



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Partnership

**Monday 2 September 2024, 6.00 p.m. at Redburn Community Centre,
Dickson Drive, Irvine**

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Macaulay	
2.	Action Note Review the action notes from 3 June 2024 and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meetings. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					6.10 – 7.00 pm
3.	Grants The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one grant report. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Elderly Grants	Pg 10	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to consider one Grant Report.
4.	Locality Action Plan The Locality Partnership are asked to consider the draft Locality Action Plan for 2024/25.	Pg 13	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to consider draft Locality Action Plan for 2024/25.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.00 – 7.55 pm
5.	Locality Strategic Lead The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the role of the new Strategic Lead.	-	Verbal	Louise Kirk	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
6.	Bourtreehill Park The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work taking place at Bourtreehill Park. Locality Officer Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Irvine Locality Team during the last quarter.		Verbal Presentation	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
7.	Youth, Education and Active Schools Overview 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.

				Leanne Hillan-Fowler	
8.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships The Locality Partnership will receive update on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue in Irvine.	-	Verbal	David Cameron Paul Timmons	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
9.	KA Leisure The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	John McMillan	Receive update and consider learning and partnership opportunities.
10.	Irvine Community Council The Locality Partnership will receive an update from the Chair of Irvine Community Council on the work of the Community Council during the last quarter.	-	Verbal	Chris Pless	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
AOCB					7.55 – 8.00 pm
11.	AOCB	-		Cllr Macaulay	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
	CHAP Quarterly Update CLD Strategic Quarterly Update	Pg 18 Pg 20	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**)
Ian Wallace

CPP/Council Representatives

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

Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities

**Supporting
Skills and
Work
Opportunities**

**Enhancing our
Mental Health
and Wellbeing**

**Alleviating
Poverty**

**Championing
Green Health
and the Natural
Environment**



Meeting:	Irvine Locality Partnership	
Date/Venue:	3 June 2024 at Fullarton Community Hub, Irvine at 6.00 p.m.	
Present:	Councillor Shaun Macaulay (Chair) Councillor Christina Larsen Councillor Chloé Robertson Councillor Marie Burns Councillor Nairn McDonald Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer Elaine Baxter, Locality Officer Chris Pless, Community Council Representative David Phillips, Community Representative Annie Small, Community Representative (Vice- Chair) Donna Fitzpatrick, Community Representative Barbara Conner, TSI Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager, North Ayrshire Council Gary Moore Active Schools Cllr Louise McPhater	
In Attendance	Carrie Boax, Greenwood Academy	
Apologies:	Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Councillor Angela Stephen Lauren Goldie, Active Schools Lindsey Murphy, NHS Public Health Ian Wallace, Community Representative Councillor Matthew McLean Marjory Dickie, Community Representative Sally MacIntyre, Community Representative John McMillan, KA Leisure	
ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.	
2.	Action Note The action note from the meeting held on 4 March 2024 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.	

3.	<p>Grants- Irvine Common Good</p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer with details of two grants circulated.</p> <p>Contribution towards Marymass Festival - £3,033.02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved no conditions. <p>Irvine Joint Ward Old Folks Committee- Assistance towards social activities for senior citizens- £9,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved no conditions. 	<p>Rosemay Ramsay</p>
4.	<p>Street Naming Report</p> <p>The Partnership received a report from North Ayrshire Council Planning Department on street naming for a new residential development on the site of former Ayrshire Central Hospital (Maternity Unit), Kilwinning Road, Irvine. Eight new street names are required. A list of street name suggestions was provided including Braille Gardens.</p> <p>Cllr McDonald raised suggestion of Provost Ian Clarkston Avenue as a tribute to someone who has served Irvine Community. The Partnership voted with 2 abstaining, 4 yes and 3 no, however Chair ultimately decided that this should not go ahead due to contravening the provided and approved Street Naming Guidance.</p> <p>Using the suggested names from Planning, the Partnership agreed names of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belvedere Road • Braille Gardens • Reid Place • Crow Wood Green • Redburn Bridge • Ferguson Wynd • Andross Street • Conway Avenue <p>Lesley Forsyth agreed to check that Redburn bridge is appropriate or requires a suffix i.e. Street/ Avenue.</p>	<p><i>Lisa Dempster/ Kirsty Gee</i></p> <p>Lesley Forsyth</p>
5.	<p>Townend Skills Hub Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Carrie Boax.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in pastoral remit after Covid have been significant. • The project aims to increase young person engagement, including social interaction for young people and their families as well as focusing on skills development for young people. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An eight-session pop up café took place in 2023 which was successful at Townend Community Centre. • Began working with the Community Association and Princes Trust to develop the Skills Academy. • Staff delivered core literacy and numeracy, and CHAP is also in attendance to work with families around money matters. • SDS have also been involved. Developed Barista and Events Management classes at the Hub. Staff also linked in with the college and hope to deliver adult literacy and numeracy classes. There are now around 20 staff working on this per week. • Carrie Boax invited the Partnership to come along and see the Hub if they wish. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. • The Partnership fed back positively about the work of the Hub and thanked Carrie for her update. 	
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6.	<p>Youth and Education Overview</p> <p>No representative present.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
8.	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnership</p> <p>Apologies received from David Cameron. Lesley Forsyth agreed to circulate the Police report by email.</p> <p>Cllr MacAulay asked the Locality Partnership if there were any specific topics to request of Police Scotland and SFRS for update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vapes and counterfeit cigarettes – highlight good work taking place to address this. Single use vapes have been banned by North Ayrshire Council. • Police presence in supermarkets and around local shops. Request update on this from Inspector Cameron, especially around safer shores. Report back at September meeting about summer activity and any lessons learned, successes, gaps etc. • Discussions around local events and the use of licenses- for example unlicensed vendors and the litter and mess this creates balanced with the income brought into the area. Request that this is brought back to a future meeting. • Discussion around Kasia attending a future meeting at the work to pedestrianise the area and playpark. 	<p>Jennifer McGee/ David Cameron</p>
9.	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>No representative present.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	
10.	<p>Irvine Community Council</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from the Chair of Irvine Community Council on the work of the Community Council during the last quarter, including an update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Family Fun Day including Easter Egg hunt next to Trinity Church. • This Wednesday the June meeting will take place. Looking at hosting a hustings for central Ayrshire, specifically to organise 	

	<p>something for the third week in June. Provisional date booked at the Volunteer Rooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating a notice Board for the Town Centre, working with Rivergate to develop a proposal for the land outside the centre next to Trinity Church. This can be updated on the locality action plan. • Barbara Conner offered to advertise that the Community Council are looking for members if they send over wording to go in TSI newsletter. • Discussion around whether the Partnership should be circulating guidance about voting and the new requirement for photo ID. Senior travel cards will be accepted but not the YP NEC. The Chair highlighted that there are national resources available, 	
	Noted.	

11.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Partnership received a report by the Locality Officer on the work which had been undertaken in the Locality since the last meeting including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory budgeting is coming again and PB will now be led on by Locality Teams. Applications open on the 26th. • The Irvine team are currently looking for community reviewers to assess applications and be involved in the whole process to support this. This would be Irvine Community Reps initially. Jennifer McGee sent a notice round the Partnership including key dates on Monday. • Naming of the park at Harbourside is also included in the report. <p>Noted.</p>	
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Conner highlighted that it is Volunteers Week. The Volunteer Awards ceremony takes place Thursday 6 June. • David Philips updated that Seniors Forum are holding a networking event on 21 June to look at community transport. L Forsyth updated that currently a community transport consultation is also open and asked that participants are encouraged to also feed into it. 	
13.	<p>Reports for Information</p> <p>The Chair reminded the Partnership that reports were submitted as part of the meeting paperwork for information and sharing as appropriate.</p>	Noted

The Meeting ended at 7.45p.m.



Locality Partnership: Irvine Locality

Date: 2 September 2024

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of the 2024/25 Elderly Grants Fund

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

Background

Applications have been received in respect of the 2024/25 Elderly Grants Fund

Key Points for Locality Partnership

The balance available for disbursement is bullet pointed below:

- The 2024/25 Elderly Grants Fund has a balance of **£15,050**.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

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

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

Completed by: Sharon Fleming
Grants & Performance Officer
Email: sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Date: 15th August 2024

ELDERLY GRANTS FUND APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024/25

Grant Allocation for Irvine LPP Area

£ 15,050

Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested
BABCA	The activities that have been suggested by the group are a Christmas three course meal for sixty with Santa and a small Christmas present and live music with a game or two of prize bingo. We have run this event yearly getting funding so no cost to the older people. The groups would bring the older people in the community together after losing the help the aged they don't often get the opportunity to meet and socialise. The day trip was suggested as it was on some of the people's list to see these a wee trip down memory lane and a tick off their bucket list. Hoping to schedule this for beginning of December 2024. A trip to a pantomime with lunch included for thirty- two people. With the assistance of some funding, we may be able to run some free events to get them back out their houses and engaging with their local community.	£ 2,185	£ 2,185
LBLB & Girdle Toll Age Concern	The request for funding is to contribute towards: Shopping Trip to Glasgow Forge Christmas Lunch at McChristie's Two bus trips during Jan & June Christmas Gift Vouchers from local butcher.	£ 3,038	£ 3,038
Dreghorn Old Peoples Welfare Committee	This grant allows the committee to subsidise the cost of both the sum out & Christmas lunch, allowing affordability for those	£ 1,710	£ 1,710

	who pay not be able to meet the full cost, especially with the cost of living. These events provide social contact for people who may live alone or are isolate from family or friends. Allows engagement with people they have not seen in months. Overall helps promote social inclusion among our elderly community.		
Irvine Joint Wards Old Peoples Welfare Committee	The grant will benefit the Old People's Welfare group to encourage confidence and to re-engage in group outings, such as Summer Trips with High Tea and Christmas Lunch with Party.	£ 7,426	£ 7,426
Drybridge Hall Management Association	No application received – reminder issued	£ 178	£ 178
Springside Community Association	No application received – reminder issued	£ 513	£ 513
Total		£ 15,050	£ 15,050

Locality Partnership: Irvine Locality Partnership

Date: Monday 2 September 2024

Subject: Locality Action Plan 2024/25

Purpose: The Locality Partnership are asked to approve the content of the draft 2024/25 Locality Action Plan.

Background

In accordance with the Community Empowerment (2015) Act, each Locality Partnership is legally required to have an action plan.

Locality Action Plans should:

- Be focussed, prioritised, locally relevant and evidence based
- Tackle inequalities
- Be about working in partnership

Locality Action Plans will not:

- Contain everything that is relevant to the area
- Be a wish list
- Cover “business as usual”

Key Points for Locality Partnership

In December 2023 the Locality Partnership approved the 2023/24 action plan. The draft action plan for 2024/25 is attached at appendix 1 of this report. The actions included in the plan were derived from local chat discussions held across the individual settlements within the Locality.

The Locality Partnership should note that:

- Locality Action Plans will be updated annually. Actions that span multiple years can remain on the action plan with annual updates provided.
- The Action Plan will be a standing item on future meeting agendas.
- Moving forward, Action Plans will be reviewed and approved during the June round of Locality meetings to allow for thorough discussion and engagement with the Partnership and Community Planning Partners

Action Required by Locality Partnership

The Locality Partnership are asked to approve the draft 2024/25 Action Plan

Completed by: Jennifer McGee, Policy & Community Planning Officer

Actions	Potential partners and stakeholders	Lead Partner To be agreed at LPP meeting and timescale	Local Priority	Community Planning Priority
Theme - Community Information and Engagement				
Populate Community Book for Irvine	All LPP members		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Alleviating Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Wellbeing
Community Notice Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Community Council Local Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Alleviating Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing
Community magazine – Inform NA	TACT		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Alleviating Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing
Over 50's What's On	Elderly Forum		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Alleviating Poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing
Theme - Supporting Activity to assist in Alleviating Poverty				
Support work related to the cost of the school day and family support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local schools Children's First MICHA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating Poverty Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Wellbeing

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing 	
Support work related to Financial Inclusion and Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC Financial Inclusion Team CHAP Children's First NA Fairer Food Network MICHA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing Mental Health and Wellbeing Alleviating Poverty Supporting skills and work opportunities 	
Explore barriers to accessing services / community transport needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elderly Forum NAC Regeneration SPT Irvine Youth Forum Community Council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating Poverty Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work World Wellbeing
Develop school holiday activity programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC Connected Communities Community Associations Children's First NA Fairer Food Network Irvine Youth Forum Local schools Out of School Care Services Parent Councils KA leisure Local businesses 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating Poverty Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Wellbeing
Increase / support digital inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TACT NAC CHAP 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alleviating Poverty 	Work

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing 	
Theme - Our Outdoor Spaces				
Bourtreehill Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC BABCA KA leisure TACT 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing World
Explore options for Green Gyms, Muggas and Walking / Heritage Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KA leisure NAC Community Council Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing World
Support the enhancement of open spaces – town center planters, litter pick etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NAC Irvine Clean up Crew Community Council Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing World Work
Support the regeneration work at Irvine Harbourside	All partners		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing our Mental health and Wellbeing Championing Green Health and the Natural Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing World

Theme - Local Skills and Paths to Employability				
Deliver opportunities for those in recovery to access advice and support to support them with employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning Point • Ayrshire College • UWS • CEIS • DWP • NAC • Harbour Ayrshire • Cafe Solace • Minds for Recovery • Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleviating Poverty • Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work • Wellbeing
Increase opportunities for those affected by disability access advice and support them with employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC • CEIS • Ayrshire College • Community Associations • DWP • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleviating Poverty • Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work • Wellbeing
Increase opportunities for local young people to access training and employment to meet local needs and personal interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC • Ayrshire College • UWS • DWP • Irvine Youth Forum • Local schools • Local businesses • Community Associations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alleviating Poverty • Supporting Skills and Work Opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work • Wellbeing

Subject: Irvine Locality Report – CIF

Dates: 01 May – 31 July 2024 (Q2)

1. Introduction

- 1.1 CHAP were successfully awarded funding from the Irvine Locality CIF budget to deliver our advice and advocacy services at a variety of outreach locations throughout Irvine.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Outreach services have been established at the following locations:

- The Circuit (KA Leisure), Quarry Road
- Redburn Community Centre
- Dreghorn Library
- Fullarton Community Hub

The drop-in days run in May were not successful as nobody attended despite widespread publicity of this; therefore, we do not currently have any plans to repeat this and are focussing on providing appointments for individuals requesting our assistance.

3. Stats

- 3.1 The following has been achieved in the second quarter of the funded project:

	In Quarter	Running Total
Referred	47 (53 cases)	105 (113 cases)
Engaged (so far)	37 (41 cases)	77 (83 cases)
Financial Gains	£50,540.22	£60,067.88

There are still clients who have appointments booked for a future date, and for whom engagement efforts are ongoing. Clients can require assistance with more than one issue; therefore, the case numbers are usually higher than the number of individual clients.

Financial Gains achieved to date are in relation to debt write-off and successful benefit applications; however, most of the support provided to clients, especially in relation to benefit claims have lengthy waiting times for a result to be achieved. It is likely these will increase and this will be reflected in future reports.

4. Case Study

Client's daughter initially called in to request CHAP's assistance to help her elderly mother apply for Attendance Allowance. Due to the client's advanced age and health conditions, being able to attend an appointment face-to-face, so close to home was of great benefit to her. The adviser explained the process of applying for the benefit and completed the form on the client's behalf. The claim was successful and the client was awarded Attendance Allowance, increasing her household annual income by over £3,700, with a backdated lump sum payment of over £700.

The client's feedback included that she felt comfortable and at ease with her adviser, and it was very easy to access the service due to the location within the community. The client also rated the overall service as 'excellent' and advised that we have helped to reduce her stress.

4. Client Feedback

100% of respondents rated our overall service positively:

- Excellent – 50%
- Very Good – 38%
- Good – 12%

75% of respondents advised that our services have helped to reduce their stress, whilst others also stated that we helped to improve their finances, increase their confidence, and improve their overall quality of life.

Comments from clients included:

"1st class help. My adviser explained the questions when I was confused, it helped as I am dyslexic, it was 10/10"

"It was brilliant, took my stress levels down"

"I was very happy with the service CHAP provided. The advisers always made me feel so comfortable during my appointments."

4. Conclusion

The ongoing success of the project is evident in the number of ongoing referrals for which we are able to offer support to individuals in their local communities, and the outcomes being achieved for our clients, both in relation to financial gains and in qualitative factors captured in the feedback provided by clients.

Name: Debbie Alexander

Designation: CEO

Date: 23rd August 2024



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

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

STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2024

DONNA ANDERSON, ANNE-MARIE HUNTER, DENISE FRASER & LEANNE HILLAN-FOWLER

Irvine LP Pg - 20



An Introduction to the CLD Strategic Themes

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

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

YOUTH WORK

Contact: **youthwork@north-ayrshire.gov.uk**

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

ADULT LEARNING

Contact: **adultlearning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk**

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

CAPACITY BUILDING

Contact: **denisefraser@north-ayrshire.gov.uk**

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

Members of Scottish Youth Parliament

Our MSYPs attended the national sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament in July. Along with the Scotland wide membership they were involved in an anti sectarianism programme training.

MSYPs were working on the SYP manifesto consultation launch. The first step is to ask young people what issues they think need to be included in the manifesto. Then later this year, our MSYPs will work together to create policies that can tackle these issues if implemented.

At the last sitting the 3 campaign areas for the next 2 years were voted as:

- Increased mental health training and education
- Invest in and protect youth work services
- End gender-based violence



SYP recently announced the national campaigns publicly and have already received a large amount of support from organisations across Scotland, from third sector partners to Members of Scottish Parliament (MSPs). At the sitting, the campaign training sessions gave the opportunity to set the groundwork for what they know about these campaign topics, what other advocacy work is being done in Scotland and how they can work alongside it, and what they hope to achieve through these campaigns in the next two years. The campaigns could take a lot of different formats from creating resources and training, to hosting a public event to improve conversations, to writing to decision makers about new legislation.

Consultation workshops help shape national policy and as such our MSYPs took part in:

- CW 1 – Transitions to Adulthood for Disabled Young People.
- CW 2 – Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry Workshop 2 – Mental Health and Digital Inclusion.
- CW 3 – Artificial Intelligence in the Children's Hearings System.
- CW 4 – Education Reform – What Should Happen Next?
- CW 5 - Together (Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights): State of Children's Rights Report.
- CW 6 - Learning for Sustainability Project – Phase 2 Workshop.

Our MSYPs have also been meeting regularly including Executive Youth Council, attending summer events and programmes, volunteering and working on individual projects.



Educational Visit to Houses of Parliament

In partnership with the UK Parliament Education Centre we secured spaces for a group of young people from North Ayrshire to attend an educational visit around Parliament, including watching some of the live House Of Commons. 23 young people including Executive Youth Council, MSYPs, Garnock Valley Youth Forum, North Coast Youth Forum and Greenwood Youth Forum travelled down with youth services staff for the event.

The event itself allowed the groups to meet up beforehand and get to know each other. We were guided round Parliament to learn more about how it works, took part in a debating class and were visited by MP Alan Gemmell who took time out of his day to meet with the young people for a Q&A and for him to share his own journey into politics. Even more so as Alan was one of our young people who was integral to the setting up of the Scottish Youth Parliament when it first started. The trip was a first for many of our young people who had never travelled without parents or carers or even out of the country.

Alan had quoted: *"I was inspired meeting this brilliant group of young people from North Ayrshire yesterday. They asked great questions - and I hope to see some of them in politics. We are lucky to have such great youth workers in North Ayrshire - thank you for making this visit happen!"*



One of our young people said of the trip: *"I learned so much socially and culturally, I learned to be more receptive and understanding of the difference in those environments. I also learned about how Parliament works in a bit more detail and was able to engage with that learning physically. I could actually see parliament working while being told about its history, how it functions, what it looks like and how it operates so it definitely gave a new perspective."*

I was also able to create and develop a lot of friendships. One area I really struggle with is being able to connect socially with people, making new friends can be challenging and I think that's maybe exacerbated here by the fact I'm no longer in school. I was worried that maybe I still wouldn't fit in during this trip and I was thinking of backing out but I stayed on and committed to enduring that discomfort, and I'm really glad that I did because I actually did develop and create some friendships - that was a massive thing for me.



This was also my first time down in London, and it's the farthest south I've ever been - I've never even left the UK, and so my experience of going to places like London or even Orkney have come from being involved in youthwork. My family is very working class so if it wasn't for being involved in youthwork and the exec, I don't think I would have had this opportunity for many years. I'm really grateful for that."



Arran Pride

North Ayrshire Youth Services team were joined by 40 young people from MSYPs and exec Members, Garnock Valley Youth Forum, North Coast Youth Forum, Irvine Youth Legacy Hub, Young Carers, and key youth participation representatives from across our six localities, as the team journeyed to Arran in June to celebrate Arran Pride.

The community event is one of the biggest in Arran's events calendar and Youth Services climbed aboard the Youth Services Mobile Youth Centre to tour the island and be part of the action.



The equalities forum stayed the night before at Arran Outdoor Centre to take part in some cold water therapy, teambuilding and preparing their banner for the next day.

Youth Work Modern Apprentice, Rachel Allison said: *"The atmosphere was incredible, and the island was beautifully decorated with Pride colours to show visitors how welcoming they are there of the LGBT community. We visited on Saturday to run mental health and mindfulness workshops, do some glitter festival style face painting and help spread the word of the power of youth work and our Equalities Forum which focuses on creating a fairer and more equal North Ayrshire for all young people – particularly those in marginalised groups such as LGBT youth, New Scots and our peers who are from the care experienced community. Thanks to everyone who travelled over with us and to the event organisers Arran Pride for an incredible weekend to remember!"*

For LGBT support available locally visit: [LGBT support \(north-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk).

Or give Youth Services a follow via Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/nayouthservices> or X: <https://x.com/NAYouthServices>



Outdoors For wellbeing

Our Outdoors for Wellbeing camp brought together 27 primary 4 -7 aged young people for a week of wellbeing activity, using indoor and outdoor activities to help our young people experience the power of nature through a range of different methods promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Partners and professionals came along each day and held different activities with the young people.



This programme had such a diverse range of activities and different things for our young people to get involved with and learn.

- The MHWB Officer, along with our Modern Apprentices delivering arts, crafts and nature walks
- Scottish Sports Futures who delivered sports and wellbeing workshops.
- Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator delivered team building activities, camp fire building, fire lighting, hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows.
- North Ayrshire Countryside Rangers who delivered bird watching walks, Moth ID workshop and minibeast hunts
- North Ayrshire Councils Energy Awareness Officer and Biodiversity Officer came along and held sustainability scavenger hunt and an interactive timeline of biodegradability activities
- Hoots and Owls interactive bird display group came along with a variety of different owls and held a educational handling session with our group.
- North Ayrshire council Climate Change ambassadors and the Executive Youth Council helped facilitate the group with a park litter pick.
- The whole weeks activities were finished off with a outdoors Yoga session in the woods.

This programme opened young minds to nature, they learned new skills and found different ways to understand and spend time in nature away from devices.



Vicki Andrew, the MHWB Project Delivery Officer said:

"Starting off with a series of outdoor adventure days with a mental health focus – the Outdoors for Wellbeing summer camp booked up within a matter of hours after the call-out went live on social media. Our hope was that by taking part, the young people would have the chance to explore the great outdoors, taking time in beautiful surroundings to learn about nature, biodiversity and most importantly have fun."

The week long event was a massive success with so much positive feedback from participants and their parents/carers.

"I enjoyed meeting new people, the fire building and the owl visits were my most favourite but I enjoyed all of it, Thank you for the chance to come! I made new friends I enjoyed finding and learning about bugs and mini beasts, I feel I learned a lot I wouldn't have handled a frog, a worm or a beetle before." - Young Person

"With regards to the last five days of your club, the boys have learned so much on many different and highly interesting and diverse subjects from art to outdoor activities and many more. A club can only be as good as those presenting all subject matters and I have to say from the feedback I have had from the boys the staff were of the highest quality. They showed great patience, knowledge and understanding of the various needs and character of all the young people taking everything into consideration this was a wonderful five days and I would have no hesitation of recommending it to everyone I know and I hope something similar will be available in the future. Congratulations and thank you." - Parent



"I have been really struggling with my health at the moment which has impacted my ability to go outdoors and do activities with my daughter, this week has given her a break from her care giver role and allowed her to have fun with her peers. My daughter has been more chatty and had more energy due to this week she has made friends with new people and learned lots of new skills." - Parent

"This week has been fantastic for her she has come home every day excited to share her day, there has been such a variety of learning in the most fun and interactive ways. The outdoors has definitely increased her positivity and wellbeing. Well done all!!" - Parent



Drama for Wellbeing

Performers receive standing ovation at HAC drama showcase

Youth Services returned to the Harbour Arts Centre in August for a week-long drama workshop. This year, the North Ayrshire Drama for Wellbeing sessions were attended by over 35 young performers aged between 6 to 15 years old.

Following a series of workshops throughout the week with a mental health and wellbeing focus, the hard work of the children and young people was celebrated on Friday, August 9 with a show-stopping on-stage performance to the Provost, special guests and family members.

Some of the young performers have already been used to the stage, starring in amateur drama and local dance school productions. However, for others, this was their first time in the spotlight.

Youth Worker Vicki Andrew led the workshops throughout the week supported by drama facilitators working in the industry. She said: *"I am incredibly proud of our talented performers. The free workshops were fully booked. We were really amazed how well received the uptake was as the aspiring performers were able to discover the power of youth work via confidence-building and wellbeing sessions. It's been great to welcome performers who were with us last summer too, they've grown so much!"*



"In our performance we wanted to convey the power of confidence and resilience and demonstrate the power of drama in doing this through building a positive mindset, creative expression, self-esteem and encouraging self-belief levels - everything our students learned throughout the week. The transferable skills gained through this drama experience means that our young people can carry this with them through life supporting communication, teamwork and leadership, listening and responding, creativity, critical thinking and problem solving alongside time management and research. These skills can help with school, relationships and beyond. They surpassed our expectations and were absolute superstars, I'm delighted that their performance was so well-received, they couldn't believe that they got a standing ovation. I'm so proud of each and every one of them."



One parent said: *"The singing was incredible, and the drama was really moving, it was also brilliant to see Makaton being part of the performance too. I was deeply moved by the production and it's great to hear from my daughter and her friends that they've been able to learn some valuable performance skills and develop techniques to be more mentally resilient ahead of the new school term."*

The programme is a brilliant example of how the Council continues to champion children and young people's rights – building their confidence and encouraging them to learn new skills beyond the classroom.

Drama for Wellbeing also centres around the Council's ongoing work around The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) - an important, legally binding agreement which outlines the fundamental rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities.

In this case, the workshop focusses on Article 13 – freedom of expression and Article 31 – the right to relax, play, learn and develop.



Rhonda Leith, Head of Information and Culture shared: *"Well done to the colleagues across Youth Services who have been back on the road this summer to support our communities with a host of youth work activities over the school holidays. The youth work delivered at Drama for Wellbeing demonstrates how the Council is dedicated to providing safe and supportive environments for children and young people thrive, be themselves, have their say on what matters to them, and most importantly have fun across various local venues. It was incredible seeing everyone perform at the Harbour Arts Centre as they experienced what it is like to be on the stage at one of North Ayrshire's most prominent venues for arts and culture."*



Duke of Edinburgh

North Ayrshire Youth Services have shared their congratulations to Ross Muir, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator – winner at in the national YouthLink Scotland Awards.

Nominated by his colleagues and young people for his work with the Duke of Edinburgh Award outdoors, the local 'Mountain Man' scooped the coveted Outdoor Learning and Environment Award at the annual YouthLink awards ceremony.

Held on Wednesday, June 12 at the Double Tree Hilton in Glasgow, the annual award ceremony is a celebration of the power of youth work across Scotland.



His colleague and nominator Donna Anderson, Youth Participation and Democracy lead said: *"We are absolutely over the moon that Ross came out on top. Ross is North Ayrshire's very own mountain man and he is so driven and passionate about helping young people to conquer their barriers. Making connections outdoors is so important to him and is central to his work. His love for the outdoors really is contagious. I nominated him on behalf of Youth Services because his hard work and commitment to outdoor youth work opportunities and the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme has been unsurpassed."*

Ross has over two decades of experience and has supported thousands of young people over the years to unlock their potential outdoors and make a lasting impact in their local communities.



In the last year alone, he has supported over 400 young people in delivering over 5,000 voluntary hours locally, including foodbanks, charity shops and ASN sports support. He has also championed outdoor expeditions, identifying exciting outdoor activities like mountain-climbing and orienteering, and is always on the look-out for more ways that he can harness the power of youth work to give back to local communities.

Head of Service for Connected Communities Rhonda Leith, said: *“Ross’s passion for the great outdoors and youth development has earned him the coveted accolade. He continues to be a source of inspiration for to us all and we are delighted that he came out on top, being recognised at a national level. Through his leadership, young people have been able to discover the transformative power of nature, gaining essential life skills along the way. He is a true embodiment of the Council’s values of focus, passion and inspiration and we are so grateful to have his expertise on board, leaving a lasting legacy across North Ayrshire’s six localities.”*

Ross said, *“I am still absolutely in shock to be nominated, so to have won the Outdoor Learning category is just unbelievable. Thank you so much to everyone for their support, what a brilliant start of the summer for me! There were so many inspirational people at the ceremony, it was amazing just to be sitting alongside them and listening to their stories. The focus for the Duke of Edinburgh over the coming year and beyond is to keep promoting and offering the Award to as many young people as possible. I’m looking forward to continuing to work with all of our school coordinators and youth workers locally to help young people across our six localities to realise their potential. They are the ones that keep the Award alive here in North Ayrshire and who continue to put us on the map in this important area of youth work.”*

The Duke of Edinburgh Awards offer a wealth of exciting development opportunities for young people to learn new skills and realise their full potential.

For more information about the Duke of Edinburgh programme and other youth work opportunities, visit the Youth Groups and Organisations Council webpage.



Active Schools have had an amazing quarter to finish off the Academic year!

Extra Curricular Programmes

We have had a total of 9181 distinct participants take part in our extra curricular programmes across all primary, secondary and ASN schools. The team have worked hard to make sure our programmes are inclusive and open to all ages and stages.

Events

We have delivered 81 sport and physical activity events across the school year with 5300 participants attending. Again schools from across all sectors have attended. These range from netball, football, dance to boccia, basketball and rugby.

Volunteers

We currently have 98% of all our programmes being delivered by volunteers which include young people, teachers, parents and club representatives. We are delighted by the dedication shown by our volunteers to make sure they are providing high quality sport and physical activity sessions to our North Ayrshire young people.





Leadership

This year seen 1003 P6/7 young people trained to deliver playground games using our Move and Improve resource. These young people have then went on and delivered multi sessions to their peers to keep them active at break and lunch times.

This year has seen 120 Young Ambassadors complete their Ruby, Sapphire, Emerald and Diamond stages. Their role has been to promote, motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in their schools, clubs and local communities. The young people involved have also supported the delivery of clubs and events.

185 young people from across 9 secondary schools and ASN school completed their North Ayrshire Sports Academy qualifications and volunteering with us in early July. The participating young people gained more than 15 national governing body qualifications and in house workshops. They also all received a saltire award for their volunteering and contribution to sport. Many of the young people also completed their level 6 SQA qualification in Leadership as part of their journey. This year's cohort reached over 3000 hours of volunteering within their own schools and community.



1003



120



185



Sportscotland School Sport Awards

This year has been a record year for our schools. With support of their Active Schools Co-ordinator, schools have worked hard to gain these awards. The award looks at all aspects of school sport from curriculum PE, teacher training all the way to extra curricular provision and access to national events.

Our Success



Gold



Silver



Awaiting

Those schools awaiting should be granted these no later than October.

Active Schools and Community Partnership Officers

The Aim of these roles:

Work with key partners/stakeholders to remove the barriers for young people within Care Experience and to access Sport and Physical Activity opportunities across North Ayrshire to lead a healthier lifestyle.

51

EXPERIENTIAL
OPPORTUNITIES
DELIVERED

638

NUMBER OF
PARTICIPANTS
TARGETED



Shanaari Indicators



We are so looking forward to the next Academic year and making sure we provide even more sport and physical activity opportunities for our North Ayrshire young people.

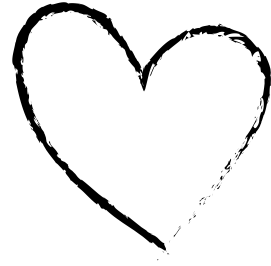
If you would like more details on any of our work please contact naactiveschools@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



NASA 2023/24 GRADUATION



- *"I was nervous about taking part with all the different people that were there. I was also nervous about going to other schools. I really enjoyed it and it was good to get the certificates"*
- Lockhart Staff Quote - *"Taking part in NASA boosted the participants confidence and self belief at a crucial time in their life. The course helped to break down barriers and has helped the leaders to thrive academically and socially."*



OCEAN'S YOUTH TRUST BOAT TRIP

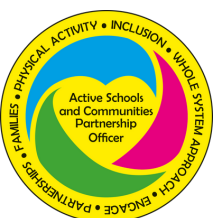


Q. Now that you're back on land, do you notice any changes in yourself?

A. *"I have been a lot more open minded and a lot more helpful with my mum doing the dishes or cooking more. I feel I have been a lot happier since I have been home which is really good. I feel more confident all of the time now."*

TERM 4 RESIDENTIALS

- *"It was good. I was so tired but good now. I didn't think I could manage going to the mainland for the night but I did and didn't even worry!"*
- *"I loved all of it. I especially liked meeting new people and i have a new bestie. I didn't realise I could do so many sports and be quite good at it!"*
- *"I was a bit nervous and anxious because I didn't know many people, but then I built up the courage to speak to people and I loved it"*
- Staff Quote- *"It is so exciting to see how a pupil can begin to realise their own potential through initiatives such as this and the effective partnership working between everyone. Thank you."*



Corporate Parenting Summer Programme



The summer programme offered whole family support to mitigate the impacts of poverty and bringing young people together by offering Care Experienced young people a chance to try new things, get out the house and build relationships with others who may have similar experiences to them. It offered chances to connect with young people and build relationships so when working with schools and communities the staff became a friendly face and in turn allows for further engagement.

The Corporate parenting team now sits under the youth work banner within Connected Communities, this work is in line with North Ayrshire Promise priorities.

The programme worked well with young people to taking part in activities that they otherwise may have not gotten the chance to do as the cost can often be too high allowing friendships to blossom, which was great to see, particularly the older members who attended. Young people were able to open up to one another about their experiences and chat about coping techniques and things that they enjoy with some activities for parents/carers to stay at the events or to do a drop off giving some families some respite, but it also gave others a chance to bond and to experience an outing together.

With one carer stating: *"Being twins the girls have quickly learnt to rely on each other in their own small bubble. Attending events that can take them out of their comfort zone and help them interact with other young people is great for their own personal development. Both girls really enjoyed soft play and as a carer it gave us a couple of hours off knowing the children were safe and being looked after."*

The programme made a difference to many of the young people in which all had stated that they wished they could stay at events all day. We had some great feedback in person from the parents/carers who loved watching their young person thrive and have fun in this environment. With one young person at our bowling event who was particularly scared around the noise and the potential dangers of bowling, but with the support from the other young people who attended he took part and came in second at the bowling which was a great achievement for him as you could see the happiness just by his facial expressions.



Corporate Parenting – Finding Their Space

In my previous role as Youth Worker, staff took a group of young people to the first Promise Conference. Two young people, let's call them X and Y, in particular were magnificent on the day. Without realising what they were doing they took the lead in a group discussion and showed incredible bravery to tell their stories. They were shared in a very open way and without fear; real storytelling and connection in action.

What they both didn't realise was that by articulating their experiences, they opened up a safe and trusted space for others to do so. One young person, from another school, who was sat next to them and had not said a word in the previous couple of hours. As X and then Y started to speak, she made eye contact and was engaged. Then very quietly she found the courage to share her story with the group as well. As she spoke it was easy to sense that she was feeling every word and was visibly rising upwards in her posture.

At the end of the session, X and Y were thanked and congratulated, both of them blissfully unaware of how they had, with humility, opened up a space into which the other young person could step and flourish.

When it came to Joint Cabinet and deciding upon which young people to invite, we wanted to broaden the scope so that we took less of the 'usual' young people that would volunteer. X and Y attended, with a 100 other young people from different schools. With plenty of reassurance, even more persistence and encouragement, they agreed to go. And when at Joint Cabinet they were overawed, exercised, loud, shy, erudite and energised in equal measures!

Following this, both X and Y have been attending the Champions Board meetings and it has been a pleasure to see them turn up and really engage with the opportunity. They have both said yes to having an input in shaping future events and seeing the commitments they have made has been a joy.

Two things stand out from the Champions Board meetings: firstly X has been able to formulate and state her career goal of being a Cabin Crew member, *"making loads of money, seeing the world and then working with care experienced kids like me to make it better for them"*. Secondly, towards the end of term Y was the only young person able to attend a Champions Board meeting. The vast majority of other young people would not have stayed on their own and certainly would not have spent 45 minutes with two members of the Corporate Parenting team chatting so freely. Y did.



To bring the story up to date, the staff member is also volunteering as a MCR Pathways Coordinator, *"I was lucky enough to have X and Y within my scope for enrolling on the Young Talent Programme. I knew from the very first day that both X and Y would benefit from having a mentor but also that X would be very anxious about who her mentor would be."*

When it came time for that first introductory meeting, it was obvious instantly that the matching process had excelled. X and her mentor got on famously, with a second full period meeting arranged for the next week. Two things stand out from that; due to an incident at home it was the only period of the week that X came into school and she was completely comfortable meeting with her mentor in a very public space.

Y's mentoring situation mirrored this. Again, an instant connection with her mentor was there and a full session followed swiftly. It really has been a privilege to see both X and Y develop and flourish, all of which started with The Promise Conference. The next chapters of their stories are awaited with enthusiasm.



Modern Apprenticeship Programme

Staff training - L&D9DI and L&D11

This activity was planned to increase the bank of assessors to meet service needs and fully support the delivery and assessment of a range of qualifications. Qualifications include PDA, SVQ level 3 and level 4 youth work, L&D9DI assessor award, and the L&D11 Internal Verifier award.

This was essential due to movement of staff to different roles and taking on more responsibility, previous assessors and internal verifiers were unable to maintain their assessment roles. Resulting in having four assessors, two of which were also undertaking the responsibility of internal verification.



The process began with identifying potential staff who were keen to develop their skills and become part of the assessment team. Locality coordinators then chose the staff members to complete the appropriate qualifications based on workload and service need.

Completing this process has resulted in an increased pool of assessors and internal verifiers to share the responsibility and alleviate the time spent by individual staff members conducting assessment duties.

The assessment team has almost doubled in size where we now have eight assessors and three internal verifiers. This also allows for more tailored and individual support to be provided to candidates as most assessors will now be assessing one candidate instead of two or three.

Assessor and IV candidates were taken through their qualifications two at a time, this allowed for some peer support to take place and fully embed their learning regarding assessment decisions, processes, and procedures. The question bank group worked well and was identified as good practice during a recent L&D external verification visit. This gave new assessors an opportunity to look at a range of responses and discuss what is acceptable with experienced assessors. Through this group we have attempted to make assessment decisions as easy as possible by identifying a range of acceptable evidence for each point.



This training programme has allowed:

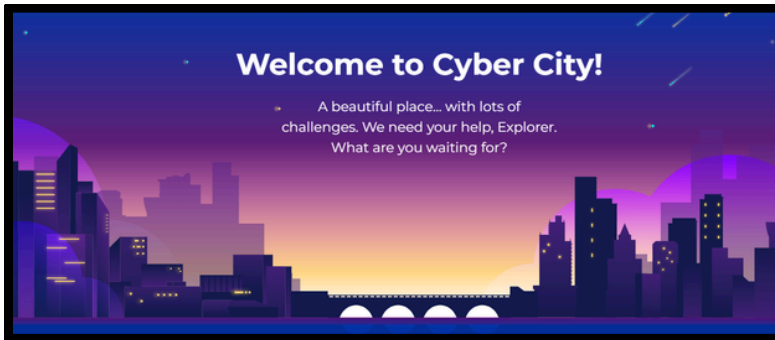
- Increased bank of assessors and verifiers has reduced the time required for individual assessors and verifiers are required to spend on these responsibilities.
- Improved standardisation due to an increased number of views and perspectives being considered.
- Staff have been upskilled and gained valuable qualifications.
- Increased awareness of national occupational standards for youth work.
- SVQ candidates are better supported with more individual guidance and training.

One of our IV assessor candidates had said: *"Throughout my assessor and internal verifier qualification journey, I have felt immensely supported and valued. From the very beginning, my assessor and IV provided clear guidance and constructive feedback, ensuring I understood each concept thoroughly. Their encouragement fostered a positive learning environment, allowing me to ask questions and seek clarification without hesitation. The resources made available were comprehensive and tailored to meet my individual needs, reinforcing my confidence in applying the knowledge practically. Moreover, the structured support system, including regular check-ins and mentorship, made me feel like an integral part of the Assessor team. Craig acknowledged my progress, celebrating milestones along the way, which significantly boosted my motivation. This recognition not only affirmed my skills but also enhanced my belief in my ability to succeed in this field. Overall, the continuous support and recognition from Craig and the wider assessor team have been pivotal in my professional growth. I now feel equipped with the necessary skills and confidence to excel in my role as an assessor and internal verifier, knowing that I am valued and supported every step of the way."*

Our commitment to workforce development continues in supporting staff members to complete this qualification as well as a fully comprehensive training programme across all areas of CLD practice.



Cyber Resilience – Cyber Explorers



We were delighted to receive funding from UK Government for this first of its kind Cyber Resilience programme. This is the first in the UK delivering this programme in a community setting whilst working alongside our education department .

Cyber Explorers is a programme designed to offer digital skills for children and young people. It is an accredited programme that young people aged 11-14 complete a set of challenges and missions. These tasks let you work through the 'cyber city' and learning all about different digital skills to enable service users to prepare for the world of work.

The significance of the programme is to learn about how digital and technology will play a part in certain career opportunities. It highlights safety online and gives chances to make better choices whilst online. It will fall in line with the curriculum. The programme offers lesson plans, resources and full guidance from me and other delivery staff. On completion of challenges, they will be awarded and SCQF Level 4 and SCQF Level 5.

With the academic year started we will be targeting primary 6 & 7 as well as S1 and S2 pupils. A letter of proposal will go out to specific academies to begin with and all cluster primary schools in those specific academies. Before the year had even started we have a number of primary schools on board.

Delivery in the community will be across council community centers and the remotely with the use of the Mobile Youth Centre.

With the post only starting four weeks ago we now have

- A full time staff in place, with support from sessional staff and Modern Apprentices to support delivery.
- Electronic equipment ready
- Cyber hub in place
- Mobile Youth Centre updated
- Wifi in place at our Cyber hub
- Mifi for remote delivery
- 2 primary schools ready for delivery
- Social media set up



Cyber Resilience – Summer Roadshow

Youth Services teamed up with North Ayrshire Libraries to deliver a series of cyber sessions this summer.

Delivered by the youth work modern apprentices, the sessions focussed on cyber resilience and online safety, young people's rights online, digital technologies, inclusion and digital opportunities to learn online or take the next step in employment.

Youth Work Modern Apprentice Max said: *"We were really looking forward to visiting libraries to deliver this vital cyber programme. As a young person, I know how important being digitally connected is to young people. But there can be a dark side too... We want to empower young people to know the dangers of online, how to protect themselves against cyber attacks but also how to utilise the power of online and apps to help overcome obstacles, look after their mental health build connections and help them to achieve their aspirations and goals."*



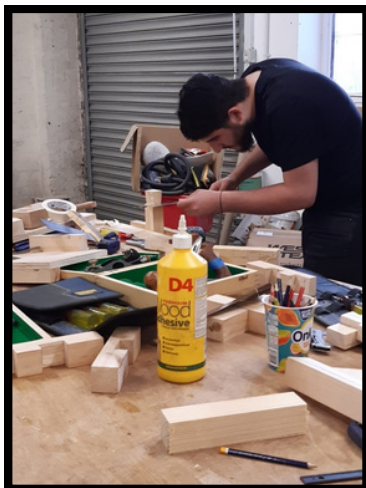
New Scots

New Scots Maritime Museum Project

The New Scots Maritime Museum Partnership was a project designed to increase engagement between New Scots communities and the Maritime Museum. Building on the work initiated by New Scots volunteers, who were introduced to the museum through Community Learning and Development (CLD), over the summer this partnership has been instrumental in developing bilingual resources. These resources aim to widen the museum's audience and improve inclusivity, making exhibits more accessible to non-native English speakers.

A significant part of the partnership is a project that engages both adults and young people in identifying and designing a new exhibition. This exhibition links their old and new communities, highlighting the rich cultural histories of the participants' countries of origin while connecting them with Scotland's maritime history.

The positive feedback from participants underscores the value of the project in enhancing their lives and contributing to a more inclusive and connected society.



New Scots

ESOL Big Class Experiment

This quarter we delivered the "Big Class Experiment". This aimed to address the high number of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) learners spread over large areas, each with diverse needs. Recognising the challenge of providing effective language education we sought an innovative approach to maximise our impact.



We reached out to the Glasgow ESOL Forum to learn about their strategies for managing classes with diverse needs. Inspired by their methods, we decided to pilot a similar approach, selecting a central location to bring together learners from different areas. We had different tutors and volunteers facilitating at different tables to meet specific needs based on language levels.

We organised six different tables for various language levels, ensuring that participants could learn effectively with content tailored to their current language proficiency. This structure helped in providing focused and relevant instruction to each learner.

The experiment successfully engaged a large number of people from various communities. By centralising the location and diversifying the classes, we were able to effectively meet the different needs of a substantial number of learners.



New Scots Book Writing Project

From August 5th to 9th, a group of four ESOL learners embarked on a unique and enriching book writing project, meeting daily to collaborate with a PhD student from the University of Glasgow. Over the course of five intensive days, the learners not only developed their English writing skills but also had the chance to express their creativity through storytelling. This project allowed them to build confidence in their language abilities while working together towards a shared goal.

The result of their hard work is the publication of *Children and Angel Ankey*, a book that delves into profound themes such as war, courage, friendship, and the power of dreams. The experience proved to be a rewarding journey for all involved, as the learners combined their personal insights and imaginations to create something truly meaningful. Supported by the CLD ESOL and New Scots team, this project showcases the powerful impact of community learning. The book is now proudly available on Amazon.



New Scots

Taste of Home Cooking Group

The Taste of Home cooking group started through the Discovery Award, which is a fun and free personal challenge award for people aged over 50. The Discovery Award was undertaken by members of the Ukrainian community over the age of 50. 'Skills' were part of one of the sections, so they decided to start a cooking group to share dishes that are traditionally Ukrainian. The group meets at the Argyle Community Centre in Saltcoats.

We have a lot of Ukrainians living in North Ayrshire and it is great for them to be able to spend time with each other, share their recipes and improve their English at the same time. Groups like this also help Ukrainian people to integrate into the community by spending time with members of the Women's Group at the centre – and with other Scottish people they meet.

Recently, the New Scots women got a chance to put their feet up instead of putting aprons on when members of the Women's Group at the centre cooked for their Ukrainian friends and made cottage pie with ginger loaf, tablet and shortbread for dessert.



New Scots

Spike Wheat Scots and Scots Syrian Roses Arabic Seran Events

In July, Spike Wheat Scots and Scots Syrian Roses organised two vibrant Arabic Seran events (loosely translated as picnic BBQs with music) in McGavin Park. These gatherings, supported by the CLD New Scots team and Kilwinning Community Council, brought together the Syrian community, asylum seekers, and other New Scots in a celebration of culture and connection.

The first event, hosted for men, and the second, organised by Syrian Roses, a community group for New Scots women, featured delicious Syrian food, including kebabs and other flavourful Middle Eastern dishes. Both events were family-friendly and saw a great turnout, offering a space for attendees to relax, socialise, and enjoy music.



In addition to providing a joyful experience, the events played a meaningful role in helping asylum seekers in the area build connections and feel more integrated into the local community.



New Scots/Multiply

Financial Literacy Game Group

Since June, Ukrainians in North Ayrshire have been meeting monthly to participate in a financial game designed to increase understanding of financial literacy, budgeting, and numeracy skills. This engaging activity not only helps participants improve their money management but also provides an opportunity for socialising and connection.



The sessions, which are part of the Multiply Project and supported by the CLD Multiply team, cater to learners with varying levels of literacy needs, from more advanced participants to those just starting out. The game offers an interactive and enjoyable way for everyone involved to deepen their understanding at their own pace, empowering them to manage their finances more effectively.

These monthly gatherings have not only enhanced financial awareness but also helped participants build valuable community ties.



Funded by
UK Government

MULTIPLY



Multiply

Multiply STEM visit to Whitelee Windfarm

A group of adult learners from across North Ayrshire recently attended an excursion to Whitelee Windfarm. This trip was arranged in partnership with The Learner Hub at the windfarm and it allowed the learners to experience various aspects of the renewable energy industry. The educators at the windfarm are specially trained educators with a specialist knowledge in science and engineering. They facilitated practical learning sessions for the Multiply group as well as conducted a question and answer session.

Each participant has been part of the ongoing Multiply project and has accessed 1:1 or group work numeracy lessons and supports. Multiply Project Delivery Officers , Jennifer Haining and Chloe Smith organised the trip in order to supplement the work which is ongoing in hubs throughout each locality. The learners on the trip have shown immense dedication and commitment to developing their skills, some which has resulted in completing SQA accredited units in Numeracy.

The trip was a unanimous success and a further trip to Glasgow Science Centre has already been planned. These fantastic visits are a great example of the opportunities for practical , meaningful adult learning which Multiply presents.



The Multiply Project

Trindlemoss Number and Money Skills Group

The aim of this group is to build knowledge and support around numbers and money handling. We have covered a wide range of numeracy aspects such as coin recognition, addition, subtraction and making purchases using coins and notes.

Working alongside Ayrshire College we have been able to secure numeracy accreditations for learners across the Multiply Project. These qualifications allow learners to secure SQA units without the pressures of attending college and are achieved through community learning.



So far 20 learners attending the Trindlemoss Numeracy and Money Skills Groups have gained a numeracy qualification. The learners are now working towards their next level of money handling. They have recently received their SQA certificates through the post. Gaining their First level numeracy qualification gave the learners a sense of achievement and are keen to secure their next level.

Learners now feel more confident as they can recognise and identify monetary values. One learner used to carry a one-pound coin wherever she went however she now understands a one-pound coin amounts to the same as two fifty pence pieces. Learners have increased confidence and feel empowered so much so some are now making purchases themselves using coins at Trindlemoss café.



Gaelic

Fèis Arainn

Fèis Arainn took place 23/07/24 – 26/07/24 and attracted higher numbers than ever, with 85 children attending the main fèis and a further 12 attending Sgoil-Feasgair for more advance players. This year Fèis Arainn worked in conjunction with Arran Music School. Feis Arainn is a festival of traditional music, culture and language carried out in an easy, non-competitive way with fun and games included. We offer traditional music tuition and a Gaelic arts experience to young people from the age of eight. Participants have the opportunity to try out or improve their skills in a number of musical instruments, song and drama as well as giving them experience of the Gaelic language which was of course the first language of Arran residents in earlier times. In this way they are reminded of the heritage of the island and, we hope, encouraged to keep the language and the spirit of Gaelic alive.



Another Gaelic Scrabble session was held on 06/06/24 under the auspices of Fèis Arainn, this time in the Garden Room of the Arran Heritage Museum in Brodick and attracted slightly increased numbers with sufficient players for three boards including visitors to the island. Those that came enjoyed the session and expressed a desire for more of them.

A further session will be held in early autumn, perhaps to coincide with the European Day of Languages.



Gaelic

Suas Leis A Ghaidhlig and Gaelic Medium Education Picnic

In this quarter North Ayrshire Suas Leis A Ghaidhlig group were invited to attend a picnic in McGavin park with the GME Whitehirst park Kilwinning children teachers and parents.

The Suas Leis a Ghaidhlig group attended the picnic in the park with the children, teacher and family members. There was games which the children played with the help of the Suas members using the Gaelic language. There was a few different stations where the children and suas members rotated.

They then had a few songs and poems from the children in Gaelic. Also, happy birthday was sang in Gaelic as it was one of the children's birthday.



Participatory Budgeting



Current PB updates:

- PB 24/25 (locality and youth) has now been launched across all six localities, with launch events held in each locality, providing opportunities for groups to find support to apply and a chance to network with other local organisations.
- Applications are open and organisations are invited to apply via our Shaping North Ayrshire site or through local libraries from 26th August to 13th September for locality and youth PB.
- PB training has been delivered across localities to staff and a community reviewer engagement session has taken place for this round of PB.
- Our Modern Apprentices are working on our Youth PB packs which will go out to all schools (primary, secondary and ASN) to include a session ahead of young people voting. The workshop will cover the importance of a rights based approach, incorporating UNCRC and how to use the digital voting platform to allow all young people to vote from aged 8-25

For further information please visit: <https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/>



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 has delivered training to staff who are interested in being the Single Point of Contact for Community groups exploring community asset ownership. This training will build on improved communications between departments to ensure groups feel fully supported through the CAT journey.

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

Three Towns

Whitlees Community Centre - Campbell Park, Saltcoats - Ardrossan Indoor Bowling club - Hayocks playpark and surrounding area

Kilwinning

Blacklands Hall - Auld Dirrans Centre

Irvine

Maress Road - Maress Playing fields - Ravenspark Golf Club - Clubhouse,

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 - Bowencraigs Playing fields (final stages) - Brisbane Centre - Simson/ Craufurd Avenue Swing Park - Holehouse Road - Cameron Centre



Food Insecurities



The Fairer Food Network & Larder Updates

- Currently 16 food larders across North Ayrshire supporting over 3000 households with a dignified food provision.
- Millport Community Shop opened in July and has over 40 registered households to date. Cool boxes have been ordered to help keep food cool while transporting back to the island.
- Beith Larder has stopped responding to requests for information and figures. Despite several requests, there has been no success and as a result, they did not receive the latest payment. The FFDO will attempt a drop in visit to bring them back on board.
Update: figures have now been received and payment released.
- Cranberry Moss is needing support to recruit volunteers, look at keyholding, funding and general support. A meeting will be scheduled with FM, locality staff and the FFADO to support all aspects.

Mears Grant

- Four families have signed up through the Mears Foundation. Two for choices and two for The Tap End. Funds are in the process of being transferred to Choices. The Tap End are the holding account for the fund.

Development Day

- The Fairer Food Network had a development day on 9 May at Ardeer Centre. The group discussed sustainability, covered the breastfeeding toolkit and looked at funding. Working agreements were also reviewed and updated to align with the changes to community contracts.
- Due to the development session being close to the next network session, the group decided to postpone the next network meeting. They will now meet early in September.

Trussell Trust Community Campaigner

- The FFADO met with Rhion Mills who is the new Community Campaigner with North Ayrshire Foodbank. Rhion is looking for assisting in reaching out to people who have local issues that need support. The FFADO linked her to the larder network and the locality teams.



Food Insecurities

IMC Community Fridge

- The FFADO met with Cllr Montgomerie who oversees the IMC Community Fridge initiative in Saltcoats. He would like for the fridge to become part of the Fairer Food Network so steps have been taken to register it as a food provision with Environmental Health. There is now works to be undertaken to meet the registration criteria.
- Once the work has been completed, the project will go on to receive quarterly funding along with the larders.

Funding

- The 7th quarterly payment has been made to all larders with the exception of Beith (see above) 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.
- A new monitoring form has been issued to all larders to cover the period to March 2026.

Events

- The FFADO had a stall at the Cunninghame Housing Conference at Seamill Hydro in June. Approx 60 people interacted with the stall and it was good to see that many were aware of the larder network.
- The FFADO attended a morning session on Delivering place-based Regeneration initiatives: SURF Awards Shared Learning Workshops. The FFADO intends putting the network forward for the next round of awards
- The FFADO attended Glasgow Community Food Network's Regional Event. It was good to hear from other areas about current initiatives and challenges.

Other Updates

- Equal supported Employment Garden has consistently supplied fresh produce on a weekly basis all summer. These have gone mainly to Cranberry Moss and Argyle due to the days they have been harvested and the opening times of the larders.
- Many of the other growers and allotments have donated on an ad hoc basis throughout the summer.

