



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Wednesday 11 December 2024, 7.00 p.m. in Bridgend Community

Centre BUSINESS

Item	Subject	Pg No	Ref	Officer	Ask of the Partnership
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.	-	-	Cllr Bell	
2.	Action Note Review the action note and deal with any outstanding items.	Pg 4	Enclosed	Elaine Young	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					7.10 – 8.10 pm
3.	Community Investment Fund Update The Locality Partnership will receive update regarding Community Investment Fund Application from Radio City Association. CIF Guidance can be accessed here:- community-investment-fund-guidance-notes-2022.pdf (northayrshire.community)	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini	LP to consider Community Investment Fund Application.
4.	Street Naming Report The Locality Partnership are asked to consider street naming report for Residential Development site west of Auldlea Gardens, Beith.	Pg 11	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider six street names for new development.
5.	CIF Projects Scope Amendment Proposal The Locality Partnership to receive request to amend the scope of two CIF projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GV2023 project to include the Our Garnock Valley work Garnock Valley Men's Shed 	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini/ Jane Lamont	LP to consider amendment for the projects.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					8.10 – 8.55 pm
6.	Place Plan and Travel Needs Analysis	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss learning and

	The Locality Partnership to receive an update on the work taking place around the Place Plan and Travel Needs Analysis.				partnership opportunities.
7.	Education & Youth Overview The Locality Partnership will receive an overview from Head Teachers and the Locality Community Learning Development Team.	-	Verbal	Head Teachers Heather McVie-Branley Active Schools	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
8.	KA Leisure The Locality Partnership will receive an updated on the work against the priorities of the Garnock Valley Locality.	-	Verbal	Kyle Lewis	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
9.	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 Garnock Valley.	- Pg 14	Verbal Enclosed	Michael Cowan Neil Shearer	Discuss progress, learning and partnership opportunities
10.	Locality Plan Progress Receive feedback from the sub-group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving Around • Facilities and Amenities • Work and the Local Community 	-	Verbal	Christina Pieraccini Community Reps	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
11.	Locality Officer Update The Locality Partnership will receive an updated on the work against the priorities of the Garnock Valley Locality.	Pg 16	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					8.55 – 9.00 pm
12.	AOCB	-			LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.
REPORTS FOR INFORMATION					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLD Strategic Quarterly Update 	Pg 36	Enclosed	Cllr Bell	Locality Partnership are asked to note the reports and share as appropriate.

Distribution List

Elected Members

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

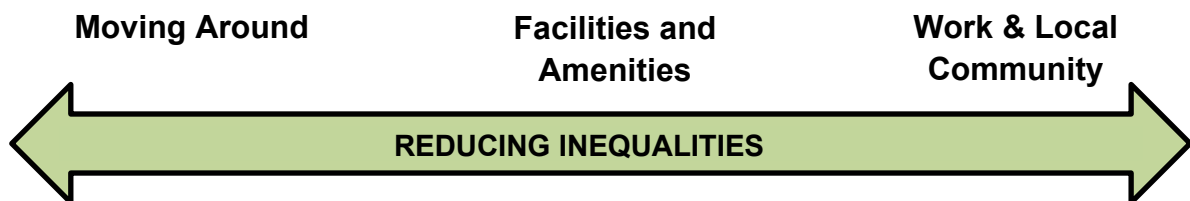
Community Representatives

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

CPP/Council Representatives

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

Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	12 September 2024 – Conference Room, Garnock Campus
Present:	Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Margaret Johnson Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Donald L. Reid Councillor Ronnie Stalker Jane Lamont, Community Representative David Park, Community Representative Catherine Wigzell, Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council Elaine Young, NHS Ayrshire & Arran (Snr Lead Officer) Angela Morrell, Senior Manager, Community Learning & Development, NAC (Lead Officer) Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer, NAC Ellie Hannah, Active Schools, NAC Inspector David Cameron, Police Scotland Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Kaileigh Brown, Executive Director, The Ayrshire Community Trust Fiona Dunlop, Head Teacher, Beith Primary Heather McVie Branley, Community Development Worker
Also Attending:	Ross Sweeney, NAC Regeneration Team Margaret Dalziel Intelligent Health Craig Dalziel, Intelligent Health Lesley Forsyth, Senior Manager, Information and Culture Laura Kerr, Childcare Development Officer (School Aged and Rural) Lynne McNiven, Director Public Health (NHS Ayrshire & Arran) Gordon McGuinnes, Radio City Association Alan Wilson Radio City Association Robert Hobb, Radio City Association
Apologies:	James Waite, Beith & District Community Council – Vice Chair Kyle Lewis KA Leisure

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made, and apologies for absence were noted.	
2.	Action Note The action note arising from the meeting held on 13 June 2024 was approved.	
3	Beat the Street Project Ross Sweeney Regeneration Officer along with Margaret & Craig Dalziel from Intelligent Health provided the Partnership with an update	

	<p>on the Beat the Street Initiative which took place in the Garnock Valley earlier this year. Beat the Street is a free, fun initiative that challenges residents to see how far you can walk, cycle, run in 6 weeks. In North Ayrshire, the initiative also took place in the Three Towns and Arran.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted results from a survey carried out following the initiative. In North Ayrshire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 5064 participants, 48% of those being children. • During the 6 weeks, car commuting decreased by 4%, this equates to approximately 1,610 fewer car trips/week. • Walking for travel increased by 4% resulting in approximately 1,547 more trips/week • Driving to and from school decreased by 10%, approximately 3,484 fewer car trips/week. For 20% most deprived children, car trips decreased by 10%, • After the initiative, there was 6% increase in children walking for fun everyday (equivalent of 147 more children walking every day). • In terms of access to a bikez, 20% children and 19% of adults highlighted they could not access one. <p>The Partnership queried whether the team could access the data relating to the those not being able to access a bike as the local Mens Shed in the Garnock Valley carry bike repairs and have a bike which could possibly to matched up to local residents.</p> <p>C Dalziel advised that they have postcode data from respondents which he will review and share with R Sweeney. This will allow the Partnership/Mens Shed to advertise in the appropriate areas.</p> <p>The Chair thanked R Sweeney, C Dalziel, and M Dalziel for their input.</p>	<p>C Dalziel/R Sweeney</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Community Investment Fund</p> <p><u>Radio City Association</u></p> <p>The Locality Partnership considered a full application from Radio City Association who are seeking £65,000 of funding to support with costs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employ 1 x Community Development Manager at 30 hours per week for one year • employ 1 x Project Officer for 25 hours per week for one year • office rental contribution costs • electricity costs • stationery (paper / printer ink etc.) • accountancy / HR cost • training costs <p>A Wilson wished to highlight that:</p>	

- The first section of wind turbine which is part of the electric valley project as whole is due to arrive this month, and be should be complete the following month. This will generate funding for the community.
- The Association is working with Scottish Water to develop a small-scale hydro site.
- They are part of a consortium around a battery storage project with the hydro scheme.
- They are also in discussions with North Ayrshire Council to purchase the energy produced by the turbine, which would further benefit the community demonstrating Community Wealth Building in action.

The Locality Partnership discussed:

- The application being presented more concisely highlighting what the Association were applying for and providing the other information in relation to the electric valley etc as an appendice rather than part of the application. It's important to clearly outline what we are funding in clearer terms for those outside the Partnership.
- That ambitious community-led projects like this need supporting.
- The Association's March 2023 accounts show an unrestricted negative balance, indicating that viability may not be achievable until at least Year 3.
- They noted that while long-term prospects are promising, short-term viability appears fragile and would need to be consider whether £65,000 will be sufficient, as the funding amount applied for would be restricted for staffing purposes.

A Wilson advised the Partnership that the Association's accounts for 2024 will be available in the next few weeks which will provide the Partnership more reassurance. He also advised that the essence of this work is to create a sustainable organisation which is not relying on funding and will be self-sufficient.

The Reps from Radio City Association left the meeting at this point.

The Locality Partnership agreed to approve the application in principle, subject to (a) deferring the next stage in the CIF process until the most recent set of audited accounts are available. (b) request a set of robust management accounts highlighting the current financial position and any major movements from the audited annual accounts. (c) Cash inflow and outflow projections for the next 3 years, including projected surpluses/deficits and planned repayments (d) a shortened application so it is more explicit what the Association are requesting funding for.

The Partnership also requested that someone from out with the Partnership review these documents.

C Pieraccini undertook to liaise with the group with regards to their application and additional information requested and A Morrell undertook to consult North Ayrshire Council's finance department with the regards to an officer reviewing the financial information requested.

Noted

**C Pieraccini/A
Morrell**

**C Pieraccini/A
Morrell**

<p>4.</p>	<p>Grants</p> <p>The Lead Officer presented the 2024/25 Elderly Grant Fund report to the Partnership and asked the Partnership to consider the applications which have been received in respect of the 2024/25 Elderly Grants Fund.</p> <p>Applications were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Age Concern - £2964 • Beith Old People's Welfare Committee - £3053 • Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee - £2412 <p>The Locality Partnership agreed to award funding to groups.</p> <p>The Lead Officer also presented an application that had been made to the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund from Dalry Old Folks Treat Committee for £5000 for Christmas Meal and Summer Trips which are open to anyone living within Dalry Parish and aged 65 and over.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed to award funding to the group.</p>	<p>R Ramsay/S Fleming</p> <p>R Ramsay/S Fleming</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Locality Action Plan</p> <p>A Morrell presented a report to the Partnership on the Draft Locality Action Plan for 2024/25.</p> <p>A Morrell highlighted that the action plan is something that we are required to have in place in accordance with the Community Empowerment Act but more importantly it's the way we as a partnership can measure collectively the difference we are making to our communities.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved the action plan for 2024/25.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini/J McGee</p>
	<p>Street Naming Report</p> <p>A Morrell presented a report to the Locality Partnership on behalf of the Council's Planning Team. The Locality Partnership were asked to consider two street names for a new residential development to southwest of Newhouse Drive, Kilbirnie.</p> <p>A Morrell advised the Partnership that the Community Council consulted the community via social media for suggestions and these were included within the report.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puddocks Place • Woodlands Avenue <p>It was noted that the report suggested Woodlands Place, however the Locality Partnership felt that Avenue would be a more suitable suffix.</p>	<p>L Dempster</p>

	<p>The Partnership also highlighted that the use of Dunning would perhaps cause confusion as there is Dunning Lane in the area.</p>	<p>L Dempster</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Rural Area Childcare</p> <p>The Partnership received an update on the work relating to childcare in rural areas from L Forsyth and L Kerr</p> <p>L Forsyth and L Kerr highlighted that school-age childcare availability has been an ongoing challenge in North Ayrshire. L Kerr was recently seconded to a new post following successful funding, this allows her to dedicate time to look at paving the way for positive action. Two key areas L Kerr will be looking at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-age childcare delivered by volunteers • Rural areas childcare <p>L Forsyth highlighted that there are fewer childminders who are benefiting from the 1140 hours provision now and meeting after-school care needs is difficult in a lot of areas.</p> <p>L Kerr commented that she is exploring ways to attract more individuals to become Childminders while addressing barriers such as extensive paperwork from the SSSC and Care Inspectorate, as well as the challenges of managing their accounts.</p> <p>L Forsyth conveyed her thanks to J Lamont and the Beith Hive team who stepped in to provide out of school care provision in Beith following the closure of the provision previously in place.</p> <p>L Kerr highlighted the importance of assessing the needs in each area and developing locally-based solutions.</p> <p>The Chair queried what the demand for childcare in the Garnock Valley was. L Kerr advised that she is looking to work withing with Head Teacher to carry out an assessment within schools to obtain this information.</p> <p>The Chair thanked L Forsyth and L Kerr for their input.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Education and Youth Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received updates from F Dunlop, Head Teacher, Beith Primary, H McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker and E Hannah, Active Schools Co-Ordinator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the Early Year models meant that hours have changed. At Garnock and Moorpark moved to 9 am – 3pm, Beith Primary and St Bridget’s Primary operating hours are 8am – 6pm, with children having one full day and four half days. A pilot looking at other options will be undertaken at Beith Primary • Delay in the opening of the new Moorpark Primary. Staff gave up their time during the summer to set up classes. • Detached Youth Work taking place in Beith on a weekly basis. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Partners to develop a programme to look at how to engage with those hard-to-reach young people. Working alongside Café solace, Mens Shed and, SFRS • Youth Forum is now full, starting up a Junior Youth Forum. Youth Forum had a trip to London during summer to visit the house commons and speak to MPs. • 1058 young people in the Garnock Valley have been part of active schools, 86% were volunteers through sport activities and the young ambassador programme. <p>Chair thanked everyone for their input.</p>	Noted
8.	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>Apologies from K Lewis were submitted. An update report will be circulated to the Locality Partnership along with the action note.</p>	K Lewis/J McGee
9.	<p>Police and SFRS – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>SFRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has conducted 38 Home Fire Safety Visits throughout the locality. • The team are currently looking for On-Call firefighters at Dalry Community Fire Station. Candidates must live within 5mins of the station, over 18, physically fit and able to provide 90hours cover spread over the week. More details can be found:- Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Jobs myjobscotland • Community Action Team attended Garnock Academy, in June 2024 to carry out Deliberate Fire Setting and Water Safety Talks to S1 to S5 pupils. • Kilbirnie Fire Station held an open day in August in conjunction with neighbouring Ambulance Station. It was very well attended. <p>Police Scotland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in Partnership with SFRS, the Council and other partners around operation Moonbeam which is a community safety programme that focuses on addressing public disorder and safety concerns around Bonfire Night. • Guy Jenner is now back from secondment and is working with Partners and Groups around the new hate crime legislation and what it means, working alongside Trading Standards and Public Health around tobacco and vaping. • An additional four officers are now trained to use the quad bikes, this will allow more scope for these to be deployed in the Locality when necessary. • Campus Cop will be working within the schools focussing on a number of topics including the harms of vaping, drugs and alcohol. They will also new driver with S6s on the new driver programme. 	

	<p>D Cameron also advised that he will be moving localities and will now be based in Saltcoats. A new Locality Inspector will be appointed in due course however for now he remains the point of contact.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership conveyed their thanks D Cameron.</p>	Noted
10.	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised the Locality Partnership that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Place Plan survey is currently live and encouraged everyone to complete and share with their networks. C Pieraccini also distributed flyers with the information on how to complete. • In terms of the Travel Need Analysis, work is underway to design the survey. There are plans to carry out community engagement, the survey will be issued after the school October holidays and a workshop will be held late autumn. • A pop-up charity shop will be held in the George Steven Centre following closure of the shop in the town, date to be confirmed. • Laura Neill, Snr Manager (Employability) will be attending the working group meeting in October. 	Noted
11.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Locality Report was enclosed as part of the agenda pack.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that applications for Participatory Budgeting close tomorrow, however the deadline may be extended. H McVie-Branley advised that there have been 19 applications received so far for Garnock Valley and 4 for Youth Participatory Budgeting.</p>	Noted
12.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions.</p> <p>The Chair also reminded the Partnership that the following reports were submitted as part of the meeting paperwork for information and sharing, as appropriate: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLD Strategic Quarterly Update • TACT update 	Noted

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm



Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Date: 11th December 2024

Subject: Residential Development to west of Auldlea Gardens/east of Kings Road, Beith

Purpose: Decide Street Names for the new development.

Background

Persimmon Homes have contacted Planning Services requesting street names for the development of 192 houses on land to the west of Auldlea Gardens and east of Kings Road in Beith.

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

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

The development requires 6 new street names.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

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

Suggestions which have been made that use part of an existing street name in the town or immediate locality have been discounted on the basis that such duplication is likely to result in confusion.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

Choose 6 new street names for the development.

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

Completed by: Lisa Dempster and Kirsty Gee

Date: November 2024

Street Name Suggestions	Background
Maich	Maich Water runs into the north of Kilbirnie Loch from the upland area to the northwest
Dubbs	Dubbs Water runs from the north of Kilbirnie Loch towards the direction of the Barr Loch, Lochwinnoch
Kerse	This is the name of the flat area to the north of Kilbirnie Loch that the development would look onto
Lochhead	The site faces towards the head of Kilbirnie Loch
Winnoch	Kings Road connects the site to the A760 Lochwinnoch Road (via Kerse Road)
Boydstone	Boydstone is a local farm to the northeast of Beith
Tree names (eg. Birch, Willow, Willowbank, Pinewood, Firtree, Lime, Hazel, Holly)	There is a tradition in Beith of naming streets after trees. The name 'Beith' is derived from 'birch tree'. The suggested names have not previously been used in the town.
Faulds	Dr Henry Faulds, who was born in Beith in 1843, is noted for the development of fingerprinting. He also founded a school for the blind in Japan. He died at the age of 86 in 1930 and is buried in Staffordshire where he spent the final years of his life.
Beithcraft	Beithcraft (formerly Balfours) was a furniture manufacturer in Beith and was the last of the many furniture makers that the town was synonymous with. Furniture making provided significant employment in Beith until the early 1980s.
Old Station	Kings Road leads to the site of the former Beith North Station, which closed in 1951.
Tawny	The name of a local fish and chip shop.

North Ayrshire Council
Street Naming and Numbering
6 New Street Names Required





North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Locality planning

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Date: 09/12/24

Subject: Scottish Fire and Rescue: Wellbeing and Partnership Working.

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

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

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

HFSV's - Since the last meeting Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) continues to provide the people of the Garnock Valley with fire safety advice within their own homes. SFRS has conducted 41 Home Fire Safety Visits throughout the locality. Of these 12 visits, 29.26% of these visits were to the most vulnerable in our community and were deemed high risk. Being High risk means that we will reconnect with the occupant in a year's time and offer to re-visit and provide further advice if required. SFRS receives visit requests from different ways. We receive these direct from the occupant but often we get visits as a result of an operational incident within the property or at a neighbouring home and through our Post Domestic Incident Response (PDIR) Procedure we provide safety advice and can provide smoke detection if required. Since the previous meeting, we conducted 12 PDIR's within the Garnock Valley area. A lot of our referrals are due to our continuous work with partners, and we receive referrals from many different partners including NHS Falls Teams, HSCP North Ayrshire and Hospital discharge referrals.

HFSV's can be requested from: -

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

Phone – 0800 0731 999

Text – 80800

AP1's - Over the last few months SFRS have made 12 AP1 referrals to social work partners for people who live within the Garnock Valley. These AP1's can come direct from our operational crews, after encountering an individual whom it is felt that are Adults at Risk of harm or in Need of Support, at operational incidents or from

community engagement such as a HFSV. As part of our partnership working, Community Action Team (CAT) has delivered fire retardant bedding for occupier who had careless smoking issues. (This is a limited stock)

Vacancies Dalry Community Fire Station – We are currently looking for On-Call firefighters at Dalry CFS. Live within 5mins of the station, over 18, Physically fit and able to provide 90hours cover spread over the week, this may be the job for you. If you meet these criteria, pop into our station at Dalry on a Monday evening and speak with our On-Call personnel.

[Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Jobs | myjobscotland](#)

School Talks - CAT attended Garnock Community Campus and met with 6th Year pupils who are completing their Higher Qualification in First Aid. Teacher had asked SFRS to attend and discuss career opportunities with SFRS and the relevance of First Aid within the role. On Call recruitment discussed as well as CPR/Defib.

SFRS Kilbirnie Crew attended St Bridget's Primary School for "World at work week" crews delivered a presentation to P1,P2,P3 classes, detailing the role of a Firefighter and explaining the importance of Fire safety especially around Christmas time. Approx 70 Pupils took part in the event and got shown around the appliance and equipment. HFSV postcards were given to pupils to take home to their Parents or Guardians.

SFRS Kilbirnie crew along with Scott Beattie, Community Safety Advocate attended St Bridget's Primary School to deliver fire safety talk regarding subjects such as fire safety within the home, Bonfire night and to highlight general tasks the fire service undertake. Crews delivered a presentation to the pupils who have behavioural needs. Engaged in Q&A session to ensure information was taken on board. Pupils were then shown around the appliance and equipment to educate on the importance of fire safety, Working as a team and following instruction.

Firework Presentations - Maxine Lamb and Gerry Mongiardini, Community Safety Advocates from East, North and South Ayrshire Community Action Team attended Garnock Academy, Glengarnock on 3rd and 9th October 2024 from 09:00 to 11:30 hours.

This was to carry out Fire Works and Bonfire Talks to all pupils.

This was carried out as part of the Autumn TAP initiative covering Fire Works and Bonfire Presentation.

This was arranged through Campus Police Constable Caroline Duffy.

Fire Skills - Organisation for Fire Skills Course arranged for Kilwinning Fire Station on 12/11/24. CAT and SC Shearer attended Garnock Community Campus to meet young people with parent/carers to discuss the course and kit size. This is a group of 3rd year pupils who are currently disengaging with school. This is an ongoing course

over 8 weeks and Pupils are receiving a variety of skills which will culminate in a demonstration/presentation day in February. So far the pupils have learned the correct way of hose running, CPR and ASB/deliberate fire setting.

Going Forward-

Home Fire Safety Visits.

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

**Neil Shearer
Station Commander
Kilwinning Community Fire Station**

GARNOCK VALLEY LOCALITY REPORT DECEMBER 2024



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



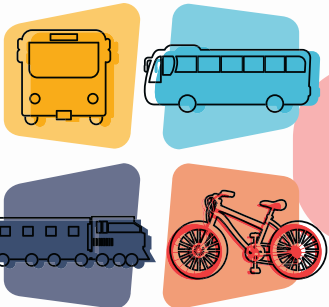
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Locality Priorities for Garnock Valley



Facilities and Amenities



Moving Around



Work and Local Community

Locality Updates



Kilbirnie Library

The library held a Poetry Club on Monday 25th November and Monday 9th December. This was an opportunity to go along and discuss and write your own poetry over a cuppa. A Christmas Bookbug will be held on Friday 20th December 10.30-11.30. Anyone interested is invited to go along and dress for Christmas, if they wish.

Barrmill Jolly Beggars

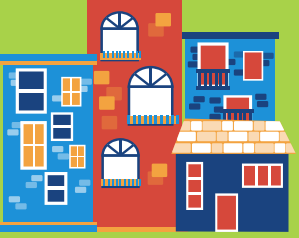
Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club held their 80th consecutive St Andrew's Dinner on Friday 29 November 2024 at Beith Bowling Club. 55 members and friends of the club attended, with a great night of fun and fellowship.



The Jolly Beggars hosted a fundraising concert on Sunday 1 December at 2pm in Kilbirnie New Parish Church, Kilbirnie. The Irvine and Dreggorn Band will perform, as well as local entertainers.

Discovery Group

Recruitment for a new Bronze Award Group will commence early in January, with a view to starting in February. One current member is working towards their Gold Award and three members will soon achieve their Silver Awards.



Locality Update

Dalry Community Council

Following the election on Tuesday 26th November, from 12 nominations, 7 new Community Councillors were successfully elected. Over 80 people attended, with 75 votes cast. The group aim to meet prior to the festive break, with their first public meeting to be held early in 2025. Congratulations to all the new Community Councillors and good luck!

Christmas Lights Switch On

Three community events have recently been held, to bring the community together to switch on the towns' Christmas lights. Local volunteers have worked hard to raise funds for the lights and to organise the events. Much fun was had by all and the towns are looking lovely and festive.

Beith Orr Park Neighbourhood Watch

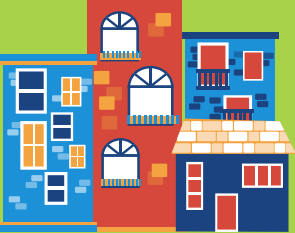
At the community garden, they have had a great team get involved, who have helped clear up lots of the old vegetation and who have subsequently planted 12 dozen summer and winter flowering heathers along with a dozen leylandii trees and other nice shrubs. The garden is looking great and with the changing seasons, we have endeavoured to provide colour and pollinating flowers in every season.

Digital First Aid

This resumed in September at both Dalry and Beith libraries. These sessions offer one-on-one assistance with resetting passwords, apps, online forms or whatever digital challenge local people are experiencing. Since September, 18 people have accessed and benefitted from this support.

Friends of Lochshore Park

The Friends of Lochshore group are a highly motivated group, who meet every Thursday at Lochshore. They have created an online Facebook community with over 100 members and they have successfully gathered support from local companies and are making progress with project funding.

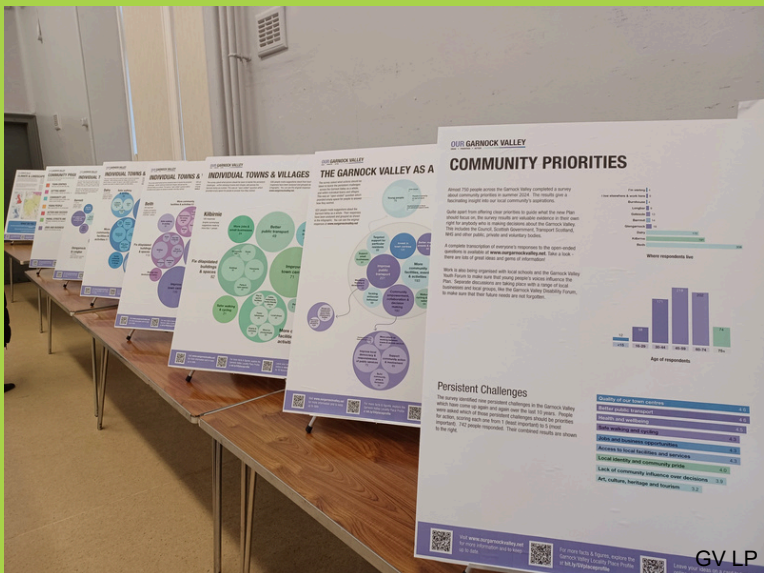


Our Garnock Valley

During 2024, community organisations across the Garnock Valley have come together to create a plan for community action and public services & facilities, supported by North Ayrshire Council. This ambition has been called “Our Garnock Valley”. The plan will map out future priorities for community action and public investment in the main towns of Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie, plus the villages of Barmill, Burnhouse, Gateside, Glengarnock, Longbar and the surrounding countryside. It will be the community’s agenda for future action and investment for their place, as well as being a Local Place Plan to guide future development. The plan needs to understand people’s current aspirations for life in the Garnock Valley: what do the community want for the future?

During the second half of 2024 and early 2025 there will be a number of stages of activity to give everyone in the community plenty of opportunity to answer that question and make sure that the new plan is rooted in what the community wants. During the first stage of engagement, 742 responses were received through a survey, which was distributed online and to each household in the Garnock Valley. The survey report can be found here:

<http://www.ourgarnockvalley.net/s/GVLPP-community-survey-report-Nov-2024.pdf>





Our Garnock Valley

The ideas and priorities submitted were collated and were discussed in more depth at three events which took place in the Garnock Valley during November – Kilbirnie on 13th November, Beith on 14th November and Dalry on 22nd November. The number of people who attended each event are as follows:

- Kilbirnie - 29 daytime, 24 evening
- Beith - 75 daytime, 26 evening
- Dalry - 33 daytime, 26 evening

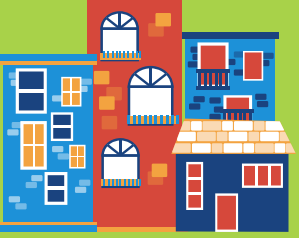
Further events for Gateside, Glengarnock, Barrmill and Burnhouse are currently planned for early 2025, and will take place as follows:

- Gateside - Monday 20th January, 3pm-7pm, Gateside Memorial Hall
- Barrmill and Burnhouse - Wednesday 22nd January, 3pm-7pm, Barrmill Community Centre
- Glengarnock - Thursday 23rd January, 3pm-7pm, Garnock Valley Health and Fitness Centre (Garnock Boxing)



Focussed engagement with young people and schools is also planned. Information can be found here: <https://www.ourgarnockvalley.net/>

It is hoped that the draft plan will be available early 2025 and, once finalised, the plan will be submitted by local community organisations to North Ayrshire Council as a Place Plan for the Garnock Valley, which will help shape the Local Development Plan 3.



Facilities and Amenities

Dalry Community Garden

Dalry Community Development Hub were delighted to receive a Scotland Loves Local Award for High Street Hero for the West of Scotland. This is in recognition of the work the Community Garden has done in the community. The award ceremony was held in Perth Concert Hall on 26th November and the volunteers enjoyed networking and bringing fresh ideas back to Dalry.

Many visitors have dropped into the garden again this year, for volunteering or for a chat and a cuppa! The town centre planters were greatly admired and huge thanks to the groups and individuals who adopted and took care of them.

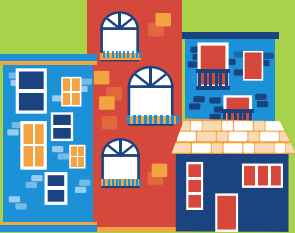
Santa visited the garden again this year as the garden room was transformed into a Grotto for the Torch and Tinsel light switch on.



High Street Hero
West Scotland

Scotland Loves Local Awards 2024

Dalry Community Development Hub



Facilities and Amenities

Café Solace

Customer numbers at Café Solace continue to be high, with 30-40 people attending per week for lunch and 60-70 people per week for an evening meal.

Since the last update, Café Solace have catered for the 2 Main Street consultation organised by the Locality Team, preparing hamburgers on the grill outside the ground. Their delicious catering continues to be in demand with provision of lunches for the Health & Social Care Partnership Dementia Awareness event and the Our Garnock Valley event held in Bridgend. The team provided tea, coffee, soup and toasties at the Santa's Grotto event on 30th November prior to the lights switch on. Café Solace also have bookings for Christmas meals for the Sew & Sew Group on 5th December and the Fit & Fifties Group on 8th January.

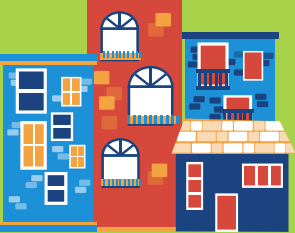
Over the past couple of months, the volunteer team have been fundraising to allow them to keep the cost of their Christmas meals to customers as low as possible. Volunteers raised £1,779 from a sponsored walk, guess the teddie's birthday and football cards, which will cover the majority of costs, including a small gift for their customers. Their Christmas events have sold out, which will be held on Friday 6th and Friday 13th December.

Iain, the Food Development Worker, has started the delivery of cooking classes in the centre, together with Multiply Worker Melissa. The first programme of six classes is underway, and a waiting list is in place for the next one which will start in the New Year. A further three young people have completed their volunteering for the Bronze Award of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Three of the six completers have now moved on and Café Solace have three new starts, and four young people on a waiting list. The young people work hard and are very popular with our customers. The placements provided by Café Solace have proved popular for local young people looking to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Café Solace now have two of their planters in place in their kitchen garden and have ordered a shed and tools. The Community Payback Team are making the planters for them, with another 6 due to be completed soon.

"Solace Hub" opened on Friday 30th August but has been a very slow burner. They are considering changing the day the hub is manned in the new year, to see if this will attract more numbers and Iain has continued to work on engaging with other services who would be able to bring some additional value to the hub.

Iain continues to support the two groups in the centre: the men's group on a Wednesday night run by Harbour and the Minds of Recovery meetings on Tuesday lunchtimes. He also continues to support ADP/Café Solace Irvine with the breakfast café in Caley Court in Stevenston.



Facilities and Amenities

Dalry Community Sports Club

The larder continues to provide a vital lifeline for many families and individuals in the town and attendance has continued to increase as the cost-of-living crisis bites and winter approaches. On Saturday mornings, alongside the larder, they also provide a place where people can meet and have a cup of tea and a chat in a warm space, and they are also able to do referrals to help families with energy costs.

The Sports Club have provided a set of goal posts with nets at the Public Park for free community use.

Park Lives has shut down for the year but will return in Spring 2025, when they will once again work with K:A Leisure coaches to provide free outdoor sports with free food and drinks. There may be an opportunity to hold some occasional indoor events at the Community Centre and this is something they are exploring.

Their future plans include more Community Cinema events, bingo nights and a tabletop sale in December, in conjunction with the Community Association, to help local groups to raise money for their good causes.

As with previous years, they gave out free rolls & sausage at the Christmas lights switch on at the end of November.

Next year, they are also planning to work with K:A Leisure, Neighbourhood Networks and Dalry Community Development Hub to run some sporting events for local people with additional support needs.



Moving Around

Travel Needs Analysis

The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership Working Group are working with consultants SWECO to implement a Travel Needs Analysis. Challenges with transport, travel and getting around are regularly identified as a priority for the Garnock Valley and this work aims to articulate these challenges; provide an evidence base for action; and make recommendations for action. An in-depth survey is currently live until 8th December and, at time of writing, almost 500 responses have been received, online and in person. The results and recommendations will be available early in 2025. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey.





Work and Local Community

Garnock Valley Multiply

Since September, the number of learners receiving 1:1 support in the Garnock Valley has increased from 1 learner to 6 learners. Learners engaging with the Multiply Worker, Melissa, have gained (and continue to gain) confidence in life skills including reading, money management, home schooling and number skills.

A series of four practical sessions in Excel was delivered to a group of 8 staff and volunteers from Beith Trust. Learners have reported feeling more confident using Excel in general and less worried about having to keep track of budgets for their own projects. Beith Trust would like to run the course again in the new year for other members.

8 people recently attended a “Christmas on a Budget” session at Beith Community Centre on Friday 29th November. At this session, learners were able to find out the best way to do price comparisons and to recognise a good deal. Further sessions to help people over the festive season are planned for Friday 6th December and Friday 13th December, where making decorations and planning a budget friendly Christmas dinner will be explored.

A series of 6 cooking classes have been organised and advertised (focussing on basic cooking skills as well as numeracy). These started on 11 November and were very quickly fully booked. A further programme is planned for after the New Year.

The weekly games group at Dalry Community Garden is well attended and continues to increase in numbers. Learners enjoy coming to the group to socialise but also exercise their numeracy skills in a fun way.

Good relationships have been formed with St Bridget’s Primary School, Kilbirnie and Dalry Primary School, where Melissa is delivering workshops for parent’s and carers.

At St Bridget’s, Melissa is delivering Maths is Everywhere, which provides parents with practical ideas to help their children improve their maths skills. At Dalry Primary School, sessions are available to parents of P5, P6 and P7 children to show what their children are learning in maths at school(and how!)



Work and Local Community

Beith and District Community Council

The Community Council are delighted to report that 6 pieces of outdoor gym equipment and 5 Breathing Space picnic benches have now been donated and installed in Beith Orr Trust Park. This was an agreement in partnership with Beith Skatepark Group and adds another dimension to the redeveloped skatepark. Beith and District Community Council had secured funding for an Exercise Challenge Project however this did not go ahead as planned for a variety of reasons. With funders agreement, Beith and District Community Council purchased and donated the items to the Skatepark Group. The aim is to further reduce isolation, improve health and support mental health and wellbeing. The community are now making good use of the items which have also been received positively on social media channels. The Community Council are currently recruiting for new members and if you would like to discuss and find out more, please contact: beithanddistrictchair@gmail.com

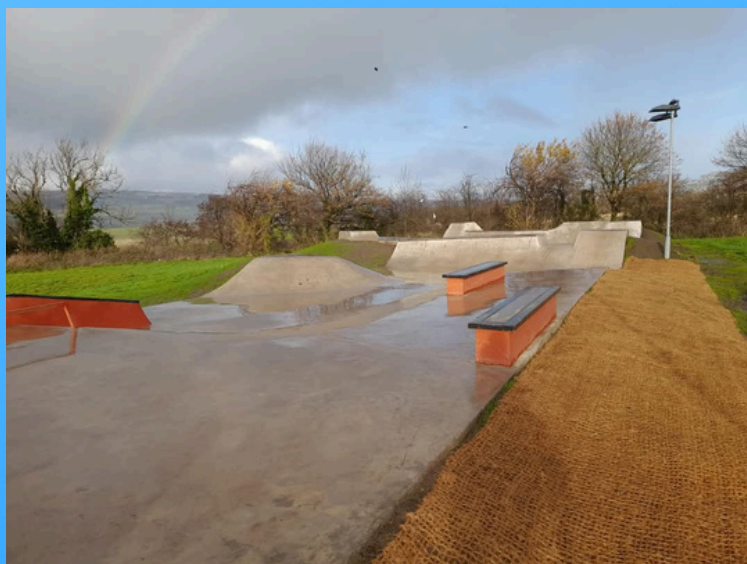




Work and Local Community

Beith Skate Park

It was hoped that the Beith Skatepark would have been officially opened on 23rd November by Provost Anthea Dickson and William McConnell, however the heavy snow unfortunately put their plans on hold. The skatepark build commenced in May and it was great to see local children and young people accessing the park by September. The skate park is the culmination of approximately five years of hard work, planning, fund raising and construction. The skatepark is managed by Beith Playpark Action Group (BPAG). BPAG are extremely grateful to the following for funding the skatepark: NAC Community Investment Fund, FCC Communities, the Suez Trust, EB Scotland and the Garfield Weston Foundation. BPAG would also like to acknowledge donations from Beith Christian Action group throughout the Project and local business Smith Brothers Ltd for in-kind contributions. Throughout this period, BPAG have had a presence at local community events including, Garnock Carves, 'Lights and Laughter' and St. Inan's day. Attendance at these events have allowed volunteers to keep the community engaged with our progress and also undertake local fundraising, which is essential for costs associated with general maintenance and insurance costs for the skate and play park. During this period BPAG also installed a zip slide in the playpark and entered into a partnership with Beith Community Council, who generously donated outdoor gym equipment and five picnic benches. Please note you can follow our progress on social media, 'Beith Skate and Playpark Initiative'.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

Garnock Valley Youth Work Survey

Since the summer, the Locality Team have actively engaged with young people in our community to gain insights into their needs and perspectives regarding current youth services in the area. The goal is to cultivate a more inclusive and effective program that addresses any barriers to participation they may encounter. To date, they have collected over 200 responses from young individuals in the area. This valuable feedback is instrumental in shaping any future groups and activities.

The next phase will involve collaborative consultations with the Youth Forums. By tapping into their experiences and suggestions, the team aim to refine the survey further. This enhancement will help to broaden their reach and ask more relevant questions, ensuring the youth provision is tailored to effectively meet the diverse needs of young people in the Garnock Valley.



S1 and S2 After School Youth Groups

The continued engagement with young people over the summer through weekly drop-ins, trips and our youth work survey emphasised the need to continue an S1 and S2 youth group in Walker Hall after school. The groups started back in September and over the first few weeks the Locality Team engaged young people on a specific day/time to meet their needs. They have planned activities from September until December, so far this has included team games, cake decorating, arts & crafts, Halloween party decorations, a Halloween party and a cosy night. The young people continue to engage well in activities and have encouraged others to attend. Each week, the numbers attending has grown.

There are 20 registered for the S1 group with a core of 15 young people attending regularly. There is a core of between 10-13 young people in the S2 youth group attending regularly with 16 registered. The young people have been provided with a safe, informal space to come and relax and talk about issues that may be facing them.

Garnock Valley Youth Work

Garnock Valley Youth Forum

The Youth Forum presented at the “Our Garnock Valley” event held in Bridgend Community Centre on November 13th. Along with other local groups and organisations, they contributed to the Community Chit Chat, explaining what the Youth Forum is and what they do within the community. Well done to all members who attended and to Karis, Fraser and Rhyan on their presentation.



A new Junior Youth Forum has started due to increasing interest from the young people who attended last year’s P7 transition group. Currently still a small group, they are learning about Youth Participation and Youth Voice and eventually hope to move into the Youth Forum when space becomes available. At the moment, they are working on project-based activities. The first was to make Seasonal Kindness Boxes, which they gave out at the Kilbirnie Christmas Lights Switch on. Their aim was to spread a little kindness in the community. Both forums volunteered to have a stall at the Kilbirnie Christmas Lights Switch on and helped to distribute prizes to children for the KTCMI fundraising committee. They also provided free hot chocolate and had a free tombola for the children.

Members of the GV Youth Forum participated in the Joint Youth Forum in October. Being able to share the positive experience the young people had on social media (Facebook/Twitter) raises awareness of the work they are involved in and contributes to the development of their skills and experiences. Having 5 young people from the Garnock Valley attend highlights their commitment to having young people's voices heard. This session also provided them the opportunity to engage with other young people and learn about UNCRC.

Garnock Valley Youth Work

S3 Community Leadership Programme

The S3 Community Leadership Programme is a new programme developed in partnership with the Garnock Valley Locality Team, K:A Leisure, Campus Police, Garnock Academy and the Fire Service.

The school has identified the young people on the programme as at risk of disengaging and as having challenges and barriers to learning. Since starting in September, the group have met at the school and participated in a range of icebreakers and team games focused on a range of issue-based activities and are engaging positively with youth work methods. These activities have been taken and adapted from Sharper Solutions and Quit Fighting for Likes (No Knives Better Lives) as well as various other relevant youth-based activities.



Positive relationships have been built between staff and the young people, even with this being a new project, and the partnership and relationships are developing well. The smaller, focussed group size has helped foster a cohesive unit. Before beginning the Fire Skills course this month, the Fire Service staff presented the programme to the young participants and their families, ensuring their awareness and commitment to the initiative. All eight young people have signed up for their first Saltire Award and started the eight-week Fire Skills course on November 12th, the first such course in North Ayrshire in over four years. So far, the young participants have met with Fire Officers; learned about the fire station and its apparatus; received CPR and defibrillator training, and had the opportunity to practise using hoses in the yard.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

Detached Youth Work

It was identified that Detached Youth Work was required to raise engagement levels in the Garnock Valley. Throughout September and October, non-core staff have received on-the-job training through participation in weekly detached sessions. As a result, the team have 3 staff now trained in Detached Youth Work to support the core staff team. Since September, there have been 6 sessions in Beith on Tuesday and Friday nights, including mapping hot spot areas and engaging community members and young people.

After assessing the needs of the area in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie, the team have decided to have staff out on Friday nights. This will continuously be assessed depending on where young people are; areas of need; and appropriate times in each town. To date, over 40 young people have engaged with the team across 6 sessions on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Detached Mobile Nights

Over 30 young people have engaged across two nights with the mobile youth centre and the mobile football pitch. These sessions are available on a Friday night once a month, rotating in each of the main Garnock Valley towns. Due to our effective partnership with K:A Leisure and Dalry Community Sports Club, they have continued to supply the mobile football pitch when accessible as well as free food provision.

In our organised sessions during September and October, we engaged with 22 young people in Dalry and an additional 10 in Kilbirnie. We facilitated meaningful interactions with at-risk youth and have used harm-reduction approaches while engaging with these young people. By collaborating with our partners, we reached out to new young people and strengthened our existing relationships. The team effectively utilised the Mobile Youth Centre as a valuable resource and provided food and snacks on both nights, which helped engage the participants. As a result of these positive interactions and their relationships with community groups, the Locality Team will be supporting Christmas events in all three towns where the mobile youth centre operates, including resources to engage with young people.

The combined locality partnership working group will next meet on Wednesday 8th January 2025. Anyone with an interest is welcome to attend and get involved. Please contact Christina for further information.

For further information or to contact:

**Christina Pieraccini
Locality Officer Garnock Valley**

cpieraccini@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

NORTH AYRSHIRE

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

STRATEGIC QUARTERLY UPDATE



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.

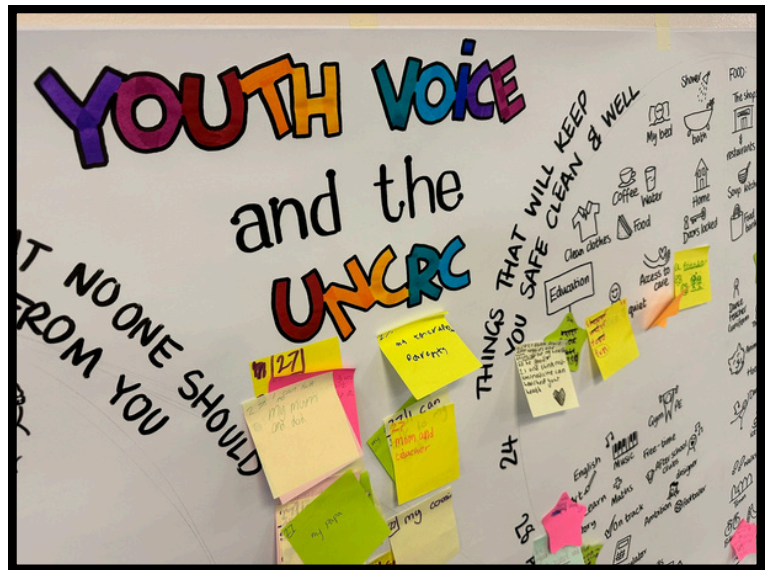


Primary 7 Youth Council

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!

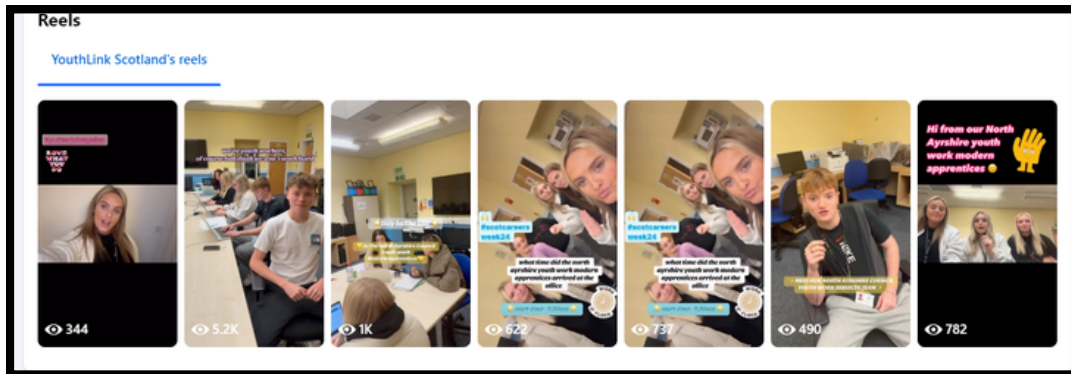
This event was very important in terms of our Youth Work/CLD Strategic Plan Priorities to:

- 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

