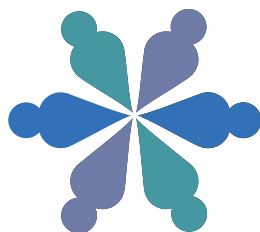
- Provide good quality jobs and support into employment
- Tackle digital exclusion, provide childcare, social care and housing, and support the most disadvantaged people and communities
- Undertake vital medical and environmental research
- Run most of Scotland's theatres, museums, galleries, and sports clubs
- Campaign for change, ensuring the voices of people and communities are heard.

They are part of every industry from tourism and the arts to retail, health and social care, transport, education and justice. They protect our environment and heritage as well as people and communities.

They have to comply with high standards of governance, have their annual accounts audited or independently examined and meet various regulatory requirements. Charity trustees are volunteers but (the Board) have legal obligations and are, rightly, subject to public scrutiny.

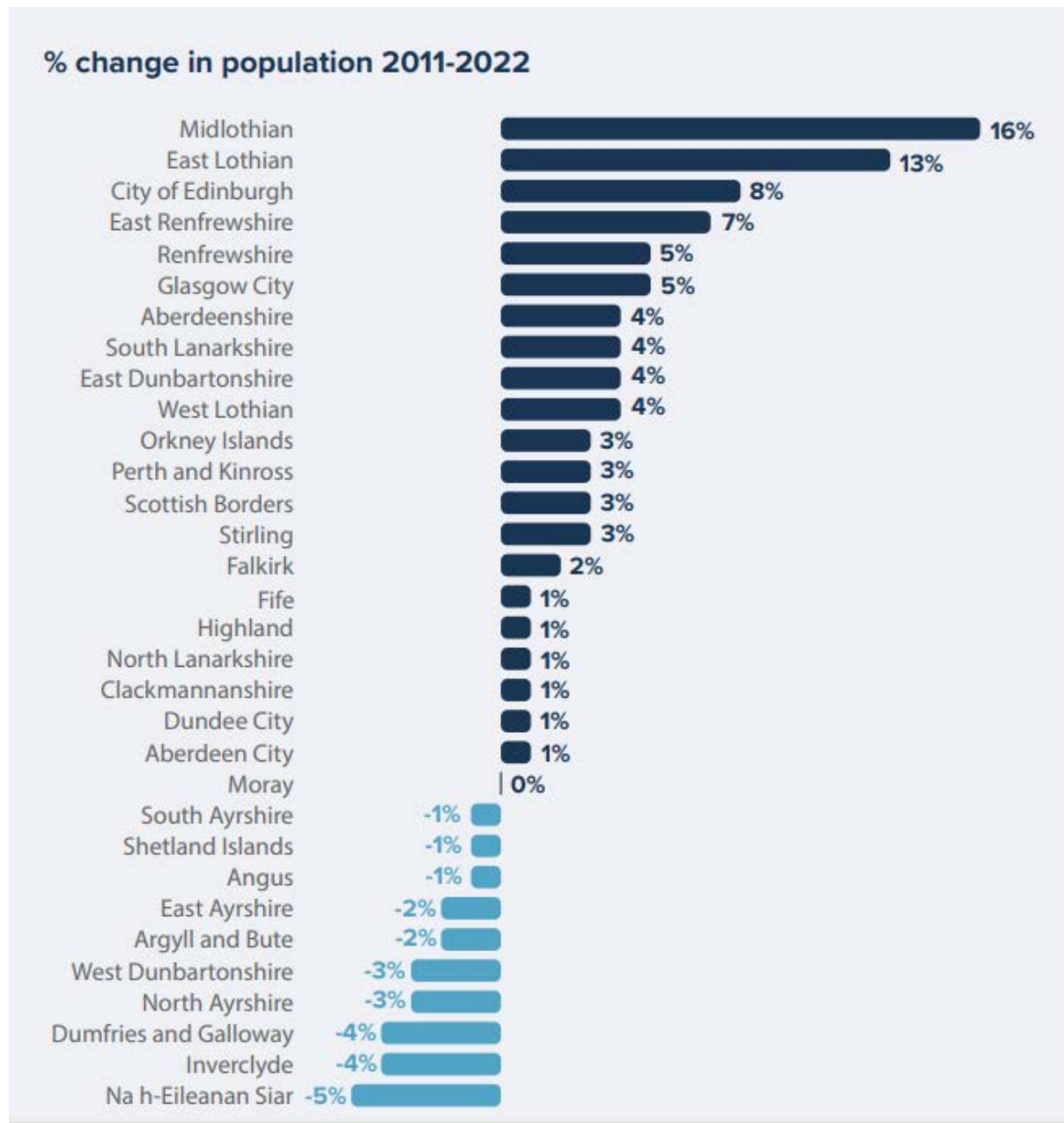
Polls consistently show that the public trusts charities more than they trust the private or public sectors.

You can find more information by visiting [scvo.scot/about/the-sector](https://scvo.scot/about/the-sector)  
Each TSI will have information about the sector in its local authority area.



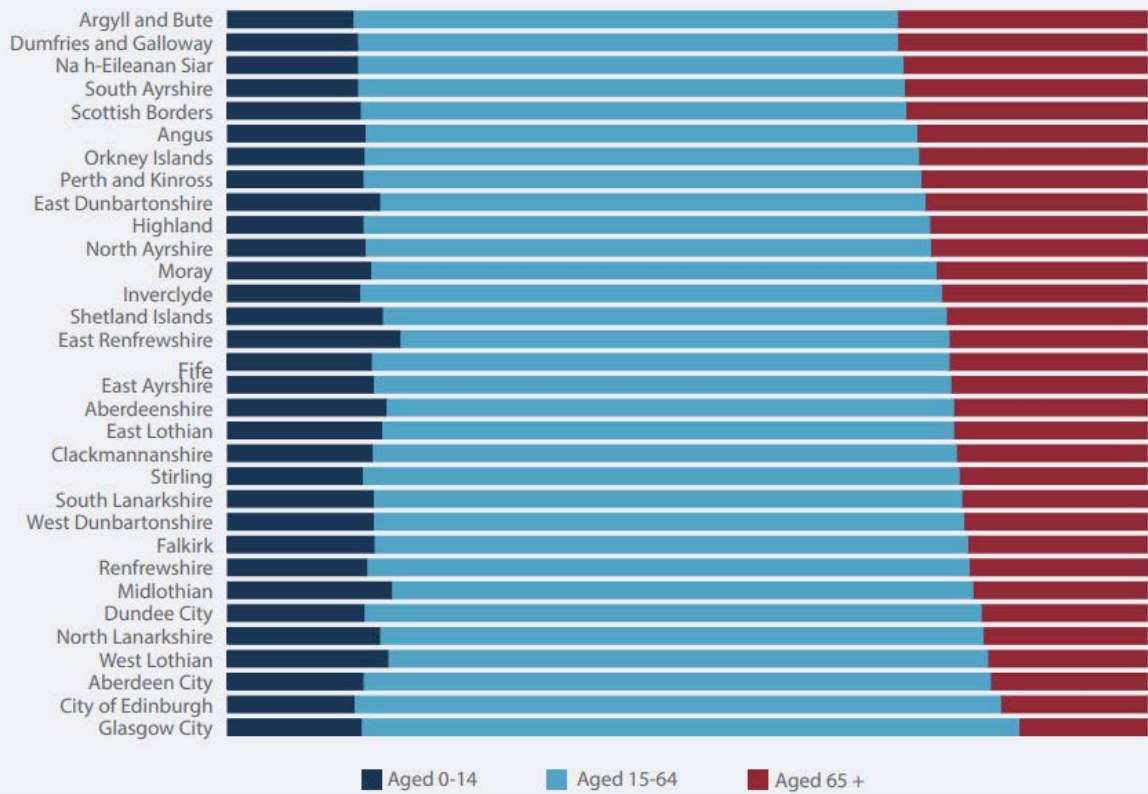
Community Planning  
Improvement Board

**APPENDIX 7 – DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE**





Proportion of 2022 population by age group





**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 9**

<b>Author: Stephen Jack, Lifelong Learning Manager</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer: Harry Hay, Head of Thriving Communities</b>																						
<b>Report Title: Community Planning Partnership Board and Community Planning Senior Leadership Team – Forward Programme for 2024/25</b>																							
<p><b><u>1. Situation:</u></b> 1.1 This report updates the Community Planning Partnership Board (CPPB) on provisional arrangements for 2025 in relation to both the CPSLT and CPPB.</p>																							
<p><b><u>2. Background:</u></b> 2.1 Frequency of meetings for the CPSLT and CPPB during 2024 were arranged as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPPB (4 meetings)</li> <li>• CPSLT (7 meetings)</li> </ul>																							
<p><b><u>3. Key Issues</u></b> 3.1 The dates/months for CPPB and CPSLT meetings during 2025 are being finalised and will take account of school holiday periods to help maximise attendance.</p> <p>3.2 Meetings on a Friday also have to avoid national COSLA Leaders meetings so the dates for the CPPB meetings are still provisional at the moment until national meeting dates are confirmed:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="4">Community Planning Partnership Board</th> </tr> <tr> <td>7 or 21 March</td> <td>14 June</td> <td>12 September</td> <td>TBC</td> </tr> </table> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="7">Community Planning Senior Leadership Team</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan</td> <td>March</td> <td>May</td> <td>July</td> <td>August</td> <td>September</td> <td>November</td> </tr> </table>		Community Planning Partnership Board				7 or 21 March	14 June	12 September	TBC	Community Planning Senior Leadership Team							Jan	March	May	July	August	September	November
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Community Planning Senior Leadership Team																							
Jan	March	May	July	August	September	November																	
<p>3.3 Room 2 at English Street has booked for CPSLT meetings and which is appropriate in size to accommodate a smaller group and also has virtual technology available if required, however, due to nature of dynamic discussions that are required an in person attendance has been preferable wherever possible.</p> <p>3.4 During 2025 the proposed plan would again be to hold the 4 Board meetings in the main Council Hall unless partners have other suitable venues which could be utilised for hybrid meetings.</p> <p>3.5 For the CPSLT, same arrangements are being proposed as 2024 with 6 or 7 meetings being held across the year and a combination of hybrid/in person.</p> <p>3.6 During 2024, the CPSLT schedule for Governance related reports was as follows:</p>																							

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resettlement Board</li> <li>• Place Planning Partnership</li> </ul>
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Housing Forum</li> </ul>
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alcohol and Drugs Partnership</li> </ul>
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integration Joint Board</li> <li>• Regional Economic Partnership</li> </ul>
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Learning and Development Partnership</li> <li>• Safer Communities Partnership</li> </ul>
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality and Diversity Working Group</li> <li>• Children’s Services Strategic and Delivery Partnership</li> </ul>
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation and Engagement Working Group</li> <li>• Local Employability Partnership</li> </ul>

N.B During 2025 there will also be the D&G Cultural Partnership to schedule.

#### Future Business CPPB

3.7 At the November CPSLT meeting it was agreed that for 2025 it would be more appropriate if a proposed programme was developed initially through CPSLT members in liaison with the Co-Chairs for approval, as opposed to items being considered on more of an “ad-hoc” basis. For reflection, the main substantive items considered during 2024 were:

#### **March**

- Children’s Rights report
- Workforce Skills Summit– presentation and discussion

#### **June**

- Resettlement Board – presentation and discussion
- Poverty and inequalities – presentation and discussion

#### **September (Joint meeting with the Youth Council)**

- Youth Council priorities
- UNCRC and future Children’s Rights reporting – presentation and discussion
- Consideration of Tobacco and Vaping report
- ASN School’s Transition project – presentation and discussion

#### **December**

- LOIP end of year report
- Regional Economic Partnership and contribution to LOIP Outcomes
- Housing Challenges update
- Child Poverty Action Plan report

3.8 2024 saw the first full year of updated operating arrangements being implemented along with the first full year of the new LOIP. During the year, a number of other national initiatives/priorities also emerged including:

- Collaboration for Health Equity
- Population Health Framework

- Community Planning Partnership self-evaluation tool
- Community Wealth Building
  
- There has also been a continued focus through the CPPB on Child Poverty/UNCRC

3.9 It is acknowledged that the Community Planning landscape is quite cluttered and complex with many national Policies/Plans to consider. The recommendation from the CPSLT would be for the first CPPB meeting of 2025 to take the form of an “in person” facilitated workshop. This would help reflect jointly on progress so far; consider the emerging national issues as detailed above; help foster a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities; help prioritise resources, and focus our joint efforts going forward.

3.10 The CPSLT will continue to inform business to be considered by the Board in liaison with the CPPB Co-Chairs.

**4. Recommendation:**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to

4.1 **Consider** the proposed arrangements for 2025; and

4.2 **Consider** the recommendation to host a workshop in March 2025 as outlined at paragraph 3.9.

**Stephen Jack – Lifelong Learning Manager**



**COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD  
– 4 DECEMBER 2024**

**ITEM 10**

<b>Author: Darren Little, Children’s Services Manager</b>	<b>Responsible Senior Officer: Jim Brown, Assistant Director Schools</b>
<b>Report Title: Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24</b>	
<b><u>1. Situation:</u></b>	
1.1 This Report brings forward the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24, and a refreshed Child Poverty Action Plan for 2024-26, for Community Planning Partnership Board awareness.	
<b><u>2. Background:</u></b>	
2.1 The Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017 introduced an annual requirement for Local Authorities and respective Health Boards to jointly prepare a Local Child Poverty Action Report which notes progress and reflects on the related activity undertaken over the previous year and sets out a forward plan.	
2.2 Sub-Group 4 of the Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership is the multi-agency group responsible for supporting the preparation of the annual Local Child Poverty Action Report.	
2.3 A Dumfries and Galloway Child Poverty Action Plan for 2022-2026 was agreed as part of the process to develop the Local Child Poverty Action Report in 2021-2022, aligning with the timeframe of the Scottish Government’s Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026.	
2.4 A significant amount of work is being undertaken by partners which either directly or in-directly contributes to tackling child poverty. This work is embedded in various multi-agency groups, strategies, and action plans and is subject to various reporting and governance arrangements.	
<b><u>3. Key issues:</u></b>	
3.1 The sixth iteration of the Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24 is attached as <b>Appendix 1</b> and seeks to report on activity during the reporting period 2023-24. The Report includes an update on the Child Poverty Action Plan for 2022-26.	
3.2 A refocused Child Poverty Action Plan for 2024-26 is attached as <b>Appendix 2</b> . This action plan has been reduced in terms of number of actions from previous reports to increase focus on the agreed actions, for which the Child Poverty Sub-Group will have a key role in delivering (in partnership with key stakeholders).	



3.3 Within the documents a range of data is presented illustrating child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway, as well as a number of Case Studies which highlight the impact of work on the children and families it affects.

3.4 Public Health Committee endorsed both the Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24 and Child Poverty Action Plan 2024-26 at their meeting of 4 November 2024.

3.5 The Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24 and Child Poverty Action Plan 2024-26 was subsequently agreed by the Council's Tackling Poverty, Inequalities and Housing Sub Committee on 19 November 2024.

3.6 NHS Board are due to consider the Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-2024 and Child Poverty Action Plan 2024-2026 at their meeting of 2 December 2024. Subject to their agreement the documents will then be shared with Scottish Government and published online. Officers will provide a verbal update on this at Community Planning Partnership Board meeting of 4 December.

#### **4. Recommendations**

The Community Planning Partnership Board are asked to:

4.1 **Note** the progress in relation to actions agreed within the Child Poverty Action Plan 2022-26, as reflected within **Appendix 1**;

4.2 **Note** the planned future activity detailed in the Child Poverty Action Plan 2024-26, as reflected within **Appendix 2**; and

4.3 **Provide** feedback to officers in relation to progress and future plans.

#### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 - Dumfries and Galloway Local Child Poverty Action Report 2023-24**

**Appendix 2 - Dumfries and Galloway Child Poverty Action Plan 2024-26**

## APPENDIX 1

**Dumfries and Galloway  
Local Child Poverty Action Report  
2023-2024**



## 1. Foreword

Welcome to the sixth edition of Dumfries and Galloway's Local Child Poverty Action Report. This report has been jointly prepared by Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway, with contributions from partner organisations.

Across Dumfries and Galloway, local partners continue to be committed to and united in our determination to improve the lives of children and families living in or at risk of poverty. Shared strategic approaches shape our work which is underpinned by an ambition to tackle inequalities and the creation of a fairer and more equal society where no one lives in poverty.

The stark reality is that child poverty is still increasing in Dumfries and Galloway. We know that too many children and families face poverty issues and difficult choices on how to make available resources go as far as possible. This often limits opportunities in many aspects of life, e.g. health, education and learning, involvement in our communities, pursuing hobbies and interests, or making time for holidays as a family. Our aspiration for families and children continues to be that they experience the best start and aspire for the best possible future outcomes.

For those living in low-income households, and experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, the cost of living continues to compound their existing disadvantage. It has placed them at greater risk of poverty or pushed them deeper into poverty. The demand for advice and crisis support has increased further. As with any emergency, those in most need who have no financial cushion always suffer the greatest impacts to their already challenging lives.

Within Dumfries and Galloway one of the 12 LOIP Outcomes is 'Work together as partners to eliminate child poverty' and one of the six key areas within our Children's Services Plan relates to child poverty, underlining the importance of this area within our Community Planning Partnership.

We recognise that strong partnership working, and a collaborative approach is key to the achievement of the outcomes we plan for our children, young people and families in Dumfries and Galloway. We would like to thank all our partners for their valuable contributions.

Representative  
NHS Dumfries & Galloway

Representative  
Dumfries & Galloway Council

## 2. Key Local Supporting Activities

### Dumfries and Galloway Council Poverty and Inequalities Policy Development Funding 2023-2024

Dumfries and Galloway Council have continued to recognise the huge impact which the Cost of Living has had on all residents within our Region and in particular the devastating effects which this has on families and children and the resulting increases in child poverty. The Council identified that helping local people with the increased costs of living was a priority for Elected Members and the development of proposals to help local people and families was important for consideration as part of the development of budget proposals. Given Cost of Living increases impact on the six priority groups most at risk of experiencing child poverty identified by the Scottish Government a proposal was developed to help mitigate the impact and to support people in 2023-24 to address the pressures on their income. The projects developed seek to help people and households experiencing poverty and inequalities and underpin commissioned third sector partners and Council services providing direct help to people, businesses and social enterprises.

During Budget Setting for April 2023 – March 2024, the Council allocated £1,997,000 which resulted in the following results being achieved:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Policy Development Funding Allocated</b>	<b>Outcomes Achieved</b>
Tackling Poverty Reference Group (TPRG)	£10,000	The work that has been carried out over the last year has increased the knowledge, confidence and capability of our TPRG volunteers and provided a number of Council Services and Partner Organisations with feedback on their work from a lived experience of poverty point of view
Additional Funding for School Clothing Grants	£45,000	2,215 Primary children have been awarded a clothing grant during the 2023/24 financial year
Welfare & Housing Options Support Team	£165,000	348 clients were supported by the Welfare and Housing Options team during 2023/24. These clients were supported to obtain financial assistance to the value of £220K. For 95 out of the 348 clients assisted there was an imminent threat of eviction that was saved due to the intervention of the team. Potentially those 95 would have been additional presentations to Homeless services which on average costs the Local Authority £12K per presentation saving a total of £1,14 million

Direct Support for Vulnerable People through Social Work	£64,000	With over <b>1,135 families</b> benefiting from activities / projects together with staff from council services and our third sector providers, This included managing income and preventing escalation of debt, grants for Broadband, mobile phone charges & travel, young people participation in the Bairns House Project, Family Nights & Craft Groups and 1 to 1 Groups and Activities.
Direct Payment to Vulnerable Young People	£40,000	918 payments have been distributed to young people who have been experiencing financial hardship during the 2023/24 financial year.
Fareshare Memberships	£56,000	219.42 Tonnes of Food received which is the equivalent of 522,448 meals, equivalent food costs of £816,670 with 211 tonnes of food diverted from landfill.
Free Period Products	£20,000	Expansion of our Free Period Dignity Products to 66 Collection Points within our Region.
Taxi-Cards Transport Scheme	£130,000	In 2023/24, 2,297 individuals registered on the Taxicard Scheme and were provided up to £100 of travel.
Emergency Energy Payment Assistance Scheme	£100,000	In total, 1,918 Vouchers have been issued to individuals and families who are struggling with Fuel Poverty within our Region. 421 of these have been issued to Private Rented Sector Tenants 427 of these have been issued to Loreburn Housing Association Tenants 1,070 of these have been issued to a combination of Wheatley Group Tenants, Cunningham Housing Association Tenants, Home Housing and Irving Housing Association Tenants throughout our Region Lemon Aid Fuel Poverty Project Total No. of people given advice & support to = 4,275 No. of people reconnected after Self Disconnection = 347 No. of people with complex issues/restricted meters assisted = 1,768 No. Of Fuel Vouchers / Energy Top Up's provided = 1,539 (please note that the Lemon Aid Fuel Poverty Project can also access energy vouchers from other sources) Amount of Financial Gain / Debt Reduction Achieved = <b>£284,572</b>

		<p>Home Advice Visits Completed = 149  Outreach Sessions / Events Attended = 91  Referrals from Partner Agencies = 596  No. of People Referred to Partners / Support Agencies from Lemon Aid Fuel Poverty Project = 306  The Hub Warm Winter Fuel Project  155 Households Supported with fuel.</p>
Community Transport	£53,000	<p>The Community Transport Project delivered the Volunteer Car Scheme for transporting patients to health appointments, both within Dumfries and Galloway and out with Dumfries and Galloway to appointments in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Ayrshire. This service is operated by Annandale Community Transport Service and Galloway Community Transport</p> <p>The key statistics for the period of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total Registered Patients = 682</li> <li>• Total New Registered Patients in 23/24 = 123</li> <li>• Journeys = 1,012</li> <li>• Volunteer Driver Hours = 2,765</li> <li>• Travelling to out of region (30%) and in region (70%) health appointments</li> <li>• 75% of patients over 65 with 65% of the over 65 are aged 75+</li> </ul>
Additional Top Up Funding for the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)	£390,000	<p>Total SWF spend in 2023/24 was £1,381,946 with 5,496 Crisis Grants paid with a value of £419K and 2,335 Community Care Grants paid with a value of £963K.</p> <p>This Top Up Funding ensured that the overall total above was achieved for those most in need.</p> <p>The priority level for SWF had been increased to high from April 2023, however even with this increased priority only funding essential items in Community Care grant the additional funding enabled the service to meet continued high demand for these grants.</p> <p>Crisis Grants assist those with immediate payments for food and fuel when needed and are paid out on average within 1 working day.</p>

		Community Care grants are paid to assist those maintain their current home or settle into a new home. The main provision through this is white goods / furniture and floor coverings.
Holiday Food Fund Payments	£220,000	During financial year 2023/24 (Summer 2023, October 2023, Winter 2023, February 2024, and Spring 2024) holiday food payments were issued to 3,645 primary and secondary children. This funding was used as a Top Up to the funding received from the Scottish Government.
Holiday Food Fund for Early Years and Nurseries	£90,000	450 children received these payments with a daily value of £2.50 per child for the holiday periods.
Summer of Play Programme	£264,000	This funding was combined with £135,492 of Scottish Government Funding and resulted in 35 Third Sector organisations and 6 Council Services were supported to provide activities and programmes throughout the summer holidays in order to give children and young people valuable and fun activities 10,069 unique children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway took part in at least one of the activities on offer
Top Up Funding for Commissioned Services	£130,000	This funding was used to ensure existing advice and information commissions were able to cover the increased core running costs of their services.
Grassroots Projects	£40,000	During the last year financial year in total over 5,150 items of school uniform were donated, cleaned and redistributed throughout our region with over 650 pupils assisted through this Project both through our 5 Free Back to School Uniform Events  We received over 3,500 items of donated Warm Winter Clothes throughout October 2023 which were then distributed and given away at our 7 Events across the Region.
Area Committee Grant Funding	£180,000	43 Grant Awards were made to community organisations to tackle poverty and inequalities through a variety of local projects.

## Dumfries and Galloway Council Advice and Information Services Commission

Dumfries & Galloway Council continues to work in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service (DAGCAS) through an annual Advice and Information Services Commission throughout our Region. This Commission of £906,500.00 per annum delivers a detailed range of dedicated financial services including Income Maximisation to all residents within Dumfries and Galloway under the age of 60. This Commission has a positive impact, helping to reduce child poverty and deprivation and all of its devastating impacts. During 2023-24, the results for Income Maximisation achieved by DAGCAS are detailed below:

<b>Commission Project</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Commission Target</b>	<b>Overall % Achieved</b>
Income Maximisation – No of Clients Supported	3,348	1,395	240%
Income Maximisation – Amount of Additional Income	£9,519,299.45	£7,000,000.00	136%

## Through Young Eyes

The Council's Youth Work Team supported a group of young people in Dumfries and Galloway to produce a short film, 'Through Young Eyes', that explores how young people in our region perceive poverty, and their own lived experiences of poverty. Key messages from local young people detailing how poverty affects them, as depicted in "Through Young Eyes," was shared with Officers prior the official launch of the video during Challenge Poverty Week in October 2024, and this helped to shape the development of future actions and will continue to do so. A summary of the key messages is detailed below:

**1. Limited Opportunities:** Poverty restricts access to education, extracurricular activities, and career opportunities, limiting young people's potential and future prospects. This can be through transport, access to kit/equipment and costs for participating in activities.

**2. Mental Health:** The stress and anxiety caused by financial instability contribute to mental health challenges, including depression, low self-esteem, and a sense of hopelessness. This was an issue for young people

themselves, but young people were also indirectly affected by mental health challenges experienced by parents / carers / siblings.

**3. Social Stigma and Isolation:** Young people often feel stigmatised and isolated because of their economic status, leading to feelings of shame and exclusion from social groups, including school trips.

**4. Impact on Education:** Poverty affects academic performance due to factors like lack of resources, poor home & study environments, and the need to balance school with responsibilities like part-time work or caring for family members.

**5. Insecurity and Instability:** Constant financial insecurity creates an unstable environment, leading to frequent housing changes, food insecurity, domestic violence and uncertainty about the future.

**6. Barriers to Basic Needs:** Access to essentials like nutritious food, healthcare, and safe living conditions is often compromised, affecting overall well-being and development.

**7. Resilience and Strength:** Despite these challenges, young people demonstrate remarkable resilience, finding ways to cope and support each other.

**8. Call for Action:** The film was never intended to be a call for action or to identify solutions, but hoped to urge decision makers, support workers and communities to continue to address the systemic issues that perpetuate poverty and to provide better support for young people in need in Dumfries and Galloway.

Through Young Eyes is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xkp0IAp7eQ>



### 3. Local Child Poverty Action Report

This report provides a status update on our Child Poverty Action Plan for 2022-26.






There is recognition that a significant amount of work is being undertaken by partners which either directly or in-directly contributes to tackling child poverty. This work is embedded in other action plans and is subject to separate reporting.

For this reason and to refocus our Child Poverty Action Plan as we move forward, several of the current actions will be removed (where they have been completed) or redefined (where they are no longer relevant or have been superseded) within a new action plan, covering the period 2024-26.

The new Action Plan has been developed through a partnership approach involving the Child Poverty Sub-Group of the Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership, Public Health Scotland and the Improvement Service, while taking account of the views of children and young people shared as part of the 'Big Question', 'Through Young Eyes' and other local and national engagement activity.

The following key has been used to update the status of the 57 Actions detailed within the Child Poverty Action Plan 2022-26.


#### Key: Status for the 57 actions

	Complete
	In progress, on schedule
	In progress, not on schedule
	Not started
	Superseded

A summary of the status of the 57 actions is presented below:



**Complete – 51 actions**  
**In progress, on schedule – 2 actions**  
**In progress, not on schedule – 1 action**  
**Not started – 0 actions**  
**Superseded – 3 actions**


#### 4. Income from Employment





Driver of Child Poverty Reduction - Income from employment					
Actions for Sub-Group 4		Status	Lead Service(s)	Due Date	Latest Note
1	Build upon opportunities in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing designed to close the poverty related attainment gap therefore maximising the future income of children e.g. Closing the Literacy Gap, Closing the Numeracy Gap, EmotionWorks		Education	March 2024	<p>The principal purpose of all schools in Dumfries and Galloway is to raise attainment and improve outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>ensuring that every child and young person achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, as well as the knowledge and skills necessary to shape their future as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors; and</i></li> <li>• <i>ensuring every child and young person has the same opportunity to succeed, no matter their background or shared protected characteristics, with a particular focus on closing the poverty related attainment gap.</i></li> </ul> <p>The education improvement plan and annual report for 2023/24 was agreed by the Council in August 2024 and reported to Scottish Ministers as is required. Available:</p> <p><a href="https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61065/Education%20Annual%2">https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s61065/Education%20Annual%2</a></p>



				<p><a href="#">0Report%202023%202024%20Appendix.pdf</a></p> <p>The Excellence &amp; Equity Literacy Group and Excellence &amp; Equity Numeracy Group continue to analyse local authority, cluster and school data to support raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap. Attainment data per SIMD quintile, to identify the percentage attainment gap between the most and least deprived has also been analysed.</p> <p>In relation to literacy, between August 2023 and June 2024, 39 Developing Balanced (DBL) Literacy CLPL inputs have been facilitated including Words Together, Pre TLQ, Eiklan, Building Strong Leaders, The Power of Morphology, DBL to NQTs, Literacy Ladders, Outdoor Literacy and CYPIC National Improving Writing Programme. These sessions were delivered by members of the Excellence &amp; Equity Literacy Group. Over these 39 CLPL sessions 950 staff attended; 209 Early Years, 662 Primary, 37 Secondary and 42 Learning Assistants equating to 2346.5 cumulative hours. A professional learning calendar had been delivered to support the Developing Balanced Literacy approach as a universal offer and on the evidence-based interventions (Closing the Literacy Gap, Fastlane Reading, Literacy Ladders),</p>
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					<p>designed to accelerate progress in Literacy and close the attainment gap.</p> <p>In relation to numeracy, between August 2023 and June 2024, 92 CLPL sessions have been facilitated. These sessions were delivered by members of the Excellence &amp; Equity Numeracy Group, SWEIC Maths Group, DG OWL, Education Scotland's Maths &amp; Numeracy Team and SUMDOG. Over these 92 CLPL sessions 592 staff registered from early years (80), primary (322), secondary (90), Additional Support for Learning (13), University of Glasgow students (62) and parents (25), equating to 2162 cumulative hours.</p> <p>Within schools Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) evaluation, they are also required to report on the impact of their PEF spending in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How rigorous is the school's approach to providing robust evidence of closing the attainment gap?</li> <li>• How well are you removing barriers to learning and ensuring equity for all?</li> <li>• How much progress have you made in reducing the poverty related attainment gap? What are the lessons learned?</li> </ul>
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2	<p>PRIORITY ACTION - Capacity building sessions are offered to Early Learning Centre and school staff to enable them to effectively identify and signpost parents from low-income families for whom employability support would be appropriate</p>		<p>Education, Early Learning Centre partners, Local Employability and Skills Partnership</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Sharing practice events for staff have been held in Dumfries, Stranraer and Lockerbie involving over 700 Early Learning, Schools and partner staff. These sessions have provided staff with opportunities to learn about the support and services that are available for children and parents, including employability support. These events for staff will continue to be delivered on an ongoing basis with the next event scheduled for 4 November 2024 at Castle Douglas High School.</p> <p>A new Child Poverty Employability Team is in place and will explore how this action could be supplemented in the future, working with a 'Lived Experience Panel'. The Panel was recruited in early 2024 with initial meetings taking place in April and May. The group have already undertaken service design training and have been involved in funding and small grants initiatives.</p>
3	<p>PRIORITY ACTION - Develop an effective means of sharing accessible information on opportunities with Early Learning Centre/ school staff to enable them to pass on to parents they know may benefit</p>		<p>Local Employability and Skills Partnership</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Early Learning staff routinely share paper-based and electronically local partner information to all parents and carers.</p> <p>Cost of Living Website which provides details of available supports was promoted to parents and carers as part of Challenge Poverty Week 2023.</p> <p>A new Child Poverty Employability Team is in place and will explore how this action could be supplemented in the future, working with a 'Lived Experience Panel'.</p>


					The Panel was recruited in early 2024 with initial meetings taking place in April and May. The group have already undertaken service design training and have been involved in funding and small grants initiatives.
4	PRIORITY ACTION - Routinely share accessible information on opportunities and offer capacity building sessions for Welfare and Benefits staff to enable them to effectively identify and signpost parents from low-income families accessing their service for whom employability support would be appropriate		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2024	<p>Local Employability and Skills Partnership Website and Cost of Living Website are trusted sources of information regarding local employability support which can be accessed by any staff member across the partnership and used to signpost parents. Cost of Living Website which provides details of available supports was promoted to staff as part of Challenge Poverty Week 2023.</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service, and other local partners such as Enable, actively identify and signpost parents to local employability support.</p> <p>Sharing practice events for staff held in Dumfries, Stranraer and Lockerbie were open to all staff working with children and families and included attendance from Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service. The sessions provided staff with opportunities to learn about the support and services that are available for children and parents, including employability support. These events for staff and partners will continue to be delivered on an ongoing</p>



					basis with the next event scheduled for 4 November 2024 at Castle Douglas High School.
5	PRIORITY ACTION - Build capacity of organisations providing employability support to use 'Better Off in Work' Calculations to help families understand the potential difference to family income by being in employment/ better employment		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2024	Enable Scotland have been commissioned to undertake 'Better off in work' calculations. This is being applied to all individuals engaging with the Employability and Skills Service.
6	PRIORITY ACTION - Develop a tailored offering for parents using No One Left Behind (NOLB) support to increase disposable income by enabling parents to enter, sustain and progress in Fair Work and reducing the number of children living in poverty		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2023	Parental Employability Support Funding has been used to support local parents as part of the local No One Left Behind approach. 93 parents were supported in 2023-24.
7	PRIORITY ACTION - Provide a group of parents who have faced barriers to employment the opportunity to undertake paid work experience to develop a model of family support using the Scottish Approach to Service Design		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2024	Scottish Approach to Service Design and Place Planning approaches applied to project in Stranraer.  Learning from Stranraer project is being applied to Service Design and Place Planning project in Kelloholm and Kirkconnel.
8	PRIORITY ACTION - Support employers to be more inclusive and flexible increasing the number of employers adopting the principles of Fair Work		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2023	All employers receiving Employer Recruitment Incentive (ERI) completed a Fair Work Assessment of their business. Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service work closely with local referral agents to ensure a fair spread of people and employers can access funding across


					different sectors focusing on those facing skills shortages.
<b>9</b>	PRIORITY ACTION - Develop local pathways for parents to train, learn and equip themselves with the accreditation, skills and facilities needed to increase the number of childcare providers in our rural areas, building on partnership working with the Scottish Child-Minding Association as part of the Scottish Rural Childminding Partnership Project		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2023	<p>Work was progressed with the Scottish Child Minding Association in 2022-23 to help identify and register local individuals for the growing Rural Childcare Programme in Dumfries and Galloway.</p> <p>On an ongoing basis the Lifelong Learning Service and partners provide opportunities for parents to develop relevant skills through programmes such as Peep which provide opportunities for parents to learn about child development and achieve accreditation for learning.</p>
<b>10</b>	PRIORITY ACTION - Commission a tailored offering for disabled parents using No One Left Behind support to increase the number of disabled parents able to access and sustain Fair Work		Local Employability and Skills Partnership	March 2024	The commissioning is complete and the service has commenced delivery as at October 2024 as part of a wider disability employment support package. This is a key action within the Local Employability Partnership being progressed in 2024-2025 and is also included in the Thriving Communities Service Plan 2024-2025.





## 5. Cost of Living Support


<b>Driver of Child Poverty Reduction - Costs of living</b> Housing Heating Food, Education, Debt, Medication, Availability of affordable and accessible childcare, Availability of affordable and accessible transport, Access to affordable credit, Internet access, Savings and assets, Costs of hospital visiting					
Actions	Status	Lead Service(s)	Due Date	Latest Note	
<b>11</b> Explore with the Strategic Housing Partnership opportunities to develop new actions to ensure that young people and families with children have high quality sustainable homes that they can afford and that meet their needs		Housing	March 2024	<p>The Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) makes a significant contribution to tackling child poverty through the provision of affordable housing. Providing high quality, affordable housing in connected and safe communities can help lift families out of poverty and provide a nurturing environment to support positive life opportunities in childhood. The SHIP supports, and directly refers to the Dumfries and Galloway Child Poverty Action Plan, which recognises the role housing can play as a driver of child poverty reduction. It aims to ensure that young people and families with children have high quality sustainable homes that meet their needs.</p> <p>Over the last 5 years, a total of 846 affordable homes have been created via the SHIP, and 166 affordable homes are projected for completion during 2024/25, with a number of these being larger family properties aimed at meeting growing demand.</p>	




12	Schools and Early Learning Centre settings continue the discretionary purchasing of uniform items and PE kits for low-income families using Pupil Equity Funding and to enhance provision of uniform swap services in partnership with Parent Councils		Education	March 2026	<p>All Schools and Early Learning settings can provide discretionary support to low-income families using Pupil Equity Funding, and other sources of funding.</p> <p>Eight School Uniform Donation and Collection Banks have been established across Dumfries and Galloway providing access to free uniform on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Four pop-up Back to School One Stop Shop Events were also delivered before the end of the 2023 Summer Holidays in additional locations across the region where families could collect free new and pre-loved School Uniforms, Stationery and lunch, with hairdressers offering hair-cuts also.</p>
13	Continue the roll out of free school meals from all Early Learning Centre and primary aged school children P1 to P5 to P6 and P7 pupils, and increase the uptake of Free School Meals in secondary schools		Education, School Meals Service, Financial Wellbeing, Welfare and Benefits team	March 2026	<p>Universal Free School Meals (UFSM) is now fully implemented for P1 to P5, aligning with the Scottish Government commitment.</p> <p>In line with the Scottish Government position, the phased expansion of free school meals to those in receipt of Scottish Child Payment in Primary 6 and 7 will commence from February 2025. A report detailing this was received at Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee on 29 August 2024, available via the following link: <a href="https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60728/Extension%20of%20Free%20School%20Meals.pdf">https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s60728/Extension%20of%20Free%20School%20Meals.pdf</a></p> <p>Information received from the 2023 Healthy Living Survey data reported an</p>




					<p>83.3% uptake relating to Dumfries and Galloway Free School Meals (FSM), a 1% increase on last year's figures.</p> <p>Primary 6 and 7 pupils who are eligible through means testing can receive FSM's. Information received from the Healthy Living Data reported an 82.6% uptake relating to means tested uptake of FSM.</p> <p>Secondary pupils who are eligible through means testing can receive FSM's. The information received regarding the census data shows 61.7% uptake in secondary FSMs which is a slight increase from last year's figure of 59.9%. A report providing a School Meals operational and performance update was received at Education and Learning Committee on 30 November 2023, available via the following link:  <a href="https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s54412/School%20Meals.pdf">https://dumfriesgalloway.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s54412/School%20Meals.pdf</a></p>
14	Schools build on existing action which identifies the need for and distributes free IT equipment and enables internet access for low-income families		Education/ CFSW extended connectivity	March 2026	During COVID-19, Scottish Government funded a Digital Inclusion Programme, to provide a digital device to those pupils that did not have access to one at home, to enable them to participate in online learning. A total of 3,080 devices were distributed to pupils from P1-S6 who met the Free School Meals criteria. The devices were a mix of laptops and ipads which were not 'managed' devices, so pupils could use them at home for their own use as well as learning. The Council also distributed 161 sim cards to

				<p>those families that did not have access to WiFi at home. Again, these were funded for 1 year by Scottish Government and Education and Learning Directorate funded a further year. These contracts were ceased in 2022.</p> <p>Running alongside this programme, Social Work sourced devices via the Connecting Scotland programme led by Scottish Government for young people known to them who had no access to a digital device during lockdown and therefore a risk to their wellbeing. Within this reporting period, following on from the Connecting Scotland Programme, a small number of hand-held devices were available across all Local Authorities from Scottish Government on previously returned devices and connectivity. Children and Families Social Work were able to supply our care leavers that did not have current access with mobile phones and unlimited connectivity. There is currently no further Scottish Government funding to support this work.</p> <p>Education and Learning Committee requested that a programme of work be completed to ensure that every school in the region has a minimum device ratio in line with the number of pupils at that time (Census figures from 2022). This work is complete, with schools being asked to endeavour to maintain these numbers of</p>
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					<p>devices by investing each year from their own DSM budgets.</p> <p>In the Health and Wellbeing Census 2021-22, young people were asked 'Do you have access to the internet at home, on a phone, or another device?' 98.3% of young people responding in Dumfries and Galloway answered yes to this question.</p> <p>Schools now address family's needs for devices on an individual basis.</p>
15	<p>Low level mental health support continues to be available to young people in school settings and communities</p>		<p>CSSaPP Mental Health Priority Group, Education, Youth Work Services, Third Sector partners</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Low level mental health supports are available in all secondary schools in Dumfries and Galloway through the Youth Information Workers in Schools Team which is part of Youth Enquiry Service. In 2022-23 academic year 463 referrals for 1:1 support were received and 3,607 1:1 sessions were delivered. In addition to this each school cluster also has an assigned School Nurse who can be available to provide emotional health and wellbeing support and each school has an allocated Educational Psychologist who can work directly with children and young people.</p>
16	<p>PRIORITY ACTION - Explore further opportunities that ensure children and young people in low-income families have access to food through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breakfast clubs in Early Learning Centre settings, schools and other community settings</li> <li>• Holiday food provision (cash payments)</li> </ul>		<p>CSSaPP, Education, Youth Work Services, Active Schools, Third Sector. Poverty and Inequalities Team</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Individual settings have used the 'Food in Schools' policy to consider food provision including breakfast clubs. There is variation across schools based on their own context/need and Pupil Equity Fund plans.</p> <p>Hot and cold food and drink options are now available to all young people attending a secondary school in Dumfries and Galloway</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend food provision (cash payments)</li> <li>• Active Schools activities</li> <li>• FareShare Membership and Provision</li> </ul>				<p>before the start of the school day, at morning break and at lunch time. Children in receipt of free school meals can use their £2.10 entitlement at any of these times.</p> <p>When any child is registered for the Free School Meal, the Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Service also administer additional grant funding from both our Local Authority and the Scottish Government. This includes School Clothing Grants and Holiday Food Payments.</p> <p>12 community-based food banks provide further access to free food across the region and throughout the year.</p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b> details Free School Meals and Payment data for details of numbers of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals and Holiday food payments.</p>
17	Promote free sanitary products in primary and secondary schools and some community settings, including provision over school holidays		Education, Poverty and Inequalities Team	March 2026	Free Period Poverty Products continue to be available in all Secondary Schools and Council Leisure Facilities within Dumfries and Galloway. The Council's Free Period Dignity Project offers a range of Free Period Products at 56 Collection Points throughout our region – for more details, please click on the following link: <a href="https://www.dumgal.gov.uk">Access to free period products - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)</a> Products can also be posted to residents who cannot easily access a Collection Point. This provision is


					<p>promoted within settings and through the Cost of Living Website.</p> <p>The requirements of the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Act 2021 do not apply to NHS Boards. However, Health Scotland and the British Medical Association have stipulated that NHS Boards should provide free sanitary products. Free sanitary products are available at all NHS Dumfries and Galloway sites including upon request on clinical wards.</p>
<b>18</b>	All Midwives, Family Nurses and Health Visitors actively promote Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods to all pregnant women and families		Women, Children and Sexual Health Directorate (WC&SH)	March 2023	Best Start Grants and Best Start Foods information is routinely shared via universal services through various means including direct engagement, Grow Well App, electronic records, and leaflets. Referral processes are in place where additional support may be required.
<b>19</b>	Explore opportunities to further increase the number of Credit Union Schools Savings Projects in schools (currently 10)		Credit Unions, Education, Poverty and Inequalities Team	March 2024	The Stranraer Credit Union have increased the number of Schools Savings Projects by 3 in the last year taking their total to 8. This takes our overall regional total to 13. The Solway Credit Union are currently in the process of amalgamating with the Thistle Credit Union which will be completed by the 31st of October 2024. The Thistle Credit Union are planning to set up additional Schools Savings Projects from January 2025 onwards.
<b>20</b>	To reduce the costs of the school day, all curriculum activities including practical subjects and Active Schools activities continue to be free at the point of access		Education	March 2026	Additional finance continues to be provided to schools via cost of the school day funding to ensure all education and activities are free at the point of access.

					All Active Schools activities continue to be free at the point of access also.
21	Pupil Equity Funding continues to be used discretionally to fund school excursions for eligible families		Education	March 2026	All schools can provide discretionary support to low-income families using Pupil Equity Funding, and other sources of funding, based on local context/need.
22	PRIORITY ACTION - Further develop School Uniform Banks and winter clothing projects exploring opportunities to expand these in schools and other community settings		Education, D&G Parent Council Forum, Poverty and Inequalities Team Third Sector and Community Organisations	March 2024	<p>Eight Permanent Free School Uniform Stores are now open at all times across Dumfries and Galloway to offer Free New and Pre-Loved Uniforms throughout our region. Plans are in place to increase this number during 2024-2025 through Community Organisations. All details are available on the links below:  <a href="https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/free-school-uniforms">Free School Uniforms - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>There are also Winter Warm Clothes Events and Back to School Uniform events that take place throughout the region each year.</p>
23	Repeat the Cost of the School Day research from 2015 and establish new actions		Education	March 2024	<p>At the end of November into early December 2020, The National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS) and Cost of the School Day project at the Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland (CPAG Scotland) undertook a national survey with parents particularly about costs and money. Dumfries and Galloway had a return of 167 across Primary and Secondary sectors.</p> <p>Child Poverty Action Group published 'The Cost of the School Day Big Question' report and film in June 2024, featuring insights from 5,394 children and young people from across Scotland who give their views on school</p>







					<p>costs and their ideas about what should change, in their own words.</p> <p>The Council's Youth Work Team has supported a group of young people in Dumfries and Galloway to produce a short film 'Through Young Eyes', that explores how young people in our region perceive poverty, and their own lived experiences of poverty. The film will be launched during Challenge Poverty Week in October 2024, with key messages shared with Officers in advance.</p> <p>Both the 'Big Question' and 'Through Young Eyes' have informed the refreshed Action Plan for 2024-26 and will inform future activity.</p> <p>Local partners agreed not to undertake further local research in respect of the Cost of the School Day within this reporting period due to the other work progressed locally and nationally as detailed above.</p>
24	<p>PRIORITY ACTION - Explore opportunities to develop additional actions that aim to increase the uptake of School Clothing Grants, Free School Meals, Holiday Food Payments and Council Tax Reduction by low-income families.</p>		<p>Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Team, Education</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>As part of normal practice, the Revenues and Benefits Service now operate a single claim for multiple forms of support. When customers apply for any of welfare supports such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing Benefit</li> <li>• Council Tax Reduction</li> <li>• Discretionary Housing Payments</li> <li>• Free School Meals/Clothing Grants/Holiday food Payments</li> <li>• Scottish Welfare Fund</li> </ul>




				<p>Action is taken to award all the support the customer is entitled too.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the Council website has been revamped to improve the customer experience and provide clearer information on the welfare supports available.</p> <p>Customers are also directed to welfare supports available from the Social Security Scotland, particularly the Scottish Child Payment.</p> <p><b>Appendix 1</b> details Free School Meals and Payment data for details of numbers of pupils in receipt of Free School Meals, School clothing grants and Holiday food payments.</p> <p>The Council regularly campaigns and promotes a variety of local and national schemes and offers to assist those who need it, promoting free school meals predominantly through our Gov Delivery newsletter system, where school meals has it's own topic and parents and carers can sign up to receive free alerts and news. We have over 4,500 signed up to receive these alerts and encourage further sign up by signposting via our X and Facebook pages as well as in our fortnightly issued Community Bulletin.</p> <p>The Council also play an active role in community swap shops for school uniform before each new academic year begins in</p>
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					<p>August. A month-long campaign on our social media pages signposts followers to locations where they can both take and collect school uniform items, free of charge. These are especially popular with those transitioning from P7 to S1, where quite often a whole new 'school wardrobe' is required. Our X feed has over 11k followers and we have over 32k followers on Facebook. This campaign is also supported via school community social media pages and our Youth Work team, who share our messaging to reach the appropriate audiences.</p> <p>Via our Council News topic through Gov Delivery and our social media channels we also encourage traffic to the benefits section of our website, where there is a wealth of information around benefit support, council tax reduction, crisis grant application support, and other supports.</p>
25	Explore opportunities to offer discretionary funded childcare / Early Learning Centre places for children who do not meet the eligibility criteria i.e. child < 2 years (including Family Nurse Partnership families and low-income families with children under 2 years) where young parent <18 wishes to return to education or training		CSSaPP, Education, Social Work, Third Sector partners, private childcare sector, Childminders	March 2024	There are various opportunities for young parents under 18 to access support with childcare costs. Dumfries and Galloway Council Social Work Services provides support to enable vulnerable families to access affordable childcare in times of crisis or to be included in the child's plan to ensure that their needs are being met via the Childcare Brokerage model for children aged 2 and under. Childcare Brokerage is time limited to an initial period of 12 weeks. Extensions can be considered on an individual basis but will not exceed 6 months continuous service. The Childcare Brokerage

				<p>model enables parents and Carers to access childcare from any setting, commissioned by the Council – in the public, private or third sector, including from a childminder – who meets the applicable National Standards, has a place available and is willing to enter into a contract with the local authority.</p> <p>Eligibility to access the Childcare Brokerage model include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All children must have Social Work involvement and have been assessed as in need of Social Work assistance.</li> <li>• All children must be referred for Brokerage hours by D&amp;G Social Work Services.</li> <li>• All children must be resident in Dumfries and Galloway</li> </ul> <p>In 2023/24 6 children accessed Brokerage.</p> <p>Dumfries and Galloway College students may apply for assistance with childcare costs whether studying on a full-time or part-time basis up to a maximum of £250 per week. Various other local education providers including higher education institutions also offer discretionary childcare funding.</p> <p>The Family Nurse Partnership is a person-centred, preventative intervention programme offered to young first-time parents aged 19 or under, and eligible 20 to 24 year-olds and their children. The programme is person-centred and has a core aim around tackling child poverty. Family</p>
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					<p>Nurses help build pathways into community support and resources to address social and economic factors, such as welfare, education, employment and money advice. There are no known young people being supported by a Family Nurse in Dumfries and Galloway where childcare costs have been a barrier to a young person returning to education or training.</p> <p>Given there is no additional or specific Scottish Government funding to support this action, and there has been no identified need locally, no further action will be taken at this time. Partners will continue to monitor feedback from young parents through the Family Nurse Partnership and other engagement opportunities.</p>
<b>26</b>	<p>PRIORITY ACTION - Implement the Government's expectations on wrap-around and holiday childcare once funding model is agreed with COSLA, using consultation from January 2022 as baseline</p>		<p>CSSaPP, Education, Third Sector partners, Private childcare sector</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Dumfries and Galloway Council have continued to coordinate a 'Summer of Play' programme and other school holiday activities involving community partners.</p> <p>Scottish Government plan to develop a more detailed delivery plan in 2025-26 setting out what a targeted school age childcare offer will look like for families within communities and providing a clear timescale for delivery.</p>
<b>27</b>	<p>Explore opportunities with SWestrans to develop actions that will improve the availability and affordability of transport for low-income families</p>		<p>SWestrans, D&amp;G Council Transportation Team</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Through the Transport Scotland funded People and Place Active Travel Behaviour Change Programme SWestrans are funding a number of programmes through schools and the wider community that support access to bikes for children and adults in low income</p>



					families and those with disabilities. Future shared mobility opportunities are also being explored.
<b>28</b>	Increase the uptake of free transport to children and young people under 22 exploring opportunities for schools / youth work settings / Customer Service Centres to support families in the application process		D&G Council Transportation Team, Education, Youth Work Services	March 2024	<p>A range of promotional activity has been co-produced with young people from the Youth Work Service to help promote the scheme and increase uptake.</p> <p>In order to increase uptake, the Education colleagues work with schools to run a bulk application process for Young Scot National Entitlement Cards at the Primary 7 transition period with all Primary schools in Dumfries and Galloway. At the start of term 3, communications are sent to the school offices to begin the school application process. Cards are then delivered to the school offices to be distributed to pupils.</p> <p>The Council can also support families with individual applications at any time if an applicant contacts the Customer Services team by phone or visits a Customer Service Centre to book an NEC appointment, which takes place face to face.</p>
<b>29</b>	Promote to families with a disabled member, the National Entitlement Card (NEC) which gives people with a disability plus a companion free bus travel and also the Taxi-Card scheme for those unable to access transport		D&G Council Transportation Team, All partners	March 2024	Dumfries and Galloway Council promote free bus travel with an NEC if you are disabled, via the Council website. DG Customer Services facilities across Dumfries and Galloway promote access to the NEC and can facilitate the application process. Both the NEC Card and Taxi-Card scheme are promoted to disabled customers and their




					<p>Carers as part of engagements with associated front-line staff.</p> <p>Transport Scotland indicated that next year's People and Place funding programme will expand its remit to include Active and Sustainable Travel Behaviour Change therefore we will explore ways to include promotion of this in next years programme.</p>
30	Promote the expansion of the Young Patients Family Fund to all parents/carers and siblings who visit an inpatient baby, child or young person up to 18 years to enable them to claim expenses for travel, subsistence and accommodation costs in respect of hospital visits		WC&SH	March 2023	<p>This is currently publicised via the Grow Well App, Pregnancy App (Badger.Net) and Children and Young Persons Health App. Posters are displayed in clinical areas and all parents in Neo Natal Unit are given information packs.</p> <p>Following a review of the process for the Young Patients Family Fund by NHS Internal Audit service a full review of local procedures associated with the fund is being undertaken and this will include how the fund is promoted. This will be concluded by the end December 2024</p>
31	All professionals working with children and families promote Tax-Free Childcare, with key messages and materials to be developed and shared with partners		NHS/HSCP, Education, Social Work, Third Sector Organisations	March 2024	<p>Information has been added to the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership's Cost of Living Website and shared with all partners. <a href="https://dumgal.gov.uk/families-and-young-people-cost-of-living-dg">Families and Young People - Cost of Living DG (dumgal.gov.uk)</a></p>
32	Promote Pharmacy First across the Partnership to reduce costs of medicines for minor illness or complaints		WC&SH, Pharmacies, Financial Wellbeing and Revenues Team,	March 2024	<p>Pharmacy First has been promoted through a variety of methods including social media, posters, leaflets and direct contact.</p>



			All Partners		
33	Promote baby boxes which provide essential items for new parents, increasing the uptake		WC&SH, All Partners	March 2023	Baby boxes are now promoted as a standard practice within the pregnancy pathway.
34	Explore opportunities to promote healthy affordable food choices for families of children with complex needs e.g. diabetes		WC&SH	March 2023	The Grow Well App has information on affordable recipes and videos, and this is promoted to families by front-line staff. This is also an ongoing core action as part of pregnancy pathway.
35	Explore opportunities to build upon Connecting Scotland's work to provide children from low-income families with digital devices and internet connectivity		Poverty and Inequalities Partnership	March 2024	As per the update to action 14, 3080 devices were previously distributed to pupils from P1-S6, as well as a small number of devices to care leavers. Schools now pick up family's needs for devices on an individual basis.  This action also ties in with actions of Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Sub-Group 1.
36	Promote the free online Period Dignity Partnership Project which delivers monthly orders of sanitary products to all individuals across the region		Poverty and Inequalities Team, All Partners	March 2026	Our Free Period Dignity Project has now been redeveloped into a Collection Project with 32 Collection Points across our region. For individuals who cannot access the Collection Points postal option is available, <a href="https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/access-to-free-period-products">Access to free period products - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)</a> .
37	PRIORITY ACTION - Complete a mapping of all Breakfast, Mid-Morning & Snack Clubs / Projects which are delivered in primary and secondary schools		Poverty and Inequalities Team, Youth Work Services, Education	March 2024	There is no existing duty for local authorities or other bodies to provide breakfast clubs. While it is known that in practice local authorities, schools, charities, and the private sector provide services, there is no centrally held information that maps the availability of this provision across Scotland. To address this, the Improvement Service conducted an information gathering exercise in May 2024







				<p>to improve the understanding of what breakfast club provision exists in schools across Scotland. The objective of this information gathering exercise was to better understand how many schools currently offer breakfast provision to children, and the features of that provision.</p> <p>Collection of information was to be limited to primary schools and schools with a registered special department. The Improvement Service provided Dumfries and Galloway Council an online survey which was then distributed to schools.</p> <p>The response rate in Dumfries &amp; Galloway was 88% (86 survey returns from 98 primary schools). From the 86 responses received from Dumfries &amp; Galloway, 32 schools responded to say that they provided breakfast. This equates 33% of the 98 primary and special schools in Dumfries &amp; Galloway and 37% of the 86 active responses received. Of these 32 schools with breakfast provision, 28 noted that breakfasts were available to all children, with 4 noting that breakfasts were available, but only for some children.</p> <p>When asked whether breakfast was provided as part of childcare before the start of the school day, or part of a 'grab and go', 69% of schools responding said that breakfast provision is part of childcare before the start of the school day, with the remaining 31%</p>
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					<p>being provided as a 'grab and go' provision, or as part of the school day.</p> <p>Hot and cold food and drink options are available to all young people attending a secondary school in Dumfries and Galloway before the start of the school day, at morning break and at lunch time. Children in receipt of free school meals can use their £2.10 entitlement at any of these times.</p>
<b>38</b>	Consult with users and parents of all Food Based Projects within primary and secondary schools to provide evidence of the outcomes and increases in wellbeing of these services along with the costs involved in delivery		Poverty and Inequalities Team, Education	March 2024	<p>Catering Services carry out a survey annually to both parents (primary school) and pupils (secondary school). This year's secondary survey ran from January to May 2024 and 387 responses were received. The survey included two questions around cost. Pupils were asked: how much they spend on average each day in the school canteen; and If you are in receipt of Free School Meals, do you use your £2.00 credit daily? Did you know that this credit can be used daily from 8:30am and can be used to purchase any item?</p> <p>Responses to the survey are being considered by the catering team and results and feedback will be provided to parents.</p> <p>Further consideration will be given to how further questions on cost and wellbeing could be factored into next year's surveys.</p>
<b>39</b>	Consult with all Youth Services to provide feedback on all Youth Projects which provide food and the outcomes of all young people who attend.		Poverty and Inequalities Team,	March 2024	<p>This mapping was completed and information is promoted on the Youth Work website.</p>

			Youth Work Services		
40	Increase awareness to all families of the additional support available through Home Energy Scotland Programmes and Emergency Funding including highlighting in School Newsletters, Online Forums and through Parent Councils & Parent Council Networks.		Poverty and Inequalities Team, All Partners	March 2024	<p>All available supports are promoted through the Cost of Living website and associated promotional campaigns.</p> <p>A new fuel poverty/energy advice action will be developed in partnership with Energy Advice Providers in 2024-2025</p>
41	Increase awareness to all families of The Hub Help for Heating Scheme		Poverty and Inequalities Team, All Partners	March 2024	<p>The Hub ceased trading in January 2024. All available supports are promoted through Cost of Living website and associated promotional campaigns.</p> <p>A new fuel poverty/energy advice action will be developed in partnership with Energy Advice Providers in 2024-2025.</p> <p>The Hub Help for Heating Scheme is being replaced by a new Winter Warmth Project which will be delivered by one of our community partners from November 2024.</p>
42	Promote the support currently available through Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) within Dumfries & Galloway who provide emergency payments to their Tenants in times of crisis.		Poverty and Inequalities Team, RSLs	March 2024	<p>RSLs promote support available direct to tenants via Housing Officers and other staff, and through social media and RSL websites.</p> <p>A new online leaflet which highlights the support available from each RSL and all other agencies is in development, linking with Sub-Group 3 of Poverty and Inequalities Partnership.</p> <p>10,238 Wheatley Group tenants and 2,430 Loreburn tenants have also received details</p>




					of the Stranraer Credit Union and Solway Credit Union.
<b>43</b>	Highlight any new Energy Support Schemes which may be being developed through Third Sector Organisations to combat the cost of living crisis to families		Poverty and Inequalities Team, All Partners	March 2026	Details of all projects and support schemes which are developed are highlighted to all Partners and are added to the Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnerships Cost of Living Website and associated promotional campaigns: <a href="https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/help-for-households-cost-of-living-dg">Help for Households - Cost of Living DG (dumgal.gov.uk)</a>
<b>44</b>	Enhance promotion of free or low-cost activities and days out for children, young people and families such as museums, parks and Amazing Summer funded activities		Poverty and Inequalities Team, Education, Youth Services, All partners	March 2026	The Council allocated £264,000 in 2023-24 to fund Summer of Play Activities for children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway. This was provided by a range of third sector partners and Council Services. All activities and programmes are shared and promoted through social media, e-mails, schools and through our Cost-of-Living Website.



## 6. Income from Benefits

<b>Driver of Child Poverty Reduction - Income from social security and benefits</b> Generosity of benefits, Reach of benefits, Eligibility criteria for benefits, Take up of benefits					
	<b>Actions for Sub-Group 4</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Lead Service(s)</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Latest Note</b>
45	Train all public health nurses to raise awareness of the benefits available for low-income families at pathway visits, including the new Child Payment, and make direct referrals to DAGCAS / Financial Wellbeing, Welfare and Benefits Team when appropriate		WC&SH, DAGCAS Financial Wellbeing, Welfare and Benefits Team	March 2024	All public health nurses have been trained in poverty awareness and referral pathways.
46	PRIORITY ACTION - The above action is expanded to Midwives and Community Children's Nurses to increase awareness of available benefits and promotion to families		WC&SH, DAGCAS Financial Wellbeing, Welfare and Benefits Team	March 2024	Training has been delivered to Midwifery and Community Nursing Teams. All partners can access and complete the 5 online training modules offered by the Child Poverty Learning Hub.
47	The Grow Well in D&G App is expanded to include information about welfare and benefits including Young Patients Family Fund		WC&SH	March 2023	The Grow Well app now has expanded content to support all age and stages of children and young people (adding 5-12 and 12-18 content), therefore a greater reach to families across Dumfries and Galloway .
48	Increase the awareness of social work staff to embed income maximisation advice, benefits checks and charitable funding applications into social work		CSSaPP Whole Family Support Priority	March 2024	Sharing practice events for staff held in Dumfries, Stranraer and Lockerbie were open to all staff working with children and families and included



	practice for all families with social work involvement including Kinship Carers		Group, Social Work, DAGCAS, Financial Wellbeing, Welfare and Benefits Team		attendance from Social Work and Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service staff. The sessions provided staff with opportunities to learn about the support and services that are available for children and parents, including benefits and income maximisation advice. These events for staff and partners will continue to be delivered on an ongoing basis with the next event scheduled for 4 November 2024 at Castle Douglas High School.
49	Expand the support available to Care Experienced young people and Homeless young people to maximise their income from social security and benefits		Social Work, Housing	March 2024	All staff working with Care Experienced young people promote local supports and services which can help to maximise income from social security and benefits, supporting young people with referrals where appropriate.


## 7. Other actions

Other actions not covered by the three drivers of child poverty reduction					
Actions for Sub-Group 4 (not already on the Action Plans of Sub-Groups 1-3)		Status	Lead Service(s)	Due Date	Latest Note
50	Financial Education is delivered in all primary and secondary schools through the Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing curriculums that is current in relation to financial risks of online gaming/gambling, cryptocurrency, pay day loans etc.		Education	March 2024	The delivery of this action is progressed at an individual school level through either the Health and Wellbeing Curriculum, Numeracy Curriculum, or combination of both.
51	Poverty impact assessments are embedded into decision making by all Public and Third Sector partners		All partners	March 2026	Poverty and Inequalities are considered within existing Impact Assessment processes. NHS Dumfries and Galloway and Dumfries and Galloway Council complete Impact Assessments for Strategies, Policies and new programmes of work on an ongoing basis.
52	Explore through the CSSaPP Whole Family Support Group and Whole Family Wellbeing Funding, opportunities to ensure low-income families know how to access help and support when they need it, taking a no wrong door approach		CSSaPP Whole Family Support Priority Group	March 2024	Sharing practice events for staff held in Dumfries, Stranraer and Lockerbie have provided staff with opportunities to learn about the support and services that are available for children and parents, and they have then been able to pass this information on the families. These events for staff and partners will continue to be delivered on an

					<p>ongoing basis with the next event scheduled for 4 November 2024 at Castle Douglas High School.</p> <p>A website which details the supports and services available for children and parents is currently in development and is due to launch in November 2024. This will compliment existing web platforms.</p> <p>Local supports are also promoted by frontline staff and through individual school and early years settings using both paper-based and digital means.</p>
<b>53</b>	Participation in Improvement Service child poverty data in rural areas project utilising data and intelligence to assist the partnership to develop a better understanding of our priority groups		NHS/HSCP, Council	March 2024	<p>The Improvement Service Child Poverty data in rural areas project is now complete.</p> <p>Public Health Scotland facilitated two workshops with Sub-Group 4 of the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership where the most up-to-date data in relation to Dumfries and Galloway was considered in order to inform future activity and plans.</p>
<b>54</b>	Develop a map of our local family support system from the perspectives of the families navigating child poverty supports to assist the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership and Children's Services Planning Partnership to identify barriers, gaps and challenges		NHS/HSCP, Council, CSSaPP, Poverty and Inequalities Partnership	March 2023	<p>A map of the local family support system was completed through the multi-agency Family Support Group and was used to support planning and development of associated services. This also provided a basis of who should be invited to</p>



	and develop solutions to overcome these				participate in the Sharing Practice festivals.
55	Develop additional opportunities to engage with people with lived experience of child poverty to ensure that their experiences shape future activity to tackle child poverty and mitigate its impacts		Poverty and Inequalities Partnership	March 2026	<p>A 'Lived Experience Panel' was recruited by Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service in early 2024, with initial meetings taking place in April and May. The group have already undertaken service design training and have been involved in funding and small grants initiatives.</p> <p>The Council's Youth Work Team has supported a group of young people in Dumfries and Galloway to produce a short film 'Through Young Eyes', that explores how young people in our region perceive poverty, and their own lived experiences of poverty. The film will be launched during Challenge Poverty Week in October 2024, with key messages shared with Officers in advance.</p>
56	Working in conjunction with the Share Fund, we will support all 16–19-year-olds to access their Child Trust Funds to ensure that they receive the funding which they may not know that they have (there are currently approximately 1,475 unclaimed Child Trust Funds within Dumfries and Galloway)		The Share Trust, Poverty and Inequalities Team, Education Services, Youth Work Services	March 2024	<p>The Share Fund delivered a presentation to the Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Sub-Group 2 in September 2023.</p> <p>This presentation has been shared with all Child Poverty Sub-Group members.</p> <p>There has been a slight delay to this Project due to finalising the Legal Agreement with The Share</p>

					<p>Foundation. This Project will be launched during 2024.</p> <p>Actions to support 16-19 year-olds to enable them to access their Child Trust Funds will be developed by Sub-Group 2 in conjunction with the Child Poverty Sub-Group</p>
57	<p>Carrying out 10,000 voices V2 to gain the views of young people on their experience of living within Dumfries and Galloway. This will ask the same questions as the 2018 research in order to allow for comparison over time, and will aim to engage with around 50% of all children and young people aged 12-25 in Dumfries and Galloway</p>		<p>Youth Work Service</p>	<p>March 2023</p>	<p>Complete and reported in 2023.  <a href="https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/10000-voices-youthwork">10,000 Voices - YouthWork - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)</a></p>

## 8. Case Studies

Case Studies highlight the impact of our work to tackle child poverty and mitigate its impacts. They demonstrate our commitment to ensuring that the voice of those with lived experience is heard in planning, delivering and evaluating our work. All Case Studies are shared with the permission of the individuals/families involved.

### Case Study 1 – Energy Advice Provider

*“With winter coming in I am having to put so much more money in my gas and electric my wages have started to run really low. I work full time hours but with the cost of living and the prices of essentials in the shop I am spending so much for on food, gas and electric. My gas is currently paying off a bill so each time I put money in it takes extra off.”*

Spoke to client who was really concerned about how she was going to support herself and daughter through the winter and was starting to have to look at difficult budgeting decisions as to how to allocate her limited funds. With either energy or childcare costs being in jeopardy of not being paid. This would have negative impact on her daughter with the potential for social exclusion and in the extreme her mother having to leave her employ due to not being able to cover childcare which would lead to even more potential negative impacts on the family.

On speaking to her supplier Scottish Power, it was identified that there was an issue with the electric meter in the household not being registered at the address. This is an unusual and quite complicated issue which would be difficult for a member of the public to resolve who has no experience in the energy sector as when the supplier is contacted, they would not have the details on their system and would as result not be sure they are the actual supplier making it difficult for a customer to rectify this issue.

The administrators of the grid database SP Energy Networks had to be contacted to check the meter registration information who advised it had been registered with the wrong postcode and so attached to the wrong address.

I managed to get Scottish Power to correct the registration at their end which eliminated this problem.

I sourced 3<sup>rd</sup> party grant support for the client through a Home Heating Advice award which cleared her debt balance and left her with £200 credit.

This was a great help to the household as it had a substantially positive effect on the household’s budget and mental wellbeing by removing the worry she felt and prevented potential social exclusion for her daughter.

## Case Study 2

### Dumfries and Galloway Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Support

#### *Cost of Living Grant Programme*

Dumfries & Galloway Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (DGRC & SASC) provides emotional and practical support to anyone over the age of 12 who has experienced any form of sexual violence, abuse, or exploitation at any time in their life.

Through the work of Dumfries & Galloway Council's anti-poverty strategy and in partnership with Children & Families Social Work we were selected to receive funding that has allowed us to provide financial assistance to our service users in the face of the ongoing cost of living crisis.

We developed a protocol for administering the grant which included a simple non means tested application process. Application forms asked survivors to identify a priority area of need and to outline how they would spend the money.

In total 129 small grants with average amounts of £100-£150 per person were awarded via BACS transfer where appropriate and vouchers were purchased in lieu of cash awards where there were safety or confidentiality implications (joint accounts, or financial exploitation for example).

67% of grant awards related to energy costs, after which there was a significant drop off with food poverty making up 11% of the overall award spend. Others grants supported issues linked to winter clothing, travel, housing and broadband/mobile costs phone.

Grant recipient feedback:

*"It (the grant) helped me heat my house when I had my kids staying so they were warm and cosy".*

Many acknowledged the impact the grant had on relieving stress associated with mounting bills and debt.

*"It helped a lot as we had nothing so I'm a lot less stressed".*

*"I was able to pay off a big electricity bill, so I feel I'm keeping on top of things now which is such a relief".*

Grant recipient feedback also indicated several unintended outcomes relating to alleviating social isolation:

*"It meant I could invite friends' round because I wasn't embarrassed about the house being freezing".*

*"I was able to pay bills so that freed up money for bus fares to visit family".*

*"I was able to take my children out to do things like normal families".*

### **Case Study 3 – Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing**

#### ***Targeted Funded Early Learning and Childcare - 2 Year Olds (Data-sharing – Datapipeline.scot)***

While there have been improvements in uptake for eligible two-year-olds in targeted funded early learning and childcare since the statutory entitlement was implemented in 2014, nationally this has consistently been low compared to 3 to 5 year-olds.

Datapipeline.scot enables the secure transfer of data about early learning and childcare eligibility between the Scottish Government and local authorities.

The Scottish Government receives and processes data from Social Security Scotland, Department of Work and Pensions and HM Revenues and Customs about households who are entitled to funded early learning and childcare.

The records in the file are sorted into 32 mailboxes based on their postcodes (one for each local authority area). The local authority is then notified that there is a file available for them to download.

We signed up to access information via Datapipeline.scot to enable us to target eligible families in Dumfries & Galloway.

The data provided us with names and addresses of qualifying households living within Dumfries & Galloway.

The data was firstly matched against existing families that are already in receipt of this benefit. This allowed us to identify local families that had not applied.

We wrote to the families outlining that they may be eligible for Funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) for their 2-year-old, detailing the benefits of high-quality Early Learning and Childcare.

There were 343 families exported from Datapipeline.scot.

177 families were already in receipt of this benefit.

166 families were issued with a letter.

27 families responded. 2 not eligible and 10 were pending.

Datapipeline are unable to provide us with children's Dates of Birth, therefore we cannot identify if letters are going to families that are in receipt of a funded 3-year-old place. This may be the reason for a high number of families not responding.

This piece of work has ensured that 15 additional families are now benefiting from this entitlement, with 10 more families currently being assessed. The entitlement is based on evidence that shows that all children, but especially those experiencing the most economic disadvantage, benefit from access to high quality Early Learning and Childcare.

This approach will be undertaken in the Summer Holidays each year. We also post on social media throughout the year to try and reach eligible families.

## **Case Study 4 – Financial Advice and Wellbeing - D&G Citizens Advice Service**

### ***Supporting a young mother – financial wellbeing and employment***

Miss V split from her partner 2 months after their baby was born, the client was suffering verbal abuse. The property is in the ex-partners name and Miss V felt it was beneficial for the baby and for herself she leave and move back with her parents for support. The house is overcrowded, client would like to find a house of her own. There were however a number of considerations/concerns including; can she afford to return to work, budgeting issues, covering childcare costs.

The Adviser undertook the following actions:

- Made contact with the Housing Options Team and made an appointment to discuss housing prospects
- Completed a “What if Benefits Calculation” - this showed entitlement to Universal Credit and benefit impacts/gains if the client decided to return to work.
- Supported client with a Universal Credit Entitlement Claim - the client will eligible to 85% of Child Care costs. The Adviser and Client worked through a basic budget sheet – no debts were identified
- Suggested legal advice to discuss setting up a formal agreement for father to have access to the child

There have been a number of positive outcomes following the Clients engagement with D&G Citizens Advice Service. Miss V has gained employment in a job she really enjoys, the Housing Options Team have indicated she should be allocated a property with the next 3-6 months.

Miss V reports she is delighted with the service and guidance received from D&G Citizens Advice Service and this has allowed her to gain confidence, plan ahead and start building a positive future for herself and her child.

Miss V will contact the service when she is allocated a property to recap her budget and discuss any other issues which may require support.

## Case Study 5 – Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing

***To reduce the cost of the school day for families whose child(ren) attract PEF to ensure that this is not a barrier to participation and education***

North Rhins Partnership Primary Schools looked at how Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) could be used to achieve the following positive outcomes:

- Pupils will be provided with equal access to opportunities at school (events, trips, after-school clubs, etc.) and barriers to participation and learning for pupils from low-income households will be removed
- Parents/Carers will feel less financial pressure associated with school costs placed on family incomes

In order to achieve this, the school consulted families on how the school can best support their child and requested suggestions for how they feel PEF spending could be best utilised. PEF was used to provide 3 interventions within the partnership schools:

- Offer to pay for after-school clubs for those children who attract PEF – via email to parents to ensure confidentiality.
- Offer to pay for school residential trip for P5-7 pupils.
- To provide after-school club open to all pupils, led by the Learning Assistant who is a skilled gardener, to promote social skills, positive mental health and wellbeing, and family learning as parents can attend alongside their child too.

The funding allowed the after-school gardening club to run on a weekly basis. It has provided lots of opportunities that pupils otherwise would have not received, including: composting, planting flowers/strawberry plants/veg, growing herbs, making bird feeders, weeding, etc. It has promoted fine motor skills, wellbeing through being outdoors and developed pupils' responsibility. The gardening club has also promoted parental engagement as parents have been able to attend the club to work and learn alongside their child. They have also held family garden tidy-ups on Saturdays at the school, further promoting family engagement.

The financial support enabled pupils to attend other after school clubs which they may have otherwise not been able to attend due to cost including badminton and sports. The financial support also allowed the pupils to attend the residential trip and ensured 100% attendance, giving them a city break experience which many of our rural pupils had never had - including a theatre trip, going on the subway, and the museum.

All of the above has ensured that money is not a barrier to participation and has provided pupils with experiences that they otherwise may not have been able to afford.

In a survey put out to all stakeholders in April 2024, 100% of parents who responded said that using some of our PEF to support cost of the school day for families was an 'important priority that helps a lot.'

The gardening club has sought further funding for a polycrub and chicken coup, providing further learning opportunities that all pupils in the school will benefit from.

The partnership plan to continue using some of their PEF to support the cost of the school day, to reduce the financial strain on families for those pupils who attract PEF.

The residential experiences are valued by all pupils and their parents. Many of our PEF children experience learning new skills and participate in different experiences outwith the school context during such excursions. We have taken account of our rural setting and now plan to offer a two-year rolling programme to all P6 and P7 pupils – one year will be a city break and alternate year will be outdoor education, to further maximise the impact of experiences provided.

The gardening club was piloted at one school in the partnership and has since been adapted and duplicated at another this year. The benefits of parental involvement in supporting this was a consideration when taking this forward in another setting. This parental involvement has extended to community involvement in both schools – linking in with partners, including the local churches as our garden gangs made scarecrows and provide produce for the forthcoming Harvest festivals.

We have learned that the PEF impact and positive outcomes have extended out with our school classrooms.



## **Case Study 6 – Dumfries and Galloway Health and Social Care Partnership/ Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service Staff Financial Wellbeing Project**

### ***Supporting a staff member with financial wellbeing concerns***

A staff member (hereafter referred to as ‘the Client’) approached the Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice worker who has a specific role in supporting H&SCP staff with financial wellbeing matters.

The Client works full time however their partner is recovering from an illness and was not ready to go back to work. The Client has a child who requires additional support. They are already in receipt of disability payments. The family is struggling with the cost of living and has presented to the service seeking advice on any other benefits/support they may be entitled to.

The Adviser carried out a benefit check which showed that the Client was eligible to apply for Universal Credit (UC) and Scottish Child Payment (SCP). The Client was advised of the application process for UC and provided with the claim line telephone number and links to apply. The Client was advised that once they are in receipt of UC then they will automatically be entitled to other benefits such as the Best Start grants. The first being the school age payment which is received once a child is ready to start school.

The Client was made aware of the rent element of UC which they may be entitled to if their circumstances change and also the disability element should their partner not be able to return to work as soon as they hoped.

Client applied for both UC and SCP and this was granted. This provided the family with an additional monthly income which helped to take the pressure off their financial situation and provided them with some breathing space in respect of their partner having to find work before they were ready, providing them with some stability during what is a difficult time for them.

The overall financial gain for the Client was £7,120.

The Client has reported that they were very happy with the advice and support provided by the service and welcomed the fact that the additional monies would significantly help the family until the Clients partner was ready to return to work.

## **Case Study 7- Health Visiting**

### ***Health Visiting supporting parents to access financial support through routine enquiry***

A Health Visitor home visit to complete a routine 27–30 month review was undertaken. The visit had been delayed due to family moving house after being homeless for a short while

The Health Visitor through routine enquiry asked about family finances and promoted the Best Start Card and grants. This question reminded Dad that he had had a letter from the Best Start team to remind him to spend the money on the card.

The family had applied for the card when child was born but had either not received the card or lost it. During the visit, Dad called Best Start and was told he had over £700 on the card and a new one was being posted out to the family's new address.

Mum and Dad were really pleased as this would help them to manage their finances after a difficult period of being homeless and dad recently being diagnosed with a chronic health condition.

## **Case Study 8 – Welfare and Housing Options Support Team**

### ***Direct Payments to Vulnerable Young People***

XXXXX is a 16-year-old care experienced young person who lives with her grandparents and 3 younger siblings. Both of her grandparents are retired. XXXXX and 1 of her siblings were able to access a grant to provide support to the family over the holiday period. The grant included a £40 food voucher, 2 mobile phone top-up's and the remainder being spent on gas and electric top ups.

Feedback from the grant recipient:

“The grant was really appreciated by my grandparents as it helped us a lot over Christmas. It's a difficult holiday because you're off a long time but there's nowhere to really go so there's a lot of being at home, extra food and electric. The food voucher helped us not to worry and the phone top-up's meant me and my sister could still talk to our friends as we don't have wi-fi at home”.

The grant provided short-term breathing space for a family under pressure at an expensive time of year. The family were grateful for the support and were provided with information for services that could assist if required. They are in a difficult position due to their age, health and voluntary status as Carers.

## Case Study 9 – Whithorn Trust

### *Summer of Play*

The Whithorn Trust operates the visitor attraction at the Whithorn archaeological site, providing a museum, guided tours, special exhibitions, shop and cafe, and are a partner of Historic Environment Scotland. The Trust also promotes visits to the area through support of the Whithorn Way long distance walking route, working with partners to promote it. They also provide support to partners in providing facilities for youth employability, particularly heritage construction skills and additionally provide open classes, usually free at the point of use for members of the public, particularly where this supports wellbeing and inclusion. The Whithorn Trust also provides support to community events such as Santa's Grotto by working with community partners.

For Summer 2023, the Whithorn Trust said they would not be able to include younger children in their activity plans if they were not awarded Summer of Play funding. Their existing funds for youth engagement were targeted to young people aged 12 and over, meaning without funding they would not have the capacity to deliver the opportunity to under 12's. The Trust also has limited resources and does not open at breakfast time due to extra staffing and food required. Summer of Play funding would mean that Big Breakfast Clubs could run, as well as including children and young people under the age of 12 in the activity offer.

The team at the Whithorn Trust offered ten days that featured the “Big Breakfast Club” where young people took part in fun activity-based sessions, as well as having their breakfast. The children and young people started with a big healthy breakfast sitting down together to eat, followed up by an artist-led creative session that utilised different media and approaches. Activities included: creating your own postcard of the town; marbling; origami; willow sculptures and chalk and paint work. The activities were very popular within the local community, and a band of volunteers were enlisted to help with the numbers of children and young people who were accessing the sessions. There were 10 sessions all together spread throughout July, sessions lasted for 2 hours. The Whithorn Trust brought in creative arts professionals to help deliver the art activity sessions to the children and young people, including Urbancroft Films.

Children and young people enjoyed the stimulation of led and structured activities, which were different each day and offered new skills. The sessions were organised but also informal so that they could be amended to suit the needs and wants of those attending. The breakfast aspect was hugely popular and children who were attending were hungry, the options were healthy and local suppliers such as Balnab Dairy were used for milk, situated a mile down the road.

Children and young people got the opportunity for social interaction with others who may be in different classes to them, or even attend different schools. The Big Breakfast Club was held at a time when there were no visitors or other adults present, and the children and young people got the entire space to themselves to explore. The sessions were noisy, and filled with chat and fun, with ground rules in place. Young people were given a sense of achievement when they were able to take their artworks home to parents/guardians to showcase the new skills they had learnt by participating in the sessions.

The age split allowed for older young people to take care of and assist the younger members of the sessions, and this contributed to their sense of leadership, responsibility and empathy. In total, 35 children and young people took part in the activities ran by the Trust during the activity programme.

## **9. Looking forward**

The next phase for our work on child poverty will be the delivery of a new Child Poverty Action Plan covering the period 2024-2026. Work has commenced developing this Action Plan and has involved input from local partners, Public Health Scotland and the Improvement Service.

A key enabler in the delivery of this Action Plan will be an improvement in the use of data to inform the development and implementation of several of the actions. By taking an improved data-driven and evidenced based approach we will be better placed to ensure our work is targeted at families living in our most deprived communities and experiencing the greatest inequalities.

We will also improve our focus on action that targets the six recognised priority groups while also ensuring the meaningful involvement of young people and families with the 'lived experience' in decision making processes.

A key focus for our work will be shifting to a more preventative approach (while still recognising the need for mitigating action).

We will continue to work across our partnerships to ensure a cross-sector approach to our work and together find new ways to tackle the challenges and make things better for everyone.

## APPENDIX 2

### DRAFT CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN 2024-2026 DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

*'Poverty means not being able to heat your home, pay your rent or buy the essentials for your children. It means waking up every day facing insecurity, uncertainty and impossible decisions about money. It means facing marginalisation - and even discrimination - because of your financial circumstances. The constant stress it causes can lead to problems that deprive people of the chance to play a full part in society.'* (Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2019)

#### **1. Child Poverty (Scotland Act) 2017**

The *Child Poverty (Scotland) Act 2017* sets out ambitious targets for the Scottish Government to significantly reduce child poverty in Scotland by 2030. The Act also places a duty on Local Authorities and NHS Boards to jointly develop and publish an annual Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR).

#### **2. Child Poverty Action Plan for Dumfries and Galloway**

In Dumfries and Galloway, we are committed to becoming a fairer and more equal society. Shared strategic approaches and partnership values shape everything we do. Tackling inequalities and creating a society where no one lives in poverty and where everyone can experience the same life chances and opportunities is our shared ambition across Community Planning Partners.

The Child Poverty Action Plan for Dumfries and Galloway (hereafter referred to as 'the Action Plan') sets out the key priorities and supporting actions to be delivered across services and partners which will impact on tackling child poverty.

This Action Plan should be considered as a 'refresh' of previous Action Plans.

There is recognition that there is already a significant amount of work being undertaken by partners and organisations across Dumfries and Galloway which directly or indirectly contribute to tackling child poverty. This Action Plan does not seek to duplicate these actions, rather it details a range of actions which build upon existing work. Several of the actions are considered to be developmental in nature. Through working with partners these will be expanded into specific, measurable and timebound actions.

The Objectives of the Action Plan are:

- To develop, deliver and manage, in partnership, strategic and operational activities that focus on reducing child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway
- To reduce the number of children living in poverty and mitigate the impact of poverty for low-income families

This Action Plan is structured around the 3 recognised key drivers of Child Poverty:

- Increasing income from employment
- Reducing the cost of living
- Increasing income from Social Security Benefits and benefits in-kind

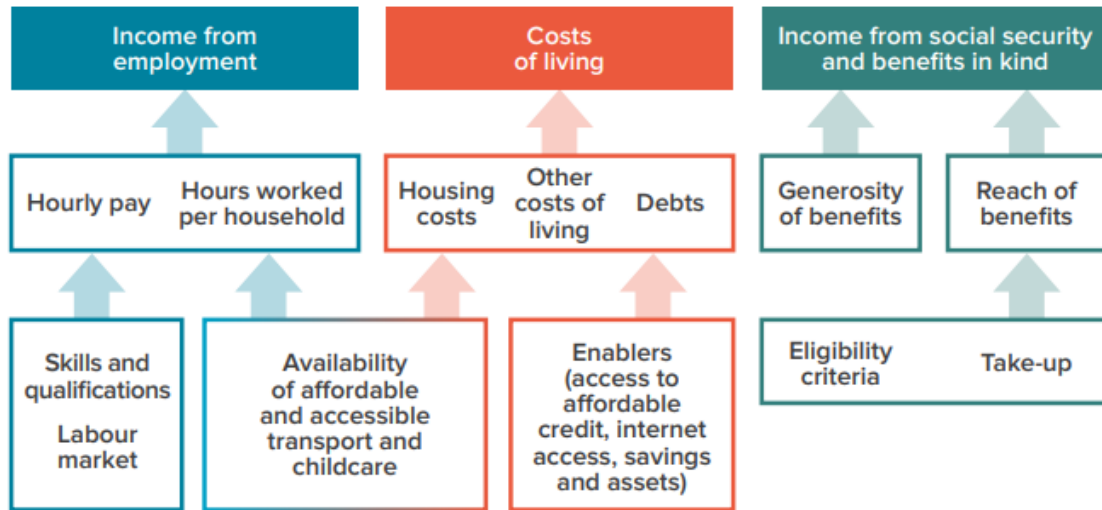


Figure 1: Drivers of child poverty reduction

[Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026](#) (Scottish Government, 2022)

Importantly, the Action Plan also includes several enabling/supporting actions which are the key ‘building blocks’ of our work across the three key drivers of child poverty.

Income from Employment	Income from Social Security and benefits in-kind
Reducing the cost of living	Enablers and supporting action



Figure 2: The 4 ‘building blocks’ of action within the Dumfries and Galloway Child Poverty Action Plan

### 3. Child poverty and deprivation profile in Dumfries and Galloway

Every year the End Child Poverty Coalition, together with the Centre for Research in Social Policy at the University of Loughborough, publish data on the number of children living in poverty, in each Westminster Constituency and Local Authority across the UK. This data is based on Department of Work and Pensions and Her Majesty’s Revenues and Customs information mainly in relation to family income levels after housing costs. The data is restricted to the age group 0-16 years. Data released in June 2024 showed **Dumfries and Galloway to have a child poverty rate of 26.9% for**



**2022-2023.** This represents a 0.9% increase on the previous year or a 3.5% percentage increase for the period 2015-2022. The data also shows **that in 2022-2023 there were 6,841 children living in poverty in Dumfries and Galloway** compared with 6,751 for the previous year, representing an increase of 90 children.

	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
% Children in Poverty	23.3	25.3	24.8	26.4	25.0	26.7	22.9	26.0	26.9
Number of Children in Poverty	6,356	6,739	6,529	6,650	6,697	6,926	6,243	6,751	6,841

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*Table 1: Child Poverty Statistics for Dumfries and Galloway (published June 2024) – End Child Poverty Coalition/University of Loughborough*

The Department of Work and Pensions provides data on the Number and percentage of children living in relative low-income families. **Appendix 1** (Table 2) shows the percentage of children living in relative low-income families within each of the Dumfries and Galloway Electoral Ward areas for the period 2015-2023.

Child poverty is highest in the Stranraer and the Rhins Electoral Ward area, with 31.3% or 792 children living in relative low-income families in 2023.

#### **4. Other relevant data**

Further analysis of local data allows us to gain a deeper insight into our local context. We recognise that to ensure our actions reach those individuals and communities in most need we must get better at making informed decisions based on the best available data. Working with partners at national and local level one of our key actions is to draw together local data which informs our future action.

#### **5. Priority Groups**

In Scotland almost 90% of all children in poverty live within one of the six priority family types as identified by the Scottish Government:

<b>Family Type</b>	<b>% in Relative Poverty</b>
Lone parent families (of which 90% are women)	38%
Minority ethnic families	38%
Families with a person with disabilities	29%
Families with a younger mother (under the age of 25)	55%
Families with a child under the age of 1 year	34%
Larger families (3+ Children)	32%

Table 3: Child Poverty Priority Groups (Best Start, Bright Futures, Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 [Best Start, Bright Futures: Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026](#))

There is local data which we can use to support our work, ensuring it is targeted at priority groups.

Priority Group	Description	Number or percentage
Lone Parents	Number of lone parent households receiving Universal Credit (Dumfries and Galloway 2024)	3,896
	% of income from Social Security Scotland received by lone parents (Scotland average 2014-2022)	70%
Ethnic Minorities	% of income from Social Security Scotland received by ethnic minority families (Scotland average 2014-2022)	30%
Families with 3 or more children	Number of households receiving Universal Credit where there are 3 or more children in the family (Dumfries and Galloway 2024)	1,244
	% of income from Social Security received where there are 3 or more children in the family (Scotland average 2014-2022)	55%
Families where a member of the household is disabled	Number of households receiving Universal Credit where a member of the household is disabled (Dumfries and Galloway 2023)	1,535
	% of income from Social Security where a member of the household is disabled (Scotland average 2014 - 2022)	54%
Mothers aged under 25 years	Number new mothers under 25 years (2023)	193
	% of income from Social Security received by mothers aged under 25 (Scotland average 2014 - 2022)	58%
Families where the youngest child is under 1 year	Number of households receiving Universal Credit where the youngest child is under 1 (Dumfries and Galloway 2023)	401
	% of income from Social Security where the youngest child is under 1 (Scotland average 2014 - 2022)	48%

Table 4: Child Poverty Priority Groups Number and Percentage in Dumfries and Galloway (Stat Explore 2023)

Intersectionality within the priority groups is very common. For example, 40% of children in lone parent families also have a person with a disability at home, 54% of children in a family with a younger mother are also in a lone parent household and 50% of children in a large family are also in a family in which someone has a disability.

It is important that our future work demonstrates how we will target and benefit these priority groups.

## 6. Our approach to tackling child poverty in Dumfries and Galloway

In Dumfries and Galloway our approach to tackling child poverty focuses on prevention and early intervention and mitigating the impacts of poverty. Tackling the root causes of poverty and building

families capabilities through employment, reducing the cost of living, income maximisation and promoting positive life changes is at the heart of what we do.

We recognise that action to tackle child poverty requires cross sector and whole system approaches. There is a degree of complexity involved in delivering meaningful action. Effective action is generally multi-faceted in nature and requires the support of multiple organisations. No one single organisation can tackle child poverty.

### ***Anchor Organisations***

*Anchor Organisations* are generally described as large, locally rooted organisations like Local Authorities, NHS Boards/Health and Social Care Partnerships, Universities/Colleges and the Police. These organisations have a major presence and impact in a local area. They can employ many people, spend large amounts of money, own land and deliver crucial public services. Similarly, large private, voluntary and community sector organisations can also be considered ‘Anchors’ if they have a significant stake in a local community.

By redirecting and more fairly distributing income, power and wealth back into local communities and placing equity at the centre of all decision-making whilst understanding how to support marginalised or disadvantaged communities ‘Anchors’ have real potential to support communities and reduce inequalities caused by socio-economic disadvantage. It is therefore important that we recognise and understand the connections between *Anchor Organisations* and their potential role in contributing to reducing child poverty.

Our Community Planning Partners, through the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, have agreed to adopt the role of Anchor Organisations and use Community Wealth Building approaches as a key driver within local strategies and plans.

### ***7. Our priorities for action***

Partnership workshops held in May 2024 identified the following broad priority areas. These themes will be the focus of our child poverty work over the period 2024-2026:

- Employment – supporting parents to enter, sustain and progress in work
- Reducing the cost of living with a focus on the rural poverty premium and fuel poverty
- Maximising opportunities to target income maximisation (through benefits and benefits in-kind) to priority groups and where there is identified unmet need
- Ensuring better use of data to inform actions
- Involving and engaging with people who have a lived experience of poverty, including listening to the voices of young people
- Enhancing our partnership working across public, voluntary and business sectors to deliver effective actions to tackle child poverty
- Communicating consistent and sensitive, non-stigmatising messages around poverty and inequalities

### ***8. How we will deliver this Action Plan***

The Child Poverty Action Plan is one of Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning Partnership’s key strategies and plans that contribute to the Dumfries and Galloway Local Outcomes Improvement Plan, with Sub-Group 4 of the Dumfries and Galloway Poverty and Inequalities Partnership responsible for the development of the Child Poverty Action Plan and the driving forward of its actions.

Child poverty is part of a wider approach on action to reduce poverty and inequalities and we recognise that there are a significant number of actions which contribute to tackling child poverty contained within other local Strategies and Action Plans. Therefore, the Child Poverty Action Plan through detailing actions which are not otherwise included in other Strategies and Action Plans seeks to add value and additionality while avoiding duplication.

We also acknowledge that this Action Plan is not a static document and over time, based upon need and best evidence, we will be looking at further opportunities to develop its content and increase its impact within our communities.

### ***9. Monitoring of this Action Plan***

The Child Poverty Action Plan is approved by the two co-statutory partners of Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS Dumfries and Galloway and is endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership Board. In addition, given poverty is an identified area of focus within the Children's Services Plan we will also consult with the Children's Services Strategic and Planning Partnership and contribute to the Joint Annual Report process in relation to the Children's Services Plan.

## DRAFT CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY 2024-2026

### Increasing income from employment – Making employment work for families

#### **Snapshot - What we know:**

Income raised through employment is a key driver of tackling poverty, directly contributing to a family's available resources. Employment is not just about the labour market, but also people's broader circumstances, including caring responsibilities, family circumstances, life stages or health.

Increasing income from employment is not just about providing support to those who are not currently engaged with work, but it is also about tackling in-work poverty. We know that in Scotland 64% of children in poverty are in working families.

In relation to increasing income from employment the research and analysis publication *Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 What works – evidence review* (Scottish Government 2022) provides a helpful summary of the latest evidence on what works in tackling child poverty

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/annex-6-evidence-review-works/pages/2/>

Area of Work	Action	Measure of Success	Timescales	Owner(s)
Increasing income from employment	Utilising the funding available to DG Local Employability Partnership to develop and commission services via DG Works to support parents to gain and progress in employment.	<p>Annual increases* in the number of parents registered on and receiving support as part of the DG Works pipeline.</p> <p>Annual increases in parents from the priority families registered on and receiving support as part of the DG Works pipeline.</p> <p>Annual increases in parents registered and receiving support as part of DG Works progressing into employment, work experience, volunteering, education and self employment.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">*baseline data is available</p>	<p>March 2025 (covering 2024/25)</p> <p>and</p> <p>March 2026 (covering 2025/26)</p>	DG Council Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service acting as the Lead Accountable Body for DG LEP.
Place-based employability programmes	Develop learning from the Stranraer and Upper Nithsdale place-based employability pathfinders to identify improved employment related child	Deliver the action from the service design work in Stranraer and Upper Nithsdale. Including:	March 2025	DG Council Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service acting as the Lead

	poverty reductions in targeted communities. .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2x events in each community per year to raise awareness of employability support to communities, particularly parents.</li> <li>• Open an Employability Hub in Stranraer town centre and Hillview Leisure Centre</li> <li>• Monitor community engagement with the Employability Hubs</li> <li>• Annual increases* in the number of parents from the target communities registered on and receiving support as part of the DG Works pipeline.</li> <li>• Direct delivery of employability programmes in the community</li> <li>• Deliver service design led, community engagement in Annan and Lochside and Lincluden in 2025/26</li> </ul>	March 2026	Accountable body for DG LEP
NHS Employability (NHS as an Anchor Organisation)	Scope opportunity to develop an NHS D&G Employability programme focused on placements leading to positive job outcomes within the NHS for identified child poverty priority groups (or embed employability support for child poverty priority groups within wider employability programmes)	Employability programme in place and number of ring-fenced placements offered	March 2025	Child Poverty Sub-Group Lead and NHS D&G Organisational Development Lead
Deliver targeted support to households with a	To align work to reduce the regions Disability Employment Gap and Child Poverty by delivering dedicated	60 young people per year supported to enter into positive destination	March 2026	DG Council Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service

<p>disabled family member.</p>	<p>support to households with a disabled family member. Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabled Young People – Whole Family Support (School Transitions)</li> <li>• Disabled Family Support Project – Wigtownshire(pilot)</li> <li>• Engagement and Support for individuals with disabilities</li> <li>• Supported Employment</li> </ul>	<p>20 families engaged in early intervention work</p> <p>Annual increase in the number of people with disabilities registered and receiving support as part of DG Works progressing into employment, work experience, volunteering, education and self employment</p>		
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## DRAFT CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY 2024-2026

### Reducing the cost of living

#### **Snapshot - What we know:**

Cost of living has been identified as a key driver of poverty as it impacts directly on the available income families have left. Low-income households spend a greater share on essential costs, such as food, housing, fuel or transport. Households in the lowest income decile spend 54% of their total weekly expenditure in these areas compared with 42% in the highest income decile. Consistently higher essential costs are likely to increase the number of households experiencing material deprivation, fuel poverty and food insecurity.

We are also aware of the rural poverty premium (higher day to day costs associated with living in a rural area) and we will continue to work with partners, families and young people to reduce this premium.

In relation to reducing the cost of living the research and analysis publication *Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 What works – evidence review* (Scottish Government 2022) provides a helpful summary of the latest evidence on what works in tackling child poverty <https://www.gov.scot/publications/annex-6-evidence-review-works/pages/2/>

Area of Work	Action	Measure of Success	Timescales	Owner(s)
Housing	Deliver 166 new affordable homes in 2024-2025 as part of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027	Number of new homes delivered in 2024-2025	March 2025	Strategic Housing Partnership
	Deliver additional affordable homes through the ongoing delivery of the Strategic Housing Investment Plan 2022-2027	Number of new homes delivered	March 2027	Strategic Housing Partnership
Free School Meal Expansion	Deliver expansion of Free School Meals to P6 and P7 children whose parents receive Scottish Child Payment benefits	Number of P6 and P7 children in receipt of Free School Meals  Capital funding from Scottish Government spent	August 2025	Education / Economy and Infrastructure
Reducing home energy and fuels costs	Develop and implement new and specific actions with all Energy Advice Services	Increase in number of families accessing energy advice and receiving support to reduce fuel costs	March 2026	Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Sub-Group 3
Access to Transport	Develop and implement new and specific actions with Transport providers which reflect the needs of families living in poverty	TBC	March 2026	Southwest of Scotland Transport Partnership (SWestrans)



Study Spaces	Map and thereafter promote availability of study spaces for children and young people across Council and partner facilities, including schools and Customer Services facilities	Number of children accessing study spaces	March 2025	Child Poverty Sub-Group
School Age Childcare	Scope school-age childcare landscape locally in advance detailed delivery plan to be published by Scottish Government in 2025-2026.	Understanding of potential demand and potential models of additional delivery which could be tested locally	March 2026	Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing

### Increasing income from Social Security Benefits and Benefits in-kind

#### **Snapshot - What we know:**

Social security is designed to supplement the income that households receive from other sources, primarily employment. For some families all of their income comes from social security. Access to social security related benefits is important for all the priority families, and particularly so for some. For example, we know on average single parents and young mothers get a greater proportion of their income from social security than others.

Providing support and guidance on what benefits families are entitled to, embedding advice and support in places and services that families already use (e.g. health settings, schools, nurseries) can be effective in increasing uptake and ensuring families are getting the benefits they are entitled to. Also, removing the social barriers and stigma experienced by those accessing the benefit system is key to increasing benefit uptake.

We have seen the positive impact that the Scottish Child Payment can have on family incomes. We will continue to work with our partners to promote the Scottish Child Payment in order to increase uptake of this payment in Dumfries and Galloway.

Similarly, we know that there are significant numbers of children not accessing their Child Trust Funds. We will work with our Education, Social Work and third sector partners to increase the uptake of Child Trust Funds.

We know that organisations play an important role in signposting families to sources of advice and support. The Poverty and Inequalities Partnership are exploring the opportunity to develop a 'referral portal for Dumfries and Galloway'. It is important to ensure that organisations working with families and children are linked into referral pathways which may be developed as a result of this work.

In relation to increasing income from Social Security Benefits and benefits in-kind the research and analysis publication *Tackling Child Poverty Delivery Plan 2022-2026 What works – evidence review* (Scottish Government 2022) provides a helpful summary of the latest evidence on what works in tackling child poverty <https://www.gov.scot/publications/annex-6-evidence-review-works/pages/2/>

Area of Work	Action	Measure of Success	Timescales	Owner(s)
Partnership working to increase uptake of benefits	Develop and undertake bespoke benefit awareness campaigns based on low benefit uptake data	Increase in number of people accessing benefits	Ongoing	Poverty and Inequalities Partnership Sub-Group 2
	Explore the potential to develop a supports and services leaflet which could be included in 'Birth Registration Packs' issued to parents following the registration of a birth	Increase in number of new parents being signposted to benefits advice and support	March 2025	Child Poverty Sub-Group
	Explore current provision and the opportunity to present business case to possibly procure an online Benefit Checker for front-line staff who work with families and with accessibility to the public, if deemed necessary	Number of staff trained to use the Benefit Checker Number of Benefit Checks completed	March 2025	D&G Council Revenues and Benefit Team and D&G Citizens Advice Service
Financial Wellbeing and Advice in Health and Social Care Settings	Review and ensure financial advice referral pathways within Maternity Services is meeting service and family needs	Financial and welfare advice referral pathway being routinely used and monitored  Number of referrals from Maternity Services to advice providers and amount of additional monies reaching families	March 2025	Head of Midwifery Services
	Deliver Financial Wellbeing Project utilising funding from the Child Poverty Accelerator Fund awarded by Scottish Government.	H&SCP/D&G Citizens Advice Service Families Financial Wellbeing Project is delivered and outcomes are routinely reported  Satisfaction feedback from clients Number of referrals and amount of additional monies reaching families	March 2026	D&G Citizens Advice Service

	<p>Promote the NHS D&amp;G/H&amp;SCP Staff Financial Wellbeing Project and ensure its outcomes are reported</p>	<p>NHS D&amp;G/H&amp;SCP Staff Financial Wellbeing Project is delivered and outcomes are routinely reported</p> <p>Number of referrals and amount of additional monies reaching staff and their families</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NHS D&amp;G Workforce Directorate and D&amp;G Citizens Advice Service</p>
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## DRAFT CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN FOR DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY 2024-2026

### Enablers and supporting action

#### *What we know:*

Involving those with the lived experience of poverty is critical to the success of this work. Particularly we need to develop a more systematic approach to targeting and engaging with Priority Families and those with Protected Characteristics. Through engaging with and listening to the voices of those with lived experiences we will develop our whole family, whole community approach and offer no wrong door approaches where families are connected to the help and support they need.

Changing the way we work to use data-driven approaches to identify and connect with families affected by poverty is vital to the success of this work. Gaining a better understanding of child poverty below local authority level is important for targeting local action and resources efficiently. Currently there is a lack of information and no real way of identifying Priority families within the data we collect. We must strive to improve how we are using data and research to inform our work and work with service providers to develop mechanisms to ensure disaggregated data which reflects Priority Groups is included in future reporting.

Reflecting the complexity of tackling child poverty, we must ensure multi-disciplinary, cross-organisational approaches are effective at locality level in order to build inclusive and resilient communities which strengthen the web of support available to families and children affected by poverty. We need to ensure where there are Local Place Plans, they reflect action which can impact positively on child poverty and do not deepen or widen poverty and inequalities. Partners and partnerships in any strategic and operational action planning need to consider how decisions taken may impact on child poverty and the rights of children.

Poverty related stigma remains extensive and deep-rooted. The way society perceives and treats people experiencing poverty can be extremely degrading, having negative impacts on mental health and self-esteem by reinforcing feelings of shame and self-blame. This in turn adds to barriers for people accessing the support they are entitled to including social security, free school meals, debt advice and emergency welfare. It is also important to note that young people are particularly sensitive to social media content, this content increasingly associates self-worth with material wealth. We will work with partners to ensure our child poverty work is mapped against the articles detailed within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and is subjected to Equality Impact Assessment so as not to widen inequalities and discriminate against protected and priority groups.

Area of work	Action	Measure of Success	Timescales	Owner(s)
Lived experience	<p>Develop and implement new ways to engage and involve young people and priority groups with the lived experience of poverty, building upon approaches used in Youth Work Services, Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service and other areas.</p> <p>Support the DG Works Lived Experience Panel to invest 2-5% of No One Left Behind Child Poverty annual funding using a Participatory budgeting model.</p>	<p>Participation programmes in place</p> <p>Increase in the number of people (especially young people) engaged with decision-making</p> <p>Monitoring the impact of the investment on target programmes/projects.</p>	<p>March 2026</p> <p>March 2025 &amp; March 2026</p>	<p>Child Poverty Sub-Group/Youth Work Services</p> <p>DG Council Employability, Skills and Partnerships Service</p>
Data-driven	Develop and agree a local data set for Child Poverty to ensure consistency of data reporting across partnerships and inform future delivery	Data reported is consistent and is routinely being used to inform delivery of actions	March 2025	Child Poverty Sub-Group and Poverty and Inequalities Partnership
Partnership working	<p>Link with the 4 Poverty and Inequalities Sub-Groups to map and ensure alignment of actions and ensure maximum use of resources with no duplication of action</p> <p>Work with local Anchor Organisations to ensure child poverty action is included and embedded within Anchor Action Plans</p> <p>Work with Locality Hubs to explore how child poverty action can be included within local Place Plans (broadly this could include actions in relation to places and space, housing, food, mental health and wellbeing)</p>	<p>Evidence of aligned actions across the 4 Poverty and Inequalities Sub-Groups</p> <p>Evidence of references and connections to child poverty in Anchor Plans</p> <p>Evidence of references and connections to child poverty in Local Place Plans</p>	<p>March 2025</p> <p>June 2025</p> <p>June 2025</p>	<p>Child Poverty Sub-Group Lead and Poverty and Inequalities Sub-Group Leads</p> <p>Child Poverty Sub-Group and local Anchor Organisation Leads</p> <p>Child Poverty Sub-Group and Locality Hubs</p>
Communication and Awareness	Deliver a new communication campaign aimed at managers, front-line staff and service providers to promote understanding of what child poverty means and looks like in Dumfries & Galloway	Communication Plan in place and being delivered	June 2025	Child Poverty Sub-Group, Poverty and Inequalities Partnership

	<p>Social media campaign of supports available to families to help with the cost of living as part of Challenge Poverty Week</p> <p>Ensure child poverty is a key feature within Challenge Poverty Week campaigns</p>	<p>Number of communications raising awareness of supports available</p> <p>Number of references to child poverty within Challenge Poverty Week campaigns</p>	<p>October 2025</p> <p>October 2025</p>	<p>Communication Sub-Group</p>
Building capacity	<p>Deliver a programme of bespoke poverty/child poverty awareness sessions for Public and Third Sector Organisations</p>	<p>Number of awareness sessions delivered and number of individuals attending</p>	<p>March 2026</p>	<p>Child Poverty Sub-Group</p>

	Number of children 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	% of children 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Stranraer and the Rhins	515	520	588	677	659	729	606	744	792	20.6%	21.0%	23.8%	27.2%	26.5%	28.8%	24.0%	29.4%	31.3%
Mid Galloway and Wigtown West	434	450	434	479	454	445	356	495	524	21.2%	21.9%	21.3%	24.0%	22.1%	22.2%	18.1%	25.3%	26.8%
Dee and Glenkens	244	252	282	303	272	307	273	314	314	16.2%	16.2%	18.3%	19.7%	18.1%	20.7%	18.5%	21.3%	21.3%
Castle Douglas and Crocketford	212	247	256	282	242	265	192	269	264	15.1%	17.7%	18.2%	20.4%	18.0%	19.5%	14.3%	19.9%	19.6%
Abbey	204	187	212	261	222	253	203	272	295	12.8%	11.7%	13.6%	16.7%	14.2%	16.6%	13.6%	18.6%	20.2%
North West Dumfries	539	559	631	746	691	800	608	787	814	18.9%	19.9%	22.4%	26.5%	24.6%	28.8%	22.3%	28.5%	29.5%
Mid and Upper Nithsdale	295	314	318	355	349	418	316	430	438	17.5%	18.3%	18.8%	21.5%	21.2%	25.0%	19.2%	26.3%	26.8%
Lochar	237	229	258	315	340	326	281	371	351	12.1%	11.3%	13.0%	15.5%	16.9%	15.8%	13.7%	17.9%	16.9%
Nith	217	240	226	232	235	309	258	292	399	10.8%	12.2%	11.7%	12.1%	12.4%	16.1%	13.5%	15.5%	21.1%
Annandale South	349	339	419	475	497	507	406	492	542	14.2%	13.7%	16.8%	19.0%	20.2%	21.1%	17.2%	20.8%	22.9%
Annandale North	355	362	366	440	452	486	387	506	528	14.3%	14.6%	14.8%	17.8%	18.4%	19.5%	15.4%	20.4%	21.3%
Annandale East and Eskdale	260	271	290	257	291	351	324	366	365	18.2%	19.0%	20.6%	18.7%	21.4%	25.5%	23.5%	26.5%	26.4%

Table 2: Number and percentage of children in relative low-income families. Data Source: Stat Explore.