



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Irvine Locality Partnership

Monday 2 December 2024, 6.00 p.m. at Fullarton Community Hub

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 2 June 2024 and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	Is this an accurate record of the meetings. Have all actions been completed?
3.	CIF Project Update Receive update from BABCA on their Community Garden CIF project.	-	Verbal	Irene McIlwain	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
DECISION REQUIRED					6.10 – 7.00 pm
4.	Grants The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one grant report. Irvine Common Good <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Running Club 	Pg	Enclosed	Lesley Forsyth	LP to consider one Grant Report.
5.	Community Investment Fund – Expression of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irvine Legacy Centre 	Pg 13	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	LP to consider one EOI application
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.00 – 7.55 pm
6.	Locality Action Plan The Locality Partnership to discuss the work taking place relating to the annual action plan.		Verbal	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.

				Active Schools	
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.
11.	Locality Officer Report Receive report and update from the Locality Officer.	Pg 19	Enclosed	Elaine Baxter	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
12	CLD Strategic Plan launch Receive update on plans for the launch of the new CLD Strategic Plan.	-	Verbal	Lesley Forsyth	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
AOCB					7.55 – 8.00 pm
13.	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					
14.	CHAP Quarterly Update CLD Strategic Quarterly Update	Pg 37 Pg 40	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 Angus-McDonald
Councillor Matthew McLean
Councillor Louise McLaughlan
Councillor Chloe Robertson
Councillor Angela Stephen

Community Representative

Marjory Dickie
Chris Pless, 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
Michael Cowan, Police Scotland
Barbara Conner, TSI
Lesley Forsyth, Lead Officer
Paul Timmons, Scottish Fire & Rescue

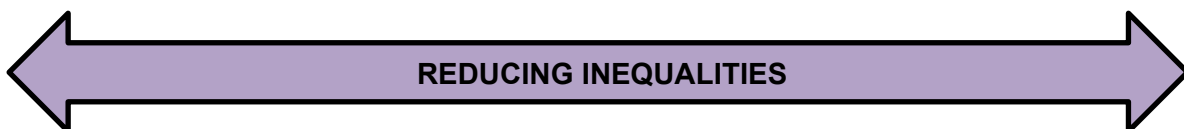
Irvine Locality Partnership Priorities

**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:	2 September 2024 at Redburn Community Centre, 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 Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager, North Ayrshire Council Gary Moore Active Schools Councillor Louise McPhater
In Attendance	
Apologies:	Councillor Angela Stephen Barbara Conner, TACT

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome/Apologies/Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed those present to the Irvine Locality Partnership meeting and apologies for absence were recorded.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note from meeting held on 2 June 2024</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 2 June 2024 was approved as a correct record and the implementation of decisions confirmed.</p>	

<p>3.</p>	<p>Grants- Elderly Grants</p> <p>The Partnership received a report from the Locality Officer: For financial year 24/25: Grants requested would use up full year allocation Amount held back for those who have been prompted Annie Small requested information about groups that were given money but have not used it- work is being undertaken to follow up on these and tighten claw back clauses for all local grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved no conditions. 	<p>Rosemary Ramsay</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Locality Action Plan</p> <p>The Partnership received a report on the updated draft Locality Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the statutory requirement for each LP to have a Locality Plan • L Forsyth spoke through the updated draft plan with the LP, which covers the current financial year and stressed the plan is a starter for ten. • Looking for guidance from the LP on whether the actions feel right and who should be the lead partner on each action/ area of focus. • Split into themes with smaller actions underneath. • Cllr Burns highlighted the importance of agreeing the lead partners • Clarification requested to be added to the document which older people's forums are being referred to under which action. • ACTION: Circulate the draft plan across the LP for comments and agreement. • E Baxter highlighted the importance of including the community reps in assigning actions as key in driving forward the partnership. 	<p>Lesley Forsyth</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Locality Strategic Lead</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update on the new role of Locality Strategic Lead from the new Locality Strategic Lead, Louise Kirk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gave overview of the role in relation to the LP. Purpose is to act as an internal council champion for the Locality Plan and delivering against the LP priorities. Will be a Council director or Head of Service. • Look also to strengthen the Locality Network meetings and links between partners and council services to benefit the LP. 	<p>Louise Kirk</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Burns highlighted the newness of the role and its focus on championing the LP internally within the council. Want to make council services more effective in and for each locality. Will have a role in pulling together and progressing the actions from the locality plan from a council perspective. • ACTION- Invite Louise back at a later date once the role has developed. 	
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<p>6.</p>	<p>Locality Officer Updates</p> <p>Bourtreehill Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started from 2018 locality chit chats. • Highlighted need for local playparks to be improved and developed. • Connected Communities working with Streetscene and Housing through the Village Plan. Also worked with conservation volunteers to engage with residents. • As a result, Bourtreehill Woodlands Trail has received funding over the next three years. • BABCA also been involved in developing food provision within the area and Children 1st have also been carrying out work. They will be part of a working group around developing the area. • 16 September a chit chat will take place to feed back this info- 'You Said, We Did'. • Any outstanding actions will be added to the Locality Action Plan, for example around notice boards and activities for older people. <p>Cllr Burns highlighted the length of the journey to achieve these improvements and how welcome they are. Looking for faster action from services involved – ACTION Develop more detailed actions on the plan to ensure partners and services understand what needs to be done and when by.</p> <p>Also highlighted the health and safety requests around the pond- can these be covered in the engagement.</p> <p>L Forsyth highlighted the key role in this programme of the Locality Strategic Lead.</p> <p>Locality Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E Baxter highlighted the evaluation undertaken of the previous action plan- showing the task, the traffic light evaluation, evidence and next steps. Once the draft is complete it will be circulated across the action plan. There are longer term actions there that are ongoing and will be moved on to the new updated plan. • Cllr Burns highlighted how useful the evaluation document is. Welcome this along with the action plan as being the key focus of the agenda for each LP meeting. 	<p><i>Elaine Baxter</i></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place recently at Cabinet around projects reliant on multiple funders- flexibility required around ratification at Cabinet to ensure the match funding is secure. • I McIlwain updated on community garden project. Incinerator Company that originally agreed to complete key work at no cost have gone off grid and wont reply to contact meaning there are new costs for the group around clearing the area. They now need to amend the original CIF application to include these extra funds. ACTION- I Wallace highlighted they have a meeting with the owner of the incinerator plant involved and will raise this issue. . • This has now been added to the community benefit wish list to try and source other companies to carry out the work. • I Wallace asked if there would be a standing community rep item on the agenda. Cllr McAulay highlighted that all the partnership would be adding and updating to all agenda items. Anything not related to the LP priorities could always be added under AOCB, send to the Vice Chair for inclusion on the agenda or to be actioned before the meeting so there is no long wait for issues to be looked in to. 	
7.	<p>Youth, Education and Active Schools Overview</p> <p>Leeane Hillan Fowler updated on behalf of Active Schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team have been working on extracurricular provision that is free at point of contact. • Supported 333 young leaders from p6 to s6- trained to get more skills and confidence and they then give back into the community. • Irvine locality make up over 60% of numbers. • Year ahead- want to work with the same numbers or more as last year. • Key priorities around events programmes to ensure young people of any stage can perform. • Also running individual and bespoke programmes across Irvine Locality to ensure barriers to participation can be removed. • Chair highlighted how beneficial the programme has been for young people; this has been fed back by young people to them verbally. • D Phillips noted that he would like to link in with Active Schools. 	
8.	<p>Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships</p>	

	<p>The Locality Partnership received an update on the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue in Irvine.</p> <p>David Cameron updated for Police Scotland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated on Police support around car cruises. There were two this year, with officers assigned to each. 35 cars were stopped with several charges. • Operation Moonbeam is carrying on this year with a recognised plan- daily meetings will take place locally in the two weeks up to Bonfire Night to discuss the days proceedings. Keen to get Streetscene more involved. • Schools- working on internet safety with S1s as well as inputs to junior year groups around vaping. Hate crime inputs also taking place, especially due to new legislation. Drug and alcohol and knife crime inputs and drug boxes still being updated and taking place. Did joint inputs with SFRS and Coastguard around Moonbeam and water safety. • Also working with KA Leisure around champions for change. • Working with road safety around learning for young drivers. • Work is also underway with the tobacco dog. Working in partnership with NAC around young offenders. • Safer Shores has been quieter this year due to the weather. Debriefs are taking place as always to gather any learning for next year. • David Cameron is moving on to a different role and will no longer be attending Irvine LP. There is an advert out currently with a closing date of 9 September for a replacement. • Vaping: L Murphy highlighted trend of people sticking vape stickers to bins. • L Forsyth highlighted NAC colleagues working on new firework control zones processes as required by new legislation. Any community can define themselves to apply for an exclusion zone. • Discussion took place around unorganised and unlicensed car events and the challenges around policing these. Cllr McLean updated on current plans to look at licensing these. • J McMillan highlighted leisure centres being targeted and stressed the importance of possessions being properly locked away. 	
<p>9.</p>	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>John McMillan updated on behalf of KA Leisure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1574 attendances for free swims over the summer at The Portal. Free swims will continue to October • Push around ASN events and classes including a recent event attended by over 250 people. A new ASN swimming class is due to start this autumn. • Worked with Active Schools on projects with new projects starting this autumn. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated on talented athlete programme for young people. 6 applicants from Irvine around sports like gymnastics, ice hockey, athletics and boxing. • Defib awareness scheme in progress. • Irvine Clean Up Crew are currently based at Quarry Road. • New grass pitches under development for Irvine. <p>Noted.</p>	
<p>10.</p>	<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"> • Hustings took place with good engagement from the community • Sourced funding from Rivergate for a notice board outside Trinity Centre this will be in by the end of the year. Feedback received that there was demand for more physical notice boards • Working with Town Board and engaging around Merrymass. • Going forward over the next quarter will be holding a volunteer recruitment day for local groups. Will share comms around this. • E Baxter highlighted that TACT could support this event they are running a similar event with Volunteer Scotland in Three Towns. They can add to the TSI newsletter. <p>Noted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I Wallace: Would like more information on how decisions made at Irvine Town Board- ACTION: Include presentation at future meeting on Town Board. Kings Arms Hotel building- not safe to pass and something should be done. ACTION: Request to be made for safety signs are put up to show public where to go. E Baxter highlighted that dial a bus have offered to help people get around. • Cllr McLean highlighted that a process has been started to set up Dreghorn Community Council and they may be in attendance in the future. 	

<p>11.</p>	<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. J 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>	
<p>12.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No other business was discussed. 	
<p>13.</p>	<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>	<p>Noted</p>

The Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

Locality Partnership: Irvine Locality

Date: 2nd December 2024

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund.

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

Background

Applications have been received in respect of Irvine Common Good Fund.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

The balance available for disbursement is bullet pointed below:

- Irvine Common Good Fund has a balance of **£38,902.02**

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 (sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

Date: 26.11.24

IRVINE COMMON GOOD FUND

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024/25

Common Good Criteria -

The application should benefit all or a significant group of the inhabitants of the area to which the Common Good relates

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Common Good Awards
Irvine Running Club	Contribution towards publication of a book celebrating Irvine Running Club's Centenary. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Formatting - £1,750 • Printing - £1,485 TOTAL COST - £3,235 Irvine Running Club are contributing £1,235	£2,000	None
<p>Communities & Housing, Finance & Corporate Support, and Legal Services have been consulted and their comments are as follows:</p> <p>Finance & Corporate Support: The organisation has available funds in the bank to cover the expenditure with the prior year report advising the accounts are 'in good health'. Quotes for planned expenditure have been received. Irvine Common Good available budget for disbursement for 24/25 is £2,139.</p> <p>Legal: In terms of s.15(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 when determining whether an application is to receive assistance from Common Good funds the Council should have regard to the interests of the inhabitants as a whole of the area to which the Common Good relates.</p> <p>The applicant being Irvine Running Club, have described what the proposed grant monies would be used for and have been transparent in their disclosure of the necessary information, however with regards to whether this proposal benefits the 'interests of the inhabitants as a whole of the area to which the Common Good relates', I do not think that it does.</p> <p>Whilst there is mention of events like couch to 5k and the Marymass 10k Road race which in my view would be more likely to fall within the criteria of the Act, the grant monies would not be used towards these events and would be used solely towards the publication of a book about the history of the club, which does not meet the criteria. The proposed grant money would be used to help fund publication costs of a book about centenary history, specifically relating to running – which in itself is a sporting activity that will not appeal to or benefit all within the common good area. The book will appeal to a limited age group and demographic and therefore I don't think it would meet the criteria in terms of the Act.</p> <p>Communities & Housing: Irvine Running Club is seeking funding towards the publication of a centenary book celebrating the Club's history. The aim of the publication is to provide a social history of how the Club has adapted over 100 years to support the physical, mental and social wellbeing of the people of Irvine and is a story of how the people of Irvine have responded to societal change. In order to save and celebrate the part the Club has played in Irvine's history over the past 100 years, the Club plans to donate copies of the book to all local libraries to ensure that this historical information is not lost to the local community.</p> <p>Irvine Running Club is an inclusive organisation which provides health and fitness opportunities for all members of the community of Irvine and supports the local community in a number of ways including delivering the Couch to 5k programme in partnership with the NHS to encourage and supervise less active members of the Irvine Community to adopt a healthier lifestyle through running, the Marymass Children's Sports and the Marymass 10k Road Race and it the club has a long history of organising and supporting community races.</p>			



The CIF will support proposals and projects that:

- Connect with:
 - The North Ayrshire [Fair for All Inequalities Strategy](#);
 - the [Community Planning Partnership](#) (CPP) and [Locality priorities](#); and
 - North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) values, priorities and business [objectives](#).
- Fulfil a compelling need and do not duplicate existing services or facilities;
- Provide long-term, sustainable, positive results for the greatest number of people possible;
- Exhibit project and/or organisational innovation in their approaches to their work in their way of addressing community challenges and in their request to Locality Partnerships and the Council;
- Come from (an) organisation(s) that is financially viable (can provide financial statements upon request) and efficiently and effectively managed. This can include an organisation to be created to deliver the project;
- Include options or potential for NAC and CPP employee engagement and volunteering where possible; and
- Include measurable outcomes and can report to NAC on outcomes on a regular basis.

When to apply and how?

- LPs should continue to engage with their communities, and stimulate interest in the CIF. The Locality Partnership will then strategically assess the applications, make links and look at the funding 'in the round'.
- Initial interest in a CIF application should be via an expression of interest form. This will be discussed by the LP or an associated working group.
- If the partnership supports a bid then the group will be encouraged to submit a full application form (attached), which they will decide upon before making a proposal to Cabinet for final approval.
- The proposal will go to the next suitable Cabinet for final approval.
- Forms should be returned to your Locality Officer, by email if possible:

Elaine Baxter
Locality Officer - Irvine
North Ayrshire Council
Connected Communities
Redburn Youth Centre
Dickson Drive
Irvine
KA12 9EW

Email: ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01294 313593
Mob: 07814418453



1. Details of your organisation

Name of Organisation

Irvine Youth Legacy Centre

Postal Address for Correspondence

2 Bridgegate, Irvine

Name of Contact Person Mhairi McFadyen

Position in Organisation Chair Board of Trustees

Telephone Number

Email Address

2. Brief description of your organisation

Please include its legal status, aims and objectives, activities or services provided and how long it has been in existence.

Irvine youth legacy centre is a registered charity providing support to young people and community members within North Ayrshire. Irvine youth legacy centre was established in 2022 and is managed by a board of trustees and our youth action team. Irvine youth legacy centre focuses on providing opportunities for young people, creating a safe space, food provision, enhancing mental health and wellbeing and empowering young people to share their views and drive change in their local community.

3. Title and summary of proposal

Tell us about your idea. Please describe in as much detail as possible, what the funding will be used for.

Please include:

- where it will be held / delivered
- who is your target audience
- who will benefit from it and how
- any partners that are involved.

Future Plus- is a targeted support programme for young people and members of the local community. Future Plus will deliver employability groups for young people who are currently disengaged from education, providing group work, training in barista, linking in with employability services and supporting them with their next steps into a positive destination. Future Plus will also focus on adult learning, creating a drop in for community members to receive support with college or work applications, training, building skills and sign posting to services. As well as providing support with skills and employability Future Plus approach will be holistic and aim to meet the needs of the individual, focusing on alleviating poverty and enhancing mental health and well-being. We will offer food provision in the form of a lunch time drop in for school pupils and assess to emergency food parcel for community members. We would like Irvine youth legacy centre to be a one-stop-shop for community members, a place to receive support, food, clothing and sign positing and a place for their voice to be heard. We hope to achieve this by working in partnership with local services.

4. What difference will this project make within the locality and to local services and programmes?

Please include:

- The outcomes you aim to achieve
- How you will approach reducing inequality
- How this proposal fits with the Locality Partnership [priorities](#)

Our aim is to provide further volunteering and training opportunities within the centre as well as providing college/university placements, employment, build confidence, skills, support young people disengaged from education and empower community members to have their say and be involved in their local community. Our tailored programme aims to meet individual need and prioritise mental health and wellbeing as well as providing a one-stop-shop working with different partner agencies allowing us to take a holistic approach when supporting community members.

5. What engagement has taken place in relation to the project?

Please include the number of people who have been engaged with or consulted as well as the range of people.

We continue to engage with the young people that access the Irvine youth legacy centre as well as other services that access the centre.

6. How will the project be managed?

Please include:

- How the finances will be managed
- Does the proposed project contribute to volunteering or employment opportunities in Irvine? Please include the number of volunteering opportunities and employment opportunities
- If there are any staff requirements, please outline your HR plans

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

The project will be managed by the board of trustees. We currently have processes in place to manage payroll and our accounts. We aim to increase volunteering and employment opportunities as well as providing training, individual and group work support to increase confidence and skills.

7. Amount of funding being requested

Please supply details of funding being requested and any other funding you have had over the past 5 years, both financially and “in kind”.

Amount of funding requested (£) **£100,000**

Please give a breakdown of cost and recent quotations where appropriate.

£100,000 to support with delivery of the programme, staffing and space. Additional fees associated with exploring assets transfer and development fees. Irvine youth legacy centre are currently looking to asset transfer a local community space to support with sustainability of the project.

8. Monitoring and evaluation process

Please include detail on the monitoring and evaluation processes planned or in place.



Our evaluation process is an asset based approach in which we involve people gathering evidence from user groups and our outcomes in relation to youth work within the youth work reports as an impact statement.

IRVINE LOCALITY PROGRESS REPORT Q3 DECEMBER 2024



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



Locality Priorities



**Supporting Skills &
Work Opportunities**



**Enhancing our Mental
Health & Wellbeing**









Alleviating Poverty



**Green Health &
Natural Environment**

Locality Action Plan 24 / 25

Theme / Action	Locality Priority	Actions	Traffic Light Evaluation	Next Steps
Community Information & Engagement		Populate Community Book		Raise awareness of Community Book and how to populate
		Community Notice Boards		Use local radio Electronic / online Identify areas to position community notice boards Identify relevant partners to support notice board projects Regular local Whats On Magazine to be delivered door to door
		Community Magazine / INFORM NA		Discussions regarding Irvine only version of INFORM NA Public to have access NOT just organisations
		Over 50s What's On		Contact printers regarding making directory Contact Eddie Gemmell regarding supporting promotion and publicity through media programme Promote through any community group supporting over 50s
Supporting activity to assist in alleviating poverty		Support work related to the cost of the school day and family support		Continue to support existing current provisions Engage / consult with communities in relation to food / larder provision in Redburn / Castlepark
		Support work related to financial inclusion and food insecurities		Create a list of organisations who can provide support on financial issues List to be included in local magazine

Theme	Locality Priority	Actions	Traffic Light Evaluation	Next Steps
		Develop school holiday activity programmes		Look at funding available and potential partners to run and venues
Outdoor Spaces	 	Bourtreehill Park		Contact relevant partners to support Project - Streetscene, NAC Regeneration Officers Support future community engagements in Bourtreehill Engage partners to develop park plans
		Explore option for green gyms and MUGAS / Walking / Heritage Trail		Continue to support Fullarton Hub with Green Gym proposal Engage partners to develop a Harbourside Heritage Trail
		Support the enhancement of open spaces - town centre planters and litter picks etc		Involve NAC Biodiversity Officer Clarify NAC responsibility re litter removal Identify and involve volunteers to improve landscape of town
Local Skills & Paths to employment	 	Deliver opportunities to those in recovery to access support and advice in relation to employability		All family support work should include signposting to employability
		Increase opportunities for those affected by disabilities and support them in relation to employability		Continue to support existing provisions Identify potential new programmes and partners
		Increase opportunities for local young people to access training and employment		Continue to support current provision Support MA Programme Create and design youth employability

Irvine Locality Action Plan

What's been happening in Irvine....

Older People's Voice

Irvine Seniors Forum and Older People's Voice Network empower over-50s to share opinions, influence council decisions, learn about local activities, and build friendships. Representatives from each locality will attend the 2025 conference, jointly organised by the council.

Locality Network Meeting

Locality Network meetings give local community organisations and the council an opportunity to come together and network. The most recent meeting saw input from Katherine Dickens, Sustainability officer from NAC who spoke about the creation of a Community Climate Action Plan. The group were also given the new Locality Action Plan and asked for comments. These notes will be gathered and a plan created to see what groups are already doing some of the work highlighted in the plan and identify gaps.

Budget Engagement

Public budget engagement meetings have been held in Irvine, including participation from various community groups and young people as part of National Youth Work Week events. These sessions facilitated the collection of diverse perspectives to inform decision-making and empower communities to influence policies. They have also raised awareness of key areas identified by North Ayrshire Council for improvement, providing an opportunity for public input and engagement.

Climate Action Town

Katherine Dickens, the Sustainability Officer with NAC gave a talk on areas about a mapping exercise to be carried out to identify areas that are coping well with climate change and those that have been affected. Participants were encouraged to highlight these areas on a large map which she will do in all the localities to form her action plan.

Bourtreehill Chit Chat

The latest Bourtreehill Chit Chat on at Towerlands Community Centre included partners such as Police Scotland, BABCA, and NAC Connected Communities, alongside residents. Updates on previous actions and park development were shared, followed by Q&A. Discussions covered consultation involvement, accessibility, environmental impacts, timescales, and future plans.

Youth Work Update



**YOUTH
WORK**
NORTH AYRSHIRE



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



National Youth Work Week

Our team facilitated workshops at this years Joint Cabinet and Youth Conference

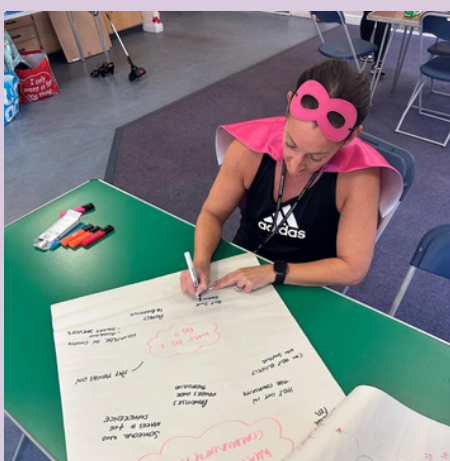
Youth Groups

127 young people are registered within the various different youth groups offered by NAC in Irvine and all of our youth groups are busy, showing a need for the provision within Irvine.



Towerlands Mural & Cyber Magazine Project

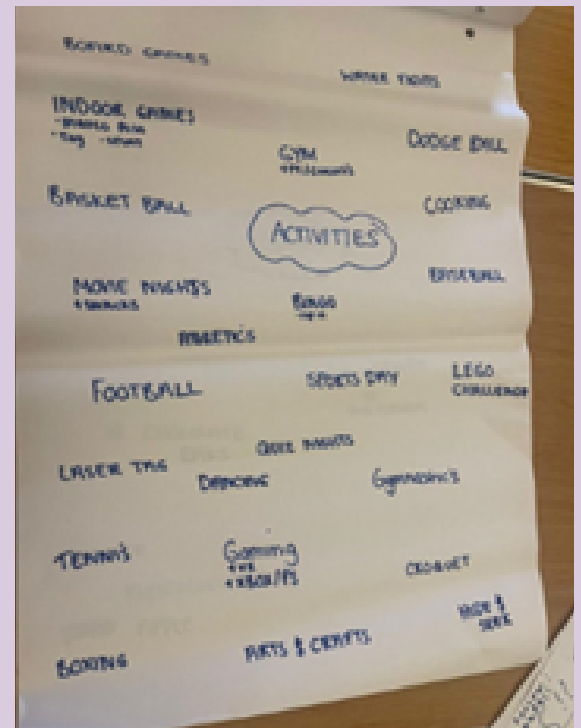
5 young people have worked in partnership with Education Scotland and White Water Writers, where NAC's Cyber Resilience Worker, Greenwood Academy, Police Scotland and Irvine Locality Team identified six S2 young people to create a magazine for Primary 6 and 7 children to make them aware of the dangers of being online. This led onto working with a local artist to to create a mural on a local community centre and create a cyber magazine as part of a restorative project. Irvine LP - Pg 24



Case Study : Youth Groups in irvine

Over 100 young people are registered with North Ayrshire Council's Youth Groups which are held in different neighbourhoods throughout Irvine on a weekly basis, Monday - Thursday , providing young people with a safe and warm place to hang out with their friends.

Our informal drop-in youth groups are a great way to help young people prepare for secondary school. They offer fun, structured activities where young people can openly discuss what matters most to them, ensuring their voices are heard and they feel listened to and valued. Led by both experienced and apprentice sessional staff with diverse skills and an understanding of young people's challenges today, the groups provide a welcoming space for young people from different primary schools to connect, make new friends, and build a sense of belonging. Through various activities that are young person-led, young people boost their confidence, develop new skills, and learn to handle challenges, helping them feel ready and positive about their transition to secondary school. Many return after their first year to share experiences with the Primary 7s, gaining a sense of responsibility and supporting the next group of young people through this important change.



For young people with anxiety or additional needs, our groups offer a welcoming environment where they can feel included and "fit in," giving both young people and their parents a sense of happiness and relief.

"I am so happy - youth group has been great tonight" YP

"Jack wont go anywhere else but from youth club so excited" Parent

Case Study : Towerlands Mural Project

A restorative youth work project making a lasting and positive impact is the current Cyber Explorers community mural which has been taking place at Towerlands Community Centre, Irvine.

With five young people involved, the mural project was established as part of the Locality Action Plan for a targeted group of Greenwood Academy pupils who had played their part in recent anti-social behaviour and the Locality's Connected Communities team worked closely with them, giving support beyond the classroom. The young people created a mural depicting the history and growth of Towerlands Community Centre and were involved in the design and have been fully involved in the creation of the mural. Their thoughts, ideas and suggestions were listened to and incorporated alongside members of the community association.



"I was doubtful about the success of this project - but I am happy to be proved wrong"

"Big improvements - the boys have come a long way from where they were - long may it continue"

The relationship between the young people and the community centre users has improved dramatically. The young people engaged fully in all sessions provided to date. The mural has been designed and it takes pride of place up at the community centre's entrance. The young people now see the community centre as hub that is utilised by the community and not merely an old building that serves no purpose. This has created new and welcoming relationships between the young people involved and those who use and manage the centre. Most importantly, there has been no further damage to the community centre since this programme has begun.



Adult Learning Update



ADULT LEARNING NORTH AYRSHIRE

Over 200 adults are engaged in regular CLD activities (adult learning and capacity building)



Discovery Award / Over 50s groups

The over 50s uptake in groups within Irvine has risen and is almost at capacity. Both groups now operate from Nennel Gardens in Irvine due to the library becoming too small for their needs.

Computing

The informal computing class held in Irvine where students can also bring along their own devices and learn how to become confident using them is looking to partner with Ayrshire College to give an accredited award in the near future.

LEARN

Multiply

Jackie, Irvine's Multiply Worker is involved in The Canny Crafters group, a games group, a grandparents group and also has her 1:1 learners where she introduces numeracy in a fun and friendly way with learners gaining accreditation if they wish.



Case Study : Christine

Christine Martin, a local resident, living close to the Redburn Centre was initially apprehensive about joining groups and lacked confidence in using technology and being able to effectively help her grandchildren with their homework. By attending the breakfast club and then participating in the computing and grandparent groups, she has gained confidence to seek support when needed and has since joined cooking and sewing classes, where she applies her numeracy skills, builds friendships, and actively socialises



Christine also attends the weekly Friends of Redburn community lunches and has since become a member of the group. She contributes to the games group each week after lunch, and volunteers her time regularly at the community centre's clothing bank, organising donations and recently helped bake goods and helped out at a local Xmas Fair to raise funds for the Grandparents Group. Her engagement demonstrates increased self-assurance, community involvement, and a sense of purpose, highlighting the transformative impact of these initiatives.



Capacity Building Update



COMMUNITY CAPACITY NORTH AYRSHIRE

Community Benefits

Through the local authority's Community Benefits Scheme Towerlands Community Centre are in the process of transforming a derelict play area into a functioning and accessible community garden thanks to the cost of materials and labour to clear the site being covered by Melton Renewable Energy UK and Scott Brown of Dovernyard who are involved in the construction of the local waste incinerator.

Irvine Scouts have also benefited from a donation to cover an electrical and structural survey on their hall to allow them to free up money which will go towards the costs of repairs.

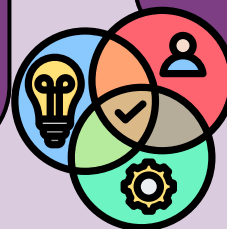
Ashleigh Construction, who secured the new social housing at the old Ayrshire Central site have kindly donated money to Irvine Community Council to allow Xmas lights to be put up within the town centre this year for everyone to enjoy.



Discovery Group

During the past few months, the group have independently planned and participated in a number of local trips as a whole group and as smaller groups as well as working collaboratively to plan and host a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer. The event was a real success, and the group managed to raise £650.41.

This continues to highlight the growing capacity and strength of the group as a community and as individuals. It also helps to build and deepen relationships within the group and reduce social isolation.



The Canny Crafters

Members of the group have been using their existing and new skills to knit and crochet different goods to help fundraise to buy new resources for the group by going along to some local events to raise awareness of the group



Community Asset Transfer

3 local groups have enquired and received support regarding Community Asset Transfers within Irvine. The team will continue to support them through the process should they continue.



Case Study : Older People's Voice in Irvine



Both Irvine's Seniors Forum and the newly established Older People's Voice Network hold regular meetings within Irvine to allow people over the age of 50 to share their opinions that could help shape the work of the local authority. It allows them to learn about activities and events that are on in their area and ensures older people have a voice and their views are respected.

The groups allow the members to make new friends and build relationships and two representatives from each Locality within North Ayrshire will also attend the annual Older People's Voice Network Conference, which will take place in February 2025. This is jointly planned and hosted by the council's Community Learning and Development Team.



Irvine Seniors Forum and Older People's Voice Network empower over-50s to share opinions, influence council decisions, learn about local activities, and build friendships. Representatives from each locality will attend the 2025 conference, jointly organised by the council.

IRVINE AREA THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST
10AM - 12PM
VENNEL GARDENS
EAST ROAD
IRVINE
KA12 0BQ

OLDER VOICE NETWORK

Your Voice, Your Agenda, You Decide

The Irvine Locality team will host our first ever Older Peoples Network meeting after the success and feedback from the Older Peoples Conference in November 2023.

If you are over 50 and from the Irvine area you are very welcome to attend.

Ensuring Older Peoples Voices are heard, actioned and respected.

The Network will provide the chance to peer support and share ideas.

Please get in touch with **your own agenda points** regarding anything effecting Older People in the Irvine area for discussion.

Help Shape the Work of the Council

It is the aim to select two attendees to represent the Irvine area at the Executive Older Peoples Council with the Leader of the Council & Older Peoples Champion Marie Burns.

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

For further information contact:
Garry Tait at gtait@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Case Study : BABCA Community Garden

Towerlands Community Centre in partnership with NAC, Melton Renewable Energy, UK and Scott Brown of Doveryard are in the process of transforming a derelict play area into a functioning and accessible community garden.

The garden, in time, will hopefully provide vegetables that can be utilised by the local food larder, The Farm Basket, to provide affordable fresh produce to the community of Bourtreehill.



Through negotiation and discussion, Scott Brown from Doveryard has provided all the labour and materials that has allowed this project to reach the point to where it is at.

The unsightly derelict play area has become an area that can and will be used by local community groups and centre user groups to grow produce and have a safe and welcoming space to meet and tend their gardens.

Outdoor pursuits, in particular gardening, have been shown to improve mental health and wellbeing for all involved, the impact on the environment can be evidenced as the garden will provide home grown goods which will reduce the need to buy in produce, thus reducing cost, waste and packaging.

The next steps for the garden are to create raised beds for planting and allocate these beds to user and community groups who are interested in the project. The local Men's Shed have been commissioned to design and create the raised beds using salvaged and recycled materials, not only is this providing income to local groups it has a positive impact on the environment by reducing waste.

This project clearly meets the criteria of the Irvine Locality priorities and can be evidenced to show that it can:

- Support skills and work opportunities.
- Enhance mental health and wellbeing.
- Alleviate poverty.

Support green health and the natural environment



Community Funding / Finance



**YOUTH PB
26
APPLICATIONS**

**LOCALITY PB
44
APPLICATIONS**

**YOUTH PB
3630
VOTES CAST**

**LOCALITY PB
2301
VOTES CAST**

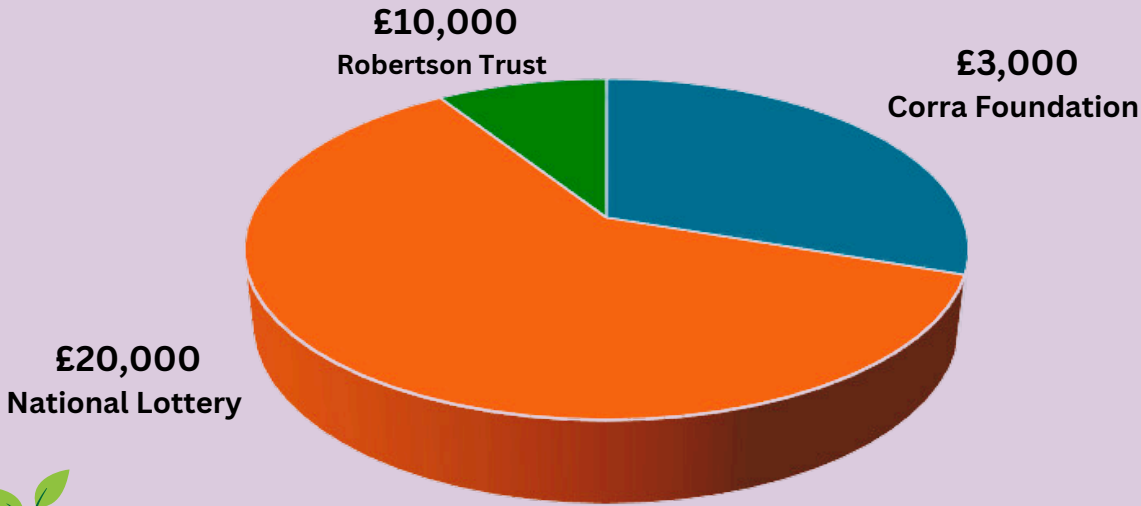
**YOUTH PB
13
SUCCESSFUL**

**LOCALITY PB
38
SUCCESSFUL**

**YOUTH PB
£11,840
AMOUNT AWARDED**

**LOCALITY PB
£35,347
AMOUNT AWARDED**

AMOUNT OF EXTERNAL FUNDING GENERATED WITH CLD SUPPORT

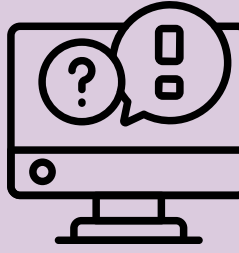
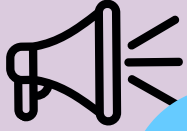


■ Fullarton Hub ■ Friends of Redburn ■ Friends of Redburn



Engagements

Young People



Budget

Joint Cabinet
Youth Conference



**PB
FUNDING**

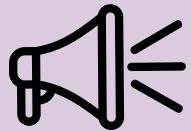
Schools, Youth groups,
Online ,Libraries

**Harbourside
Play Park**

Schools, Youth groups, Online

**TOWN
BOARD**

Youth groups, Online, Public Events



Community & Older People

Budget

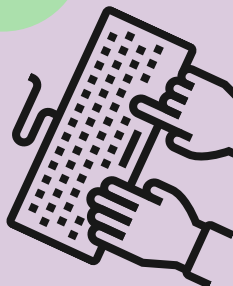
Community Groups, Public events
Online ,Libraries

**PB
FUNDING**

Community Groups, Public events
Online ,Libraries

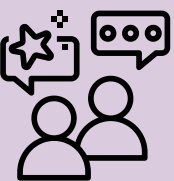
**TOWN
BOARD**

Locality Partnership, Online,
Public Events, Community Councils



**LOCAL
AREAS**

Community Groups & Centres, Chit
Chats Community Councils, Online



Next Steps

What's coming up within Irvine....

YOUTH



P7 transitions to take place across schools



Community spaces to be used by schools to engage more young people currently disengaged



Young people to be consulted re playpark equipment in Bourtreehill Park



Young people to be consulted re Town Board action plans.

ADULT & CAPACITY



Community groups to consider community boards / magazine for a What's On guide in Irvine



BABCA to engage with local groups to take on planters within Community Garden



Bourteehill Park partners to carry out consultation on play park with locals



Formation of Community Council in Dreghorn area, covering KA12 area.

For further information contact:

**Elaine Baxter
Locality Officer Irvine**

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



ebaxter@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

01294 313593 / 07814418453





Subject: Irvine Locality Report – CIF

Dates: 01 Aug – 31 Oct 2024 (Q3)

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

3. Stats

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

	In Quarter	Running Total
Referred	62 (65 cases)	167 (177 cases)
Engaged (so far)	39 (41 cases)	116 (124 cases)
Financial Gains	£55,891.87	£135,449.75

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

Elderly client was referred to us by the Fullarton Hub for support with issues she was having with her phone provider. The client discussed that her telephone line hadn't been working and when an engineer attended to resolve the issue he stated that it was an external issue and it wasn't the client's fault. However, following this, the telephone provider charged the client the £75 call-our fee and took this directly from her bank account. The client had tried to engage with the provider to resolve this; however, she wasn't getting anywhere with them. The client also discussed at her initial appointment that her husband had passed away two and a half years

ago and she was still trying to sort out his will etc., and that this situation was causing her additional anxiety. During the initial appointment the adviser called the provider straight away and after being transferred to various departments, they eventually explained the client's situation and obtained confirmation that the money would be refunded to her bank account within 2-3 working days.

A couple of weeks later, when the adviser called the client to check that she had received the refund, the client advised that she had not. A follow-up appointment was arranged so that the client could be further supported to resolve the issue. During the appointment, the adviser requested to speak to the manager of the finance department who processed the refund immediately. After further discussion with our adviser, the manager agreed to process a payment of £35 to the client's bank account by way of compensation for the inconvenience and distress caused.

The client highlighted that getting help from CHAP has helped her in the following ways:

- Improved her finances, health and overall quality of life
- Increased her confidence
- Reduced her stress levels

The client was extremely happy with this outcome; when providing feedback on our services, she commented: "it was a god-send. I highly recommend the service; it has been the best thing...so grateful, thanks a million". The client also added that she goes to Zumba at Fullarton Hub so she felt more comfortable knowing where she was going for help.

5. Client Feedback

100% of respondents rated our overall service positively:

- Excellent – 91%
- Very Good – 9%

73% of respondents advised that our services have helped to reduce their stress, and improve their finances and quality of life, whilst others also reported that we helped to improve their health and confidence.

Comments from clients included:

"Delighted with the service. I feel confident enough to come back if I need to for the renewal form, I have been out and about a bit more within my limits now. I was really impressed with the girl that helped me, she was very patient, it was a good experience I felt. Because I had the help to go through the questions I felt as though I could remember a lot more. I have said to other people about the service".

"We are delighted with the result of CTR [*Council Tax Reduction*], the extra money really does make a difference to us".

"You are doing excellent, I am dyslexic and the girl helped me fill out the form, a lot more stress free than I thought it would be".

"It was a god send; I highly recommend the service it has been the best thing. Louise did her best, kept phoning me to check in. So so grateful, I spoke about the service when I was away on

my holiday. Thanks a million, everyone is so so nice, it's as though they all know you, Louise was a lovely girl, perfect for the job. She was always so calm, never got flustered which made me feel calm. I do Zumba at the hub, so I knew where I was going for help. I am going to put a positive comment on the Facebook page".

6. 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: 04th November 2024



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

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

STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE



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.

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: adultlearning@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.

The new Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan is Launched



North Ayrshire Council is striving to make communities stronger through its Community Learning and Development (CLD) Plan 2024 to 2027.

Adult learning, youth work and capacity building are the foundation of the plan – which has health and well-being, Community Wealth Building and workforce development at its core. Tackling inequalities and the need to target resources are also covered.

The views of people living in communities; Council partners including schools, colleges and third sector organisations; volunteers and staff have been vital in developing the plan, which local authorities are legally bound by the Scottish Parliament to develop every three years. The plan offers a framework that helps to empower people of all ages, individually and collectively, to make positive changes in their lives and in their communities. This is done through supported learning for adults and families, personal development and active citizenship to create stronger, more inclusive communities.

“What we are aiming to do is continue the good work that has been done previously to help residents across North Ayrshire learn, develop new skills and improve their own life chances while boosting their communities. There are many great opportunities within the plan for community development and individual learning. We want to ensure everyone – especially those who are vulnerable or marginalised – has access to learning opportunities and nobody is left behind.”

Councillor Alan Hill - Cabinet member for Communities and Islands

The Community Wealth Building economic model – which sees wealth being retained in North Ayrshire thanks to the council and partners increasing employment and using local produce and resources - is at the heart of the continuing drive to improve life for residents.

Achievements from the previous CLD Strategic Plan (2021 to 2024) across the six Localities include the success of Community Asset Transfers, food larders, participatory budgeting – which sees communities deciding how they want to spend public funds – and Community Investment Fund support.

A community consultation exercise and workshops, focusing on learners, have been held to help identify any gaps in services.

At a recent Cabinet meeting (29 October) the CLD Plan was approved. The new plan can be viewed in full on the North Ayrshire Council Website.

Joint Cabinet

Young people met with key Council decision makers at Saltcoats Town Hall this week to tackle a host of hard-hitting issues at the latest Youth Joint Cabinet meeting. The morning session taking place during National Youth Work Week was held on Tuesday 5 November.

It was the latest in a series of joint meetings involving North Ayrshire Council's Cabinet and Senior Officers alongside Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament and the Youth Council Executive.

Representing all of North Ayrshire's secondary schools, almost 100 young people attended from Irvine Royal, Greenwood, St Matthews, Kilwinning, Largs, Auchendarvie, Ardrossan, Garnock Community Campus, Arran High and Lockhart Campus.

With other events already underway, the lively session run by North Ayrshire Youth Services also featured representation from North Ayrshire's Youth Work Modern Apprentices, the Youth Executive, school youth forums, Pupils Parliament's and Police Scotland.



The discussions centred around key themes decided upon by young people prior to the event, including:

- North Ayrshire Council's Budget Engagement
- United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (young people's rights and youth voice)
- Youth crime and anti-social behaviour
- Health and wellbeing
- Activities and opportunities

The young people were also shared an update on the launch of the new North Ayrshire Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan 24-27.



Joint Cabinet



Cabinet Member of Education and Young People, Councillor Shaun Macaulay who opened the event said: *"I am astounded by the number of enthusiastic young people who have given up their time today to participate in the latest Joint Cabinet."*

"November marks our 30th Joint Cabinet meeting. As a local authority we are proud to be one of only two Councils offering this impactful approach to youth participation that ensures young people remain at the heart of our decision-making process."

"A key milestone of National Youth Work Week, we have used the event this morning as a platform to raise awareness of the importance of working upstream"

"Put simply, this is all about using youth work proactively to provide vital support to help local young people to unlock their potential in North Ayrshire."

"By giving them a voice and raising awareness of important topics including our ongoing Budget engagement, we have been able today to understand young people's unique perspective and most importantly determine their key priorities and the actions required to build a fairer and equal North Ayrshire for all."

During the round-table discussions, the format included a combination of listening to the experience of young people directly and encouraging attendees to scan a QR code and contribute online via the Council's Youth Participation digital platform."

Young People's Champion, Councillor Chloé Robertson was proud of the young people taking part in the event. She said: *"Thank you to our inspirational young people for attending today's Joint Cabinet meeting who spoke with courage and determination on behalf of their peers."*

"Joint Cabinet is a vital part of the Council's Youth Participation strategy, it allows pupils to learn more about how their local authority operates, while forming an important part of the Council's approach to give young people a voice."

"The action-packed morning was a brilliant example of the power of youth voice in action and the Council's commitment to UNCRC Article 12 that states the importance of ensuring that children and young people have the right to express their views and have them considered when decisions are made that affect them."

A full report of feedback will be available in January 2025.



National Youth Work Week Conference

We had a blast in the final event of National Youth Work Week - our annual Youth Conference

A [#youthparticipation](#) event packed with fun and exciting workshops, the day brought pupils from Irvine Royal, Arran High and Largs Academy together with our locality youth work teams, their local MSYPs, our Youth Executive and the Council's Energy and Sustainability team for a [#youthwork](#) event to remember.

Thank you to the young people for giving it their all across the four engaging workshops!



These covered:

- **How to become a community super hero:** where attendees had the chance to appreciate just how much of an impact they can make locally and what pledges they can take going forward to better their communities.
- **How to safely navigate a gaff:** a drama-led session where events unfold at a party. In this session, the young people were taught about the dangers of underage drinking and other risk-taking behaviours and what to do when things go wrong...
- **Escape room challenges:** Here, the problem-solving session explored climate change and the biodiversity crisis and what can be done now to prevent further nature loss and damage to the environment. Young people also made their own climate pledges.
- **Mobile phone use at school:** This session explored what school was like for Millennials and considered how Gen Z's can reap the benefits of digital technology but also understand its impact on interrupting learning in classroom settings. It also provided coping mechanisms if policy was to be introduced where phones were ever prohibited in school.

Finally, the young people had the chance to cast their votes for Youth PB and engage on the Council Budget proposals.

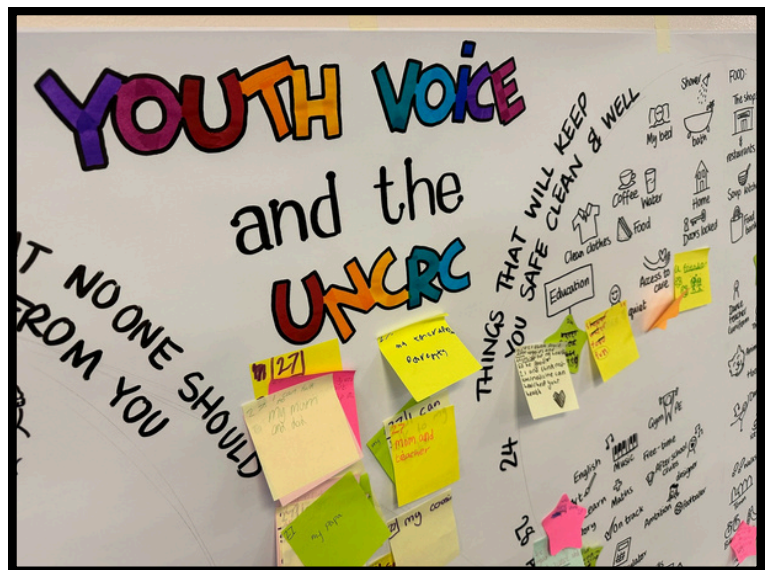


Primary 7 Youth Council

Youth voice and participation is something that is really important to us as we continue to provide opportunities for children and young people to speak up on issues important to them.

Back in September, we hosted our annual Primary 7 Youth Conference at Ardeer Community Centre where we welcomed 125 young people.

Garnock, St Palladius, St Peters, Blacklands, Woodlands, St John Ogilvie and Skelmorlie primary schools were part of the action, all joining forces to take part in 4 interactive workshops.



The youth work sessions focussed on:

- Workshop 1 - **Cyber Explorers** - Fun and interactive session with support on how to navigate our new Cyber Explorers youth work programme, and completing cyber missions towards a digital world. Answering questions along the way, the young people used the opportunity to share their views and feedback and consider how to stay safe online.
- Workshop 2 - **The Promise** - This interactive workshop was a fun way to learn what it means to be care experienced, the stigma that young people who are care experienced may face and to give young people the chance to share a positive message with those who are care experienced [#KeepThePromise](#)
- Workshop 3 - **UNCRC North Ayrshire** - Pupils helped to localise their rights working with a graphic artist to show what rights mean to young people here in North Ayrshire. As well as this, the young people looked at a child friendly reporting system when it comes to their rights and who and what they need to ensure their rights are being upheld and respected.
- Workshop 4 - **Wellbeing in the Digital World** - This interactive workshop helped pupils identify the differences between real life and the online world. Everyone was encouraged to look inwards and identify where they might change, elaborate or hide their true selves within the realms of social media platforms.



Joint Youth Forum

We welcomed 40 of our youth voice reps for Joint Youth Forum. An interactive day engaging on cyber resilience, wellbeing in the digital world, UNCRC child friendly reporting and looking at themes for our next Joint Cabinet.

Locality and thematic groups that participated included our locality based youth forums, young carers, sports leaders, New Scots and LGBT Forums.

The main focus of the day was exploring our UNCRC rights journey and what would child friendly reporting look like for young people in North Ayrshire.

The groups provided some invaluable data that will form the start of the engagement process into the Councils embedding of UNCRC practice. Young people stated to have effective rights reporting we should:



- Train and support decision makers on rights and supporting reporting.
- Have a localised reporting mechanism, for example an app.
- Have champions in each service that can be a point of contact - one trusted adult.
- Create a promotional campaign about rights and support on what can help you if you feel your rights have been breached.



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament

Our MSYPs attended the national sitting of the Scottish Youth Parliament in October. Along with the Scotland-wide membership they were involved in delivering their motions in the debating chamber at Holyrood.

Representative of Cunninghame North, Adam Johnston put forward his motion *“that all public transport should be made accessible and safe for people with physical and neurological disabilities, including improving support for physically boarding transport and pre-booking services”*.



There were 15 motions covering a range of issues that can affect young people, the wider community, and the general population. The topics included anti social behaviour, broadband for rural areas, global climate reputation, protecting university funding, cost of living education, xenophobia and racism, training for transport workers, vaping adverts, Gaelic education, mental health in curriculum, femicide, student and apprentice support, period products, BSL in curriculum.

After all motions were presented a vote took place to decide which motions went forward, from these Gaelic education was the only motion not to be supported. Adam will now form part of a working group alongside other likeminded MSYP's to take this motion forward and affect positive change for others experiencing similar issues.

Over the weekend the MSYP's attended various campaign workshops to discuss the following topics with other MSYP's from across Scotland, air their views and complete surveys, campaign groups were looking into the following issues :

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



Members of Scottish Youth Parliament

Freya Fitzsimmons was also offered an opportunity to contribute to the closing remarks for the entire sitting. Freya prepared a speech regarding the changes she would like to see over the next 25 years. She highlighted that all young people have the right to have their voices heard but to support this we need more support staff such as youth workers and the correct structures in place such as pupil councils in schools and youth forums in every locality.

The four MSYP's really enjoyed the event, they had the opportunity to meet MSP's at the parliamentary reception as well as other MSYP's from all over Scotland providing the opportunity to discuss their roles and the work they are involved in locally. They felt immensely proud of their opportunity to sit in the debating chamber that would normally be filled with MSP's and represent not only their local communities but young people from across Scotland.



Arran Youth Association MHWB Retreat visit

Our MHWB Project Worker joined the AYA young people during their stay at the Inverclyde centre in Largs for the mental health retreat. Bringing a light touch mental health input to support the other activities scheduled during their stay.

With the Inverclyde Centre having such lovely surrounding we decided to get the young people outdoors where we spent some time in nature. Looking at our online person vs our real person and diving into the differences or similarities that can cause a chaotic brain, meditation and outdoor crafts based on and using some of the things found in nature on a walk.



This workshop worked well because it engaged the young people in a variety of ways. As this was a mental health retreat for young people, it focussed on relaxing, taking time for ourselves and ways to equip ourselves to do this in amongst a busy lifestyle. Incorporating a bit of awareness and understanding around the digital world opened conversations within the group and they brought forward their own experiences of the digital world and the impact that they have seen on their own mental health.



The young people gained toolkits to support their mental health and wellbeing and had time to look at the digital world from another perspective which hopefully encouraged them to recognise behaviours and realise which parts may be healthy and unhealthy for the mind.

"We were delighted to have Vicki and the team at our wellbeing retreat. Vicki's team had visited last year's event, so the young folk were looking forward to seeing her and knew they were going to get a nice relaxed session with some useful tips and thought-provoking discussion. We had a lovely time in the forest hugging trees, hunting for bugs and just taking a minute. It was really worthwhile for the young folk to reflect on their online self v real world self and how busy their brains can be due to screens. Thanks again to the team. We hope we can do something similar again in the future!"

Graeme Johnston



Creating Bee You Mental Health Ambassadors in schools

The Bounce Back Your Resilience programme was created to support primary aged young people with their understanding of mental health and wellbeing. Young people completing their apprenticeship in youth work take the lead with support from our MHWB worker and deliver this to the senior end of primary schools in order to establish young people peer support models within the school community. This is taken further by the primary 6/7s that have attended the workshops to the lower end of the schools in a variety of ways chosen by the school.

By giving a group, the basics and understanding of topics surrounding mental health and wellbeing we are embedding change and empowering young people to support others in a structured way. Establishing this peer support model the design was first and foremost to support schools mental health and wellbeing by giving students an outlet to discuss their feelings and challenges to their peers who can relate.

The design was created with emotional intelligence, empathy and active listening in mind which from there can be built into healthy, supportive peer to peer relationships. The model supports inclusivity encouraging young people who may feel disconnected to form meaningful relationships which can form a sense of belonging and in turn support MHWB.

This programme has become widely sought after across North Ayrshire and has already reached 15 schools since starting in 2023 and has schools lined up for 2025 already.

Schools have been continuing this peer support model in a variety of ways within the primary schools:

- Some have chosen to highlight their ambassadors with pictures and information sharing on the walls and school corridors
- Ambassadors will wear a Hi-vis vests to show they are a supporting ambassador during break times
- Peer support sessions for infants (P1 and 2)
- Active story telling about resilience
- Health & wellbeing treasure hunt and games
- Created a sensory walkway to support neurodiversity, with individual ambassadors
- Held assemblies
- Summer stalls with MHWB toolkits



Creating Bee You Mental Health Ambassadors in schools

At the end of the 6 week block, we will highlight to the young people that we can come back to support their ideas or help them pull together their ideas to continue the peer support model.

The young people have embraced this concept and it is wonderful to see this continuing as a rolling support throughout the year groups across North Ayrshire Schools.

"The pupils really enjoyed the Bounce-back sessions, the support offered from North Ayrshire Youth Services and Vicki was welcomed by all, the sessions were engaging and tailored to topics that enhanced Health & Wellbeing, in particular mental health.

Relationship building was evident throughout the sessions and pupils benefitted from the informal and fun way that sessions were delivered. Pupils were given opportunities to build confidence and self-esteem and some pupils who would not normally participate in speaking out were keen to do so. This provided a different learning style through shared experiences and allowing time to discuss and explore the different topics each week, while participating in activities using alternative resources and being flexible in their approach."

Laura McEwan, Inclusion Officer - Hayocks Primary



Duke of Edinburgh - Silver Qualifying Expedition

Ardgartan Peninsula, Southern Highlands of Scotland

This quarter, our Duke of Edinburgh coordinator supported 13 young people to complete their Silver Expedition in the Southern Highlands of Scotland for 2 days of outdoor exploration.

These young people, as a result have become more confident and enthusiastic and are now ready to start their Gold Award.

The trip has in turn improved their team work skills, resilience, outdoor skills and formed new friendships from other schools and communities across North Ayrshire.



Active Schools has made a great start to the new Academic Year.

School Delivery Plans

All Active Schools Co-ordinators have now completed their School Delivery Plans which they share with all schools to plan their Extra Curricular Programme. This tool allows us to provide as many equal opportunities across each locality within the academic year and target young people term on term.

Events Calendar

Our Events calendar has been completed this quarter and distributed to the relevant school staff and lead contacts. Across the Primaries, Secondaries and ASN establishments the Active Schools team will offer 12 North Ayrshire wide Events across the calendar year as well as their own cluster calendars. So far we have delivered Badminton Big Hit Festival and Girls Spar 7's Football with over 200 young people from several schools take part.

Teacher CPD

After some reflection and consultation with key stakeholders we have taken a new approach to our CPD calendar this year. Each Co-ordinator will work closely with school staff across their own localities instead of North Ayrshire wide. This approach will allow us to look at the training needs of the staff as well as make this more accessible within their own areas. We will assess and monitor this across the academic year.



LEADERSHIP

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Young Ambassadors:

Recruitment took place this quarter and seen 170 young people ranging from S1-S6 attend our local Young Ambassador Conference at the Portal, Irvine. Some of the content they learned on the day was around the Role of the Young Ambassador, PB Workshop around Funding, Social Media training, Practical Delivery Experience and Team Building. This event was a real success and feedback from the young people has been fantastic. We look forward to them putting this training into action across the Academic year



North Ayrshire Sports Academy (NASA):

In August we seen the start of our NASA programme with 158 S5-S6 start their leadership journey at phase 1. All 9 secondary schools as well as Lockhart have representation. They attended a 6-week programme with their Co-ordinator who delivered content around Safeguarding, Model Sessions, Practical Delivery and Introduction to Active Schools. Phase 2 has now started with 114 pupils following their pathway sports (Football, Netball, Multi-sport and ASN) to and upskill them to prepare for future delivery come January.



Active Fitness:

Young people across five academies have started the Active Fitness Programme where they will work towards their Level 6 NPA qualification. Their college placements have started in partnership with Ayrshire College back in September and more recently are now attending their 8-week gym placement across KA Leisure facilities.



Active Outdoors:

As this programme comes to an end 17 young people will now complete their outdoor placements with several partners. Once this is complete they will put their qualifications into practise in January and will be supported across this time with Outdoor establishment's to deliver outdoor activity.



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.



From the stats below (which have been taken from March 24 till now) our Active Schools and Community Partnership officers (ASCPO's) have delivered 38 Experiential opportunities for young people within care experience or part of our 3rd sector organisations. These have consisted of Residentials to Inverclyde Sport Centre, Day Visits to local Leisure facilities and Team Building days at Gowanbank and Craufurdland Estate. This has allowed the young people to move into more frequent activity which consists of Extra Curricular programmes within a school environment or move into community provision where they can access a local community club or attend KA Leisure facilities.

Experiential Opportunities Delivered
38



Number of Participants Targeted
360

The next quarter will see us to continue to work with key partners across Health & Social Care, Schools and 3rd Sector organisations to support the young people across North Ayrshire.



DOUBLE AWARD WINNER:

We are delighted and proud of Connor Patterson a double winner for the following awards, Coaching, Officiating & Volunteering Award and the Eric Liddell Recognition Award.

Connor a former North Ayrshire Sports Academy pupil and now a current member of our Team Inspire Leadership group commits between 15-20hrs per week where he has coached, mentored, supported P7 leadership programmes, supported P6s to lead activity in the playground, coached school Football teams, refereed at inter school events, ran inter school events, organised school fun days, supported North Ayrshire wide events, led on community clubs, supported club sessions, organised fund raising and generally supporting school sport on a daily basis.



He is a true asset and school sport in Stevenston would not be the same without him. He eats, sleeps and breathes everything that Active Schools stands for and the schools he has involvement in are richer places for having him there.

WELL DONE CONNOR!



Care Experienced Week Celebration



The purpose of the event was to celebrate our team's work, the work of North Ayrshire wide Corporate Parents and the achievements of our Care Experienced young people over the past year. We highlighted our Team's development of the Champions Board and Promise Champions Network, we had a feature on employability support, shout outs to North Ayrshire-wide

Corporate Parents, an introduction from our Promise Delivery Partner Clare Morris, and an on-stage discussion with Corporate Parents from MCR Pathways, Active Schools, Educational Psychology, Dance Therapy and the ESOL Hub based in Auchendarvie Academy.

The event was well attended with great engagement from both Corporate Parents and young people. 61 adults and young people attended. Attendees commented on there being a good balance of content between our work, North Ayrshire-wide work and young people's work.

There was a mixture of content applicable to a variety of ages. Our Health & Social Care Councillor, Margaret Johnson felt so encouraged that she provided a word at the end to say how inspired she felt by the work she had seen and she plans to sign up as an MCR Pathways Mentor as a result!

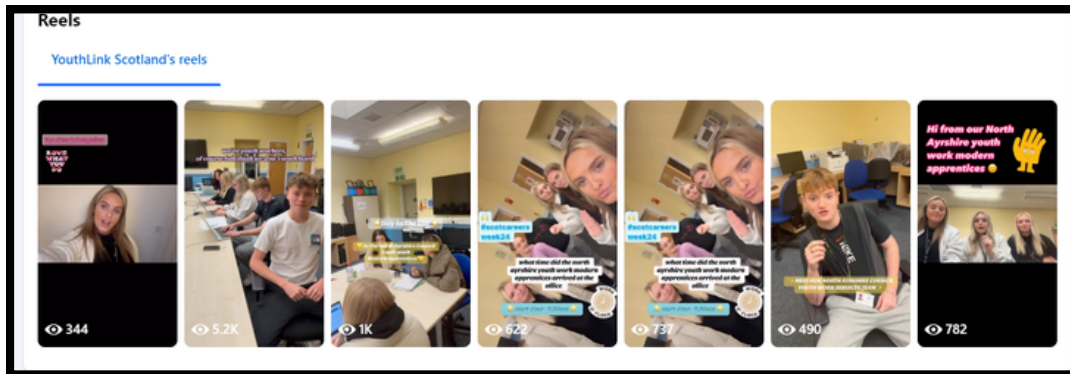
This event was very important in terms of our Youth Work/CLD Strategic Plan Priorities to:

- Highlight positive destinations that our young people can and have accessed
- Share young people's experiences in a non-stigmatizing way
- Promote and celebrate young people's health, wellbeing, attainment and achievement
- Showcase the ways we are reducing poverty and inequality for Care Experienced young people
- Provide feedback to young people about what has happened over the past year in response to what they have said they wanted to see improve or continue



Modern Apprenticeship Programme

A Day in the Life of a Modern Apprentice Youth Worker



Our Modern Apprentices were invited to take over national youth work agency, Youthlink Scotlands, social media channels for the day as part of Scottish Careers Week promoting Modern Apprenticeship programmes.

The partnership with Youthlink and Skills Development Scotland seen our MA's take over Youthlinks Instagram page, posting 7 videos throughout the day, this highlighted the Youth Work apprenticeships and showed a day in the life of a Youth Work Modern Apprentice.

They were delivered in a fun and engaging way utilising current trends to gain as much engagement as possible. With our young people at the heart of planning and creating the videos with their keen knowledge of current social media trends. Their confidence in creating and appearing in the videos also contributed to the activities success.

The day was a success with:

- Increased engagement in Youthlinks Instagram – one reel broke their previous record of 1000 engagements by reaching over 5000.
- MA's contribution singled out by Comms Manager at SDS prompting future collaborations
- Reels gathered over 13000 impressions
- Over 550 engagements and reactions.

All the reels can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/14jSLA7W6x/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/15kBxHjDx1/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1GtWRCYv5g/>

EMAILS FROM EDDIE NISBET (YOUTHLINK)
“JUST CHECKING SOME OF THE STATS - QUITE INCREDIBLE. ONE OF THEIR REELS HAS HAD OVER 5,000 VIEWS ALREADY! THE FANS WENT WILD.”



Cyber Resilience - Magazine Project



A partnership project with Education Scotland and White Water Writers, where our Cyber Resilience Worker worked in partnership with Greenwood Academy, Police Scotland and Irvine Locality Team identified six S2 young people to create a magazine for Primary 6 and 7 children.

The magazine content focussed on cyber safety, how to spot scams, fraudulent emails, hacking and secure passwords. The young people created characters in the magazine that mirrored themselves and created real cyber crimes and scams. From there they worked with writers and designers to create story boards and their characters .

The young people that were identified, were 6 young boys who have been involved in anti-social behaviour at the location the programme took place. The goal was to create positive relationships with the centers committee members and supporting the young people to understand the centers worth. By creating something worthwhile within the center, the boys then gain some ownership and protect local buildings.

The magazine will be published nationally across Scotland for other pupils to learn the dangers of Cyber and has since been developed into a Mural Project at Towerlands Community Centre. A partnership with local graffiti artist has allowed the young people to learn about how graffiti is an art and the journey that he has went through and to offer a positive outcome from the topic of vandalism.

“The Cyber Explorers mural is their way of giving back to the community and re-gaining the trust and respect of the many community groups operating at Towerlands so that everyone can move forward together. So far, we’ve collaborated to map out a design with key elements celebrating groups like the knitting club, Irvine Pipe Band and the dachshund group that all operate out of this important community hub.”



This three-day project was positive. They gained a great understanding of what it takes to run a community center and the voluntary hours that the committee put in.



New Scots

New Scots are heading for the hills

New Scots from across North Ayrshire have been exploring the Scottish hills with a purpose, as part of a new Adventure Group initiative aimed at achieving mountain-leading qualifications.

Participants have climbed hills such as Beinn Dubh near Luss, enjoying the stunning views across Loch Lomond. The group consists of seven New Scots and five care-experienced young people, aged 17 to 19, who are developing essential hillwalking skills.



So far, members have taken part in various activities, including skills sessions at Culzean Castle and Country Park and a two-day mountain hike at Gowanbank outdoor activity base in Darvel. These adventures are providing them with hands-on experience and the opportunity to engage with Scotland's beautiful natural environment.

Funding for these activities has come from several sources, including the Council's Community Learning and Development team, Sport Scotland's Active Schools programme, the Multiply

community programme (which helps adults improve their numeracy skills), The Outdoor Partnership, and the Ukrainians in North Ayrshire Committee.

The group is being supported by Council Locality Link Worker Lucy Russel. The goal is to enable participants to lead mountain walks within their communities, fostering a connection to the outdoors while promoting physical well-being.



Additionally, the outdoor education qualifications gained could open pathways to employment in the future.

The Adventure Group exemplifies the potential of outdoor learning to empower individuals, build community connections, and offer memorable experiences in Scotland's remarkable landscapes.



Celebrating the Contributions of Volunteers in North Ayrshire

In August, the invaluable impact of ESOL and New Scots volunteers across North Ayrshire was celebrated. In partnership with The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT), appreciation was shown for the outstanding efforts of Scottish, Syrian, Ukrainian, and Palestinian volunteers.

These individuals have engaged in a variety of activities, including delivering ESOL support, creating community gardens, supporting food larders, and organising cultural and historical events. Their collective work has significantly strengthened and connected local communities.



New Scots have been supported to find volunteering opportunities in various settings, helping them gain valuable work experience, integrate into the community, and improve their English through active citizenship.

A total of 18 people were recognised for their dedication, with three exceptional volunteers receiving the Palladium Award for going above and beyond. Together, these volunteers have contributed more than 4,436 hours of their time, making a meaningful impact throughout our communities.

This celebration highlights the remarkable dedication of those who continue to make North Ayrshire a more united and vibrant community.



New Scots

Pupils are helping grow fruit and vegetables in impressive school garden

Grapes and tangerines are among the healthy foods being grown in the grounds of an Irvine primary school, thanks to an exciting project involving children, staff, and a dedicated parent volunteer.

At Elderbank Primary, a thriving garden has been established inside a polytunnel, created a few years ago through the Pupil Equity Fund.

The project has continued to flourish, providing valuable hands-on learning experiences for the pupils. Headteacher Jacqueline Robertson shared her enthusiasm for the project, highlighting how children have been able to grow and cook with their own produce. *"It has been great for the children to see the whole process – from seed to plate,"* she said.



Parent Yousif Al Ahmed, whose family has strong ties to the school, played a major role in developing the polytunnel. Originally from Syria, Yousif has helped the children grow a variety of fruits and vegetables, including chillies, white grapes, broccoli, tomatoes, onions, garlic, parsley, spinach, and cucumbers. He emphasised the importance of teaching children how food is grown, noting how beneficial the experience has been for all pupils, including those with sensory needs, such as his son with autism.

The project has not gone unnoticed. Earlier this year, Yousif received a Volunteer Recognition Award from The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) for his outstanding contribution. His work serves as a wonderful example of community collaboration, with New Scots sharing their knowledge and enriching school life.

Children like Cody Lee, 10, and Charlie, 11, have enjoyed participating in the garden, with Cody expressing excitement about growing pumpkins, apples, and oranges.

Charlie shared that his nan's passion for gardening inspired him to get involved.

Elderbank Primary's growing project also reflects the importance of children's rights, such as the right to healthy food outlined in Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This initiative showcases how schools can provide engaging, hands-on opportunities that promote health and well-being.

<https://youtu.be/NaYCN0uE8rs>



Multiply

External referrals reach landmark figure!

Multiply are delighted to provide an exceptionally the positive update regarding our 1:1 learner referrals. In September 2024 we reached 100 learner referrals from our external partners. The current figure as of November 2024 is 122. We appreciate the trust and confidence shown in our project by CEIS, DWP, NHS Ayrshire & Arran, Ayrshire College, Turning Point Scotland, TACT, EQUAL and NAC's Employability Service. Alongside our drop in sessions, group work delivery and online support, our 1:1 cohort are an essential part of our adult learning provision.

122 EXTERNAL
REFERRALS

9 EXTERNAL
REFERRAL
PARTNERS

50 LEARNERS
SQA
ACCREDITED



Multiply Numeracy Qualifications at Ayrshire College

Multiply were approached by the staff at The Hive to provide numeracy input/support for their learners who are part of the Intro To Careers course . After productive meetings with our partners at Ayrshire College, Multiply staff proceeded to provide an 8 week accredited numeracy course to compliment their learning. The aims of the course were to engage the learners with real life numbers. Lessons on finances, problems solving, weighing and measuring with the aim of improving life skills as well as improving confidence with numbers. Providing accreditation also gave the group and introduction to a more formal college experience, which will prepare them for further study as they move into mainstream curriculum. Most of the learners embraced this opportunity and engaged extremely well. Each participant pushed themselves to complete the programme, which shows resilience. and increased their self confidence.

30 students have completed Level 3/4 numeracy qualifications, that are currently being verified by SQA



The Multiply Project

Community Qualifications Case Study

Working in partnership with the ESOL team, we have worked closely with a learner who previously had limited access to education and had no formal qualifications. This learner has gone through level 1 number processes and level 1 handling money units with the aim to secure SQA recognised qualifications.

The learner was able to compete the level 1 assessments with ease. The learner then progressed to a level 2 assessment, which she was able to complete and pass the unit successfully. Community based adult learning allows learners to engage in an informal way. Learning this way learners feel a lot more relaxed and can sometime be more engaged. Delivering SQA qualifications within the community has been a great way for people to gain confidence in learning and increase self-esteem.

The learner felt a sense of achievement from completing the assessments. Gaining the qualifications has enhanced her confidence and reduced her anxiety around learning. She now has SQA recognized numeracy qualifications she can put on her CV.



Gaelic

Beginner Gaelic language class

This quarter has seen the start of a new Beginner Gaelic language class

We had over 20 enquiries received to learn Gaelic. A tutor was sourced to take the class which is being taught over zoom. 10 new learners from North Ayrshire have now signed up to the weekly Gaelic class and are now on their journey in learning Scottish Gaelic and culture.

Gaelic Scrabble Game

When the Gaelic Scrabble game was released in 2023 one of our Arran-based adult learners purchased several sets and donated one to the Gaelic team with the suggestion that it might be good for our learners to get together in an informal setting and practise their Gaelic vocabulary skills while playing a game. Several learners were interested in taking part and there have been various sessions since then with more new people coming along to join in. Information was circulated around the local learners and North Ayrshire's social media platforms as well as relevant local Facebook pages on Arran.

For some the focus has been on improving their Gaelic, for others it has been about the sociable aspect of getting together with people with a similar interest, increasing not only their Gaelic knowledge but also their social inclusion and both physical and mental wellbeing.

The games are always played in a spirit of supporting one another to get good results, with the actual winner not important. The team-building element has contributed to their overall learning.

The sessions now take place every couple of months and are a useful adjunct to formal lesson learning. Further sessions are planned with the next one on 25th November.

The fun element of playing a game has meant that people lose their inhibitions and immerse themselves more fully than they might always do in a class setting. They also learn from each other, sharing vocabulary and knowledge; this encourages development in their learning at their own pace and the chance to use their language skills learnt previously.





Gaelic Scrabble Game cont...

People also come along who are not engaged in regular learning (including holidaymakers) so it has been useful for learners and others to get to know people who are also interested in the Gaelic language.

As regular language classes are now held online, it has been very useful to offer people the chance to get together in person and practise talking, not just finding words for the game but expanding into general conversation. The sociable aspect of this is very important. Their Gaelic language skills have also improved.



Participatory Budgeting



Current PB updates:

- PB 24/25 (Locality and Youth) voting has now concluded

**YOUTH PB
8620
VOTES CAST**

**LOCALITY PB
7222
VOTES CAST**

- A total of 299 applications were received from projects across North Ayrshire (185 submitted to Locality and 114 to Youth), of which 246 (168 for Locality and 78 for Youth) progressed to the public vote following an eligibility review by our volunteer Community Reviewers, Youth Forums and Modern Apprentices.
- This year the voting process for young people has been moved onto the Shaping North Ayrshire site (where the Locality voting process takes place), providing a more equitable opportunity, as young people can now access full project information rather than the abridged bios needed for the Young Scot site. Additional development on the site enables Youth PB voting to be restricted to young people, while also enabling them to vote in Locality PB if they choose to.
- As in previous years, voting is available offline in libraries or through CLD-led support to community groups if requested to ensure barriers to access are lowered. Paper votes will be added to those made online ahead of the results being announced in late November.

For full results please visit: <https://northayrshire.communitychoices.scot/>



ParticipatoryBudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



Food Insecurities



The Fairer Food Network & Larder Updates

- The Fairer Food Network now comprises 16 community larders and a supported waste café model on Arran.
- The Fairer Food Network met on teams on 2 Sept and heard from Money Matters. Money Matters are looking to expand the number of larders where they are currently hosting pop ups to reach out to more households.

Environmenstrual Week 2024

- The Fairer Food Network were again involved in raising awareness for Environmenstrual week in Oct 24. Facilities Management purchased over £15000 worth of environmentally friendly washable period products which were distributed throughout the network.



Argyle Community Shop and TCS



Choices Community Shop

Challenge Poverty 24

Challenge Poverty 24 took place week commencing 11 October and North Ayrshire Communications team provided excellent coverage across social media to promote the larders and thanking the growers for all the donations of fresh produce during the summer months. All households who used their larder during the week of Challenge Poverty did not have to pay. This was funded by a community benefit received from Amaresco for £3000.

Castlepark Community Centre

- Castlepark Community Association would like to restart the community café and in support, the Fairer Food Network budget, underpinned by a working agreement, will provide £1000 to cover the purchase of food for a 10 week period to get the café started.



Funding Support

LPP Community Grant Awards (2024/25)

Community grants totalling £177,574.98 have been awarded by the Locality Planning Partnerships to date.

External Funding Levered In (2024/24)

To date £514,444 external funding has been levered in by third sector organisations.



Funding Support & Advice to Community Groups and Colleagues (2024/25)

- 6 Funding Workshops have been delivered
- 30 Funding Updates have been circulated to to community organisations and colleagues
- 958 members have now joined North Ayrshire Virtual Funding Centre Facebook group
- 916 log-ins to GrantFinder and 1,498 searches have been carried out



Community Benefits

Significant support has been provided by RJ McLeod, currently on site at Ardrossan Campus through a range of initiatives, which have featured in the autumn edition of the Community Benefits Newsletter (which you can read here: <https://northayrshire.community/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/CB-Newsletter-November-2024.pdf>).

The most high profile example to date has been the partnership that has developed between the business and Ardrossan Winton Rovers CIC, which represents the most extensive support provided through community benefits since the launch of the Wish List in October 2021. This was sparked by a request for sponsorship support through the Wish List, leading to a conversation between the two, and the result has been the provision of in-kind support equivalent to 10 wishes, enabling a new changing block to be installed at the site:

- Drainage
- Site clearance
- Groundworks
- Levelling for changing unit
- Traffic management and signage
- Road permit help/drawing submission
- Disposal
- Help with craneage
- Footpath works/access ramp
- Shower outfall from unit

Between September and November, the following community support has also been provided through the Community Benefits Wish List:

- £330 donated to Saltcoats Christmas Carnival from SSUK
- £3,000 donated to the North Ayrshire Fairer Food Network from Ameresco
- 2 laptops donated to the Three Towns Community Shed by Re-Tek
- 4m square paving slabs donated to Beith Community Development Trust by McLaughlin Construction



THE NEW BLOCK BEING CRANED INTO POSITION

