



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Arran Locality Partnership

**Thursday 21 September 2023, at 4.45 p.m. in the Brodick Hall**

### BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.</b>	-	-	Cllr Billings	
2.	<b>Action Note</b> Review the action note and action log and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Cllr Billings	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
<b>LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES</b>					<b>4.55 – 6.35 pm</b>
3.	<b>Education Overview</b> For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work taking place across education establishments on the Island linking in with Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	S Foster	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
4.	<b>Islands Plan</b> For discussion and direction on the work of the Arran Islands Plan.	-	Verbal	Island Plan Leads	Discuss progress and how LP can further support this work.
5.	<b>Arran Youth Foundation</b> Receive update from Graeme Johnstone on the impact CIF has made on Arran Youth Foundation projects.	-	Verbal	Graeme Johnstone	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	<b>Health and Social Care Partnership Overview</b> For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership.	-	Verbal	Ruth Betley	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
7.	<b>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships</b> Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland on Arran.	-	Verbal	Stuart Dougan/ Martin Spence	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
8.	<b>Funding Opportunities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Islands Emergency Cost of Living Fund</li> </ul>			A Sutton/L Forsyth	Discuss available funding opportunities for Arran.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Island Infrastructure Fund</li> <li>Community Council Fund</li> <li>Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing</li> <li>Funding Opportunities in North Ayrshire</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>			B Calderwood V Yuill	
<b>AOCB</b>					<b>6.35 – 6.45 pm</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	-	Verbal	Cllr Billings	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
<b>REPORTS FOR INFORMATION</b>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>North Ayrshire Youth Work Update</li> </ul>	Pg 10	Enclosed	Cllr Billings	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

## Distribution List

### **Elected Members**

Councillor Timothy Billings (**Chair**)

### **Community Representatives**

Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council  
Sheila Gilmore, Community Island Plan Lead  
Alastair Dobson, Business Island Plan Lead  
Simon Ross-Gill, Environment, Island Plan Lead

### **CPP/Council Representatives**

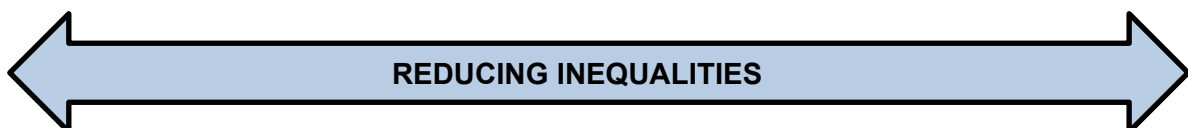
Vicki Yuill, Senior Lead Officer  
Audrey Sutton, Lead Officer  
Ruth Betley, NHS Ayrshire and Arran  
Stuart Dougan/Kevin Blackley Police Scotland  
Lesley Forsyth, North Ayrshire Council  
Anne-Marie Hunter, North Ayrshire Council  
Carol Norton, Arran CVS  
Martin Spence, Scottish Fire and Rescue

## **Arran Locality Partnership Priorities**

**Wellbeing**

**Environment**

**Communities**



<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Arran Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	Thursday 1 June 2023 at 4.45 pm in Brodick Hall.
<b>Present:</b>	<p>Councillor Timothy Billings (<b>Chair</b>)  Vicki Yuill, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS (Senior Lead Officer)  Audrey Sutton, Executive Director, Communities &amp; Education (Lead Officer)  Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands)  Ruth Betley, Senior Manager, Arran Services, NHS Ayrshire &amp; Arran  Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council  Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland  Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager Information and Culture  Susan Foster, Head Teacher  Anne Marie Hunter, Engagement and Participation Officer  Ian Staples, Manager, Arran Outdoor Education Centre  Michele Sutherland, Interim Senior Manager – Primary Care &amp; Communities</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b></p> <p>Malcolm Wilkinson, Arran Geopark (Item 3)  Malcolm Whitmore, Arran Access Trust (Item 3)  James Henderson, Arran Community Council  Jennie Morrison-Cowan, Arran Wellbeing Café</p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy &amp; Community Planning Officer North Ayrshire Council (Notes)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Judi Worthington, Argyle College  Martin Spence, Scottish Fire and Rescue</p>

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p> <p>In terms of Standing Order 11, two declarations of interest were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Chair declared an interest in item three on the agenda due to him being a Director of Arran Access Trust.</li> <li>B Calderwood declared an interest in item four on the agenda due to him being a member of Arran CVS.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes from meeting held on 15 March 2023</b></p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 15 March 2023 was approved and the following update was provided:</p> <p><b>HSCP Engagement</b> – R Betley highlighted that dates for the engagement sessions are still to be confirmed, however they will be combined with other engagement activities taking place on the Island. The engagement will focus on what matters to you and the responses will form the priorities.</p> <p>A Hunter advised that she and R Betley attended the Free For All Event hosted by Arran CVS and engaged with residents on what mattered to them and how they would like to be kept informed on the work of the LP and the Island Plan.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>

3.	<p><b>Community Investment Fund – Full Application</b></p> <p>M Wilkinson, Arran Geo Park presented a Community Investment Fund Application to the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>The application sought £79,853 funding to appoint a Project Director who will develop and implement the Geopark’s management plan. The aim within the two-year project period is to gain UNESCO Global Geopark status for the whole of the Isle of Arran.</p> <p>The application proposed two stages of funding with funding only being released when the milestone is passed.</p> <p>Stage 1 is the submission and management of the UNESCO application process, including desktop and field assessment. If the application is rejected, stage 2 funding will not be released.</p> <p>Stage 2 (if application is successful) will be to respond to UNESCO’s recommendations, which will be given if the application is successful or deferred. An “improvement report” will be submitted to UNESCO if the application is deferred.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed that this application should be progressed to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Chair thanked M Wilkson and M Whitmore for attending.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>L Forsyth</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Grants</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered two grant application in respect of the Community Benefit Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elderly Grant - £2,841 to Arran CVS to be distributed to groups on the Island.</li> <li>• Whiting Bay Bowling Club - £500 to widen the remit of what it offers and are keen to encourage a broader spectrum of people able to use the bowling club facilities.</li> </ul> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed to award both grants.</p>	<p><b>Rosemary Ramsay</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Arran Community Transport Programme</b></p> <p>C Norton provided the Locality Partnership with an update on the Community Transport Programme.</p> <p>C Norton advised that the pilot phase has now passed, and Arran CVS have received funding to continue Community Transport on Arran for the next three years, as well as funding for two vehicles. The vehicles, Ford Freedoms, are five seaters, with wheelchair space/access at the back.</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to provide a sustainable community transport service for socially isolated, elderly residents with physical and mental impairments who are unable to access the limited public transport available on the Isle of Arran.</p> <p>There are currently, 19 volunteer drivers located in Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Lamlash, Lochranza and Shiskine. There are 83 passengers</p>	

	<p>registered to use the service and have over 300 journeys have been completed.</p> <p>C Norton highlighted the outcomes that they are working towards achieving are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To double the number of registered service users in the first year of this funding and growing that number by a further 10% each year.</li> <li>• To double the number of journeys provided to medical appointments by volunteer drivers for disabled people in the first two years of the grant. These include hidden disabilities.</li> <li>• To increase volunteer recruitment, resulting in at least two volunteer drivers covering each village on Arran over the course of the grant period.</li> <li>• To support people with mental health and mobility issues to access at least three wellbeing and support groups per week.</li> </ul> <p>A Sutton highlighted that the Council are currently looking at community transport pilot and that she would be keen to link C Norton with the Place Directorate on this work. C Norton welcomed this.</p> <p>The Chair thanked C Norton for her update.</p>	<p><b>A Sutton</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Health and Social Care Partnership Overview</b></p> <p>R Betley provided the Partnership with a presentation on the Review of Services on Arran.</p> <p>R Betley's presentation highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That prior to the pandemic a lot of work was carried out, engaging with communities, staff, and stakeholders about the services on the Island and the challenges and issues they were facing. The care on Arran was then mapped and showed that it is a whole system in miniature.</li> <li>• One of the big challenges on the island is the shrinking working age population and the above average elderly population. A frailty index was carried out and 650 people fell into the frailty category.</li> <li>• The model for the island was made up of small teams and the team looked at ways this could be improved. The best way was to become one single team that can work flexibly. This saw the creation of new roles, combining teams, separating emergency care from inpatient care, looking at complex care and forming multidisciplinary teams.</li> <li>• A new emergency department was created at the hospital and created a new Nursing Practitioner role.</li> <li>• Post pandemic the team are now back on track and have been looking at updating the Strategic Investment Manual, they have held four workshops and the refreshed plan will hopefully be signed off by the Programme Board next week. R Betley highlighted that the team had got to the initial agreement stage with the Scottish Government in 2019.</li> <li>• The key messages of this work are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This work is not about a building</li> <li>• Having sustainable services</li> <li>• Having a flexible integrated team</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding the challenges ahead</li> <li>• No change is not an option</li> <li>• This will be phased plan</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked to R Betley for her presentation.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Island Skills Report</b></p> <p>S Waldron provided the Locality Partnership with a report on the Island Skills Initiative.</p> <p>S Waldron advised that Arran CVS received funding from the North Ayrshire Skills Initiative to undertake an eight-week research project around skills on Arran. This report built on the work the Arran Skills Group had carried out in 2016. Initially the report was going to look at apprenticeships, however it was decided that it would be better to look at the broader skills development across all age ranges.</p> <p>S Waldron highlighted that from discussions with local business, the issue wasn't around lack of skills it was around the lack of working age people on Arran. The lack of access to, and the hours on offer from nurseries and childcare providers, were also highlighted as being an obstacle for young families moving to the Island to work.</p> <p>S Waldron advised that she has shared this report with the Islands Plan working group as well as the business strand of the Island Plan Group, both groups were supportive.</p> <p>A number of recommendations were made within the report, and it was felt that having a Skills Co-ordinator based on the island would create a 'One Stop Shop' for businesses and individuals to find out about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apprenticeship frameworks and other skills development opportunities</li> <li>• different learning providers and support agencies</li> <li>• funding for skills development</li> <li>• the different programmes that are available to support businesses.</li> <li>• local opportunities</li> </ul> <p>V Yuill conveyed her thanks to S Waldron for carrying out this research and for pulling together the report in such a short period of time.</p> <p>The Chair thanked S Waldron for her update.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Communities and Place Fund</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership received a presentation from S McAllister, Programme Manager 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People and Skills</li> <li>• Local Business</li> <li>• Multiply</li> <li>• Communities &amp; Place</li> </ul>	

	<p>S McAllister highlighted that the fund is on track to launch on 19 June and will be open for one month. Applications will then be reviewed by an assessment panel and decisions and feedback will be provided to the applicants.</p> <p>The 2023/24 funding pot has £58,000 in revenue funds and £102,330 in capital funds. This will increase to £100,000 in revenue and £500,000 funds during 2024/25.</p> <p>A Sutton commented that this fund could be used to support projects alongside CIF and other funding avenues.</p> <p>S McAllister encouraged the Locality Partnership to share information on the fund once it has been launched.</p>	<b>All</b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Cost of Living</b></p> <p>V Yuill and L Forsyth provided the Locality Partnership with an update on the Cost-of-Living work on the island.</p> <p>V Yuill highlighted that Arran CVS are holding £30,000 for the Island Emergency Cost Crisis Fund and the criteria for the fund has been drafted. Further details on the launch will be shared in due course.</p> <p>L Forsyth highlighted that they have looked at the commonalities that came out of the mini enquiries to help shape the application form for this fund. The commonalities were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support access to food with dignity</li> <li>• Assist communities to live in a more sustainable way</li> <li>• Help active travel//transport related issues</li> <li>• Help those struggling in the cost-of-living crisis</li> </ul> <p>The Chair queried what promotion/communication would be used to advertise the initiative. L Forsyth advised that a leaflet has been created and will be shared when fund is ready to launch.</p> <p>The Chair thanked V Yuill and L Forsyth for their update.</p>	<p><b>L Forsyth</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Police Scotland – Wellbeing and Partnerships</b></p> <p>S Dougan provided the Locality Partnership with an update on the work of Police Scotland on the island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer secondees now on the island. There are now eight officers on the island</li> <li>• The Scam Van was on the island yesterday. S Dougan advised the Locality Partnership that should any groups who would benefit to hear from Police and Trading Standards on scams to get in touch with him</li> <li>• Civic pride – work ongoing in relation to wild campers</li> <li>• Island road police plan is underway</li> </ul> <p>C Norton commented that she picked up leaflets from the Scam Van and will disseminate them at the local lunch clubs.</p> <p>The Chair thanked S Dougan for his update.</p>	<b>Noted</b>



<b>12.</b>	<b>Education Overview</b>  Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item would be given priority discussion at the September meeting.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Islands Plan</b>  Due to time constraints, it was agreed that this item would be given priority discussion at the September meeting.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>AOCB</b>  No other business was discussed.	<b>Noted</b>

**The meeting ended at 6:50 pm**



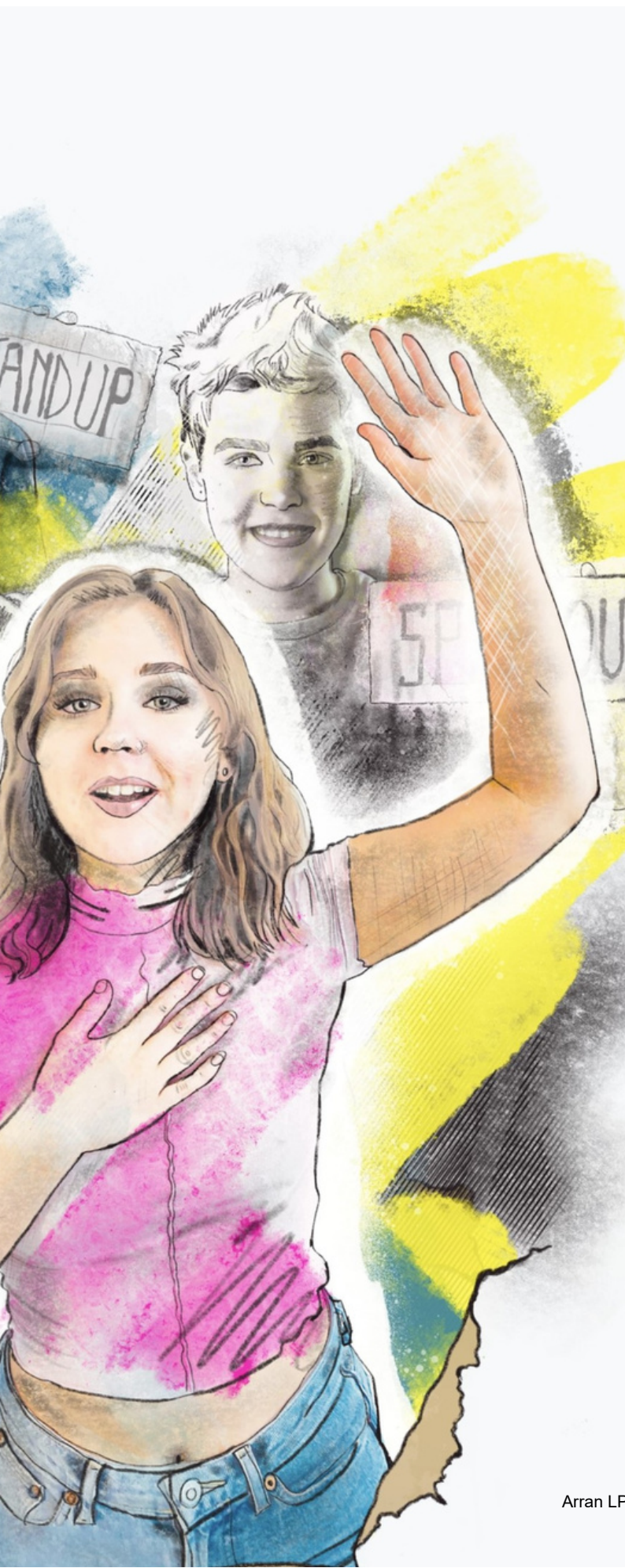
**NORTH AYRSHIRE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES  
NORTH AYRSHIRE WIDE YOUTH WORK**

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

---

AUGUST 2023 - DONNA ANDERSON  
DANDERSON@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK  
Arran LP - Pg 10





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](http://www.syp.org.uk/elections)**



Scan the QR Code to register interest



Find out more and register at [syp.org.uk/elections](http://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.

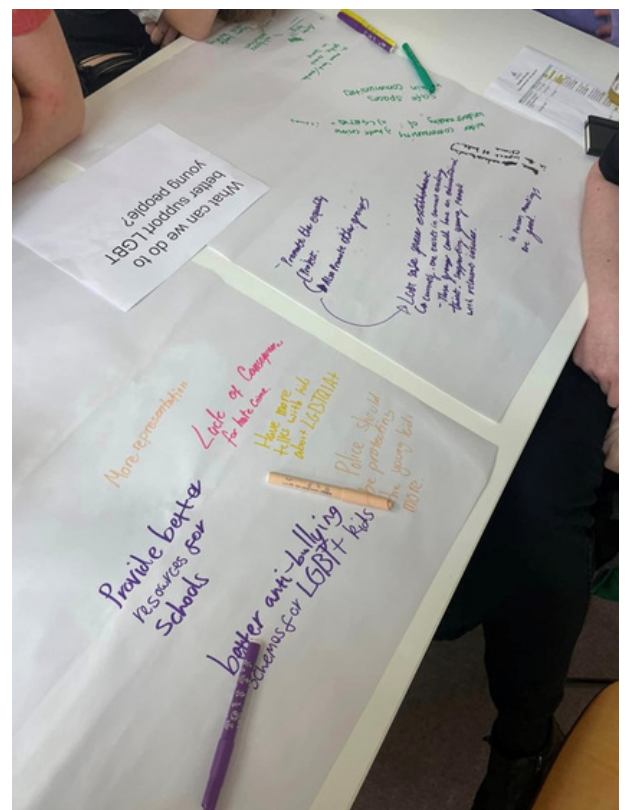
It is part of North Ayrshire's Youth Participation Strategy and supports UNCRC, which ensures that all children's rights are respected, heard and actioned. The project group has been established to support key groups of young people/ protected characteristics :

**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*