



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Partnership

Monday 4 September 2023, 6.00 p.m. at Fullarton Connexions.

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Macaulay	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and action log and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					6.10 – 6.50 pm
3.	Community Investment Fund The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one Community Investment Fund Application and three Expressions of Interest. Full Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHAP Expression of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fullarton Outdoor Gym Recovery College BABCA Garden Project 	Pg 11 Pg 19 Pg 25	Enclosed To follow	Elaine Baxter	LP to consider one CIF Application and three expressions of interest.
4.	Grants The Locality Partnership are asked to consider grant reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly Grants Irvine Common Good Fund 	Pg 28	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to consider grant report.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					6.50 – 7.50 pm
5.	Chit Chat Poverty Action Plan The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Irvine Chit Chat Poverty Action Plan.			Elaine Baxter	Discuss next steps and timescales.
6.	Youth and Education Overview The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.

7.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships The Locality Partnership will receive update on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue in Irvine.	-	Verbal	David Cameron Paul Timmons	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	Irvine Community Council The Locality Partnership will receive an update from the Chair of Irvine Community Council on the work of the Community Council during the last quarter.		Verbal	David Dunlop	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
9.	Locality Officer Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Irvine Locality Team during the last quarter.	Pg 31	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					7.50 – 8.00 pm
10.	AOCB			Cllr Macaulay	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
11.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Ayrshire Youth Work Update 	Pg 39	Enclosed	Cllr Macaulay	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Shaun Macaulay **(Chair)**
Councillor Marie Burns
Councillor Robert Foster
Councillor Scott Gallacher
Councillor Christina Larsen
Councillor Nairn McDonald
Councillor Matthew McLean
Councillor Louise McPhater
Councillor Chloe Robertson
Councillor Angela Stephen

Community Representative

Marjory Dickie
David Dunlop, Irvine Community Council
Donna Fitzpatrick
David Phillips
Sally MacIntyre
Irene McIlwain
Annie Small **(Vice Chair)**
Abbie Stevenston
Ian Wallace

CPP/Council Representatives

Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer
Paul Blackwood, Senior Lead Officer
David Cameron, Police Scotland
Barbara Conner, TSI
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Paul Timmons, Scottish Fire & Rescue

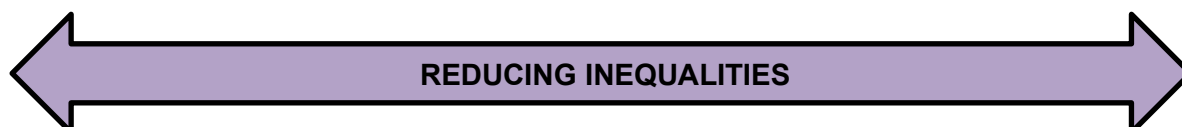
Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities

**Supporting
Skills and
Work
Opportunities**

**Enhancing our
Mental Health
and Wellbeing**

**Alleviating
Poverty**

**Championing
Green Health
and the Natural
Environment**



Meeting:	Irvine Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	5 June 2023 at Fullarton Community Hub, Irvine at 6.00 p.m.
Present:	Councillor Shaun Macaulay (Chair) Councillor Marie Burns Councillor Robert Foster Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Nairn McDonald Councillor Matthew McLean Councillor Louise McPhater Councillor Chloé Robertson Paul Blackwood, Senior Lead Officer (SFRS) Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Barbara Conner, TACT Marjory Dickie, Community Representative Donna Fitzpatrick, Community Representative Sally MacIntyre, Community Representative Irene McIlwain, Community Representative Ian Wallace, Community Representative David Phillips, Community Representative Justin Jones, MSYP Chloe Smith, Youth Worker, NAC Shona McAllister, Programme Manager, Regeneration Euan Lees, Community Development Worker, NAC Diane McCaw, Committee Services Officer, NAC
In Attendance	Debbie Alexander, CHAP (CIF Application)
Apologies:	Councillor Angela Stephen David Dunlop, Community Council Representative Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Linzi Sloan, Head Teacher, Irvine Royal Academy.

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.	
2.	Action Note and Log The action note from the meeting held on 5 December 2022 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.	
3.	Vice-Chair The Chair advised that a nomination had been received for the role of Vice-Chair. The Partnership discussed the importance of the role in ensuring that the views of community representatives were represented on the Locality Partnership Agenda.	

	<p>Ian Wallace moved that Annie Small be appointed to the role of Vice-Chair and the motion was seconded by David Phillips.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to appoint Annie Small to the role of Vice-Chair.</p>	<i>Lesley Dunlop</i>
4.	<p>Community Investment Fund</p> <p>Councillor Robertson joined the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer with details of Community Investment Fund Applications and Expressions of Interest as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Housing Advocacy Project – CHAP – Full Application <p>CHAP applied for funding support in the amount of £91,534 for two Advice Workers to establish outreach venues throughout the Irvine locality.</p> <p>Debbie Alexander from CHAP was in attendance and provided the Locality Partnership with an overview of the project and clarification on issues raised at the previous Locality Partnership meeting in relation to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for partnership working, including community action teams; • measures to avoid duplication of service provision; • the importance of early engagement; • the longer-term sustainability of the project and future funding; • the success of projects within other locality areas; • accreditation of debt management staff; and • figures in terms of service users. <p>Debbie Alexander left the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concerns around multiple funding streams covering the same posts; • that the application related to two new posts and not existing posts; and • duplication of service provision. <p>The Partnership agreed that CHAP revise their application to (a) provide additional information in relation to (i) figures of those utilising the service, and (ii) any duplication of service provision within the Irvine area; and (b) be invited to attend the September meeting with an updated proposal.</p>	<i>Lesley Forsyth/ Elaine Baxter</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LP Project Development Worker <p>An expression of interest by Irvine Locality Partnership for funding support, in the amount of £99,648 towards 2-year costs for a Project Community Development Worker.</p> <p>The Partnership was advised that a more relevant funding source had emerged for this application and that, at present, the expression of interest was withdrawn.</p>					
5.	<p>Grants</p> <p>Elderly Grants</p> <p>The Locality Partnership, following discussion in terms of the historic boundary area, agreed to approve the Elderly Grants budget for the Irvine Locality in the sum of £15,049, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.</p> <p>Irvine Common Good Fund</p> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed to award the following:-</p> <table><tr><td>Irvine Incorporated Trades</td><td>£2,000</td></tr><tr><td>Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee</td><td>£9,000</td></tr></table>	Irvine Incorporated Trades	£2,000	Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee	£9,000	<p>Lesley Forsyth</p> <p>Lesley Forsyth</p>
Irvine Incorporated Trades	£2,000					
Irvine Joint Wards Old Folks Committee	£9,000					
6.	<p>Communities and Place Fund</p> <p>Councillor Larsen joined the meeting at this point.</p> <p>The Partnership received a presentation from Shona McAllister, Programme Manager Regeneration on the Communities and Place grant funding which has been created to help communities deliver projects which support local priorities and local business needs.</p> <p>The presentation included information on the four themes within the fund namely, People and Skills, Local Business, Multiply and Communities & Place, the application process, including timescales and scoring, and the decision-making process.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the funding available for projects in 2023/24 and in future years; and• the scope for future funding applications to align with localised issues and action plans. <p>The Partnership thanked Shona for her presentation and agreed that the presentation slides be circulated to the Partnership.</p> <p>Councillor McPhater left the meeting at this point.</p>	<p>Lesley Dunlop</p>				

7.	<p>Youth and Education Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Irvine Youth Forum, which linked in with Locality priorities.</p> <p>The update provided information on a number of initiatives, including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recruitment of session youth staff following a successful funding application to North Ayrshire Ventures Trust; • expansion of the Board of Trustees for the Irvine Youth Legacy Centre; • plans in the lead up to the summer programme; • methods for improving the mental health of LGBT young people; • Mindful Monday which utilised drama as a method to discuss health matters; • positive engagement within drop-in centres and youth groups; • Irvine Royal Support Groups' participation with Eglinton Country Park and Harbourside Mens Shed; • support provided to the Youth Forum around learning and understanding the work and rules of the Forum; • the success of Food Chat and Chill; • recent visits to the Centre; and • the forthcoming trips to Arran Outdoor Centre and Youth Beatz 2023. <p>Noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnership</p> <p>The Partnership received updates from Police Scotland (PS) and Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) on the wellbeing and partnership work being carried out in the Locality area.</p> <p>The PS update highlighted a number of matters including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proactive visits targeting under-age vape sales; • partnership work to highlight awareness of fraud/scamming methods to those more vulnerable and through the Fraud Roadshow; • internet safety information on bullying and hate crime provided at Elderbank Primary School; • home security visits carried out following incidents; • personal safety information provided to North Ayrshire Council staff; • attendance at the 'Community Connection Carousel'; • an update on the recent 'car cruise' at the Harbourside, Irvine; • the commencement of the 'Safer Shores' initiative; and • the introduction of quad bikes for use within North Ayrshire and the forthcoming launch following the completion of all necessary paperwork. 	

	<p>The Partnership discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training and safety issues for officers using quad bikes; and • the approach taken with regard to the car cruise at the Harbourside. <p>The SFRS update highlighted a number of matters including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ongoing work with TACT to build skills; • the provision of food crisis boxes and welfare packs via the Community Action Teams; • the success of the Youth Volunteer Scheme; • the creation of 'safe spaces' in connection with those at risk of domestic violence or suicide; • the possibility of giving an overview of the Pan Ayrshire Water Safety Strategy; • partnership work in connection with road safety; • performance information in relation to post non-domestic incident response; and • work with Ayrshire College on the Fire Skills Employability Programme. <p>Noted.</p>	
9.	<p>Chit Chat Poverty Action Plan</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from the Community Development Worker and the Youth Worker on progress and highlights in respect of the Irvine Chit Chat Poverty Action Plan and including issues raised at chit chats on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redburn foodbank provision; • money debt advice; • transport in the Broomlands and Bourtreehill area; • the provision of community notice boards; • community lunches for over 50s; and • the requirement for digital support. <p>The Partnership discussed:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnership working with TACT in connection with money and debt advice; • ongoing dialogue in terms of a potential pathway from Drybridge to GlaxoSmithKline; • green space maintenance around parks, and anti-social behaviour where younger people were intimidated by older youths; • Community Council contact with Stagecoach, MyBus and Shuttlebus on a travel plan for the Drybridge to GlaxoSmithKline area; • that active travel applications would be accepted by the Communities and Place Fund; 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> timescales for taking forward some items within the Plan; that information from TACT be provided to Councillor Burns in connection with the South Ayrshire community transport section offer of joint working regarding bus connections from Troon to Irvine; and potential funding to run a transport pilot. <p>The Partnership agreed that a report on timescales for taking forward some issue contained within the Plan be provided to the next meeting.</p> <p>Marjory Dickie and Sally MacIntyre left the meeting at this point.</p>	<i>Elaine Baxter/ Ewan Lees</i>
10.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a report by the Community Development Worker on the work which had been undertaken in the locality since the last meeting.</p> <p>The partnership asked a question and received further information in relation to engagement with the local community at the harbour area regarding an expression of interest for a motor cross area.</p> <p>The Chair advised that due to time constraints, any additional questions be directed to the Community Development</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Chair advised of future plans whereby the Vice-Chair liaise with community representatives prior to production of the Locality Partnership papers in order to ensure that their issues are reflected on the Agenda for meetings.</p> <p>Councillor Burns indicated that an improved system of updating action plans with local issues was required.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
12.	<p>Reports for Information</p> <p>Roads, Structures and Streetlighting</p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Senior Manager (Roads Network), Neighbourhood Services outlining the proposed Roads, Structures and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme for 2023/24</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>North Ayrshire Youth Work Update</p> <p>The Partnership received report on the youth work across the area which linked into the North Ayrshire Locality priorities.</p>	

	<p>Noted.</p> <p>LDP3</p> <p>The Partnership were provided with a link to the 'Tell Us About Your Place!' assessment survey which is due to close on 28 June 2023 and which should help inform preparation of a new long-term spatial plan for North Ayrshire.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
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The Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.



Community Investment Fund Application Form: Irvine Locality

The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire Fair for All Inequalities Strategy.
 - the Community Planning Partnership and Locality priorities; and
 - North Ayrshire Council's values, priorities, and business objectives.
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities.
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible.
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council.
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project.
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- LPs should continue to engage with their communities and stimulate interest in the CIF. The Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links, and look at the funding 'in the round'.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The finalised proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Co-ordinator, by email if possible:

Elaine Baxter

Irvine Locality Coordinator

Economy and Communities
Community Development Team
Redburn Community Centre
Dickson Drive
Irvine
KA12 9EW

Email: ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01294 313593

Mob: 07814418453

Support and information will be available for groups who are not successful. For more information see the guidance form here: <http://www.northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/sites/60/2018/06/community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-17-12-17.pdf>

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Community Investment Fund

1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation: Community Housing Advocacy Project (CHAP)

Postal Address for

Correspondence:

Name of Contact Person: Debbie Alexander

Position in Organisation:

Contact Telephone Number:

E mail address

2. Brief description of your organisation

Please include -

[a] Legal status, e.g., voluntary organisation, public/private limited by shares or guarantee.

[b] How long has organisation been in existence?

[c] Aims & objectives.

[d] General activities or services provided.

CHAP is a non-profit, private company limited by guarantee (company number SC213344), and a registered charity (charity number SC028100) which was established in 2000. Initially established and managed by a small group of volunteers to deliver housing advocacy, it was identified that housing is very rarely a stand-alone issue, and individuals usually experienced other benefit-related issues, and were facing various debts. Therefore, CHAP has developed services over the past 23 years to adapt to the ever-changing needs of the residents of North Ayrshire. This has taken into account various socio-economic events such as the economic recession, Covid-19, and the current ongoing cost-of-living crisis. The organisation is governed by a Board of six voluntary trustees with various managerial backgrounds.

Our mission is simple, yet far-reaching – we exist to ensure people are not disadvantaged through a lack of awareness of, access to, and information regarding their rights. We are a positive and helpful influence providing support and hope to individuals facing housing, welfare rights, and debt issues, standing alongside our clients as they face some of life's most difficult challenges.

All the services provided by CHAP have in common an ethos which supports social inclusion and justice for all. CHAP provides support to individuals who are most in need to receive much needed information and assistance to address issues that affect their everyday lives. Our service empowers individuals to have their views and opinions heard by the decision-makers and overcome barriers of literacy and communication challenges.

We provide education and advice to individuals through an early intervention and prevention approach, breaking the cycle of exclusion, and helping them to avoid financial difficulties in the future. This covers areas such as income maximisation, budgeting, responsible borrowing, using credit unions to save, etc...which will in turn instil good practice and give individuals the financial literacy and resilience needed, empowering them to make sound financial decisions and avoid problem debt. Where clients do present with issues which have already reached a stage which is causing stress, CHAP can assist by providing real, practical steps that can be taken to obtain better outcomes.

Anything can happen to anyone, at any time. People can suddenly find themselves in a vulnerable situation and may not know where to turn. By accessing the CIF funding, CHAP wants to make our advice and advocacy services more readily accessible throughout the Irvine area, and in turn help as many people as possible by assisting people to build their own financial knowledge, capability, and resilience, this will help them to avoid getting into financial difficulty in the future, and in turn, avoid these issues having a negative impact on their quality of life.

In the last year (ending March 2023), we helped 858 clients, as well as their families with a variety of debt, housing, and welfare rights issues. One of the main services we provide, is ensuring that our clients have access to the maximum amount of income they are entitled to. A report carried out by *entitledto.co.uk* showed that an estimated £15 billion in benefits goes unclaimed annually due to people being unaware of their benefit entitlement and being unfamiliar with the benefit system. By assisting with benefit applications, and challenging decisions on our clients' behalf where required, we help to ensure that people are able to access the appropriate benefits. We also ensure that when a client does not receive a favourable decision, they have the opportunity to challenge these decisions, by submitting a reconsideration/redetermination on their behalf, and providing representation at First Tier Tribunals when required to ensure the client's voice is heard in relation to their case.

In the year April 2022 – March 2023, CHAP has achieved over £2.3m in financial gains for our clients. This has been in relation to successful benefit applications, included backdated payments, debt write-offs, sequestration (bankruptcy), and hardship payments. By helping people to maximise their income; therefore, having more money in their pockets, this not only helps the person and their families directly, but it also helps to boost the local economy, and also provides people with more options and dignity in life. Not only do we help to improve individual's financial circumstances, but assistance provided also has a fundamental impact on other areas of their life. We have a thorough evaluation practice in place which captures the impact that our services have on our clients' lives. In the last year, the following improvements have been made to our clients' lives after their engaging with CHAP:

- 84% said that they have experienced a reduction in stress.
- 73% said that we helped to improve their finances.
- 54% said that we assisted to improve their quality of life.
- 46% said that we helped to increase their confidence.

3. Title and summary of proposal

Tell us a bit about your idea. Please describe in as much detail as possible, what the funding will be used for. Please include where it will be held / delivered, who is your target audience, who will benefit from it and how and indicate any partners that are involved.

Please include -

[a] What outcomes your organisation wishes to achieve.

[b] Is this a new service / project?

[c] Does a new organisation need to be set up?

CHAP Advice Outreach

CHAP believes that advice services should be available and accessible to everyone in the community, and therefore wants to remove any barriers that may prevent individuals from reaching out for help. The project we are proposing is an extension of the existing CHAP services, to establish new outposts within local community settings throughout the Irvine area. If successful, the funding from CIF will allow for advice workers to be based within various community locations throughout Irvine. Making our services accessible locally, in established and trusted environments, means that people will be able to gain assistance with a variety of benefits, housing, and debt issues on their doorstep. This will mean they do not need to travel all the way to Ardrossan to access our services; therefore, removing any accessibility barriers. By delivering our services from these kinds of premises, which already have a lot of activities happening on a daily basis, this means that people could be attending for any number of reasons; therefore, avoiding the stigma that might be attached to attending the main CHAP office. This funding will further increase our capacity to see clients, reducing waiting times, and providing our services to people within their own communities. The proposed service will be delivered over and above the existing services that we are delivering, both from our main office in Ardrossan and via our other, existing community outreach facilities, giving people more access to advice services which are needed now more than ever. Better Off North

Ayrshire is ending in June 2023, with a contract then being put in place for debt advice across North Ayrshire. The funding from CIF will allow us the opportunity to expand resources to establish more outreach opportunities, specifically within the Irvine area, and will include up to Type III advice and advocacy in relation to Welfare Rights, and Housing as well as Debt where appropriate.

Since April 2022, 38% of clients referred to our services from the Irvine area have failed to engage/attend their appointment. We know that there is a further need for our services in the Irvine area, and by bringing CHAP services to where people are, closer to their home, we are confident that the engagement would increase to ensure that people are gaining the support they need. Since we launched our Kilwinning outreach service in March 2022, we experienced a 110% increase in the number of clients from Kilwinning who engaged with our service, compared with the previous year. This means that those who would never have accessed our services were able to gain assistance with the issues which were negatively impacting various areas of their life, especially their mental health.

We often find that due to the stigma that unfortunately remains attached to reaching out for assistance, especially in relation to money and debt issues, people are more likely to engage with our services if they are anonymised – by accessing assistance in busy and established community facilities, it is not automatically assumed that someone would be going there for help with money-related issues, as they could be accessing the premises for various reasons.

The impact of the cost-of-living crisis is having an affect on everyone. We are seeing an increasing number of clients who now require our services, who never would have previously. Individuals who have never faced financial difficulties are now finding that their finances are being stretched to an unmanageable degree: mortgage and rent rates are increasing, along with the cost of everything else – gas/electricity, petrol/diesel, food, and household essentials. With so much strain being put on family budgets, along with the demands of every-day life, this can culminate in financial crisis. People may feel forced into accessing unaffordable credit, leading to further financial distress. CHAP strongly believes that education, early intervention, and prevention are key; and can offer this as part of a two-tonged approach along with crisis intervention when required.

Whilst engaging with the community, and working with other services, we have often heard people lament ‘if only I had known about CHAP...’ during a difficult time in their lives, it would have made things a lot easier to cope with. We never want people to feel this way. We want everyone in Irvine to know that we are there, within their local communities to support them, so that nobody ever needs to experience that feeling of needing help, and not knowing where to turn. By providing our services on an outreach basis, this will increase the number of people who hear about CHAP within their local communities, which could provide that lifeline that someone is searching for.

4. What difference will this project make within the locality and to local services and programmes?

Please include -

[a] How you will approach reducing inequality.

[b] How this proposal fits with Irvine’s priorities of:

- 1. Employment and Economy*
- 2. Mental Health*
- 3. Traffic and Parking*
- 4. Influence and Sense of Control*

Outcomes

- Increased number of individuals provided with easy/affordable access to services from the Irvine area.
- Increased number of people with improved financial management skills.
- Increased confidence and overall better quality of life reported by individuals.
- Increase in household finances through income maximisation.
- Reduction in reported stress levels.
- Improved mental health and wellbeing.
- Improved local economy as households will have more money to spend.
- Reduction in levels of debt.

Irvine has an average child poverty rate of around 23% (2020 SIMD), and this ranges from the highest level of 44.87% down to the lowest level of 7.11%. This demonstrates the huge disparity that exists between residents in different areas of Irvine. This is true, even when comparing areas within the same locality, e.g., within one locality/community, there are streets that have the average child poverty area of 44.87%, compared to adjacent communities which have levels of 9.38% and 7.11%. Throughout Irvine, there are communities where the child poverty levels are consistently high, e.g., in Bourtreehill, Irvine Central, and Fullarton.

These levels of child poverty and disparity have real negative impact on the mental health of those at the higher ends of the child poverty scale. Dealing with debt, housing, and benefit issues also has a negative effect on peoples' mental health. When all these aspects are compounded, it can make life extremely difficult for individuals, and can also have a detrimental impact on the family as a whole.

When comparing the unemployment levels within the same areas, there is often a clear correlation between this and levels of child poverty. People who are unemployed and facing rising debts, often feel like these issues are unsurmountable. Many are afraid to take positive steps back into employment because they know that when they do, it means that creditors will be able to take action against them to recuperate debt. By engaging with CHAP's advisers in a trusted environment, clients can begin to remove these barriers by gaining timely and appropriate advice, which can then begin to improve their confidence, remove stress, and allow them to start thinking about making positive steps towards employment.

According to entitledto.org.uk, there was over £15 billion unclaimed benefits in 2020. This includes:

- Child tax credit - £2.49 billion (£3716 per year for each family missing out)
- Pension credit - £1.56 billion (£1695 per year for each individual missing out)
- Council Tax Support - £2.6 billion (£938 per year for each household missing out)
- Housing Benefit - £2.81 billion (£3122 per year for each household missing out)

These figures demonstrate that services which can help to maximise people's income and put money directly into the pockets of individuals and their families are needed now more than ever. Since May 2022, CHAP has achieved almost £2.3 million in financial gains for our clients, of which over £368,000 was for individuals from Irvine. This could be further increased by us having a presence within local communities in the area, as it will allow us to reach disengaged individuals with various accessibility challenges.

CHAP is assisting to increase the income of individuals and families throughout Irvine, which not only has a positive impact on the people themselves; it also has a larger benefit to community regeneration. If local people have more money coming into their households, this will enable them to spend more money locally, support local business, boost the economy, and improve their overall mental health and wellbeing. Improving people's wellbeing and confidence, as well as reducing their stress levels will allow them to move forward in their lives in relation to possible employment or training opportunities, which has a long-term positive affect on their lives.

We have successfully rolled out several outreach facilities in Kilwinning, Kilbirnie, and throughout the Three Towns, which has revealed the full extent of unfulfilled demand for our services, previously not met through issues of accessibility and stigma with people accessing our services within their communities. The CIF funding will allow us to replicate this model in the Irvine area, ensuring the residents have the same access to CHAP services as their counterparts in other areas of North Ayrshire.

The cost-of-living crisis has meant CHAP has already experienced an increase to the demand on our services. In our operational year ending November 2022, we witnessed a 30% increase in referrals to our service, compared to the previous year. Without further funding this increase has the adverse effect of lengthening lead times to first appointment. This in turn leads to despair and to many clients failing to engage with us, something which can only worsen through the continuing cost-of-living crisis. There had previously been levels of financial support put in place by both the UK, and Scottish Governments; however, these support measures are no longer in place, and as such we are anticipating further demands on our services in the months to come.

CHAP advice services will compliment all the community work that is already taking place within the Irvine area. There are various community groups and organisations who are working hard to help people through the current financial crisis, including food provision services, Friends of Redburn, Fullarton Community Hub, as well as various services relating to mental health and wellbeing. CHAP will work in partnership with established community

organisations to ensure that all aspects of peoples lives are addressed, and support is put in place where appropriate.

5. Please give an overview of the engagement that has taken place in relation to the project

With support from the Locality team, we conducted an online survey of community members, and of those who responded, 91% have indicated that they would be more likely to access advice services within a community setting rather than in a traditional office setting. This demonstrates that people are still worried about the stigma that surrounds accessing advice services, and that individuals would rather be seen within a trusted, familiar, and informal setting, which can be the difference between engaging and gaining help, and the individual struggling with issues alone, which often has a long-term negative impact on mental health, and overall wellbeing of individuals and families.

We have been involved in ongoing community engagement in relation to this proposal. This has included attendance at various community 'Chit Chat' sessions, as well as the locality networking events. Through attending these sessions and speaking to members of the community, we have heard from various individuals that the provision of advice services within the community are lacking, and a lot of people do not know where to turn to for support.

When asked if they are worried about the current cost-of-living crisis, 91% also indicated that this is an area of concern for them. Finally, when asked where the best place for would be for advice services to be delivered within the community, the responses were based around community centres, and libraries.

6. Please tell us how the project will be managed

Please include -

[a] How the finances will be managed.

[b] Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in Irvine? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities

[c] If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans.

[d] Is there evidence of partnership working in relation to the project within Irvine locality?

Staff are responsible to the Service Manager and the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are cascaded into staff action plans which in turn, influence personal training plans. The Service Manager reports on KPI's to the CEO on a regular basis, who is required to report to the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis on the outcomes achieved across the services. There is also a Service Support Officer who oversees the setup of new initiatives, reporting and quality assurance.

To successfully deliver the proposed project, CHAP has plans in place to expand our current resources if we are successful in obtaining the required funding. The staff induction and training process is aligned with the Scottish National Standards and Financial Conduct Authority requirements. There are ongoing training procedures in place, with staff having dedicated training time incorporated into their working schedule. Each staff member has an individual training plan which highlights any skills gaps and to allow appropriate training to be sourced to assist them to develop the required technical knowledge. Staff are cross trained to maximise overall staff efficiency and flexibility, reducing the potential impact of a key member of staff being absent or leaving the organisation.

Our accounts are outsourced to an external company, Alexander Sloans. We have external Finance Director who is able to provide us with detailed accounts at individual project level. The management accounts produced are reviewed quarterly by the board and annually by our auditors.

Procedures are in place to ensure that all elements of the services remain inside the allotted budgets. The Chief Executive and the Virtual Finance Director liaise with each other, regularly discussing said budgets. Each service has its own individual budget sheet, and each budget heading is broken down monthly. The Chief Executive is responsible for ensuring that there is enough in the budget to cover any requests, such as staff training, etc. All company transactions are recorded by our Virtual Finance Director and a financial trail is kept for end of financial year auditing. Detailed quarterly management accounts are provided to the Board of Directors for scrutiny.

Other than the board of directors who are volunteers, CHAP currently does not have volunteers involved in the delivery of services. However, this is something we are looking to develop, and we would welcome the support of volunteers in our community based work in the role of 'peer supporters'.

We have established excellent partnerships with the Irvine Locality Team which has allowed us to gain an understanding of the needs of the residents within the Irvine area, and the issues that are affecting people locally. We have excellent partnerships with Children 1st, KA Leisure, Input, and various community centres throughout the Irvine area. We work closely with the Third Sector Interface to help establish other potential partnerships with like-minded organisations.

7. Amount of funding being requested

Please supply details of the amount of funding being requested and any **other** funding you have had over the past 5 years, both financially and 'in kind'.

Amount of funding requested:	£91,534
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Please include detail on -

[a] Breakdown of costs if available.

[b] Recent quotations where appropriate

When	Funder	Project	Amount
2017-2020	North Ayrshire Council	Better Off North Ayrshire - Digital Access	£904,938
2017/18	North Ayrshire Council	Better Off North Ayrshire – Shared Tenancy	£2,572
2017/18	North Ayrshire Council	Modern Apprenticeship Scheme	£2,838
2017-2022	North Ayrshire Council	Housing Advice Service	£511,146
2017-2022	East Ayrshire Council	Rent Deposit Scheme	£285,303
2017-2022	Scottish Legal Aid Board	Ayrshire Homelessness And Prevention	£638,857
2017-2022	Scottish Legal Aid Board	Money Advice Project	£380,784
2017-2020	SCVO	Community Jobs Scotland	£28,818
2018/19	Nationwide	Community Awards	£44,635
2019/20	SCVO	Wellbeing Fund	£14,224
2019/20	Scottish Government	Benefit Uptake Fund	£16,411
2019/20	Scottish Government	Supporting Communities	£15,220
2020/21	SVCO	Employment Initiative	£2,410
2020/21	North Ayrshire Council	Housing + Money Advice	£94,664
2020/21	North Ayrshire Council	Employment Initiative	£12,502
2020-2022	North Ayrshire Council	New Better Off	£315,955
2021/22	Ayrshire TSI	Communities Mental Health + Wellbeing Fund	£40,875
2021/22	North Ayrshire Council	Long-term Unemployed Fund	£4,382
2021/22	Other	Other	£1,200
2021-2023 (ended Mar 23)	Scottish Legal Aid Board	Debt Advice Journey	£133,360

8. Monitoring and evaluation process

Please include detail on –

[a] What monitoring, and evaluation processes are planned/in place?

We have a secure, online caseload management system in place for recording and monitoring all activity within our existing services which will be utilised for any new projects. This system is password protected with a two-stage validation. This allows us to run reports to monitor our activity and report on the impact our work has on our clients and their families.

This allows us to capture outcomes such as:

- Number of clients referred.
- % of clients engaged.
- Issues clients need support with.
- Successful outcomes.
- Financial gains.

Additionally, we have an evaluation and service user feedback process in place which allows us to capture the impact that our support has on our clients, their families, and their lives in general. By maintaining a flexible approach to this – clients can provide feedback over the phone or anonymously online – it allows us to gain more open and honest feedback from clients which allows us to make positive changes within the organisation where applicable. The evaluation captures various elements of the client journey, including:

- Satisfaction with the overall service.
- Did they feel at ease with their adviser.
- How easy did they find it to access our services.
- Was their appointment method suitable.
- Has our service improved any of the following for them:
 - ✓ Finances
 - ✓ Health
 - ✓ Improving confidence
 - ✓ Quality of life
 - ✓ Reducing stress
 - ✓ Social circle/activities
 - ✓ Employment
 - ✓ Education
- Any other comments regarding the service.

We conduct service user focus groups in order to speak to clients, providing an open forum for our clients to give us honest feedback and suggestions around what we are doing well, and what improvements we can make. We also use this opportunity to provide information around upcoming service developments so that we can gain reactions and responses to these, ensuring we are on the right track and making changes relevant to service users, and the problems being faced in people's day-to-day lives.

By capturing this information, it allows us to demonstrate what impact the work we do has on individuals, their families, and the overall community.



Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.

Organisation name	Fullarton Community Association
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Brief details of organisation	<p>Fullarton Community Association was formed in 1976, and moved into the Green Hut in 1979 when the group gained their charitable status. In 2013 we took ownership of the land from the North Ayrshire Council as part of a community asset transfer and revealed plans to raise funding to build a new community centre.</p> <p>Fullarton Community Association with support from North Ayrshire Council secured funding from various sources including Big Lottery and Irvine Bay Regeneration Company.</p> <p>The New Fullarton Community Hub opened in November 2017 and employs 7 members of staff. Fullarton Community Hub is in the heart of a small community in the Fullarton area of Irvine. The community Association is run by a volunteer management committee, that is driven by the need of the community.</p> <p>Fullarton Community Hub runs a variety of groups and services on a week to week basis as well as being a host for many private functions. The community hub has a history of working effortlessly in tackling issues in relation to poverty, employability, mental health, and physical wellbeing, tackling loneliness and isolation, and the impact of addictions.</p> <p>Fullarton Community Association works in partnership with a range of partners including:</p> <p>NAC – Connected Communities Team, Health and Social Care Partnership, Community link workers, Loudon Montgomery Primary and Irvine Royal Academy. Along with partners such as Skills Development Scotland, ENABLE, Fair Start, Turning Point Scotland, Eglinton Medical Practice, CEiS Ayrshire, and NAC- Employability.</p> <p>Fullarton already accounts for 8% of the Irvine's population with 100% living in deprivation and is made up of four datazones, all of which fall into the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland.</p>
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Locality	Irvine
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Amount Requested	£87,870
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Timescale	
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Brief Overview of Proposal

PROJECT 1 OVERVIEW - Outdoor Green Gym

As part of the community asset transfer Fullarton secured land ownership down at the river walkway in Irvine and secured funding from Sports Scotland for the installation of a MUGA (Multi-games area). The land adjacent to the MUGA is in a state of disrepair. Fullarton area has poor health stats and falls below the National Average with regards to poverty, health and deprivation.

The creation of an outdoor gym will break the cycle and provide better health and wellbeing outcomes.

Due to the current cost of living crisis many residents cannot afford access to local gyms. If a medical referral is made, it is expected that the patient has to pay a charge of £20. The Gym will be open to all residents across Irvine, not just Fullarton residents. The outdoor gym would allow for access for families that cannot afford access to mainstream gyms, in an outdoor environment which will improve both physical and mental health for its users.

Identified target audience for the gym will also include recovery groups, New Scots families and young people's fitness classes.

The outdoor gym will break the cycle and provide better outcomes, and improved physical and mental health alongside better community connections. The outdoor gym will also be part of the encouragement of outdoor learning, along with the community garden and the MUGA.

The project will be community led, and will aim to foster civic pride in managing the project.

The Fullarton Community Hub has long been a focal point for various community initiatives, employability projects, health and well-being, and social integration. We have identified a significant need for outdoor exercise opportunities, particularly for demographic groups in our community, individuals in recovery, various health and wellbeing challenges and young people who lead inactive lifestyles. Due to the current cost of living crisis many residents cannot afford access to gyms. If a medical referral is made, it is expected that the patient has to pay a charge of £20.

The proposed project will address this need by creating a dedicated outdoor gym area within the grounds of Fullarton Community Hub. This facility will provide a safe and inclusive environment for individuals in recovery to engage in physical activity as part of their rehabilitation journey. Additionally, it will encourage young people to adopt healthy habits, reduce sedentary behaviour and improve overall fitness levels.

National Youth Work Outcomes -The green gym hits the priorities for the National Youthwork Outcome 1- Young people build their health and wellbeing
Climate Change - An environmentally friendly gym is sustainable and environmentally friendly as it reduces its environmental impact. This includes using energy-efficient equipment, reducing water usage, recycling materials and using renewable energy sources. This fits in with the Councils Climate Change Strategy.

Outdoor Learning: research demonstrates that outdoor learning experiences can contribute positively to the learning journey of our children and young people. Well-structured outdoor learning:
Has direct health and wellbeing benefits, supports learning in all aspects of the school curriculum, including priorities such as numeracy and literacy and provides opportunities for young people to guide their own learning and develop critical thinking skills, raises young people's awareness of environmental and sustainability issues and offers a safe space for adventure, where young people can explore risk, test boundaries and build resilience.

Data tells us outdoor learning:

83% young people had a stronger appreciation of nature by taking part in outdoor learning.

95% young people developed their skills in being outdoors.

Project 2 National Lottery Community Fund total cost of project £274,500.

We wish to work together with our community not only supporting them to recover and re-integrate back in the community following the recent Coronavirus pandemic, but also to provide them with practical support as they now begin to navigate their way through the new cost of living crisis.

This project will help us to address the key priorities as recently identified by our community. These are to

- ☐ Improve health & wellbeing
- ☐ Remove social isolation
- ☐ Provide family support
- ☐ Tackle the current cost of living crisis.
- ☐ Offer community led activities/support.

As part of our new support package, we aim to provide the Fullarton and Harbourside residents a safe place to access health and wellbeing services, food, warmth as well as opportunities to participate in inclusive community led and planned activities. We hope that if successful the money from this fund will help us to sustain specialist staffing positions. We aim to tackle to the current cost of living crisis to support individuals with inclusive activities, whilst at the same time allowing us to provide opportunities for inclusive activities in order to address the social isolation issues that many members of our community are currently experiencing.

We intend to use to use our centre to provide warm and a safe environment for everyone. Providing provision of a weekly hot meal and a Sunday lunch for vulnerable member of our community. Thus addressing both food and fuel poverty. We intend to offer a variety of community led activities for our residents'. Examples of activities that individuals could participate in include arts and crafts, movie nights, yoga and alternative therapies, walking groups etc with no cost.

We also aim to actively encourage our local residents to volunteer in the local community garden. The produce, which is harvested here, will be used not only as ingredients for these meals, but all excess will be distributed out to local households. Not only will individuals learn useful lifelong skills here, but the hope is it will inspire them to undertake food growing projects at home as part of a larger community wide food strategy. Whilst national and local organisations investigate and implement more sustainable solutions to addressing the poverty inequalities that exist in our communities.

Consulting with and supporting members of our community we will encourage them to take the lead and be actively involved in not only the meal planning and preparation, but also in identifying the wide range of activities that they would like to participate in. Ensuring we provide a person-centred holistic

approach, will enable us to reunite families and individuals no matter what their age, physical or financial capability. As part of our holistic approach, we intend to use these gatherings as an opportunity to help integrate many of the new Syrian and Ukrainian refugees that have recently moved in our neighbourhood. We believe this will be mutually beneficial to all parties, not only as it will help the refugees to establish links and form new friendships, but it will also inform and for some educate our community on our new neighbours' cultures and cuisine etc.

As well as the aforementioned provision, as part of this project we also wish to incorporate an inclusive and comprehensive health and wellbeing support package. A key priority of our organisation continues to be supporting individuals with their mental health whilst preventing individuals from reaching crisis point. In response to significant demand over the last 2 years we have implemented and now facilitate four mental health groups. As part of our organisations longer term vision, we now wish to increase and develop our mental health provision, by also offering family centred support. Recently we trailed launching a family trauma support group which offered dedicated 1:1 support to parents, children and young people who were experiencing poor mental health and living in constant stress and duress. Due to the demand and success of this trail, this is something we wish to offer on a permanent basis. The money from this fund will play an instrumental role in our ability to provide this new service.

This Family Trauma Group support would be created in partnership with North Ayrshire Council. Our mental health and addiction counsellor, peer support worker, youth mentor and family crisis and intergenerational officers will work in partnership with NAC counsellors, addiction support officers and youth workers. Together these knowledgeable professionals in the mental health, addictions and child protection fields will support all participants. Providing them with coping strategies which will enable them to express themselves in an appropriate safe manner. Our "Family Trauma" group will have access to family mediation, providing early intervention support in order to prevent crisis situations from developing within households. Here we will encourage participation in team building activities from individuals who are battling with their mental health, addictions, struggling to conform, facing isolation and loneliness or whom have suicidal thoughts. We are also hoping to offer families/elderly visits to the coastal islands, where they can benefit from new experiences and areas which may be outwith their normal financial capability. Helping to improve both their mental and pyhsical wellbeing aswell as tackling feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The money from this fund will help Fullarton Community Association to implement these much-needed interventions, as well as helping us to sustain our specialised staffing positions over the next few years.

This project will bring people together helping to build stronger relationships, as well as helping to establish respectful connections across different cultures and communities. It will enable individuals to create meaningful changes in the community, helping it to thrive, become more inclusive and resilient.

	<p>We require a match fund from CIF for 2 different funds that Fullarton CA has applied to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project 1 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Fullarton has applied for £25,000) decision will be announced at the end of August 2023 and needs to be delivered by end of March 2024. Total cost of installation £42,870 this is for outdoor gym equipment, ground levelling, metal fencing and lighting and electricity) To match this fund if Fullarton are to receive the full amount requested they would require CIF funding of £17,870. Project 2 The National Lottery Community Fund. Fullarton were successful in receiving £204,000 for the next 3 years staffing and for projects however total cost of the project is £274,500 are looking to CIF for a match fund of £70,500.
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Timescale	<p>April 2024 for the outdoor gym project</p> <p>April 2026 The National Lottery match fund for Fullarton Hub staffing and project costs.</p>
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Contact Details	Donna Fitzpatrick,
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The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- Groups should have an initial discussion with the relevant Locality Officer. Their contact details are available by emailing communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.
- Initial interest in a CIF application should be via an expression of interest form sent to the Locality Officer. This will be discussed by the LP or an associated working group.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.

Organisation name	Turning Point Scotland (PEAR Service)
Brief details of organisation	<p>Turning Point Scotland is a third sector non-profit registered charity organisation. We take pride in developing quality services to meet changing needs whilst ensuring that our values remain at the core of what we do.</p> <p>We specialise in supporting people facing the most complex and challenging situations by placing them at the heart of everything we do. We work to overcome barriers to stigma and work in collaboration with partners to meet the needs of individuals. We invest in skilled and passionate staff, and affect change through high quality services, leadership and innovation. We believe that we are investors in people because people matter.</p>
Locality	Irvine
Amount Requested	<p>Catering: 6,600 Let Costs: 17,280 Salary Costs: 51,529 Laptop/Phone, Equipment: 1,141 (includes monthly tariff) Training Costs: 1,546 Support Costs: 4,066 Total= 82,162</p>
Timescale	March 2024 (Project Start)

Brief Overview of Proposal

This project is led by Turning Point Scotland in partnership with North Ayrshire ADP, Ayrshire College, Connected Communities, the DWP, and MINDs of Recovery.

The aim of the project is to develop a college course, delivered by Ayrshire College in the community, for people in recovery from substance or alcohol misuse. The course would enable people to develop their personal and employability skills in a supportive environment to work towards the job market. If successful in gaining funding this will largely be invested in a Peer Lead Practitioner. The core focus of this role will be to provide support to people on the course and to the lecturers from Ayrshire College. In addition, as part of their role they will be expected to help identify appropriate volunteering opportunities for people in the community and provide support to enable people to sustain both their attendances at college and volunteering placements.

This model is based on a similar project delivered in South Ayrshire which has helped to produce excellent outcomes for people in recovery. This would help address a gap in provision in North Ayrshire around employability support for people in recovery, and for those who have been involved in the Justice system who experience many barriers to employment and accessing mainstream college courses.

This programme would support people to obtain an accredited qualification which could lead to further educational opportunities within the college and the community and increase participants readiness for entering the job market.

Additionally, the programme would enable people in recovery to provide peer support to one another, develop their skills and knowledge around mental health, wellbeing and resilience, and tackle issues around poverty and access to meaningful opportunities.

If successful, the project will be delivered within the Irvine locality in a community setting. It will be made available to people who live in other localities in North Ayrshire.

Timescale	March 2024-March 2026 (2 years)
Contact Details	



The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- Groups should have an initial discussion with the relevant Locality Officer. Their contact details are available by emailing communityplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.
- Initial interest in a CIF application should be via an expression of interest form sent to the Locality Officer. This will be discussed by the LP or an associated working group.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form, which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.



Locality Partnership: Irvine Locality

Date: 4 September 2023

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund and the 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund

Purpose: To consider the applications as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

Background

Applications have been received in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund and the 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund

Key Points for Locality Partnership

The balances available for disbursement are bullet pointed below:

- Irvine Common Good Fund has a balance of **£8,042**
- The 2023/24 Elderly Grants Fund has a balance of **£15,049.**

Action Required by Locality Partnership

To consider the applications for grant funding as outlined in Appendix 1 to this report.

For more information please contact: *Angela Morell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, 2nd Floor Cunninghame House, Irvine.*
Email - amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by: Rosemary Ramsay (rosemaryramsay@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Date: 28/8/23

IRVINE COMMON GOOD FUND

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24

Common Good Criteria - The application should benefit all or a significant group of the inhabitants of the area to which the Common Good relates.

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Common Good Awards
Irvine Community Council	Contribution towards the cost of delivering a series of festive events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hall Lets - £744.80 Promotion ticket Printing/Santa Hats - £827.45 Stewards Security High Vis Vests, Walkie Talkies, Licences - £2,302.63 Catering for events - £2,766.80 TOTAL - £6,641.68	£6,641.68	None

Connected Communities, Finance and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:

Finance: Quotes have not been provided for all the expenditure. There is £8,041 available for disbursement.

Legal: In terms of s.15(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 when determining whether an application is to receive assistance from Common Good funds the Council should have regard to the interests of the inhabitants as a whole, of the area to which the Common Good relates.

This application is for a grant which will be used towards providing and paying for a series of festive events for a wide age range, catering and supporting aspects such as security equipment and licences.

The applicant being Irvine Community Council, has provided a fairly comprehensive description of what the proposed grant monies would be used for and have been transparent in their disclosure of all relevant or necessary information, namely their constitution, most recent bank statement and audited accounts.

This application appears to benefit interests of the inhabitants as a whole of the area to which the Common Good relates as it covers specific provision for younger members of the community in addition to what is being provided for elderly folks. In addition, other activities, such as a panto, which is correctly identified as being "family friendly" are mentioned.

Taking all of the above into consideration, it is my view that this event has the potential to benefit people of all ages within the community, expressly described as being "the local community of Irvine".

If the decision is to award funding, the benefit to the community should be clearly recorded, as it is likely that the auditor will require this information.

Connected Communities: Irvine Community Council is seeking funding to collaborate with local groups to organise a series of festive events within the local community of Irvine in the run up to Christmas. The aim of these activities is to strengthen community bonds, increase civic engagement between community groups, business and individuals, support mental health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation and loneliness.

Connected Communities are satisfied that this project meets the criteria of funding.

**ELDERLY GRANTS FUND
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24**

Grant Allocation for Irvine LPP Area

£ 15,049

Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested
BABCA	Funding towards activities for elderly, including 3 course Christmas meal with entertainment, bingo events, weekly luncheon club, dominos, beetle drives and singalongs.	£ 2,185	£ 2,185
LBLB & Girdle Toll Age Concern	Funding towards activities for elderly, including organised trips and lunches, visiting artists, speakers and games events.	£ 3,038	£ 3,038
Dreghorn Old Peoples Welfare Committee	Funding towards Christmas lunch and entertainment and summer trip with tea out.	£ 1,710	£ 1,710
Irvine Joint Wards Old Peoples Welfare Committee	Funding towards group outings and activities to reduce social isolation in the elderly.	£ 7,426	£ 7,426
		TOTAL	£ 14,359



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Progress Report

June – September 2023

Irvine Community Projects

Previous outstanding projects that were previously identified by community as areas of need with regard to locality priorities and still require support from locality partnership. This would be a great opportunity for community reps to get involved in local projects for example:

Drybridge Management Hall – identified issues with local pathways around the neighbourhood.

Locality rep - (Ian Wallace) discussion required at LP meeting to identify sources of support and to share where we are in terms of the community consultation that Drybridge carried out in local area.

Bourtreehill Park Development

Identify locality rep:

NAC ranger services are working in partnership with Irvine locality team, GH partnership and TCV to identify a stakeholders group to move forward with developing a group to take forward actions for the development of the park and activities. Meeting with stakeholders has been organised and taking place on Monday 18th September at 6pm in Towerlands Community Centre prior to BABCA committee meeting.

Townend Skills

Partnership with Greenwood Academy, PTA, Dreghorn CA, Irvine CLD team, Ayrshire College, Irvine JC, DWP and Princess Trust. Looking at developing a training academy trying to re-engage pupils and community members in education by providing opportunities out in the community working with a range of partners to open and run a community café in the local community centre. This will be open to pupils and community members. Developing a social enterprise where community members can access community courses in IT, customer service, Health and Hygiene certificate (Rehis), Barista Level 1. A pilot will take place in June and a soft launch will take place end of August.

Fullarton Walk Way

Locality rep: Donna Fitzpatrick

Fullarton Community Association has applied to UKSPF with support from locality officers. This project was initially identified as an area of change within the community. People wanted to see more opportunities created that would benefit the whole community. Further investigation from participants on the Activate Programme run by Fullarton and Glasgow University, carried out door to door surveys to gather the views of local residents.

Irvine Motocross

Jim looking into alternative areas and we are engaging with estates, for the purpose of establishing a safe motocross facilities. Also attended site visit to discuss proposed CAT. Provided advice on establishing SCIO, and a copy of expression of interest Form.

Aiming to provide on-going support through the attendance of regular meetings, and regular updates as the groups SPOC.

Identify locality rep: Youth Forum member?

Irvine Tennis Club



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Progress Report

June – September 2023

Judy Murray will be opening Irvine Tennis Club refurbished premises on Monday 11th September 17:15 – 18:00. The club have asked that we as a locality partnership attend and spread the work to making the opening an access. They would also like to thank the locality partnership for help with funding to allow this project to be established.

Dickson Drive, Muga and Park Development

Identify Locality rep: Community Council member? Marjory? Sally?

Castlepark CA carried out a community survey in local area for the need of developing the MUGA and surrounding green area. Ideas from community included sports track, community growing initiative, outdoor gym and develop new muga.

Need to re-engage conversations with Streetscene in September.

Dreghorn Community Association

Supported the C.A. with regards to obtaining kitchen 3 competitive quotes within budget to allow them to progress with the development of new kitchen facilities within the community centre.



**Supporting Skills
and Work
Opportunities**

Input

Continuing to liaise with the organisation and provide support as and when requested. Currently liaising with Stuart Gemmell to develop ideas for delivery for the new Digital Job Coach post which has been created through CIF funding. Fiona Eager started in the role of Digital coach on Monday 10th April, and has been networking with various partners and making contact with the associations. Providing support in orientation and identifying key areas for possible delivery. The digital coach will be running taster digital for beginners classes at Towerlands Community centre. The classes that are being run are: Making Posters Using Desktop Publishing on Friday 19th May from 10am – 3pm, and Presentations Using PowerPoint from Friday 28th May 10am – 3pm.

Literacy & Numeracy

Castlepark Early years are working in partnership with Irvine CLD team and NAC Multiply team organised a sign up day for parents of pupils attending school to come along and take part in numeracy workshops. Currently 14 learners are engaging support in adult learning as part of employability pipeline from CEIS referrals for literacy and numeracy support.

Community Based Adult Learning

The current run of an **Introduction to Computing Skills** started on Tuesday 18th April 10.30-12.30pm in Redburn Community Centre, with 10 learners attending regularly. The course will run for 10 sessions and will aim to teach learners the basics of computing (including Email, Internet Safety, Social media, and Microsoft packages)



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Basic Literacy Classes due to restart in September Trindlemoss Day Adult Learning Opportunities, with 21 learners. The class is aimed at learners with additional supported learning needs. Following on from the success of the class, I've been liaising with Input to deliver basic computer skills at Towerlands Community Centre. I have also been liaising with the Multiply Team to also organise Numeracy workshops.

An Introduction To Videomaking Skills. In partnership with Jim Gibb (Digital Participation Officer) 2 tasters sessions were run on Wed 26th April and Wed 10th May at Irvine Library. Following on from this some learners have expressed attending a 6 week course that will run from Wed 17th May at Redburn Community Centre. Focus will look at creating a collaboration film on live in North Ayrshire as a New Scot.

Discussions being held with Fraser Lennox (Ayrshire College) to deliver accredited computing course **NPA Digital Literacies (formerly PC Passport)**, with will aim to run in August at Towerlands Community centre. Discussion also being had on running **NPA Customer Services** as part of the training academy project at Townend Community Centre.

Jennifer Haining is Continuing to provide **adult literacy/numeracy /employability support** to clients of CEIS North Ayrshire and Pipeline/other community partners. As part of her role in Multiply team.

Townend Skills Hub Project

Group started back in August and will run Tuesday and Thursday afternoons this will develop into a skills hub for Greenwood Academy and the CLD team to utilise going forward as a way to engage pupils who current are not engaged with education and hopefully parents/ carers who need literacy/ numeracy support to engage with CLD colleagues and partners through a community setting, rather than through the school. Greenwood are very excited about this project and see a lot of potential going forward. Partners include parent council, community association, Ayrshire College, Princess Trust and Scottish Fire Service.

Youth Work Volunteers and Training

Irvine CLD team to develop a 1 hour introduction to youth work course for volunteers that have approached us looking for experience in the youth work sector. The course is designed to be a very brief taster to what youth work is, involves, and signposts on to further information.



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Enhancing our Mental Health & Wellbeing

BABCA

BABCA are developing a community garden in Towerlands Farm Community Centre grounds which was a formal play park. They are working in partnership with Irvine Newtown mens shed. They have applied to both CIF and UKSPF for their community growing initiative.

Irvine Youth Forum

Arran Residential

Four residential trips were organised to Arran outdoor education centre over the first two weeks in August. Young people took part in Abseiling, kayaking, climbing, hill walking, speed boat and paddle boarding. There was a total of 63 young people who took part in the trips and benefitted greatly from the mental health retreat before going back to school. All the young people reported that they enjoyed the trip and the feedback from the outdoor centre was excellent with regards to engagement from young people in their activities.

The Junior Youth Forum

2 new Senior Youth Forums will be proposed during September.

Once youth groups have started and schools have had a few weeks to settle back Youth groups and pupil councils will be asked if they wish to join and it is hoped we will have a senior forum based at both secondaries on a weekly basis after school initially and then fortnightly and a junior forum which will meet on a Saturday at Redburn once a fortnight initially and then once a month.

Harbourside Men's Shed

EGM held on 25th May to vote on the removal of a committee member. During the meeting, a motion was put forward to remove the committee member not only from the committee, but from membership as a whole. This was approved by the majority and the member was removed. Full support was given to the group and assistance with minutes etc.

Irvine Newtown Mens Shed

Continue to support the group and develop partnerships within the local community.

The group are working in partnership with a number of community groups and continue to support initiatives in their local community.

Irvine Seniors Forum

Ongoing support to the Seniors Forum. Attending monthly meetings.

Irvine Seniors Forum held their AGM on 30th May. The Secretary and Treasurer stood down and new members were voted on. There have been various internal issues within the Committee which has caused some unrest within the group. Support will continue to be provided to work through these issues and find a resolution to allow the group to continue to thrive.

Dreghorn Health Walks

Working in partnership with the Trinity Active Travel Hub to deliver a series of 4 themed health walks in the Dreghorn Community, the first of which will take place- on the 31st of August 2023 and run for four weeks.

20 Paths for All walking packs given by the Trinity Active Travel Hub for the Dreghorn Walking Group participants to encourage them to commit to and sustain a regular



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walking habit. This links directly to the local priority of championing Green Health and the Natural Environment.

In partnership with Dreghorn Library staff we carried out a survey to assess the need for and interest in health walks within the Dreghorn Community. We obtained 24 responses from members of the public which informed our decision to plan a series of 4 themed walks and to time them in the afternoons.

Discovery Award Group

The Irvine Discovery Group commenced their weekly meetings in the Vennel Community Engagement Hub on the Wednesday the 17th of May and continue to meet on a weekly basis.

The Irvine Discovery group currently has 12 registered group members, all working towards their bronze award.

The group have gone on several outings in the local and wider community and participated in a wide range of activities including yoga, meditation and arts and crafts. The group have hosted a successful summer tea party on Wednesday the 5th of July for the residents of the Vennel and are planning to host a MacMillan Coffee morning event in the Vennel Engagement hub for the wider Irvine community on the 27th of September 2023.

Partnership Working

Over 50's Activity Group will commence in Irvine Library on the 12th of September 2023.

Irvine Library staff have helped to advertise the group online and in local branches. The community room in Irvine Library will be the venue for the weekly 1.5-hour sessions. Library staff will provide group participants with free refreshments. This groups aims to encourage participants to connect socially with others, try new activities and to develop new skills.

We aim to work in partnership with KA Leisure Active Lifestyles to provide taster sessions of a wide range of activities. Participants can then be signposted to where they can further pursue activities in the wider community.



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Irvine Holiday Meals and Summer Activity Clubs

Irvine CLD team coordinated and worked in partnership with Greenwood Academy youth team, HSCP, Lets look outside the classroom, Take time on the Road team, Fullarton, Vineburgh, Castlpark and Irvine Legacy Centre to deliver a 4 week programme providing opportunities for children and young people to take part in fun activities Monday till Friday for the full month of July. Each day children and young people received a packed lunch.

Venue Activity Centre	Registered Participants
Greenwood Academy Hub	310
Vineburgh Centre	117
Fullarton Hub	468
Towerlands	83
Irvine Legacy Centre	207
Springside CC	103
Townend CC	179
Castlpark CC	294
Total	1761

Evaluations from all activity hubs are being collated to inform a full report. This will be shared once complete.

Choices Community Matters

Community Food Larder

Operation 3 days per week and have a waiting list as they now have over 493 members. They continue to engage in North Ayrshire Fairer Food Forum.

Irvine Farm Basket

BABCA received £5000 from Corra Household Hardship Fund, towards covering the cost of hardship payments towards energy bills for families that are financially struggling. Energy Bill payments are being made to farm basket users, and community members that have come forward.

Irvine CLD team supported BABCA, The Farm Basket and the Sew Lovely group 'A Guide To Making A Canny Cooker' Film has been made, and is available to view on the CPP website alongside a handouts. For future training Canny Cooker training opportunities learners will be directed to the training video and handout on the CPP website.

Springside Larder

The Provost visited the 'Side Larder on 12th May and was very impressed with the work being done there. The Committee Members who run the larder met with the Provost and informed her of all the work they are doing. New flooring was laid in the larder which has allowed them to provide fresh and frozen food alongside the nonperishable goods.

Friends of Redburn

Adult learning

The volunteers from the FOR group will continue to work at the Monday Lunch Club which will resume on Sept 5th. They have asked for First Aid training and this has been passed to both Craig and Euan. One adult volunteer from FOR group was nominated for a Volunteer award which has yet to be announced. 2 volunteers have also been asked to attend the Marymass as dignitaries as a result of the FOR groups hard work.



Alleviating Poverty



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Volunteers wishing to help FOR group and youth groups will be taken through basic volunteer procedures and if possible register them for any awards or training.

Micha Project

Irvine Locality CLD team, Loudon Montgomery, Micha Project and Loudon Montgomery PTA are working in partnership to look at a project reducing the cost of the school day.

INFORM North Ayrshire TACT have produced inform North Ayrshire and have collated information and advice from a number of organisations, charities and community groups able to provide a range of services to assist those in need of a helping hand. This is updated on CPP website as it is a link to live document.

CHAP have submitted full application for Community Investment Fund. CHAP aim to put money, housing and debt support in place for people in the Irvine area. Strong links with Children first and NAC money and debt advice team.

Redburn Breakfast Club

Continues to operate fortnightly during term time and weekly during school holidays. Numbers continually increasing weekly.

Marymass Festival Committee

Assisted the delivery of Marymass 2023 with the continuation and improvements to the free family zone. There were 8 inflatables, the Mobile Youth Centre, KA Leisure Activator Bus, Climbing wall, wrestling showcase, face painters, glitter tattoos, free pancakes and football activities offered free of charge to all children and young people.

Great Harbour Consultation

Continuing to support Growth and Investment team with the great harbour project. There is currently a project starting around recycling and environmental awareness in partnership with Loudon Montgomerie Primary School, Coastwatch, Irvine Clean Up Crew and Loudon Montgomerie Parent Council. We are currently exploring funding options with a view to starting the project in the new year.

Bourtreehill Park

NAC ranger services are working in partnership with Irvine locality team, GH partnership and TCV to identify a stakeholders group to move forward with developing a group to take forward actions for the development of the park and activities. Meeting with stakeholders has been organised and taking place on Monday 18th September at 6pm in Towerlands Community Centre prior to BABCA committee meeting.

LLOC

The enhanced summer outdoor family programme of 6 sessions (3 per school) over July and August with both Greenwood and IRA which was planned never went ahead as neither school followed up on the emails sent. Marie and LLOC continues to be supported in finding relevant funding and applications which will enable her to continue to work supporting local Projects and schools in North Ayrshire.

Tekkers Soccer Academy

Irvine CLD team providing support into their governance and looking into CAT at woodlands Pavillion and football pitches. Looking at a consortium of support from



**Championing
Green Health
and the Natural
Environment**



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TACT, Irvine locality team, NA capacity team and Community Asset transfer team. At early stages of development. Locality officer to organise a visit to premises and have sent them out initial CAT enquiry paperwork. Next steps to support them to become a SCIO.

Dickson Drive, Muga and Park Development

Castlepark CA carried out a community survey in local area for the need of developing the MUGA and surrounding green area. Ideas from community included sports track, community growing initiative, outdoor gym and develop new muga.

Need to re-engage conversations with Streetscene in September.

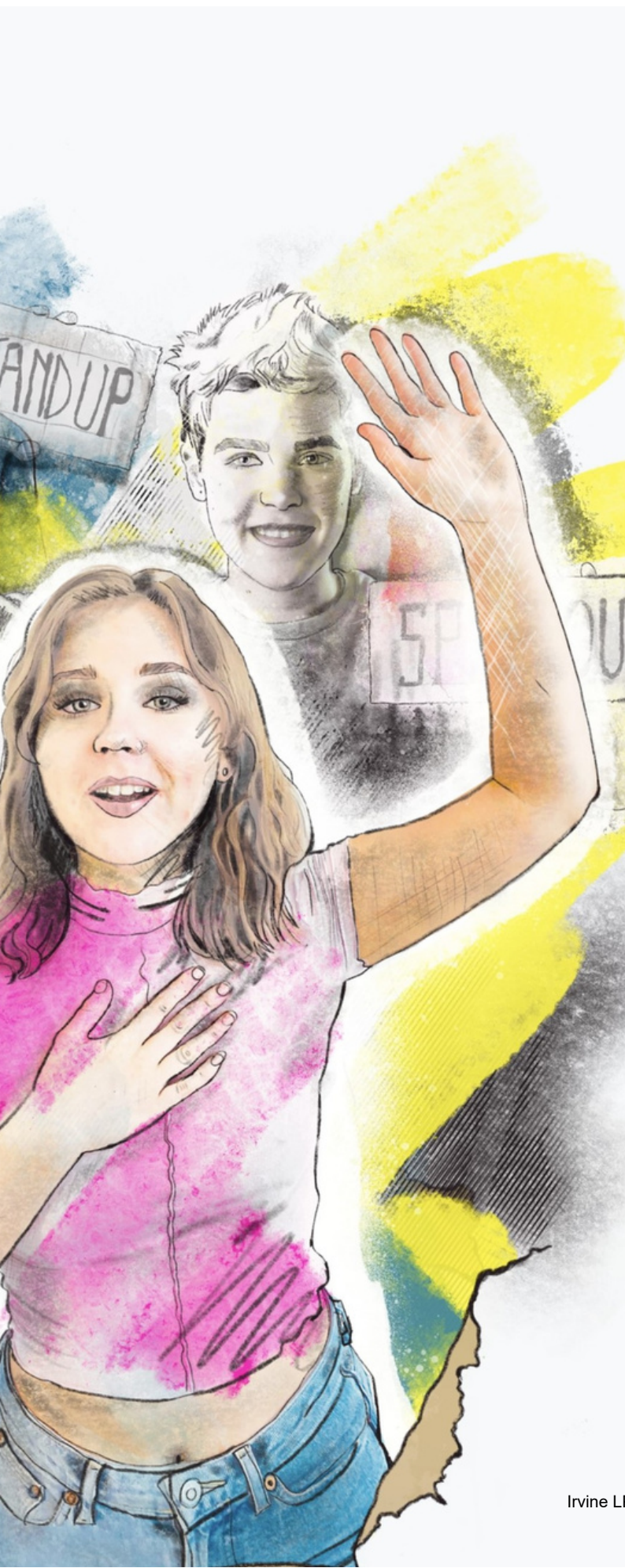
For further information contact: Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer – Irvine, Redburn Community Centre, Dickson Drive, Irvine. Email: ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk Tel: 01294 313593 Mob: 07814418453



**NORTH AYRSHIRE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
NORTH AYRSHIRE WIDE YOUTH WORK**

QUARTERLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2023 - DONNA ANDERSON
DANDERSON@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK
Irvine LP Pg 39



THIS QUARTERLY REPORT
FOCUSSES ON THE YOUTH
WORK PRIORITIES OUTLINED
IN OUR STRATEGIC PLAN
THAT TIES INTO NORTH
AYRSHIRE LOCALITY
PRIORITIES.

Youth Work is an educational practice contributing to young people's learning and development. Youth work engages with young people within their communities; it acknowledges the wider networks of peers, community and culture; it supports the young person to realise their potential and to address life's challenges critically and creatively and it takes account of all strands of diversity.

North Ayrshire key priorities:

- Positive Destinations for 16-19 year olds
- Attainment and Wider Achievement
- Health and Wellbeing
- Young Peoples' Voice and Rights
- Climate Change
- Poverty and Inequality
- Digital Connectivity

Joint Cabinet

From the most recent Joint Cabinet that took place in May with 110 young people discussing 6 key topics the data has been collated and action plan has been created.

Some of the key data that came back from young people were as follows:



Climate Change and Sustainability

Young people engaged in conversations around Climate change with decision makers around 3 key points, this included creating a Climate Change Time Capsule, how the councils Climate Change Steering Group can guide young people to choose low-carbon travel in the future and how we can help to remove barriers to include and implement initiatives or projects for young people in relation to Climate Change.

Some key comments included:

- We want to see more bee-keepers in localities
- Less plastic packaging and paper alternatives (water bottles, mail packaging etc)
- To have more recycling resources in schools to get people to do it more as they only can recycle paper and having different types of bins in school around the play ground for different litter
- I want there to be more cycle paths in the future so people can cycle instead, including more cycle paths. With more schools having more bike maintenance areas and classes within schools
- More education around waste and more facilities
- Have how to grow your own food projects
- More frequent bus services so people are not using cars and taxi's as often
- Have bike pick up stations like Glasgow so people can rent bikes

UNCRC

Engaging with pupils on UNCRC we focussed on young peoples rights as protected by UNCRC, and how we as gatekeepers to these rights can help protect and uphold them on their behalf when they are not able to do this for themselves.

Young people fed back:

- Some young people feel there is stigma surrounding expressing concerns for their rights
- More education on what UNCRC rights are for adults to learn if young person approaches to express concerns including social media campaigns and presentations
- Action group for young people which the council consult and creating childrens rights ambassadors.
- More events to share the views of young people such as Joint Cabinet.

Opportunities and activities for young people

We asked young people what they wanted to see in North Ayrshire and their local communities to make North Ayrshire the best place to grow up in, wither this is things to do socially, groups to be involved in, how they can get involved in volunteering and what we need to do to help and support young people here in North Ayrshire.

Young people responded:

- More info and recruitment on youth forums
- Transport for going to clubs and activities and wider bus service particularly in Arran
- We don't know enough about charities or volunteering opportunities, the council should play a role in accessing volunteering opportunities - they could do more to support young people access third sector orgs.
- A website or App for young people locally
- Give incentive to join and volunteer like awards and achievements.
- More tasters for young people to see what they want to do for work

Inequalities

When thinking about various inequalities we asked young people what a community means to them, this could be the area they live, their school community or a community of interest like a local team or interest that they are involved in. Focussing on racism, sectarianism and bullying.

Responses included:

- It should be more in schools and in the curriculum with school staff calling out challenging behaviours
- Talking about people experiences of inequalities to show the impact it can have
- Education the elder generations, to help them understand the racism isn't excepted anymore
- Learn how to report hate comments about racism as a hate crime
- Having access to information and a safe space about where to seek support for bullying that maybe online based and having antibullying ambassadors within schools
- Having access to anonymous online chat with teachers

Health and Wellbeing

Health in its widest sense including mental health and wellbeing is a big topic for young people, and we created three key questions to put to young people about local support, during the pre consultation the concerns about smoking and vaping came up on a number of occasions and we wanted to get feedback on how we can help and support young people in North Ayrshire.

Young people told us:

- Talk more about the effects of vaping, smoking and alcohol misuse in schools and communities - It is seen as the better smoking but there is lot that people don't know and need educated on
- Stop younger people from buying them stricter ID checks and targeting the shops allowing people underage to buy vapes
- People vaping in toilets in school causing worry to others and creating antisocial behaviour
- People vape because of peer pressure



A full report is available on the feedback from young people and a detailed action plan to create changes and provide feedback for the young people involved.

Members of Scottish Youth Parliament - Recruitment

The Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. Held every two years, the next SYP elections will take place in November 2023

People aged 14-25 can stand for election as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) as one of four MSYPs in North Ayrshire for a 2 year term.

The upcoming elections allows young people to vote for their preferred candidate, giving MSYPs their democratic mandate to represent the views of North Ayrshires young people locally and nationally.

MSYPs have a crucial role to play in Scottish public life, from representing young people across the country to running impactful campaigns. Becoming an MSYP is a life changing experience whilst improving the lives of Scotland's young people, learning new skills, and meeting other inspiring young people. They will become leaders, gain confidence, receive excellent training, and much more.

SYP believes young people's voices matter, and we are committed to ensuring candidates can realise their right to be heard.

Currently we have 12 candidates that are wanting to stand so far, but encourage more young people to register their interest until noon on Friday 8 September 2023 to start their candidate journey supported by the youth work team. If young people want to register as a candidate they can do so here: **www.syp.org.uk/elections**



Scan the QR Code to register interest



Find out more and register at syp.org.uk/elections

Participatory Budgeting

'PB' is a way for young people to decide how local funds are spent choosing which projects get a share of the allocated money in each locality. A bi-annual source of community funding given directly from North Ayrshire Council to communities in need of a financial boost to realise their ambitions with a sum of £198,377 overall, this year's fund is split into three different categories, running simultaneously – Youth PB, Locality PB and funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – a UK Government funding stream helping to boost pride and prosperity across all localities.


We are welcoming applications from all eligible North Ayrshire youth and adult community organisations and will deal with each application individually and on its own merits. And, we do of course encourage those who have already benefited in previous rounds to come back again this time round with new ideas. Everyone is welcome, we simply want to ensure that no one is left behind.

This years Youth PB Theme are:


- Health & Wellbeing
- Young People's Voice and Rights
- Cost of living
- Green projects

For more information on PB and once groups are ready to apply, they simply complete their application to one of the relevant funding streams (Youth PB, Locality PB or Shared Prosperity Fund) at: <https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/> Applications must be submitted with 11th September.


Participatory Budgeting



Ideas are generated about how a budget should be spent








People vote for their priorities



The projects with the most votes gets funded

ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Climate Change Ambassadors



A group of 12 ambassadors continue to work on a range of activities, opportunities, signposting and events around climate change and sustainability.

The group are working to create a Climate Change Time Capsule, along with tree planting. The aim is to include items to look back on in 20 years on to see how much change young people have been able to achieve in relation to green initiatives, climate change and sustainability in North Ayrshire.

The group have consulted with over 200 young people on what should be included in this with feedback telling us their hopes and aspirations for the future including:

- We want to see more electrical cars and have them go down in price so they are accessible and easy to buy
- More education on the changes that they can make by coming into schools
- Increased recycling opportunities
- Access to green travel options including more cycle paths
- Better access to public transport to reduce car travel

The young peoples feedback is reported to the North Ayrshire Council Climate Change Steering Group which helps to shape policies and work surrounding the North Ayrshire Climate Change agenda.

The group are working on their time capsule project, attending local enquiries and are in the process of recruiting new group members.

Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme



The modern apprenticeship programme continues to develop and grow, and we are pleased to announce that we have an additional five youth work apprentices joining the team in August/ September 2023. They will join our existing team of six MA's, where they will build relationships with each other and take up peer education opportunities in relation to their qualification.

Throughout the programme we ensure that MA's are nurtured and encouraged to take on new learning opportunities. Candidates will often find new training courses or discover personal development needs as their knowledge and skills grow. .

A recent example of this was one of our MA's who has an interest in conservation had sourced a volunteering opportunity in Ecuador. The role was in animal rehabilitation & rainforest conservation with an organisation called Merazonia and would last for four weeks.

This was an excellent chance for the young person to develop both personally and professionally and we would support the candidate where possible. To support the MA we agreed that part of the time away could be considered as research for their youth work role. The candidate agreed that they would gather photos and maintain a diary so they could create and deliver a presentation to young people about the experience, outlining the application process, the requirements and feedback about the experience in general.

This experience will be used to inform and encourage other young people to consider international volunteering opportunities.



Working with our New Scots

This summer Ukrainian and Syrian young people attended Youthbeatz festival in Dumfries. As well as enjoying the festival it was an opportunity to practice photography skills.



Syrian and Ukrainian young women attended a residential with Arran Outdoor Centre in July where they tried kayaking, stand-up paddle boarding, climbing, gorge walking and fire building. Among the staff on the residential was Mariana who had been a member of the swans group. Most of the girls had never been in a river or the sea before but they bravely jumped in.

"I don't want to brag", but the trip was awesome" Liz Mattieo

"We went to Arran trip, we love the trip and the people there are very friendly. We done a lot of amazing activities. The weather was not bad but we wanted to stay more and have more and more fun. I need to tell the people there helping us and doing fun things with us thank you so much"

Lana Hajeh

Over the summer young Ukrainians and local scots have been working on a peer-led film making project. The film is still underway and will be shown at the end of the year. The film story and script was written by the Ukrainian young people. Some Syrian young people joined the group and together they have been acting, filming, editing and learning sound technique.

The Swans football team has welcomed new members from the Syrian and Ukrainian community. They practice every week at Kilwinning sports club and have the benefit of 2 female coaches.

The Multiply Project

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) North Ayrshire Council have secured funding to deliver the Multiply Project.

This project aims to boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work targeting learners who are 19+ that have not previously attained a level 2 SCQF, level 5 or higher maths qualification.

The Multiply team have used summer 2023 to promote and increase visibility for our project. Our summer outreach programme has included attendance at Take Time on The Road in Irvine, Largs, Three Towns, Kilwinning, Garnock Valley and Springside. At these events our staff have interacted with around 1500 residents of North Ayrshire at our information stall.

We have had interest in the service from several potential learners, who have given feedback to Take Time organisers that Multiply would benefit them in some form. We have a further 6 learners signed up through self-referral for numeracy/literacy support.



As the project is still in its early stages these outreach events have been vital with regard to planning and providing intuitive, meaningful supports to families across North Ayrshire. The initial contact we have made with many young parents/carers under the age of 25 – many of whom have indicated they would access numeracy/literacy support - has led us to designing and planning after school homework clubs and Multiply drop in groups that will run in conjunction with schools. Our partners at CHAP have requested our support in delivering their primary 7/parents' sessions which introduces young people to the world of everyday finance and budgeting.

Most importantly our summer outreach has allowed us to interact with young people in the authority, which will assist with the removal of the barriers and stigma that can be attached to numeracy and literacy.

Cost Of Living – The School Day

The Cost of the School Day work has been focussed and two separate groups. Initially to professionals that work with young people across North Ayrshire and secondly to young people from both primary and secondary across North Ayrshire.



The initial concept came from consultation during Year of the Young People in North Ayrshire where our legacy plan highlighted cost of the school day and child poverty as a key priority for our young people focussing on the following key areas:

- Access to food (during the school day and holidays and weekends)
- The cost of school transport to and from schools and for extracurricular activities
- The costs of school trips and visits
- The costs of school uniforms
- The costs of materials needed for going to school.

As one of the key priorities within our rights-based CLD Strategic Plan, it's especially pertinent in North Ayrshire, with the second-highest concentration of multiple deprivation in Scotland, with greater risk of key groups of young people in North Ayrshire living in poverty. Therefore, the work that we carry out around child poverty is essential. Our method of 'by young people, for young people' is embedded in our work and our Youth Participation Strategy with young people coming on journeys of change with us.

Young people lead on discussions around Child Poverty, shaping policy and practice for North Ayrshire Council and partners, they are involved in all initiatives that have come from the data in a co design, production and delivery model. This work shows visible changes to lowering the cost of the school day for young people and their families.

The work that we carry out is in partnership with our education colleagues, the creation of this joint piece of work allows us to plan, alongside our young people, in delivering events, activities, creating feedback loops and disseminating information to our young people and their parents.

Young people are empowered to speak truth to power, support and challenge officials and decision-makers as duty bearers and to ensure young people voice is respected and acted on in relation to Child Poverty

This work has been ongoing since the start of 2022 and is ongoing as we continue to consult and engage with our young people, which allows us to shape the services and policy changes based on what young people tell us. Young people are involved in any changes to service delivery, new models of engagement and shaping policies for North Ayrshire and its partners. Changes due to the engagement and involvement of young people:

- Non branded uniforms policy has been implemented across all of our schools
- Policy on no gifts for teachers
- Increase in breakfast clubs and swap shops in schools and communities.
- Family learning providing opportunities for extracurricular across schools
- Increase in homework clubs
- Increased uptake and use of the transport for U22 scheme
- Healthy snacks free of charge in all primaries through PEF funding
- Access to digital materials for all pupils
- Holiday meals provisions – over 11,000 young people accessed this over the summer period 2023.
- Joint working across CLD and Education has allowed us to engage more young people and children in activities, opportunities and feedback – the commitment to young peoples active participation around voice and rights is increased across schools.
- Youth led PB process and community PB has a key theme of poverty and inequality to support local groups and initiatives in delivering activities and support for young people around child poverty and cost of living.



Going forward we will continue to engage and consult with young people – with a future conference to link in with learners voice which will take place in November 2023 allowing us to check where we are and where we need to go next to continue to tackle child poverty (we are currently writing our learners voice strategy that will compliment the Participation strategy with education). We will link Child Poverty to learner and youth participation with actions taken forward within the context of learners voice.

Child poverty will continue to feature across all of our platforms from Locality priorities, our CLD Plan, youth work key priorities and youth participation work. Whilst the Pupil Equity Fund will focus on child poverty and mitigate the effects of this for our children, young people and families.

Take Time Families

To establish good understanding of Mental Health and Wellbeing between parent/carers and primary aged children Take Time Families promotes early emotional awareness and resilience.

Linking caregivers and children in a primary aged setting where we work with caregiver and children addressing anxiety, further emotions and resilience, This programme offers parents time for open discussion based activities for themselves before being joined by the child to carry out activities linking into areas that will support healthy mental health and wellbeing for both, the hope is to build positive social, emotional, behaviour, thinking and communication skills within both the caregiver and child to become more resilient in the future with a mutual respect to each other's mental health and wellbeing. Supporting households with tools to develop personalised action plans to gain confidence in managing their family's mental health.

This builds positive social, emotional, behaviour, thinking and communication skills within both the caregiver and child to become more resilient in the future with a mutual respect to each other's mental health and wellbeing. This programme has moved from a school setting to a community setting to increase inclusiveness within targeted localities.



This programme has found success and has a group of core members keen to keep this group consistently running, in the past year we were successful in receiving participatory budget funding and due to this we are able to take the group on a summer trip to a Farm Park and purchase more resources and look at training opportunities for our parents. Before the summer break parents and children have been giving feedback on the journey with the group so far.

We have had some amazing Outcomes in this group. We have a family that attends where the parents are separated, this family come along each week to help themselves communicate better with each other as well as their young person dad travels from Inverness or Glasgow each week to make our group as he has been so happy with the outcomes that he has seen within the family.

Other great outcomes we have had is our families where there is separation anxiety issues from the parents the young people now look forward to the weekly group for the friendships and the activities they might never have tried without our parent/child combined approach to learning and mental health and wellbeing .



"This group takes into account not only my mental health but my daughters, she reacts positively to her surroundings when we are at group." Separated Dad with daughter

"The people Vicki and Sarah bring to group who provide information on First Aid and NAC Multiply were very helpful, useful skills provided to take away from the workshop. Group provides fun art activities/ideas and suggestions to try at home and helps children express their feeling through art. The social aspect of group is great for our kids". Separated Mum with daughter

"My son wasn't happy at school when we first started coming to this group, but now his worry box is empty as he tells me he no longer has any. Coming to this group has given me lots of information and coping strategies to deal with situations. Mum with son and daughter suffering separation anxiety."

Mini Ambassadors Programme – Bounce Back Peer Support Programme

The Mini Ambassador programme surrounding mental health and wellbeing for North Ayrshire Bee You mental health ambassadors to deliver to primary 6/7 school aged young people and becoming mini bee you ambassadors for their primary school.

It ensure clear current reliable information is integrated into hour long workshops that is easily delivered and understood with 'the by young people, for young people' with our secondary Bee You Ambassadors young people to confidently able to deliver the programme.

This programme is 6 1-hour sessions delivered by Bee You Ambassadors who are a group of young people. The programme is delivered to groups of P6/P7 with the idea of these young people becoming Bee You Ambassadors for their primary school, how schools wish to continue this would be up to them, we help support the young people moving forward in their new roles. The topics covered in these sessions include What is Mental Health, Resilience, Social Networks, Friendships, Making Decisions and Self Care.

This programme has been so far successfully delivered to multiple schools across North Ayrshire. The programme allows the ambassadors who are all aged between 16 and 21 the chance to share valuable information with young people aged around 10-12. The programme is designed to support all of the young people involved and their resilience. The Ambassadors all have completed Mental Health First Aid and/or the Mental Health UKs Your Resilience programme so in delivering what they have learned only reaffirms the learning that these young people have already had further increasing their resilience and confidence.



"It made a big change to me, I like knowing that people may come to me for help, I'm not nervous, I'm fine with it now I can help". Age 11

"This programme has opened up conversations within the school about Mental Health and Wellbeing and an exciting opportunity for Castlepark primary to have our own Mental Health Ambassadors. This has been a positive impact on the school and promoting positive wellbeing. The team that delivered the programme were fun, engaging and built fantastic relationships with the Pupils." Miss Burton

LGBTQI+

Young people who attend the group, want to be proactive in their local community, to ensure that all young people are all equal - not only those who are protected by the characteristics but allies of these young people too. Following on from the equality's forum, the young people were invited over to Arran Pride to walk in the parade and hold a stall to support the event.

Working in partnership with Arran Outdoor Education Centre, we were able to give the young people attending respite for the evening and supported some development sessions to help bond the group together. Spending the night in Arran Outdoor Education Centre, we were able to prepare for Arran Pride and work together for some team building activities whilst being supported by staff.



Our teams aim of the day was to make sure we had a welcoming stall that people wanted to spend time at but had the purpose of giving relevant information, support and guidance to those who needed it for themselves or someone important to them and that the young people could fully be themselves and feel supported doing so whilst connect with each other.

Overall the day was a huge success and this was made clear by the numbers on the day, the photos and the feedback. The amount of information and signposting that was made available to the public because of the huge range of partners was incredible and was very well received by all who attended, also the staff had a chance to gather relevant information and learn more about other supports available.

The Equalities Forum brought along 20 young people from across our six localities to have the opportunity to join in the celebrations and spread a message of kindness and acceptance for all LGBTQ+ people across North Ayrshire.

Equalities

The Equalities Forum was established as an inclusion project for 12 – 18 year olds. Young people who attend the group, want to be proactive in their local community, to ensure that all young people are all equal - not only those who are protected by the characteristics but allies of these young people too. To lift and empower each other and raise the voices of young people who may be a part of this group or represent these characteristics.

The project is guided by the young people's needs and wants, in a hope to speak truth to power and empower our young people to make positive change within their communities in a safe and nurturing environment. Meeting by monthly the group have been able to prioritise projects they would like to develop moving forward.

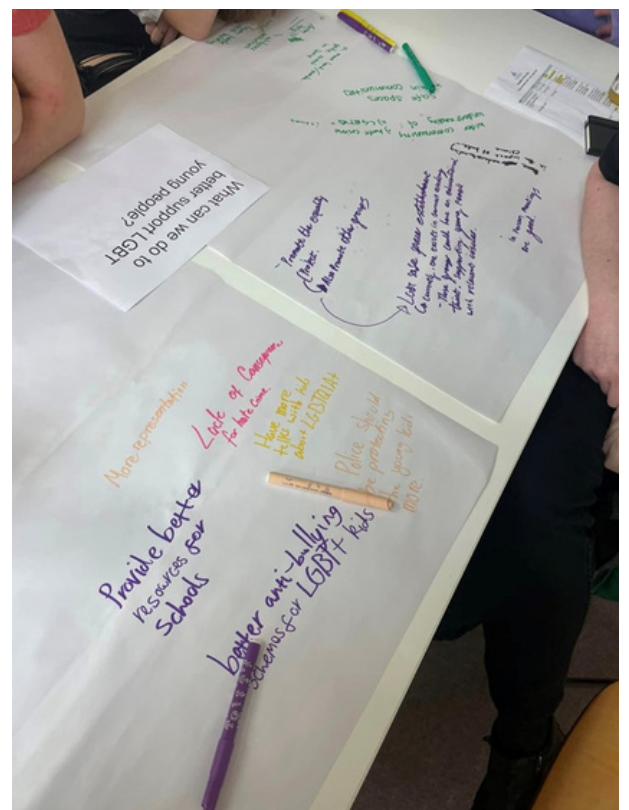
It is part of North Ayrshire's Youth Participation Strategy and supports UNCRC, which ensures that all children's rights are respected, heard and actioned. The project group has been established to support key groups of young people/ protected characteristics :

LGBT+ – a group of local LGBTQ+ members aged 12-18 from Irvine and beyond, looking to make friends in the area

ASN – young people living/studying in North Ayrshire with additional support needs

Young Carers – helping with information, support and advice for carers aged 12 – 18 in partnership with North Ayrshire Carers Centre

"I am really passionate about contributing to 'The Equalities Project' and enjoyed the chance to get involved in the group. By meeting up with other people like me and listening to their experiences via local LGBTQ+ groups, I feel like I have a good knowledge and understanding to speak on their behalf and highlight the types of inequalities we as a community can face. I'm really grateful for North Ayrshire Youth Services who are taking the time to create a safe space where we can hopefully really make a difference not just for the LGBTQ+ Youth and other minority groups, but for all young people. I look forward to seeing what changes we will make together to make North Ayrshire a more inclusive place to grown up in and realise our full potential."



Drama for Wellbeing

Creating a summer programme that used the power of drama therapy to connect young people, allowing them to express themselves whilst addressing issues surrounding Mental Health and Wellbeing.

This group brought young people together to create scripts and express themselves through drama approaching subjects and themes as Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Learning and Friendships, creating a space for young people to use drama as an outlet to address issues affecting our young people. Supported by youth work staff, a drama tutor and a singing coach, this space was about inclusiveness, trying new things and creating lasting messages with our young people.

2 groups were established, one primary and one secondary, resulting in 30 young people completing this 7 week summer programme. With having secured the Harbour Arts Centre as the hosting venue we were lucky enough to have studio and theatre space to give the young people a truly memorable experience.



Focussing on improv games, mini plays and confidence building with the Secondary aged group working on drama delivery and discussed how to bring their experiences in to personalise their showcase. These scripts were based on different issues that may be experienced in primary schools but with the message of a positive ending. The secondary aged group had been tasked with looking at their personal spaces and had started blocking and staging for their own plays.

The hour long showcase started with the juniors running their scripts followed by the song True Colours, after came the seniors who delivered a very memorable play called 'Brainstorm' which was developed from their own experiences, finishing with the song Unwritten. This was performed for parents, caregivers and invited guests such as service heads and elected members from the community.

This programme was very successfully received from parents and young people alike. The feedback from the hard hitting, real and emotional showcase viewing was fantastic and this programme seemed to have a lasting impression on our young people taking part and those who were fortunate enough to view this unique showcase.

Students:

"I think we were given a lot of freedom to decide what we wanted to do and speak about things that are important to us, I felt more confident and enjoyed helping the younger kids learn new things." Age 10

"I loved the drama games and being brought out my comfort zone as I'm very shy." Age 7

"I loved drawing and playing games, acting out our plays and watching other act out their parts, I loved going every week the teachers were all really nice, I can't wait for mum and dad to see our show." Age 9

"I enjoyed getting to work with new people and push my performance skills, it really made me work hard, getting the chance to learn something off by heart." Age 12

"I enjoyed everything, I liked writing my own script and taking part in acting, being part of this programme has impacted me personally to think about myself more." Age 15

"I Loved being part of a show and making new friends, I feel more confident and out my shell." Age 5



Parents:

"My daughter loved coming to drama every Friday and would wake up very excited, this has brought her confidence out more. Very happy and proud to see her shine.

A happy girl every week, I enjoyed listening to her lines and practicing her song. She has grown in confidence. Thank You!"

Take Time on the Road

The take time campaign was started in 2021 this summer we took it to the road. The roadshow was about taking some time for ourselves whether that be spending time with our animals, having fun with your friends or exercising some mindfulness through activities like yoga. Along with other activities and agencies that support community mental health and wellbeing this roadshow has been all about 'taking time' and highlighting positive mental wellbeing. This had also been made free for families to attend, to break down barriers of inclusion, in the hope that the message and learning from the Take Time Campaign can be infused with our communities, creating a lasting legacy within North Ayrshire.



Take Time on the road was designed as a pop-up open day style, tying in with different partners and inviting along agencies that have a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Targeting families across areas of North Ayrshire, hosting 10 events across all 6 localities. These events were led and co-ordinated by the project delivery officers Dionne Griffiths and Vicki Andrew and supported by Connected Communities Locality Teams.

The take time on the roadshow was well received by the communities of North Ayrshire bringing in over 2000 people to engage in various activities that took place during the summer months.

Over 40 partners came along to support these events and the families living in or visiting North Ayrshire! To give local and readily available information on the supports within mental health and wellbeing whether that be for employment, mental health specific, free programmes/ groups to get involved with, oral and general health. Here is what some of these partners had to say about the events.

"My own favourite activity was sketching on the sandy shore, and archery. I congratulate the team on bringing something for everyone each incorporating mindfulness, physical activity, skill development and of course sheer joy - to enhance wellbeing!"

Your Resilience



Your Resilience supports young people's mental health resilience. The education programme is focused on building resilience through life's transitions in 14–20-year-olds, equipping them with the tools and resources to manage their mental health now and in the future.

The programme is delivered in a range of settings, Individually, community groups, schools, or college groups. This programme included pupils from Kilwinning Academy S6 pupils for 3 full days.

Staff delivered 3 workshops a day covering Resilience, Exam Pressure, Friendships/Decision Making, Social Pressures, Managing Studies and Juggling Time. Along with open conversation work through the appropriate workbook for groups age ensuring the group understand the tasks and the tool kits provided to help them manage their own life scenarios and support their Mental Health and Wellbeing.

"I learned about when it comes to Exam time and studying how to deal with stress, it will benefit me when it comes to making decisions in the future and exam time." Female 17

"I learned about what resilience actually is, how to deal with my exam stress and I how I should juggle my time better, the programme was really detailed and helpful." Female 16

"This course made me realise that I shouldn't compare myself to anyone else and not to take social media too seriously, I enjoyed the force field analysis activity I think I will use pro/con lists when making big decisions now." Female 17

"This has impacted me a lot, it has made me realise that everyone feels different things at different times and that people cope with things differently. I find it hard to make decisions so the tools to help with that will help me." Female 16

"It was great to learn more about the group of young people I teach. I have seen them in a different capacity which has strengthened the positive relationship I have with the pupils. As a teacher it would be great to learn more on how to deliver this to pupils in a professional capacity, even if it is just the toolkits." Miss McConnell