



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Three Towns Locality Partnership

Wednesday 4 December 2024, 6.00 p.m. in the Castle Craigs Lounge,
Ardrossan Civic Centre

BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Kerr	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					6.15– 7.00 pm
3.	Community Investment Fund The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one application. Expression of Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Towns Growers 	Pg 12	Enclosed	Denise Fraser	LP to consider CIF Application.
4.	Grants – Elderly Grants and Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund The Locality Partnership are asked to consider grant reports: Community Benefit Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ardrossan Christmas Decorations • Stevenston Christmas Lights Fund Committee • 5 Senses Cookbook • Freedom Fighters 	Pg 18	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider grant reports.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.00 – 7.55 pm
5.	Education and Youth Overview The Locality Partnership will receive updates linking in with the Locality Priorities from Cluster Head Teacher and Active Schools.	-	Verbal	Head Teacher Active Schools	Receive update, discuss and consider learning and partnership opportunities.

6.	Police Scotland and Scottish Fire and Rescue - Wellbeing and Partnerships Officers to discuss with the Locality Partnership the key impact of wellbeing and partnership work being carried out by SFRS and Police Scotland in the Three Towns.	-	Verbal	David Cameron David Murray	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
7.	Auchenharvie Leisure Engagement Plan Survey The Locality Partnership will receive update on engagement.	-	Verbal	Angela Morrell	Receive update and consider partnership opportunities.
8.	KA Leisure The Locality Partnership will receive an update of work undertaken in the Three Towns Locality.	-	Verbal	Susan Kelly	Receive update, discuss and consider partnership opportunities.
9.	Locality Update The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of the Three Towns Team during the last quarter.	Pg 29	Enclosed	Denise Fraser	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
10.	CLD Strategic Plan Launch Receive update on plans for the launch of the new CLD Strategic Plan.	-	Verbal	Angela Morrell	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					7.55 – 8.00 pm
11.	AOCB 2025 Meeting Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 March 2025 • 4 June 2025 • 3 September 2025 • 3 December 2025 			Cllr Kerr	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly CLD Update 	Pg 48	Enclosed	Cllr Kerr	Locality Partnership are asked to note the report and share as appropriate.
Date of next Meeting: 5 March 2025 at 6pm in the Ardrossan Civic Centre.					

Distribution List

Elected Members

Councillor Amanda Kerr (**Chair**)
Councillor Stewart Ferguson
Councillor Anthony Gurney
Councillor Cameron Inglis
Councillor Jean McClung
Councillor Jim Montgomerie
Councillor Davina McTiernan
Councillor John Sweeney

Community Representatives

Pat Breen
Jean Frew
Julia Gray (**Vice Chair**)
Craig Mochan
Scott Mould
Glenn Turner
Ian Winton (Stevenston CC)

CPP and Council Representatives

Angela Morrell, Lead Officer
Susan Manson, Third Sector Interface
Stuart Dougan, Police Scotland
Barrie McCutcheon, Scottish Fire and Rescue

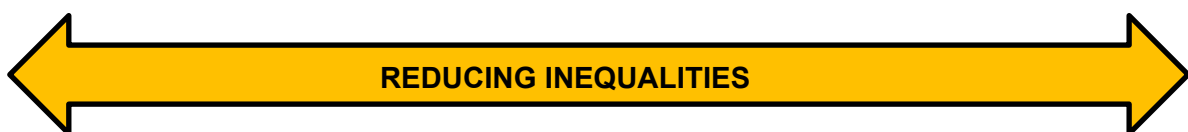
Three Town Locality Partnership Priorities

**Promoting the
local economy
and tourism**

**Regenerating
community
facilities**

**Increasing
civic pride and
community
engagement**

**Improving
Community
Wellbeing**



Meeting:	Three Towns Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	5 September 2024; Ardrossan Civic Centre at 6:00pm
Present:	<p>Julia Gray, Community Representative (Chair) Councillor Cameron Inglis Councillor Anthony Gurney Councillor Davina McTiernan Councillor Jean McClung Councillor Stewart Ferguson Councillor Jim Montgomerie Pat Breen, Community Representative Jean Frew, Community Representative Scott Mould, Community Representative Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, NAC Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Denise Fraser, Locality Officer Leanne McPhail, Active Schools Co-ordinator, NAC Councillor John Sweeney David Murray, Station Manager (Scottish Fire & Rescue Service) Ian Winton, Stevenston Community Council Chair Jacqui Greenlees, Senior Manager, NAC (Notes)</p>
Also in Attendance	<p>Derek Moir, Freedom Fighters CAI Eddie Gibb, Ardrossan Winton Rovers Laura Houston, CHAP</p>
Apologies:	<p>Councillor Amanda Kerr (Chair) Glenn Turner, Community Representative Craig Mochan, Community Representative</p>

ACTIONS		
No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Kerr the meeting was chaired by Vice Chair Julia Gray. The Chair welcomed those present to the Three Towns Locality Partnership meeting, introductions were made and apologies for absence were noted.</p> <p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>John Sweeney declared an interest under elderly grants as they are on the committee for CLASP</p> <p>Pat Breen also declared an interest in Winton Rovers application.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p>Action Note from meeting in June 2024</p> <p>The action note from the meeting held on 5 June 2024 was submitted for approval as a correct record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 2- Winton Rovers application at the September meeting • Item 6- Will be working with Hayocks TRA on a business and funding plan, as such it has not been taken to Cabinet yet. • Men’s Shed- Requirement for an increase on the lease has been actioned. • Item 7- Community Benefit Fund criteria was circulated and it was approved through delegated powers. • Skate Park- Work with Police to secure the area and maximise use of the containers. No long term formal agreement has been finalised yet for the space. • Item 10- Scott Mould and Susan Kelly are due to meet around the Activator Bus. <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Angela Morrell</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>CIF Project Update</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Laura Houston from CHAP to provide an update on the organisation’s CIF funding.</p> <p>CHAP were successfully awarded CIF funding at end of 2022 for a project that ran from April 2023 to March 2024. Based in Ardossan, their advocacy service focuses on assisting individuals with welfare rights, debt issues, and housing concerns throughout the Three Towns area. The project funded an Officer to work in the Three Towns to develop a network.</p> <p>To begin the Team surveyed community members, 98% of respondents were worried about cost of living and 98% indicated that they would be more likely to access advice services in a less formal setting without stigma. To address these needs, three outreach locations were established across the Three Towns - Whitlees Community Centre, Ardeer Community Centre and in the TACT Offices, Saltcoats.</p> <p>Throughout project 92 people were assisted with 104 issues. Family members and households of individuals were also supported. They achieved just over £93,000 in financial gains for their clients of this project with more to arise in the future, They also received 100% rated client satisfaction and clients also reported increased confidence, improvement in quality of life and reduced stress.</p> <p>Laura conveyed her thanks the partnership for their support and highlighted they have received a small amount of additional funding from North Ayrshire Council in order to continue the project for a few more months.</p> <p>The Partnership discussed</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased number of visitors at centres through the project. • The benefits of clients working with one person on all issues for continued support. <p>The Chair thanked Laura for their input.</p>	
4.	<p>Community Investment Fund – Full Applications</p> <p>The Partnership were asked to consider two Community Investment Fund Applications:</p> <p>Expression of Interest- Freedom Fighters CIC</p> <p>An overview was provided of the current EOI process and Derek Moir took the Partnership through the proposed application.</p> <p>D Moir highlighted that the application was requesting £100,000 in relation to developing a trauma recovery hub in Three Towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have a ten-year lease for the building and is seeking to enhance their services. • Require an admin worker to act as a receptionist for the hub. • Working with TACT and CHAP as well as other organisations to add more value. • They have two years funding from Scottish Government to support the project. • Funding would support a new full-time self-employed Admin/fundraiser position for two years, increase the Recovery worker's hours from part-time to full-time for two years, and provide for sessional counsellors offering 54 hours per month over two years. <p>They carried out a North Ayrshire wide engagement with TACT around need for these services and gaps were highlighted by participants in Three Towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They want to enhance and improve wellbeing for people in Three Towns by providing trauma and recovery support and providing opportunities for people to get involved and volunteer as well as providing placements for councillors in training. <p>The Partnership posed the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions were posed around the sustainability of the project moving forward, as well as the presence of other groups within Three Towns. D Moir highlighted that Freedom Fighters are actively seeking funding each year and will also be fundraising moving forward. Also highlighted the service would only compliment other existing groups. Also have links with NADARS and receive referrals through this and other partnerships. • The Partnership also asked what the breadth of value would be from the project – what numbers can be expected in terms of reach. D Moir highlighted the positive qualitative feedback from 	

participants and the 'ripple effect' of this as well as match funding already secured from Scottish Government.

D Moir left the meeting at this point and the Partnership discussed:

- The finiteness of the CIF at this stage. The future tangible outcome of the project is not clear beyond the two years funding requested and questions around numbers reached by the project have not yet been answered.
- A longer-term lease would provide more sustainability.
- Will be hard to quantify how many people specifically from the Three Towns will benefit from the project rather than service users from across the whole of North Ayrshire.
- It is not clear how much partnership work has taken place with similar groups and organisations within the Three Towns.

The Locality Partnership decided that based on the above not to progress to a full application.

**A Morrell/D
Fraser**

Full Application- Ardrossan Winton Rovers

An overview was provided of the process around deciding on a full application to ensure all in the room were clear.

Eddie Gibb provided an overview of how the requested funding would be used. The roof at the football ground has fallen into disrepair and funds are required to ensure this is fixed and does not spread to the wider club for example the underlying changing rooms. A feasibility study has taken place as well as checks by engineers and market research by IBP. The research found 92% were positive about the new facility.

They want to ensure equality of participation for young people and adults at Winton Park and promote positive physical and mental health in the Three Towns as well as ensure the grounds will be available as a valuable community asset well into the future. Winton Rovers are looking for £100,000 from CIF to put towards the project which is overall £134,000 including VAT.

The Partnership posed the following questions

- Will the remainder of funds required be covered by the Club themselves, E Gibb confirmed that they will.
- There have been previous issues with vandalism. Will the new upgrades address this? E Gibb highlighted that there will be new fencing but that the pitch will be used for longer hours and staffed which will help to discourage antisocial behaviour, along with the increased civic pride of improvements to the roof.
- The Partnership asked for clarification over other funds received by SFA to improve the pitch. This was provided.

E Gibb left the meeting at this point and the Partnership discussed the size of the funds required and if this is best use of CIF.

	Ultimately the Locality Partnership decided to approve this CIF application.	A Morrell/D Fraser
5	<p>Grants</p> <p>The Locality Partnership were asked to consider the below grant reports:</p> <p>Elderly Grants £12,980 overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLASP- application for £3,697 was approved • Saltcoats Old Peoples Welfare application for £4,373 was approved • Three Towns OIR application for £4,910 was approved <p>Community Benefit Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Peter's Primary Parent Council application for £3,281,30 was approved • Retirement Yoga application for £3,000 was approved 	<p>R Ramsey/S Fleming</p> <p>R Ramsey/S Fleming</p>
6.	<p>Locality Action Plan</p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered the draft Locality Action Plan for 2024/25.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Fraser provided an overview of the requirements around Locality Planning groups to have a Locality Plan. • An update on evaluation of last years plan will be circulated across the Locality Partnership. • The Plan will be a standing item on future agendas. <p>It was agreed the draft plan would be circulated across the Partnership for comment with a two-week deadline, after which a meeting would be organised to discuss the draft with members that wish to attend.</p>	<p>Angela Morrell</p> <p>Denise Fraser</p>
7.	<p>CIF Process</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from the Locality Officer about the proposed new CIF application process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Denise Fraser provided an overview of the new proposed process. • This would involve a separate online or in person meeting to discuss an EOI rather than including this at a full meeting. If the Partnership decided to progress the full application would then progress to discussion at a full Locality Partnership meeting. <p>The Partnership discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns were raised about pushing through applications. It was highlighted that the EOI meeting is to allow time for more research around, discussion and development of applications. • Not sure about the addition of an online meeting as it could be harder to discuss. 	

	The Locality Partnership decided not to take forward the new process.	Noted
8.	<p>Education and Youth Overview</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received updates from the Active Schools as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted there are now three Active Schools officer covering Three Towns. • Meeting with Head Teachers and using stats from last year to develop new programmes for this year. • Also going through School Sport Award with Sports Scotland and want to attain Gold Level. • Have a Leadership Pathway open with 64 young people recruited for North Ayrshire Sports Academy. • Looking to ensure required development hours for young people can be carried out within community clubs. • Linking in with Youth PB and focusing on leadership opportunities for girls and young women. • 45 young people from Three Towns got in to further education through leadership programmes. • Forging links with KA Leisure around employability for sports roles. <p>Noted.</p>	Noted
9.	<p>Police Scotland – Partnerships and Wellbeing</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Inspector David Cameron, on various work being undertaking by Police Scotland, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D Cameron is now the new Locality Inspector covering Three Towns, North Coast and Arran. • Campus Cops have been split so now have clearer line management. • Requested that the Partnership let D Cameroin know if there are gaps, questions or topics they would like him to cover. <p>It was agreed that David Cameron will circulate his update across the Partnership by email.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership welcomed David to his new role in Three Towns.</p>	David Cameron
10.	<p>Auchenarvie Leisure Engagement Plan Survey</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received an update on the upcoming engagement as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation is taking place on relocation of swimming from Auchenhavrie to the new Ardrossan Campus in 2026. • This was launched on 20 September at a local chit chat and runs to 27th September. The link will be circulated to elected members. • The Partnership discussed how to promote the consultation positively in the community. The Lead Officer is meeting with the Council's Comms teams to discuss this and will keep the Partnership updated. <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Angela Morell</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>KA Leisure Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received a verbal update from Susan Kelly, on various work being undertaken by KA Leisure, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busy in Three Towns with holiday activities and community sports. • Received funding from NAC child poverty fund for free admission for children under 8 years old. • Offering free swims and skates for under 17 year olds which has seen good numbers. • Reviewing the full ASN programme to provide a new session on ongoing basis. • Community Sports programme restarted over the summer catering for sports and arts classes including choir. • Walking football taking place at St Matthews for adults. • North Ayrshire Community Sports Hub at St Matthews aims to develop community sports and local participation. Consultation questionnaire is out just now to gather insight into services in each locality to allow tailored support for clubs. • QR code available for nominating volunteers monthly. • Issue being encountered is pitches being used by young people who have not booked. • Girls football tournament in July. • 120 mini health checks carried out at Winton Primary through Activator. • Nordic walking leaves from Auchenhavrie every Monday. • KA Leisure received CMHWCF fund through Scottish Government of around £13,000 for Active Communities team. • Talented Athlete programme launched and current round of applications is now closed with 5 applicants from Three Towns. <p>Cllr Inglis highlighted the importance of golf in North Ayrshire and highlighted it would be positive if KA Leisure could build on this. KA Leisure and Active Schools highlighted the work taking place across North Ayrshire to develop and promote golf.</p> <p>Noted.</p>	

<p>12.</p>	<p>Locality Update</p> <p>The Locality Partnership received an update on the work of the Three Towns Locality team over the last quarter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more detailed report has been included in the papers. • Three Towns team involved in summer activities. • Working with TACT's CAT development worker to support groups in stages of asset transfer. • Participatory Budgeting (Locality and Youth) fund was launched at the Three Towns Chit Chat and is now live for applications in libraries and online. <p>Noted.</p>	<p>Denise Fraser</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Christmas Lights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is no longer available from the Council for Christmas Lights. • An FAQ is available and will be circulated to the partnership. 	<p>Angela Morrell</p>

The meeting ended at 8.07pm



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Community Investment Fund Checklist				
To be completed by Locality Officer at expression of interest stage				
Item	Yes	No	Not Applicable (give reason)	Comments
Expression of interest coproduced	X			Meeting took place with Locality Officer and 3TG development worker to discuss CIF proposal
Link to Fair for All	X			
Link to Locality priorities	X			Links to all 4 locality priorities: Promoting the local economy and tourism Increasing civic pride and community engagement; Improving community wellbeing and Regenerating community facilities
Does not duplicate existing services		X		Not that I am aware of
Long term impact and sustainable	X			The addition of the hub will enhance sustainability at the allotment space and will capture rainwater as a sustainable, ecological, and communal resource. The hub will also serve an educational purpose. The group plans to cover costs through rentals, selling produce from the site, and operating a café. The allotments are currently at capacity with a waiting list. 3TG has increased community

				engagement through various events and activities over the past year and will continue to do so for the next three years with the recent appointment of a 3TG development worker. They are partnering with CLD, HSCP, Education, Community Brokerage, NA Foodbank, and more.
Evidence of financial viability (bank acct, annual accounts)	X			Independent examiners report and receipt and payments accounts for period 1/4/22-31/7/23
Evidence of management arrangements (governance arrangements, officer bearers, organisational objectives, organisational status)	X			Copy of constitution received.
OSCR compliance	X			All OSCR accounts are up to date.
GDPR compliance	X			GDPR policy in place – Digital copies available
Child protection and vulnerable adults policies	X			Full CP and Adult protection policy in place - Digital copies available
Measurable outcomes	X			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recording footfall - User surveys - Increased partnership working - Increasing locally grown produce - Increasing educational and environmental awareness - Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities
Any issues flagged in past 3 years				Any issues that have been flagged in the past (2 years ago) have been rectified by procedures being put in place regarding how plots are managed in the future. The organisation has also since employed

				a 3TG development worker who is increasing activity, fund raising and community interaction within the 3 Towns
Completed By: Denise Fraser				
Date Completed: 12/11/2024				

Community Investment Fund Expression of Interest Form

Please see notes on reverse before completing this form.

Organisation name	Three Towns Growers (3TG)
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Brief details of organisation	<p><i>3TG are dedicated to providing growing spaces, be it cultivation of fruit & vegetables, social interaction and community involvement. Nurturing people to live a healthier and more sustainable lifestyles.</i></p> <p><i>The 3TG board manage a Community Allotment at Elmpark in Ardrossan. There is currently 50 plots and 24 indoor and outdoor raised beds. The membership currently stands at 165. The key word in the allotment title is 'Community'. The growers board along with volunteers organise and deliver community events throughout the year. In the previous 12 months the events have had a footfall of over 6000 adults and children. We also undertake group-based programmes onsite for schools, youth groups and older people. We offer volunteering opportunities and experiences in growing and horticulture.</i></p> <p><i>Other ongoing activities include a community outdoor kitchen, establishing protected areas on site for the conservation of wildlife. Introducing bee keeping and looking at ways to use plot surplus, fruit and veg for the community as well as having dedicated areas to produce community food. As a community project we are working to establish the provision of fresh fruit and vegetables to community larders in the Three Towns.</i></p> <p><i>The Growers partnership with several statutory and third sector organisations to deliver activity on site and externally. These include NA schools, Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Learning and Development, Community Brokerage, The North Ayrshire Foodbank and more.</i></p> <p><i>Over the next 3 years the 3TG Board are working to increase community interaction and activity in the Three Towns.</i></p>
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Locality	Three Towns
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Amount Requested	£40,000
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Timescale	April 2025 – September 2025
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<p>Brief Overview of Proposal</p>	<p>The board are currently working to build and establish a Community Hub at Elm Park Allotment. This will have a direct benefit for plot and raised bed holders and the 3TG membership and importantly provide a base to deliver increased community involvement and community work. Costs for this build have increased post lock down and the following items were removed as savings to bring the build 'over the line', kitchen fitments, internal/external decoration, soft landscaping and surfacing the access road.</p> <p>Our proposal is for £40,000 to cover the costs of the above and bring the Hub to a high standard for use.</p> <p>The 3TG area aware of and apply the following Three Towns Locality Priorities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The build will be part of promoting the local economy and tourism, i.e. the hub being a part of a farmers' market, the growers public events held throughout the year would be enhanced by the build. Looking at 'joining' up all the Three Towns Community Hubs through cycle ways and walker and wheeler routes. 2. As a new build and community facility, it will be part of Regenerating community facilities, in the area. With a focus on community growing and horticulture. 3. The build will not be just about allotment users and members it will look 'outside the fence' to Increase civic pride and community engagement by providing a place for community members to come together and take an interest in local ecology, becoming climate aware, and growers of food wherever they are. Volunteering for your community will be emphasised with a number of satellite projects across the Three towns. 4. It will be a facility that will be used actively seek to Improving community wellbeing, by hosting events and activities that promotes positive mental health and wellness.
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<p>Timescale</p>	<p>April 2025 – September 2025</p>
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<p>Contact Details</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Gordon Cowan Development Worker Three Towns Growers Park View Allotments Ardrossan, KA22 7BJ</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Got What Three Words or click link below ///metro.gone.woof https://w3w.co/metro.gone.woof</p>
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North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) will support proposals and projects that:

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

When to apply and how?

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

Locality Partnership: Three Towns Locality

Date: 4th December 2024

Subject: To advise the meeting of applications received in respect of The Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund.

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

Background: Applications have been received in respect of the Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund as follows:

- **The Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund**
 - Ardrossan Christmas Decorations - £4,158.77
 - Stevenston Christmas Lights Funds Committee - £4,663.53
 - Ayrshire Children's Services CIC - £4,000
 - Freedom Fighters (Community Action Initiative (SCIO) £4,000

Key Points for Locality Partnership

- The Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund has a balance of **£48,095.40** available for disbursement.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

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

For more information please contact: *Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Connected Communities, 2nd Floor Cunninghame House, Irvine.*

Email - amorrell@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Completed by: *Sharon Fleming, Grants & Performance Officer*
(sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Date: 26 November 2024

THREE TOWNS & ARRAN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

OFFICERS REPORT

Applicant: Ardrossan Christmas Decorations**Description of Applicant:**

Number of Members: 5	Established: A number of decades, but only newly constituted
Meeting Place: Ardrossan	Date of Visit: 19 November 2024

Description of the Project: Christmas Lights Testing & Installation Costs

Background: ACD is a volunteer led group responsible for the festive lighting and annual Switch On event in Ardrossan.

Project for Funding: Testing and installation of Christmas lights.

Due to the late notification from NAC that the group would be responsible for the installation and given the short timescales involved they took the decision to go ahead with installing the Christmas lights and submitting this application in the knowledge this cost would be due in March 2025.

Funding

Amount requested: £4,158.77	Contribution by Group: £0
Labour - £2,861.80 Material - £443.49 Testing - £505.00 Equipment - £121.98 Torque Testing - £337.60 Bracket Replacement - £88.90	
Total cost of project: £4,158.77	

Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund Criteria

1. Charitable	2. Educational	x
3. Community	x	4. Environmental
5. Renewable Energy	6. Energy Efficiency	
7. Sustainable Development	8. General Community Amenity	
Level of environmental enhancement: n/a		

Level of community involvement: The Ardrossan Christmas Lights Switch On & Santa Parade annually attracts well over 500 people from Ardrossan and the surrounding areas. The Santa Parade is something quite unique to Ardrossan and brings together families and community groups as they walk together through the freshly illuminated streets, as the town centre becomes an exciting hub of activity launching into the Christmas season together.

Level of funding secured or available: n/a

Experience of group to deliver project: Ardrossan Christmas Decorations ACD is a volunteer led group responsible for the festive lighting and annual Switch On event in Ardrossan. The group work successfully alongside many other Ardrossan based community groups and businesses to ensure the success of the project.

ACD work hard every year to create an atmosphere and an experience which brings people together and enhances the life and wellbeing of the community. They do this by managing the festive lighting in the town, which is on display through the festive season, while also organising a community wide, annual event to celebrate.

Future sustainability of project: Recently announced changes to the North Ayrshire Council budget means that festive lighting groups are now responsible for the testing and installation of all lights. Investment from the Community Benefit Fund would cover that expense for this year (£4,158.77), which is a significant expense for ACD while allowing time to come up with a more long-term strategy for future years.

Location of Project: Ardrossan

Officer Details

Name:	Sharon Fleming	Position:	Grants & Performance Officer
Date: 19 November 2024			

OFFICERS REPORT

Applicant: Stevenston Christmas Lights Funds Committee

Description of Applicant:

Number of Members: 4	Established: 14 Years
Meeting Place: Local Library or Office Bearers Home Address	Date of Visit:
<p>Description of the Project: To organise and implement the purchase, installation and delivery of the festive event surrounding the switch on of the Christmas lights every December for the local community</p> <p>Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Stevenston Christmas Lights Committee has been organising the Christmas lights switch-on event for the past 14 years. • The event is free for all to attend and includes activities such as seeing Santa. • The committee also organises community-based initiatives in the lead-up to the event, such as a Primary school Christmas card competition and a window display competition. • The lights are important because they generate excitement and opportunities for community members to feel a sense of belonging, pride, and participation. <p>Project for Funding: Funding is required to cover the cost of installing and maintaining the Christmas lights, as the North Ayrshire Council budget will no longer cover these costs.</p>	

Funding

Amount requested: £4,663.53	Contribution by Group: £0.00
Total cost of project: £4,663.53	

Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund Criteria

9. Charitable		10. Educational	x
11. Community	x	12. Environmental	x
13. Renewable Energy		14. Energy Efficiency	
15. Sustainable Development		16. General Community Amenity	
<p>Level of environmental enhancement: The lights brighten the town during December and January, creating a festive atmosphere.</p>			
<p>Level of community involvement: The project has strong community involvement, with partnerships between the committee, North Ayrshire Council, Clasps, local businesses, community groups, and volunteers.</p>			
<p>Level of funding secured or available: As this is a large scale event the Committee have secured funding to support other elements of this event.</p>			
<p>Experience of group to deliver project: The committee has a proven track record of delivering the Christmas lights event for the past 14 years.</p>			

Future sustainability of project: The committee is committed to the long-term sustainability of the project and is exploring options for generating income in the future.

Location of Project: Stevenston

Officer Details

Name:	Sharon Fleming	Position:	Grants & Performance Officer
Date: 26 November 2024			

**THREE TOWNS & ARRAN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND
OFFICERS REPORT**

Applicant: Ayrshire Children's Services CIC

Description of Applicant:

Number of Members: 53	Established: 13 years ago (2011)
Group Meeting Place: 4 Park Road, Ardrossan, North Ayrshire	Date of Meeting: 1 Nov 2024 3pm - Teams
<p>Name of the Project: The 5 Senses Cookbook</p> <p>Background: Ayrshire Children's Services aims to provide tailored, high-quality support to children and young people (C&YP) aged 5 to 25, with Additional Support Needs (particularly those with neurodiverse conditions), no diagnosis is necessary.</p> <p>Their objective is to encourage personal growth, build confidence, enhance resilience and support the mental, physical, and social development of each individual service user, tailoring their time to ensure person-centre activities. They work towards achieving SHANARRI* developmental outcomes, aligning with the Scottish Government's GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) principles.</p> <p>* The children and young people (Scotland) act 2014, defines child wellbeing in terms of eight indicators, known as SHANARRI (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included)</p> <p>Project for Funding: The "5 Senses Cookbook" project will involve the children in creating a cookbook that engages all five senses. This includes recipe development, cooking, and a final launch event where the cookbook will be available for purchase.</p> <p>The project is an exciting community initiative designed to engage Ayrshire Children's Services CIC's Kids Cave Group, Teen Group and KREW in a creative and collaborative culinary journey. To begin, a local chef will visit to do a cooking demo and a Q&A session. Followed by a "Come Dine with Me" style trial, where each group will budget, shop in local stores and prepare, taste and vote on their favourite recipes.</p>	

Funding

Amount requested: £4,000.00		Contribution by Group: £851.00
Design Cook Book	750.00	
Chef Demonstration	250.00	
Chefs Hats & Aprons	250.00	
Ingredients for Come Dine With Me (£75 per group) x 3	225.00	
Print Costs for Cook Book (60 copies)	2,400.00	
Ingredients for Pop Up Restaurant	190.00	
Scratch & Sniff Stickers	10.00	
2 x Support Staff to work with youth (£13.40 x 20hrs)	536.00	
1 x Administrator to co-ordinate project (£12 x 20hrs)	240.00	
Total cost of project: £4,851.00		

Three Towns & Arran Community Benefit Fund Criteria

17. Charitable		18. Educational	x
19. Community	x	20. Environmental (Project indirectly promotes sustainability and healthy eating habits)	x
21. Renewable Energy		22. Energy Efficiency	
23. Sustainable Development x (Indirectly supported through the promotion of local produce and healthy eating)		24. General Community Amenity x (Could be considered an amenity as it promotes community involvement and healthy eating)	

Level of environmental enhancement: The project promotes the use of fresh, local ingredients, indirectly supporting sustainable agriculture and reducing the carbon footprint associated with food transportation.

Level of community involvement: The project directly involves three groups of children and young people within the organisation, and the pop-up restaurant and cookbook launch are designed to engage the wider community.

Level of funding secured or available: Partially secured. The group is contributing £851.00 to the project and is seeking £4,000.00 in funding. They have not indicated any other funding sources.

Experience of group to deliver project: Ayrshire Children's Services CIC has 13 years of experience working with children and young people, and they have a team of dedicated staff trained to provide specialised support. They have also recently acquired new cooking equipment, demonstrating their commitment to this project.

Future sustainability of project: The project is designed as a one-time initiative to create a cookbook. However, the skills and knowledge gained by the participants could potentially lead to future cooking or healthy eating initiatives.

Location of Project: 4 Park Road, Ardrossan, North Ayrshire

Officer Details

Name:	Sharon Fleming	Position:	Grants & Performance Officer
Date: 4 November 2024			

THREE TOWNS & ARRAN COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

OFFICER REPORT

Applicant Contact Details

Name of Organisation: Freedom Fighters (Community Action Initiative (SCIO))

Description of Applicant Organisation

Number of Members: 20 Regular 400 will benefit from funding	Established: 2018
Group Meeting Place: Trauma Recovery Hub, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan	Date of Visit: 9.10.24 (telephone call)

Description of the Project: Trauma Recovery Hub

Background:

Freedom Fighters (Community Action Initiative) SCIO was established in 2018 and their objectives are:

1. The advancement of citizenship and community development through supporting those at risk, experiencing, or recovering from addiction by encouraging active and positive citizenship

through volunteering and community re-engagement. Raising awareness of the causes of addiction & its related mental health issues with the purpose of reducing stigma, marginalisation and isolation.

2. The relief of those in need by reason of addiction and its causes and consequences, (including addiction related mental health, social isolation, poverty and disadvantage). Through facilitating one to one support sessions, group sessions, support groups, workshops, training, preventative work with young people, social activities, signposting, events and participation in Freedom Fighters programmes.

Freedom Fighters' Cultivate Project is funded by the Scottish Government and offers one to one counselling, which is delivered by 2 qualified counsellors. Both are members of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy.

The organisation is also funded to offer recovery support and they employ a Recovery Worker to run their groups and offers one to one recovery support to their clients.

Freedom Fighters run support groups for men and women and currently delivery 5 support groups per week. In addition to this they support a women's Keys to Freedom group, as we are offering opportunities for people to volunteer and access peer support.

Project for Funding:

Freedom Fighters have secured premises in Glasgow Street, Ardrossan which will act as a Trauma Recovery Hub and they are currently in the process of upgrading and renovating this space. To date, they have managed to secure the following financial and in-kind support to assist them in setting up the Hub.

- Hillhouse Group – First Year's Rental Payments
- Ayrshire College – Architectural Drawings completed free of charge
- James Frew – Multiple trades free of charge (electricians, joiners, plumbers and plasterers) as well as carrying out electrical and gas checks.
- A local fabricator has agreed to remove a tonne and a half safe door, which will allow Freedom Fighters to turn the old safe into a safe space counselling room.
- Pro ceilings and Drywall Ltd - Redo the ceilings and erect stud partitions to make the Hub more welcoming to clients.
- Andersons Kitchen's - Free kitchen
- Annandale Home Improvements – Fitting kitchen for free
- ADP – Currently awaiting decision on funding of £10k to refurbish the Hub and equip it with the technology required deliver services, workshops, training etc

The aims for the new trauma recovery hub are to provide counselling services, recovery support work, support groups, workshops and training, debt and financial management help, addiction support, pre and post rehab support which will be available to all.

The organisation's application to the Community Benefit Fund was previously submitted for decision to the Three Towns LPP on 6th March 2024 and they were invited to attend the LPP meeting on 5th June 2024 to provide further information on their purpose and activities. Following this meeting the group were invited to re-submit their application.

Freedom Fighters are seeking an award from the Community Benefit Fund to enable them to re-floor the Hub flooring redone and put money towards the purchase of 240sqm of plasterboard required to redo the ceilings and walls and they have confirmed that all quotes and estimates previously submitted still stand.

Funding

Amount requested: £4,000 - Industrial Carpet & Lino - £1,550 - Fitting of Flooring - £1,451 - Materials for New Ceilings and Walls- £4,040.68 Total cost of project: £7,041.68	Contribution by Group: £3,041.68
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Supporting Information Provided

Constitution/Memorandum of Articles: SCIO

Additional Comments on Scoring

<u>Criteria:</u>			
25.	Charitable	x	26. Educational
27.	Community	x	28. Environmental
29.	Renewable Energy		30. Energy Efficiency
31.	Sustainable Development		32. General Community Amenity

Level of environmental enhancement:

The refurbishment of the hub will consider environmental measures to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint.

Level of community involvement:

Freedom Fighters currently link up with a number of local organisations including, The Ayrshire Community Trust, the Three Towns Men's Shed, Christian's Against Poverty (CAP) and North Ayrshire ADP. They aim to offer their support and services to the local community.

Level of funding secured or available:

The group is contributing £3,041.68 towards this project.

Experience of group to deliver project:

The group has been delivering a range of projects since 2018 and are supported by a strong management board, experienced staff and volunteers.

Future sustainability of project:

As highlighted above, Freedom Fighters are supported by a strong management board, experienced staff and volunteers and as a SCIO are accountable to OSCR. Having a dedicated base in the form of the Trauma Recovery Hub will also promote future sustainability.

Location of Project:

Glasgow Street, Ardrossan

Officer Details

Name:	Rosemary Ramsay	Position:	Funding Officer
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Date: 11.10.24

THREE TOWNS LOCALITY PROGRESS REPORT Q3 DECEMBER 2024



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



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Three Towns Locality Partnership Action Plan 2024/25

Action	Who?	When?	Locality Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and build the capacity of community organisations and support to identify funding streams which help each organisation work towards becoming sustainably responsible. 	<p>Three Towns Locality Team</p> <p>NAC Funding Team</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p>	<p>Promoting the local economy and tourism</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build stronger relationships between local community groups/organisations and North Ayrshire Council departments to ensure strong partnerships are developed to sustainably develop local facilities. Continue to support community groups/organisations to utilise NAC community wish list to ensure large local developments are having a positive impact on community-based projects Provide support to community groups/organisations with Community Asset Transfers and delivering information sessions for prospective asset transfers. 	<p>Three Towns Locality Team</p> <p>Locality Partnership Members</p> <p>Active Schools Team</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p>	<p>Regenerating community facilities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide individuals and like-minded groups with a common interest to become empowered to work towards improving their town centres, heritage sights and the wider community. Support groups to strengthen volunteer banks and encourage stronger engagements on locality-based priorities Work with our inspiring young people, adult learners and older people to become more active in their communities and place-based initiatives, to ensure their voice is heard, appreciated and actioned. 	<p>Three Towns Locality Team</p> <p>Locality Partnership Members</p> <p>Community Groups/Organisations</p> <p>TACT</p> <p>Youth Founm</p> <p>Older People's Network</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p>	<p>Increasing civic pride and community engagement</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to provide and promote holistic approaches to wellbeing through adult learning opportunities. Support community-based organisations and groups that have a specific focus on improving community health and wellbeing to ensure they have the capacity to deliver their aims and objectives effectively. Work in collaboration with local schools to deliver issue-based education, early intervention projects, qualifications and youth led groups. 	<p>Three Towns Locality Team</p> <p>NAC Education</p>	<p>Summer 2025</p>	<p>Improving community wellbeing</p>



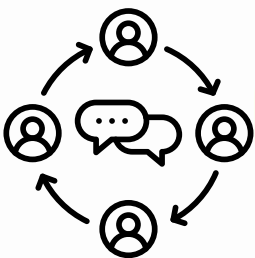
Economy & Tourism



Community Regeneration



Improving Community Wellbeing



Civic Pride & Community Engagement

Three Towns Locality KPi Stats

2

145 adults engaged in CLD activity this quarter

50 adults with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity.

54 children (under 12) engaged in CLD activity this quarter

131 children and young people with improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes in CLD activity

94 young people (12 and over) engaged in CLD activity

34 community groups receiving capacity building support through CLD activity this quarter

There have been 127 volunteering opportunities participated in within CLD this quarter

5210 adults and young people reached and engaged with through one off promotional events /drop ins/community events/engagements.

Ardrossan Castle Heritage Group held a series of community digs over the months of July-September. The group have obtained digital funding from NAC to enhance tours of the Castle grounds.

3T Growers have been really successful in bringing in people from far and wide to one of their recent community family fun events called Duck Day which serves the local community as well as raising funds. The group also recently hosted a community Halloween Day which was very well attended

Ardrossan Community Development Trust officially opened their 'Hub on the Prom' on 11th October, followed by a community day on the 12th with free family activities, fairground rides and food and drink. They have also supported community groups such as the Grey Dippers and 3 Towns Shutterbugs group who were able to put on a free photography workshop and sell some of their photographs thanks to the free use of one of the beach huts

The group have been working towards establishing a community hub at the site on Elmpark Allotment and have met with the architect to go over final designs for the build towards the build starting in April 2025.

- **Doon the beach have obtained digital funding from NAC to establish Wifi infrastructure at their community hub and continue to work collaboratively with partners towards a range of community events and entrepreneurial initiatives, which encourages tourism to the area.**
- **Stevenston Community Company continue to forge ahead towards their aspiration of an asset transfer of the Kerelaw site. The group are currently exploring an asset transfer of a site in Irvine to enable the installation of solar power units to generate an income which would in turn support the asset transfer of Kerelaw.**
- **Stroll with it - Three Towns are a group who carry out weekly walks in partnership with Paths4all. Easy to medium walks led, leaving from 3 primary locations. The group took part in the Ayrshire Walking Festival which attracted 4 new members, they have been with the group since, which was a real success. The group repaid the favour and visited the Kilwinning Stroll with it group where they completed the viaduct walk and finished with tea and cake in Kilwinning library. The group will take a break over the winter period and likely re-join in March of 2025.**

Spotlight on Stevenston Community Council - Signage Project

Since 2017, Stevenston Community Council has worked alongside the Three Towns Locality Partnership, North Ayrshire Council and its network of community partners to enhance Stevenston via a host of projects.

Don Campbell, Stevenston Community Council Secretary said: “We are interested in both the cultural and natural heritage Stevenston holds, and with locations like Ardeer Quarry and Stevenston beach nature reserve nearby, we are passionate about putting our town firmly on the tourism map.



“On behalf of the committee, I would like to share my sincere thanks to the Three Towns Locality Partnership for helping us to develop our proposal and secure the funding from the Community Investment Fund.

“With the installation of the new signs, we want to help residents to take pride in their area once again and realise that Stevenston is special, our town is just as good as any other.”

Attractive black iron signage has now been installed outside Stevenston Library and a new road sign has been erected near the train station - directing visitors to Ardeer Quarry and Stevenston beach. New informative lecterns packed with engaging facts and graphics are now also taking pride of place over at Ardeer Quarry and next to the sand dunes at Stevenston beach nature reserve.

Don adds: “Communities are at the heart of everything we do, and we are pleased to have had the backing of officers across Streetscene, Roads, Heritage, and the Community Development team who have supported us with their invaluable advice in making this important project a reality. Thank you to everyone we have worked alongside.”

Councillor Alan Hill, Cabinet Member for Communities and Islands shares: “Well done to Stevenston Community Council on the progress being made in their ambitious signage regeneration project.

“Thank you to the Three Towns Locality Partnership for supporting the proposal and using their expertise to help this vital community organisation secure almost £30k funding from our Community Investment Fund. The project is a brilliant example of a valuable community group, harnessing the power of CIF to support the Three Towns Locality priorities of promoting the locality as a tourism destination, stimulating the local economy, regenerating community facilities, improving wellbeing, and increasing civic pride and community engagement.”



We are currently supporting groups in the Three towns towards reaching their ambitions for community ownership. These include:

- **Whitlees Community Centre**
- **Ardrossan Indoor Bowling Club**
- **Hayocks Swing Park**
- **Campbell Park, Saltcoats**
- **Glasgow St, Ardrossan (Public Toilets)**
- **Melbourne Toilets and Public Park, Melbourne Terrace, Saltcoats**

Whitlees Community Centre have obtained funding from NAC Digital fund to purchase a laptop for the centre. They are progressing well towards their Community Asset Transfer with support from John Beattie, CAT development worker at TACT and Laura Taylor - Community Economic Development Officer



- **Ardrossan Youth Association** are running well and continue to manage the Ardrossan Youth Centre effectively. The group have applied for PB funding to raise money to help improve the centre, starting by sprucing up the wellbeing room, a place where young people can go and relax during organised groups. The young people are working with CLD staff to work on advertising for the centre to be used by other groups and individuals to help bring in a sustainable revenue income. The young people are also leading on the development to recruit an adult committee to help take some responsibility off them, however, will still have full management of the centre. This will be kick-started in January 2025.
- **Sea Cadets** - The group are undertaking a complete redevelopment of their facilities. The group have gone from having £2k in their account to £50k since April. They have received funding advice as well as signing up for the council's Community Benefit Wishlist, which saw the group receive a free skip from Lowmac which helped boost the clearance of the yard and one of their current biggest costs.

Re-Engage Tea Party

Re-engage is a charity in place to support individuals 75 and over. Locality Teams have partnered up with the charity to bring monthly tea-parties to North Ayrshire and more specifically the Three Towns by opening this group up when we host.

The tea parties are free monthly social groups open to people aged 75 and over and aimed at people who are lonely, isolated or in need of companionship. They're a chance for a change of scenery and regular afternoons of conversation and laughter with friends of all ages.

Once a month, on a Sunday, volunteer drivers collect older guests from their homes and take them to the tea party where between 15 and 25 older guests and volunteers share tea, cake, and companionship, and enjoy a change of scenery for an afternoon.

With a wide variety of activities on offer such as bingo, quiz, poetry reading and much more, the older people enjoy the afternoon socialising, reminiscing and trying new activities.

The event was a great success because of the food and activities that were on offer. The participants were open to trying something new, which allowed for us to create a fun environment. The open invite for the three towns was also a positive addition. This allowed for everyone to meet new people and resulted in the team creating further community ties with residents. Hosting the event in the three towns is a change of scenery and an enjoyable way to get out of the house in a safe, fun environment.

This isn't an opportunity that is readily available to those who attended due to mobility issues and/or lack of support networks. Therefore, once a month they get the opportunity to come out, share their stories and experience real-life away from the television. The difference made is expressed through stories and the smile on peoples faces.





Christmas lights switch-on planning and events are well underway in Saltcoats, Ardrossan and Stevenston to bring together the community and provide activities at little or no cost to those coming along. It has not been easy for these groups this year to obtain funding with NAC budget cuts and increasing costs to install Christmas lighting which the groups were not prepared for. The groups are all determined for these events to go ahead as planned:

- Saltcoats - Sunday 24th November
- Ardrossan - Friday 29th November
- Stevenston - Friday 6th December



A Three Towns older peoples network meeting took place earlier this year, with 15 participants taking part. The group discussed issues affecting their demographic as well as debated issues raised which served as a very positive exchange.

Two of the participants had put themselves forward to attend the Executive Older Peoples Council with the older people's champion and leader of the council on 7th October. Older People's conference will follow early next year.

Participatory Budgeting Results - Three Towns Locality

47
Applications
Received

33
Groups
Awarded

1673
Votes
Cast

List of Groups awarded:

- Save Ardrossan Harbour
- Our Wellbeing Matters - Mayfield Parent Council and Mayfield House Captains
- Hayocks Over 50+ Club
- Saltcoats Christmas Carnival
- Hayocks Free Kids/ Family Christmas Santa Event & Over 50s Christmas Meal
- Clear Sound Microphone Bid
- The David White Hub (Sheltered Housing)
- Three Towns Growers (3TG) - Look & Learn
- Community Hub of Hope
- Food & Heat
- Hayocks Tenants and Residents Group (HTAR) - Community Garden Project
- 1st Ardrossan (St Peter's) Rainbows
- Argyle Community Shop
- Lifelines
- Dementia Befriending and Wellbeing Cafes - Ayrshire independent Living Network
- Feed our Community
- Retirement Yoga Group
- West Coast Crucible Gaming Group
- SeaSalt Streets SMOOTHIE SPECTACULAR
- Bluebells and apple trees for Holm Plantation
- Saltcoats Mindful Makers
- S.A.S. explorer scout unit



The results
are in... 

Participatory Budgeting Results - Three Towns Locality

List of Groups awarded contd...

Performance in 3 days with Ardeer Primary School

Three Towns Shutter Bugs

Art ventures at Flying Start Toddler group

Environmental survey to support community purchase of Kerelaw

HMS Dasher Memorial / Remembrance Day 2025

Chest, Heart and Stroke Group (Saltcoats Library).

The Saltcoats Men's Group

High Flats Afternoon Club

Better, safer storage for our music library.

Ardrossan Indoor Bowls Community Hub (AIBCH)

Scuba Diving for all

The graphic features the 'Shaping North Ayrshire' logo at the top left. The main text 'The results are in...' is centered in white on a purple background, accompanied by a white ribbon icon with a checkmark. At the bottom, there are four logos: 'YOUR MONEY, YOU DECIDE' (with a colorful arc), 'North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership' (with a colorful gear icon), 'Funded by UK Government' (with the Royal Coat of Arms), and 'North Ayrshire Council' (with a stylized 'NA' logo).

Participatory Budgeting Results - Three Towns Youth

36
Applications
Received

11
Groups
Awarded

2320
Votes
Cast

List of Groups awarded:

St Matthew's Academy Breakfast Club

Ardeer Thistle 2012's

Ardeer Thistle 2015's

Auchenharvie Young Ambassadors

Developing Football

St Peter's Parent Council: sport for all

Ardrossan Youth Association (projects and activities for young people)

ACE- Admin Craft Enterprise

North Ayrshire Athletics

Sports Council Go for Gold

ARDEER COMMUNITY CENTRE



#YouthPB Results
ARE HERE!



Discovery Award Group

Supporting the group to meet their goals in terms of accessing services, volunteering opportunities, award materials and organising their journey of discovery trips.

The group are now constituted and have their own bank account.

Recommendations were raised regarding the constitution – these were adopted on Thursday 27th June by the group.

The group recently worked in partnership with Friends of Stevenston to clean up the Shore Road seating area and they also worked in partnership with the Three Towns Growers on Thursday 8th August to support their plot holders open day.

Youth Groups in the Three Towns

There are a number of youth groups held across the locality including; Gamers groups; Scratch group; Fun activity based groups; youth voice; DofE; Art groups; sports groups and many more!

Highlight on Argyle youth group- A brand new youth group in Saltcoats which started in May.

We had over 40 young people register, who all had an input in the group rules and the delivery programme.

- The FAB (Fun & Fabulous) youth group numbers have increased dramatically since restarting back in August, after the summer break. The group have responded well to planned activities surrounding STEM and continue to use the group as a safe space to interact with friends, find support from workers and enjoy being young. Come the new year, now relationships have been established, issue-based sessions will take place surrounding the No Knives Better Lives Programme, healthy relationships, cyber security and vaping.
- Hayocks Tenants & Residents Association - We are currently supporting the group to become a SCIO, which will ensure the group are in a position towards their aspirations for community ownership. Support is also taking place to apply for further funding from ACVS towards the development of the community play park. There have been some concerns raised around youth disorder and recent fire raising in the area and a meeting has taken place with elected officials and police to discuss this further and the locality team plan to launch youth diversionary activities in the area.
- Digital drop in - available at Stevenston Library on a Monday between 2-4pm and Argyle Community Centre on a Wednesday between 1-4pm. Further promotion is required to boost participation. A partnership created by the previous locality team has continued with CLASP as CLASP work with over 50s. They plan to sign post any under 50s to the drop in and anyone attending the drop in looking to join a group to further enhance their skills will be sign posted to CLASP.
- Hayocks Drop in - Youth group for P6-S2 due to large number group has had to be split into 2 sessions - P6-P7 and S1-S3. Both sessions are going well. Sessions have been planned up to December, some of the sessions have been on mental health wellbeing, Halloween and bingo.
- Parent and Toddler group - Group for adults and toddler to come together to socialise and learn new experiences. Different activities each week. Numbers are increasing.

North Ayrshire's National Youth Work Conference - Beyond the Screen

Beyond the Screen was a session developed to create open conversations surrounding the possible/newly implemented policy around removing digital devices during school hours. The session had been shaped to gain the views of young people whom this will impact. This would also entail looking at alternative methods of communications, the legacy of communication and the coping strategies young people can create for themselves to adapt to a device free learning environment.



The Workshop entailed a variety of activities including open conversations, a Microsoft form questionnaire, creating string telephones and looking at past instant message platforms. The workshop was well received by the young people and from the feedback collated, the young people seen both the positive and negative impacts the policy could have on school life and their mental wellbeing.

The young people were engaged with the topic. This came as a surprise to more people than expected and resulted in our workshop being able to inform young people of the decision that may be made on their behalf. Furthermore, it presented the young people with an opportunity to think about the challenges that may arise if applied and how they can actively work towards making changes in their behaviour when it comes to their attachment to their digital device. Gaining the opportunity to engage with young people whose school has already applied the policy enabled conversation and feedback from a different perspective. They were adept in providing relevant primary feedback on how this is operating in their school and offered us insight into the challenges faced and the recommendations they would make to help shape a fairer approach to the restrictions in place. The workshop created a safe space for young people to engage in and explore policy relevant to them. Through youth voice and participation, young people were encouraged to share their views and opinions on outcomes which will directly impact them. The young people also enjoyed themselves and had fun through our creative activity and from hearing staff stories on historical communication methods and the burden that was dial up internet.

For further information contact:

Denise Fraser
Locality Officer Three Towns

denisefraser@north-ayrshire.gov.uk





COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

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

STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE



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.

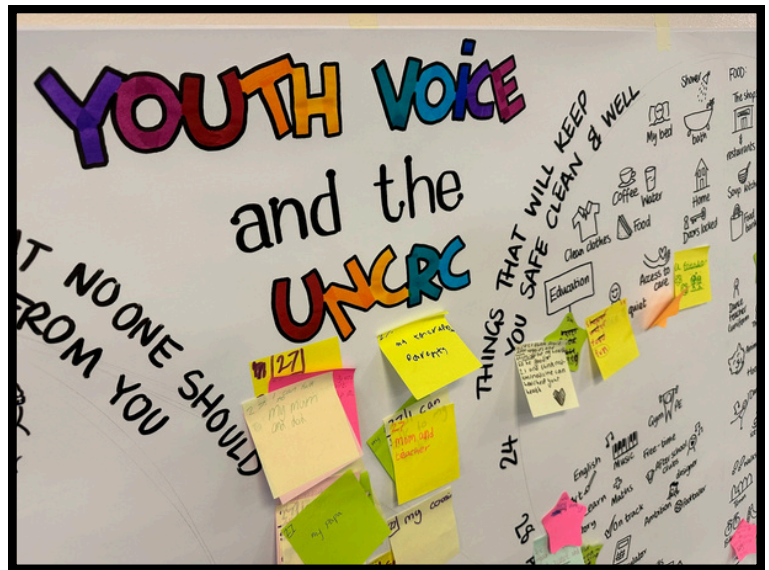


Primary 7 Youth Council

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!

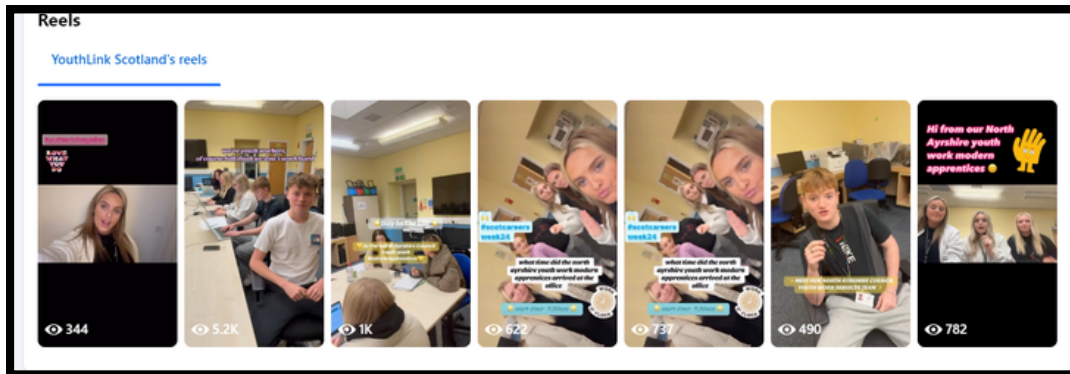
This event was very important in terms of our Youth Work/CLD Strategic Plan Priorities to:

- 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

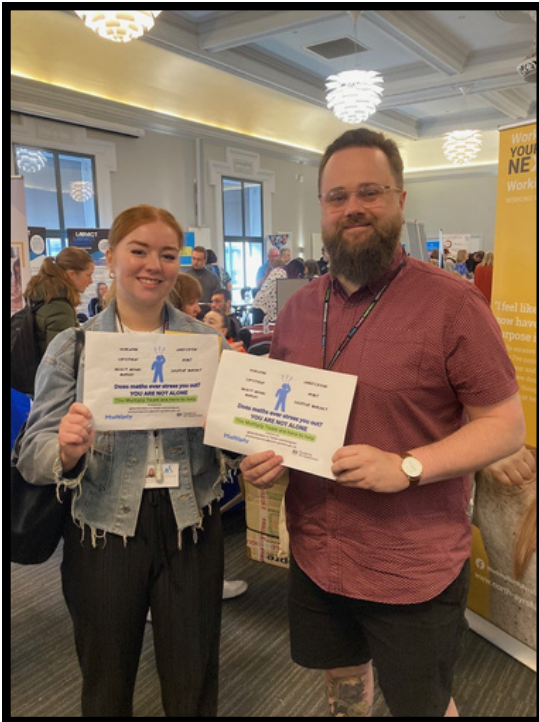
External referrals reach landmark figure!

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



Funded by
UK Government

MULTIPLY



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.





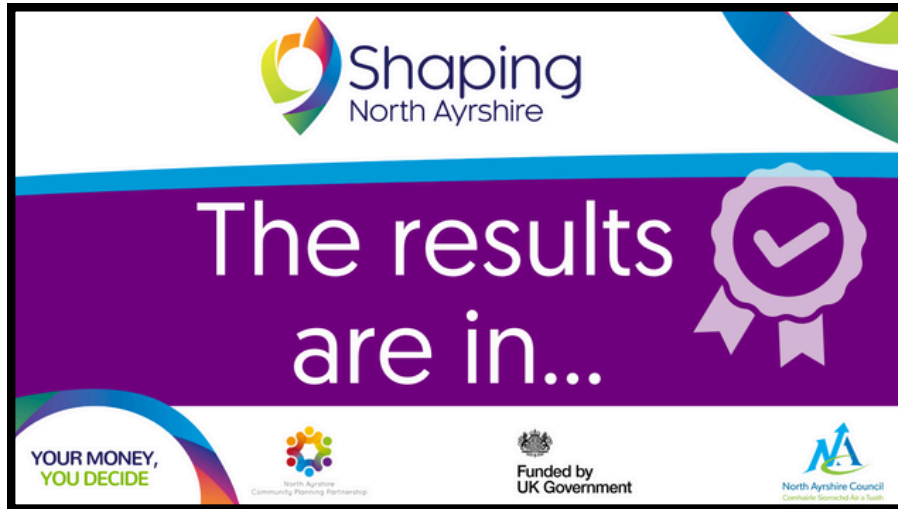
Gaelic Scrabble Game cont...

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

