



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Irvine Locality Partnership

**Monday 4 March 2024, 6.00 p.m. at Fullarton Community Hub.**

### BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.</b>	-	-	Cllr Macaulay	
2.	<b>Action Note</b> Review the action notes from 4 December 2023 and 15 January 2024 and action log and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 5	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meetings. Have all actions been completed?
<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>					<b>6.10 – 7.00 pm</b>
3.	<b>Community Investment Fund</b> The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one Expressions of Interest.  <b>Expression of Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Irvine Cricket Club</li> </ul>	Pg 15	Enclosed	Derek Neil	LP to consider one Expression of Interest.
4.	<b>Street Naming</b> The Locality Partnership are asked to consider a Street Naming report from Planning.	Pg 18	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to approve one street name for new housing development.
<b>LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES</b>					<b>7.00 – 7.55 pm</b>
5.	<b>Children 1<sup>st</sup></b> The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the impact of CIF Funding.	-	Verbal	Leana Grant	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
6.	<b>Locality Plan Progress</b> Receive update from Locality Officer	-	Verbal	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
7.	<b>Youth and Education Overview</b> The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers  Fraser Lennox	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	<b>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships</b>	Pg 21	Enclosed	David Cameron	Receive update and consider learning and

	The Locality Partnership will receive update on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue in Irvine.	-	Verbal	Paul Timmons	partnership opportunities.
9.	<b>KA Leisure</b> The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	John McMillan	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
10.	<b>Irvine Community Council</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an update from the Chair of Irvine Community Council on the work of the Community Council during the last quarter.	-	Verbal	Chris Pless	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
11.	<b>Locality Officer Update</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Irvine Locality Team during the last quarter.	Pg 25	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
<b>AOCB</b>					<b>7.55 – 8.00 pm</b>
12.	<b>AOCB</b>	-		Cllr Macaulay	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
<b>REPORTS FOR INFORMATION</b>					
	CLD Strategic Quarterly Update	Pg 52	Enclosed	Cllr Macaulay	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

## Distribution List

## **Elected Members**

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

## **Community Representative**

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

## **CPP/Council Representatives**

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

## **Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities**

**Supporting  
Skills and  
Work  
Opportunities**

**Enhancing our  
Mental Health  
and Wellbeing**

**Alleviating  
Poverty**

**Championing  
Green Health  
and the Natural  
Environment**



<b>Irvine Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund</b>	
<b>The Irvine Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:</b>	<b>£1,624,000</b>
<b>Funded Projects</b>	<b>Total Funding Awarded</b>
Irvine Digital Officer	£84,604*
Vineburgh & Fullarton Community Enablers	£100,000
Irvine New Town Mens Shed	£10,000
Irvine Harbourside Mens Shed	£10,000
Irvine Youth Hub	£100,000
Irvine Tennis Club	£100,000
INPUT	£60,000
Children's 1st	£97,580
CHAP	£91,534
BABCA Community Garden	£12,777
Fullarton Outdoor Gym	£100,000
Turning Point - Pathways to Progress	£96,112
<b>Remaining CIF Balance</b>	<b>£765,142</b>

\* Due to postholder leaving post early, £3,749 underspend was added back in to the overall CIF pot for Irvine.

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Irvine Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	4 December 2023 at Fullarton Connexions, Irvine at 6.00 p.m.
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Shaun Macaulay (Chair) Councillor Marie Burns Councillor Chloé Robertson Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Barbara Conner, TACT Donna Fitzpatrick, Community Representative Irene McIlwain, Community Representative David Phillips, Community Representative Ian Wallace, Community Representative Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Heather Fraser, NHS Public Health John McMillan, KA Leisure Fraser Lennox, Ayrshire College Melanie Anderson, Senior Manager, NAC
<b>In Attendance</b>	Chris McKenna, Irvine Tennis Club Linzie Sloan, Head Teacher, Irvine Royal Academy Rachel Reid, Acting Head Teacher, Woodlands Primary Karen Good, BABCA (CIF application) Janette Schill, BABCA (CIF application)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Nairn McDonald Councillor Louise McPhater Councillor Angela Stephen David Dunlop, Community Council Representative Marjory Dickie, Community Representative Annie Small, Community Representative (Vice- Chair) Paul Blackwood, Senior Lead Officer

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.</p> <p>Irene McIlwain and Donna Fitzpatrick declared an interest in relation to the CIF applications by BABCA and Fullarton Community Association, respectively, and agreed to leave the room when the respective applications were considered.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Action Note and Log</b></p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 5 June 2023 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.</p> <p>The Chair then agreed to vary the order of business to allow the update by a representative of Irvine Tennis Club (Agenda Item 5) to be presented next.</p>	

<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Irvine Tennis Club</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Chris McKenna on the positive impact of CIF funding on the Irvine Tennis Regeneration Project.</p> <p>Mr McKenna thanked the Partnership for its support and referred an update report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. He then gave a short verbal update which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provided a brief background on the project and gave an update on the current position with the works;</li> <li>• explained how funding from a variety of sources, including the Community Investment Fund, had been utilised to date;</li> <li>• referred to for addressing a small funding shortfall; and</li> <li>• set out plans for the expanding the use of the facility in the future.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership asked questions and provided positive feedback on the project.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Mr McKenna left the meeting at this point.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Community Investment Fund</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer with details of Community Investment Fund Applications and Expressions of Interest as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BABCA Community Garden – Full Application</b></li> </ul> <p>BABCA have applied for funding support in the amount of £12,777 to develop a community/memorial Garden to grow fruit and vegetables.</p> <p>Representatives from Broomlands and Bourtreehill Community Association (BABCA) provided further information on the application and circulated a plan of the site, an indication of the layout of the proposed garden and the outcome of a community survey.</p> <p>The Partnership requested, and received, further information on the project.</p> <p>The representatives of BABCA then left the meeting, returning to hear the Partnership's decision.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that the proposal proceed to the North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fullarton Green Gym and Community Project – Full Application</b></li> </ul> <p>Fullarton Community Association have applied for funding support in the amount of £100,000 towards two projects.</p>	<p><i>Lesley Forsyth</i></p>



	<p>Discussion also took place on the timescales for processing applications, from an original expression of interest, to a CIF application considered first by the Partnership and then by the Council's Cabinet. The Chair sought agreed for a Special Meeting of the Partnership to take place in January 2024, to allow early consideration of CIF applications in advance of the January 2024 meeting of the Council's Cabinet.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed (a) to support the proposal proceeding to a full application; (b) to note that a Special Meeting of the Partnership would be scheduled to take place in early January 2024, to allow consideration of completed CIF applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Micah Project - Expression of Interest</b></li> </ul> <p>An expression of interest by the Micah Project for funding support in the amount of £50,000.</p> <p>The Locality Officer provided further information on the project and responded to questions.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed (a) to support the proposal proceeding to a full application; (b) to note that a Special Meeting of the Partnership would be scheduled to take place in early January 2024, to allow consideration of completed CIF applications.</p>	<p><b>(a) Elaine Baxter</b> <b>(b) Jennifer McGee</b></p> <p><b>(a) Elaine Baxter</b> <b>(b) Jennifer McGee</b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Street Naming Report</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a report from North Ayrshire Council Planning Department on a street name for a residential development on a site at Perceton, Irvine.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to name the street Redwood Gardens.</p>	<p><b>Lisa Dempster</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Ayrshire College</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Fraser Lennox on work being done with partners to deliver accredited activities within communities.</p> <p>Discussion took place on the types of course which may be of interest, including the PC Passport and Mental Health and Wellbeing and involving community organisations and schools in gauging interest/raising awareness.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that the Locality Officer facilitate a meeting(s) between Ayrshire College, community representatives and other partners, including schools, to discuss potential courses and activities.</p>	<p><b>Elaine Baxter</b></p>



7.	<p><b>Locality Action Plan 2023/24</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update on the Draft Locality Action Plan 2023/2024.</p> <p>The Lead Officer provided information on the context and rationale for the Action Plan; how the proposed schedule of actions related to the Partnership’s Poverty Action Plan; and how it would operate as a dynamic document.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed to (a) approve the Locality Action Plan 2023/24; and (b) note that a 2024/25 Plan would be prepared and presented in due course.</p>	<b>Lesley Forsyth</b>
8.	<p><b>Youth and Education Overview</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Irvine Youth Forum, which linked in with Locality priorities.</p> <p>The verbal update by the Head Teacher of Irvine Royal Academy provided information on a number of initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adult learning work;</li> <li>• the newly formed Parent Support Group and other support mechanisms, including ‘conversation cafes’;</li> <li>• parental volunteering within school;</li> <li>• a Christmas coffee morning for grandparents, organised by Senior Prefects;</li> <li>• the parent and carer prize-giving event which would take place alongside the pupil prize-giving;</li> <li>• the forthcoming Christmas event aimed at the whole family;</li> <li>• the new Irvine Wellness Model being launched to provide timely support for young people’s mental health and wellbeing and which involved work with GPs and the Council’s Named Person team; and</li> <li>• work with the Campus Police to tackle community litter.</li> </ul> <p>Noted.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnership</b></p> <p>In the absence of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service representative, the Partnership received an update from Police Scotland only on the wellbeing and partnership work being carried out in the Locality area.</p> <p>Inspector Cameron highlighted a number of matters including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support for the 16 Days of Action against gender-based violence;</li> <li>• attendance by the Preventions and Interventions Officer at a “Secure by Design” products event;</li> <li>• a recent Test Purchase evening of action across Irvine’s off-sales stores;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the success of the Police Scotland Work Experience programme;</li> <li>• delivery of “New Driver” training to the Council’s Modern Apprentices;</li> <li>• the work of the Wellbeing Unit in helping to reduce by 25% the number of children being reported missing from care home settings compared with the same period last year;</li> <li>• the seizure of illicit vape and loose tobacco products;</li> <li>• the completion of Applied Suicide Intervention and mental health first aid training by officers from the Wellbeing Unit; and</li> <li>• attendance at all “Keep Safe Scotland” premises across Irvine.</li> </ul> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<p><b>KA Leisure</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from John McMillan, who had recently been tasked with supporting the Irvine area and would be working with the Health and Wellbeing Alliance to help people access services and activities, identify gaps in provision and apply for funding.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Irvine Community Council</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from the Vice-Chair of Irvine Community Council on the work of the Community Council during the last quarter, including an update on the recent Yuletide Event and learning which would be taken forward for the future.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>Locality Officer Update</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a report by the Community Development Worker on the work which had been undertaken in the Locality since the last meeting.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b>13.1 Drop-Kerbs</b></p> <p>David Phillips, Vice-Chair of Irvine Community Council, advised that he had been in contact with the Council’s Head of Service (Housing and Public Protection) (Place) to get involved in work around ensuring adequate drop-kerb provision, particularly on new estates.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

13.2	<p><b>No-One Left Behind</b></p> <p>Barbara Conner of TACT provided information on the launch of the No-One Left Behind employability skills initiative and invited partners and community representatives to signpost people to this.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Reports for Information</b></p> <p><b>Quarterly Community Learning and Development Report</b></p> <p>The Partnership received report on the youth work across the area which linked into the North Ayrshire Locality priorities.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
15.	<p><b>Chair's Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>The Chair offered his best wishes to all for the festive season.</p>	

The Meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Irvine Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	15 January 2024 via Microsoft Teams at 6.00 p.m.
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor Shaun Macaulay (Chair) Councillor Marie Burns Councillor Chloe Robertson Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Nairn McDonald Councillor Louise McPhater Councillor Matthew McLean Councillor Robert Foster Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Annie Small, Community Representative (Vice- Chair) Chris Pless, Community Representative Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Lesley Dunlop, Community & Locality Planning Assistant
<b>In Attendance</b>	Louise Kirk, Senior Manager, NAC Claire Fitzsimmons, Senior Manager, NAC Helen Hogg, Micah Project (CIF application) Karen Kordakis, Micah Project (CIF application)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillor Angela Stephen Barbara Conner, TACT Stephen Fraser, Active Schools Co-ordinator Linzie Sloan, Head Teacher, Irvine Royal Academy Irene McIlwain, Community Representative Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland David Phillips, Community Representative

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.</p> <p>No declarations of interest were made.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Community Investment Fund</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer with details of two Community Investment Fund Full Applications as follows:</p> <p><b>Locality Priorities Development Worker – Full Application</b></p> <p>Irvine Locality Partnership applied for funding support in the amount of £99,648 for a Locality Priorities Development to support the Locality Partnership and the Locality Officer to achieve the work of the Locality Action Plan</p> <p>The Locality Officer provided further information on the project and the following questions raised:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The costs are relating to the employment of a grade 9 post in the salary scale.</li> <li>• This would be a new post and would to be advertised and go through the NAC recruitment process.</li> <li>• Clarified that the post is for the Locality Partnership and not North Ayrshire Council. As the Locality Partnership cannot employ staff, the post would be based in the Locality Officer's team but carrying out work for the priorities of the Locality Partnership. The Locality Officer highlighted that there were 52 suggestions of projects received from the Chit Chats that need to be taken forward and this post will enable the work to be undertaken. Similar posts have been approved in other Locality Partnerships.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership discussed the application and as there was no consensus it was taken to a vote. The result of the vote is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes – 4</li> <li>• No – 5</li> <li>• Abstain – 1</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership did not approve the application.</p> <p><b>Micah Project – Full Application</b></p> <p>The Micah Project applied for funding support in the amount of £50,000 for their N2U Irvine project.</p> <p>A representative of the Micah Project provided further information on the application and responded to questions.</p> <p>The representative of the Micah Project then left the meeting, returning to hear the Partnership's decision.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that the proposal proceed to the North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet for approval.</p>	<p><b>Lesley Forsyth/Elaine Baxter</b></p> <p><b>Lesley Forsyth</b></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Irvine Long Term Plan for Towns</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Louise Kirk and Claire Fitzsimmons on the Long Term Plan for Towns.</p> <p>L Kirk advised the Locality Partnership that the UK Government announced the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund in September 2023 which is part of the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund. It involves 55 towns across the UK, seven in Scotland – including Irvine. £20 million funding has been allocated over ten years to support the plan's delivery. It is about placing local people at the heart of the decision-making process and regenerating the town.</p> <p>C Fitzsimmons shared a presentation with the partnership which included:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection criteria based on Levelling Up Needs Matrix – including metrics relating to skills, pay, productivity, health and deprivation.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Town Board including broad representation across the community, local business, social enterprise, local authority and public sector interests to oversee the development and delivery of the Long-Term Plan.</li> <li>• The Local Authority will be the accountable body for funding and executing plans.</li> <li>• Town Board will be responsible for developing the Long-Term Plan, working closely and engaging with local people.</li> <li>• Town Board to be established by 1 April 2024.</li> <li>• Long Term Plans to be developed April – August.</li> <li>• Town Board to submit Long Term Plans by 1 August 2024.</li> </ul> <p>The Guidance recommends that the Town Board builds on existing local arrangements. The proposal therefore is that the Town Board is a sub-group of the Irvine Locality Partnership. We would like to write to every member of the Partnership to ask for volunteers for the Town Board.</p> <p>Questions were asked in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Membership of the Town Board. Irvine has a number of Councillors who represent 3 groups. Would we be able to have three Councillors on the Board. The team are working with the Scottish Government and the question has been asked as the current UK guidance states only two Councillors. Feedback will be provided when an update has been received.</li> <li>• Would the Chair be found via an open call; can Locality Members nominate? The team are happy to receive nominations. Once they write to the whole Locality Partnership and get the initial group together, they will decide on the Chair.</li> <li>• It would be good if the principle of Elected Members not outnumbering community representatives could be maintained on the Town Board.</li> <li>• If the subgroup is part of the Locality Partnership would the Chair be co-opted on as part of the Standing Orders? No as we are co-opting people on to a subgroup.</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership agreed to (a) the Town Board being a subgroup of the Locality partnership and (b) writing to the Locality Partnership for volunteers to become members of the Town Board.</p>	<p><b><i>Louise Kirk/Claire Fitzsimmons</i></b></p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>No business was discussed.</p>	

The Meeting ended at 7.28 p.m.



## Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

*Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.*

<b>Organisation name</b>	Irvine Cricket Club
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<b>Brief details of organisation</b>	<p>Irvine Cricket Club promote the sport of cricket to everyone within North Ayrshire. Our club was formed in 1836 and we are looking forward to celebrating 200 years in not too many years ahead. We have 3 adult teams but our goal and structure for the past 8 years has been to grow our youth section and provide cricket to boys and girls through our workings with KA Leisure and the North Ayrshire schools. We run after school classes and take PE classes during school activities. We run 3 junior teams as Under 12 and Under 16 age groups. The schools bring the kids to our ground as part of activity days and to take part in school's competitions. We need these kids to help secure the clubs future. We are the only remaining cricket club in North Ayrshire and have a duty to protect the sport. We bring across overseas players to assist with our youth programme and we already have 6 kids on a pathway to regional and hopefully Scotland representation in years to come. We are here to give the youth a chance to grow as individuals, become healthier and become more confident individuals and form new relationships with kids their own age and form lifelong bonds and friendships.</p>
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<b>Locality</b>	Irvine
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<b>Amount Requested</b>	£48,000 (£40k plus VAT)
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<b>Timescale</b>	It would be ideal to have this facility in place for the kids and schools to use during part of the summer onwards. The kids season starts May and runs to September.
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<b>Brief Overview of Proposal</b>	We are looking to install a permanent 2 bay outdoor fully secured cricket facility where kids can train and practice. Currently we use the grass which is very much weather dependant. We are also limited to training a smaller number of kids at any time, which is not ideal that you want as many kids training when they decide they have time. With the grass facility we currently use if any adult games are on, the kids practice must be cancelled and rearranged which again is not ideal when you want kids to get into a routine. With it being secured kids can train on any given day or evening in a safe environment. This facility will be used 9 months of the year and be the most important asset at our club, allowing continual school work, a permanent location for kids activities and training and we hope allow District and Regional Scotland Matches to come to Irvine.
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<b>Timescale</b>	Ideally starting May/June 2024
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<b>Contact Details</b>	Derek Neil
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**The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:**

- Connect with:
  - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
  - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
  - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;



- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

### When to apply and how?

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



**Locality Partnership:** *Irvine Locality Partnership*

**Date:** *4<sup>th</sup> March 2024*

**Subject:** *Residential Development at Former Stanecastle School Site, Girdle Toll, Irvine*

**Purpose:** *Decide 1 street name for the new development.*

### **Background**

*Housing Services, North Ayrshire Council has contacted Planning Services requesting a new street name for the development of 28 houses on the site of the former Stanecastle School, located off Burns Crescent in Girdle Toll. 21 houses would be within a new street. The remaining 7 houses would face onto Burns Crescent and would be numbered as part of the existing street.*

*The Council has a statutory obligation under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to give a name to each new street built within the Council area, and this name, along with street numbers, becomes the postal addresses.*

*An outline plan of the development is available as an appendix.*

*The development requires 1 new street name.*

### **Key Points for Locality Partnership**

*A proposed street naming and numbering plan is available along with a list of proposed name suggestions.*

### **Action Required by Locality Partnership**

*Choose 1 new street name for the development.*

**For more information please contact:** *Lisa Dempster or Kirsty Gee, Planning Technicians, 01294 324319, [snn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:snn@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

**Completed by:** *Lisa Dempster and Kirsty Gee*

**Date:** *21st February 2024*

# Appendix 1

<b>Street Name Suggestions</b>	<b>Background</b>
John McCabe Place	John McCabe was an assistant foreman at the Royal Ordnance Factory in Irvine. On 31 <sup>st</sup> May 1940 John was awarded the Empire Gallantry Medal which was replaced by the George Cross, which is the civilian equivalent of the Victoria Cross.
John Ferguson Wynd	John Ferguson (1787-1856) was an Irvine millionaire who bequeathed money for the relief of the poor in Irvine and established the Ferguson Bequest fund which is still in existence 168 years after his death. There is a room named after John Ferguson in the Irvine Townhouse, and there is a bust of him on display.
Louis Braille Gardens	The Royal National Institute for the Blind Scotland has contacted the Council to request that Louis Braille is commemorated in a street name within the locality. It is 200 years since the visually impaired French educator Louis Braille developed the code at the age of 15 using a combination of six raised dots arranged in a 3 x 2 matrix. Today there are braille codes for over 133 languages. RNIB Scotland state that "Braille continues to be a crucial tool, fostering inclusivity and equal opportunities for blind and partially sighted people worldwide."
Longacre Place	Longacre was the name of a house in Girdle Toll opposite Sourlie Terrace which was demolished by Irvine Development Corporation in the 1970s to make way for new housing. The stone boundary wall was retained as a feature in the street. It is located approximately 100 metres from the site of the new development.

# North Ayrshire Council Street Naming and Numbering

1 new Street Name required 2-24 (evens) and 1-17 (odds)

75A, 75B, 77A, 77B, 79A, 79B, 81A and 81B, Burns Crescent, Girdle Toll



**BOUNDARY TREATMENTS KEY**

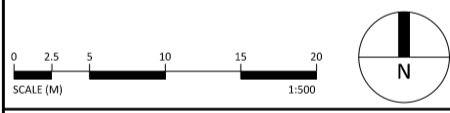
- - - TIMBER TRIP RAIL
- - - 1100mm TIMBER FENCE
- - - 1800mm TIMBER FENCE
- - - 1800mm TIMBER FENCE (BOARDED BOTH SIDES)
- - - POST AND WIRE FENCE WITH GATE

House Type	GIFA	No. Bedrooms	No. Units	%
House Type A - 2B4P House	89m2	2	17	60
House Type L - 4B6P Wheelchair House	113m2	4	1	3
House Type P - 2B3P Amenity Bungalow	63m2	2	4	14
House Type Q - 2B3P Wheelchair Bungalow	66m2	2	3	10
House Type R - 3B5P Wheelchair House	125m2	3	3	10
House Type Bespoke - 5B7P Wheelchair House	164m2	5	1	3
<b>Phase Total</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Allocated Parking</b>		<b>36</b>	<b>124</b>	
<b>Visitor Parking</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	
<b>Parking Total</b>		<b>49</b>	<b>169</b>	

Applies at all times.  
Control of Asbestos Regs 2012 - Applies at all times.

**Notes**

Rev	Description	Date	Issued
K	Further trees removed from front gardens as per Client comments.	24/03/22	RN
L	Boundary treatments reviewed following site visit. Plot 4 driveway relocated following Roads comments, layout coordinated with Engineer's.	01/09/22	DL
M	Block 1 updated to Type A & Type T. Block 2 updated to Bespoke. Block 8 moved up.	27/10/22	CD/DL
N	Plot numbers updated.	27/02/23	CD/DL
O	Block 1 revised back to type R.	23/03/23	CD/DL
P	Garden space tidied up.	11/05/23	CD/DL
Q	Fence at block 1 access path height reduced. Fence at plot 25 moved.	10/07/23	CD/DL
R	Regrading noted to south of site.	13/07/23	CD/DL
S	Retaining wall noted to south of site.	13/07/23	CD/DL
T	External lighting to garden access paths added.	07/08/23	CD/DL
U	House Type table revised.	24/08/23	CD/DL
V	External lighting to garden access path locations and connections updated.	14/09/23	CD/DL
W	Fence added to Plot 5 front garden.	31/08/23	CD/DL
X	Build out revised in front of plot 11 and 12.	14/09/23	CD/DL
	Slope to be regraded at block 3 after talks with school. Retaining wall removed.		
	Carpport shown to plot 12	20/09/23	CD/DL



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**MAST ARCHITECTS**

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All dimensions to be checked on site by the Contractor and any discrepancies to be notified to the Architect prior to works being commenced. Use Figured dimensions only.

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Client  
**Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd.**

Scale: 1:500  
Sheet Size: A2  
Job No.: 2946-5

Originator: MM  
Checked: -  
Date: Jun' 21

Project  
Stanecastle, Irvine

Drawing Title  
Site Plan as Proposed

Drawing No.: L(20)111  
Rev: X

## Irvine Locality Partnership

**Date:** Insert Meeting Date

**Subject:** Police Scotland: Wellbeing and Partnership Working.

**Purpose:** To provide the Locality Partnership with an update on relevant activity linking to wellbeing and partnership working and the priorities of the Irvine Locality Partnership:

1. Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities
2. Enhancing our Mental Health & Wellbeing
3. Alleviating Poverty
4. Championing Green Heath and the Natural Environment

### 1. Overview of relevant activity linking to the Locality Priorities, Wellbeing and Partnership Working since the last meeting.

#### **Preventions and Interventions Officer:**

16/01/2024 Attended Over 50s Activity Group at Irvine Library in partnership with NA Trading Standards to provide scam advice.

25/01/2024 Attended Elderbank Primary School to provide an Internet Safety talk to Parents and pupils in partnership with NA Family Learning Team.

31/01/2024 Attended Dreghorn Primary School to provide an Internet Safety talk to Parents and pupils in partnership with NA Family Learning Team.

#### **Campus Police Officer, Irvine Royal Academy**

**Expansion of litter picking group with increase in number of pupil volunteers and frequency of time spent in school grounds and wider community.**

**Partnership working with members from Irvine Clean Up Crew to help support a positive working relationship with its members and to identify particular 'hotspots' that have been raised to them. Outline what steps the school are taking to proactively tackle the litter issue in the local community. Members provided material that will be promoted via Assemblies and around the school and in PSE. Members of the clean-up crew were invited to join litter pick-ups and that their experiences could be shared with the pupils as they walked.**

**Visited Woodlands PS, Castlepark PS, Loudoun Montgomery PS & Annick PS alongside Area Inclusion Worker and spoke with P7 pupils as part of their transition to secondary school.**

**Inputs delivered to P6 & P7 pupils of Woodlands PS, Castlepark PS, Loudoun Montgomery PS & Annick PS around Internet Safety and general social media usage at the request of headteachers on the back of concerns raised by parents.**

**Attended Irvine Volunteer Rooms for a partnership working input on Child Protection Awareness and Online Child Sexual Abuse**

**Mental Health Wellness Model roll out in Irvine Royal Academy**

## **Community Wellbeing Unit**

### **Addictions**

The North Ayrshire Community Wellbeing Unit continues to work closely with the North Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service. NADARS is a service the CWU regular use to refer vulnerable community members at risk through drug harm. The CWU also regularly attended meetings at Caley Court to discuss some of the most vulnerable people in our community with partner agencies such as NADARS, NHS and Housing support. These meeting also give the CWU an opportunity to engage with vulnerable people who attend at slots during these meetings who may otherwise not have positive interactions with police in other settings.

The CWU continually engaging with people with addictions and at times can feed into the intelligence system to tackle the harm drugs are having on the community.

A recent example of partnership working between CWU and NADARS was with a vulnerable male with alcoholism who had contacted the police 50 times between 01/01/23 and 21/11/23. On 21/11/23, after a successful referral, the CWU and NADARS completed a joint visit to the male where clear boundaries were set. It was identified where the male was sourcing alcohol and the CWU attended premises with Licencing and outline boundaries set by NADARS. The CWU has maintained contacted with the male and received regular updated from NADARS. Since 21/11/23 until present day the male has contacted the police on one occasion which turned out to be an accidental pocket dial. The male continues to do well and is on a waiting list for the Thistle Day Care service.

### **Community Justice**

The CWU have also struck a relationship with Venture Trust successfully referring two young people who were regularly coming to the attention of the police. Venture Trust support adults and young people through community and outdoor based personal development programmes, employability courses and outdoor therapy service. Some of programmes are aimed at people on Criminal Justice Orders or even people going through challenging life circumstances making it an essential partnership with the CWU.

## **Mental Health**

The CWU have attended several professionals meeting at Caley Court. The professionals' meetings are called to discuss an individual with mental illness who is causing issues in the community and are a risk to themselves or others. The CWU engage with these individuals providing a personal knowledge of the individual and have an awareness of general police interaction with them and their impact on the community.

The CWU regularly engage with people with mental illness who are coming to the attention of the police and offer assistance and signpost to relevant services.

## **Youth Engagement**

CWU officers are forging strong relationships with care establishments to improve links with vulnerable young people and reduce absconding. Through engagement with third sector organisations, CWU seek to compliment services by creating pathways out of anti-social behaviour, assist with young person's leaving care establishments and provide positive interactions with young people who generally have negative experiences with policing.

Most notably two young people of a care establishment within North Ayrshire were referred to the Police Scotland Youth Volunteers and recently attended their first session.

## **Locality Policing Team**

In the past month, the Locality Policing Team have been abstracted for the most part to high profile investigations. They have however been engaged in the following in their respective beat areas.

### **Beat 1 - Irvine Town Centre and immediate area**

- LPT officers for this area regularly attend at Community Council meetings and are on hand to answer any queries or receive information for action.
- Town Centre officers are on patrol in that area during business hours and continue to provide a visible deterrent and detect any retail crime and issues out-with that. They actively engage with all business owners. Due to the amount of work involved in this area of business, this makes up the vast majority of this team's product.

### **Beat 2 – Vineburgh and surrounding area**

- Established relationship with Castlepark Primary School around holding talks with pupils about various issues that are in the community (violence, drugs etc)
- Working with PPT teams in targeting addresses and nominals identified in dealing drugs in the beat 2 area.
- Implemented action plan in drug dealing hotspots.

- Extra attention given to Irvine Royal Academy for potential recruiting of young persons.
- Talk delivered to youth group within the Vineburgh community centre.

### **Beat 3 – Fullarton and surrounding area**

- Project depravation SPA talks involving various partner agencies and local community members.
- Barnardo's job coaching talk within Fullarton Hub. Talk with youths regarding the joining process for the police plus discussing our day to days tasks and duties.
- Engaging with staff at Trindlemoss supported living and pre-planning events with residents for the upcoming months.
- Hi-visibility patrols in and around the Fullarton area on foot and on bikes.
- Routinely attending the Fullarton Hub and speaking with staff and members of various groups providing info, public reassurance and obtaining intel.
- Stop search known drug dealers helping obtain intel leading to successful drugs turns within Irvine.
- Carrying out enquiries for crime reported within the area.

### **Beat 4 – Bourtreehill, Girdle Toll, Perceton, Dreghorn, Springside**

- Input delivered to Macular Society by police and trading standards in relation to scams.
- Final presentation and wrap up to Project regeneration in Fullarton Area. Delivered by PC Burns of Beat 4
- Extra to Brewery (old primary school), Dreghorn in relation to youth disorder and ASB.
- Extra attention in relation to youth disorder Ford Avenue, Dreghorn and surrounding streets
- Numerous proactive visits to monitored licensed premises in beat 4 area to provide reassurance and support.

## **2. Asks of the Locality Partnership**

**Name**

**Title**



# IRVINE LOCALITY PROGRESS REPORT Q4



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership



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# Locality Planning

## Locality Planning - What is it?

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

## Who is involved in the Locality Partnership?

- ➔ **Elected Members**
- ➔ **Community Council Representatives**
- ➔ **Community Representatives**
- ➔ **Community Planning Partnership**
- ➔ **Representatives (North Ayrshire Council,**
- ➔ **HSCP, Police, Fire, Public Health, KA**
- ➔ **Leisure, Third Sector)**



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. At the moment Irvine's Priorities are:

- **Alleviating Poverty**
- **Supporting skills and work opportunities**
- **Enhancing Mental health and wellbeing**
- **Championing green health and the natural environment**

This report will outline and showcase some of the ways Connected Communities in the Irvine locality are working towards meeting these priorities.

# Irvine Locality KPi Statistics

KPi1 – Number of adults engaged in CLD activity

**178**

KPi9 – Number of adults with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity.

**33**

KPi6a - Number of children (under 12) engaged in CLD activity

**136**

KPi10 - Number of children and young people with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity

**262**

KPi6b - Number of young people (12 and over) engaged in CLD activity

**126**

KPi11 – Number of community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity

**28**

CC\_09b – Number of volunteering opportunities participated in within CLD


**29**

Op\_CLD\_P39 - Number of young people that participated in a youth employability programme or activity.

**19**


# HOW ARE WE MEETING LOCALITY PRIORITIES?

## Alleviating poverty



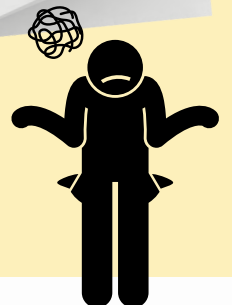
Various youth and adult groups continue to be offered across the Irvine locality by both the Legacy Centre and North Ayrshire Council. These are free to people attending and some of them provide free or low cost meals and trips, helping alleviate the financial pressure to families.

CHAP's expert team provides practical help for people in Irvine who are struggling financially and now are available in Redburn Community Centre on a Tuesday, checking what benefits people are entitled to claim and what other types of help might be available. The service is free and confidential, and supports people to alleviate financial poverty.



Friends of Redburn were successful in receiving funding which will allow them to continue their Monday Lunch Club within the Redburn Centre and provide a free sewing class as well as organise free and low cost family events throughout they year such as their new adult cooking programme. (see case study)

Funding was awarded to 2 groups who gave out hampers to 90 families and individuals who were referred to help relieve some of the financial stress after Christmas. (see case study)



# Alleviating Poverty



*Promoting effective partnership and whole system working with information sharing between services and organisations with an aim to improving access to information and advice about benefits , help maximise income and reduce household costs and mitigate the effects of poverty.*

## → Friends of Redburn Community Group

Following successful funding from Fairer Food, Locality PB and UK SPF the group can continue to provide community lunches on a Monday from Redburn Community Centre for a suggested donation if appropriate. They are also running free sewing classes and cooking classes for adults at the moment which are at capacity.

## → The Micah Project

Through PB, UK SPF and CIF this charity have worked in partnership with Friends of Redburn to provide 90 family hampers and to get a cookbook initiative off the ground which will be used at various cooking classes throughout Irvine. The CIF money allows them to recruit a co-ordinator to oversee the expansion of their Vac Pac Project working with GPs and vaccination teams. This encourages people to wear pre loved clothes and reuse, saving money and amounts going to landfill.

## → Youth & Adult Groups

A variety of groups, both accredited and non accredited for young people and adults are available, to increase both their skill base and knowledge but also to increase their wellbeing throughout the locality. These include youth groups, The Legacy Centre, Writing for Wellbeing, Walking for Wellbeing, Discovery Group, Over 50s Activity Group, Cooking, IT Skills, Child and Adult Protection, Book Keeping and Committee Skills.

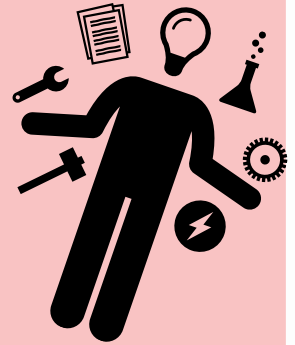
## → CHAP

CHAP's specialist advisors offer free, constructive, and impartial support and resources for anyone facing housing, welfare rights or debt issues, working closely with individuals to ensure they are not disadvantaged through a lack of knowledge or awareness of their rights.

# Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities

The Mount Project is a Greenwood Academy Project being run from Townend Community Centre in Dreghorn.

It is designed to utilise the centre more during the day and give disengaged pupils from Greenwood Academy a chance to learn in a more relaxed environment, and gain real life experience they can draw on in future employment.



The Harbourside Men's Shed was successful in funding applications to both to Arran CVS Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund and the Locality PB which will cover the running costs of the shed for 2024-2025 and allow them to buy new tools. The group continues to attract new members and in turn they can teach and share skills that could be used in an appropriate workplace setting.

Supported by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, Multiply workers are now in every locality and Irvine's own worker Ailsa has been busy making a positive impact. The end goal is simple: empower individuals and families by improving their numeracy, budgeting, and financial literacy skills. So far Ailsa has engaged with individuals through referrals and with small groups in homework and cooking groups.





# Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities



*Working in partnership with groups and organisations to provide volunteering, training and work opportunities to better support our communities with an aim to increasing skills and knowledge leading to an increase in local employment.*

## → Friends of Redburn

The Friends of Redburn Group offers volunteers, both adult and from Irvine Royal Academy the opportunity to gain experience helping out in their community cafe, in the kitchen prepping and serving food, waiting on tables and washing and clearing up. Many referrals are from HSCP with volunteers needing some confidence and experience which in turn helps with their mental health and applying for work.

## → The Mount Project

The Project consists of a community café set up by pupils within the Events Management course within Greenwood Academy and also disengaged learners who attend the centre 3 afternoons per week to learn in a community based venue. The space at Townend provides much needed comfort and security for young people who have previously had bad experiences in the school or suffer from mental health issues such as anxiety and need a quieter space to engage in learning

## → Training

Through CLD's Leadership Collective training members of the community have attended training on basic book keeping, cyber security and child protection and basic committee skills were offered but unfortunately had to be postponed.. These workshops give group members the skills and knowledge they need to take on or continue in the roles they have.

## → Men's Sheds

The 2 men's sheds within Irvine continue to thrive. The groups continue to attract new members and in turn they can teach new and share old skills that could be used in an appropriate workplace setting. The Legacy Centre are looking at doing some intergenerational work with the young people from their boys group.

# Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities



*Working in partnership with groups and organisations to provide volunteering, training and work opportunities to better support our communities with an aim to increasing skills and knowledge leading to an increase in local employment.*

## → The Discovery Project

The Irvine Discovery Group is for individuals over 50 within Irvine, and addresses social and wellbeing needs but also allows the group to share and discover new skills and knowledge through participation in the different levels of the award.

The award fosters social connections, skill-sharing, new experiences, and challenges. Weekly sessions are held at Vennel Gardens Community Engagement Hub and offer activities, skill-sharing, and volunteering opportunities, with participants encouraged to document their progress.

## → Multiply Project

The Multiply Project is all about building confidence with numbers. empowering individuals and families by improving their numeracy, budgeting, and financial literacy skills for a variety of different reasons. So far Ailsa, Irvine's own Multiply worker has engaged with individuals through referrals from the Job Centre, CEIS and social work and has been working with small groups in homework and cooking groups.

**Multiply**  
EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT 19YRS+  
DEVELOP YOUR LITERACY SKILLS IN RELATION TO WORK

IMPROVE YOUR LITERACY SKILLS AND INCREASE YOUR CONFIDENCE  
UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE  
GAIN THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO GET A JOB  
IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS  
GAIN THE SKILLS YOU NEED TO GET A JOB  
IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

STARTING MONDAY 28 TH FEBRUARY  
10:30AM - 12:30 PM  
REDBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE

AILSACONLIN@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK  
07385222984

Funded by UK Government

**LEVEL UP YOUR NUMERACY SKILLS**  
SOCIABLE, GAMING GROUP

COFFEE / TEA AND BISCUITS PROVIDED

STARTING MONDAY 4TH MARCH  
2PM - 3.30PM  
REDBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT AILSA  
AILSACONLIN@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK  
07385222984

**Multiply**

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LEVELLING UP

**Multiply**  
Parents Homework Club

COME AND JOIN THE GROUP, PARENTS LEARNING NEW WAYS TO HELP THEIR KIDS REACH THEIR POTENTIAL

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE TO HELP YOUR KIDS WITH THEIR HOMEWORK?  
WE CAN MAKE HOMEWORK TIME EASIER FOR YOU!  
ARE YOUR KIDS LEARNING DIFFERENT METHODS THAN YOU DID?  
LEARN FUN WAYS TO KEEP KIDS INTERESTED IN LEARNING

ROLLING PROGRAM STARTING  
IRVINE LIBRARY FRIDAY 5TH APRIL  
3:30PM - 5:30PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT AILSA  
AILSACONLIN@NORTH-AYRSHIRE.GOV.UK  
07385222984

**Multiply**


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LEVELLING UP

# Enhancing Mental Health & Wellbeing





The Writing for Wellbeing Group run by Connected Communities is now full and the 6 week course is underway. This is an informal group for people to socialise, learn and develop new strategies they can use that include writing and journaling to help them in their everyday lives.



The provision of the Monday Lunch Club, sewing group and cooking classes facilitated by the Friends of Redburn Group allows people of all ages to get out and socialise with other people, helping them overcome social isolation and give them something to look forward to.

Love yourself



The Over 50s group meet weekly and take part in different activities within Irvine Library on a Tuesday afternoon. It is now at capacity with 14 attending regularly. Over the past few months, the group has been involved in a wide variety of activities such as CPR training, a Xmas lunch and have an invite for the Mount Community Café opening in Dreghorn on 20/2/24. There are strong relationships within the group and many members are now friends, meeting out with the group on a regular basis. These social connections play a fundamental role in the success of the group and its positive impact in reducing isolation for older people and improving their mental and physical wellbeing.



# Enhancing Mental Health & Wellbeing



*Working within local communities to reduce inequalities by targeted support to improve individual, family and community wellbeing.*

## Discovery Group

The Irvine Discovery Group was set up to address the social and wellbeing needs of the over 50's demographic within the Irvine Locality. The group aims to provide peer support, opportunities for learning and reduce social isolation. Participants have the opportunity to work towards a non-competitive, personalised award which can be completed at the individual's own pace and within their own capabilities. The group meets weekly in the Vennel Gardens Engagement Hub.

## Writing for Wellbeing Workshops

The writing for Wellbeing workshops comprise of 6 weekly sessions which take place in the Community Room of Irvine Library. The group aims to help participants socialise and learn new skills to help support their wellbeing. The workshops cover a variety of health and wellbeing topics including exploring emotions, worries and mindfulness and introduces a variety of writing tools that individuals can use to support their wellbeing on a day to day basis.

## Over 50's Activity Group

The Over 50's Activity Group was established to improve the health and wellbeing of participants by providing them with the opportunity to meet new people, share skills and experiences and try new activities. The group meets on a weekly basis in the community room of Irvine Library. The group also provides a forum for informal information sharing and signposting for participants to access a variety of opportunities within the wider community.

## Friends of Redburn Group

Through the Monday Lunch Club at Redburn Community Centre and the free sewing classes on a Monday afternoon the group offer a warm and safe space for local residents and others to socialise, lunch and learn to sew or craft. The opportunities to volunteer within the group also helps build confidence and self esteem in many of those who help out.

# Championing Green Health & The Natural Environment



The Micah Project were successfully awarded £50,000 CIF money to allow them to create a co-ordinators job to oversee a new 'Vac Pac' project with an aim to recycle and reuse goods, and reduce amount of goods going to landfill. Every parent / carer and child will receive a baby bundle appropriate to age at vaccinations, in partnership with GPs and vaccination staff. ( see case study)

Following an environmental visual audit around Bourtreehill Park in January with all relevant partner agencies present, a stakeholder reference group has been established by local residents who attend monthly Bourtreehill and Broomlands Community Association meetings and want to work in partnership with CLD and Streetscene, bettering the local park, it's resources and equipment.

Following a community engagement in the Fullarton area which identified development of an outdoor green gym Fullarton Community Association have been successful in securing £100,000 Community Investment Fund and £32,000 of that funding will go towards developing the Outdoor Green Gym. Fullarton are also making an application to Family Wellbeing Fund for the other half of the funding required. Work will commence shortly.



**NORTH AYRSHIRE**  
Fairer Food

# Championing Green Health & The Natural Environment



*Working within communities to promote active travel and reduce the impacts of climate change*

## ➔ Fullarton Green Gym

The development of the Outdoor Gym area will allow local families access to fitness equipment, as many locals cannot afford the cost of mainstream gyms for their families. This will be in an outdoor environment which will improve both physical and mental wellbeing.

The outdoor gym will also be part of the encouragement of outdoor learning, for many of the local groups and primary school along with the community garden and the MUGA play area.

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

## ➔ BABCA Community Garden

The Broomlands and Bourtreehill Community Association (BABCA) aims to create a community/memorial garden on an unused swing park near the Towerlands Community Centre. The project focuses on green health and intergenerational activities, teaching gardening skills while honoring those lost to COVID and illnesses. Partnerships with schools, local groups, and volunteers are integral to the project's success. The garden will provide fresh produce for a community food larder, support local cafes, and offer socialization opportunities for older residents. Securing a Community Investment Fund of £12,777, BABCA hopes to empower volunteers for future employment opportunities, leveraging their successful history of collaboration.

## ➔ MICAH Project

The Micah Project have several wellbeing initiatives aimed at relieving poverty, increasing recycling and sustainability, promoting and encouraging community and supporting the wellbeing of individuals and families. With support from Community Development workers they will continue focus on green health initiatives within the locality.

# Youth Work Update



**YOUTH  
WORK**  
NORTH AYRSHIRE



262 children and young people had improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes by taking part in a CLD activity



Young people from both Irvine Royal and Greenwood Academies took part in a day looking to refresh the Mental health Toolkit for Young People.

Young people across Irvine took part in the MSYP elections recently. Irvine Royal's candidate was successful and will now be a member of the Scottish Youth parliament.



Over 150 young people are registered with the Youth Legacy Centre and attend different groups at evenings or weekends.

The new Greenwood Youth Forum has started a road safety campaign for outside their school and are keen to become constituted, looking to improve their local community.

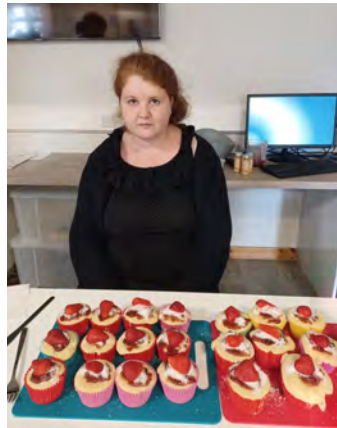


# Adult Learning Update



## ADULT LEARNING NORTH AYRSHIRE

178 adults are engaged in CLD activities (adult learning and capacity building)



14 adults are taking part in the Discovery Award with 1 being nominated for The Jean Fyfe Award for a member who has overcome personal circumstances yet still actively participates.

9 new learners have enrolled through CLD and Ayrshire College for the PC Passport course which runs for 12 weeks and is on every Monday 10 - 3 at Redburn Community Centre.

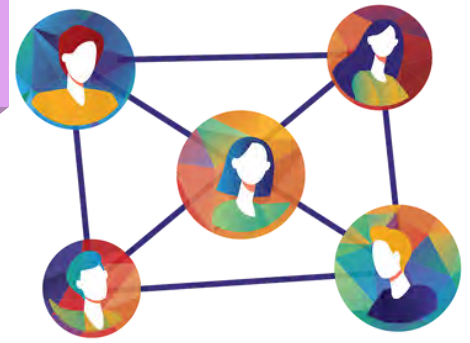
# LEARN

Over 10 adults are benefitting from either 1:1 or group support from Ailsa Conlin, Irvine's Multiply worker. Referrals are still active and new groups are yet to start with this number set to rise.





# Capacity Building Update

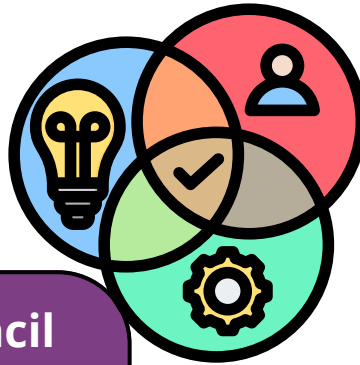


## COMMUNITY CAPACITY

NORTH AYRSHIRE

Training was offered to members of the community and many have attended training on literacy and numeracy, basic book keeping, IT and cyber security, child protection and basic committee skills

At least 6 community groups and organisations were supported to lever in money from external sources



Irvine Community Council continues to receive support from CLD and has recently had a change of Board members. It is their aim to make Irvine great again and have more family friendly events people from across Irvine can benefit from with an events sub committee.



19 organisations or groups are supported to facilitate volunteering opportunities participated in within CLD



# Case Study : Micah Project

The Micah Project is a non profit and volunteer led community project that have several wellbeing initiatives aimed at relieving poverty, increasing recycling and sustainability, promoting and encouraging community and supporting the wellbeing of individuals and families.

With help from North Ayrshire Council the Project have been able to expand from their base in Troon and run successful pilots and gain funding for the following :

## New 2 You Community Clothes Closet

Support has been given for the Micah Project to be able to promote this project whereby everyone is encouraged to reduce waste and recycle old clothes. The team of volunteers wash and set out all the clothes into categories to be made into packs .Anyone can now email or use a pre order system by clicking the QR code requesting items they need which will be delivered to a local community centre to be picked up. As well as reducing the amount of clothes going to landfill it also reduces economic pressure on families who are struggling with the cost of living increases, relieving poverty locally.



**WHAT IS A CLOTHES CLOSET?**

60% of UK households claim to own unwanted clothing.

Our project collects and distributes clothes to families and individuals. Children grow through clothes extremely fast and replacing them can be costly and clothes that are hardly worn end in landfill. By ordering a pack you help stop this cycle of waste.

MICAHPROJECTTROON | SC10 | 52173



## Hampers For Hope

The Micah Project and Friends of Redburn were successful in their funding bid to the shared prosperity fund where they received £3740 and made up 90 hampers for local families and individuals in need, working alongside local partners in social work, schools and third sector organisations for referrals.



# Case Study : Micah Project

## Happy Plates, Happy Pockets Cookbook Initiative

The funding received from Locality PB will support the printing and production of cookbooks which will be given to families and individuals in need within the Irvine locality as a pilot to show them ways to have healthy meals at low cost. They are currently working in partnership with Irvine Locality's Community Development team and the Friends of Redburn Community Group as part of their Cook and Connect Programme where adults can come together and learn to cook healthy meals on a budget and receive the book and some spices at the end of the programme along with interactive sessions on healthy eating.

The recipe book will be a collection of simple recipes aimed at reducing waste, saving money and encouraging families to cook together.



## Vac Pac Project

After a successful CIF bid for £50,000 this new initiative aims to recruit a co-ordinator to oversee the provision of wellbeing packages for children at vaccination stages, addressing material needs and mental wellbeing while destigmatising the use of preloved items. The project will foster community cohesion and empowerment, leading to improved social connections and support networks. It will also promote environmental stability by encouraging sustainable practices such as recycling and repurposing clothes. This holistic approach aims to benefit approximately 22,000 families in the Irvine area, promoting early childhood development and offering additional support where needed.

Project Name	Locality Priority Fit	KPi Fit	Council Plan Fit
Micah Project	Alleviating poverty	KPi 1 KPi 9	CP01 CP06
	Enhancing mental health & wellbeing	KPi 11 CC09_b Op_CC_A14	CP08 CP16 CP17
	Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment		CP18 CP19 CP41
	Supporting skills and work opportunities		

# Case Study : Friends Of Redburn

In the last year the Friends of Redburn Community Group have secured Fairer Food and Pb Funding which has allowed them to address the identified needs in the area including social isolation, poverty, and poor mental health and wellbeing. The group addresses these issues by providing personal development opportunities for volunteers at its Monday Lunch Club, free or affordable family workshops and events throughout the year, and a welcoming social environment for all. The group work in partnership with many agencies including CHAP, CEIS, CO-OP and Ancho and Ayshire Housing.



With support from CLD, FOR has secured funding to sustain its activities such as the Monday Lunch Club and The Canny Crafters – a free sewing and craft group.

The group recently has partnered with the MICAH Project to help with its Community Clothes Closet, provide 90 hampers to individuals and families and also provide cooking classes, firstly to disengaged young people from Irvine Royal and now for adults in the local community, many of whom are single and rely on microwave or fast foods. With continued support it is hoped they can recruit new volunteers and continue their good work in the local community.



Area of Work	Locality Strategic Plan Priority	KPi	Council Plan Indicator
Friends of Redburn	Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities	KPi 1 KPi 6b KPi 9	CP01 CP06 CP08
	Enhancing our Mental Health & Wellbeing	KPi 11 CC09_b Op_CC_A14	CP16 CP 17 CP 18 CP 19
	Alleviating Poverty		

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# Case Study : Discovery Group Award

In compliance with Anita Thompson's directive, our team diligently sought a worthy nominee for the prestigious Jean Fyfe Award, which honors individuals displaying courage, resilience, and community engagement. Our meticulous review of award criteria, coupled with consultations with group leaders, guided our selection process.



Georganna Bryden, amidst other nominees, stands out for her resilience and altruism in our Discovery group. Despite personal challenges, she fosters a welcoming environment, supporting members with guidance and compassion. Her journey through mental health challenges, involvement in community programs, and mentoring epitomize the spirit of the Jean Fyfe Award.

Georganna's impactful contributions extend to the Hope Project at Argyle Community Centre, where her crochet sessions fostered both skills and social connections. Her mentorship showcases a genuine commitment to empowering others. We endorse Georganna Bryden for the Jean Fyfe Award, recognizing her resilience, community service, and altruism.



Area of Work	Locality Strategic Plan Priority	KPi	Council Plan Indicator
Discovery	Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities  <u>Enhancing Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing</u>	KPi 1 KPi 2 / 3 KPi 9 CC09_b Op_CC_A14	CP01 CP06 CP16 CP18 CP19

# Case Study : Fullarton Green Gym

Fullarton Community Hub, a focal point in Irvine, addresses community issues such as poverty and mental health. Through active engagement, it consulted 178 local residents to repurpose derelict land into an outdoor green gym, meeting the demand for accessible fitness options and promoting physical and mental wellbeing outdoors.

Fullarton Community Association successfully secured £100,000 from the Community Investment Fund, with £32,000 earmarked for the outdoor green gym. An additional funding application is pending with the Family Wellbeing Fund. The gym's establishment is aligned with Fullarton's goals of enhancing community connections and addressing health disparities. Targeting diverse groups, it aims to promote better health outcomes and outdoor learning. This community-led initiative showcases the hub's commitment to improving local wellbeing and fostering civic pride through active involvement.



Area of Work	Locality Strategic Plan Priority	KPi	Council Plan Indicator
Fullarton Green Gym	Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities	KPi1 KPi11 KPi12 KPi13	CP01 CP02 CP08 CP16 CP17 CP18 CP20 CP22 CP23 CP24
	Enhancing our Mental Health & Wellbeing		
	Alleviating Poverty		
	Championing Green Health and Natural Environment		

# Case Study : The Mount Project

The Mount Project, an initiative of Greenwood Academy, operates from the Townend Community Centre situated in Dregghorn. It aims to optimize the utilization of the center during daytime hours and offers disengaged students from Greenwood Academy an alternative learning environment.

The Project aims to enhance Townend Community Centre's daytime use, offer an alternative learning space for disengaged Greenwood Academy pupils, and provide real-life learning opportunities for future employment. It consists of a Community Café for hands-on hospitality experience and a Disengaged Learners Program supporting students with poor mental health.



The Mount Project at Greenwood Academy, operating from the Townend Community Centre, serves as a commendable initiative to address the needs of disengaged students while maximizing community resources. Through its innovative structure and focus on real-life experiences, the project has demonstrated its effectiveness in promoting engagement, learning, and well-being among participants.

This Project highlights and underscores its value as a model for fostering alternative educational pathways and community collaboration.

Area of Work	Locality Strategic Plan Priority	KPi	Council Plan Indicator
Mount Launch	Alleviating poverty Enhancing mental health & wellbeing Supporting skills and work opportunities	KPi 1 KPi 6b Op_CLD_P39	CP01 CP06 CP16 CP17 CP18

# Funding Surgery

On Wednesday, January 31st, 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, the Irvine Locality Team organized a funding surgery in collaboration with Alexandra Krause, Funding Officer for The National Lottery. The event was held at the Redburn Community Centre, Dickson Drive, Irvine, with the aim of providing local organizations an opportunity to explore funding avenues for their projects.

The primary objective of the funding surgery was to facilitate discussions between local organisations and Alexandra Krause regarding potential project ideas and the funding opportunities available through The National Lottery programs.



During the funding surgery, Alexandra outlined The National Lottery funding programs, including National Lottery Awards for All, Community Led, Improving Lives, Young Start, Scottish Land Fund, and Cost of Living Support Grant. Attendees received detailed explanations on eligibility criteria, funding amounts, and supported project types.

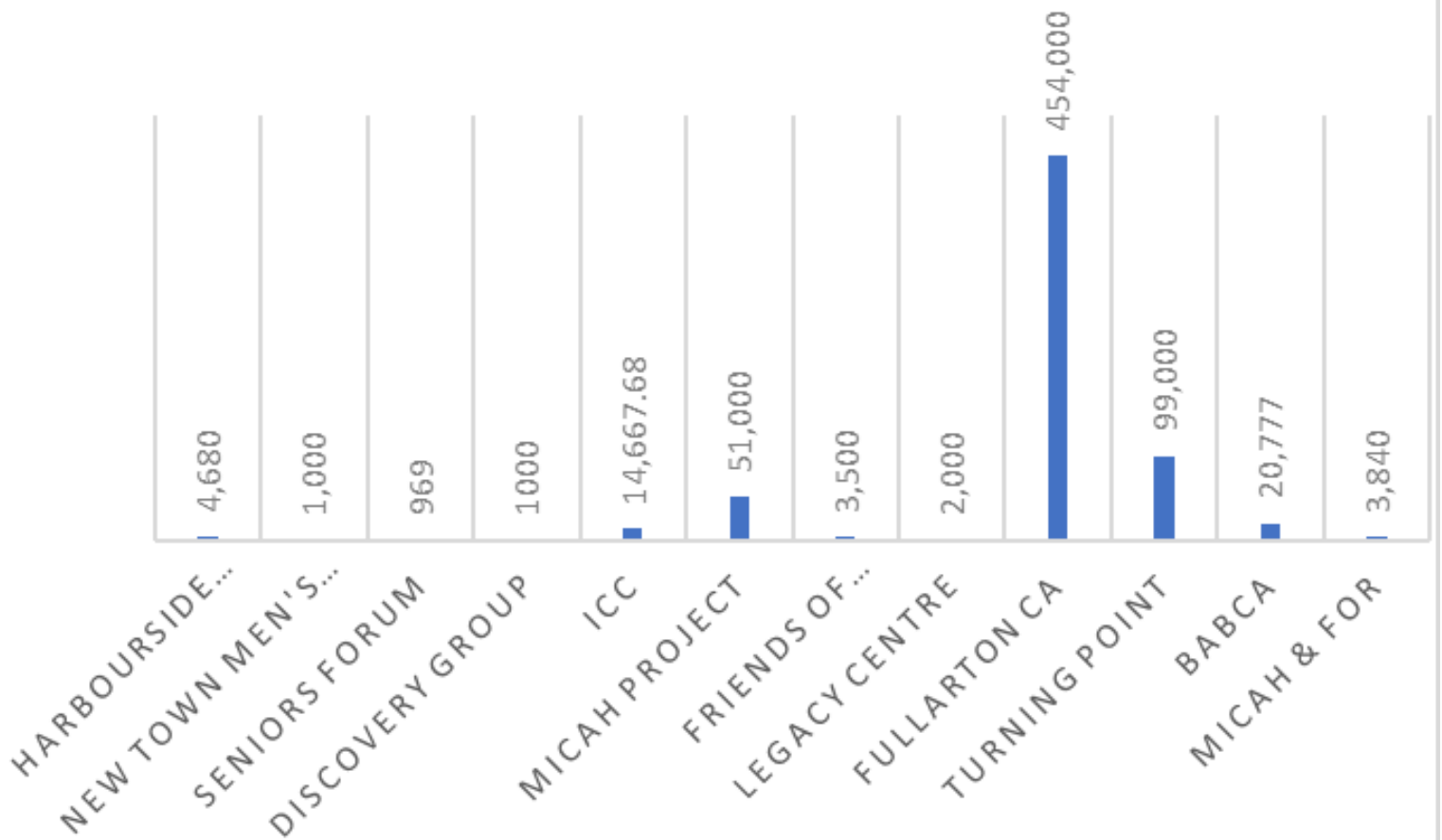
## **The event resulted in significant outcomes:**

- 37 local groups attended,
- 4 groups sought support for National Lottery Awards for All,
- discussions commenced with Irvine Ravenspark Golf Club for a community asset transfer,
- Vineburgh Community Association expressed interest in Community Led funding,
- 32 groups were added to the Funding mailing list.

Overall, the surgery facilitated valuable discussions, connections, and support for community initiatives in Irvine.



# Funding generated with support from Connected Communities



- Harbourside Mens Shed
- New Town Men's Shed
- Seniors Forum
- Discovery Group
- ICC
- MICAH Project
- Friends of Redburn
- Legacy Centre
- Fullarton CA
- Turning Point
- BABCA
- MICAH & FOR

# Irvine Locality Action Plan

Action	Where	Lead	When?	Locality Priority
Working in partnership to help reduce antisocial behaviour	Locality Wide	Irvine Locality Team Police Scotland Third Sector	Summer 2024	Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing
Improve access to emergency food provision. Explore options to have a local larder in Castlepark and possibilities around transport to Choices.	Castlepark and Redburn Fullerton	Fairer Food Development Worker, NAC	Summer 2024	Alleviating Poverty
Increase access to information in relation to money advice, energy support etc	Castlepark and Redburn Bourtreehill and Girdle Toll Fullerton	Irvine Locality Team North Ayrshire CPP TACT CHAP	Spring 2024	Alleviating Poverty Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities
Enhance access to information regarding what is on in the local community. Including engaging with the relevant community associations around community notice boards.	Castlepark and Redburn Bourtreehill and Girdle Toll Fullerton	Irvine Locality Team Community Facilities Team Local Community Associations Community Planning Team TACT	Spring 2024	Alleviating Poverty Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing
Improve local transport links, particularly in the evenings	Bourtreehill and Girdle Toll	Irvine Locality Team Place	Summer 2024	Alleviating Poverty Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities
Increase access to opportunities to improve digital skills ( in the evenings ) and awareness of on line supports e.g benefit advice etc	Bourtreehill and Girdle Toll Fullerton	Irvine Locality Team	Spring 2024	Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities
Map out green spaces and identify areas where access / use could be improved in particular for green health and growing	Springside, Dreghorn and Drybridge	Irvine Locality Team Countryside Rangers Planning / Streetscene	Summer 2024	Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment. Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing

**For further information contact:**

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Locality Officer Irvine**

**Redburn Community Centre, Dickson Drive,  
Irvine.**



**[ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)**

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# COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

## NORTH AYRSHIRE

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

# STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024 - DONNA ANDERSON, ANNE-MARIE HUNTER & DENISE FRASER



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Joint Youth Cabinet meeting took place with over 100 young people from across out schools. With 5 key topics being discussed we have now collated young people feedback.

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.

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

We asked young people three key questions in relation to youth voice:

- *What powers could be added or used to help young people make decisions?*
- *What types of support might young people need to build their own capacity in their community?*
- *How can we make sure everyone in our communities is involved in decision making processes?*

Setting up **opportunities** within a school setting such as a teacher/ pupil boards would be effective. Whilst also using Pupil Councils to engage in relevant topics. Young people felt that **more interaction** is needed to support young people between schools and communities to make them aware of opportunities and to be consulted on all matters. Young people had also noted that Joint cabinet should be for young people that asked to attend, not selected.

To help build capacity within communities young people stated that they would like to see a **wider provision** of groups and opportunities for those who feel 'too old' for youth groups targeted at a younger age. They felt that although they have free bus travel it is often unreliable and stops them from getting more involved in their community. Mainly young people felt that they need to know what is available to them to join in, this includes opportunities for groups, community learning and volunteering.

Lastly by ensuring all young people are involved in decisions that affect them, not just young people that are selected for various groups and committees would have better results. Tools like social media, drop ins, working with their MSYPs and targeted promotion of these would benefit them and their communities as a whole. A popular piece of feedback was the importance of **closing the engagement loop** and always feeding back result to young people to know what has happened as a result of their participation.



## Theme 2 – Youth Crime and Personal Safety

In partnership with Police Scotland we asked young people the following:

- *How do you feel the introduction of the free bus travel has impacted your feelings of personal safety and reduction or increase of youth crime?*
- *Increased antisocial behaviour and young people putting themselves in vulnerable situations at local beaches/ shore areas. Why do you think this is and what can we do to reduce this?*
- *With so many young people on social media, specifically snapchat, we have seen a rise in online abuse. What can be done to reduce this and support young people with online behaviour and abuse?*

Young people seen both the positive and negative impact of the free bus travel scheme, for many they felt it had **increased their chance to travel freely**, without relying on parents and carers, and also foregoing the cost gives them access to more opportunities such as social interaction, going to clubs, reducing barrier to employment amongst others. Although these greatly benefit young people they did feel that there has been an **increase of anti social behaviour** on buses, which can make them feel uneasy or intimidated. Furthermore with free transport buses are much busier now, in particular to and from school with it already being unreliable but not being able to get on the bus when needed due to overcrowding and not getting to school on time regularly.

Beaches were a concern to young people in North Ayrshire with feeling of **increased 'bad behaviour'**, alcohol and drug intake and feelings of social pressures to 'fit in'. Suggestions to combat this included more bins for litter, having a specific young person hotline to report anti-social behaviour, an increase in beach CCTV with life guards and police patrols during busy times. Other suggestions included more **beach friendly activities** including beach sports and games, alcohol free barbeques and a young persons alcohol free beach bar to promote responsible behaviour.

Lastly when speaking to young people about the affects of social media, young people agreed about the **social pressures** to be online and an increase in online bullying. Many young people agreed that having training for parents to spot the signs and support their young person would be beneficial, likewise to have more youth friendly tools to cope with online bullying, likewise a campaign that promotes the health benefits of disconnecting would be received well.

## Theme 3 – Your School (NIF)

Our third theme targeted questions were around the National Improvement Framework for Education, here we asked: Irvine LP Pg 55



- *In general (not specifically in relation to your school) do you think young people feel that they have genuine opportunities to contribute to decision making?*
- *In general what do you think are the greatest barriers to young people achieving their potential in school?*
- *What do you think are the 3 most important things that schools should prioritise in order to help young people get the best out of their education?*

Pupils felt that there are **opportunities to have your voice heard** through Joint Cabinet, pupil councils, leadership programmes, school captains, various committees and access to surveys. Although they felt this was more for senior pupils and there is a lack of these opportunities for S1-S3. Some young people felt that when giving their views that it 'doesn't make a difference', or that it is not taken seriously, and by not receiving feedback on what they have said it 'doesn't create change'. It was noted that there needs to be **more opportunity for minority groups** to have the opportunity to create change particularly around racism. Young people felt that an agreed joint action plan when engaging with young people should be made to detail what is to happen and support the feedback that should follow.

When discussing barrier to achieving potential, the most popular opinions included:

- Lack of funding
- Bullying
- More allocated study time within school
- The impact of the cost of the school day
- Lasting impact of COVID
- Pupils who are disruptive having no consequences for their actions resulting in less teaching time

This was followed by young people prioritising things that were important which were:

- Mental health and wellbeing
- Study time
- Security/ safety within the school setting
- Disruptive behaviour being challenged
- Cost of the school day
- Equalities

#### **Theme 4 – Financial Literacies and Education**

A topic picked by our young people was around financial education with 3 key questions being asked.





- *Where would you go to get information on finance, saving, debt and spending?*
- *What more could the council and partners be doing to educate young people on life skills and money management?*
- *What are your main concerns when it comes to finances as a young person?*

The majority of young people **did not know where to turn to for this information**, with some saying parents, teachers or going into a bank itself. Although this made some young people uncomfortable as have never approached a bank before. Young people stressed the importance of this being **part of the curriculum** to focus on financial education throughout their time at school.

Pupils said more support was needed around **life skills and money management** from S2 upwards that would cover all aspects of money management, as one young person stated “*it isn't just maths it should be in all of our subjects in some way.*” It should be supported by schools and outside organisations coming in to support with different areas.

With finances being such a vast subject area particular areas of concern for young people were:

- Inflation/ cost of living
- Barrier to further education due to financial pressures
- Budgeting
- Housing
- Being independent
- Good debt V bad debt

## Theme 5 – Health and Wellbeing

Our last theme focussed on health and wellbeing with some broad themed questions.

- *Do you think you receive enough information about alcohol and drugs?*
- *Low school attendance is a significant concern. Some people say the reasons for this are rising anxiety levels due to the pandemic. What do you think are the reasons for the drop in attendance?*
- *Building and maintaining resilience is important for supporting positive mental health and wellbeing. What do you think is the best way to positively improve your long-term mental fitness?*

Young people felt the topic of alcohol and drugs is **covered well in PSE**, although many feeling it needs to be from S1 onwards, with topics of vaping going into primary schools.



Some felt what is taught is 'tame' compared to what they see in the outside world and needs to be **more hard hitting** with real like examples and having more up to date resources and information. With a clear message of the 'don't do it, its bad' message does not work. Young people felt that a **peer led approach** to this would work well in a school setting.

Young people who responded in relation to low school attendance had felt that the main reasons for this included:

- Mental health and wellbeing issues and concerns
- Young people simply feeling 'overwhelmed with school and life'
- Many young people referencing bullying and feeling 'unsafe'
- Young people are still feeling the impact of COVID, with home learning and feelings of isolation still impacting their learning.

Pupils had said that creating alternative curriculums and accepting the classroom environment doesn't work for everyone could help with this.

To support young people with their wellbeing it was noted that young being supported to create balance in their life would be beneficial, learning coping mechanisms when things feel overwhelming and **feeling validated** when they express their concerns. Participants said that there is concerns about disclosing that you are having negative feelings and being told they are not 'unwell' enough to access a school or community councillor. This **adds to the stigma** that still surrounds mental health and wellbeing, a suggestion being to have more in depth training on mental health for school staff and for peer supporters.



## Members of Scottish Youth Parliament



The 5th February seen us celebrate our MSYPs past and present and celebrate the power of youth voice here in North Ayrshire where we continue to ensure that young peoples voices are at the forefront of conversation, engagement, policy and discussions.

The announcement evening our new members who now form part of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) for the next 2 years was full of excitement for young people and guests alike.

SYP is a youth led organisation; the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people where young people aged 14-25 from all over Scotland represent the views of young people within their constituencies. Within North Ayrshire we have four young people who became our members of the Scottish Youth Parliament - two who cover the Cunninghame North Constituency and two covering the Cunninghame South Constituency. They form part of the national Scottish Youth Parliament membership with over 150 young people ranging in age from 14 to 25 tasked with representing their constituencies in all 32 local authorities throughout the country alongside several national voluntary organisations.

The 4 democratically elected members from North Ayrshire's job is to listen to, and recognise, the issues that are most important to our young people, ensuring that their voices are heard by decision-makers, both locally and nationally, their role is to be the voice for our young people across our schools and communities. SYP exist to provide a national platform for our young people to discuss the issues that are important to them, and campaign to affect the change they wish to see.

Here in North Ayrshire they form an integral part of our Youth Participation Structure and our Child Centered Council approach, where young people are central to decisions being made about them – with them being key decision makers in these processes. All 8 candidates continue to be involved and have reformed our North Ayrshire Youth Council Executive Committee.



This election process started in November 2023 but due to national issues with the online voting platform, our Council took the decision to restart to ensure fairness and integrity, and return back to paper ballots using the Single Transferrable Vote system, allowing voters to rank their candidates in numerical order. This allowed for our young people to complete their ballots, meanwhile taking part in a voting process that is used both locally and nationally with our 16+ population. True democracy in action! This has resulted in record breaking numbers for our participation rate which was fantastic to see with **4230** votes cast - this is over 50% of our full secondary school population. Our elected MSYPs for the next two years, will work within our schools and communities on specific projects, both locally and nationally whilst representing the views of their peers.

### Cunninghame North MSYPs



**Adam Johnson**

Largs Academy



**Rhyan Gorrie**

Garnock Campus

### Cunninghame South MSYPs



**Emma Burns**

Irvine Royal Academy



**Freya Fitzsimmons**

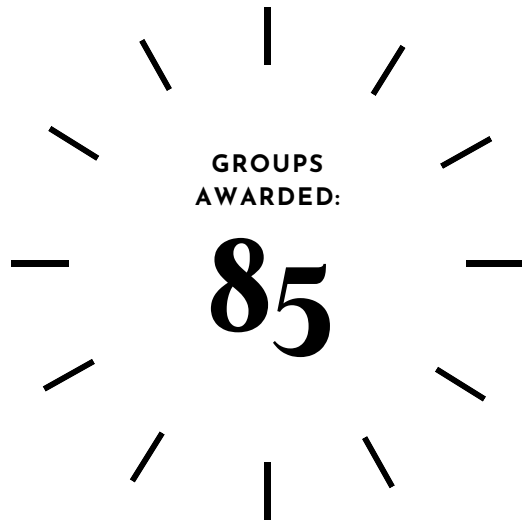
St Matthews Academy

To contact our MSYPs please email [youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)



# Youth Participatory Budgeting

North Ayrshires Youth PB results were announced on Monday 11th December.



VOTES:

**5,740**  
ACROSS NORTH AYRSHIRE

To view projects in your locality, please click link below:

<https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/2023-24results>

HAVE YOU VOTED ON #YOUTHBPB

Aged 8 - 25?

Please have your say!

Shaping North Ayrshire | YOUNG SCOT | NORTH AYRSHIRE Health and Social Care Partnership | North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership | North Ayrshire Council

# North Ayrshire Executive Committee



Our newly formed Executive Youth Committee has now elected in its committee. This group is made up of young people from across North Ayrshire and covers all six localities, covering seven of our nine secondaries. The group is the overarching youth voice group for North Ayrshire and welcomes new members to join.

The role of the 'Exec' is to support our youth participation structures such as Joint Youth Forum, Joint Cabinet, MSYPs and Youth Council meetings. With both planning and facilitating the activities and events. Central to the 'Exec' are our four Members of Scottish Youth Parliament. The group will support their local activity throughout the next two year term.

Supported by Community Learning and Development workers this network of young people will develop and carry out local consultations and engagement with their peers and work on specific projects, led by the voices of young people across North Ayrshire.

The group is open to young people aged 12-25 in North Ayrshire. If a young person is interested in joining they can email [youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) for more information. Likewise if any partners would like to work with the group they can email the central mailbox.



# Climate Change Ambassadors

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

Working with the Bee You Ambassadors group, they had many discussions around what issues young people face in their local communities and how they could use their training to benefit young people.

It was recognised that some work around suicide prevention had to be prioritised. Throughout North Ayrshire the statistics for youth suicides were particularly high. They felt a project highlighting this could give young people local signposting/ support services, would address the matter head on in a proactive manner.



Following on from the Kindness Mural Consultation it was decided that a tree planting project would take place within the Kilwinning Locality. The Climate Change Ambassadors funded the 16 trees and the time capsule for this joint project. With the aim of creating a community garden where young people could use green spaces to be with nature and feel calm.

Working in conjunction with Eglington Rangers Service to store and protect the trees through the winter. Ambassadors attending site visits and facilitate filling the time capsule with the ambassadors. The first date of planting had to be pushed back due to adverse weather making it hard for planting. The plan moving forward to February 2024 to enable the snow to pass. Within this time the two groups held a time capsule session to write a letter to their future selves, create a scrap book of memories looking at present times and projects that they have been involved in. The group continues to meet fortnightly.



## Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme



As our six senior modern apprentices are nearing the end of their course the focus has been on supporting them into positive destinations. Throughout their time they have developed a wide range of skills such as communication, interpersonal, ICT, planning and problem solving to name a few, alongside this they have

developed the required knowledge through the completion of their SVQ level 7 in Youth Work to become a competent and reflective Youth Work practitioner.

All of the apprentices have been added to our sessional list and will continue supporting young people and groups across the authority. Four have secured placements on the Community Development course at Glasgow University with 3 already communicating with colleagues regarding their first year placement. These MA's will continue to be supported through the team both in terms of placement but also with the qualification through accessing the small library of academic books and knowledge of colleagues.

Regarding employment, over and above their sessional opportunities, two have already gained full time employment, one has a full time position as a classroom assistant in Dreghorn Primary School and the other has secured a clerical position within the Housing team. The other four continue to apply for a variety of roles including mentoring positions and classroom assistants all being successful in gaining interviews.

During this time the MA's were supported with a range of support to improve their interview skills, this includes encouragement to apply for positions, providing references and also conducting mock interviews. MA's have feedback this level of support was beneficial to them in building their confidence and consolidating their knowledge in order to fully respond to questions.

We wish them all the best for their future.





## Youth Work Modern Apprenticeship Programme

*"Over the course of the apprenticeship, I have developed so many new skills and built amazing relationships with my colleagues and people within the community. I can honestly say my time as an apprentice has been some of the best moment of my life so far and has built me up into a completely new person from when I started. I joined the apprenticeship without much knowledge of what youth work was but thought it would be something I would enjoy; I had no idea the number of skills and opportunities it would provide me with and how much I'd thrive in the type of environment the team has created. Something I think the apprenticeship does best is allowing you to really throw yourself into the work you have a high interest. For example, I came in with an interest in working with young people surrounding mental health and they really allowed me to flourish within this type of work and build my knowledge around mental health through, programmes and training. All this as well as pushing me to try new things and come out of my comfort zone has helped me develop my confidence and do things within my professional and personal life, I never thought id be able to do.*

*Now that my apprenticeship is coming to an end my manager and team have played a major role in helping me with my next steps. Through their support and interview prep I have successfully landed a job within Dreghorn Primary as a classroom assistant and a placement in Glasgow University doing community development , two things I never would have been able to do without the qualification and experience I've gained within the past 18 months. As much as my apprenticeship has come to an end, I know the support within the team goes further than the 18 months and I always have a group of people to come back to ready to help and celebrate the wins with."* - Modern Apprentice - Youth Work



## Young Parents Group



The newly formed young parents group is open to young parents 25 or under and based in Stevenston weekly.

Working in partnership with the lifelong learning team this project is aimed to support young parents in a health and wellbeing environment, this will increase the confidence of parents and support improvement in their physical, mental, emotional and relational wellbeing for them and their children.

Designed by our MHWB Project Delivery Officer the group splits into activities suitable for the leaning and development of babies attending and also parents interacting in sessions. Using the first hour to focus on the baby/ child development through activities which is led by the lifelong learning team, using the second hour for the development of the parents.

Now the group is established sessions have been created to encourage learning for both parents and their babies, within a range of different topics including

- Messy Play
- What is mental health and how can this be linked between you and your baby
- Multiply input
- BookBug
- Worry and Fears session for parents (creating a social network)
- Resilience of a parent
- Baby Sensory
- Crafting
- Relax Kids
- Baking
- Baby Massage- attachment process and postnatal depression

The group is designed to be fun and exciting for both parents and their little one. They provide a great opportunity to try new activities and meet new people, creating lasting memories. The programme encourages parents to interact with other parents and share a variety of good and bad experiences. It creates perfect opportunities to get advice, meet new friends and catch up with their peers at each session.



## Young Parents Group

As a result of this programme young parents that are attending have increased confidence, created a support network within the group and enjoy each session. 15 young parents have joined the group and this increases each week.

Attending these sessions allows the children to interact with other babies and their parents, promoting socialisation and interaction. This can help to develop parents and babies social skills and build confidence in this new chapter of their lives.



*"This group has been a lifeline to me as we don't get to see anyone anymore since baby came along, the group is the thing that I look forward to every week. Meeting the other parents and getting support from each other is amazing, each week Dionne has something on for the kids but also an activity for the parents. I am sad that it will only be lasting 10 weeks, I really hope it can get extended. We have made friends for life, mums mental health is just as important as babies! The impact its had on myself and the other parents is more than words can say, we need more of this in our communities."* Young Mum - Young Parents Group



## Bounceback Programme - Dreghorn Primary

We delivered the Bounceback programme to Dreghorn Primary in this quarter, the programme focussing on mental health and wellbeing led by the North Ayrshire Bee You Mental health Ambassadors in delivering to Primary 6/7 school aged young people to then, in turn, become mini Bee You Ambassadors for their primary school.



The six, 1-hour sessions, has most recently been delivered to Dreghorn Primary School Primary 6/7 pupils. The programme allows the ambassadors who are all aged between 16 and 21 the chance to share the valuable information they have learned throughout their journey completing mental health programmes with these young people who are aged 11 and 12. This allows the primary group to then share this learning to help support their schools emotional awareness as Mini ambassadors for the younger aged classes within their school. The programme helped supports all 27 of the Dreghorn pupils involved in learning these workshops with their own resilience through topics that they are currently experiencing within.

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.

Once the programme is delivered, the pupils continue to be Mini Bee You Ambassadors for the primary school, with the school deciding on how their roles will continue to support their peers.



# Boyceback Programme - Dreghorn Primary

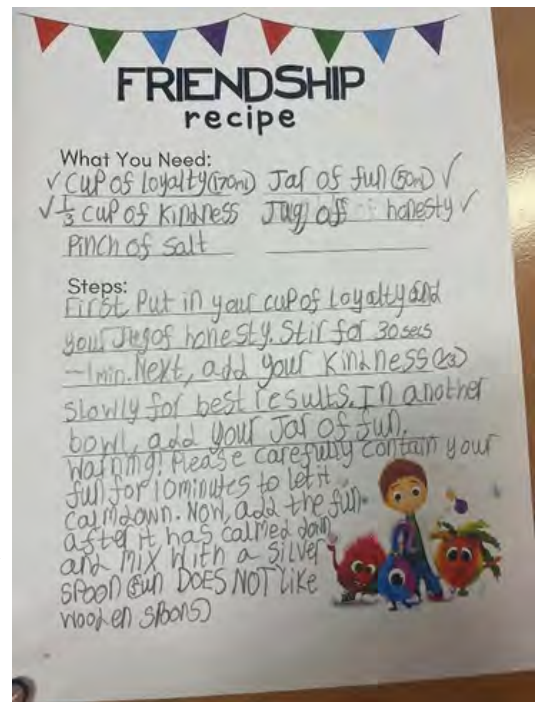
The interactive sessions have educated young people on:

- What is Mental Health
- Resilience
- Social Networks
- Friendships
- Making Decisions
- Self Care

This programme has become widely sought after across North Ayrshire primary schools.

*"You all helped me realise not to care so much about what others think, you are all amazing there was nothing I didn't like, I have learned to believe in myself and try stop doubting myself if I fail. I think everyone deserves a visit from you all, I had so much fun well done 100/100."* Pupil - Age 11

*"The programme was really good at covering lots of different topics to help children cope with day to day pressures and scenarios. The key points from the programme that really supported the class was to think about what people are like on the inside, be positive and kind and resilience in having real life scenarios to help work through, this programme was pitched at a good level for the age group. The children responded well to the ambassadors as they were approachable and the children could relate to them."* Mrs Brown- Teacher



# Irvine Royal Academy - Mental Health Day



Our Mental Health and Wellbeing worker was asked to support Irvine Royal Academy MHWB day this quarter by creating a 1 hour workshop to help pupils aged 11/12 with the start of their secondary school journey, to have a understanding of 'What is Mental Health'. This was run on rotation for a full day for all pupils in 1st year.

This workshop covered 'What is Mental Health', using the North Ayrshire Council Youth Services handouts and a mix of interactive activities, such as body mapping, this is where we get the pupils to draw around a member of the class then in groups we give the pupils scenarios and they then can draw or write on the body map how these scenarios made them feel and what it might look like on the body.

Within our 'What is Mental Health' handout we looked at mental health vs physical health, there is an activity within this that encourages the young people to recognise qualities within themselves that they like, this is held within the class and encouraged to be continued at home. On the back of this handout are the QR codes for the North Ayrshire community mental health and wellbeing mapping these QR codes direct you to what groups and resources are available across our localities for wellbeing support, this is explained to the group and encouraged to highlight to their parents/carers.



*"Thank You so much to Vicki and her team for their support of our young people. They thoroughly enjoyed the workshop; we look forward to working again with you soon."*

Mrs Marwick



# Your Resilience – The Hive – Ayrshire College



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 HIVE (Hope, Inspiration, Vision in Education) is a facility within Ayrshire college that many of the students arrive with no qualifications, and often no clear idea of what they want to do next. The HIVE aims to help you to achieve next steps and using the Your Resilience programme, we dedicated time to help these young people in their journey towards positive destinations.

Strong relationships have been established with the team and Ayrshire College The HIVE to support the young people that attend in helping them with their mental health and emotional awareness to move onto future courses or employment.

The programme was run weekly in Ayrshire College with current HIVE pupils (Intro to careers and bridge to careers). 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.

18 certificates went out to Intro to careers and 19 to Bridge to careers in this quarter.



# Your Resilience - The Hive - Ayrshire College

*"Working with young people who have previously disengaged from education within the HIVE at Kilwinning Campus, Ayrshire College, our course's aim is to prepare students to enhance their Employability skills, Confidence, Teamwork, Communication, self-esteem, and motivation which will support them into employment or mainstream courses.*



*Many of our students are Care experienced, have ASN, ADHD, Behavioural issues, Autism, Anxiety, Depression, Trauma and Mental Health issues. Vicki has been delivering Resilience sessions to over 50 of our students. The sessions have been invaluable for our students, through completing the workbook it has provided the students with an opportunity to take part in open discussions with relatable topics. Vicki and her staff have been amazing and were able to create a safe environment, build positive, trusting relationships with our young people, equip them with the tools and knowledge to reach out with any concerns and have better resilience which has had a positive effect on their mental wellbeing. I am hoping this partnership can continue, which will enable us to reach out to a lot more young people who will benefit from these sessions."* Caroline McCulloch - Employability & Engagement Officer

*"I liked this course because I learned more about mental health, it raised more awareness. My favourite part was the friendship part because it made me think about who I spend my time with"* Participant - Age 18





# New Scots

## The Film Making Project

The film project project has made a profound difference in the lives of the young people involved. By providing a platform for self-expression, the project has helped them overcome isolation, fostering a sense of belonging and community. The creative process of writing, action, filming, recording, and editing has not only honed their artistic skills but also served as a powerful tool for personal growth. Through engagement with peers, these young individuals have forged meaningful connections, breaking down barriers and building confidence. This holistic approach has not only empowered them in the realm of arts but has also contributed to their overall well-being and integration into their new communities.

The commitment of the young people, who dedicated 11 months to the project, is noteworthy. From conceptualisation to editing, they exhibited an extraordinary level of skill and dedication. The creation of a comprehensive behind-the-scenes documentary adds depth to their accomplishments, illustrating the profound impact the project had on the participating young people. The successful premiere at the Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine in January signifies not only artistic achievement but also community engagement.



# New Scots

## Nova Scotias Football

Nova Scotia's Boys Football team, established with a modest group in January 2022, has burgeoned into a thriving community initiative. From its inception, the team has expanded both in numbers and interest, currently boasting over 30 boys from diverse backgrounds. Beyond honing football skills, the group has evolved into a vital social network, fostering friendships and teamwork among resettled and unaccompanied asylum-seeking young people of various nationalities.

The support garnered from the Prince's Trust has been instrumental in the team's growth. Collaborations with organizations like Street Soccer Scotland, Killie in the Community, and Spike Wheat Scots have ensured the team's sustainability. Now, with two age groups formed in January 2024, Street Soccer Scotland oversees the over 16s team, with transitional staff support from CLD, while the under 16s group operates as a partnership with CLD, Spike Wheat Scots, and Killie in the Community providing coaching expertise.

Looking ahead, plans include participation in small tournaments during Spring and Summer, providing not just a platform for football development but also fostering personal growth among the boys. Nova Scotia's Boys Football team stands as a testament to the positive impact community sports can have on skill development, health, well-being, and resettlement



# New Scots

## Ukrainian discovery Award

The Ukrainian Discovery Award, launched at the Argyll Centre in Saltcoats, has rapidly become a transformative force and holds a crucial role in supporting the resettlement of older Ukrainian guests. With a membership exceeding 20 individuals and a consistent influx of new participants the impact is palpable. The introduction of a weekly cooking group and a craft café has not only provided creative outlets but has also fostered a sense of community and connection.

Recent visits to cultural landmarks such as Rozelle House, Glasgow University, and the Hunterian Museum have not only enriched their experiences but have also facilitated integration and cultural understanding. The Ukrainian Discovery Award has evolved into a vibrant hub for social engagement, skill-building, and cultural exploration, contributing significantly to the well-being and integration of the Ukrainian community in North Ayrshire.

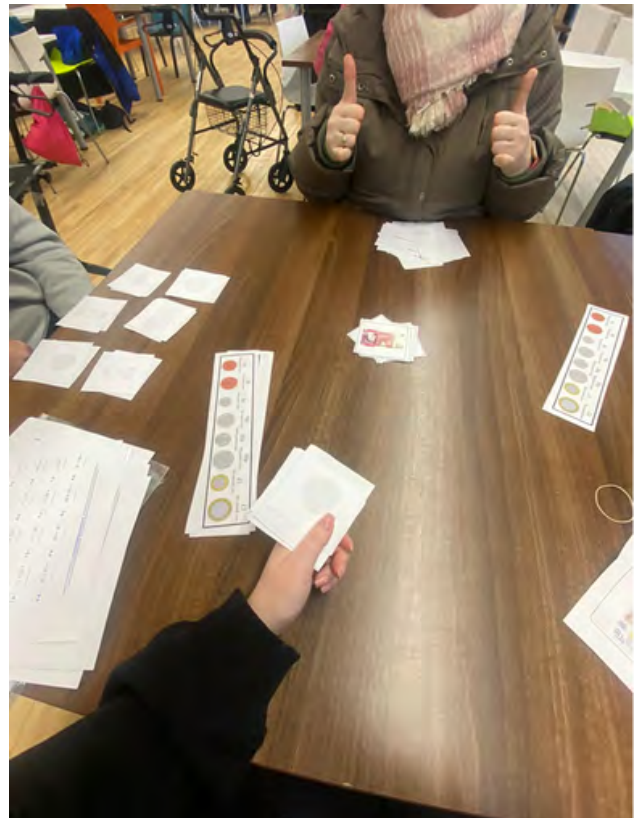


# The Multiply Project

The Multiply team's collaboration with Trindlemoss in delivering a numeracy support group for Additional Support Needs (ASN) adults has proven to be a resounding success. Working in tandem with Ayrshire College, the team has secured a project agreement that paves the way for learners to receive accreditation in the community for their numeracy skills. This initiative is a remarkable opportunity for community-based adult learners, particularly those taking their initial steps back into education and learning.

The impact of this endeavour extends beyond skill acquisition, offering a transformative experience for adults seeking to re-engage with education. This initiative is poised to make a lasting difference by providing a supportive environment for numeracy learning and accreditation, creating pathways for individuals to thrive in their learning.

Multiply provision is free and can be accessed via our referral form: <https://forms.office.com/e/MDXDeF1QUw?origin=lprLink> or by emailing [multiplyinfo@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:multiplyinfo@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)



Funded by  
UK Government

**LEVELLING  
UP**

**MULTIPLY**



# Participatory Budgeting

## Current PB updates:

- In this round of PB, the funding was 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 were announced on Monday 20th November with Youth PB results announced on 11th December.



## Participatory Budgeting 23/24 Results Overview:

LOCALITY PB -  
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS:

**93**

**3,131 VOTES**

UK SHARED PROSPERITY  
FUND -  
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS

**8**

**793 VOTES**

YOUTH PB -  
SUCCESSFUL GROUPS:

**85**

**5,740 VOTES**

To view all successful projects in your locality, please click link below:  
<https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/pbresultsnov23>



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, John, who provides valuable assistance and support to community groups exploring or looking for advice on taking on an asset within their communities. Particular areas of support provided have focussed on supporting groups with their governance documents and for some in preparation to go to court in respect of common good land; 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) and site visits for groups who are interested in submitting an initial expression of interest in a particular asset.

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**

Ardeer Park changing rooms has now received cabinet approval - Whitlees Community Centre - 3 Towns Men's shed - Initial interest from Ardeer Thistle Youth Academy

### **Kilwinning**

Blacklands Hall - Auld Dirrans Centre

### **Irvine**

Maress Road - Maress Playing fields

### **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

### **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; Volunteer training, Naloxone training, committee skills training, REHIS, First aid, Mental Health first aid, trauma awareness training, funding fares and funding workshops



**CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING**  
**FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS**

**MON 26/2 ONLINE, 6.30 - 8PM**

**WED 28/2 REDBURN CENTRE IRVINE, 10AM - 12**

Child Protection Awareness Session



To register please scan the QR code or contact Elaine Walker on 07818228733



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siostail Air a Tuath



# Food Insecurities

## The Fairer Food Network & Larder Updates



- Currently 14 food larders across North Ayrshire supporting over 3000 households with a dignified food provision.
- Two new larders in Largs and Millport will be opening in 2024 and a subsidised food model is supported on Arran.
- The fifth 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 was reviewed and agreed at the NAFF meeting In November 2023.
- The quarterly NAFF meeting was held on Teams on 29 November 2023. The group heard from SP Energy about the priority list for energy support in the event of powercuts. Gerry Gilmurray also offered to host drop ins at the larders to promote to members.
- Facilities Management had provided the network with a range of reuseable period products as part of period dignity week. There had been a mixed response from members and a mixed uptake. All remaining items were to be returned to Facilities Management as this was not to be an ongoing offer.
- There has been ongoing support to the larders and during the first quarter of the year, the senior manager and the Fair For All Development Officer visited all larders to get an update on their current financial status, any concerns and any highlights.
- The Tap End Larder, Stevenston is continuing to get on going support as their new employee settles into post. There have been various issues highlighted around centre security which are in the process of being dealt with. They have also been awarded one years funding for WIFI, a new laptop and phone via the digital fund.
- Argyle Community Shop volunteers and Saltcoats Link up have been receiving support in relation to ongoing internal difficulties between the two groups.
- Ardeer Larder have reduced their operational days and times but support can be given out with these time via an appointment.
- Support is being given and appliances ordered for the new larder at Largs Library. It is hoped it will open later in February and is currently awaiting a bank account.
- Millport Larder - Appliances have been ordered for this new larder. No proposed date has been scheduled for it to open.





# Food Insecurities

## Publicity and Promotion

Over the festive period, Comms continued to roll out information and promotional video clips advertising the larder network. Despite this, numbers have remained steady with no significant increase in demand.

Community Planning created and circulated a festive period support brochure for NA wide.

## Sustainable Food Places

Scottish Government launched The Good Food Nation Plan in February. Further information can be found at <https://consult.gov.scot/agriculture-and-rural-economy/national-good-food-nation-plan/>

## North Ayrshire Food Forum

The North Ayrshire Food Forum attempted a third meeting on 27 November as a hybrid model but there was a very poor attendance so the meeting was cancelled. No date has been rescheduled.

## In other news.....

### Survey

A survey of larders members from 50% of the larders was undertaken. 53% said that they had been using their larder for less than 6 months. This indicates that they are being used in the manner that was anticipated. 89% were happy with the range of food offered but despite access to the larder, 63% said that they still skipped meals to ensure that others in their household were being fed.

## Community Planning

The Council's Planning Service are putting together research aimed at gaining an understanding of how North Ayrshire residents access food throughout the area. As an important part of that, they are seeking views of the experience had by both Foodbanks and Community Larders. The views will be important in making future policy decisions including whether to support certain types of development in certain places such as Local Shops or Supermarkets.



# The Older Peoples Voice & Engagement Hubs



## The Older Peoples Voice Conference

The Conference was an inclusive success seeing participation from over 50 older people from all over North Ayrshire.

The day was focussed on the following key elements:

- To have representation from all localities
- Ensure people attending felt connected
- To finalise a participation structure for older people in a way their voices can be heard
- Complete mapping of all community provision for older people
- Educate, inform, and report findings of older people's voice consultation
- Listen to what the current issues are and provide the opportunity for networking with peers and local and national services

*The day would aim to ensure:*

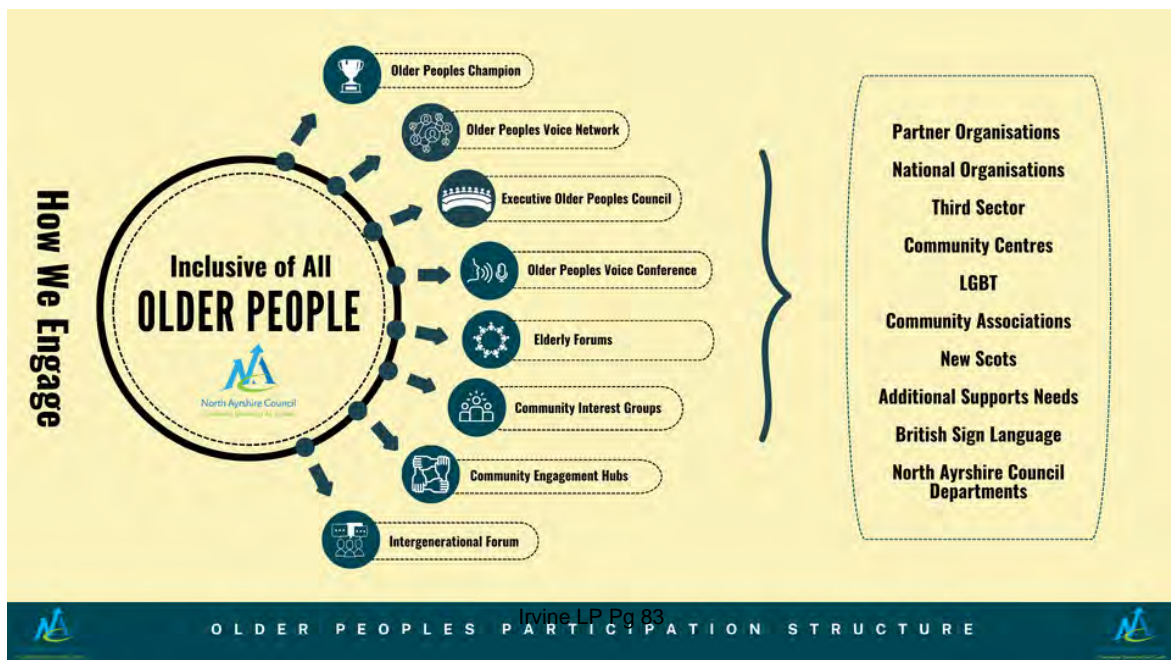
- A clearer understanding of what is most important to older people
- Gaps in service provision were addressed to determine how improvements could be made
- Single Points of Contact for each locality, were introduced to every older person to help establish a dedicated action plan for their area.
- Participants were encouraged to share any concerns they may have
- Helpful information and signposting was provided to support services for older residents



The conference was all about ensuring that older people remain at the forefront of the Council's decision-making and is a positive next step forward in the right direction to establish the Council's Older People's Voice Participation Structure – a key area of importance in North Ayrshire's Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan.



With the poor weather conditions leading to the ferry's being cancelled Connected Communities worked with partners in Arran Community & Volunteer Services to ensure our older people had the opportunity to still take part online.



# 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 improved 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.

Over the festive period there have been many festive lunches and events run by the CLD team, groups using the hubs and the hub committees, providing free lunches and visits from local School choirs.



# CAPACITY BUILDING



## Funding Success

Four of the hubs Committees at the David White Centre, Vennel Gardens, Watt Gardens and Montgomery Court as well as two groups have been supported to apply for funds to support and continue their activity within the hubs and been funded a total of £6,000.



## Montgomery Court Committee

The committee have gone from strength to strength since forming in the last 6 months, running weekly coffee afternoons and supporting CLD activity weekly including bingo and a sewing group.

Pictured above is the committees Burns Lunch which went down very well with free soup, haggis, neeps and tatties as well as poetry and deserts.



# Networking and Funding

## LPP Grant Awards

A total of **£7,234** was awarded by the Locality Planning Partnerships from November 2023 to January 2024.

## External Funding Levered In

A total of **£274,290** external funding has been levered in by third sector organisations from November 2023 to January 2024.



## Funding Support and Advice to Community Groups & Colleagues

- **3** funding workshops and drop-in sessions were delivered from November 2023 to December 2024.
- **9** funding updates circulated to community organisations and colleagues from November 2023 to January 2024.
- **774** members have now joined North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre
- **200** log-ins to Grantfinder and **579** searches carried out for the period November 2023 to January 2024.

## Community Benefits Wish List

4 wishes have been delivered this quarter, with 39 wishes delivered in 2023. A total of 74 wishes have been delivered through the Community Benefits Wish List since it launched in October 2021.

### Wishes delivered this quarter:

- Largs Foodbank: donation of £300 from RJ McLeod (December)
- Stanley Primary School Parent Council: donation of £100 from Carruthers (January)
- Irvine Youth Legacy Centre: donation of £100 from Carruthers (January)
- Organic Growers of Fairlie: donation of £200 from RJ McLeod to purchase paint for their raised beds (February)

Around 10 wishes are in discussion with contractors, but are unlikely to be delivered until spring/summer 2024 as they require better weather.

The next issue of the Community Benefits Newsletter will be circulated to contractors in late February/early March, with a focus on new wishes on the list.

A review of the Wish List is currently underway in partnership with the Third Sector Interface, who are hosting a forum on community benefits with representatives from across the sector.

