



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Arran Locality Partnership

Wednesday 29 November 2023, at 5.00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Billings	
2.	Action Note 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?
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					5.10 – 6.25 pm
3.	Health and Social Care Partnership Overview 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
4.	KA Leisure For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work of KA Leisure.		Verbal	Laura Barrie	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities.
5.	Education Overview 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	J Worthington S Foster	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	Islands Plan 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.
7.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships 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
WORKSHOP SESSION					6.25 – 6.50 pm

8.	Locality Action Plan Draft Locality Action Plan or discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership.	Pg 11	Enclosed	J McGee	Discuss and consider draft locality action plan.
AOCB					6.50 – 7.00 pm
9.	AOCB	-	Verbal	Cllr Billings	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly CLD Report 	Pg 20	Enclosed	Cllr Billings	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Elected Members

Councillor Timothy Billings (**Chair**)

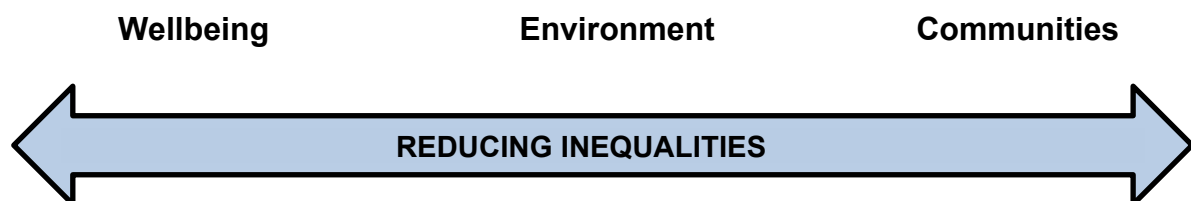
Community Representatives

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



Meeting:	Arran Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Thursday 21 September 2023 at 4.45 pm on Microsoft Teams
Present:	<p>Councillor Timothy Billings (Chair) Vicki Yuill, Chief Executive Officer, Arran CVS (Senior Lead Officer) Audrey Sutton, Executive Director, Communities & Education (Lead Officer) Chrissy Archbold, Depute Island Plan Lead for Economy Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands) Laura Barrie, Head of Active Communities (KA Leisure) Quintin Black, Head Teacher Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council Alistair Dobson, Island Plan Lead for Economy Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager Information and Culture Susan Foster, Head Teacher Sheila Gilmore, Islands Plan Lead of Community Colin Glencourse, Head of Operations (KA Leisure) Anne Marie Hunter, Engagement and Participation Officer Carol Norton, Operations Manager, Arran CVS Simon Ross-Gill, Island Plan Lead for Environment</p> <p>In attendance:</p> <p>Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer North Ayrshire Council (Notes)</p>
Apologies:	Ruth Betley, Senior Manager, Arran Services, NHS Ayrshire & Arran Judi Worthington, Argyle College Martin Spence, Scottish Fire and Rescue Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland Michele Sutherland, Interim Senior Manager – Primary Care & Communities

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chaired welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were noted, and introductions were made.</p> <p>L Forsyth provided the Island Plan Leads with an overview of purpose of Locality Partnerships and highlighted the importance of working collaboratively for our communities.</p>	Noted
2.	<p>Minutes from meeting held on 1 June 2023</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 1 June 2023 was approved and the following updates were provided:</p> <p>Geopark CIF - The Chair highlighted that the Geopark CIF Application was approved by Cabinet last month. The Chair also advised the Locality Partnership that the Geopark has formed a separate SCIO and will have its own Board as of 1st October 2023.</p> <p>Community Transport - V Yuill advised that 750 journeys have been logged and 105 services users now registered for the community transport service. There are 21 volunteer drivers, however the team are looking for more volunteers in the Blackwaterfoot and the Corrie/Sannox areas of the</p>	Noted

	<p>Island. The Team are also looking at broadening the scope of the service, to look at how cars can be utilised at weekends for wellbeing activities.</p> <p>A Dobson commented that this project is a great way to develop locality transport solutions and that it would be useful to map solutions around on Island transport. A Dobson also commented that in terms of using transport for young people, there are assets on the Island that could be used to transport young people around the Island. S Foster advised that funding has been earmarked to support transporting young people on the Island to activities.</p> <p>A Sutton highlighted that she would be keen to discuss this matter further to look at possible options.</p> <p>Island Skills Report - S Baird advised that there is no identified funding through the Council to facilitate a Skills Co-ordinator for the Island, however she has approached Scottish Government to see if there is funding available through the Strategic Objective Fund for Skills and Education as well as looking at the Shared Prosperity Fund in the next financial year. S Baird commented that this work is very much a priority for the Island Plan.</p> <p>A Dobson highlighted that he is meeting with the Council's Senior Manager (Employability) and will be raising having a focus on developing locality skills for people and not just for sectors.</p> <p>The Chair asked A Dobson to feedback the outcome of this discussion to S Baird.</p> <p>A Sutton highlighted that there is CIF Funding available if we are looking at match funding or part of a consortium of funding to support this work and would solidify the Partnerships commitment to this work.</p>	<p>A Sutton</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>A Dobson</p> <p>Noted</p>
3.	<p>Education Overview</p> <p>S Foster and Q Black provided the Locality Partnership with an overview on the work taking place in the schools across the Island:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential this year will be held at Arran Outdoor Centre as it previously had very high satisfaction rates from young people, parents and staff. • Number and literacy strategies have been looked at allow a more consistent joined up approach. • Island approach for Health and Wellbeing education – there is an ambitious plan that will be ready by August 2024. • Island Plan strategic objectives – working with partners to support a number of entrepreneurial initiatives within schools. The Root and Shoots horticulture initiative has launched. This is running alongside the Coastal Café initiative and will be introducing an SQA qualification in Barista. • The Youth and Philanthropy initiative – Second year students are provided £3k to give to local charity work. They work together to agree a charity and then present to a panel. The winners get to give money to their charity. • Mental Health and Wellbeing – SQA qualification in mental health being offered from third year. • Art/culture/language – moving away from Mandarin and moving back to Spanish. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music School recently won the Endeavour award. • Funding being used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to look at STEM opportunities • Upskilling teachers • Bringing authors to the island • Support for families who may be eligible for support but may not put themselves forward. • Two primary schools on the island achieved the John Muir award for some of their pupils and it is hoped this will be consistent across all the primary schools on the island. <p>N Tomkinson shared contact details of the NHS contact for Health Improvement Officers for Sexual Health as well as a link to a new mental health & wellbeing guide which was designed and created by local primary school children using their own thoughts and ideas.</p> <p>A Dobson highlighted that via the food and drink workstream of Ayrshire Regional Partnership, it was raised that there is an increasing number of young carers and wondered if an initiative for Ayrshire could be that young people are able to make a pot of soup before leaving school. A Sutton commented that it may be good to look at the work of fairer food network and how this could link in with A Dobson's suggestion.</p> <p>The Chair thanked S Foster and Q Black for their update.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
4.	<p>Island Plan</p> <p>The Leads for each of the Island Plan priorities provided the Locality Partnership with an update on each of their workstreams:</p> <p>Environment</p> <p>S Ross-Gill advised the Locality Partnership that there have been four meetings of the Environment group have taken place so far. The group are having regular meeting due to the range of environmental organisations on the Island and to ensure as many people are involved as possible. The meetings have been useful and can see where the commonality is across the Island.</p> <p>Lots of practices are already in place through the different groups for actions around land management and land use. S Ross-Gill commented that there is clear interlinking between the three strands of the Islands Plan. The Group are currently compiling the points of discussion and how to constitute these at a local level. The group are also looking at how to respond to the National Island Plan consultation and encouraging organisations to respond also.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 October at Heather Lodge at 1pm and is open to all to attend.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>S Gilmore advised the Locality Partnership that two meetings of the Community group have taken place. There was a meeting of the group held on 20 September with 26 attendees. There was a lot of good discussion, the general feedback is that there is a lot of people on the Island that don't understand the Island Plan and how they can have an input,</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p>there is a need to get clear communications out there. There was also a lot of discussion around transport, ferries, housing, reappointment of buildings and access to health services in the community. Overall, it was a very interesting meeting and highlighted that a lot of the actions in the Islands Plan are more aims and some actions need to be drawn out as some are quite vague particularly round arts and culture.</p> <p>S Gilmore also advised that Findlay Napier will be the Depute of the group and that the next meeting will be held in November 2023.</p> <p>The Chair asked S Gilmore to forward on contact details for the Depute of the group to J McGee.</p> <p>L Forsyth advised that she would be keen to catch up with S Gilmore around the arts and culture aspects of the Community priority.</p> <p>Economy</p> <p>A Dobson commented that all of the work around the Island Plan is at the start of a journey but thinks it could accelerate quickly into something groundbreaking for Arran and it is excellent having the delivery group leads part of the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>A Dobson highlighted that the Economy group has met on a few occasions, ferries and housing are issues that are raised frequently at the meetings. However, the workstream will be changing to become more of a demand workstream to allow the economy to thrive and having issues such as ferries and housing being addressed at their relevant working groups such as the ferry committee and housing task force. A workshop will be held on 25th October 2023 to look at the positives and what Arran businesses can do and bring fresh ideas to the table.</p> <p>A Dobson encouraged the Locality Partnership to share details of the workshop with their networks.</p> <p>The Chair conveyed his thanks to the Island Plan Leads and commented that he is delighted with the momentum of the work taking place.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>S Gilmore</p> <p>L Forsyth/S Gilmore</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.	<p>Arran Youth Foundation – CIF Update</p> <p>The Chair advised that due to operational commitments G Johnston was unable to attend.</p> <p>J McGee advised that G Johnston has sent over a link to a YouTube video which highlights the impact CIF funding has made to their project. The link to the Youtube video will be shared with the Locality Partnership via email.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>J McGee</p>
6.	<p>Health and Social Care Partnership Overview</p> <p>Due to annual leave commitments, there was no representation from the HSCP. It was agreed that this item would be given priority discussion at the November meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
7.	<p>Police Scotland - Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>Due to operational commitments Inspector Dougan was unable to attend the LP meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

8.	<p>Funding Opportunities</p> <p>A Sutton highlighted that this part of the meeting would look at the variety of current funds available to the Island. A Sutton also highlighted that she would be keen for the Council's Funding Officer to attend a future meeting of the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>Island Cost of Living Emergency Fund</p> <p>A Sutton advised that approximately £60k was allocated to both Arran and Cumbrae from the Scottish Government Fund last year and a further £57k of funding has been made available for this coming year.</p> <p>A Sutton provided the Locality Partnership presentation which highlighted how this funding has been used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £10k Funding allocated to EnergySmart to support Arran and Cumbrae. • £10k allocated to the Money Matters Team to support residents on Arran and Cumbrae. • £15k allocated to the Arran and Cumbrae schools to support remote, online after school study support. the introduction of laundry and other family support initiatives in schools and the introduction of visiting specialists. • £30k Third Sector Fund will be made available in due course to support cost of living. • Additional capital funding was used by KA Leisure for Health and wellbeing equipment. <p>A Sutton asked the Locality Partnership to make their networks aware of these funds.</p> <p>S Gilmore asked how communities apply for this funding. L Forsyth advised that in terms of the third sector grants these will go live in the next week or two and a flyer will be shared in due course. L Forsyth also advised that there is a dedicated cost of living page on Council's website.</p> <p>Q Black commented that the Parent Council are good means of ways to get information shared.</p> <p>A Dobson commented that local business have a part to play too, as there is a lot of in work poverty and we should be looking at businesses passing on this information to their staff.</p> <p>The Chair thanked A Sutton for her update.</p> <p>Island Infrastructure Fund</p> <p>L Forsyth advised that this is a capital fund and there were two successful bids this year for North Ayrshire. Arran High Mountain Bike Club were one of the successful bids. L Forsyth also advised that there is additional money been added to that fund and priority will be given to the awards already made to help cover inflated costs etc. The second successful bid was from Cumbrae for remedial work in Garrison House.</p> <p>A Dobson advised that something that is discussed at the Economy group meetings often is around having community hubs in each of the villages to discuss business ideas, support community interest companies and for</p>	<p>J McGee</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
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	<p>people to interact The Chair commented that he would be happy to discuss this further.</p> <p>The Chair thanked L Forsyth for her update.</p> <p>Arran Community Council Community Fund</p> <p>B Calderwood provided the Locality Partnership with an update on the Arran Community Council Community Fund. B Calderwood advised that the scheme established in 2022 following several years negotiations and provides annual funding for the period of the windfarm operations. The initial estimates projected over 25 years providing a minimum of £625,000 to the Arran community. Grant payments are index linked and paid in May of each year.</p> <p>Applications are considered on a regular basis and Arran Community Council Subgroup review all applications and independently score them against established criteria and these scores are then combined to generate a weighted average score. To date they have held three reviews covering 13 programmes totalling £55,000 and have approved funding for seven projects covering the Mountain Bike club, Village memories event, Parent association gardening, Chess, Brass Band equipment and providing additional features for a well-used meeting venue.</p> <p>All applications are requested to identify longer term sustainability and it is not expected that the same projects will be approved for repetitive funding applications.</p> <p>All details on the fund can be found on the Community Council's website: https://arrancommunitycouncil.org.uk/funding/</p> <p>The Chair thanked B Calderwood for his update and for the work he and colleagues from the Community Council have done in getting this set up.</p> <p>Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund</p> <p>V Yuill advised the Locality Partnership that year three of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund will be opening for applications on 28 September 2023 at 12 noon and will close on 10 November 2023.</p> <p>Application guidance and forms will be available on Arran CVS funding page on their website. Approximately £403k of funding will be available and an additional £30k from Children and Families and Young People Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.</p> <p>Details on previous successful applicants from year one and two can be viewed on an interactive map on Arran CVS website.</p> <p>Funds will be distributed to successful projects in January 2024.</p> <p>The Chair thanked V Yuill for her update.</p>	<p>T Billings/A Dobson</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p>	<p>Noted</p>

The meeting ended at 7.10 pm

Arran Locality Partnership



Locality Action Plan 2023/24

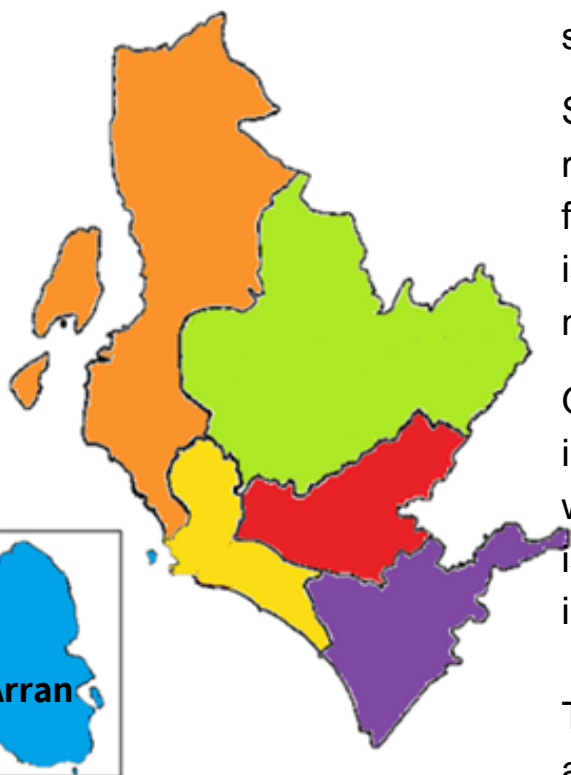
About the Locality

The Isle of Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde covering an area of 432 square kilometres making it the seventh largest of Scotland's islands.

Situated just off the West coast, Arran has around 4,600 residents. The island is connected to the mainland via 2 ferry crossings, one at Lochranza in the North of the island and the main crossing in Brodick where a 50 minute sailing brings you into Ardrossan.

Often described as "Scotland in Miniature" its main industry is tourism attracting visitors from all over the world. The island has a strong history, rich heritage and is a cultural hub with many artists and creatives being inspired by its natural beauty.

The island is teeming with diverse wildlife, has an abundance of native species including red squirrels and a very special and unique natural geology due to its divided landscape of highland and lowland areas. The largest villages on Arran include Lochranza, Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot and Corrie.



4,649



The estimated population of Arran - This equates to **3.5%** of the total population of North Ayrshire.

32.1%



of the Arran population are over the age of 65. For North Ayrshire as a whole, this figure is **23.3%**

21%



of the Arran population are under the age of 25. For North Ayrshire as a whole, this figure is **26%**

The unemployment count on Arran as of 2022 was **2%**



North Ayrshire average - **4.6%**.

78.5 years

Male Life Expectancy



This is 3.2 years **higher** than the North Ayrshire average (75.3 years).

85.6 years

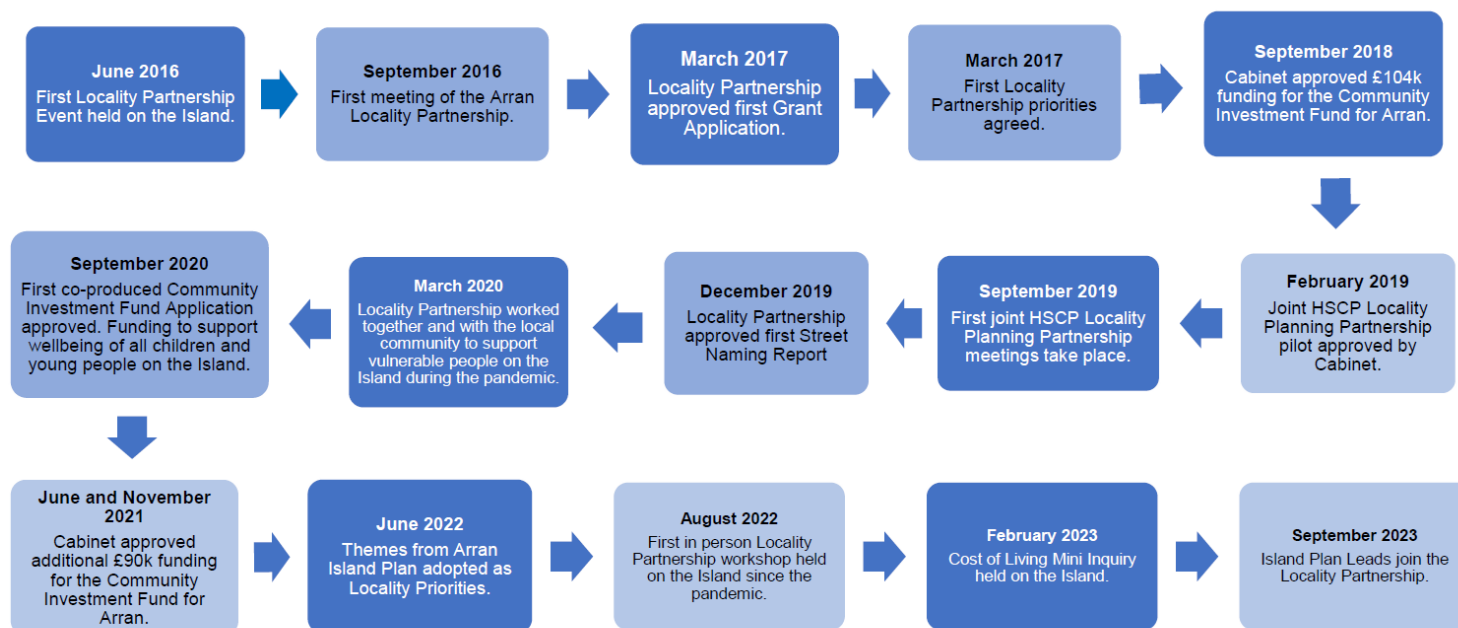
Female Life Expectancy



This is 5.5 years **higher** than the North Ayrshire average (80.1 years).

Arran Locality Partnership - The Journey

The following information provides a high level summary of the Journey of the Locality Partnership:



Locality Planning on Arran has evolved significantly since its 2016 inception.

Reflecting its island identity, locality planning on Arran has successfully brought together the locality planning function and the work of the Health and Social Care Partnership Forum to create one partnership. Nurturing these very close links has helped develop a greater synergy between the two entities and ensures that work is aligned to best meet local needs using the resources available across the island. In recent years, the development of the Arran Island Plan has enabled the Locality Partnership to focus on how Community Planning Partners can work collaboratively with Arran local communities by adopting the priorities of the Arran Island Plan and in turn tackle inequalities.

Why do we have this plan?

Locality planning was introduced in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, under Part 2: Community Planning.

It is one of the ways local communities work together with public and third sector organisations to improve residents' lives and neighbourhoods.

Locality Planning represents a way to bridge the gap between strategic work of the Community Planning Board and the many groups which are working in their communities and to ensure priorities can be identified and actioned, and decisions made, at a manageable and more local level.

Locality planning was first introduced in North Ayrshire in 2016, with each Locality Partnership's priorities being reviewed in 2021.

In November 2022, updated Terms of Reference and Standing Orders were agreed by Council.

Each Locality Partnership needs to develop a Locality Plan to show how they are going to work together to improve outcomes on their agreed priorities.

Who is involved?

- Elected Member (Councillor)
- Community Council Representatives
- Community Representatives
- Third Sector Representative
- Community Planning Partnership Representatives (North Ayrshire Council, HSOP, Police, Fire, Public Health, KA Leisure).



How did Arran Locality Partnership decide its priorities?

Each Locality Partnership has their own local priorities that relate to inequalities and highlight where working together can add value. The priorities also link to our North Ayrshire Community Partnership Plan – [The Local Outcomes Improvement Plan](#).

Each Locality Partnership agreed their original priorities in 2017 based on data analysis and local engagement. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, a review of the previous priorities was carried out to ensure that they were still relevant to local needs.

In February 2021 [SKS Scotland CIC](#) were commissioned by North Ayrshire Council to conduct a short, focused exercise engaging with residents on Arran to assess perceptions of how, and if, COVID-19 had changed the priorities for the island.

Arran Locality Partnership decided to use the results from the survey carried out by SKS Scotland CIC to inform their new priorities. The results were also used to help form the work of the [Arran Island Plan](#).

Arran Locality Partnership decided to adopt the key themes of the Arran Island Plan as its Locality Priorities, to ensure that the development of the Arran Island Plan and the work of the Locality Partnership align. Locality Partnership meetings will focus on how key work is developed on Arran, and how this supports the Arran Island Plan.

Our Priorities & Action Plan

The Arran Locality Partnership adopted the key themes of the Arran Island Plan following an extensive public engagement exercise. This ensures that the development of the Arran Island Plan and the work of the Locality Partnership align. You can find more information about the Arran Island Plan at:

- [Arran Island Plan](#)



Community



Economy



Environment

More than a Plan...

The Locality Partnership Action Plan and meetings are only a small part of the work which is carried out in each locality to support locality planning and delivery and ensure the voices of local people are heard in an equitable and fair way.

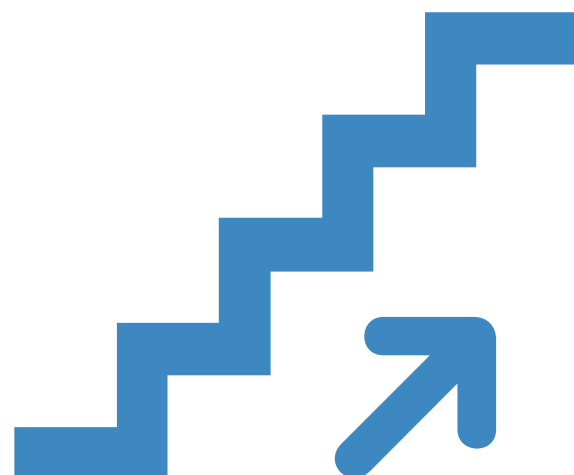
The meetings are a place to agree actions and to make decisions around funding and the ask of partners; they are the tip of a considerable iceberg which includes community chit chat meetings, locality networks and ongoing dialogues with community groups and members regarding their priorities and how they can be supported to work towards these.



Useful Links

- The [Locality Partnership page](#) on the Community Planning website
- The [Locality Partnership – Terms of Reference](#) explains how things work.
- The [Locality Partnership Standing Orders](#) explain the governance arrangements for the Locality Partnerships.

Next Steps



1

Action

The Locality Partnership will work together and with the local community and partners to take forward the actions in this plan.

2

Update

The action plan will be updated on an annual basis.

3

Review

The Locality Action Plan is a living document and will be regularly reviewed to ensure it is relevant and fit for purpose.

Funding Support

The Locality Partnership has considered funding decisions to grant applications to the following funds:

- Community Benefit
- Nurturing Excellence in Communities



The Locality Partnership also consider how they might best address local priorities using the Community Investment Fund.

Since the conception of the Locality Partnerships in North Ayrshire in 2016/17 over **£165,000** has been awarded to Community Groups on Arran.

Since 2016/17 the Locality Partnership has awarded over **£40,000** of Grant payments community groups on the Island.

Since 2018 the Locality Partnership has awarded over **£125,000** of Community Investment Funding to community groups on the Island.



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

NORTH AYRSHIRE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES
NORTH AYRSHIRE YOUTH WORK, ADULT
LEARNING AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY

QUARTERLY UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2023 - DONNA ANDERSON, ANNE-MARIE HUNTER & DENISE FRASER

Arran LP Pg 20



An Introduction to the CLD Strategic Themes

This quarterly report focusses on the CLD strategic priorities outlined in our North Ayrshire CLD Strategic Plan that ties into North Ayrshire locality priorities.

The full plan can be viewed here: <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/Documents/CorporateServices/ChiefExecutive/CommunityPlanning/community-learning-development-plan.pdf>

YOUTH WORK

Contact: youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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.

ADULT LEARNING

Contact: adultlearning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community based adult learning covers a wide variety of learning opportunities which target learners who have multiple barriers to opportunity, focusing on disadvantaged individuals and communities. Using a Social Practice Model, learning is built around the experience and needs of the learners and is underpinned by the three core principles of the Adult Learning Statement of Ambition - Learning is Lifelong, Life-wide and Learner-centred.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Contact: denisefraser@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Community Capacity Building is the support that community groups access to help them address issues which are important to them. 'Capacity' describes the range of resources that people have – knowledge about their area or common interest, skills and ideas, shared experiences, and material resources like funding and community spaces.

Joint Cabinet

During National Youth Work week the latest Youth Cabinet meeting at Saltcoats Town Hall was a hero highlight. With a bustling atmosphere, the youth participation event provided an opportunity for young people to share their thoughts and concerns with the Council Executive and other local policy makers. Representing all of North Ayrshire's secondary schools with over 100 young people attended.



During the round-table discussions, the format included a combination of listening to the experience of young people directly and encouraging the young people to also share feedback using a QR code via the Council's Youth Participation digital platform where all of the information gathered from the day will be collated and reviewed.

The discussions centred around, Youth Peoples Voice and Democracy, Crime and Personal Safety, Financial Literacies and Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing and secondary school life in North Ayrshire.

Theme 1 – Young Peoples Voice – Democracy Matters

North Ayrshire Council is in phase two of a national consultation called Democracy Matters, there has been a variety of workshops, events and engagements to speak to communities about this. To ensure we are engaging with young people we have engaged with our Joint Youth Forum and asked young people at Joint Cabinet some key questions which will form the feedback we give back as a council as a whole.

The engagement is building on the first phase of conversations where communities said they want more control over decisions that impact them the most. This phase is asking communities to get together to consider a series of open questions to help us understand what this control could look like in practice.

Theme 2 – Youth Crime and Personal Safety

As a key theme that young people came back and wanted to discuss during our pre-engagement consultation we are working in partnership with Police Scotland. These are areas which both young people and our partners have raised as areas of concern. Feedback from this will create actions when working with Police Scotland to make young people feel safer in their communities.

Theme 3 – Your School (NIF)

We are working in partnership with Education Scotland as one of two local authorities in Scotland to engage with young people on the Education National Improvement Framework.



Essentially the aim is to find out if the National Discussion responses remain valid under the three questions, or perhaps young people are noting different challenges or certain challenges are more pressing at this time than when the National Discussion was undertaken in 2022. We want to capture any difference / shifts in the young peoples views and experiences.

We were interested to hear their current views on their education and if they reflect the findings of National Discussion findings or perhaps highlight new or different concerns and challenges.

Theme 4 – Financial Literacies and Education

Another key area that young people wanted to discuss was around financial education. We are gathering the views of young people to help us shape workshops and information, this will help shape our work around cyber information for young people and directing them to trusted sources to learn more about financial education.

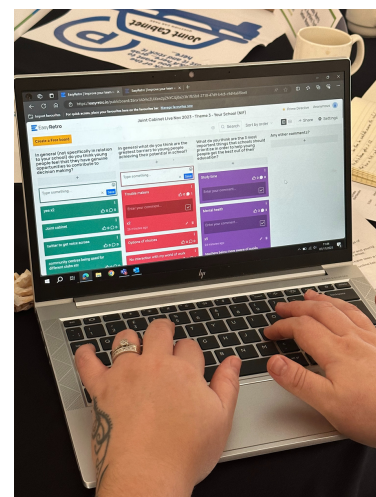
Theme 5 – Health and Wellbeing

Working in partnership with Education, NHS and Ayrshire Alcohol and Drugs partnership we are gathering information on health concerns relating to alcohol and drug education and mental health and wellbeing. This data will help shape support for young people across our communities and schools.

Priority Auction - Cost Of Living

The last bit of the session allowed for a bit of friendly school competition. The Modern Apprentices led on an interactive activity about the Impact of Youth Work and what is important to young people. With it being National Youth Work week, we wanted to know what young people want, what is important to them to help us shape our programmes and activities around their needs and wants. Young people were given 10 themes around this to rank in order from most to least important.

Full report to follow in next quarterly update.



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament

From August up until now the team have been working with eight candidates that are standing to become North Ayrshire next Members of Scottish Youth Parliament for a 2 year term.

National Youth Work seen the launch of the voting phase across Scotland and across our schools and communities using the Young Scot Voting platform. Unfortunately, it had come to light that votes cast using mobile phones had not been recorded by the voting.young.scot website, while votes cast using a desktop computer or a laptop were unaffected.

To ensure fairness and integrity in the voting process, with guidance from Scottish Youth Parliament and Young Scot, North Ayrshire Council, along with other local authorities and National Voluntary Organisations across Scotland has taken the decision to pause the voting and restart the process with fresh ballots. This is to ensure that every young person's democratic vote counts.

The eight candidates will form a newly appointed North Ayrshire Executive Committee and will join other youth voice groups as a group in their own right. This group will be supported by the Election Coordinator and go through a variety of training, support and group work to prepare them for elections and to input into the youth participation and citizenship structures that are already in place, for those not elected in they can continue in this role after the elections if they wish.

Elections will restart from afresh in January 2024 with a full paper ballot across North Ayrshire with MSYPs being officially elected in on Monday 29th January 2024.

CUNNINGHAME NORTH

Logan Gilmour, Rhyan Gorrie, Emma Henderson, Adam Johnson

SYP
SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE

CUNNINGHAME SOUTH

Emma Burns, Lee Fitzpatrick, Freya Fitzsimmons, Brooke Ramsay

Arran LP Pg 24



To read our candidates profiles you can visit here:

Cunningham North:

<https://elections.syp.org.uk/elections/19/constituency/18/>

- **Logan Gilmour**, who plans to concentrate on equalities, health and well-being and poverty and inequality.
- **Rhyan Gorrie** will focus on poverty and inequality, health and well-being and transport.
- **Emma Henderson** is targeting the issues of poverty and inequality, health and well-being and transport.
- **Adam Johnson** says equalities, health and well-being and democracy are his main issues.

#YWW23
#ThisIsYouthWork

YouthLink Scotland

"Youth Joint Cabinet and our recent Youth Conference are brilliant examples of how young people are placed at the forefront of the Council's decision making on all policies and strategies affecting them."

"SYP takes this further to both a local and national level - this is why it is SO important to **scan the QR code and VOTE NOW** for your preferred Scottish Youth Parliament candidate to ensure your voice and point of view is listened to, taken seriously and actioned upon."

SYP SCOTTISH YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Mais Al Diri,
MSYP for Cunningham North

VOTE

North Ayrshire Council
Cunningham North & South

Cunningham South:

<https://elections.syp.org.uk/elections/19/constituency/1/>

- **Emma Burns**. Her main issues are economy, environment and health and well-being.
- **Lee Fitzpatrick**, who is focusing on health and well-being, democracy and culture and media.
- **Freya Fitzsimmons**, who has young people's rights, the environment and democracy in her sights.
- **Brooke Ramsay**, who will target equalities, the environment and health and well-being.

Elected candidates will be announced via our social media channels and full update provided in the next quarterly report.



Youth Participatory Budgeting

This year we have a dedicated budget for Youth PB of £50,000 – this included a £10k contribution from the Health and Social Care Partnership. North Ayrshire continues to be very successful and a key to this, as is the young people's involvement throughout the process.

Groups applied for money to deliver against themes, that were decided by young people, as part of their Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy – 2021-2025.

Well over 100 groups applied this year via our digital platform which provided more scope for young people to be creative with their applications including the ability to submit video applications. All the applications were then reviewed by young people and those that met the criteria were voted on by young people aged **8-25 years**.



Voting had to be suspended last minute due to an issue relating to the Young Scot Voting Platform. However, **all eligible** Youth PB bids in Arran, North Coast, Irvine, Kilwinning and Garnock Valley will be awarded funds this year. Therefore, no further voting needs to take place in these localities.

In the Three towns locality voting will require to go ahead and to ensure these votes are recorded accurately and are fully transparent, the voting process will restart completely and be done by taking paper voting ballots into all schools and communities across the Three Towns.

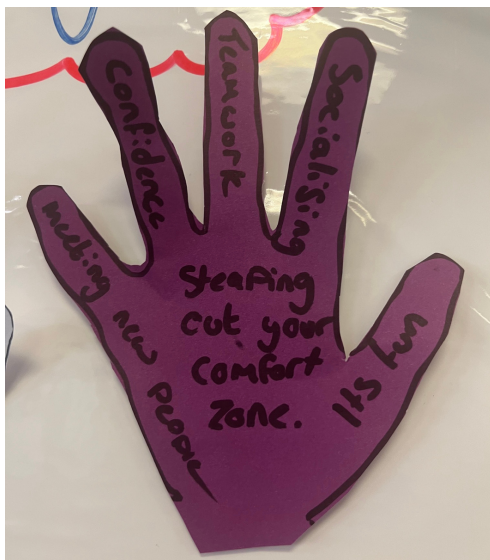
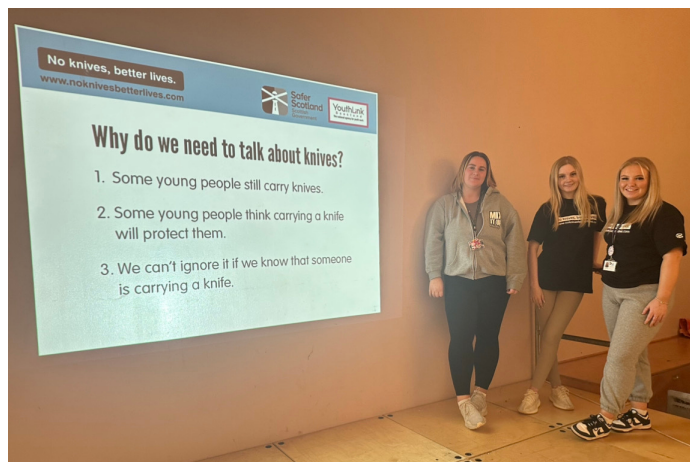
Results will be announced on Monday 11th December and all successful applicants will be informed shortly after.

"Although a little scary and disorientating, for some of the more introverted students on the day, it was inspiring to see how the youth workers encouraged everyone to come out of their comfort zone to overcome their fears, gain confidence and try it out."

"Very proud of everyone, thank you to Youth Services for brilliant end to Youth Work Week 2023! We will now take the learning and report back to our Pupils Parliament and Youth Council to further embed and increase awareness on the important issues discussed that are most pertinent for young people."

Youth Work Week has now come to an end, but this won't stop Youth Services continue to share exciting updates via social media as youth work has something for everyone and has the power to really change lives.

Email: youthservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk if you want to get involved in a youth club or #youthparticipation or send a DM to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nayouthservices> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NAYouthServices>



Primary Seven Youth Council

Taking place in September at Ardeer Community Centre, primary 7 pupils from Skelmorlie, St Palladius, Glebe Primary, Springside Primary, St Mark's Primary and Lawthorn Primary took the chance to meet with their peers and take part in a series of interactive workshops. 140 pupils were in attendance to learn new skills and find out more about #youthparticipation in North Ayrshire.



The young people shared their views through a series of interactive workshops with the themes of:

A Young Persons Edit of the Council Plan - The Council plan has been published but we want to work with the young people to create a plan on a page that brings the plan to life in a youth friendly way.

Peer Pressure and Positive Thinking - An interactive workshop that focusses on peer pressure and how to handle these situations.

Know your Rights (Pupil voice) - Focussing on young peoples rights and how much young people know and what they mean. Discussing the role of duty bearers and how they can help uphold these rights if a young person is not able to do this.

A Spotlight on Climate Change - Pupils discussed their role within the Climate Change emergency and how small steps can make impactful change in their local community.

The interactive workshops were a good opportunity for the young people to meet with peers from other schools and have the chance to share what they liked about school life and the local facilities near them. It also focused on their lived experience of the areas of improvement required and the obstacles they and their families face amidst the Cost-of-Living crisis. This information will now be reported back the Council's leadership team so that the knowledge gained can contribute towards, and shape, specific policies and strategies related to children and young people, so that any necessary actions can be progressed.

Awareness is currently being raised among North Ayrshire Council staff to ensure that everyone understands their ongoing responsibility to protect the rights of our children and young people. The Council follows and respects The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to ensure that all children's rights are respected and that they are free to learn, play and develop. North Ayrshire's long-standing key mechanisms for listening to the voices of our young people, the Primary Youth Council was formed last year to amplify the voice of primary school aged pupils.



National Youth Work Week



North Ayrshire celebrated the power of youth work this November – an annual awareness campaign supported by YouthLink Scotland.

From the 6th November with a focus on #InvestInYouthWork and #YouthWorkMatters, the CLD Team created a week of locality based events, case study spotlights for social media and North Ayrshire wide events showcasing work focussing on the seven priorities within the CLD Plan.

MSYP for Cunninghame North, Mais Al Diri, whose two-year term is now nearing its end, reflected: *“With clubs, events and the usual weekly running of youth clubs happening across our six localities, Youth Work Week ended with on a high with the impactful energy of the North Ayrshire Youth Conference.”*

Councillor Alan Hill, Cabinet Member for Islands and Communities added: *“From youth sports clubs and dance groups, to youth-focused projects with a focus on mental health and local climate action projects, there’s a host of incredible youth initiatives on our doorsteps and investing in the power of youth work continues to be a key focus for us a child-centred and youth-led local authority.*

“Investing community funding into local youth projects is crucial, especially as we approach another winter where so many people are still struggling due to the Cost-of-Living crisis.

“Stay tuned in the coming weeks when our Youth Participatory Budgeting and Scottish Youth Parliament voting will resume and eight-to-25 year old’s will be encouraged to have their say on who should represent them and where community youth funding should be best spent.”

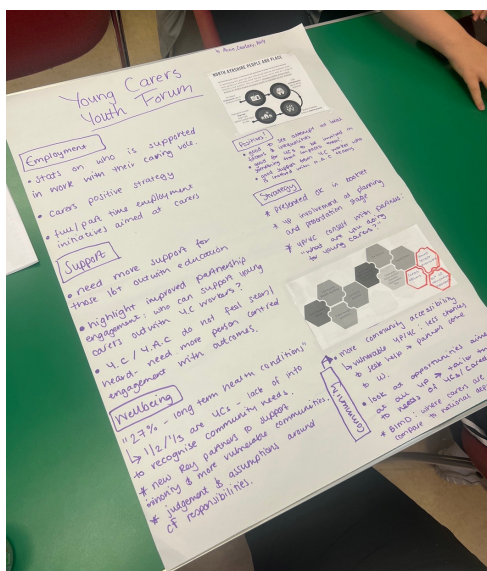
“Youth Work Week has now come to an end, but this won’t stop Youth Services continuing to share exciting updates via social media as youth work has something for everyone and has the power to really change lives.”



Joint Youth Forum

Our Joint Youth Forum, the meeting took place at Redburn Community Centre, giving young people aged between 12-25 the opportunity to raise issues that were important to them and share improvements that could be made to services for young people.

Supported by Community Learning and Development workers representing each locality in North Ayrshire, North Ayrshire's network of youth forums are a great way for those aged 12-25 to get involved in #youthparticipation.



Councillor Chloe Robertson, said: *"It was fantastic to have such a great turn-out with over 50 young people attending our first Joint Youth Forum meeting of 2023."*

"Lots of important matters were discussed including Democracy Matters, the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and a young persons version of the Council Plan."

"The forum was also a fantastic opportunity to reflect upon all the fantastic work happening in Youth Services to build a North Ayrshire that is fair and equal for all young people and their families, where no one is left behind."

Put simply, a youth forum is a place where young people have the chance to make their voices heard, where opinions will be taken on board and then used to inform local decision-making.

North Ayrshire Council has six youth forums operating weekly across each of our localities. The forums are the sounding board to the Council's Administration and Chief Executive on issues that matter most to young people.

The members also to help run local activities such as breakfast clubs, youth film night's and discos.



North Ayrshire's 60 youth forum members involved were also recently incremental in the latest round of Youth Participatory Budgeting as they rolled-up their sleeves to review the all PB applications ahead of the live vote.

Logan Gilmour, MSYP, was a panel member at the event. He said: *"Youth Forums are fantastic way for young people to meet new people, gain confidence and learn new skills such as problem-solving, minute-taking, networking and organising events."*

"This weekend's meeting was a vital opportunity for the young people involved to express their views and get answers to questions they wanted to ask."

"The young people also presented their plans for the year ahead and spoke with passion and determination about the many ideas they have to improve the health and wellbeing of young people throughout the region, combat climate change and make their communities better for all."

Young people also shared updates on exciting new initiatives and events happening in their localities including litter campaigns, breakfast clubs, swap shops and more.

Councillor Alan Hill, Cabinet Member for Islands and Communities added: *"Thank you to everyone who came along to the first Joint Youth Forum of 2023."*

"Providing support and a platform for the important work of the youth forum is just one of the many ways the Council is committed to ensuring that young people can step up and speak out to make a difference in North Ayrshire."

"I am proud to live in a North Ayrshire with so many passionate young people, who are proud to represent their peers and amplify their point of view. We care deeply about what matters to young people and those in attendance discussed a whole variety of issues which will now be reported back to our Leadership team as we work on updating our Youth Strategy action plan for the months ahead."

Do you want to get involved in youth participation?

If you're a young person in North Ayrshire, there are lots of ways you can have a say on decisions that affect you! Visit the Youth Services webpage: [Youth groups and organisations \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/youth-groups-and-organisations) to find out more about Youth Forums, North Ayrshire's Executive Youth Council, our local MSYP's and the Young People's Champion then contact youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Climate Change Ambassadors

Our group of ambassadors now have an additional 4 members that have joined, the 16 young people continue to work on a range of activities, opportunities, signposting and events around climate change and sustainability.

Passionate about climate change, the team have been working in schools and collaborating with community groups as well as volunteering with local environmental groups to raise awareness of biodiversity, carbon emissions and other climate issues where young people can do their own part to make a difference.

And over the last two years, they have been at the forefront of helping the Council to deliver a series of biodiversity awareness sessions to schools and other young people – an important part of the job, contributing not only to the Council's Youth Participation Strategy but also supporting the Council's ambitious target of having net-free carbon emissions by 2030.

The group continue to work 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.



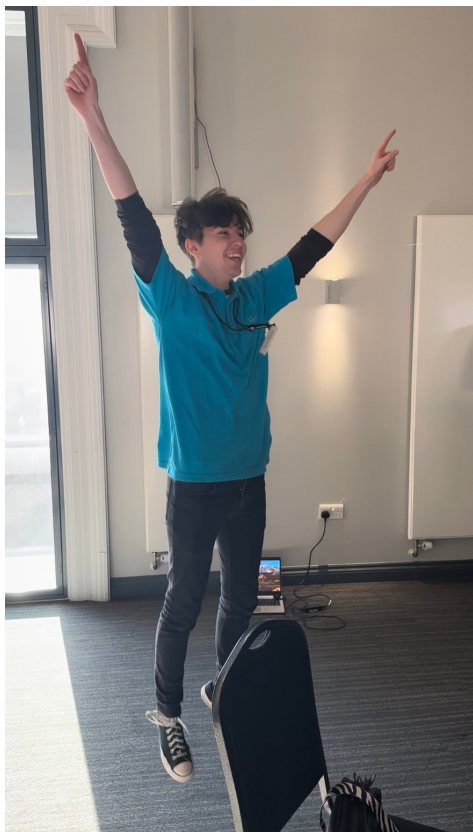
With funding they received from Scottish Government they are working in partnership with the Mental Health Ambassadors and Kilwinning Community Gardens and have funded 20 trees and protectors to be planted within the community garden with a time capsule which is reflective of young peoples wellbeing and their hopes and aspirations for the future. This even will take place on December of this year.

All ambassadors took part in the Joint Cabinet where they input their views on the various topics.

The group continues to meet fortnightly.



Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme



At the beginning of September, we received notification of an upcoming HMle visit taking place for our Modern Apprentices in September. The visit with the inspector and a range of apprentices from both our senior and new candidates, allowed them to see their growth and development over the course of their qualification.

Discussions took place with the MA's before the visit to ensure they were able to recognise the effect they have on service delivery, support received and opportunities provided discussed with candidates regarding the support they receive in relation to their qualification and leadership opportunities provided to them throughout the apprenticeship.

It was evident our more experienced MA's had an excellent understanding of what they do and why they do it. It was clear that our MA's are provided leadership opportunities when left in charge of planning and delivering large events such as our Joint Cabinets, youth council and youth conferences. The MA's were fantastic when responding to all questions offering lots of information and real life examples of their experience.

Soon after the visit took place some feedback was provided by the inspectors, overall, the feedback was positive however the Modern Apprenticeship programme was identified as 'practice worth sharing more widely' which we were delighted to receive. The full report was provided a couple of weeks later containing the following comments:

"The MA programme run by North Ayrshire CLD service has a significant impact on the young people who participate, the learners and communities they support as apprentices, and on the CLD service. Apprentices contribute to and run a wide range of CLD programmes across the local authority. They are key to the development of young people's empowerment and involvement in influencing decisions. They are instrumental in running the Joint Cabinets between young people and elected members. Young people on the programme gain a wide range of skills and gain confidence. Whilst the staff provide clear leadership and support to the apprentices, the apprentices themselves also influence the CLD service. The input from MAs is helping the service be innovative and remain responsive to learners' changing needs, especially for children and young people."

A case study has now being created for HMle to share this with other organisations and services. We will be recruiting our new intake of MAs in April 2024.



Kindness Mural Consultation

Working with the Bee You Ambassadors group, we had many discussions around what issues young people in their local communities and how they could use their training to benefit these young people. Through these discussions it was recognised that some work around suicide prevention had to be prioritised. Throughout North Ayrshire the statistics for youth suicides were particularly high throughout North Ayrshire. They felt a project highlighting this could give young people local signposting/ support services, would address the matter head on in a proactive way. The Kindness Mural Consultation has been collaboratively developed with Project Delivery Officer developed the project alongside the Bee You Ambassadors, Community Partners and Locality Staff.

From March 2023 to August 2023 the consultation was live and pushed via various channels of engagement methods as earlier mentioned. 521 people had completed the survey wither that be as an individual as a group with the findings/ priorities being:

Kilwinning Locality

The first kindness project is taking place in Kilwinning linking in the time capsule and tree planting project at Kilwinning Community Gardens. Working in partnership with Eglington Rangers Service, Kilwinning Community Gardens, Climate Change Ambassadors and Bee You Ambassadors.

Irvine Locality

Irvine Youth Forum in partnership with Greenwood Academy participated in the kindness mural project. Within this session young people looked at how environments can shape individuals and co designed a kindness mural for the Irvine Locality.

Garnock Valley Locality

Working in partnership with Garnock Valley Locality Team and Garnock Valley Youth Forum with the creation of a graffiti style mural with direct links to community mapping for mental health and wellbeing. Garnock Valley locality have carried out session around the creation if the Mural in the Garnock Valley as well as collaborating with the graffiti artist and Dalry Community Gardens. This will be showcased on the 1st of December. Below you can see their initial design:



Mental Health Toolkit Refresh



The Mental Health Toolkit was launched in North Ayrshire in 2017 created by NAC Youth Services, local MSYP Courtney Gemmell and national mental health organisations to support teachers, youth workers and young people to become more informed on mental health. generally. Project Delivery Officer hopes that by refreshing this resource it would challenge the stigma surrounding mental health within schools and the wider community. The original toolkit was split into three key areas: information, signposting and support. Interactive workshops Distraction tools. Project Delivery Officer lead on a consultation phase, planning and reshaping of new mental health toolkit which will be used within the local community.

Throughout the process Project delivery officer consulted and engaged with sample groups of young people in events and groups like the Joint Youth Forum, Youth Council , Primary 7's, Young Adult Carers, Equalities Forum, Garnock Valley Youth Forum, Bee You Ambassadors and Modern Apprentices as well as online consultation. This was done to gather views in the hope to refresh such a resource, updating the workshops, information, and signposting.

These focus groups identified that the toolkit is now outdated and as such needs to be refreshed. Through consultation with young people, we will create this through a youth led approach. Working collectively with the steering group information will be relevant and engaging to both partners using this toolkit to work with young people.

Next steps, is for an person meeting/ developmental day to look at a partnership approach with young people and professionals to identify and create content in December 2023. Professionals will be identified to work on specific content creation in relation to themes that will be covered.



Mini Ambassadors Programme – Bounce Back Peer Support Programme – St Lukes Primary



The Mini Ambassador programme focusses on mental health and wellbeing delivered by North Ayrshire Bee You Mental Health Ambassadors, delivering to primary 6/7 young people and becoming mini bee you ambassadors for their primary school. It ensures 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.

The 6 part programme focusses on these young people becoming Bee You Ambassadors for their primary school, 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 This programme has most recently been delivered to St Lukes Primary School in Kilwinning to a class of Primary 7 pupils. The programme allows the Bee You Ambassadors, who are all aged between 16 and 21, the chance to share the valuable information they have learned throughout their journey with these young people. The programme supported all 27 of the St Lukes pupils involved in learning these workshops with their own resilience through topics that they are currently experiencing within primary school. The Ambassadors all have completed Mental Health First Aid and/or the Mental Health UKs Your Resilience programme, in delivering what they have learned only reaffirms the learning that these young people have already had further increasing their resilience and confidence.

"This programme has opened up conversations we liked the play-doh lesson because it taught us resilience. When they came along and squished our play-doh we could have given up and stop trying but they taught us to try again." Age 11

"The Bounce Back Programme was delivered very effectively within St Luke's Primary School by Vicki and her team. The staff were friendly, considerate and quickly built relationships with all children. These relationships and the atmosphere they created within the classroom were core to the success of the programme. This allowed pupils to take charge of the learning experiences. Each week they covered an extremely important and essential area of mental, social and emotional health. The lessons were well structured to include a variety of activities and were also very well resourced. All children looked forward to the Bounce Back Programme each week and are keen to now permeate the knowledge and skills they have developed throughout the school as trained Well-being Ambassadors." Miss Ness



Your Resilience – Irvine Royal Academy



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.

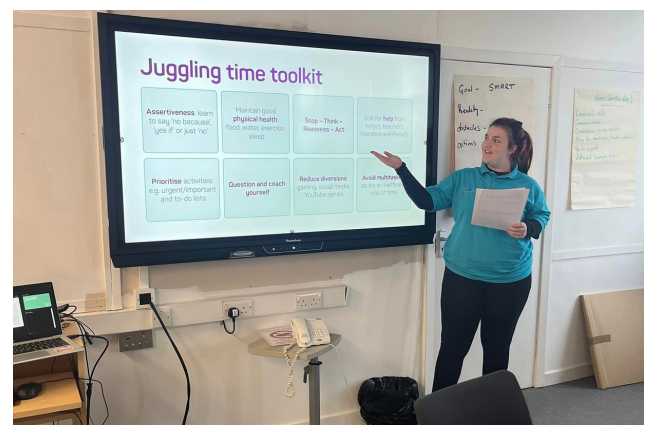
The programme is run weekly in Irvine Royal Academy with current 6th year pupils of a already established school mental health ambassador status. Sessions are 1–2-hours covering Resilience, Exam Pressure, Friendships/Decision Making, Social Pressures, Managing Studies and Juggling Time. Along with open 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.

At the end of the completed sessions and workbooks the young people have a opportunity to give feedback, they will then receive their certificate.

On completion the group have asked for a session to further brainstorm and information on how we can support their ideas moving forward as not only ambassadors for their school but ambassadors for their community. This session will be happening in the coming weeks with the hope of creating a lasting support and partnership for these senior pupils to further support the younger pupils of the school.

In learning and delivering this programme with the hope to reach as many young people as possible between the ages of 14–20 within North Ayrshire helping them increase their knowledge and tools to build resilience whilst promote the culture of open conversation about Mental Health.

"Thank you Vicki Andrew and her team for the work they are doing with some of our Irvine Royal Mental Health Ambassadors, the group are really enjoying the sessions and working with the Team" Mrs Marwick



Gaelic

Community Base Adult Learning Gaelic Provision

Thirteen weekly ongoing Gaelic language classes at various levels continue to be delivered face to face and virtually in North Ayrshire:

Level 3/4 - Irvine

Level 4 - Three Towns

Level 3/4 - Three Towns

Level 3/4 - Three Towns

Level 4/5 - Three Towns

2 x level 1/2 - Online

Level 2 - Online

3 x level 1 - Online

Level 3 - Online

Level 4 - Online

once a moth conversation (all levels) - Arran



As part of Adult Learners Week an Introduction to NAC Gaelic classes event was held in Arran Library on Sat 02 September with information for those interested in taking part in Gaelic classes across North Ayrshire. This resulted in increased numbers of learners wanting access to classes and new online classes having to be formed to meet demand.

Arran Geopark Landscape Walks

In partnership with Arran Access Trust two NAC Gaelic language students had recently qualified as Mountain Leaders and wanted to use their new skills to take people out on guided walks. They wanted to add to this by using the Gaelic they had to chat about place names. With degrees in geology they were already involved with Arran Geopark, and felt that a Gaelic landscape walk would be in keeping with Geopark themes around promoting and educating people about natural and cultural heritage. The walks cover various areas and terrains on Arran from a Gaelic perspective, looking at local history, geography, industry, place names and landscape.



Gaelic

Support to Gaelic Community groups/organisations

Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig held their AGM in November and have adopted an updated constitution that will allow them to continue their Gaelic journey with trips and events over the coming months being planned.

Largs Gaelic choir continue on their Gaelic journey where they competed in the national Mod in Paisley in October.

Fèis Arainn was one of this year's recipients of the Coop Community Fund, events delivered included fiddlers and other musicians performing both at the Coop and around the island shops as part of the Shop Arran weekend with associated press coverage, also the Trad band will be taking part in a Christmas concert on 21/12/23.

The Fèis Arainn Junior shinty club continues to grow and the club is now attracting good numbers of around 15 in weekly sessions with mainland tutor. In addition an inter-primary schools tournament was held in September and attracted 55 participants. And the club has also held a parent and carer taster session in October.

Fèis Arainn was approached by a new resident on the island, who participates regularly in the Mòd as a member of the Govan Gaelic choir, who is eager to establish an Arran Gaelic choir.

Fèis Arainn and North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development have supported this request which has resulted in a good deal of interest. A meeting was held on 3rd November to discuss future steps involved in forming a choir. First rehearsals began on 14/11/23 with a view to performing in a Christmas event.

Isle of Arran Music School continues with weekly provision for school aged children in clàrsach, pipes and drums.

The band participated in several national events and competitions as well as a local concert on Arran on 28/10/23. Two of the drummers took part in the World Solo Drumming Championships in Glasgow and two pipers in the Caledonian Festival of Junior Piping.

One clàrsach player won a silver medal in the recent Mòd in Paisley.



New Scots

The film making club

This is a peer led project for ages 15+ that benefited from funding from TACT. They met once a week in Ardrossan youth hut to write and create a film, they have filmed on location and are now editing their film at the Media Hub in West Kilbride. Young Ukrainians, Scots and Syrians have all been involved in acting and learning skills in filming, sound production and editing.

The film will be shown at the Harbour Arts Centre in January 2024.



Ocean Youth Trust

In October 6 young New Scots from North Ayrshire, Ukrainian and Syrian, had the opportunity to join with other New Scots from Argyll and Bute Council to undertake a voyage with the Ocean Youth Trust. They were also given a team building activity residential in Ardentinn. The team received a qualification for completing their voyage and can now volunteer with the OYT who will take them through their sailing levels.



New Scots

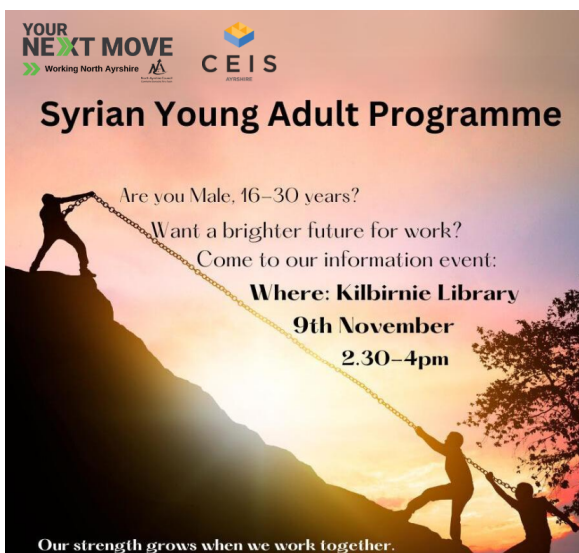
Judo club for New Scots with Loretta Doyle Judo Foundation

Judo lessons have progressed and are now offering weekly lessons in partnership with the foundation and Irvine Judo Club. Interest has been keen, with 34 children and 4 adults signing up.

All have been learning to speak Japanese within lessons(in the context of Judo). Learning the fundamental principles of judo : respect, courtesy, honesty, modesty, self-control, courage and honour.

All lessons, gradings, kit, insurances are provided free by the charity which enables attendance given families are low income and/or benefit based. Use of the local facility is developing more Community Presence within Irvine town.

There are plans a celebratory event after the grading in February.



The New Scots Team, in partnership with Employability and CEIS developed an Information session for a Young Male Syrian Adult Programme in the Garnock Valley.

The aim is to increase engagement and long term futures. The information event has taken place, attracting 6 young men who are embarking on a programme to enhance their training and skills with a view to further learning and employment in the future.



New Scots

New Scots Children's Sports club

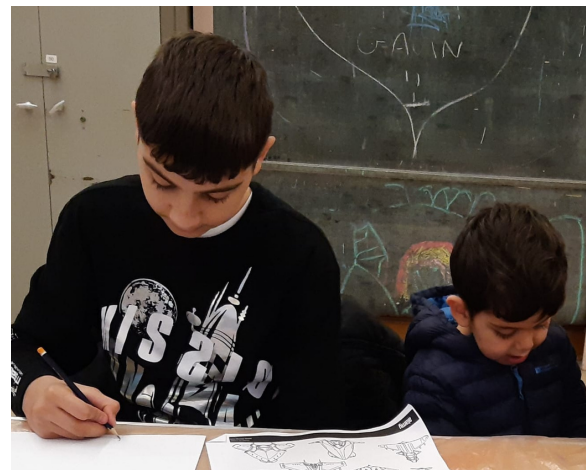
This is supported by Active schools and Young Sports leaders and runs once per week at Garnock Community Campus.

Most weeks, an average of 6-12 (from a group of 17) children attend. They continue to be introduced to a variety of sports and skills, which included: Archery, football, netball, team games, parachute games, boules and races. This offers the children varied physical activity and development of motor skills, promoting health and well-being. It is based locally to enhance accessibility, regular attendance and community presence. Children learn about team work, collaborative play and taking turns.

New Scots Art Club Garnock Valley

A local artist is running a 7 week art class in Bridgend Community Centre. This has developed from the Summer Art class to include a wider age range from 7 years plus, Mums can attend too!

A variety of mediums/styles are being used including pen and line drawing, colour mixing/shading, working with acrylics and watercolours, making jewellery, bags and pencil cases. Expression through these arts is enhancing mental well-being and improving skills. Developing friendships and confidence, continuing to increase English speaking skills.



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New Scots

Nova Scotias boys group

Members of the Nova Scotias boys group have returned to their weekly football at the Circuit after a summer break. 23 boys representing 7 nationalities have attended football since September. Meetings have been held with Street Soccer Scotland with plans to secure a sustainable future for the team.

Nova Scotias activities have also included 2 Boxing training sessions in Ardrossan in September to introduce boys to the mainstream provision there.

6 Nova Scotias Youth Club members enjoyed a trip to Largs Viking Festival to learn about the history of the area. Regular fortnightly youth club meetings at Irvine Legacy Youth Hub resume on a new time and day, fortnightly on Saturdays from November, where they take part in Youth Achievement awards and will soon complete their Bronze. Youth Club members will also volunteer at events for younger children with the aim to begin their Silver awards.

Gardening Construction group

This group meets weekly at the Three Towns Growers in Ardrossan. The group have built decking and are now completing the construction of a nature hide for the pond area of the community garden.

This group has been beneficial to our new Scots supporting them with resettlement and their conversational English.



Dress making group

This women's group meet twice a week in the Argyle centre in Saltcoats. Their aim is to make occasion dresses for their daughters. They learn how to use pattern, measure, cut and sew using a variety of materials. The group was organised with the help of volunteer Layan Yousef and is tutored by volunteer Mariam Aranoush, a Ukrainain New Scot of Nigerian nationality. It is attended by Ukrainain, Syrian and Afghan ladies.



New Scots

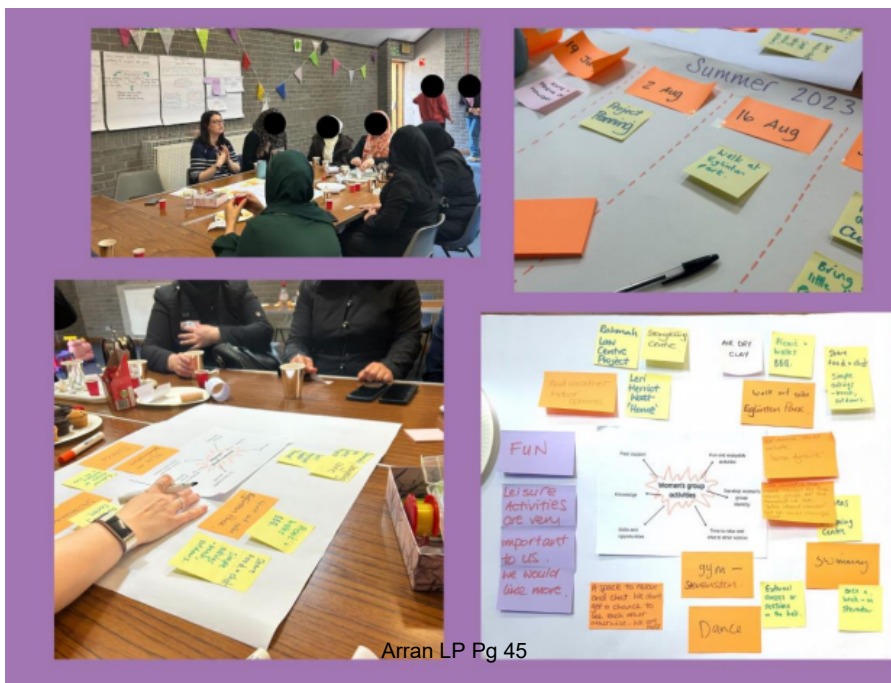
Spike Wheat Scots

Spike Wheat Scots recently hosted two community barbecues in Eglinton park park, one for men and one for women. Guests enjoyed Syrian food and the gatherings provided a warm and inviting space for individuals from diverse backgrounds, including Ukrainian and Scots, fostering a sense of community and connection



In collaboration with the North Ayrshire Carer's Centre, the group's drop-in sessions were attended by dedicated support workers, resulting in significant support for 11 families with caregiving responsibilities. Notably, these families were successful in securing much-needed funding

Their project with Outside the Box continues to develop with the group facilitating a session with KA Leisure to address the specific needs of BAME women focusing on supporting their participation in sports and community activities. The group also hosted New Scots from Clydebank at a session in Whitehurstpark community centre.



New Scots

Ukrainian Community in North Ayrshire Group

The Ukrainian group has initiated a Scottish culture and history club, cultivating cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. One notable experience was a captivating walking tour of Dalry, led by author John Hodgart, where the group delved into the intriguing history of Bessie Dunlop and Scotland's complex narrative surrounding "witches." This immersive exploration provided a unique lens into the rich cultural tapestry of Scotland. Additionally, the group further enriched their cultural journey with a tour of Kilwinning Abbey, conducted in collaboration with Kilwinning Heritage Centre. These diverse experiences not only contribute to language learning but also foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of Scottish heritage within the Ukrainian community, showcasing the positive impact of cultural initiatives.



Furthermore, in collaboration with John's Garnock Valley Traditional Music group, the group hosted a lively Scottish music night in Saltcoats. The event not only showcased the vibrant musical traditions but also marked the beginning of a promising partnership. Future plans include organising an event where members of the Ukrainian community will actively participate and play alongside the Garnock Valley Traditional Music group, further strengthening the cultural exchange and camaraderie between the two communities.



Arran LP Pg 46



New Scots

Bourtree Belles

The new weekly Bourtree Belles women's group based at Towerlands Community Centre has started very well. In total 14 women have attended including 9 New Scots. To date the group has decorated pots and planted herbs and has agreed a schedule of activities including sewing, candle making, tissue box decorating and other relaxing social activities. The group also gives women a welcome chance to chat about their lives and any issues facing them. The group has also agreed forthcoming trips to charity shops for sewing materials, to Kilwinning College Hair and Beauty for hair cuts, and Dalgarnen Mill.

In October half term the women elected to have a family activity and a drum and music workshop by Gruvi Beatz attracted 7 New Scots families with 22 children.

Unity Community Group

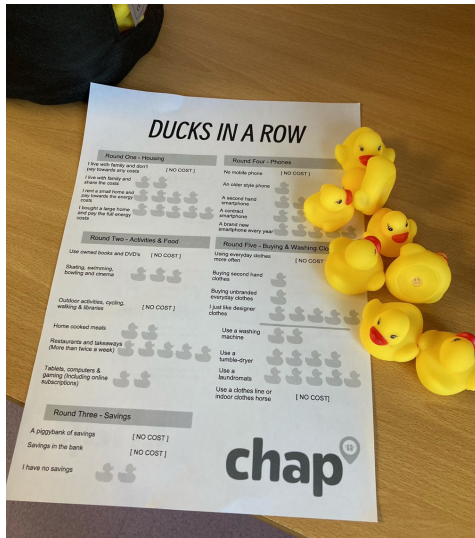
In September the new Unity Community group started in partnership with Kilwinning Locality Team at Nethermain Centre, and over 5 pilot weeks attracted 12 people including Scots and New Scots from Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan. The group aims to facilitate community sharing and understanding of different cultures and focused each week on cultural topics agreed by the group, with participants encouraged to bring items and information to discuss.



The Multiply Project

The Multiply team have been promoting and our project across various partnership events including the No-one Left Behind Conference in Irvine.

Our staff attend the weekly Take Time Families group at Kilwinning Library to offer support to parents/carers - the group runs from 3:30-4:45 every Wednesday afternoon.



They have been working with CHAP to support delivery to primary 7 parents' which introduces young people to the world of everyday finance and budgeting. The 'Ducks in a Row' exercise gives young people a fun insight into the cost of adult life - running a home, paying bills etc. This game aims to make young people more aware of the issues surrounding finances. This promotes family learning as well as breaking down potential barriers to parents/carers accessing our numeracy/literacy supports.

In October and November the Multiply team have been working with our colleagues in Connected Communities on the recruitment and training of volunteers for our adult learning projects. We have hosted a recruitment event in Saltcoats Town Hall and in Irvine Bridgegate and currently planning another similar event at Ayrshire College at the start of 2024.



Our weekly numeracy group at Trindlemoss Day Centre is attended by between 6-8 adult learners with Additional Support Needs. During our sessions we develop skills in numeracy, cash handling, general confidence with numbers.

Through playing games like darts and cards we are able to introduce numbers and numeracy in a fun and engaging style. As the learners progress we hope to offer SQA approved units in order to give the learners certification and tangible outcomes for their learning.



The Multiply team were tasked with creating, planning, and facilitating a training day for the full Community Learning and Development service on October 27th. The emphasis was on fun, inclusivity, and enjoyment but also to present and demonstrate the innovative numeracy resources and sessions that could be delivered to any group.

Multiply most recently attended The Mount launch event in Townend, Dregthorn to offer adult learners numeracy support and meet with partners across the service and beyond.

we can offer support for numeracy in groups or 1:1 support - which offer help with:

- everyday maths,
- homework,
- qualifications,
- finances
- budgeting

If you would like to refer anyone our referral process is quick and simple and can be accessed by emailing:
multiplyinfo@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Participatory Budgeting

Current PB updates:

- In this round of PB, the funding is split into three different categories – Youth PB, Locality PB and funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with a sum of £198,377 overall
- Locality & UKSPF results will be announced on Monday 20th November.

Participatory Budgeting



Participatory Budgeting 23/24

Community empowerment is key to PB and through engagement with local groups and residents we will continue to improve the PB process.

Some key points:

Following the end of the 2022/23 PB process, a review was undertaken, which included collating the feedback gathered from a range of stakeholders while the round was live, and hosting an online Community Engagement Event for previous steering group members to help shape the 2023 round.

- Three topics were taken to the engagement session for discussion:
 - Criteria
 - Themes
 - Launch events

There were some great suggestions from the participants about the potential to use the events to do more than just 'PB'. Some ideas included promoting the event as a networking opportunity; opening the event to local businesses; bringing in local services who could provide wraparound support to the kinds of groups attending; and creating space for promotion of existing groups and projects and the opportunities to get involved.



ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



- Co-production of the event with our stakeholders meant, we were able to produce an event that people actually wanted
- Pre launch events were held across 6 localities during August and September - each event allowed us to have 1:1 discussions with attendees and digital support for our online platform, this was also an opportunity for prospective applicants to ask questions about their projects and get advice and guidance from staff, as well as network with other local organisations who might be potential UK Shared Prosperity Fund partners.
- Our digital platform hosting PB has allowed us to keep the process centralised and has been an interactive space where applicants could upload written or video applications and promote their projects with those viewing/voting able to comment and support what is going on in their localities. From a total of 238 applications, only 3 were submitted using the paper form option.
- PB continues to be a hybrid process and we have had great support from our library team to enable people to apply and vote in person and in addition PB champions across the localities have been a continued support to the groups they work with.

Results are in!

We are excited to announce that 101 community groups and local organisations have been successful in their bids for the most recent round of PB. The allocated funding will be shared between projects throughout all of the six North Ayrshire localities and these broadly cover the themes of: improving local life and wellbeing, helping residents during the Cost-of-Living crisis, connecting people in local communities, promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, tackling climate change and promoting healthy and active communities. These projects are set to make a real difference for everyone involved!



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Participatory Budgeting: Launch Events



Let's hear from one of our successful PB applicants...



ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Community Asset Transfer

We will support our community groups in their ambitions to own and lease assets via our Community Asset Transfer Policy.

The Community Asset team continues to work alongside TACT's Community Asset Transfer Development Worker, who provides assistance and support to community groups exploring or looking for advice on taking on an asset within their communities. Some of the support provided includes governance; pros and cons of asset transfer; liaising with DTAS on particular issues such as what it means for a group who are interested in an asset within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) amongst many other

The Community Asset Team have been ensuring that all paperwork that is uploaded to the website is accessible for all and we continue to work on improving the asset transfer process.

Current CATs over 6 localities at different stages from initial enquiry to final stage:

Arran

Brodick Bowling Club

Three Towns

Three Towns Mens Shed - Ardeer Park changing rooms (cabinet approval and final stage) - Whitlees Community Centre

Kilwinning

Blacklands Hall

Irvine

Maress Road - Maress Playing fields - Initial expression of interest for - Oasis Youth and Community Centre, Broomlands Gate and Irvine Slipway

Garnock Valley

Dalry Public Park Sports Pavilion, brick built and dis-used Pavilion (old pavilion adjacent to swing park and old tennis courts) - Knox Institute - The Shed, Ladysmith Road - Meadowside (Beith Astro) Football park

North Coast

Douglas Park tennis courts - Douglas Park Nursery - Cairnies Quay - Bowencraigs Playing fields (final stages) - Brisbane Centre - Simson/ Craufurd Avenue Swing Park.



Community Leadership

Our innovative Leadership Collective, will deliver capacity and learning opportunities built on the expressed needs of our communities. We will support our environmental capacity projects such as tree planting, coastal care and our growers programmes.

Our community development team along with our partners from TACT, Green Health Partnership, HSCP and Ayrshire College, have supported over 200 adults to develop their knowledge and skills through opportunities offered via our 'Leadership Collective'. This includes; Naloxone training, committee skills training, REHIS, First aid, Mental Health first aid, trauma awareness training, bike maintenance skills, Canny cooker training, funding fares and funding workshops



Food Insecurities

The Fairer Food Network

Currently 14 food larders across North Ayrshire supporting over 3000 households with a dignified food provision.

The fourth quarterly payment has been made to all larders under the revised funding model. Weekly footfall will be monitored and reported on quarterly, and that figure will dictate the payment for the next quarter. Larders with up to 30 households per week will receive £1000 per quarter. There after, it will be a cost per head calculation of the remaining funding pot. This model will be reviewed at the December meeting after 2 payments have been received.

The quarterly NAFF meeting was held on 11 September in Fullarton Hub and was chaired by Donna Fitzpatrick. The group heard from The 1st Alliance Credit Union and NHS Dietetics. EW has recipe sheets from dietetics to copy and distribute to the larders.

There has been ongoing support and visits to the larders and a members survey is currently underway.



- The Tap End Larder, Stevenston was supported to arrange for quotes for wifi and digital support and an application was submitted to the Digital Access Fund which has been approved and is subject to two committee members attending cyber security training. Dawn Hogg, the Anti Poverty Development Manager has taken up post with the association. She has negotiated a longer working week with a shorter contract to make it financially viable. Due to the lack of wifi in the building, arrangements have been made for her to be based within St Johns some of the time.
- Cranberry Moss is currently in a challenging financial situation at present and suggestions were offered to reduce the basket value and decrease the gap between funding and basket value in the larder.
- Ardrossan South has been having a challenging time with a particular member who has since been barred. The larder does not feel it can support members who choose to spend the "savings" on drugs, alcohol or foreign holidays. This will be added to the November agenda of the network meeting.
- The 'Side Larder, Springside, has received a community benefit donation from McConnechie's of approx £270 of food.



Food Insecurities

Events

Beith Preparing for Winter Event in the Community Centre on 29 September. Engagement with approx 50 people. The stall distributed approx. 70 packs of tomatoes to local residents along with information on food larders, money matters and energy support.

3 Towns Over 50's information event in Ardeer Community Centre on 19 October. Engagement with approx. 20 people. Recipe cards for celery soup were distributed along with packs of celery. A love it or hate it item.

Information on food larders, money matters and energy support was also provided.



Sustainable Food Places

Ongoing participation in Sustainable Food Places discussions between North Ayrshire, Ecosavvy and Nourish to identify a route forward for a project in North Ayrshire and the impact of the Good Food Nation Act coming into play this year.

North Ayrshire Food Forum

The North Ayrshire Food Forum had its second meeting on 9 October. The members heard from Arran on the very successful Food and Drink Festival. The Teams Channel is now established and work is underway to develop a terms of reference for the group.

Training

The current offer is for Mental Health Awareness – A Practical Approach and an in person session is scheduled for Nov.

The outstanding Naloxone Kits have now been received and will be distributed the individuals who attended the training back in April 23.

Other news...

Friends of Redburn Community Group received £2500 support from the Fairer Food Fund. This fund will be used to purchase equipment for the kitchen to allow for development of the lunch clubs, and food for the St Andrews Day Event in November 23.

Challenge Poverty Week focussed on food on 9 October and the Friends of Redburn invited over 70 of the elected members, chief officers and other officials. On the day, 20 people attended and as well as getting lunch, they heard about the work that is ongoing across the authority to support people with food. The event was supported by young people from two secondary schools who provided first class waiter service. The group received food from the “customers” as well as £188 in cash donations.



The Older Peoples Voice & Engagement Hubs

Older People's Voice Network

Your Voice. Your Agenda. You Decide!



The Older Peoples Voice Conference

Consultations regarding current platforms and issues facing older people completed in NC, 3towns, Irvine, and GV (5 consultations) and findings broken down and summarised.

Mapping completed of current provision; findings submitted to locality teams for feedback.

Steps forward are taking place in relation to older people's voices being heard through a participation and engagement structure by holding an older peoples conference on November 22nd at Saltcoats Townhall where older people will have the opportunity to feedback on the structure presented.

Transport will be in place with the aim to get as many people from each locality in attendance as possible.

The conference will also provide education around scams, intergenerational work, older peoples stories of trying to get their voices heard, lunch, and a raffle and marketing stalls where older people can talk directly to services which are there for their support.



The Older Peoples Voice & Engagement Hubs



Engagement Hubs

The engagement hubs aim to provide a needs-based programme of activities which were set out by initial consultations with residents and community members.

The provision is aimed at decreasing social isolation as well as improve physical and mental health.

At present there are 28 activities running across 4 hubs weekly featuring:

Chair exercise classes, chair dance classes, bingo, quizzes, tai chi, MS support groups, seniors forums, mental wellness support groups, Community Councils, entertainment committees, digital support groups, lunch clubs, live entertainment, trips, ESOL groups, over 50s discovery award groups, coffee mornings, football reminiscence groups, tea and a blether sessions and sewing groups.





Engagement Hub Committees

Four of the Hubs committees in Dalry, Irvine, Three Towns and Garnock Valley have received support to apply for PB funding and one committee to apply for further funding from the Robertson Trust's Wee Grants Scheme. Further support has been provided to bridge the digital gap in terms of voting.

Yes Your Entire Self

Wellness Wednesday is run weekly at Cumbræ Gardens Community Engagement Hub in Largs. The day started off slow but has steadily built numbers. The group has developed to the point they now have a waiting list seeing as much as 30 people taking part each week.



The group continues to receive positive engagement and has been arranging trips which as a result have saw many socially isolated people getting out of their homes and making new friends.



Networking and Funding

LPP Grant Awards

A total of **£76,885** was awarded by the Locality Planning Partnerships from August to October 2023.

External Funding Levered In

A total of **£522,114** external funding has been levered in by third sector organisations from August to October 2023.



Funding Support and Advice to Community Groups & Colleagues

- **2** funding workshops and drop-in sessions were delivered from August to October 2023.
- **8** funding updates circulated to community organisations and colleagues from August to October 2023.
- **712** members have now joined North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre
- **257** log-ins to Grantfinder and **668** searches carried out for the period August to October 2023,

Community Benefits Wish List

9 wishes have been delivered this quarter, bringing the total in 2023 to 37 wishes delivered since January this year. A total of 79 wishes have been delivered through the Community Benefits Wish List since it launched in October 2021.

Wishes delivered this quarter:

- MP Clean Energy Services Ltd - Donation of £500 to Eglinton allotments - Sept
- Sanctus Ltd - Donation of £1000 to pay for carpetting and a further donation of £500 to offset cost of energy bills in Millport Town Hall - Oct
- Redpath Construction - Financial donation of £800 to Kilwinning under 10 girls football team - Sept
- Carruthers - Financial donation of £100 to Hayocks ESR Base - Nov
- Emtec Group - Survey of roof damage for Corsehill Community Association - Nov
- Emtec Group has made a financial donation to the Tandem cycling club - Nov
- Stannah Lift Services Ltd - Donation of selection boxes to Friends of Redburn - Oct
- W Munro (Rehab) Ltd - Financial donation to Largs Colts football team - Oct

More information is provided in the bumper Christmas edition of the community benefits newsletter which will be available soon.

