



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Arran Locality Partnership

Wednesday 25 September 2024, at 4.45 p.m. Brodick Hall

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Currie	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					5.05 – 5.25 pm
3.	Grants <u>Community Benefit Fund</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Arran Dogs <u>Elderly Grants</u>	Pg 9 Pg 11	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP are asked to consider one Grant Application.
4.	Street Naming Report The Locality Partnership are asked to consider a street naming report for a residential development at site to West of Rowarden, Benlister Road, Lamlash.	Pg 13	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP are asked to consider Street Naming Report.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					5.25 – 6.35 pm
5.	KA Leisure For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work of KA Leisure.	-	Verbal	KA Leisure Rep	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities.
6.	Education Overview For discussion and direction from the Locality Partnership on the work taking place across education establishments on the Island linking in with Locality Priorities.	-	Verbal	S Foster J Worthington Active Schools	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
7.	Islands Plan For discussion and direction on the work of the Arran Islands Plan.	-	Verbal	S Baird Island Plan Leads	Discuss progress and how LP can further support this work.

8.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland on Arran.	-	Verbal	David Cameron/Martin Spence	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
9.	Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund Year 4 Receive update on the launch of the fund.		Verbal	Vicki Yuill	Receive update and discuss any learning and partnership opportunities.
AOCB					6.35 – 6.45 pm
10.	AOCB	-	Verbal	Cllr Currie	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
11.	CLD Strategic Quarterly Update	Pg 16	Enclosed	Cllr Currie	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Charles Currie (**Chair**)

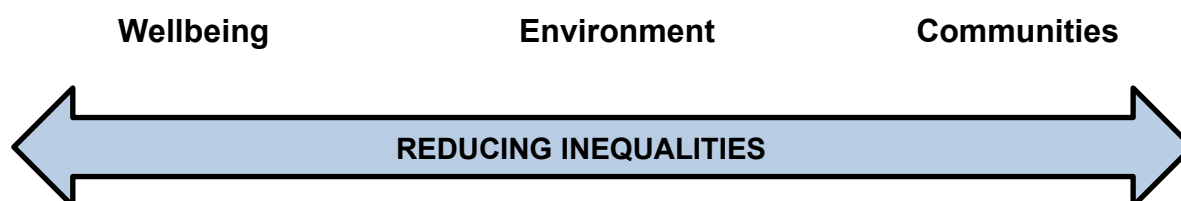
Community Representatives

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

CPP/Council Representatives

Vicki Yuill, Senior Lead Officer
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Ruth Betley, NHS Ayrshire and Arran
David Cameron, Police Scotland
Lesley Forsyth, North Ayrshire Council
Anne-Marie Hunter, North Ayrshire Council
Carol Norton, Arran CVS
Martin Spence, Scottish Fire and Rescue

Arran Locality Partnership Priorities



Arran Locality Partnership – Community Investment Fund	
The Arran Locality Partnership CIF allocation to date:	£194,000
Funded Projects	Total Funding Awarded
Arran Youth Foundation and Arran High Joint Bid - Young People's Mental Health	£45,226
Arran Geo Park	£79, 853
Remaining CIF Balance	£68,921

Meeting:	Arran Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	Thursday 6 June at 4.45pm on Microsoft Teams
Present:	<p>Councillor Timothy Billings (Chair) Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager Information and Culture Sheila Gilmore, Islands Plan Lead for Community Anne Marie Hunter, Engagement and Participation Officer Scott Morrison, Community Sport Manager, KA Leisure Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland Seony Ross, Team Manager Strategic Planning & Equalities Vicki Yuill, Third Sector Ross Dobson Active Schools Bill Calderwood, Arran Community Council Lesley Forsyth, North Ayrshire Council Carol Norton, Operations Manager, Arran CVS Susan Foster – Head Teacher, Lamlash</p>
In Attendance	Lynne Pearson, Directorate Support Officer North Ayrshire Council (Notes)
Apologies:	<p>Ruth Betley, Senior Manager, Arran Services, NHS Ayrshire & Arran Judi Worthington, Argyll College Sarah Baird, Senior Officer (Islands)</p>

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 7 March 2024 was approved.</p>	
3.	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>Scott Morrison provided the Partnership with an update noting the progress of Arran Community Sport Hub and the vacancy has been filled. The post holder is currently going through the HR process and PVG checks. They should be in post within the next few weeks. The centre will be open to local groups.</p> <p>S Morrison highlighted the events and programmes that took place across Arran during the holidays in April, along with the visit to local schools promoting the up-and-coming Euros. Active Schools supported this work.</p> <p>Alongside North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Education, workshops will take place next week to inform pupils of substance misuse.</p>	

	<p>S Morrison also highlighted that the recent Brodick Tennis courts community consultation and feasibility study was completed, and recommendations made. The full report will be circulated to the Partnership.</p> <p>Redevelopment plans required for courts, include fencing and keypad gate entry cost approx. £149k. Initial offer covered one-third of the cost but an additional £100k funding is being sought. The funding panel is meeting later this week to discuss project proposals. S Morrison will provide the Partnership with an update following this meeting.</p> <p>Additional funding is also being sought from Landfill Awards for All, Local Islands Funds and Sports Scotland for floodlights and the updated online booking system.</p> <p>B Calderwood advised of the Community Council Windfarm fund for community owned properties of £40k, asked if this fund could be used to assist the tennis courts.</p> <p>The Chair noted the recent announcement on place funds for Council-owned properties for which could be applied for.</p> <p>V Yuill suggested the Aria Fund, Island and Rural Community Asset part of the funding. The fund has recently been promoted as of 3 June. Would support a collaborative approach with KA Leisure.</p> <p>Discussion on linking with ADP and Marie Craig for the workshops on substance misuse.</p> <p>S Morrison noted as new staff member receives start date this will be made public to inform the community of the centre re-opening.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed different models for facilities to be used for events are taking place with NAC and KA Leisure.</p>	
4.	<p>Education Overview</p> <p>Susan Foster provided the Partnership with an update from Education, noting Vicki, Marie and the team have been proactive in organising meetings in schools, involving local Police, HSCP and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Events were held to raise awareness among young people about drugs and alcohol. These events featured various speakers and workshops tailored for different age groups (S4-S6 will take place this week).</p> <p>The events were designed with age-appropriate content. The initiative included youth workers, HSCP, local paramedics, and other professionals.</p>	

	<p>The program included both senior primary pupils and junior pupils during their transition week, making the event inclusive and comprehensive. The events were very successful and supported by the local community.</p> <p>Meeting with Sheridan from the Arran Skills Initiative group to discuss work experience and business engagement in schools will be taking place. Emphasis on linking SDS (Skills Development Scotland), teachers, and the school's education system. More updates and plans to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the importance of these educational initiatives and reassured that they are proceeding as planned.</p>	
5.	<p>Islands Plan</p> <p>In Sarah Baird's absence, the Chair provided the update highlighting the significant role of volunteers in the steering group. Emphasizing the importance of raising the profile of the islands plan and engaging with it for long-term benefits. The Chair stressed the need to establish local needs and priorities to effectively link with national strategies and secure funding.</p> <p>V Yuill noted Sheridan is now in post, recent event included eighteen attendees collaborating under the Arran Skills Initiative. With focus on identifying gaps, implementing projects, and securing skills and outcomes. It was suggested of a 'meet the expert' event post-peak tourist season with five speakers and four experts for 1-1 discussions.</p> <p>S Dougan mentioned the benefit of special constables and suggested involving the fire service for the event.</p> <p>B Calderwood raised the issue of little promotion for CalMac careers and suggested reaching out for collaboration.</p> <p>L Forsyth discussed childcare skills and the introduction of someone in rural childcare. Highlighting that there are planned discussions with Sheridan and to tie in with the economic group. School outreach training for school refusers was also raised.</p> <p>Date for the next Island's Plan meeting to be confirmed.</p>	
6.	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>Stuart Dougan provided an update on Police Scotland, noting a new Sergeant has been appointed for Islands, Claire Neilson and will commence from July/August. Currently there are eight officers on the Island.</p> <p>Pride event took place recently which was well attended and went well with resources from the mainland and received positive feedback.</p>	

	<p>Timetable of events through the summer will be arranged with links with Trading Standards promoting the awareness of online scammers requesting money via email/WhatsApp.</p> <p>Current road policing strategy ongoing, with the Open Championship taking place. Promoting active travel and highlighting any closed paths due to cycling or horse riders and promoting safety for drivers and speed checks.</p> <p>Engagement with CalMac to discuss build-up of traffic at ferry terminal, this is being fed back to NAC.</p> <p>S Gilmour raised camping and suggested the presence of Police van visible for foot passengers to see once they have departed from the ferry terminal may deter the amount of litter disposed of incorrectly from day trippers.</p> <p>S Dougan agreed this was possible and will also link in with Asda at Ardrossan and highlight to CalMac passengers their responsibility for responsible waste management and no fly tipping.</p>	
7.	<p>Free For All Event</p> <p>Chair welcomed Carol Norton to provide update on recent event.</p> <p>C Norton noted the event took place on Saturday 27 April; this was the second free community event.</p> <p>27 community groups and local services on Arran provided activities and stalls. The library bus, KA Leisure, Fire service attended.</p> <p>There was face painting, promotion of volunteering opportunities on the Island. Eco Savvy provided catering, zero waste pop up café. High school catering staff were part funded by NAC.</p> <p>Enhanced home baking and food sharing. No confirmed numbers however catering was arranged for 250 people and had zero waste. Is estimated the amount was closer to 300 people.</p> <p>Thanks to Active School team as they went above and beyond to help set up and clear up after the event.</p> <p>T Billings expressed his gratitude to C Norton and the team for organising another successful free event which has yielded positive feedback.</p>	
8.	<p>HSCP Overview</p> <p>Chair provided overview on report provided by HSCP in Ruth's absence.</p> <p>The report on ferry access highlighted issues HSCP staff face in securing space on ferries. Meetings have been scheduled to discuss this issue with CalMac.</p>	

	<p>Day Service – a pilot programme for outreach modelling has concluded. The pilot is linked with the transformation of services, more widely available day services are expected by early Autumn.</p> <p>Recruitment has been slow but there are positive changes. One change is the partnering with Big Blue Dog, which has led to a proactive approach, resulting in successful appointments and a positive outlook.</p> <p>Scottish Government and NHS continue to bring services together as integrated teams on Arran over the next two years.</p> <p>Local engagement programmes are progressing well, with more updates to be reported in the future.</p> <p>A new cancer care coordinator was appointed earlier in June for Arran. With the aim to provide more cancer care services locally, reducing the need for mainland visits, which is a significant positive development for the team.</p> <p>V Yuill mentioned the ongoing ADP work and the importance of hearing from Marie at Turning Point for support and collaboration.</p> <p>T Billings agreed to discuss with Ruth about facilitating this collaboration for the next meeting.</p>	
9.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>R Dobson noted the Active Schools are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Running primary and secondary pupil activities in collaboration with KA Leisure to promote the Euros. ➤ Primary swimming gala at the Auchrannie which is free of charge. ➤ Golf competition at Arran High School, Duncan providing free refreshments to the pupils. <p>The Chair confirmed this was his final Locality Partnership meeting, he will be stepping down as Councillor for Arran. No formal resignation has been provided; this will take place following the up-and-coming general election.</p> <p>The group all wished T Billings the best for his future and thanked him for the continued support as a colleague, friend, and advocate for Arran.</p> <p>No other business was discussed.</p>	
10.	<p>Reports for information</p> <p>The Chair advised the Partnership of a number of reports attached to the agenda for information.</p>	Noted

THREE TOWNS & ARRAN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

OFFICERS REPORT

Applicant: Arran Dogs

Description of Applicant: Background: The applicant is a constituted community group that aims to enhance the lives of dog owners and their dogs on the Isle of Arran. The group organises various activities and events, including training classes, social walks, and educational workshops, to promote responsible dog ownership and strengthen the bond between dogs and their humans. This project is being introduced in phases. This being the biggest, thereafter enhancements to the project will follow for sustainability.

Number of Members: 5 volunteers 24 regular attendees 380 will benefit from the funding	Established: Since 20/12/23 This phase of the project aims to start with an open day on 24 August 2024 with no end date.
Meeting Place: Corrie Hall, Brodick Tennis Courts, Whiting Bay Hall and Dyemill Horse Training Ground	Date of Meeting: Teams Call – 21 August 2024. Lesley Elliot (Secretary) & Sharon Fleming (Grants & Performance Officer)
<p>Description of the Project: The project aims to create a dedicated dog park on Arran, providing a safe and enclosed space for dogs to exercise and socialise off the lead, thus encouraging the safety of wildlife and wild stock.</p> <p>Background: The Isle of Arran currently lacks a designated dog park, limiting opportunities for dogs to run freely and interact with other dogs. The project addresses this need by establishing a purpose-built dog park equipped with agility equipment, seating areas, and waste disposal facilities.</p> <p>Project for Funding: Constructing a safe sustainable development which will be accessible to all. Bringing the community together and encouraging a meeting point for social inclusion for all.</p>	

Funding

Amount requested: £4,000	Contribution by Group: £2344
Total cost of project: £6,344	

Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund Criteria

1. Charitable	x	2. Educational	x
3. Community	x	4. Environmental	x
5. Renewable Energy		6. Energy Efficiency	
7. Sustainable Development	x	8. General Community Amenity	x
<p>Level of environmental enhancement: The application mentions the dog park will enhance the environment by providing a designated area for off-leash exercise, reducing the impact of dogs on sensitive natural areas. The group advised they will be installing a living roof/wall on the shelter that is currently being built and this will improve the appearance which will improve biodiversity. We are also considering installing integrated habitat boxes to provide refuge for a range of species including bees, butterflies, ladybirds and lacewings as well as providing a nesting space, shelter and food for birds.</p>			

Level of community involvement: The application states the project has strong community support, with 85% of respondents in a survey favouring the dog park. Thus indicating the level of involvement to be considered high.
Level of funding secured or available: The group to date has successfully secured income through fundraising events as well as £4,350 funding from Arran Trust, £6,000 from Auchrannie Charitable Trust and a pending application of £4000 from Arran Community Council. Taking these into account demonstrates a good level of funding secured.
Experience of group to deliver project: The group has successfully organised various events and activities, indicating high level of experience in project delivery.
Future sustainability of project: The group plans to maintain the dog park through volunteer efforts and potential future fundraising, suggesting a plan for future sustainability. Auchrannie Hotel as part of the lease have agreed to maintain the grounds and empty the dog waste bins.
Location of Project: Auchrannie Hotel, Rear Grounds.

Officer Details

Name:	Sharon Fleming	Position:	Grants & Performance Officer
Date: 11 September 2024			



Locality Partnership: Arran Locality

Date: 12 September 2024

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

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

Background: An application has been received in respect of the 2024/25 Elderly Grants Fund.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

- Consideration to be given to the application at Appendix 1.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

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

For more information please contact: *Angela Morrell, 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: 9 August 2024

**ELDERLY GRANTS FUND
APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2023/24**

Grant Allocation for Arran LPP Area	£	2,841
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Group	Purpose of Grant	Grant Allocated to Group	Amount Requested
Arran CVS (distributed to groups on Arran on our behalf)	<p>Distribution of grant money to Arran groups for outings, meals and activities.</p> <p>The activities planned will be aimed at enabling elderly people to engage in activities outside their own homes & reduce social isolation.</p>	£ 2,841	£ 2,841



Locality Partnership: *Arran Locality Partnership*

Date: *25th September 2024*

Subject: *Residential Development at Site To West Of Rowarden, Benlister Road, Lamlash*

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

Background

Arran Development Trust has contacted Planning Services requesting a new street name for the development of 23 house plots on the Site To West Of Rowarden, located off of Benlister Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran. 19 houses would be within the new street. The remaining 4 houses would face onto Benlister Road and would be numbered as part of the existing street.

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

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

The development requires 1 new street name.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

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

Action Required by Locality Partnership

Choose 1 new street name for the development.

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

Completed by: *Lisa Dempster*

Date: *4th September 2024*

Street Name Suggestions	Background
Halls Field	<p>Name suggested by developer.</p> <p>For generations, the site where this new street is being built has been known by the locals in Lamlash as Hall's Field. The trust's feeling is that it would be wholly appropriate to use this title to ensure that the name is kept for future generations.</p>
Glenkiln	<p>Name Suggested by Community Council. The neighbouring farm was identified as Glenkiln Farm.</p> <p>There are several references to Glenkiln already within Arran. This could cause potential confusion.</p>
Whin	<p>Name Suggested by Community Council. The site had a lot of whin bushes prior to clearance.</p> <p>The closest reference to Whin is in Kildonan, this should be far enough away from the site as not to cause any postal issues.</p>
Rowantree	<p>Name Suggested by Community Council. Rowantree was submitted as a suggestion, it was a variation of the suggested "Rowarden".</p> <p>There is a Rowantree Cottage already in Lamlash which again could cause some confusion locally.</p>
Brisderg Tounie Cnoc Dubh Glas Lean	<p>Names Proposed by member of public.</p> <p>These are a selection of some interesting hill names which are located to the north of Benlister Glen</p> <p>None of these name suggestions have been implemented to date as an address within the Isle of Arran.</p>

Appendix 1



Type A - Indicative Footprint
4 Bedroom 6 Person
House 11No.

Type B - Indicative Footprint
3 Bedroom 5 Person
House 11No.

Type C - Indicative Footprint
4 Bedroom 6 Person
House 1No.

Denotes application site

Drawings for comment.

07	Revised Site Layout	18/12/2023	RB
06	Amended Coordinates	06/11/2023	RB
05	Amended Site Plan	28/09/2023	RB
04	Boundary dimensions added	22/08/2023	JC
03	Coordinates added	15/08/2023	JC
02	Additional 2 no Visitor Parking spaces added	17/07/2023	JC
01		11/05/2023	
Rev	Revision	Date	Int.

Layout Status

Planning

Project
Proposed Service Plots for Self Build
Housing ,
Halls Field
Lamlash, KA27 8LW

Client
Arran Development Trust

Project No. 2301

Scales @ A2 1:500

Drawing Name
Proposed Site Layout

Drawing Number Rev
AL(00)003 07



7 Wellington Square - Ayr - Ayrshire - KA7 1EN
01292 291150 info@denhamyoud.com

Site Plan Proposed

1:500

Scale 1:500





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

Arran LP - Pg 16



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 Alan really is 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.

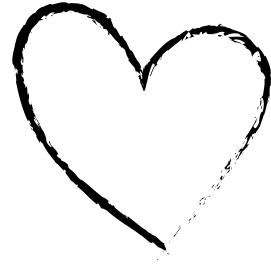
If you would like more details on any of our work please contact naactiveschools@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



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

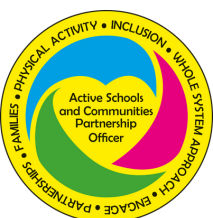


Q. Now that you're back on land, do you notice any changes in yourself?

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:

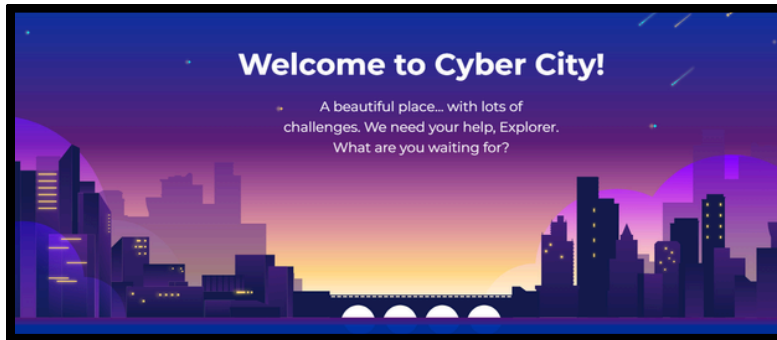
- Increased bank of assessors and verifiers has reduced the time required for individual assessors and verifiers are required to spend on these responsibilities.
- Improved standardisation due to an increased number of views and perspectives being considered.
- Staff have been upskilled and gained valuable 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."*



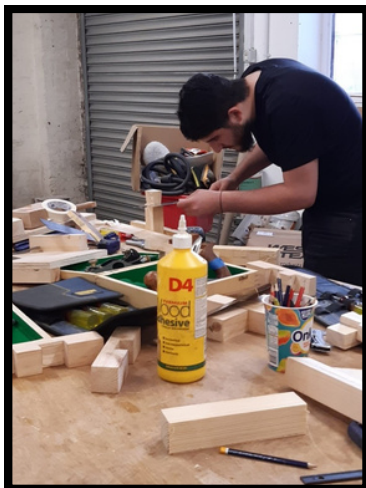
New Scots

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.

