

Irvine Community Conversations

and online engagement update May 2026



Setting the scene

**COMMUNITY
LEARNING &
DEVELOPMENT**



For 2025/2026, the development of Irvine's Locality Plan focuses on:

- Empowering the community to drive local priorities
- Town centre regeneration
- Mental health and reducing poverty

Guided by Irvine Locality Partnership, the team has held regular public meetings to shape action plans and a series of Irvine Community Conversation engagement sessions have taken place in early 2026 to identify new collective actions and take them forward.

Shaping priority actions for the Irvine Locality Plan 2026/27

Gathering local insight

Key partners involved in gathering local insight have included:

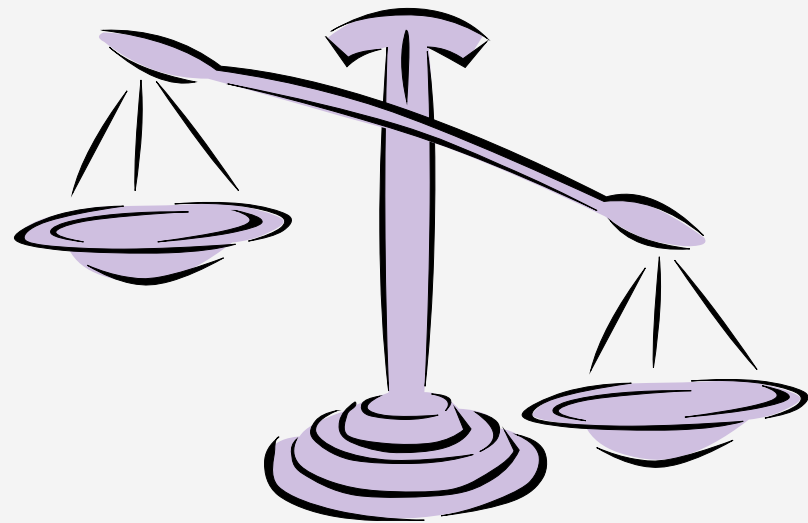
- CLD Irvine Locality Team
- North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership
- Ayrshire Community College
- North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership
- Police Scotland
- North Ayrshire Council



Shaping priority actions for the Irvine Locality Plan 2026/27

Key themes explored:

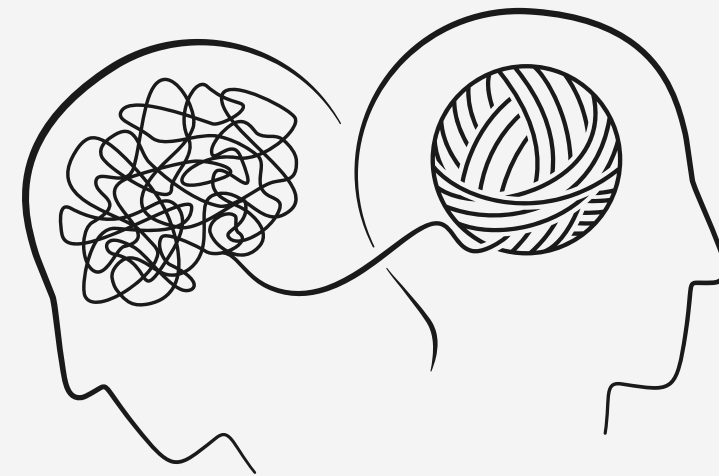
These conversations held explored the following themes:



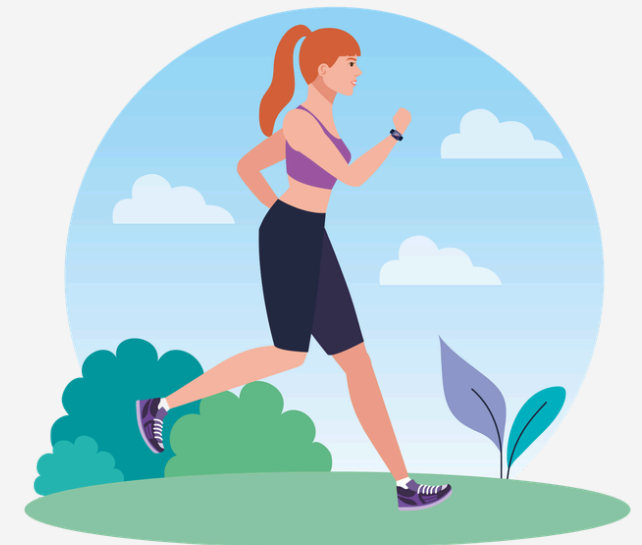
Poverty



Employability
& Skills



Mental Health &
Wellbeing



Green Health &
Open Spaces

Public engagement

Between January and March 2026, 454 participants attended Community Conversations overall...



In-person discussions included:

Redburn Community Lunch

84 residents came along to share food, ideas and conversations about what matters most in their community. 65% of attendees were older generation.

Fullarton ConneXions

55 residents between ages 18-59 came along to Café Solace community meal provision, including four Alcohol and Drugs Partnership community groups alongside volunteers from the recovery café in Irvine.

Volunteer Rooms

We welcomed 39 participants from an incredible range of community groups, organisations, colleagues and CPP Partners. The participation and energy made the event a real success. National and local funders also joined the conversation, shared opportunities and supported groups to explore new ideas

Discovery Group – Vennel Gardens

11 adults participating in discovery award took part in Irvine Community Conversations

Redburn Parent & Toddler Group

12 parents and NHS staff took part

Dreghorn Community Council

5 community councillors participated

Lanfine Age Concern

29 residents joined the conversation

Friends of Redburn Committee

13 participated in Irvine Community Conversations

In person discussions continued...

Bourtreehill Community Chit Chat

7 participants took part from 3 different organisations in local area. Low attendance so Irvine locality team will widen participation to include local Children 1st Organisation into discussion.

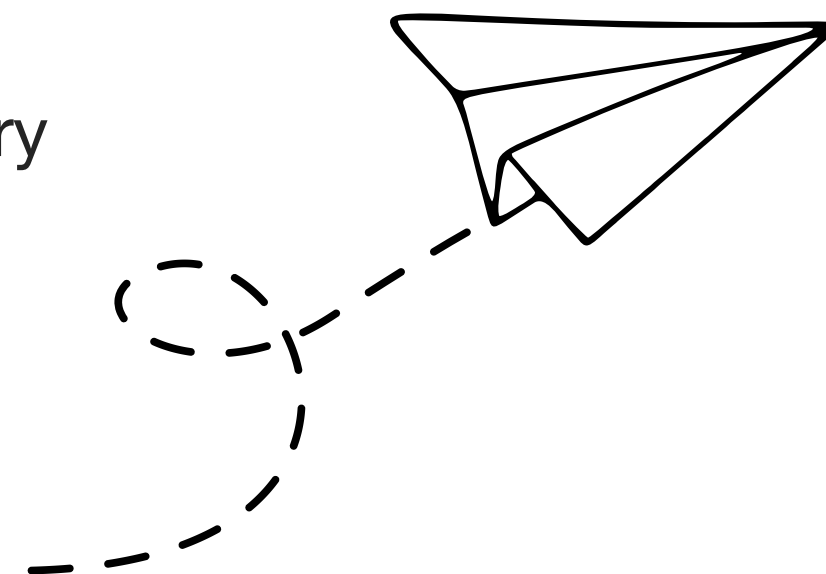
149 local children and young people taking part in youth friendly conversations:

- Dreghorn Primary School - 35 pupils from primary 6 and 7
- Castlepark Primary School - 9 pupils from the Pupil Council
- Springside Primary School - 26 pupils representing youth voice roles within their school
- St Marks Primary School - 15 pupils from the Pupil Council
- Woodlands Primary School - 8 pupils took part and all were house captains within their school
- Elderbank Primary School - 12 pupils took part, representing community voice and participation within their school
- St John Ogilvie Primary - 25 young people took part from primary 6 and primary 7
- Dreghorn Youth Group - 14 young people participated in community conversations
- Irvine Youth Legacy Centre - 5 young people participated in community conversations



Online Engagement via the Shaping North Ayrshire website

Residents also had the opportunity to engage online between the 23 January and 30 March 2026.



Key areas of focus identified as a result of the Irvine Community Conversations

01. Expand on what we have already

Local people are remarkably consistent. They are not asking for dozens of new services – they are asking us to work together to fix a small number of big, structural issues.

04. Community spaces as lifelines

The Redburn and other centres are lifelines – they provide food, social contact, activities, volunteering and a sense of belonging, particularly for older adults and families under stress.

07. Practical skills

People want to gain confidence by developing their digital, employability and life skills via supported pathways, training and jobs

02. The barrier of transport

Transport is the single biggest cross cutting barrier – it limits access to work, college, parks, hospitals, youth activities, larders, community groups and mental health support.

05. Supporting young people

Young people need more support, space and opportunity – especially those not attending school, and children aged 5–10 who have very limited provision in some areas.

03. Poverty pressures

Cost of living and poverty pressure everything – food insecurity, rising costs and in work poverty mean families are dropping out of social and learning opportunities.

06. Mental health, trauma and recovery

The support available is not keeping pace with demand – waiting times are long, crisis support is limited, and people are asking for more local, lived experience led, trauma responsive help.

08. Green spaces matter

The environment, outdoor spaces, safety, maintenance of pavements and lighting, tackling litter, glass and dog mess will boost, mental health, wellbeing and civic pride.



Thank you for your feedback



Throughout the Community Conversations in Irvine, we gathered feedback from participants, thank you for your honesty, positivity and encouragement as we work together to build a better Irvine for all.

“A meaningful opportunity to have my voice heard”

“I felt comfortable to be open and be myself”

“Good chance to share our views with other like-minded partners”

“Friendly, revitalising and interesting”

“Optimistic for the future to drive positive changes”

Implementation Planning

Planning and ongoing engagement will be key to our success to create a new, inclusive and representative Irvine Locality 2026/27 Action Plan.

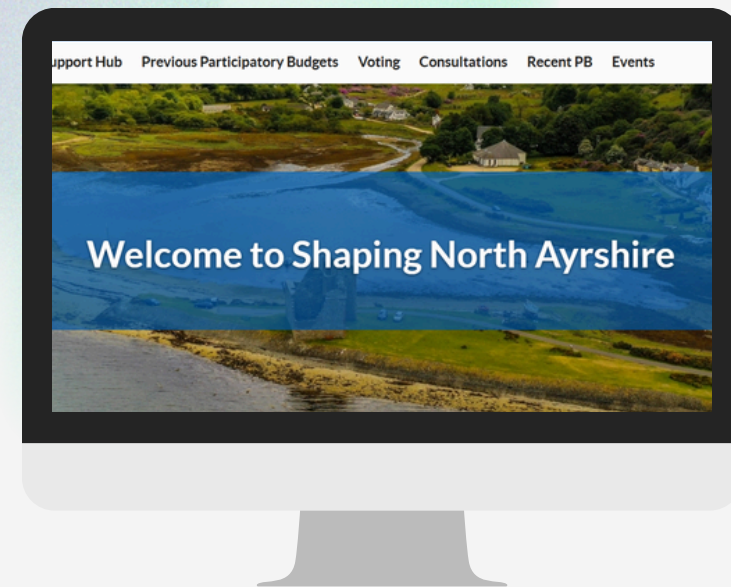
We will work together with you and our partners to:

- **Define timelines**, partners, and expected outcomes
- **Identify pilots** for quick implementation
(e.g., skills workshops, wellbeing sessions, pop up larders)
- Establish **regular community voice forums**
- Continue capturing **lived experience** insight
- **Evaluate early projects** and adjust through co-design



Community Feedback loop

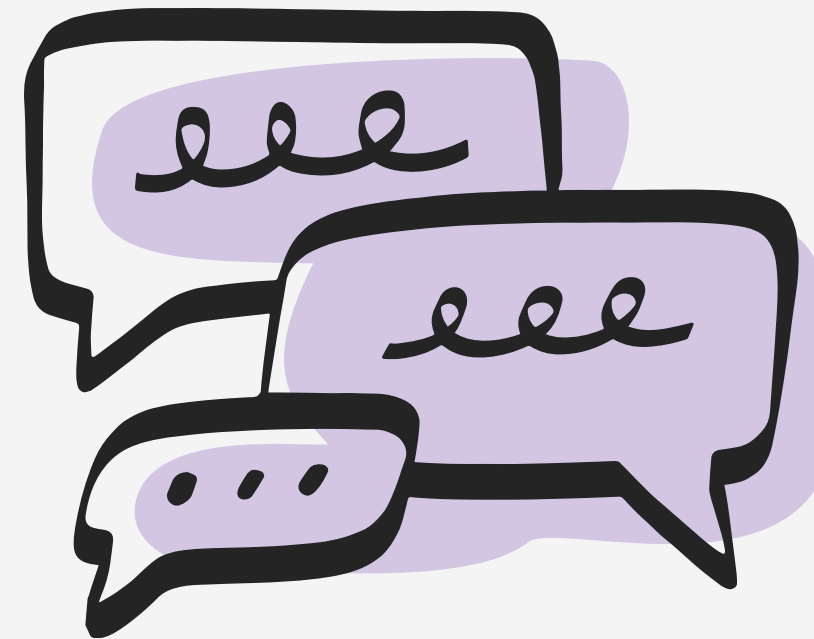
Keeping you updated is our priority. Over the coming months, the Irvine Locality team will:



Share outcomes on the Shaping North Ayrshire website



Provide updates through community centres, social media, and newsletters



Continue dialogue through ongoing Locality Network Meetings

Evaluation findings

As a result of engaging with communities and gathering feedback, the Irvine Locality Community Conversations have resulted in:

- The creation of inclusive and participatory learning environments
- Strengthened relationships between communities and services
- The ongoing reflective practice among partners
- Reinforced prioritisation of the importance of ongoing dialogue with communities

All of the above aligns with Community Learning and Development (CLD) principles of participation, empowerment, and partnership working, and provides assurance that the approach taken was both effective and impactful.



In conclusion

LET'S
DO
this!



The Community Conversations across Irvine have produced a **rich set of resident-driven proposals that clearly reflect local needs.**

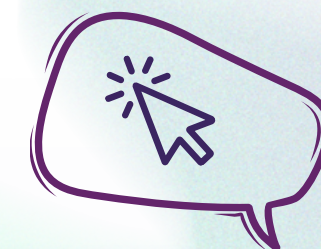


Themes around skills, wellbeing, poverty alleviation, and community environment provide a strong foundation for the 2026/27 Locality Plan.



By aligning the proposals with local partners, funding opportunities, and community capacity, the Irvine Locality Partnership with support from all services, CPP Partners and Community and third sector organisations, **we are well-positioned to develop meaningful, equitable, and locally led change.**





That's a wrap (for now)...

Findings are now being reported back to the Irvine Locality Network to agree a Locality Action Plan and identify both short, medium and long term plans for North Ayrshire Council and Community Planning partners. This will be presented to Irvine Locality Partnership in June 2026.

