



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership

## Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Thursday 14 March 2024, 7.00 p.m. in the Community Room, Lochshore  
Hub, KA14 3BE

### BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	<b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.</b>	-	-	Cllr Bell	
2.	<b>Action Note</b> Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 5	Enclosed	Elaine Young	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
<b>DECISION REQUIRED</b>					<b>7.10 – 7.30 pm</b>
3.	<b>Grants</b> The Locality Partnership are asked to consider grant report:  <u>Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund</u> • St Margaret's Church Social Group	Pg 9	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider grant report.
<b>LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES</b>					<b>7.30 – 8.55 pm</b>
4.	<b>CIF Project Update</b> Receive update from Beith Playpark Action Group.	-	Verbal	Kathryn Young/Shona Pennie	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
5.	<b>Education &amp; Youth Overview</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an overview from Head Teachers and the Community Learning Development Team.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers & CLD Team	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	<b>KA Leisure</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an updated on the work against the priorities of the Garnock Valley Locality.	Pg 11	Enclosed	Mark Pilkington	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
7.	<b>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships</b>  Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland in the Garnock Valley.	Pg 13	Verbal Enclosed	David Cameron Neil Shearer	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities

8.	<b>Locality Plan Progress</b> Receive feedback from the sub-group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving Around</li> <li>• Facilities and Amenities</li> <li>• Work and the Local Community</li> </ul>	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini  Community Reps	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
9.	<b>Locality Officer Update</b> The Locality Partnership will receive an updated on the work against the priorities of the Garnock Valley Locality.	Pg 15	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
<b>AOCB</b>					<b>8.55 – 9.00 pm</b>
10.	<b>AOCB</b>				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 30	Enclosed	Cllr Bell	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

## Distributions List

### Elected Members

Councillor John Bell (**Chair**)  
Councillor Anthea Dickson  
Councillor Margaret Johnson  
Councillor Donald L Reid  
Councillor Ronnie Stalker

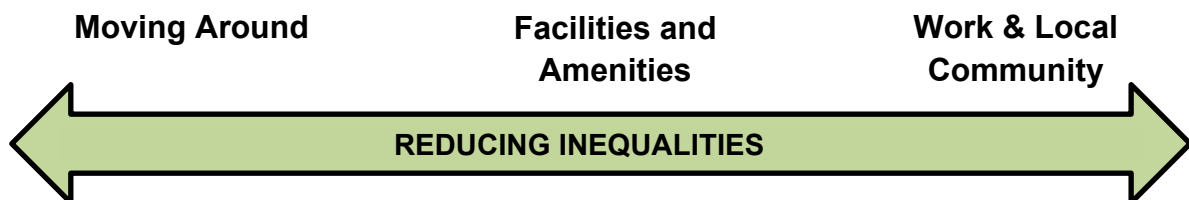
### Community Representatives

Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council  
James Waite, Beith & District Community Council (**Vice Chair**)  
David Park, Community Representative  
Brenda Reilly, Community Representative  
Jane Lamont, Community Representative  
Allan Wright, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council

### CPP/Council Representatives

Kaileigh Brown, Third Sector Interface  
David Cameron, Police Scotland  
Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue  
Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Council  
Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer  
Elaine Young, Senior Lead Officer, NHS Ayrshire and Arran

## Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



<b>Garnock Valley Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund</b>	
<b>The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:</b>	<b>£840, 000</b>
<b>Funded Projects</b>	<b>Total Funding Awarded</b>
Garnock Valley Mens Shed - Project Initiation	£28,000
Travel Needs Analysis	£25,000
Geilsland Hall - Volunteering and Employability	£45,000
Garnock Valley 20:20 Vision	£15,000
Beith Community Development Trust - YOUth Lead	£43,500
Garnock Valley Mens Shed - Heating System Replacement	£20,000
Café Solace - Development Worker	£49,723
Geilsland Courtyard Feasibility Study	£15,582
Beith Playpark	£100,000
Beith Community Association	£22,098.04
Garnock Valley 2023 Development Worker	£51,200
<b>Remaining CIF Balance</b>	<b>£424,896.96</b>

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Garnock Valley Locality Partnership</b>
<b>Date/Venue:</b>	7 December 2023 – Bridgend Community Centre, Kilbirnie
<b>Present:</b>	Councillor John Bell (Chair); Councillor Margaret Johnson; Councillor Donald L. Reid; Elaine Young, NHS Ayrshire and Arran (Senior Lead Officer); Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, NAC (Lead Officer); James Waite, Beith & District Community Council; Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council; David Park, Community Representative; Jane Lamont, Community Representative; Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, NAC; Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland; Garry Tait, Community Education Worker, NAC; Claire Fitzsimmons, Senior Manager, Regeneration, NAC; and Craig Stewart, Committee Services Officer, NAC
<b>Also Attending:</b>	Peter Stevenson, Working Group Chair, CIF Application
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors Anthea Dickson and Ronnie Stalker, Karen Lee (NHS), Scott Morrison (KA Leisure) and Dennis Hopkins (Head Teacher, St. Bridget's P.S.).

## ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Garnock Valley Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were noted. Introductions were then given.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Action Note and Log</b></p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 20 September 2023 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.</p>	
3.	<p><b>B714 Upgrade</b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership received an update from Claire Fitzsimmons on the B714 Upgrade. An update was also provided in relation to the "Beat the Street" project.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Elaine Young offered some support from Public Health to the "Beat the Street" project steering group and advised she would follow this up with Claire Fitzsimmons</p>	<b><i>Elaine Young</i></b>

<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Education &amp; Youth Overview</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an overview of learning and partnership opportunities relating to education and youth in the Garnock Valley locality.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>KA Leisure</b></p> <p>As there was no representative from KA Leisure present to provide an update in relation to this item, it was agreed to continue consideration of this matter to the next meeting of the Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	<p><b>Scott Morrison</b></p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnerships</b></p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Police Scotland on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland in the Garnock Valley.</p> <p>The update highlighted areas including a range of activities including the following: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence – this included White Ribbon campaign across all the secondary schools, attending the pan-Ayrshire Violence Against Women Group (VAWG) event at Park Hotel, Kilmarnock, and which promoted the campaign’s message across social media and partnership working with VAWP in a “Reclaim the Night” walk event;</li> <li>• The recent attendance by a Preventions &amp; Interventions Officer to a “Secured by Design” products event to understand the latest technology to prevent housebreakings and theft, to be utilised for Home Security visits across North Ayrshire;</li> <li>• During October, a Preventions Officer provided a Teams event to NHS and professionals on the harms of vaping for the individual and the environment;</li> <li>• In terms of wellbeing, the delivery of My Police and the My Police My Community books and presentation to some nursery and primary classes in the Garnock Valley with the remainder being completed in December;</li> <li>• Collaborative working with KA Leisure and Education to deliver a pilot project to enhance community wellbeing, increase school attendance, reduce anti-disorder and give young people the opportunities to gain non-academic qualifications; and</li> <li>• Inspector Cameron offered to provide a copy of the report he spoke to, and this was welcomed by the group.</li> </ul>	<p><b>David Cameron</b></p>

	<p>As there was no representative from Scottish Fire and Rescue present to provide an update in relation to this item, it was agreed to continue consideration of this matter to the next meeting of the Partnership.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Locality Action Plan</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update from Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, on the Locality Action Plan and the group endorsed this plan which runs until the end of March 24, thereafter a further plan will be developed.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Community Investment Fund</b></p> <p><b><u>Full Application</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beith Community Association</li> <li>• Garnock Valley 2023 Development Worker</li> </ul> <p>The Partnership considered the two full CIF applications mentioned above and agreed that both should go forward as full applications, to a future meeting of Cabinet of North Ayrshire Council for consideration.</p> <p>In respect of the Garnock Valley 2023 Development Worker, it was agreed that the Application be amended to include a further £6,000 in terms of funding.</p>	<b><i>Christina Pieraccini</i></b>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Street Naming</b></p> <p>The Partnership agreed two street names, namely “Academy” and “McQueen” for the new housing development at the site of the former Garnock Academy.</p> <p>The Partnership asked if Angela Morrell could check the position with Planning to ascertain why “Moorpark” and “Davidson” were excluded from the paper.</p>	<b><i>Angela Morrell</i></b>
<b>10.</b>	<p><b>Locality Plan Progress</b></p> <p>The Partnership received an update by Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, and from community representatives present, on the progress of the combined working group which covered all 3 locality priorities, namely Moving Around, Facilities &amp; Amenities and Work and the Local Community.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Locality Officer Update</b></p> <p>Christina Pieraccini made reference to her update, which had been circulated detailing the considerable work in numerous areas which</p>	

	<p>had been undertaken in the locality since the last meeting and invited any questions.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
12.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><b><u>New Moorpark P.S.</u></b></p> <p>An update was provided in relation to the anticipated opening of the new Moorpark Primary School, that sits adjacent to the existing school, and which when complete would have 12 primary classes and a 24-place Early Years facility. The opening date was now expected to be in Easter 2024.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p><b><u>Democracy Matters</u></b></p> <p>The Locality Partnership received a verbal update from Jane Lamont on the above. North Ayrshire Council was in phase two of a national consultation of “Democracy Matters” and there had been a series of workshops, events, and engagements to speak to communities about this. The engagement was building on the first phase of conversations where communities said they wanted more control over the decisions that impacted upon them the most.</p> <p>After discussion, the Partnership agreed that officers would check the position of where North Ayrshire Council was at it in relation to this matter, and provide an update to a future meeting, in order to facilitate further discussion and consideration in respect of this matter.</p>	<b>Angela Morrell</b>
13.	<p><b>Reports for Information</b></p> <p>The following report was submitted for information and sharing, as appropriate:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly CLD Report</li> </ul> <p>Noted.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Season’s Greetings</b></p> <p>The meeting concluded with Councillor Bell, Chair, wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.</p>	

**The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.**





**Locality Partnership:** Garnock Valley Locality

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Subject:** To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.

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

**Background:** Applications have been received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.

**Key Points for Locality Partnership**

- The Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund has a balance of **£5,271**

**Action Required by Locality Partnership**

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

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

**Completed by:** *Rosemary Ramsay, Funding Officer, Connected Communities*  
*(rosemaryramsay@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

**Date:** 23.2.24

## MARGARET ARCHIBALD BEQUEST FUND

### APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24

**Margaret Archibald Bequest Criteria: An application for a Margaret Archibald Bequest (“a Grant”) must satisfy the Trustees that the Grant is to benefit persons in financial need, who are 65 years of age or older and who live in the Parish of Dalry**

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Awards
St Margaret’s Church Social Group	Financial contribution towards the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bennetts of Kilwinning – Buses - £500</li> <li>• Langholm Tea Room - £807.75</li> </ul> Total costs - £1,307.75  Group contribution - £707.75	£600	2012/13 - £300  2014/15 - £350  2015/16 - £400  2016/17 - £300  2016/17 - £800  2017/18 - £1,200 2018/19 - £750 2019/20 - £900 2019/20 - £1,000 2021/22 - £750 2022/23 - £1,100
<p>Connected Communities, Finance, and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:</p> <p><b>Finance:</b> Invoices have been provided for the total costs of the grant. There is £5,271 available for disbursement.</p> <p><b>Legal:</b> The application detail submitted on behalf of this Applicant appears to satisfy the criteria of the Trust. So long as the Trustees are satisfied that the applicant group is “in need” financially, any financial assistance will be within the powers of the Trustees to award.</p> <p><b>Connected Communities:</b> Details contained within the application demonstrate that the award will be used for those who are aged 65 and over, living in the Parish of Dalry and in need.</p> <p>Connected Communities is satisfied that the application submitted meets the criteria of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.</p>			

## Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

**Date:** 14th March

**Subject:** KA Leisure Overview

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

1. Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic and Parking)
2. Work and Local Community
3. Facilities and Amenities

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

- Health & Wellbeing Alliance - The Alliance aims to bring different people and organisations together to develop inventive ways of working together to support our communities' wellbeing. It is built the third pillar of the CPP "Work, World and finally Wellbeing". We had a productive session on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March reflecting on our journey so far and planning the next steps to collectively improve the wellbeing of our communities.
- We've been delivering a development programme with some disengaged pupils at Garnock. The programme aims to support their well-being and provide possible avenues for future careers and volunteer opportunities. Feedback from the school and the pupils has been very positive.
- We have a range of activities across the Easter holiday people at Garnock and Dalry including free public swimming supported by NAC.
- We will work with youth services to support a range of activities across the lighter nights with information to come shortly.
- Our community programme for sport continues to expand and we recently added some art classes for kids and adults at Dalry CSH.
- Garnock CC Swimming sessions have been expanded with additional laned sessions from 8.30am on a Tuesday morning and an additional Public session from 1.30pm on a Thursday afternoon.
- Garnock CC Family day 12.30pm -3.30pm on a Saturday afternoon, looking to launch in late March. Discounted cost to attract families, also offers great opportunities for local clubs.

### 2. Asks of the Locality Partnership

**Name Mark Pilkington**

**Title Business Development Manager**

## Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Subject:** Scottish Fire and Rescue: 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 Garnock Valley Locality Partnership:

1. Moving Around (Public Transport, Traffic and Parking)
2. Work and Local Community
3. Facilities and Amenities

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

Since the last meeting Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continues to provide the people of the Garnock Valley with fire safety advice within their own homes. SFRS has conducted 31 Home Fire Safety Visits throughout the Valley. Of these 31 visits, 42% of these visits were to the most vulnerable in our community and were deemed high risk. Being High risk means that we will reconnect the occupant in a years' time and offer to re-visit and provide further advice if required.

SFRS receives visits requests from different ways. We receive these direct from the occupant but often we get visits as a result of an operational incident within the property or at a neighbouring home and through our Post Incident Response Procedure we provide safety advice and can provide smoke detection if required. A lot of our referrals are due to our continuous work with partners, and we receive referrals from many different partners including NHS Falls Teams, HSCP North Ayrshire and Hospital discharge referrals.

HFSV's can be requested from: -

[Home fire safety visits | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](https://www.firescotland.gov.uk)

Phone – 0800 0731 999

Text - 80800

Over the last few months SFRS have made 8 AP1 referrals to social work partners for people who live within the Garnock Valley. These AP1's can come direct from our operational crews, after encountering an individual whom it is felt that are Adults at Risk of harm or in Need of Support, at operational incidents or from community engagement such as a HFSV.

As part of our partnership working, CAT has delivered fire retardant mat for occupier who had careless smoking issues. (This is a limited stock)

Our Community Action Team have been working Garnock Community Campus in the planning of a Fire Skills Course, to be held at Kilwinning Community Fire station. Fire Skills courses gives young people the opportunity to learn to work as a team, learn about fire safety and get the opportunity to try out some firefighting training. From 22/04/24-26/04/24 pupils from S3 Princes Trust will be getting this opportunity and this will be an accredited course.

CAT will also be planning to attend GCC to provide inputs to pupils on Water Safety and Anti-social behaviour alongside the Campus Police Officer.

In August SFRS will be assisting Scottish Ambulance Service Station with emergency services open day, date and further information will be passed on at the next meeting.

CAT liaising with partner agencies (NAC Housing, NAC HSCP) to deliver refresher training on FSET (discussing referral pathways etc).

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

**Name - Neil Shearer**

**Title - Station Commander**

# GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY REPORT MARCH 2024



North Ayrshire  
Community Planning Partnership



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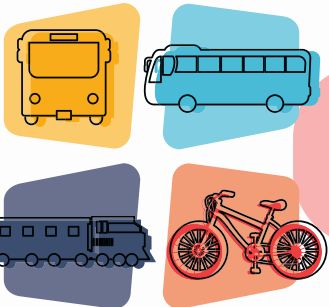
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# Locality Priorities for Garnock Valley



## Facilities and Amenities



## Moving Around



## Work and Local Community



# KEY STATS FOR THE QUARTER

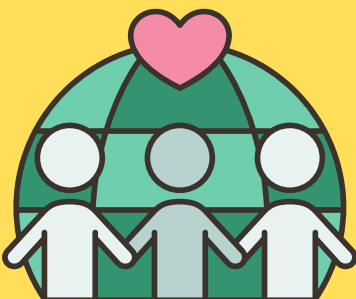
196 adults from the Garnock Valley engaged in CLD activity this quarter

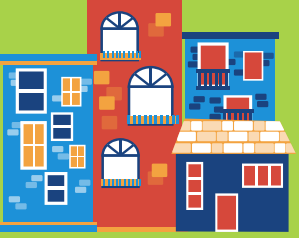
145 children and young people from the Garnock Valley engaged in CLD activity this quarter

76 adults in the Garnock Valley with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity

A total of 123 young people are engaging weekly across 7 youth groups in the Garnock Valley

19 groups in the Garnock Valley receiving capacity building support through CLD activity





## Facilities and Amenities

**Café Solace** – Café Solace re-opened on 12th January following a break for the festive period. Their Christmas Dinner events were very well received. They plan to organise a few fundraising events throughout this year to enable them to provide the same quality of Christmas meal for 2024.

During 2023, Café Solace Kilbirnie provided a total of 3,129 meals, 251 of which were offered free of charge (212 of these were for children).

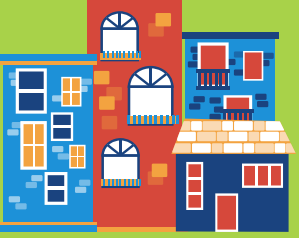
Customer numbers for lunch and dinner during January were higher than the same period from the previous two years, continuing at the level of 90-100 each week.

Café Solace have catered for two external events during January, one for a 21st birthday party where they provided a buffet, and the other for Beith Bowling Club's Burns Supper where they provided a four-course meal. Feedback from both events was excellent. They hope to be able to quote for further external events during the year to supplement their income.

Café Solace have had one placement through the Community Payback Team, with the person involved assisting with the Wee School Pantry and Café Solace, under the supervision of Iain, their Food Development Officer. In addition, two young people have started volunteering with Café in December as part of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Both are doing well and growing in confidence each week.

As part of a joint funding bid with Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Association, they received £5,000 PB funding. This is to part fund CCTV in the centre grounds due to a recent spate of vandalism, and to tarmac part of the back car park. The CCTV has since been installed. Part of the funding is for their kitchen garden, which will be utilised as soon as the ground has been cleared. This has been delayed due to the weather and demand on the team for other projects. They hope to have the work completed as soon as possible to allow planting to start.

Finally, Café Solace have also had further engagement with Developing Young Workforce and the Locality Team around opportunities for school refusers, as a result four young people will be offered placements making barista style coffees.



## Facilities and Amenities

**Dalry Community Garden** were delighted to receive funding from the Participatory Budgeting Fund last year. This has enabled them to purchase bee suits for any adult or child who may wish to visit their bees and learn first-hand from their beekeepers.



**Salvation Army Kilbirnie** - The Music Man group from George Steven Community Hub will be travelling down to London and performing onstage at the Royal Albert Hall with Michael Ball on the 9th of April.

Their Community Meals service continues to be popular, which offers a three-course meal with delivery.

They have started a Conversation Café on a Monday 1pm -2.30pm, everyone is welcome and will receive a plate of homemade soup. In addition, they have a number of Chromebooks that people can use during these sessions and digital support is on hand should people need help to resolve issues.

They have a number of volunteering opportunities available including gardening, catering and activity roles and full training will be given. Pop into the Hub for more details.



# Moving Around

## Garnock Valley Health Walks

Three participants have completed training as Walk Leaders, two in Disability Awareness. All three have also undertaken First-Aid training. The newly trained leaders will go on to lead on their own walks for the community.



**Men's Shed Dalry** The Bike project is going very well. Working with the Community Worker supporting local New Scots, they have identified recipients and assigned upcycled bikes. These bikes are making a huge difference to the lives of those who receive the bikes.



# Work and Local Community

**Dalry Community Sports Club** – The larder continues to provide a lifeline for many families and individuals in the town and attendance has continued to increase as the cost-of-living crisis bites. On Saturdays, alongside the larder, they also provide a place where people can meet and have a cup of tea and a chat in a warm space.

In November, they cooked and gave out over 500 free rolls & sausage at the Dalry Christmas lights switch on and on 8th December they held their first Community Cinema night with a showing of Muppet Christmas Carol, which was very well received with approximately 60 people attending and which will hopefully become a regular event. Also in December, and in conjunction with the Dalry Community Association, they organised a table-top sale to allow local groups to raise money for their good causes.

Looking to 2024, Dalry Community Sports Club are currently working alongside Dalry Action Group and Dalry Community Development Hub to organise Party in the Park in May. Building on the success of the Jubilee and Coronation events held in the park over the previous two years, this will take place on Sunday 26th May in Dalry Park.

Other future plans include supporting the Ayrshire Schools Orienteering Championships in Dalry Public Park in May, providing burgers for the runners at Skirt the Skeith as well as organising the kids run in June, and organising some family Fun Zones in the Community Centre to tie in with the Scotland games in the European Championships.



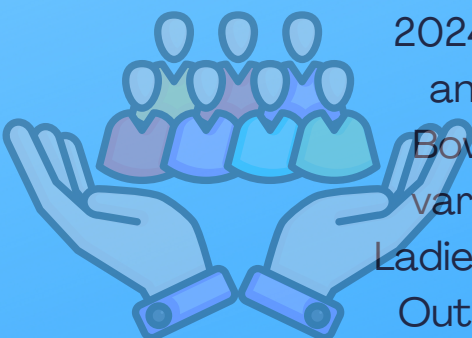
# Work and Local Community

**Multiply Project** – Since the Project Delivery Officer for Multiply started their role in October 2023, they have hit the ground running. They have been working with learners based in the Garnock Valley, working with them with the appropriate resources to achieve their set goals. Incorporating new ways to approach adult learning and numeracy, this has resulted in the development of the Music Lounge.

The Music Lounge is a new project looking at numeracy in music and how it can practically be applied in everyday life. The Project Delivery Officer will be starting a pilot course under the project looking at a re-introduction to numeracy for learners, with the hope that it can be shaped by the learners. This course will utilise using instruments as the tool to learn practical numeracy skills some examples being; elementary arithmetic, pattern recognition, rhythm and timing. This is scheduled to start on the 16th of April with an information session held week commencing the 25th of March. Details on the info session are still to follow. It is hoped that as the course develops, it can be accredited by Ayrshire College and learners will gain a SQA unit qualification in Numeracy.



**Barrmill Jolly Beggars** - Barrmill Jolly Beggars held their special 80th anniversary Burns Supper on 19 January 2024, when 65 members and friends celebrated the life and times of Scotland's Bard, Robert Burns, in Beith Bowling Club. The club holds 8 open nights a year with various speakers; a St Andrew's Dinner, Burns Supper, Ladies Night, Charabanc Outing and Theatre (Pantomime) Outing. The secretary is busy organising events for the 2024/25 session of the club. The club is open to all (over 16) and is proud of its history and tradition since founded in Barrmill in 1944. All welcome. Contact: Secretary: Donald L Reid on: [donaldleesreid@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:donaldleesreid@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) or 01505-







# Work and Local Community

**History Talks** – The previous Winter 2023 sessions attracted 33 individual participants over 6 sessions. The new Winter season of History Talks commenced on February 15th. Five speakers are booked to give talks to the community, ranging from The Murder of The Earl of Eglinton to Turnberry Airfield. These wide and varied sessions make learning more accessible and give people opportunities to gather together with common interests. Consequently, this promotes wellbeing by enhancing relationships through shared experience, and builds a sense of belonging/connectedness to their locality. Also, the new sessions will tie in with Places That We Know, who will conduct a pre-session workshop.

**Volunteers Week 2024** – This year Volunteers Week falls in 3–9 June in order to incorporate the Big Help Out which runs from 7–9 June. TACT will be holding their annual awards ceremony and nominations are open now. Nomination forms can be found at the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/nGJGtutBC9>

Radio City Association  
**Spring Cost Of Living Event**  
Friday 22nd March 10:30-14:30  
Garnock Community Social Club  
Loadingbank, Kilbirnie KA25 6JY

**Included On the Day**

- Energy advice, efficiency tips and money/debt advice
- Product giveaways, slow cookers, children's clothing
- Access to funds for cost of living
- Training, employment, and volunteering information
- Free travel to the event in Radio City's electric vehicles
- Free refreshments and snacks

**Some of those attending**

SP ENERGY NETWORKS, chap, CEIS, the trinity, SUNNINGHAME, HOME ENERGY SCOTLAND, TFC, Citizens Advice Bureau, North Ayrshire Council

**For More Information** Phone: 01505367722  
**Contact us:** Email: [hello@radiocityassociation.co.uk](mailto:hello@radiocityassociation.co.uk)

Operating Under RCA Registered Charity Number SC042718

**Radio City Association** - Glow and Grow is a 16-week personal development programme specifically for parents. Childcare costs are covered giving parents the time to explore their future options.

A Spring Cost of Living Event will be held on March 22nd in Garnock Social Club, Kilbirnie, where 15 organisations working across cost of living will open to the public to provide on the spot advice and support, as well as some freebies and refreshments.

# Garnock Valley Youth Forum



The Youth Forum continues to deliver a positive environment for local young people to become involved as active community members. Following meetings with the Mental Health Project Delivery Officer Dionne, the young people had the opportunity to review the Mental Health toolkit, and as a result their ideas were taken forward with others to a multi-agency Mental Health toolkit development day held at Saltcoats Town Hall on Monday 5th Feb.

The Youth Forum are currently developing an idea which will hopefully see a short film made by the young people about the impact racism can have in the Garnock Valley.



# Garnock Valley Youth Forum

The Youth Forum provided assistance to the Kilbirnie Town Centre Management Initiative with the Christmas lights switch on. The Youth Forum provided their Once Loved Uniform Centre, as well as a tearoom at Bridgend Community Centre on Saturday 25th November, for those attending Santa's Grotto. This was a successful event with many families receiving a hot bowl of soup and many items from the uniform centre were distributed. They continue to provide the Uniform Centre on a regular basis and are active in sorting and distributing donations. The Youth Forum will be taking the Once Loved Uniform Centre to the upcoming Cost of Living Event at Garnock Social Club on Friday 22nd March 2024.



Finally, the Youth Forum celebrated the successful election of forum member Rhyan Gorrie as one of the MSYPs for Cunninghame North, which was announced at an event at Saltcoats Town Hall on Monday 5th Feb. Some of the young people attended to show their support and everyone congratulated Rhyan at the group on the Wednesday

# Garnock Valley Locality Team



**Big changes are underway within the Garnock Valley Locality CLD Team.**

**Garry Tait** will be leaving the Garnock Valley after approx. 13 years supporting young people in the Garnock Valley and more recently groups and associations including Dalry Community Development Hub and Dalry Community Association. Garry will continue his work with NAC as a Community Development Worker within the Irvine Locality.

**Tom Nichol** will leave NAC after working for a number of years at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre and more recently as Outdoor Learning Project Delivery Officer. Tom leaves to take up a new opportunity in Edinburgh.

**All will be very much missed by colleagues and the community alike, and we wish them all the best for their future endeavours.**

**Stewart Beck** will retire from North Ayrshire Council after 33 years with the Local Authority, working within Community Learning & Development as a Community Worker. Working over 13 years in the Garnock Valley, Stewart has supported a number of groups across the Garnock Valley including the Garnock Valley Men's Shed, Garnock Valley Allotment Association, Dalry Community Sports Club, Café Solace, Barrmill & District Community Association, Health Walks and History Talks.

**Andy Gregory** will retire from NAC after 18 years, 6 of those working in the Garnock Valley. During his time, he has delivered the John Muir Award at Place Woodland, offered literacy support through the community, delivered the Discovery Award for over 50s, as well as helping with the Community Support Hub during Covid 19 pandemic.

Last but not least, Locality Support Assistant **Garry Brown** will be leaving the Garnock Valley Locality Team after 3 and a half years to undertake a North Ayrshire wide role, although hopefully Garry will still visit his friends in the Garnock Valley on occasion.



The combined locality partnership working group will next meet in May 2024. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend and get involved. Please contact Christina for further information.

**For further information or contact:**

**Christina Pieraccini  
Locality Officer Garnock Valley**

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



# 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: **GV LP Pg 33**



- *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



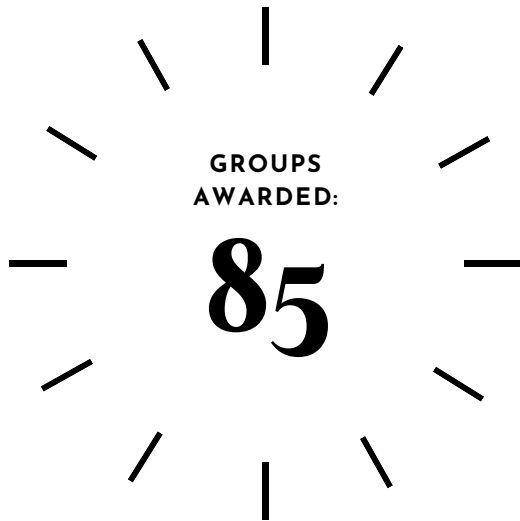
**Freya Fitzsimmons**  
St Matthews Academy

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!

# 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 Dregghorn 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

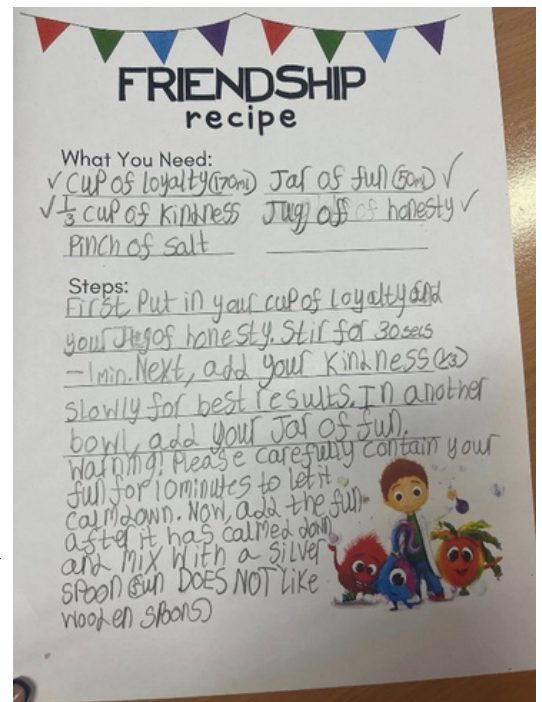
The interactive sessions have educated young people on:

- 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



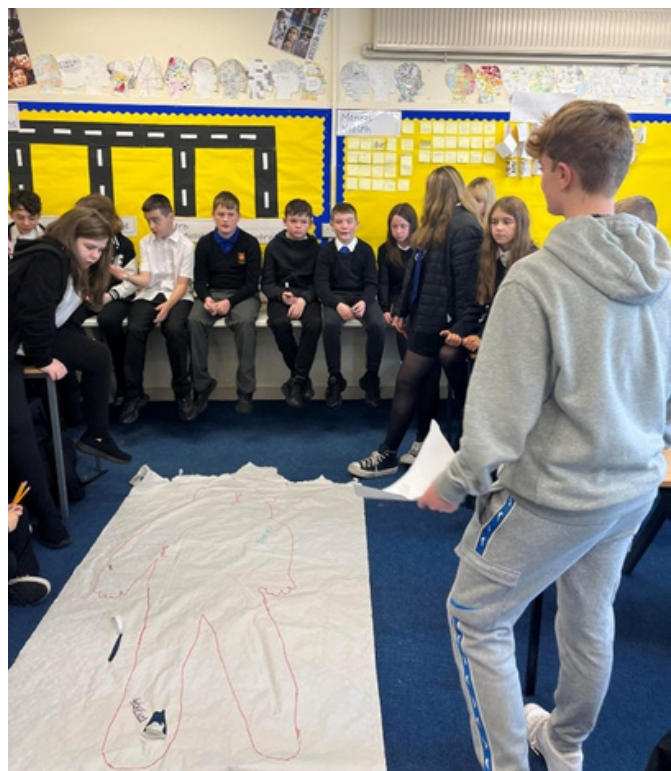
# Irvine Royal Academy - Mental Health Day



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

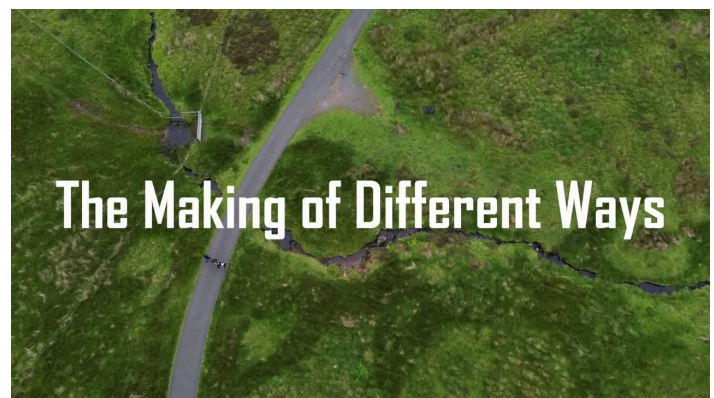


# New Scots

## 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.

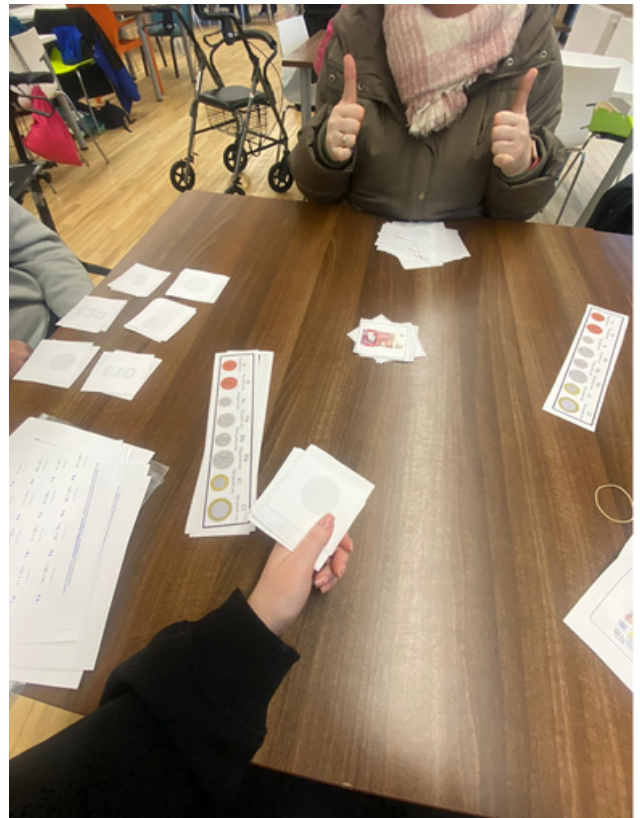


# The Multiply Project

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 Siorrachd Àir 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:*

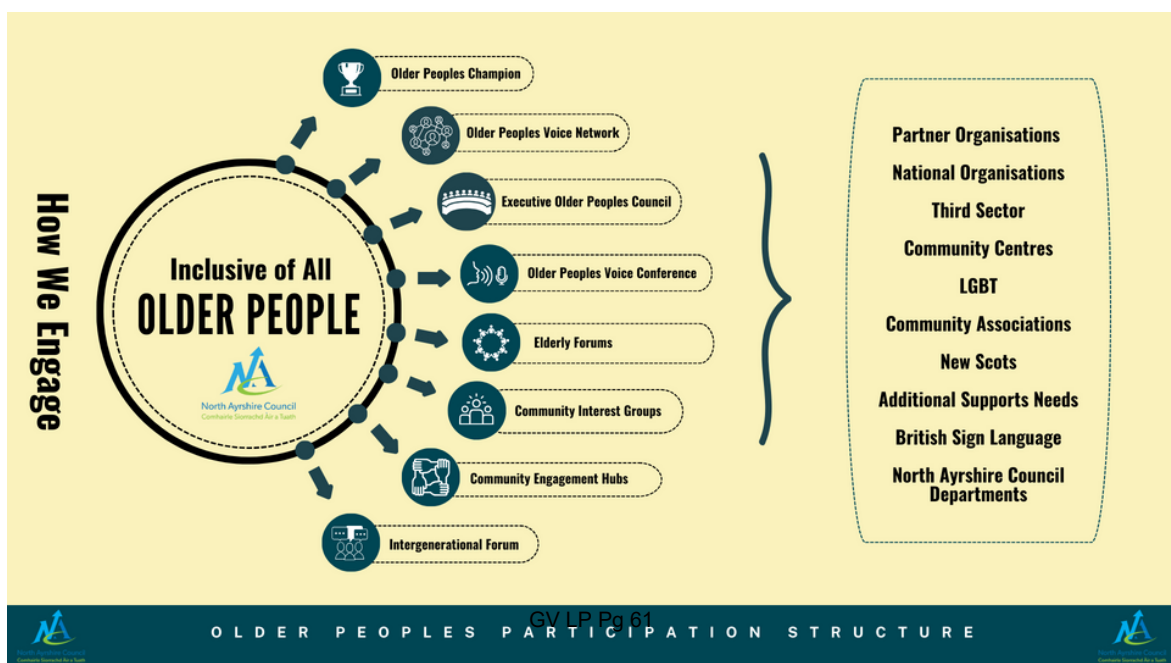
- A clearer understanding of what is most important to older people
- Gaps in service provision were addressed to determine how improvements could be made
- Single Points of Contact for each locality, were introduced to every older person to help establish a dedicated action plan for their area.
- Participants 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.

