



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Thursday 20 March 2025, 7.00 p.m. in Garnock Campus

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	Angela Morrell	Is this an accurate record of the meeting. Have all actions been completed?
DECISION REQUIRED					7.10 – 7.20 pm
3.	Grants The Locality Partnership are asked to consider one grant application for the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dalry Old Folks Welfare Committee St Margaret's Church 	Pg 12	Enclosed	Angela Morrell	LP to consider one Grant Application.
LOCAL MATTERS – TACKLING INEQUALITIES					7.20 – 8.55 pm
4.	S3 Leadership Programme The Locality Partnership will receive an update from Neil Shearer and Heather McVie-Branley on the S3 leadership, and fire skills programme taking place in the Locality	-	Presentation	Neil Shearer/ Heather McVie-Branley/KA Leisure	Receive update and discuss learning and partnership opportunities.
5.	Travel Needs Analysis The Locality Partnership to receive an update on the Travel Needs Analysis work and how Partnership can help take this work forward. Full document can be accessed via this link - GV Travel Needs Analysis	-	Verbal	SWECO	Receive update and discuss how LP can help take this work forward.
6.	Our Garnock Valley The Locality Partnership will receive an update on the work of Our Garnock Valley.	-	Verbal	Nick Wright	Receive update and discuss learning and

					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 17	Enclosed	Christina Pieraccini	Receive update and discuss how LP can further support this work.
AOCB					8.55 – 9.00 pm
12.	AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Locality Planning 		Verbal	Cllr Bell Angela Morrell	LP to use this time to raise/discuss matters linking to the Locality, the LP priorities and tackling inequalities.

Distribution List

Elected Members

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

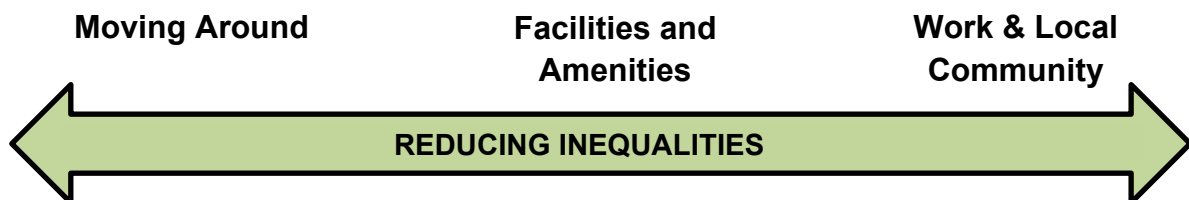
Community Representatives

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
Michael Cowan, Police Scotland
Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue
Angela Morrell, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Council
Christina Pieraccini, Locality Officer

Garnock Locality Partnership Priorities



Meeting:	Garnock Valley Locality Partnership
Date/Venue:	11 December 2024 – Bridgend Community Centre
Present:	Councillor John Bell (Chair) Councillor Anthea Dickson Councillor Donald L. Reid Councillor Ronnie Stalker James Waite, Beith & District Community Council – Vice Chair Jane Lamont, 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 Martyn Rae, Active Schools, NAC Inspector Michael Cowan, Police Scotland Neil Shearer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Kyle Lewis KA Leisure Heather McVie Branley, Community Development Worker
Apologies:	Councillor Margaret Johnson David Park, Community Representative Kaileigh Brown, The Ayrshire Community Trust

ACTIONS

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	<p>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of Interest</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were noted.</p>	
2.	<p>Action Note</p> <p>The action note arising from the meeting held on 12 September 2024 was approved with the Following updates provided:</p> <p>Beat the Street Project – J McGee advised that she has requested the Garnock Valley specific data from the consultant and will circulate this to the Partnership once received.</p> <p>Dalry Community Council Election – C Pieraccini advised the Partnership that Dalry Community Council Election took place on 26 November and seven new Community Councillors were elected. The Community Council will hold their first meeting on 28 January 2025 and a representative from the Community Council will join the Partnership from March 2025.</p>	<p>J McGee</p> <p>Noted</p>
3	<p>Community Investment Fund Application Update</p>	

	<p>A Morrell provided the Partnership with an update in relation to the Community Investment Fund Application from Radio City Association which was heard at the September meeting.</p> <p>A Morrell advised that she and the Senior Manager for Finance met with the organisation on 27 September to review and provide background to the actions which were raised at the Partnership Meeting in September. The Group were also provided with timeline for when information would need to be returned in order for it to be reviewed by Finance and shared with the Partnership in advance of the December meeting for final sign off.</p> <p>A Morrell advised that the projected income paperwork was received earlier today and that she is still awaiting the remaining documentation. Once received this will be reviewed by Finance and shared with the Partnership by email.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that once the paperwork is received, reviewed by Finance, and shared with the Partnership, they would be happy for the application to move forward to Cabinet for final approval, provided everything is satisfactory.</p> <p>J Waite commented that there is there is a possibility that the project cost may have changed, as it has been 9 months since the Group submitted their Expression of Interest.</p>	A Morrell
4	<p>Street Naming Report</p> <p>The Locality Partnership were asked to consider street naming report for the development of 192 houses on land to the West of Auldlea Gardens and East of Kings Road, Beith. The development requires six street names.</p> <p>A Morrell advised the Partnership that Beith Community Council consulted the community via social media for suggestions and these were included within the report.</p> <p>Discussion took place in relation to the names, and it was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beith Trust owned the trademark of Beithcraft • Tawny was in relation to the Tanyards in Beith historically associated with the tanning industry, which processes animal hides into leather and not the local chip shop as noted by Planning on the report. • The Chair suggested that other furniture companies that were previously in the area should be considered for future sites also. <p>The Partnership agreed the following Street Names for the development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faulds • Old Station • Willowbank (Gardens) 	Lisa Dempster

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birch • Kerse • Dubbs <p>J McGee undertook to liaise with Planning to ensure that the use of Gardens as a suffix would be suitable.</p> <p>A Morrell also advised re the contact from member of public who did not use social media, and the team would look at ways to engage with the community out with social media. They also put forward some suggestions which would be included on the street name bank being produced for 2025.</p>	<p>J McGee</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>CIF Project Scope Amendment Proposals</p> <p>GV 2023</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from J Lamont and C Pieraccini regarding a proposal to adjust the scope of the GV 2023 Development Worker post. They emphasised the synergy between the GV 2023 work and the “Our Garnock Valley” Local Place Plan work, leading to a request for slight modifications to the Community Development Worker post funded by the CIF. This proposal has been agreed at the Working Group meeting on 4th December, before coming to the Locality Partnership.</p> <p>The proposed changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadening the remit of the original post to support the outcome of the Place Plan work, which will help keep the momentum going and; • seeking match funding to expand the role to full-time and for a longer duration. <p>This revised scope would maintain the same type of work while incorporating Place Plan activities, thereby enhancing the overall focus.</p> <p>C Pieraccini highlighted that if match funding is not secured, the position would still be advertised as part-time.</p> <p>The Partnership confirmed that they were happy with this approach.</p> <p>Garnock Valley Mens Shed</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from A Morrell in relation to Garnock Valley Mens Shed who were previously successful in obtaining funding from CIF to replace their heating system.</p> <p>Since receiving funding, the premises has undergone some construction work, additional building regulations and insulation installation. Upon reassessment, it was determined that a full heating system upgrade, as originally proposed, is no longer necessary.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini</p>

	<p>The Mens Shed requested permission to reallocate some the funds for alternative improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insulation enhancement to one wall • Ventilation improvements <p>Additionally, they have been in talks with the sustainability team to explore the feasibility of installing solar panels to help with reducing energy costs.</p> <p>The Locality Partnership approved of these proposed modifications to the project scope.</p>	<p>C Pieraccini</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Place Plan and Travel Needs Analysis</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from C Pieraccini on the work taking place around the “Our Garnock Valley” Place Plan and Travel Needs Analysis.</p> <p>Place Plan</p> <p>Community engagement efforts have been successful, with 744 responses to the survey and three well-attended events in November held in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie.</p> <p>Additional events are scheduled for January 2025 in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateside: 20 January from 3.00 – 7.00 pm • Barrmill: 22 January from 3.00 – 7.00 pm • Glengarnock: 23 January from 3.00 – 7.00 pm <p>A full report with recommendations is expected to be brought to the June Partnership meeting, where the Partnership will discuss implementing actions.</p> <p>Travel Needs Analysis</p> <p>548 responses were received to the Travel Needs Analysis survey.</p> <p>Preliminary findings will be available in January 2025, with an update being brought to the Partnership meeting in March 2025. Discussions with Stagecoach and SPT are already being planned.</p> <p>C Pieraccini conveyed her thanks Working Group and to Gavin on her team for helping to shape the plan to where it is at.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Education and Youth Overview</p> <p>The Partnership received updates from H McVie-Branley, Community Development Worker and M Rae, Active Schools Co-ordinator.</p> <p>H McVie-Branley highlighted that:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Over 200 responses have been received. • Two youth forums continue to meet twice per week. They took part in the Kilbirnie Christmas Light Switch On. • The Community Leaders Programme is going from strength to strength. Eight young people previously disengaged from school are now participating in the programme daily. • Further updates are provided within the Locality Officer Report. <p>C Pieraccini commended the work H McVie- Branley has done since coming in to post 9 months ago.</p> <p>M Rae circulated an update on the work of the Active Schools Team in the Garnock Valley. The update highlighted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 clubs which all schools in the area have been a part of during Terms 1&2. • 17 Higher and 10 North Ayrshire Sport Academy students have been placed across the cluster. They will gain valuable experience putting their coaching skills to practise. • Team continues to collaborate with partners to deliver clubs and utilise facilities in the area. 	
7.	<p>KA Leisure</p> <p>The Partnership received an update from K Lewis on the work of KA Leisure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team has been working with the Dalry Community Sport Club and planning an ASN sports day for next year. • Portable pitches are being utilised for events throughout the local area. • A new wellbeing subscription service is set to launch in January 2025 across North Ayrshire. This has been designed to enhance existing memberships with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive health checks to evaluate essential metrics like BMI, body composition, and blood pressure. • Personalised support combining human expertise with AI-driven insights. • Tailored fitness plans, nutrition advice, and mental wellness support. • A state-of-the-art app empowering member to take charge of their health journey. <p>E Young commented that it is great to hear this preventative work is taking place.</p> <p>The Chair asked K Lewis if KA Leisure are experiencing staff shortages. K Lewis highlighted that this seems to be an issue from Leisure settings across the UK and the Team are keen to continue to look at pathways to create opportunities.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>Police and SFRS – Wellbeing and Partnerships</p> <p>Police Scotland</p> <p>M Cowan introduced himself to the Partnership and advised that he is new Locality Inspector for the area and covers Irvine and Kilwinning.</p> <p>M Cowan provided the Partnership with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Wellbeing Unit is actively involved in various initiatives in the Garnock Valley, including working with children's houses • Mental health continues to be a significant concern for the Police. They are working closely with regular contacts to ensure appropriate support and pathways are provided. Collaborations with Turning Point, CHAP, and other partners are ongoing. • Operation Moonbeam, focused on bonfire night safety, reported no injuries to Police or Fire service personnel this year. Preparations for the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Act implementation are underway for bonfire night 2025. • The local police station in Kilbirnie has four officers, including a wildlife crime officer who maintains contact with farmers. The team also have access to a quad bike for rural patrols. • Campus officers are conducting extensive work in schools, providing inputs on internet safety, drugs, knife crime, hate crimes, antisocial behaviour, and domestic abuse. Vaping, especially with its increasing association with drugs, is a major concern. Officers are offering guidance to teachers and working with Guy Jenner on shop visits and Challenge 25 initiatives to target shops selling vaping products to young people. • The team have also been involved in work experience programs, helping young people explore career options and build relationships • For the festive season, there are plans to increase police presence in town centres across North Ayrshire <p>Scottish Fire and Rescue:</p> <p>N Shearer provided the Partnership with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last Partnership meeting 41 visits were conducted in the locality. Out of these, 12 visits targeted the most vulnerable community members classified as high-risk. Being High risk means that we will reconnect with the occupant in 12 months' time and offer to re-visit and provide further advice if required. • Over the past few months, the team has submitted 12 Adult Protection (AP1) referrals in the Garnock Valley. • The team are currently looking for On-Call firefighters at Dalry Community Fire Station. Applicants must live within 5mins of the station, be over 18, physically fit and be able to provide 90hours cover spread over the week. Further details can be found on the My Job Scotland website - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service 	<p>Noted</p>
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	<p>Jobs myjobscotland or by visiting the station on Monday evening speak with the On-Call personnel.</p> <p>N Shearer advised that a full report was provided within the papers and was happy for the Partnership to contact him if they had any queries.</p>	Noted
9.	<p>Locality Plan Progress</p> <p>C Pieraccini advised the Locality Partnership that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group have an active role in the Our Garnock Valley and Travel Needs Analysis work. • Employment, skills, and National Cycle Network Route 7 (NCN7) will be ongoing focus areas for the group also. • Meetings with DTAS and KA Leisure are planned for early 2025. • A new agenda format will be implemented to maintain meeting section focus. <p>C Pieraccini conveyed her thanks to the Working Group for their contributions and hard work this year.</p>	Noted
10.	<p>Locality Officer Update</p> <p>The Locality Report was enclosed as part of the agenda pack.</p> <p>The report highlighted the areas work being undertaken by the locality team in relation to the locality priorities, Our Garnock Valley and youth work.</p>	
11.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>J Lamont highlighted that the working group is preparing a report for the Scottish Government on community benefits including the windfarm and solar developments. J Lamont noted that communities across Scotland with greater capacity are actively negotiating community benefits with developers. Establishing a community wealth fund could enhance negotiating power with developers, but potential leaders in the Garnock Valley are currently at full capacity with existing commitments.</p> <p>A Morrell undertook to discussing this matter with the Council's Regeneration Team and raising it at the next Community Wealth Building Board meeting.</p> <p>Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan</p> <p>A Morrell advised the Partnership that the CLD Strategic Plan was recently approved by the Council's Cabinet. The Plan can be viewed on the Community Planning Website - Community Learning and Development Strategic Plan 2024-2027 - Northayrshire Community</p>	A Morrell

	<p>Valedictory</p> <p>The Chair extended his best wishes on behalf of the Partnership to E Young, who will be retiring as Assistant Director of Public Health with NHS Ayrshire and Arran in early 2025. E Young has served as the Senior Lead Officer of the Partnership since the inception of Locality Planning in North Ayrshire in 2016.</p> <p>Reports for Information</p> <p>The Chair reminded the Partnership that CLD Strategic Quarterly Update report was submitted as part of the meeting paperwork for information and sharing, as appropriate.</p> <p>The Chair also conveyed his best wishes to the Partnership for the festive season.</p>	
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The meeting ended at 8.55 pm



Locality Partnership: Garnock Valley Locality

Date: 20 March 2025

Subject: To update the Locality Partnership on the 2024/25 budget and to advise the meeting of an application received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.

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

Background: Application have been received in respect of the Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund.

Key Points for Locality Partnership

- The Margaret Archibald Bequest Fund has a balance of **£7,662** available for disbursement.

Action Required by Locality Partnership

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

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

Completed by: *Sharon Fleming, Communities & Housing (sharonfleming@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)*

Date: 24 February 2025

MARGARET ARCHIBALD BEQUEST

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2024/25

Margaret Archibald Bequest Criteria:

The application should benefit all those aged 65 and over and in poverty

Applicant	Purpose of Grant	Amount Requested	Previous Awards
St. Margaret's Church Social Group	To help towards the summer outing to Luss, Loch Lomond, cruise and Langholm Tea Room for 45 people on 11 June 2025 Bennett's Bus Kilwinning - £550.00 Cruise on Loch Lomond - £765.00	£1315.00	23/24 £600 22/23 £1,100 21/22 £750 19/20 £1,900 18/19 £1,350 17/18 £1,250 16/17 £1,100 15/16 £900 14/15 £350 12/13 £300

Communities & Housing, Finance and Legal Services have been consulted, and their comments are as follows:

Finance: Required information has been provided including the confirmation of cost for the summer outing including quotes for Bennetts Bus, Cruise fee and Langholm Tea Room. St Margaret's Church Social Group have insufficient funds to cover the costs from reserves. There is currently £7,662 available for disbursement within the Margaret Archibald Bequest.

Legal: The application detail submitted on behalf of this Applicant appears to satisfy the criteria of the Trust. So long as the Trustees are satisfied that the applicant group is "in need" financially, I am of the view that any financial assistance will be within the powers of the Trustees to award.

Communities & Housing: The application details show the award will benefit those 65 and over who are in need. Communities & Housing have confirmed the application meets the Trust's criteria.



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership

Locality planning

Garnock Valley Locality Partnership

Date: 20/03/2025

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 14 Home Fire Safety Visits throughout the locality. Of these 14 visits, 57.14% 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 years' time and offer to re-visit and provide further advice if required. SFRS receives visits 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 5 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.

SFRS Launching New Service for Partners – A new service was launched in February 2025 whereby partners referring individuals for a HFSV will now do so using the new online portal. SFRS have written to all Public Sector Chief Executives and Third Sector organisations advising of this. SFRS is committed to protecting personal data in accordance with legislation and therefore can no longer receive referrals submitted via email unless by secure email (Egress). More information can be found on the SFRS website or by contacting local CAT.

HFSV's can be requested from: -

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

Phone – 0800 0731 999

AP1's - Over the last few months SFRS have made 11 AP1 referrals to social work partners for people who live within the Garnock Valley. These AP1's can come direct from our operational crews or Community Action Team, 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.

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](https://www.myjobscotland.com)

Fire Skills – On the 11th February saw the completion of our Community Leadership Fire Skills course for pupils at Garnock CC. This was an excellent afternoon as the students demonstrated some of their newfound skills, hose running, BA RTC and CPR to parents/guardians and to some of our senior management team from the Fire service in Ayrshire, alongside colleagues from the school. All attending were suitably impressed by the quality shown by all the young people and the transformation in their confidence from the first day,

All the young people were presented with two certificates, one a British Heart Foundation CPR certificate and one a Fire Skills participation certificate.

The greatest success is that some of these young people have now found a direction in their future with a couple indicating the desire to join our YVS at Kilwinning and a young person deciding to apply for the emergency services courses at the local college in Kilwinning.

SFRS Educational Syllabus - Has been issued to all schools via email with a 'Syllabus' attached which details the seasonal inputs that SFRS deliver, set periods that each input will be available for delivery by one of our team/crews, the targeted age/year group, and the proposed method of delivery (class/assembly). Topics range from Water Safety, Road Safety, Fire Safety, Bonfire/Fireworks Safety, Deliberate Fire Setting and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Going Forward-

A change in representation from the Fire Service at these meeting, as of the 31st March Station Commander Kenny McGuire will be taking over from Station Commander Shearer as he retires from the service.

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 MARCH 2025



North Ayrshire
Community Planning Partnership



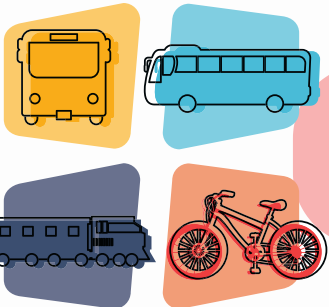
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Locality Priorities for Garnock Valley



Facilities and Amenities



Moving Around



Work and Local Community

Locality Updates



Dalry Action Group

Hosted their AGM on 17th February, with over 20 residents attending, where a new committee was formed. The new committee are looking ahead to Christmas 2025.

Garnock Valley Allotments Association

The GVAA hosted a successful AGM, with 29 people attending, which took place on 26th February.

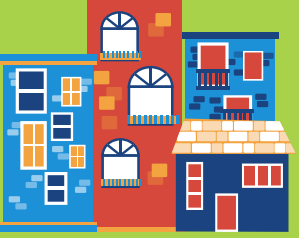


Garnock Valley Men's Shed

Following their extensive renovation works, the shed is currently planning for their re-launch day in April.

Beith Skate Park Initiative

The Beith Skate Park Initiative is organising an event to launch the new skatepark after November's planned launch was cancelled due to heavy snow.



Locality Updates

Dalry Community Council

The newly formed Dalry Community Council held their first public meeting at the end of January 2025. The new community council have already been busy, getting involved in “Our Garnock Valley”, the GVLP Working Group and hearing matters important to the community.

Friends of Lochshore

Friends of Lochshore are going from strength to strength. They now have a solid core of members and have numerous plans for family events. They are highly involved in developing the biodiversity management plan alongside NAC.

Gardening Group

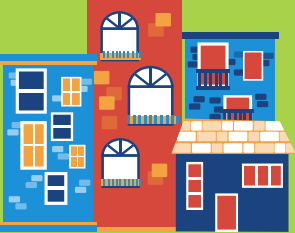
The Garnock Valley Locality Team trialled a “Growing for Beginners” drop-in, where 5 participants are currently planting seed trays with flowers and vegetables of their choice. Some will be grown at home, and some will be used to plant up the library environment. The drop-in is on Thursday mornings at Kilbirnie library, and it links to alleviating food poverty, social isolation and enhancing wellbeing.

Climate Action & Active Citizens

Kilbirnie & Glengarnock Community Council is working to plant up the empty town planters, following the success at Dalry. Kilbirnie has at least twice the number of planters, over 20. The Community Council will liaise with Street Scene, and plan a public meeting to recruit planter keepers and encourage residents to grow or donate flowers and other plants to ensure long-term success.

Digital Drop - ins

Delivered by the Locality Team, a weekly drop-in for digital literacy support for phones and other devices is held at Dalry and Beith libraries. Enquiries are very varied and can take from 5 minutes to several visits to solve as more individuals struggle with the increasing digitisation of their lives. 10 people have accessed this support since January.



Locality Updates

Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club

The Burns Club had to reschedule their 81st Annual Burns Supper from the original date of 24 January 2025 due to Storm Eowyn. Their Burn Supper went ahead on 21 February with 77 attendees at Beith Bowling Club. It was a wonderful evening of 'sangs and clatter' greatly enjoyed by all.

Cllr Donald L Reid was invited to become an honorary member of Irvine Burns Club marking his 25 years as secretary of Barrmill JBBC and 40 year club membership. He was inducted into this prestigious club on Sunday 26 January 2025, joining some elite individuals from across the globe, also honorary members. The club will hold their AGM on 28 April.

Place Woodland

The Group was set up as a support network for people with mental health and wellbeing issues, making a significant difference to those involved and continuing to do so. Members use their own lived experiences to support both new and long-term members. Participants have worked towards their John Muir Award, as well as creating a safe and welcoming greenspace for the local community.

New Scots

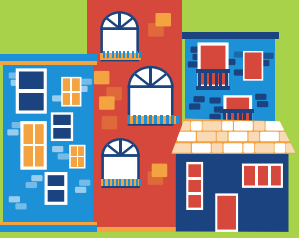
A ladies' group for New Scots women is scheduled each week on Wednesdays at George Steven Centre. A warm welcoming group with a focus on English speaking, building connections and friendship.

Beith Community Development Trust

Beith Trust continues to support the local community with free employability programmes across North Ayrshire. Their current course is running, and their next intake will focus on unemployed young people and school leavers, offering free training, lunch, and travel reimbursements. They are also gearing up for their annual Easter Camp, providing fun activities for children during the holidays.

Alongside this, they are still running their regular community clubs, including Football Memories; every Tuesday from 11am - 12:30pm; Free Food Fridays and Chit Chat Club every Friday from 12:30pm - 2:30pm; and the Lend an Ear befriending service, offering social opportunities and support to those who need it. They have also recently introduced Chair Yoga, their first-ever round of seated exercise classes, and a brand-new Community Connections Club, where members can take part in baking, arts and crafts, and other creative activities.

[More information on our community-based Projects](#)



Our Garnock Valley

Commencing in September 2023, 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 Barrmill, 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 has been 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. During November and January, 6 local community events were held, to give the community the opportunity to discuss their aspirations in more detail. These were in Kilbirnie, Beith, Dalry, Gateside, Barrmill and Glengarnock. Over 200 people attended, over the 6 events. Focussed engagement with young people and schools was undertaken during February, ensuring that young people also had the opportunity to share their aspirations. At these workshops, 50 young people from 8 schools across the Garnock Valley had the opportunity to get involved and share their ideas.

It is hoped that the draft plan will be available later in the Spring, where a summit event will be held to test the draft plan with the community. 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.

All the information can be found here: <https://www.ourgarnockvalley.net/>



Facilities and Amenities

George Steven Centre

Following an identified need from the GVLP working group, they will be running their next pop up shop the week of 31st March. They hosted one before Christmas, which was really popular, and which they kept on for the week. People were really positive about it, so they are hoping to make it a permanent addition to the hub. The next pop-up shop will run Mon 31st March – Fri 4th April each day from 10am – 2pm in George Steven Community Hub. They have received lots of donations and there are some great items for everyone at low prices.

Kilbirnie Library

The Library have a few things ongoing at the moment. They have recently started a Poetry Group, which is building strength each week. It is a group that runs every two weeks on a Monday.

Their Mother and Toddler Group has grown arms and legs and they now have a regular group of around 20 who attend every Thursday morning.

They welcomed Gerry Durkin the storyteller who entertained the children of Moorpark P5 and P6 and St Bridget's P5 on Friday 7th March to celebrate World Book Day.

Their sensory play sessions are a favourite with parents and babies. A messy event with water, cooked spaghetti, sand and ball pools. They have this event the first Monday of the month.

The Bookbug sessions as always are very popular, and they usually have a regular 15/20 parents and babies at the sessions, which take place second Tuesday of the month in the afternoon and last Friday of the month in the morning.

On Saturday mornings, they have a Lego and Chess Group, and they host a Dungeons and Dragons Group.

On Monday 10th March they held an event "Remembering the Good Old Days", where people were encouraged to bring along their old photos of the town and have a chat about them over a wee cuppa.



Facilities and Amenities

Café Solace

Customer numbers remain steady with an average of 100 per week for lunch and dinner. The Café opened to support the Christmas light switch on, as well as providing catering for two external Christmas meal events. Their own Christmas meal events were well attended with over 140 customers. Café Solace also provided the catering for the Burns Supper at Beith Bowling Club in January.

The first programme of cooking classes in conjunction with Multiply has finished with excellent feedback. The second programme is now underway and a third planned. Eight young people have now completed their volunteering requirements for the Bronze Award of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Café Solace currently has 8 in regular attendance, two of whom are new, and four young people are on the waiting list.

Five planters are now in place in their garden, with another four due for delivery. Compost has been purchased and delivered and they are ready to start planting, offering further volunteering opportunities for those who would like to get involved in outdoor work.

Iain continues to support the two recovery groups in the centre and is in the process of establishing a “hub” approach for anyone impacted by drug or alcohol addiction in the locality.

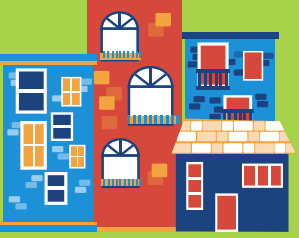
Geilsland Estate

Have been busy hosting a range of wedding fayres and open days, giving couples the opportunity to explore the venue and meet top suppliers from across Ayrshire. Their next fayre is on Sunday 23rd March, where visitors can view their spaces and discuss their wedding plans. In early April, they will also be holding a series of open days, allowing guests to tour the venue, see their accommodation, and learn more about their packages. Their on-site accommodation is available to book for weddings, events, or short stays.

[More information on our Wedding Fayre](#)

[More information on Wedding Packages](#)

[More information on our Accommodation](#)



Facilities and Amenities

Beith Orr Park Neighbourhood Watch

Beith Community Garden have 16 gabion baskets ready built and simply needing to be installed and filled in the community garden in Mitchell Street, these will be used as a 'car stop' in the garden side of the car park. They have also bought some replacement wood for the benches, which have been damaged. They have had a very nice donation of a box of new hand tools for the garden from Montgomery's. These are very welcome and will replace some that have been either lost or worn out in the years past. They have also registered with Keep Scotland Beautiful again this year and in due time will have a visit by their assessor. In addition, a kind person has found and donated 4 large planters, which are now in position beside the bear carving on the Strand, which need lining and filling then planting up with flowers that will attract pollinators.

This year's Chainsaw carving event will take place on 13th September in the new Show ground in Dalry provided by Gareth Wilson. They will have 14 carvers and have moved the event one week later than usual in order to avoid the final weekend of the Viking festival and also the Prestwick Air Show. The previous two years, with the return of the air show, the Carving Event has been quieter, so it is hoped that they will regain their previous numbers and even increase them. The new venue has huge possibilities and in time will allow the event to grow into one of the serious events in the county. As an added attraction this year, they will have the possibility of having a professional wrestling demonstration in the afternoon.

Beith Astro

Nature Play remains a popular weekly activity, running every Tuesday (aged 0 - 5) and Friday (all ages) to give children a chance to enjoy outdoor play, messy activities, and themed sessions. As part of British Science Week, they are hosting special Nature Play sessions on 11th and 14th March, featuring bug catching and hands-on science activities. On Sunday, 16th March, they will also be running a free, one-off science day at Beith Astro, open to all.

[More information on Nature Play](#)

[More information on British Science Day](#)



Moving Around

Travel Needs Analysis

The report for the Travel Needs Analysis has now been finalised. The Garnock Valley Locality Partnership Working Group worked with consultants SWECO to implement the work, which saw 553 people responding. 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. The next steps are that the working group and the Locality Partnership will discuss the report and look at the next steps.





Garnock Valley Multiply

6 learners are attending weekly 1:1 literacy and numeracy support sessions. Learners have gained (and continue to gain) confidence in life skills including reading, spelling, handwriting, money management, home schooling and number skills.

The team have collaborated with Beith Trust to run a basic Excel skills course for volunteers and employees. In addition, two workshops have been run in the community that tackled budgeting, money management and number and problem-solving skills. These have been well-attended.

Support has been provided to Café Solace to deliver a first set of cooking classes, which ran successfully. Positive feedback was received on evaluation forms. A second programme of classes is currently in progress.

Staff delivered a weekly games group at Dalry Community Garden, which 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.

The Multiply project is due to finish on 31st March, which means Melissa will sadly be leaving the Garnock Valley Locality Team. Melissa has been a wonderful and valued addition to the team and the community, and she will be very much missed by all.



Garnock Valley LP - Pg 28



Garnock Valley Multiply

Dalry Games Group

The Community Games Group was set up as part of the Multiply Project in collaboration with the Dalry Community Development Hub. The aim is to get adults practicing their numeracy skills in a fun and informal way, with a particular focus on harder-to-reach members of the local community.

The group runs every Wednesday from 10:30am – 12pm and is regularly attended by a wide range of learners including vulnerable adults; adults with additional needs; and those currently seeking employment.

A variety of games are played, all of which include an element of numeracy – including jeopardy dice games, card games, Monopoly and strategy games. These enable learners to practice a variety of numeracy skills including counting; addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; money handling; problem-solving; pattern recognition and probability.

The games group works well because it provides no-stakes learning for adults who don't feel confident with numbers. It enables them to improve their confidence and skills in a welcoming and inclusive environment (Dalry Community Garden) and helps to take away that feeling of anxiety that many adults have around maths.

The group has helped improved learners' basic number skills and confidence with numeracy and, in turn, has had a positive impact on mental health and well-being outcomes. The group will be continuing after the Multiply project finishes at the end of March, with learners' taking over the running it.

"The thing about the Games Group, it brings people together and as well as entertaining it has helped two or three in particular with their numeracy. On a personal note, I enjoy learning and teaching new games with the group. It is also good to see the cooperation that takes place when those present help each other. It is not the winning that counts but the taking part, and that is most definitely true of the Games Group..." Robert





Work and Local Community

Dalry Community Development Hub

They are delighted that their 'Skirt the Skeith' 12k run is in its fourth year this year. Dalry Community Development Hub and Dalry Community Sports Club continue to work together to provide this fun community event, and its thanks to their local sponsors, they can offer burgers, cakes and spot prizes. This year all runners will also receive a t-shirt with their new logo on it.

Numbers are increasing each year and word is getting round of this challenging, hilly run with great community spirit throughout.

The run was advertised on the 'entrycentral' site in February and will be held on Sunday 22nd of April starting and finishing at Dalry Public Park. If you enjoy running and want a scenic, somewhat hilly route, sign up! They look forward to seeing you on the day.



Sheena Woodside was awarded her British Citizen Award at the House of Lords in London on Thursday 23rd of January along with another 25 amazing and deserving individuals who showed selflessness and motivation to make a difference in positive ways. Two strangers walking into Dalry Community Garden for a chat and a cup of tea led to the application for this prestigious award in recognition of her drive to make a difference. Although this is an individual award, Sheena wanted to say that projects and improvements made in the Town couldn't have been done without the team of volunteers and support from other community groups and wants to thank everyone involved and looks forward to continuing working with everyone in the future.





Work and Local Community

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. 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 make referrals to help families with energy costs.

The Sports Club are planning the return of Park Lives at the end of April and are looking to move it to a Friday this year. They will once again be working with K:A Leisure coaches to provide free outdoor sports with free food and drinks.

The next Community Cinema night is planned for the end of April. This will be a free event with complimentary snacks and food.

The club 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. The plan is to hold four events during the year with the first one planned for Saturday 5th April. Applications are now open.

Discovery Award

The Discovery Award is for those over 50 and the Garnock Valley Group has 10 core members meeting bi-weekly. Most of this group are either finishing their Silver Awards or starting their Gold Awards. The team advertised for new bronze level members, and three potential members attended an information afternoon on 25th February.

Older peoples work

In February, 21 people from the Garnock Valley were invited to participate in the NAC older persons' conference. Feedback from those who attended was positive and they will work towards their suggestions for the next locality older people's network catch-up.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

Garnock Valley Youth Forum

The Garnock Valley Locality Team continues to deliver a positive environment for local young people to become involved as active community members. In February, the group held their AGM and a new committee was elected. With this a renewed enthusiasm is evident and progress is under way to raise awareness of the group and engage in more activities within the community. The group also attended the quarterly Joint Youth Forum on the 22nd of February and enjoyed it.

We've Got This!

Is an in-school transition programme for P7 pupils moving to S1 this year, delivered by the Locality Team. Following discussions with P7 teachers and the Area Inclusion Worker, it was decided that an in-school programme may be the most beneficial for the P7s this year. The team developed a new programme titled "We've Got This!". The delivery of the programme has started in St Bridget's Primary, with 4 sessions being delivered, with the other schools being delivered in term 4. This includes Beith Primary who have 2 P7 classes. It is anticipated that the team will engage with at least 121 P7s through this programme. The first sessions have been successful in terms of delivery and feedback from the young people involved. Once completed, all the young people who attended will be invited to a structured summer programme to support their holistic development into teenagers and transition to S1.

Detached Youth Work

The Garnock Valley Locality Team have been out delivering bespoke detached youth work across the locality. This has initially involved training staff; creating community mapping of hot spot areas; creating an information gathering system; and trialling different days and times to see where the young people are and starting to build relationships with them. This work will prepare the team going into the busy summer period. Since January, staff have been out on Tuesday and Friday nights across Dalry and Kilbirnie. Staff met with the Locality Police to raise their awareness of their role as well as discuss partnership working. Staff will continue to liaise in terms of identifying appropriate needs and addressing harm reduction if required through detached youth work.

S1 Youth Group

Since January, the team have engaged the young people in activities like team-building games, arts and crafts, Scottish-themed projects, Valentine's Day origami, and National Pet Day celebrations. Staff facilitated the 'Our Garnock Valley' consultation. During this activity, young people shared their ideas for the future of the Garnock Valley by writing them on postcards. The young people continue to engage positively in activities and have encouraged others to attend. As a result, the number of participants has grown each week. 25 young people are registered with the group.

S2 Youth Group

Offering a safe space for young people to come and reduce the risk of anti-social behaviour, with 16 young people attending regularly. This group runs via an issue-based activity model covering issues like stereotyping, body image and bullying to give a few examples, all with the aim to support their holistic development.

Garnock Valley Youth Work

Umbrella Group

Running weekly in Garnock Campus, with 20 young people attending, the LGBT+ group provides a supporting environment. The group have identified that they wish to develop an out of school group, led by the young people, which will hopefully commence after the Easter holidays. This group offers young people who fall under the LGBT+ umbrella/LGBT+ allies a safe environment, allowing them without bias or prejudice to come and be themselves and explore their identity in a drop in setting. This group recently held a bake sale to raise funds for LGBT Youth Scotland on Purple Friday, raising £71.85 for the charity.

LGBT youth voice group

This is a new group in development that was requested by some of the young people who attend the Umbrella club as they want to have more of a structured group to help support LGBT+ young people in the Garnock Valley. It is planned to run out with the school, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Ocean Youth Trust voyage

The Locality Team are planning for an Ocean Youth Trust voyage, aimed at young people who are at risk of ASB, offending or re offending or YP with adverse childhood trauma. 10 young people in the Garnock Valley have been identified to participate. This will involve training sessions and will be a fantastic once in a lifetime experience for these young people to gain the new skills that will help their future development.

Bounce Back Your Resilience, St. Bridget's

This programme involves 6 x 1-hour sessions, it is delivered by Bee You Ambassadors/workers who are a group of young people who have completed a Mental Health First Aid qualification or Your Resilience programme. The idea is these young people become Bee You Ambassadors themselves for the primary school, and learn how they can help support the young people moving forward in their new roles.



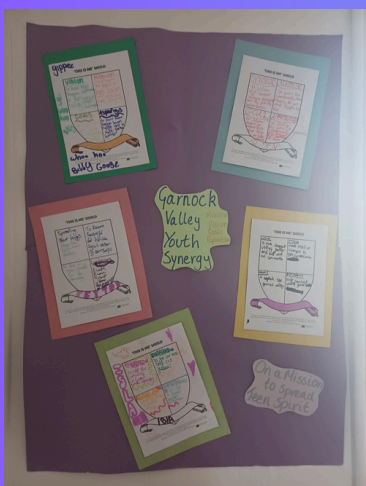
Garnock Valley Youth Work

Youth Synergy

Due to an increasing demand for young people wishing to join the Garnock Valley Youth Forum, it was decided that a junior youth forum may be the best way forward to introduce the young people to the concept of a youth forum, advocating for young people's rights and looking at some project work. The group started in October 2024, with young people all of whom are in S1 at Garnock Community Campus. They had attended different primary schools but had become friends through their attendance at the afterschool P7 clubs that ran in 2023/2024. This gave the group the initiative to look at continuing the work they completed during the P7 regeneration project at Lochshore. At first, they called themselves Mystery Incorporated however in January 2025, they decided to change this to Garnock Valley Youth Synergy. This was to give them their own identity as they look forward to planning their own projects.

This group works well as they are like minded, enthusiastic and motivated. As it was winter they decided to do a project making kindness boxes that could be sold for donations at the Kilbirnie Lights Switch on. This project developed their skills in communication and negotiation and helped build their confidence as they had to source donations to put in the boxes, make them up and then sell them. Next, they met with Daniel from TCV who is the Development Worker at Lochshore and he has been excellent in acknowledging the work they did in P7 and offering them the opportunity to put some of these ideas into action. The first project will therefore be the creation of a rockery garden beside the Lochshore Hub.

The project will also allow the hard work that they completed in P7 to be recognized and carried forward. It has emphasized the importance of being able to engage with transition groups and how this has helped to foster positive relationships between our local young people.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

S3 Community Leadership Programme

The S3 Community Leadership Programme saw young people from Garnock Academy participate in and complete an 8-week Fire Skills course. This course involved the participants working alongside professional fire officers at Kilwinning Fire Station, marking the first such course to be held in North Ayrshire in over four years.

During the 35 hours of training, the participants learned a variety of skills, including first aid and CPR, basic hose and hydrant drills, confidence building, communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and citizenship. They also gained insight into the importance of community safety roles.

On Tuesday February 11th, all the young people delivered a presentation, showcasing the skills they had acquired to family, friends, and staff from Garnock Academy and Ayrshire Fire Service, including the Area Commander. During this presentation, the young people demonstrated their new transferable skills by working in smaller teams to complete various drills. These included hose and hydrant exercises and safely rescuing a casualty from a dark room and a car simulating a road traffic accident. This event provided a valuable opportunity to highlight everything they had learned over the past eight weeks, doing themselves and their families proud with their positive attitude, organisation and commitment.

The program has achieved significant success thanks to the collaboration between the Garnock Valley Locality Team, K:A Leisure, and the Garnock Community Campus, which includes the Campus Police Officer and the Garnock Valley Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. The community leadership training program is designed to be flexible and aims to help young people build confidence while learning practical development skills. The course was delivered by the Kilwinning Fire Station's Community Action Team and is part of North Ayrshire's Wellbeing Alliance and Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. This strategic plan aligns with the requirements of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. The Improvement Plan serves as a foundation for vital partnerships among agencies, together, they aim to implement actions that improve the health, well-being, and positive life outcomes for everyone living in North Ayrshire.

Young people were identified by Garnock Academy as being at risk of disengaging from school and losing interest in curriculum-based learning. By working closely with pupils and various partners, the program continues to encourage them to pursue volunteering and training opportunities beyond their school environment.



Garnock Valley Youth Work

The feedback has been very positive with the young people sharing:

“I am really calm under pressure now and I think I’m going to be better at dealing with stressful situations.”

“I’m excited to be able to put the skills I’ve learned onto my CV.”

“This course has made me believe in myself. I am really thankful for the opportunity.”

The Area commander, Ian McMeekin shared: “This is a brilliant example of how we are working alongside local schools, communities and our partners to champion and re-engage local young people.

In the awards presentation, we welcomed an audience of proud parents and guardians, who witnessed the strength and determination of each pupil involved.

During the drills, everyone took their responsibilities seriously, moved swiftly and safely and it really was a joy to see the culmination of everything they have learned on display for everyone to admire and celebrate.

We are proud to work closely with our community partners to deliver this bespoke learning experience for young people aged between 12 and 18 who want to develop key skills in a practical setting.”

All of the participants received an official Fire Skills Certificate and a British Heart Foundation CPR/Defib Certificate and the hours will contribute towards their Summit Saltire Volunteering Award.



The combined locality partnership working group will next meet on Wednesday 2nd April 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